



## ABOUT THE PUFFERBELLY

The “Pufferbelly” is named after the steam engines that puffed away along this railway a century ago.

The train tracks have been gone a long time, but a little more than a decade ago, citizen-volunteers in Fort Wayne and Allen County began forming a plan to recreate this corridor as a beautiful trail.

Today, Fort Wayne Trails, Inc. and local government partners are carrying on their work. Parts of the trail are complete, but there is much work to be done.

## FEATURES OF THE TRAIL

Rural calm & natural beauty

### NORTH ALLEN COUNTY LINE to CARROLL ROAD

Escape to nature as the trail passes through many wooded areas, forest preserves and farm lands. The trail runs adjacent to Payton County Park which offers parking and easy access for trail users.

Suburban serenity

### CARROLL ROAD to WASHINGTON CENTER ROAD

Trees along most of the corridor preserve the natural beauty and provide green space between the trail and residential areas. The trail will be a boost for nearby businesses and property values.

Urban excitement

### WASHINGTON CENTER ROAD to DOWNTOWN FORT WAYNE

The trail passes through a commercial area and crosses Coliseum Boulevard near Glenbrook Square and various retail areas and restaurants. The trail will provide easy, safe access to Franke Park and FW Children's Zoo, Canlan Ice Sports, SportONE/Parkview Field House, Science Central and the Skate Park until it merges with the rest of the trail network at Lawton Park.



A pedestrian bridge must be built where the trail crosses Coliseum Blvd. This bridge will be a landmark in the heart of Northeast Indiana's busiest retail area — a fantastic naming opportunity for a generous corporate or foundational donor.

## MAKING IT A REALITY

We have a plan, but we need the support of our community, business leaders and elected officials to protect this vision and make it become a reality.

### STEP 1: PROMOTE.

Raise awareness and build excitement for this trail project.

### STEP 2: BUY THE LAND.

Raise money to purchase the entire corridor.

### STEP 3: FUNDRAISING.

Raise funds to develop the land and pave the trail. On average, trails cost about \$200 per foot — or a little over \$1 million per mile.

### STEP 4: BUILD IT.

Our local government partners will contract with firms to build stretches of the trail. Bit by bit, the trail will be completed for the entire community to enjoy!

## Will you help your community?

Please donate today! Make a pledge to support our 5-year fund drive to support the Pufferbelly Trail and other projects like it all over Allen County.



[FWTRAILS.ORG](http://fwtrails.org)





## The Pufferbelly Trail

The Pufferbelly Trail is a 13-mile-long “rail-to-trail” initiative stretching from downtown Fort Wayne to northern Allen County and beyond. Meandering through urban areas, suburbs, farmlands and forests, the trail creates a healthy form of recreation and transportation that everyone can enjoy.

[FWTRAILS.ORG](http://FWTRAILS.ORG)

### WHY TRAILS MATTER

Trails and greenways positively impact individuals and improve communities by providing recreation and transportation opportunities and by influencing economic and community development.



#### Good for community.

Trails make our community better by creating open spaces that beautify the landscape and encourage physical fitness and healthy lifestyles. They create new opportunities for outdoor recreation and provide a safe way to commute to work or school. Trails enhance the beauty of our urban centers and help bolster property values.



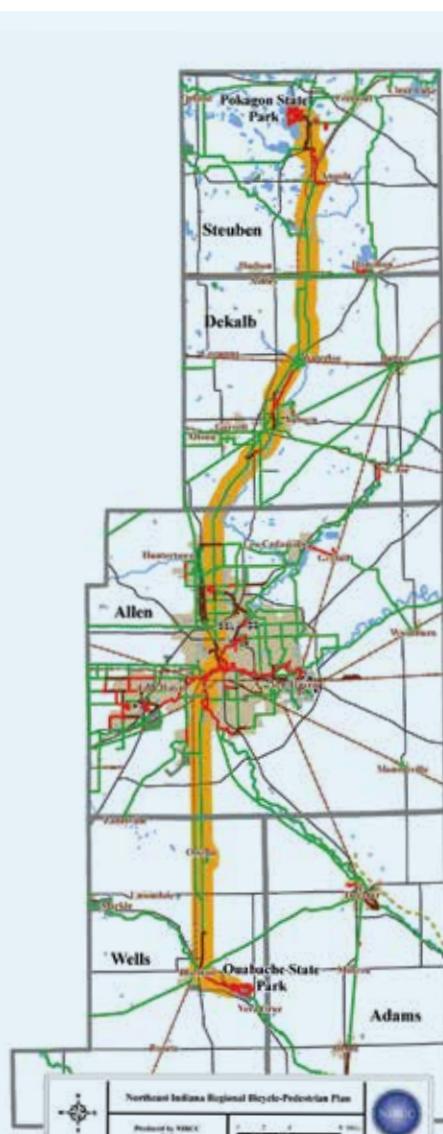
#### Good for businesses.

Trails provide countless opportunities for economic renewal and growth. Not only do retail and restaurants benefit from proximity to trails, but the region's ability to attract jobs is impacted, too. Many companies have cited the availability of trails as a significant factor in their decision to choose one locale over another to build a business.



#### Good for you.

Trails help people live healthier lives. Rather than taking the car to the ballpark or the zoo, a family can choose to ride their bikes. And thousands of individuals use trails for physical therapy after an injury or surgery, to train for competition, to achieve weight loss goals, or as a place to take a quiet walk with a loved one after a busy day.



### THE BIG PICTURE

#### Creating a destination. Boosting our region's economy.

The Pufferbelly is a crucial part of a State of Indiana Visionary Trail project for Steuben, Dekalb, Allen and Wells counties. The trail will run from Ouabache State Park to Pokagon State Park, creating a viable destination for tourists and fueling economic and cultural growth for all four counties.

The vision for this trail is monumental — four counties working together to build 80-miles of connected trail! The positive effects are numerous. This trail will attract recreational tourist dollars as people who come to our region to travel the entire span will stop to eat, sleep, see attractions and shop. The trail thus creates opportunities for businesses: Cycling, running and other sports stores, equestrian centers, bed and breakfasts along extended routes will all directly benefit.

The benefits continue beyond the trail, too. As the region's quality of life improves, more businesses will choose to build and expand in our region. The trail will provide a unifying element for our parks, wineries, museums, downtowns and historical sites.

Ultimately, this trail will solidify the fact that Northeast Indiana is “flyover country” no more. Rather, this is a thriving, cultural, active and healthy community that's a fun place to visit and a great place to live.