

The Pufferbelly Trail

A Rail-to-Trail Initiative in Progress

Pufferbelly Trail

The Pufferbelly Trail is a 13-mile-long recreational rail-to-trail, a trail located on a former railroad right of way. "Pufferbelly" was a nickname used a century ago for steam locomotives. A popular children's song was "The Pufferbelly Song."



**Down by the station,
early in the morning,
See the little pufferbellies
all in a row.**

**See the station master pull
the little handle.**

**Puff, puff, toot, toot,
off they go!**



The trail begins in Fort Wayne just north of Headwaters Park at Fourth Street and Clinton Street and follows, as much as possible, a former railroad right of way to the north Allen County line. A side trail connects to Franke Park and the Children's Zoo. Adjacent to the trail is the Lawton Skate Park, Science Central, MASTER Academy, Canlan Ice Sports, Glenbrook Commons, Smith Field, Parkview YMCA, Salomon Park, Payton County Park and an Acres property.

The Trail's Origin

A plan for the trail was initiated by members of the Greenway Consortium and Northwest Allen Trails, citizen-volunteer trail organizations in Fort Wayne and Allen County. The Greenway Consortium has promoted the trail south of Washington Center Road and Northwest Allen Trails has promoted the trail north of that road. Both groups are working together for the successful completion of the entire Pufferbelly Trail.

Railroad History

The Pufferbelly Trail uses a right of way that began in 1868 as the Fort Wayne, Jackson and Saginaw Railroad. At that time Jackson, Michigan, was a major rail center. In 1879 it became simply the Fort Wayne and Jackson Railroad, and then part of the New York Central system in 1880. In 1968 the NYC merged with the Pennsylvania Railroad to form Penn Central. After bankruptcy, that company was merged into Conrail in 1976. This line shut down soon thereafter, and removal of the tracks began in 1978.

Pufferbelly Trail

North Allen County Line to Carroll Road

The trail from the north Allen County line to Carroll Road, a distance of 4.6 miles, has much natural beauty as it passes through many wooded areas and farm land. Near Hathaway Road the trail is adjacent to Payton County Park. Parking and access to the trail is available here.

Carroll Road to Washington Center Road

Here the trail passes through mostly residential areas, although still possessing many trees along the trail that maintain the trail's natural beauty. Significant landmarks along this section are the Parkview YMCA, Salomon Farm Park (with its own popular trail) and Smith Field.

Washington Center Road to Downtown Fort Wayne

South of Washington Center Road, the trail passes through a light industrial area. It crosses Coliseum Boulevard on a bridge (shown on the reverse side) and passes through the western side of Indiana's largest retail area. After crossing Lima Road, the trail passes by the Canlan Ice Sports ice skating facility. A short distance later a side trail leads to Franke Park and the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo. The trail finally ends at the 24-mile Rivergreenway at Lawton Park, and across the St. Marys River from Headwaters Park.

Trail Progress

For information on the progress of the trail, including sections open, in design and under construction, go to www.northwestallentrails.org and click on "FAQs About the Pufferbelly," then "Trail Progress."

How Can You Help?

We continue to seek additional support for this and other trails. Please visit our websites to learn how you can support trails in our community.

Contact Information

Email:
Pufferbelly@NorthwestAllenTrails.org

Online:
www.NorthwestAllenTrails.org
www.GreenwayConsortium.com



FORT WAYNE TRAILS
REDISCOVER YOUR TOWN



A New Pedestrian Bridge Across Coliseum Boulevard

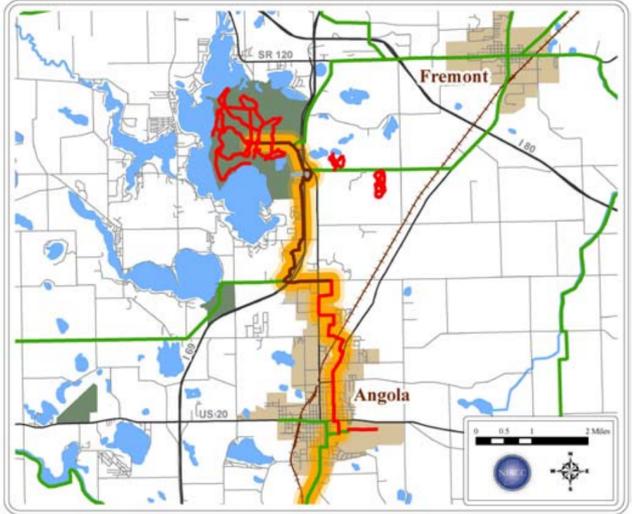
Because of the heavy volume of traffic on Coliseum Boulevard, and because of the width of the road, a street-level crossing for pedestrians and cyclists is not possible, requiring a bridge for trail users. This rendering is one of three possible designs for the bridge. The inset shows a profile of this bridge, which will have a length of nearly 700 feet including the approaches. The bridge crosses Coliseum Boulevard just east of Lima Road, at the same location of the railroad tracks that once crossed there.



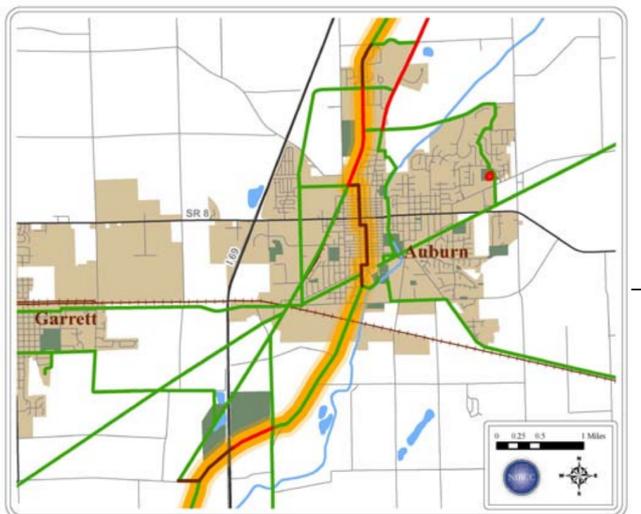
The Pufferbelly Trail in Allen County is part of a State of Indiana Visionary Trail proposed to go from Pokagon State Park to Ouabache State Park. This trail is shown in the maps on this page. Steuben County and the cities of Angola, Auburn and Bluffton have trails completed or in design and construction that will be a part of the State of Indiana Visionary Trail.



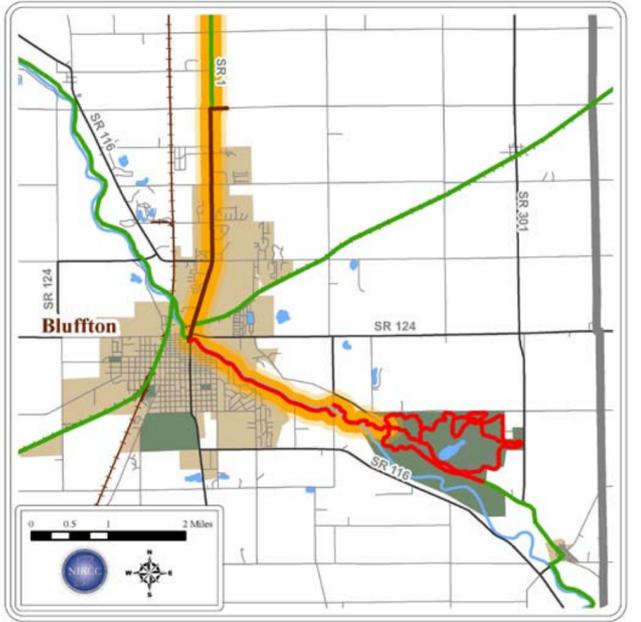
Angola and Steuben County



Auburn and Dekalb County



Bluffton and Wells County



Northeast Indiana Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

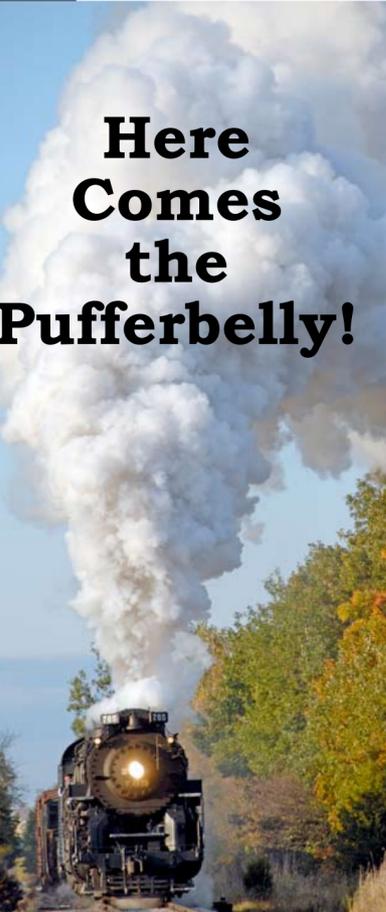
- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Off Street Facilities | Other Map Features |
| Existing Trail | Points of Interest |
| Planned Trail | Cities and Towns |
| Proposed Trail | County Boundary |
| Existing Sidewalk | Highways |
| Planned Sidewalk | Streets |
| Proposed Sidewalk | Water |
| State Priority Trail | Railroad |

Why Are Trails and Greenways Great for a Community?

Trails and greenways positively impact individuals and improve communities by providing not only recreation and transportation opportunities, but also by influencing economic and community development. Some of the many trails and greenways benefits include:

- Making communities better places to live by preserving and creating open spaces
- Encouraging physical fitness and healthful lifestyles
- Creating new opportunities for recreation and non-motorized transportation
- Strengthening local economies
- Protecting the environment
- Preserving culturally and historically valuable areas
- Connecting people with places and enhancing the beauty of urban centers
- Providing countless opportunities for economic renewal and growth
- Increasing the natural beauty of communities and bolstering property values

- Impacting a community's ability to attract jobs: many companies seeking to relocate or establish a corporate headquarters have cited the availability of trails as a significant factor in their decision to choose one locale over another.
- Helping communities build pride by ensuring that their neighborhoods are good places to live, so that children can safely walk or bike to a park, school or to a neighbor's home
- Drawing the public to historic sites
- Attracting recreational tourist dollars and becoming opportunities for business development such as bike stores, equestrian centers, bed and breakfast places along extended routes, etc.



The Pufferbelly Trail

Here Comes the Pufferbelly!

Urban Excitement
Rural Calm
Natural Beauty

