





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.

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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.