

## **Future Planning for the Indiana Michigan River Valley Trail**

- **St. Joseph County's** LaSalle Trail from Cleveland Road North to the State Line. Matching funds have been committed to complete the crossing at Cleveland Road, a bridge over Juday Creek and additional trail north to Darden Road. The remaining two miles of trail from Darden Road north to the State Line has been designated a priority and funds are being sought to complete this segment.
- **The city of South Bend** hopes to connect the south end of the Riverside Trail at Angela Blvd to the East Bank Trail. Currently bikers can use the roadside trail along North Shore Drive to get between these two trails. The abandoned train bridge across the St. Joseph River, just north of Angela Street, is still considered a trail route possibility.
- **Universities and Colleges** -The sidewalks along 933 from Angela to the Toll Road entrance are 5' wide and not optimal for biking. The land along both sides of 933 are owned by various entities including, among other: Sisters of the Holy Cross, St. Mary's University, Brother's of the Holy Cross, Holy Cross College and the University of Notre Dame. The Douglas Rd. rerouting project connected approximately 4.5 miles of trails around the Notre Dame campus and along SR 23 with the IN-MI River Valley Trail via a crossing at the intersection of 933 and Douglas Road. We are hopeful that future plans by the university communities will include an approximately one-mile trail connection from the new Douglas Road crossing to the head of the East Bank Trail located one block west of the intersection of Angela Blvd. and 933.

### **Extending Beyond Niles/South Bend/Mishawaka**

- **To Berrien Spring** -North of Niles is the former Interurban Rail Line that runs to Berrien Springs and Lake Michigan at St. Joseph, Michigan. Some of the land has reverted to adjacent farmers but the corridor is largely intact. There are also utility corridors from Niles north to the Kal-Haven Trail that could be developed as trails. The longstanding dream has always been a continuous, dedicated trail from Michiana to Lake Michigan. We will continue to work in that direction.
- **To Buchanan** -West of Niles, the city of Buchanan has been steadily growing their urban landscape and their trail system along the McCoy Creek. The McCoy Creek Trail folks are very organized, dedicated group of advocates and it would be great to eventually connect the trail systems. Once a prospective route is identified, we'll be able to coordinate growth in this direction.
- **To Elkhart** -The city of Mishawaka continues to grow east and has shown that trails are a priority for their community. After Merrifield Park, additional trails to Elkhart and the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail are not out of the question.