

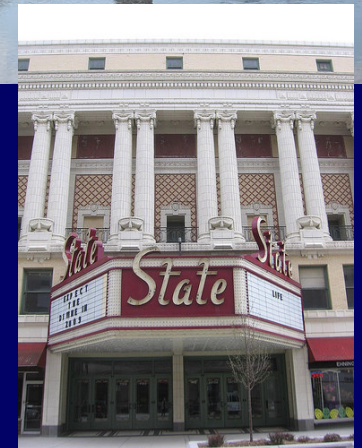
Indiana – Michigan River Valley Trail

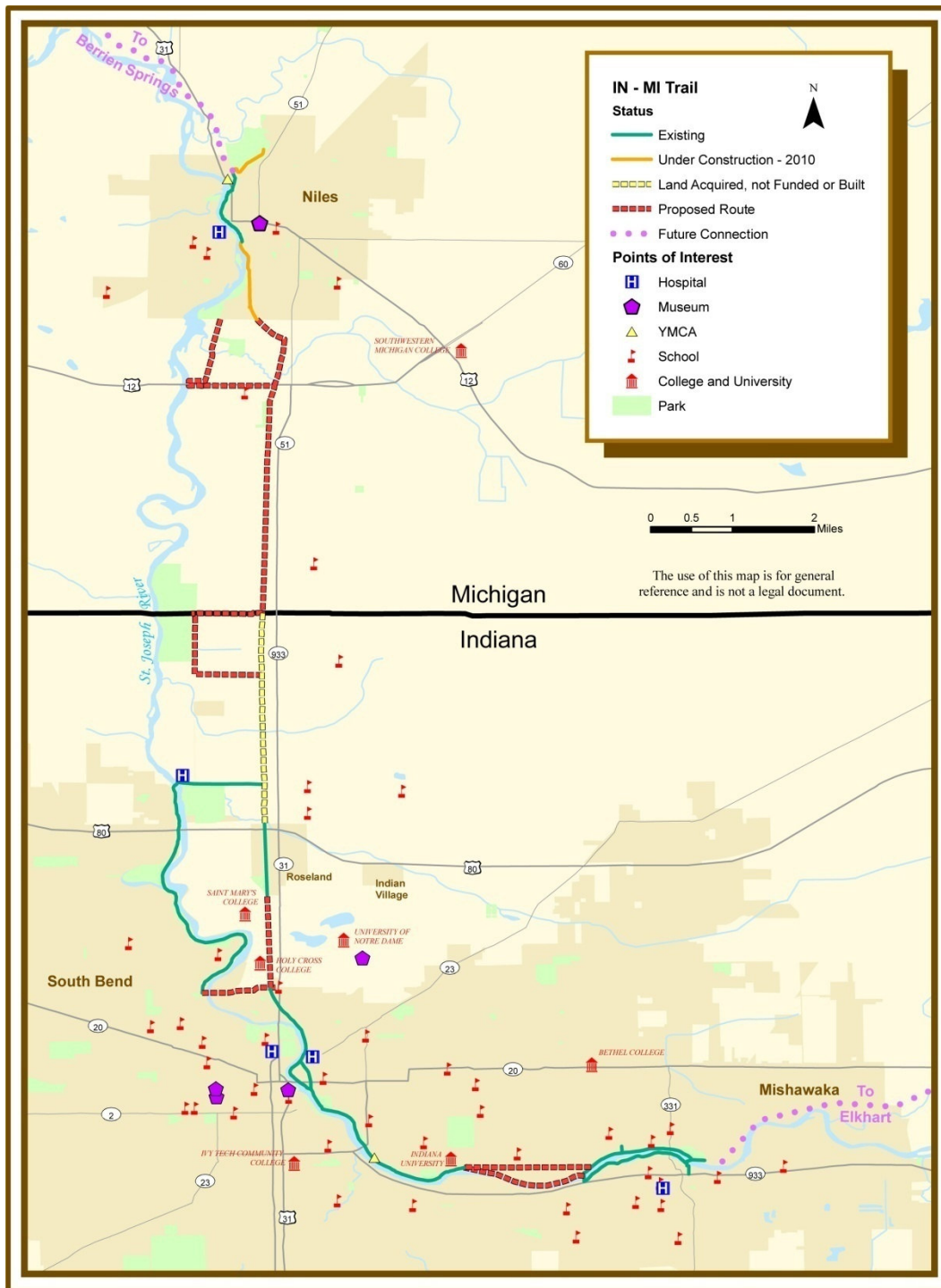


Indiana – Michigan River Valley Trail – Connections

Imagine a 34-Mile Trail Connecting:

- 2 states and 4 downtowns (Niles, Roseland, South Bend and Mishawaka)
- 4 universities and public schools
- 16 parks and 2 YMCAs
- 5 hospitals & major medical facilities
- Historical and cultural attractions
- Businesses offering shopping, eating and lodging





Making the 34-mile trail a reality

Gaps:

5 miles in Indiana

6 miles in Michigan

Estimated Cost:

\$5 million



Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail – Economic Benefits



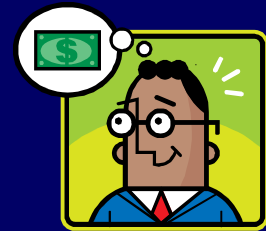
Increase tax revenue

Increase real estate values

Retain and attract businesses

Retain and attract residents

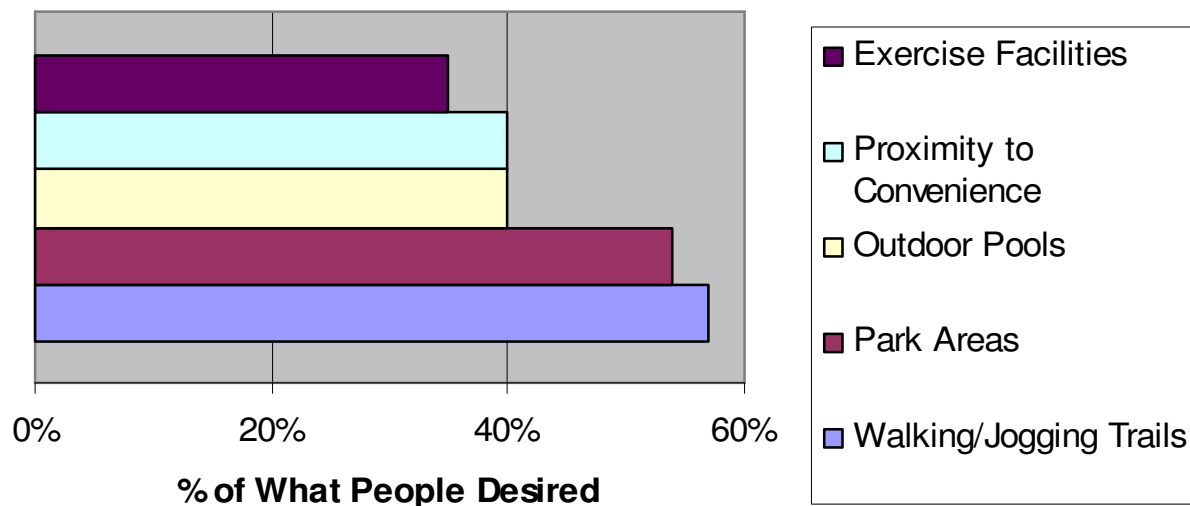
Promote tourist spending



Indiana – Michigan River Valley Trail - Benefits

Trails Attract Business, Residents and Tourists

National Association of Homebuilders



The National Association of Homebuilders surveyed 2,800 people nationwide and asked them what would they like to see in a new community.

“Properties along the trail have taken off... I’ve gotten a list of 300 prospective buyers waiting for property along the river and trail, and they are willing to wait just for those properties.”

*Suzan Beal, sales associate
with Coldwell Banker Real
Estate*

Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail – Economic Benefits

- **Property Values = Tax Revenue**
 - Homes sell for 10% more (Indianapolis, 1999)
 - 86% to 95% of trail neighbors say trail had either positive or no effect property value
 - 81% to 93 % indicated trail had no negative effect or made it easier to sell (2001 Indiana Trails Study)
 - Realtors say homes on the Paint Creek Trail (**Michigan**) typically sell for about **10% more** than comparable homes “off the trail”
- **Cost-Benefit**
 - Maintenance annual cost - **\$191,893**
 - Trail-related tax income - **\$303,750**



Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail – Economic Benefits

- Out of town trail users spend **\$949 to \$1,269** per trip on lodging, restaurant, groceries, vehicle expenses, equipment, etc.
- Average annual use of a typical Michigan trail was 92,000 uses. (MSU study)
- Bike event in Bloomington, **Indiana** - 5,000 riders contributed over **\$1 million** to the local economy in just lodging and food expenditures
- 2005 Indiana Bike Fest in Jasper - 250 riders bringing **\$120,000** to the local economy
- Carmel, IN Mayor claims Monon Trail was the catalyst for a \$100 million City Center mixed use development



Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail – Health & Quality of Life



Reduce air pollution

Encourage physical activity

Create safer neighborhoods

Serve as an outdoor classroom

Provide alternative transportation options

Help prevent obesity related chronic diseases

Help connect people, neighborhoods, and communities



Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail – Safe Neighborhoods

-Neighborhoods that provide trails, greenways, parks, sidewalks increase opportunities to be out and active, connect and interact in a shared environment.

-85.5% of trail users viewed the trail as safe.

-61% of trail neighbors felt trail was a better neighbor than expected.

-69% indicated the trail IMPROVED their neighborhood.

(2001 Indiana Trails Study)



Indiana – Michigan River Valley Trail – Health Benefits

- **Trails = Healthy Living**

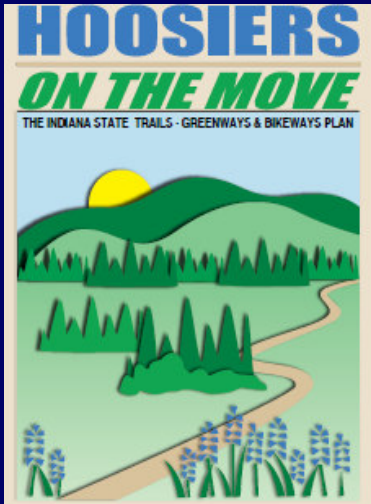
“Trails through and connecting our communities will give people convenient opportunities to get regular physical activity and connect with nature. Over and over studies affirm the benefits of outdoor trails and the positive effects on the health of people and communities.”

Philip A. Newbold
President & CEO
Memorial Hospital/Health System
South Bend, Indiana



State Trailways Initiatives-Indiana

“Hoosiers On The Move”



“Provide an easily accessible trail opportunity

within 15 minutes or 7.5 miles of all Indiana residents”

Objective 1: Partner Federal, State, Local, Not for-profit and private resources to build a statewide network of trails

Objective 2: Support non-state entities that acquire, develop and manage trails Link public lands, natural and scenic areas, tourist destinations and communities with a multi-modal trail system.



State Trailways Initiatives-Michigan



“Connecting Michigan”

“The state should provide incentives...to develop and maintain trailways and to avoid the interruption of trailways vital to recreation and tourism interests,” and that it should “encourage a statewide linked system of trails and recreation”

Goal 1:Stakeholder access to technical resources

Goal 2: Improve financial, maintenance, and marketing to sustain interconnected railway system

Goal 3: Improve coordination and communication

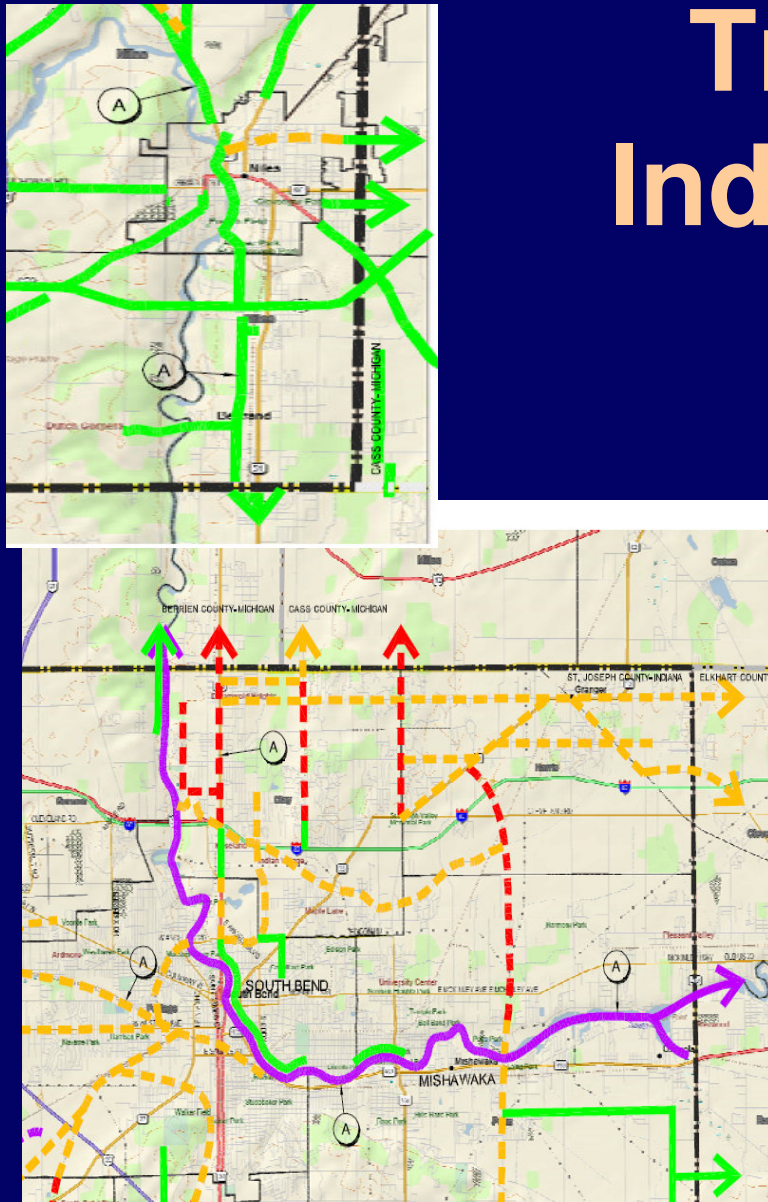
Goal 4: Provide stakeholders with a railway vision and plan to achieve vision



Trailways Initiatives Indiana and Michigan

Michiana Regional Greenway Planning

Facilitated by: Lehman & Lehman, Inc.



GREENWAYS AND TRAILS LEGEND:

- COUNTY LINE
- EXISTING TRAILS, GREENWAYS, & BIKEWAYS
- - - PLANNED TRAILS, GREENWAYS, & BIKEWAYS
- - - POTENTIAL TRAILS, GREENWAYS, & BIKEWAYS
- EXISTING SPECIALTY TRAILS (SNOWMOBILES, EQUESTRIANS, WATER TRAILS, ETC.)
- - - FUTURE SPECIALTY TRAILS (SNOWMOBILES, EQUESTRIAN, WATER TRAILS, ETC.)
- (A) SUGGESTED PRIORITY GREENWAYS SEGMENT

Indiana – Michigan River Valley Trail - Partners



Bike Michiana Coalition
Berrien County Parks, Michigan
City of Niles, Michigan
City of Mishawaka, Indiana
City of South Bend, Indiana
Indiana Department of Transportation
Michigan Department of Transportation
Michiana Watershed
National Park Service, Rivers, Trails and
Conservation Assistance Program
Niles Charter Township, Michigan
Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth
Alliance
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
St. Joseph County Parks, Indiana
Town of Roseland, Indiana

Indiana – Michigan River Valley Trail – A Reality

- What can you do to help?
 - Sign a resolution of support
 - Inform other community leaders about the effort
 - Invite us to make a presentation to a community group
 - Follow progress at www.swmpc.org/INMItrail.asp

