

# 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

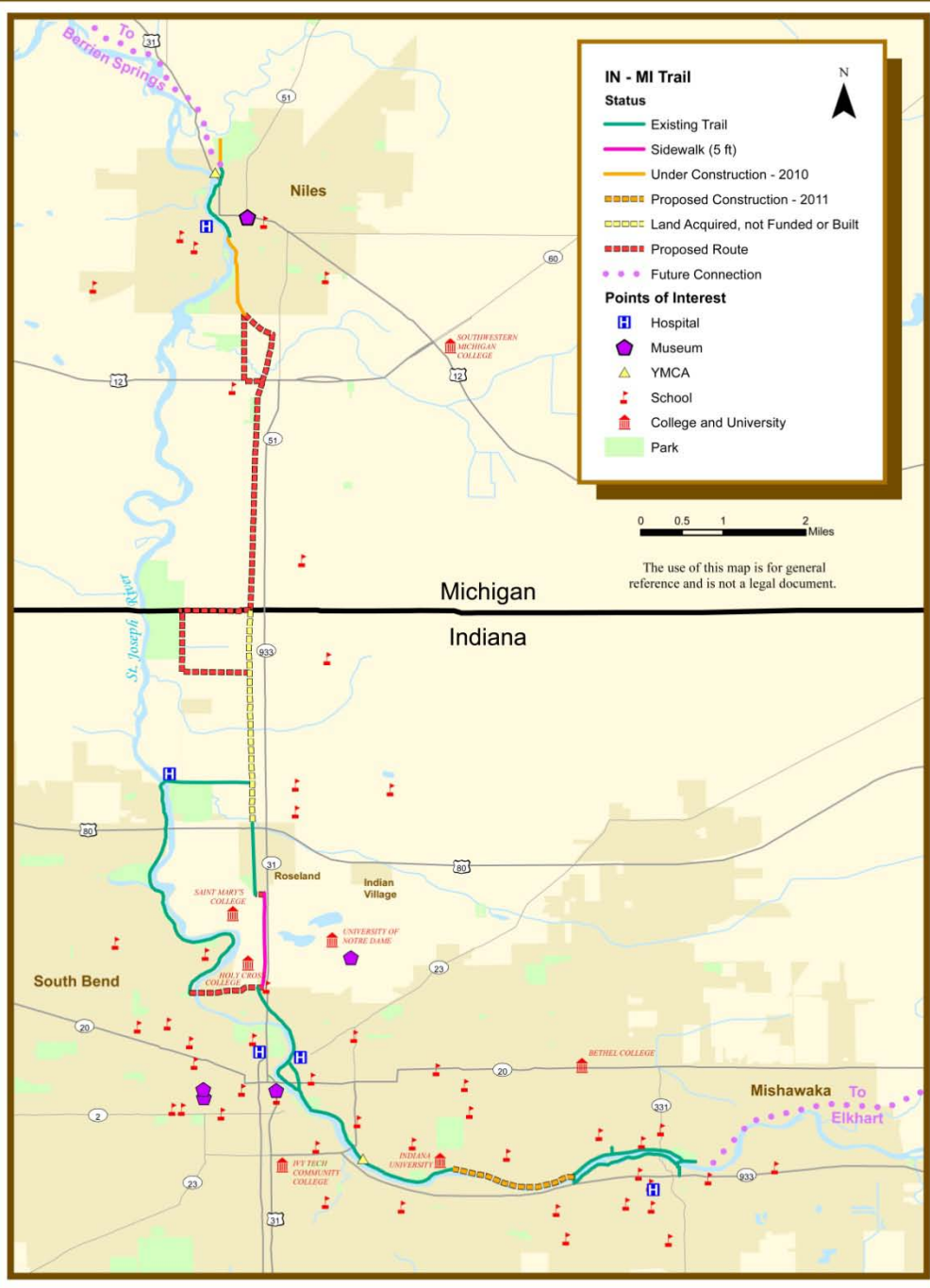
## Gaps:

5 miles in Indiana

6 miles in Michigan

## Estimated Cost:

\$5 million



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

“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*



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 –Benefits

## ● **Property Values = Tax Revenue**

- Homes along greenways sold for as much as 10% more (1999, Indianapolis)

## ● **Cost-Benefit**

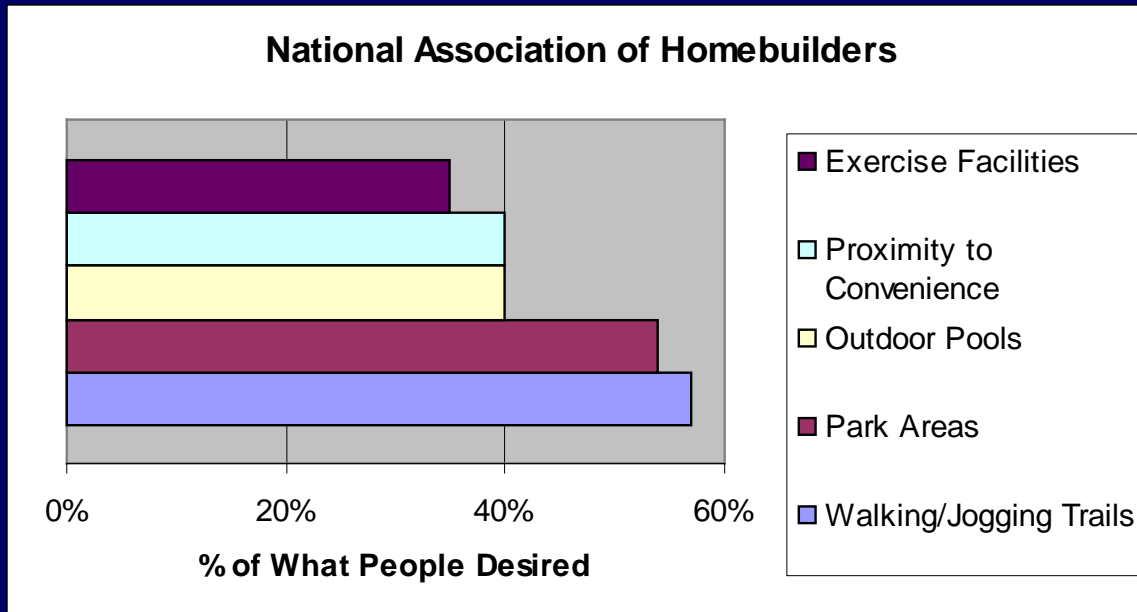
- Maintenance/Mgt annual cost - \$191,893
- Trail-related tax income - \$303,750

## ● **Trails retain and attract businesses and knowledge workers**

- Carmel, IN Mayor claims Monon Trail was the catalyst for a \$100 million City Center mixed use development



# Trails Attract Business, Residents and Tourists



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

## Trails support economic development



Increase tax revenue

Increase real estate values

Retain and attract businesses

Retain and attract residents

Promote Tourism Spending



# 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](http://www.swmpc.org/INMItrail.asp)

