

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED!

IN-MI River Valley Trail partners need local funds to match state and federal grants. Niles Township recently completed Phase I from the state line to Brandywine Creek Nature Park. Funding is now being sought for Niles Township Phase II which will connect the Township and Niles City trail at Fort Street. When completed the IN-MI River Valley Trail will be a 34-mile continuous off-road trail between Niles, MI and Mishawaka, IN.

Help Make the Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail A Reality!

Make your check payable to Michigan Gateway Community Foundation.. Be sure to list Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail in the memo line. **Your donation is tax deductible** to the full extent of the law. (IRS Publication 526) Donations can be sent to:

Michigan Community Gateway Foundation
 Attention: **Niles Township Trail Donation**
 111 Days Avenue, Buchanan, MI 49107

Donation Amount \$ _____

Donor Information

Name: _____

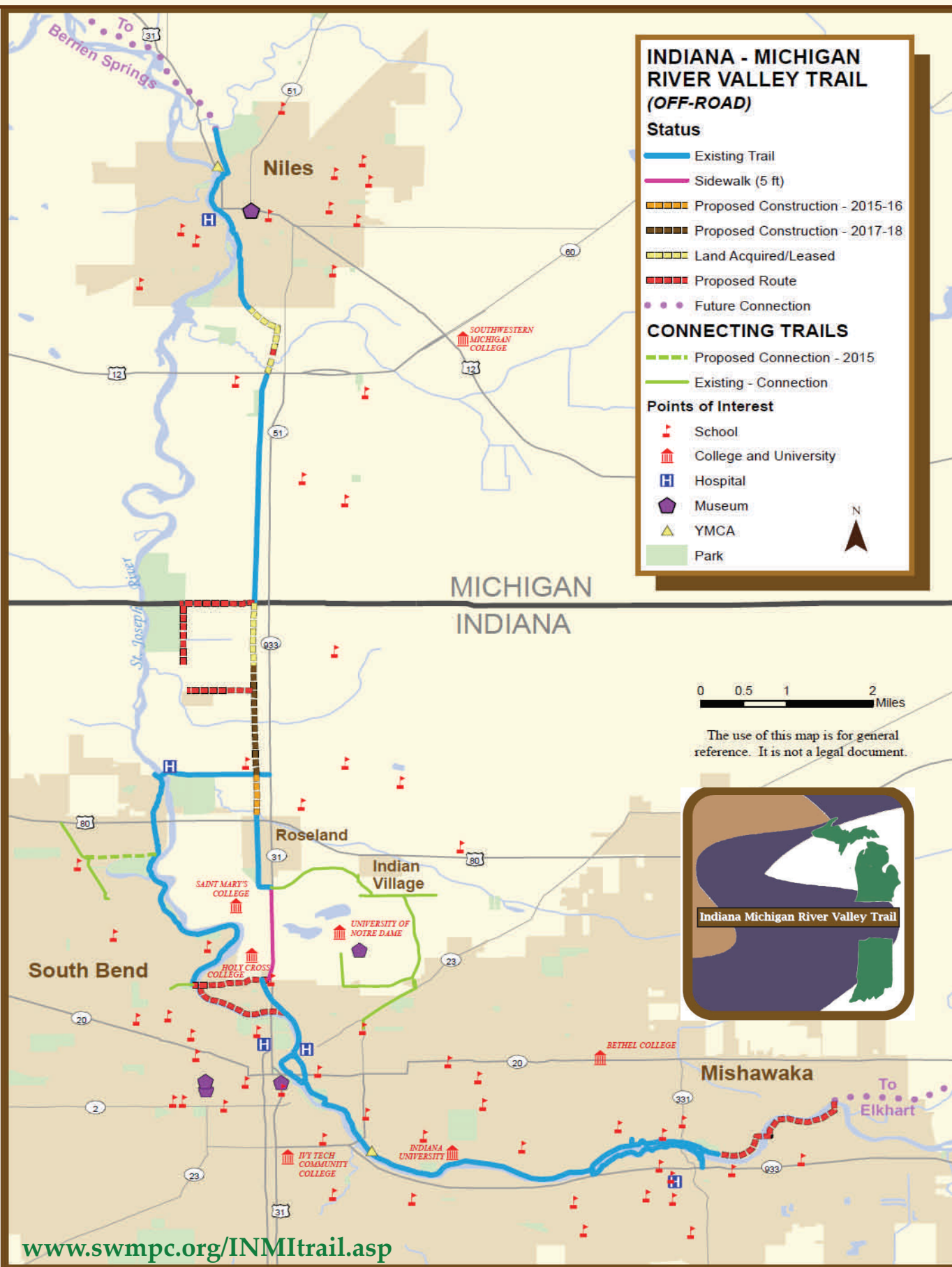
Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

If you have questions, please contact Niles Charter Township Park Commissioner, Harry Thibault at (574) 292-1175.

Proposed Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail



“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

~Anticipated Benefits of the IN-MI River Valley Trail ~

Support Local Economy and Businesses

Michigan studies show that out of town trail users spend anywhere from **\$949 to \$1,269** on lodging, restaurant, groceries, gas and equipment per trip. The average annual use of six Michigan trails was **92,000 uses**. This equates to a significant amount of spending from trail users!

In 2000, a bike event in Bloomington, **Indiana** drew in 5,000 riders contributing over **\$1 million** to the local economy in just lodging and food expenditures. The 2005 Indiana Bike Fest in Jasper attracted 250 bringing **\$120,000** to the local economy.

Increase Property Values

Realtors indicated that homes along the Paint Creek Trail (**Michigan**) sell for about **10% more** than comparable homes “off the trail.”

A 1999 study of home sales in **Indianapolis, IN** found that homes along greenways sold for as much as **10% more**.

Why Should You Support the Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail?

- You want to walk, run or bike in a safe place.
- You want a connected trail system for future generations.
- You believe in the importance of a trail to enhance the overall quality of life.
- You are passionate about free recreational opportunities available to everyone.
- You believe in sustainable transportation

If you answered “yes” to any of the above, we want you to contribute to the campaign today! Your tax-free donation will be combined with others to leverage local, state and federal government dollars. This bi-state trail project cannot become reality without community support. **Thank you!**



“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

~Working to Fund and Develop the First Bi-State Trail for Indiana and Michigan~

The Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail partners are working to create a **34-mile** trail connecting Niles, MI to Mishawaka, IN.

As shown on the map, a few segments are needed to complete this trail system. Local funding is needed to match state and federal grants.

Please consider donating!

www.swmpc.org/INMItrailsasp

Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail

~ **Partners** ~

- Bike Michiana Coalition
- Bike the Bend, Inc.
- Berrien County Parks, Michigan
- City of Niles, Michigan
- City of Mishawaka, Indiana
- City of South Bend, Indiana
- Indiana Department of Transportation
- Michiana Watershed
- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- 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



Connecting Communities

**Niles, Roseland,
South Bend, Mishawaka**

www.swmpc.org/INMItrail.asp