



People Pathways  
2012

The People Pathways effort in Greencastle, Putnam County was started in the fall of 1995. The mission was established to enhance the quality of life of our community by developing a network of multi-use trails to promote community connections, interaction, good health, safety, and non-motorized transportation. People Pathways is a not-for-profit group that functions under the umbrella organization of the Friends of the Park Association of Putnam County.

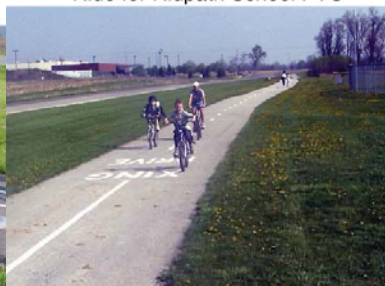
Through a partnership of public and private entities, People Pathways has made steady progress. After soliciting community input through a series of presentations and public meetings, the preliminary People Pathways System was unanimously approved by the Greencastle Park Board, Greencastle Plan Commission, the Greencastle City Council, and the Putnam County Commissioners. The People Pathways Plan is an officially adopted part of the Greencastle Comprehensive Plan. People Pathway is also included as one component of the Sustainable Greencastle initiative.

To date through a collaborative effort with the City of Greencastle, business and corporate partners, Putnam County officials, and Pathway volunteers, five phases of the master plan have been pursued with 8 miles open and 4 additional miles pending:

**Phase I**, the Greencastle/Fillmore Trail, connects the City of Greencastle to the Town of Fillmore with a 3.1-mile packed aggregate trail that was totally funded and constructed by community volunteers on an unused railroad right-of-way and sewer line easement. The trail was opened in May 1999.



Ride for Ridpath School PTO



**Phase II**, the Big Walnut Sports Park Link, is a 2-mile separately paved trail connecting residential neighborhoods with Big Walnut Sports Park and the community's industrial park. Grants from the Lilly Endowment through the Putnam County Community Foundation, Cinergy/PSI, Indiana Gas, and Wal-Mart supported this phase. This phase opened in May 2002.

**Phase III**, the Albin Pond Trail: BIG NEWS, BIG NEWS!! In 2010, our community celebrated the construction and completion of our long awaited and much anticipated Albin Pond Trail on October 6<sup>th</sup>, in coordination with International Walk to School Day. On a beautiful fall morning, students, school officials, public officials, and local citizens came together to acknowledge and present the Albin Pond Trail to our community as "open for business"! This 2-mile separately paved urban trail will address longstanding safety concerns as connections have been made between four local schools, a nature center, ties to Phase I and II, and ties to City funded sidewalk improvements. Funding for Phase III was generated through combined sources: Putnam County Community Foundation, the City of Greencastle, Indiana Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant awarded in 2001, and a Safe Routes to School Grant.



**Phase IV**, the Campus Link Trail, involves the construction of a dedicated 3.95-mile paved multi-use trail. The Campus Link Trail will provide significant community access from Greencastle's central business district to DePauw University's intramural athletic fields, DePauw's Nature Preserve/Arboretum, the proposed Veteran's Memorial Park, Campuses of Greencastle School Corporation, Rokicki Park and the new Ivy Tech State College satellite campus, and finally linking directly to two existing phases of the People Pathways network and the Area 30 Career Center.

The Campus Link Trail will also offer an important connection to the developing **National Road Heritage Trail**, a 150-mile cross-state continuous system of multi-use trails. ([www.nrht.org](http://www.nrht.org)) Partnership commitments generated the funds for Phase IV: the Coleman Foundation, DePauw University, Heartland Automotive, the City of Greencastle, and an Indiana Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant.



**Phase V**, the Big Walnut Sports Park Loop Trail, is a 10-foot wide 1.25-mile paved trail around the perimeter of Big Walnut Sports Park. Funds for construction were generated through the partnership of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Grants Program, the Greencastle Redevelopment Commission, the Big Walnut Sports Park Board, the Greencastle Parks and Recreation Department, and the People Pathways Planning Committee. The Big Walnut Sports Park Loop Trail was opened in March 2005.



**Signed Pathways** help promote Greencastle, Putnam County as a pedestrian/bicycle friendly community as streets and county roads become signed for the developing People Pathways System. Logo route markers and "share-the-road" warning signs are being installed as our community trail network grows.

Steady progress continues being made in three key goal areas: Programming, Implementation, and Funding for Maintenance/Upkeep.

### PROGRAMMING

- ❖ **MHAPC New Year's Day 5K Fun Run & Walk:** The 2011 New Year started positively for many citizens of our community who participated in the first New Year's Day 5K Fun Run & Walk organized by volunteers of Mental Health America of Putnam County. The purpose of the event was to promote physical and mental health awareness and to help introduce and highlight our community's newest section of multi-use trail, the Albin Pond Trail.
- ❖ **Fillmore Walk-A-Thon:** Fillmore Elementary students walked for "fun and funds" as they once again enjoyed a Spring walk on the Greencastle/Fillmore Trail as they raised funds for their school during their annual Walk-A-Thon.
- ❖ **Walking Wednesdays:** The new Walking Wednesdays program sponsored by partners of the Putnam County Health Coalition encouraged local citizens to "walk, run, and chat" their way to good health as they experienced a different People Pathways route or DePauw Nature Park trail each week.



- ❖ **Destination Greencastle:** In August, People Pathways as a member of Friends of the Park joined the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to welcome incoming DePauw students. Each student was warmly greeted, given information about our community, free food, and a People Pathways map to help familiarize them with our community and keep them safe (Students were told "YES" it will be on the "test"! :-~).
- ❖ **Geocaching:** This year geocaching became a brand-new use of our community's People Pathways multi-use trail system and another reason to come outside and enjoy a hike. Check it out on Geocaching.com!

## CONSTRUCTION

- ❖ **Percy Julian Drive Connection:** People Pathways would like to gratefully acknowledge Mayor Murray and her Department heads for their dedication and hard work in bringing the Percy Julian Drive Project to fruition. The new infrastructure design improves vehicular movement in the area as well as providing a key “connector” to our community’s steadily growing multi-use trail system via the widened sidewalk/pathway – one more significant step forward in becoming a pedestrian/bicycle friendly community.
- ❖ **Stellar Grant:** We also applaud with appreciation Mayor Murray, President Casey, and the Stellar Grant Committee for their professional efforts in bringing Stellar Grant Funding to the City of Greencastle. We appreciate their vision of our community and for including the future Campus Link Trail as one component of that vision.
- ❖ **Big Walnut Sports Park Connecting Trails:** The trail system at Big Walnut Sports Park has been expanded thanks to the Greencastle Parks and Recreation Department and funding from a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant.
- ❖ **Vandalia Trail:** During the past year, much of the People Pathways Committee’s effort has been directed toward the ongoing reclamation of the former Vandalia Railroad corridor to extend the People Pathways multi-use trail system toward the east.

Earlier in the year, volunteers installed rustic gates constructed by Putnamville Correctional Facility from materials donated by Pingleton Sawmill on January 8<sup>th</sup> (the coldest day of the winter!) at the trail entrances at 875 East and 750 East. The gates help define the trail entrances and welcome trail users as well as provide a measure of security. Also this year, base stone and flume have been added and partially compacted to create the 1.25-mile contiguous section between 750 East and 625 East.



It has been through a collaborative effort by community partners who offered donations of materials, in-kind services, and/or reduced rates, plus a measure of “squeezing” every penny that have kept the cost to create this section of our multi-use trail to a modest amount! However, before promoting and opening this section of the trail for use, a few issues of drainage, additional materials for stone compaction, and trail signage need to be addressed in the coming year.

It is through a collective commitment of our trail supporters and perseverance, that we are steadily moving toward the reality of a 7-mile multi-use trail connecting Greencastle and Coatesville. When we connect to Coatesville, we will be welcomed by volunteers of the Hendrick’s County Friends of the Vandalia Trail and Hendrick’s County Parks Department as they continue their effort to create the Coatesville/Amo connection. With this connection, the Greencastle to Amo Vandalia Trail will create a 12-mile multi-use trail and a key segment of the developing 150-mile cross-state National Road Heritage Trail (find photos and more info at [www.nrht.org/vandalia](http://www.nrht.org/vandalia)).

#### MAINTENANCE/UPKEEP

- ❖ **Albin Pond Trail:** The “heavy-lifting” of Albin Pond Trail maintenance remains with the Greencastle Parks and Recreation Department and the Department of Public Works. Gratefully, community volunteers of all ages also continue to contribute to trail beautification and amenities: i.e. Greencastle High School students and Deer Meadow second graders joined Greencastle Park and Rec Department to plant trees along the trail, Girl Scout Troop #358 adopted the Albin Pond Trail to regularly pickup trash, and benches were added in memory of Gary Pershing,



- ❖ **Greencastle/Fillmore Trail:** In addition to seasonal mowing and spraying for which the Pathways Committee is responsible, a major trail repair was undertaken this year. After years of chronic washouts of stone in one troublesome spot followed by “hand” repair, a new concrete spillway has been constructed that will allow the “big rains” to flow over the spillway without damaging the trail. Whew!
- ❖ **Fillmore Trailhead Shelter:** As we work together to extend People Pathways to the east via the former Vandalia Railroad corridor and create a multi-use trail “ribbon” through our beautiful Putnam County, the “bow on the top” is the newly constructed Fillmore Trailhead Shelter!

With funds awarded to People Pathways from a UNITED WAY OF PUTNAM COUNTY, INC. Community Impact Grant, Lee Stewart (Fillmore Shelter Project Coordinator/Planner) solicited materials at reduced cost and donations from Pike Lumber, Cash Concrete, Liberty Industries, Summit Builders, Black Lumber Company, and Taylor Made Graphics.

Lee gathered an outstanding construction crew of Fillmore “Good Ol Boys”; Mike Goodpaster, John Glaze, Meridith Trusty, Alan Jones, and Jerry Long who volunteered their “time and talent”.



The result of this community partnership, which we gratefully acknowledge, is an outstandingly beautiful shelter that trail users can use as a destination spot to rest and refresh, families can enjoy a picnic, and Fillmore students can use as an outdoor classroom.



## FUNDING

**Fundraisers and Grants:** It is through a combination of resources that the People Pathways Project has made steady progress. This year sources of funding came from our individual donors, plus the “Backroad Bike Tour”, the Friends of the Park “Pancakes for Parks and Pathways”, and a Walmart Foundation Grant.



The People Pathways Project is a truly community-wide effort that continues to move forward due to the contribution of materials, talents, funds, and the shared vision of many to create a network of multi-use trails, our “linear park” to enhance the quality-of-life of our community and promote the good health and wellness of our citizens.

Questions of interest may be directed to People Pathways 765 653 6178 or Greencastle Parks and Recreation Department 765 653 3395.