

History of People Pathways 1995-2025
Connecting Communities Across
Greencastle, Putnam County, and Indiana

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PEOPLE PATHWAYS is a multi-use trail system connecting communities across Greencastle, Putnam County, and Indiana. It is a “linear park” designed to enhance the quality of life of the community with a network of trails promoting recreation, good health, outdoor education, non-motorized transportation, citizen interaction, and community connections. People Pathways is an opportunity for local citizens and visitors to experience the natural beauty of our community.

1995 In the Beginning

People Pathways was launched in 1995 as the result of a survey presented to the community for the Greencastle Parks & Recreation Department’s Five-Year Master Plan. Survey results revealed the growing interest in multi-use trail development. With the approval of the Greencastle Park Board, an informal 13-member committee, including local officials and volunteers, was created to study the feasibility of connecting Greencastle/Putnam County with a community-wide multi-use trail network. The first People Pathways Committee included: Greencastle Parks Director/Curt Cooley, Greencastle City Engineer/Chris Barnes, Greencastle Mayor/Nancy Michael, Putnam County Economic Development Director/Bill Dory, Putnam County Planning & Zoning Director/Kim Hyten, Greencastle Park Board President/Kent Menzel, Greencastle Park Board Member/Leslie Hanson, and volunteer members Darold Barnes, Tom Graffis, Dan TeGrotenhuis, Bryan Hanson, Bill Marley, and Joy Marley.

CHALLENGES: The committee recognized there were challenges: There was no money, there was no property, and there was no county park board or county parks department.

VISION/GOAL: The committee did, however, have a vision: The goal was to create a countywide “linear park” to promote a positive partnership between economic development and quality-of-life concerns within our community. To initiate this goal, the “3Ps Strategy” identified three needs: Plan, Partners, and Persuasion/Education.

PLAN: The PRELIMINARY PLAN: It was acknowledged that the plan would need to be implemented in phases as opportunities and funding became available. The preliminary plan was designed by City Engineer Chris Barnes, with a plan narrative written by volunteer Bryan Hanson. The preliminary plan was meant to be a guide with adjustments to be made with community input and community development opportunities.

The plan would have two components:

- **SIGNED/SHARED PATHWAY:** This type of pathway would be a network of shared/signed pathways using existing infrastructure connecting neighborhoods and activity centers across and within Greencastle.
- **SEPARATELY CONSTRUCTED PATHWAY:** This type of pathway would be separately constructed around and through Greencastle with trail “spurs” extending across Putnam County.

PARTNERS & PERSUASION:

- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS:** The committee recognized that implementing the plan would take A LOT of partners. To market the plan a “Community Awareness Campaign” was launched. Pathways committee members visited local service organizations, clubs, PTOs, and boards to share the proposed preliminary plan. The purpose of community outreach to market the preliminary plan was twofold:
 - First, to share the vision and to explain the benefits. To meet people where they were. To persuade/educate about the benefits.
 - Second, to gather input from the community regarding their concerns and to gather their ideas to refine and improve the plan.The community was then invited to an open meeting. The community members who attended became invaluable contributors of time and talent through the years.
- **COMMUNITY DECISION MAKERS/DECIDERS:** Based on community input, the refined preliminary plan was presented to city and county officials to request their approval of a multi-use trail/linear park. A point was made NOT to ask for money! The plan was APPROVED by:
 - Greencastle Park Board
 - Greencastle Planning Commission
 - Greencastle Mayor and City Council
 - Putnam County Planning Commission
 - Putnam County Commissioners
 - The preliminary plan became part of both the city and county comprehensive plans

PILOT PROJECT

1996–1999 Phase 1, Greencastle–Fillmore Trail, 3.40 miles

With official plan approval, the short-term goal became the construction of PHASE ONE as a pilot project to demonstrate the benefits of a multi-use trail. It was acknowledged that A LOT of partners would be needed: Property Partners, Funding Partners, and Volunteer Partners:

- **PROPERTY PARTNERS:** Sometimes life is timing! An abandoned former railroad corridor east of Greencastle was perfect. With permission from the corridor owners, the City of Greencastle and local Dixie Chopper businessman Art Evans, it was an opportunity to “repurpose” the unused corridor for a new beneficial purpose.

The Pilot Project inspired a name change. The preliminary plan was originally named “Greencastle Connections.” However, with the potential for trail extension in eastern Putnam County, the plan was renamed “People Pathways” to better identify the scope of the plan.

With a trail design donated by volunteer Civil Engineer Garth Hughes, the short-term goal became the construction of a multi-use trail connecting Greencastle and Fillmore.

- **FUNDING PARTNERS:** With property and a plan, funding was now needed. A one-year funding campaign was launched for Phase 1.
 - **FRIENDS OF THE PARK:** Fundraising was enhanced when People Pathways became a project functioning under the 501c3 umbrella of Friends of the Park. The relationship allowed People Pathways to apply for grants.
 - **PUTNAM COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:** The first stop for fundraising was the Putnam County Community Foundation. A \$20,000 matching grant was applied for and awarded! Helpfully, PCCF allowed in-kind services and materials as part of the match!
 - **COMMUNITY PARTNERS:** During the year, 41 local organizations, businesses, and corporate neighbors agreed to become partners. Monetary contributions were made by corporate partners, businesses, clubs, and banks, while in-kind services and material donations were made by quarries, excavators, and truckers. The funding campaign generated \$48,617 in matching funds & donations of in-kind service/materials for a grand TOTAL of \$68,617 for the project!

- **VOLUNTEER PARTNERS:** With a plan, property, and funding, **MANY** volunteers, who ranged in age from cub scouts to retirees, pitched in to clean up the corridor, trim the corridor, plant trees, and add amenities. Examples:
 - DPU Women's Swim Team helped clean the corridor of trash, old tires, appliances, and nasty stuff.
 - Area 30 Career Center Landscape Management students trimmed the corridor, then planted trees donated by the Greencastle Tree Board along Calbert Way, and Area 30 Career Center Building Trades students, led by teachers Dan Miller & Dale Pierce, constructed the Greencastle trailhead shelter.
 - Fillmore Cub Scouts and dads prepared the Fillmore trailhead and added birdhouses.
 - With funding from United Way, the Fillmore Good Ol' Boys (Master Craftsman Lee Stewart, John Glaze, Mike Goodpaster, Alan Jones, Jerry Long, and Meridith Trusty) constructed the Fillmore trailhead shelter and added rail fencing.
 - Rita Schendel shared her photography and graphic arts skill to promote the project.

Time to celebrate! Thanks to the generosity of community partners, PHASE 1 of our community's People Pathways Project, the 3.40-mile Greencastle–Fillmore Trail was opened in 1999!



People Pathways



wishes to thank the following individuals, organizations, and businesses for contributing to the development of the Greencastle-Fillmore Path and Trailheads:

VISION LINK

Putnam County Foundation, Lone Star Industries, Art & Jean Evans,
Tincher Construction

CHALLENGE LINK

Cinergy/P.S. I., Greencastle Street Department, Hassler Trucking Service, Inc.

LEADER'S LINK

Civil Engineering Consultants, Stephenson's Excavating, Putnam County Highway Dept., Hanson Aggregates Midwest, Inc., Wal-Mart, Martin Marietta, Harris Stone, Cash Concrete, Lone Star Alternate Fuels, Charming Shoppes, National City Bank, Greencastle Civic League, Delta Theta Tau, J.W. Jones Co., Putnam/Greencastle Development Center

STEWARD'S LINK

Area 30 Career Center, DePauw Hartman Center, Walden Inn, First Citizens Bank, Mallory, Lincoln Park Stone, Excel Lawn Care, Cross Enterprise, Friends of the Park, Putnam Backroads Bike Tour, Pingleton Sawmill, Inc. Greencastle City Council, Putnam County Commissioners, Fillmore Town Council-Jack Myers

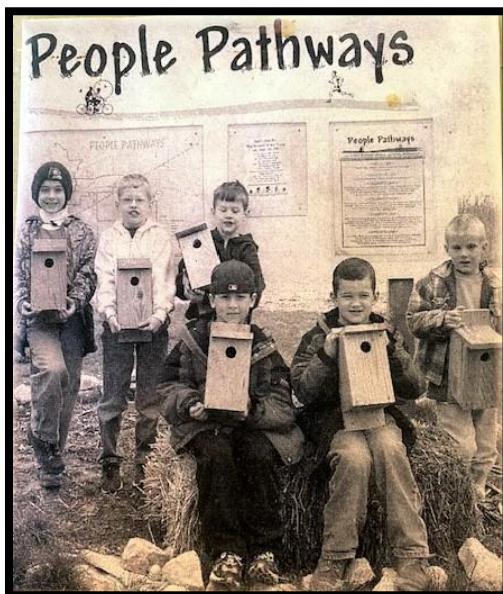
BUILDER'S LINK

Skelton-Skinner Lumber, Bright Futures, Gilley Welding, Greencastle Offset Printing, Mike Rokicki Insurance, Kiwanis, Chuck's Rental, First National Bank, Women of the Moose, Cox Electric, Melvin Keyt of the Moose Lodge, Shuee & Sons, Greencastle Wash & Fill, Park L. Firebaugh, DDS., DePauw Cycling Team, Greencastle Parks and Recreation, Kaleidoscope Bicycle Tours, Custom Velo, Putnam Cooperative Extension Services, Master Gardeners

FRIEND'S LINK

John & Ellen Dittmer, Refuse Handling, Mark & Tami Parker, Kroger, McDonald's Restaurant, Putnam County Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts, Putnam County Senior Citizens, Happico-Kevin Westwick, Horizon Business Center-Sharon Garner, Marsh, H.O.P., Mark & Jeanette Hammer, Bert and Betty's Kitchen, Silverwood Signs

Greencastle–Fillmore Trail



PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE

Moving forward from 2000, the City of Greencastle and the People Pathways Committee worked collaboratively in parallel to develop more phases.

City of Greencastle Phases

During the period between 2000-2025, Pathways phases within the city were developed under the leadership of four Mayors: Nancy Michael, Sue Murray, Bill Dory, and Lynda Dunbar with guidance from City Attorney Laurie Hardwick, Director of West Central Economic District, Pat Martin, and City Engineers Glen Marrow, Garth Hughes, and Jeff Mahan.

2002 Big Walnut Sports Park Link Trail, 1.75 miles

The Big Walnut Sports Park Link Trail links residential neighborhoods on the east side of Greencastle with the city's industrial park, Greencastle/Fillmore Trail, and the Big Walnut Sports Park. The Sports Park is an 80-acre park that includes soccer fields, softball diamonds, baseball diamonds, little league fields, frisbee golf, and a bark park.

The Sports Park Link is a paved 1.75-mile trail located along the south side of Indianapolis Road and SR 240. Along SR 240, the Indiana Department of Transportation granted permission to build the trail in the highway right-of-way. The project was delayed about 18 months so that construction could be coordinated with the construction of Greencastle's new Wal-Mart Super Store along the trail.

A major portion of the funding was provided by a grant from the Lilly Foundation through the Putnam County Community Foundation in the amount of \$110,000. Other sources of funds were: Walmart Super Center (\$15,000), Cinergy/PSI (\$6,000), Vectren/Indiana Gas Company (\$3,000), and other fundraising events (\$10,974) for a grand TOTAL of \$144,974!



2005 Big Walnut Sports Park Loop Trail, 1.25 miles

The Big Walnut Sports Park Loop Trail forms a circle around the Big Walnut Sports Park. The trail starts at the end of the Sports Park Link Trail along Calbert Way and encircles the entire park. This separately paved, 10-foot-wide multi-use recreational trail is approximately 1.25 miles long.

The trail is designed to encourage additional activity at the Big Walnut Sports Park; walking, running, bicycling. Employees of the nearby industrial park use the trail during lunch and after work.

A major portion of the funding for this link was provided by an Indiana Department of Natural Resources Grant in the amount of \$144,187. Other sources of funding were: City of Greencastle/Redevelopment Commission (\$15,000) and Donation of Right-of-Way (\$24,000) for a grand TOTAL of \$184,067!



2010: Albin Pond/Safe Routes to School Trail, 2.30 miles

The Albin Pond Trail links two elementary schools, the middle school, the high school, and several neighborhoods with a paved 2.30 urban trail. The trail starts at Tzouanakis Intermediate School and travels east along Albin Pond Road providing the first pedestrian access to several subdivisions. The trail then branches south to link with Deer Meadow Primary School. After reaching Deer Meadow, the trail heads east and south to the Greencastle Middle and High School Campus. A “spur” trail extends to the west on property donated by the Baptist Church with construction donated by local property developer Jim Gillen.

The trail establishes a dedicated bicycle and pedestrian corridor for local school children. Amenities along the trail include benches, story boards, flat exercise station added by Eagle Scout Boyd Ensley, and trees planted by Deer Meadow students with direction from teachers Julie Carr & John Garner. Anchored by Ivy Tech, this link also provides connection to the Campus Link Trail/Phase 1, the Big Walnut Sports Park Link Trail, Area 30 Career Center, and the Greencastle/Fillmore Trail.

Sources of funds were: 2001 Indiana Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant (\$469,917), 2006 Safe Routes to School Grant (\$159,437), City of Greencastle (\$125,000), and Putnam County Community Foundation (\$72,000) for a grand TOTAL of \$826,354! Time to celebrate the completion of Albin Pond/Safe Routes to School Trail on International Walk to School Day 2010!



2020: Campus Link Trail/Phase 1, 1.20 miles

The original plan for the Campus Link Trail was a separately paved multi-use trail from the intersection of SR 240/Indianapolis Road going west along the south side of Veterans Highway to Jackson Street. To manage funding for the project, it was necessary to separate the project into two phases: Campus Link Trail/Phase 1 and Campus Link Trail/Phase 2.

The Campus Link Trail/Phase 1 is a 1.20-mile link spanning from SR 240 to Zinc Mill Road. It connects directly to the Big Walnut Sports Park Link Trail on the east end with access to the Greencastle Industrial Park and connecting to the Albin Pond/Safe Routes to School Trail on the west end. Partners in the area created access to the trail; Ivy Tech created a connection during construction from their campus, and Emmert Builders extended a connection during construction of the Zinc Mill Apartments. DePauw University caught the trail building “fever” with the construction of a packed stone trail through the arboretum connecting the campus to the DePauw Nature Park, and a potential future connection to the Campus Link Trail. Additionally, the Campus Link Trail/Phase 1 offers an important connection to the developing National Road Heritage Trail, a 160-mile cross-state continuous system of multi-use trails.

To fund the Campus Link Trail/Phase 1 project, the City of Greencastle in partnership with the People Pathways Planning Committee applied for and was awarded an Indiana Department of Transportation (TE-21) Enhancement Grant. This federally funded program provided 80% (\$905,410) of the project’s cost. A partnership developed to generate the necessary 20% matching funds: Greencastle Redevelopment Commission (\$374,283), Greencastle EDIT funds (\$126,800), Coleman Foundation of Chicago (\$24,000), and DePauw University (\$20,000) for a grand TOTAL of \$1,450,493.

2020 Zinc Mill Trail, 1.00 mile

During upgrades and reconstruction of Zinc Mill Road, the city constructed a 1.00-mile asphalt pathway to connect the newly developed subdivision on the south end to the Campus Link Trail/Phase 1 and the Albin Pond/Safe Routes to School Trail on the north end.

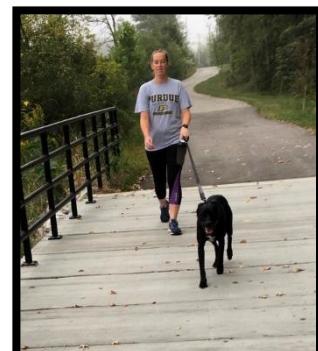
Further, the City of Greencastle reinforces the commitment to Pathways development by filling the “gaps”. In 2025, along with street improvements in the area, the east Washington Street extension was created, connecting to the Greencastle High School/Middle School Campus and the Albin Pond/Safe Routes to School Trail.

2026 Coming soon!! Campus Link Trail/Phase 2, 2.40 miles

The Campus Link Trail/Phase 2 project will complete the paved Campus Link Trail across the western half of the city and upgrade the existing 0.8-mile Phase 1 of the Putnam Nature Trail and trailhead from stone to paved. Phase 2 project is funded by: IDNR Natural Resources Next Level Trails Grant (\$2,003,572), Greencastle Redevelopment Commission (\$1,589,773), & Putnam Parks and Pathways (\$20,000) for a grand TOTAL of \$3,613,345. Completion of this segment will bring the total number of open trail in Putnam County to 24.30 miles! This will extend the continuous length of open National Road Heritage Trail in Putnam to 15 miles.

Preparing to warmly welcome trail users, the historic Penn Depot has been relocated to a future trailhead site awaiting restoration as a future welcome center.

BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME!



People Pathways Volunteer Committee Phases

During the 2000-2025 period, the People Pathways volunteer committee moved forward by developing phases from east to west across Putnam County.

2000–2020 BUILDING TO THE EAST

2000–2014 Putnam County Vandalia Trail (completed), 4.60 miles

The People Pathways Vandalia Trail is a 4.6-mile packed stone multi-use trail on the former Pennsylvania/Vandalia Railroad corridor. Over a 14-year period beginning in 2000, with the permission of property owner Art Evans, the trail was developed in four segments between county roads with a western connection to the Greencastle/Fillmore Trail and an eastern connection to the Hendricks County Vandalia Trail.

KEY PARTNERSHIP

During that time, a key partnership developed with National Road Heritage Trail, Inc. The NRHT, founded by Greg Midgley and Kevin Heber in 2004, is a 160-mile cross-state multi-use trail effort to connect eight counties across Indiana from Richmond to Terre Haute. People Pathways became Putnam County's "link" in that effort. Since People Pathways and NRHT's trail building efforts are aligned, NRHT graciously allowed People Pathways to use its 501c3 status for grant writing purposes. This relationship helped generate much needed funding for local trail construction!

CONSTRUCTION

In the earliest stage of trail development, volunteers cleaned and cleared the corridor of massive amounts of trash that had been deposited on the abandoned rail corridor over several years.

Construction costs were kept to a minimum thanks to in-kind service & material donations and reduced charges from construction partners: Endeavor Communications, Stephenson Excavating, Lone Star/Buzzi, Putnamville Correctional Facility, & Putnam County Highway Department.

Amenities were added by volunteers: Quail Forever, with the help of students, added native plants along the trail; Bethel Church volunteers added benches, bike rack, and information kiosks; and the Putnam County Visitors Bureau added trail signage.

FUNDING

Funding came from: The partnership of Greg Midgley, National Road Heritage Trail, Inc., and DNR Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust Grant (\$151,554), DNR Benjamin Harrison Stewardship Grant (\$10,800), Duke Energy Foundation (\$8,500), Walmart

Foundation (\$6,500), Central Indiana Bicycle Association (\$2,800), National Road Bicycle Club (\$250), Rotary (\$2,000), Putnam County Community Foundation (\$8,000), fundraisers (\$4,066), and Individual donations (\$2,000) with a grand TOTAL of \$196,470. What a bargain!

In 2014, the partnership with Greg Midgley and National Road Heritage Trail, Inc., made it possible for the Putnam County Vandalia Trail corridor to be purchased to preserve the property for a recreational/educational multi-use trail.

In 2020, with a DNR Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust Grant and confirmation of an interlocal agreement, the ownership of the Putnam County Vandalia Trail was transferred to the county.



Putnam Nature Trail, 3.40 miles

The Putnam Nature Trail is a 3.40-mile packed stone multi-use trail beginning on the west side of Greencastle at Jackson Street (future connection to Campus Link Trail/Phase 2) and traveling southwest on the former railroad corridor to County Road 300 West. The trail was developed in two segments, Putnam Nature Trail/Phase 1 and Putnam Nature Trail/Phase 2a & 2b.

2016 Putnam Nature Trail, Phase 1 (0.80-mile segment) Open

Volunteer trailblazers' first encounter with the overgrown 0.8-mile segment of former railroad property in 2013 revealed both the challenges and the possibilities of repurposing the corridor for a new use!

Development of this segment was made possible by property donations from the City of Greencastle, Buzzi Lone Star, and Corner Properties Inc, plus an agreement with corridor neighbors Lola Hutson and Rick Parrish for property adjustments. With a plan from Civil Engineering Consultants, and a much appreciated \$84,000 funding award from Putnam County Community Foundation's Envision Grant, trail construction was ready to begin!

Initial heavy clearing was done by Buzzi/Lone Star with final clearing, tiling, and grading done by Hurley Construction. In the trail clearing process only a minimal number of trees were disturbed retaining the majestic appearance of the corridor. A thick white ribbon of Hanson Aggregate's fine stone was laid down by Hassler Trucking and compacted to create the trail surface.

Amenities were added to enhance the natural beauty of the environment and safety of the trail:

- Rail fencing, gates, signage, and a kiosk were added through a collaborative effort of Putnamville Correctional Facility, Bethel Church, Putnam County Sheriff's Department, Greencastle Department of Public Works, and Pathways volunteers.
- Even though the "abyss" presented a huge challenge, many partners came together to reclaim and reshape this once impassable area. Followed by McCullough Excavating's re-grading, volunteers from Quail Forever, Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District, People Pathways, Walmart Transportation VAP Program, and Putnam County Families in Nature Group joined forces to add birdhouses and plant native grasses and wildflowers to attract bees, birds, and butterflies.

- Forty flowering trees, donated by Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District, were planted and mulched by Boy Scout Troop #99 and DePauw students.
- Benches, donated by Civil Engineering Consultants and West Central Solid Waste District, were added along the trail to offer trail users a spot to rest, reflect, and refresh.

\$52,752.77 of the PCCF Envision Grant was expended for PNT/Phase 1 construction allowing \$31,247.23 to be rolled over for development of PNT/Phase 2. This cost savings was generated thanks to the donations and reduced costs of services and materials by providers, plus the commitment of volunteers.

On September 23, 2016, guests were warmly welcomed by gracious hostesses of Girl Scout Troops 174 & 10307 as community partners gathered to celebrate the opening of the Putnam Nature Trail/Phase 1!



2018 Putnam Nature Trail, Phase 2 (2.60-mile segment) Open

Putnam Nature Trail/Phase 2 extends 2.60 miles from Limedale along the former Pennsylvania Railroad corridor to County Road 300 West. With a partnership of National Road Heritage Trail, Inc. and People Pathways, ownership of the property was secured through tax sale purchases and purchase of a privately owned segment later also supplemented with a portion of the Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust Grant. PNT/Phase 2 ownership has been transferred from National Road Heritage Trail to the County.

Funding for the project had a “head start” with \$31,247.23 in roll-over funds from the PCCF Envision Grant. Additional funds came from: the partnership of Greg Midgley and National Road Heritage Trail, Inc. with DNR Benjamin Harrison Trust Grant (\$75,000), Duke Foundation (\$12,000), Walmart Foundation VAP Grant (\$1,000), Crown Industries (\$500), and Putnam County Convention Visitors Bureau TAD Grant (\$20,000) for a grand TOTAL \$139,747.23!

With property and funding secured, the first brave volunteer “trailblazers” fought through brambles, briars, and brush to mark the trail for clearing. Initial clearing was done by Buzzi/Lone Star’s “Big Rig” followed by Joe Spiker Excavating crew. During project development, care was taken within the 10-foot corridor to limit clearing to a 15-foot width for the multi-use trail to allow an ample border of trees and vegetation to preserve both the natural beauty of the area and wildlife habitat. With Hassler Trucking masterfully spreading 1,702 tons of Martin Marietta stone and Joe Spiker’s Crew grading and compacting, the trail surface was created to encourage healthy activity.

On the east end, trail users are greeted by trailhead area designed by Civil Engineering Consultants, highlighted by Civic League’s artist Sarah Sim mural, warmly welcomed by the trail shelter built by two volunteers, Daryl Starr & Larry Hutson, with materials donated by ReMax Reality, picnic table built by Putnam County Sheriff’s Department, and benches donated by Just R Time Construction. On the west end, shared parking is available at the DNR Fish & Wildlife parking area with access to the Putnam Nature Trail via a trail easement generously donated by DNR.

On August 14, 2018, Putnam Nature Trail/Phase 2 was officially and enthusiastically opened with a celebration to say “thank you” to the many partners who helped create the 2.6-mile smooth packed stone trail segment



Putnam Nature Trail Partners

Putnam County Community Foundation	Crown Equipment Corporation
Putnam County Convention Visitors Bureau	Corner Properties, LLC
Buzzi UniCem USA	West Central Solid Waste District
Duke Energy Foundation	Putnam County Sheriff Dept.
City of Greencastle	Silverwood Signs
National Road Heritage Trail	Putnam County Bicentennial Committee
John Phillips, Surveyor	Putnam County Families in Nature
ASA Surveying	McCullough Excavating & Silt Removal
Hurley Construction	Headley Hardware
Hassler Trucking Services	Bethel Baptist Church
Martin Marietta	GreenStreet Residential Maintenance
Hanson Aggregates Midwest	DPU Alpha Phi Omega Community Service Fraternity
Pingleton Sawmill	DPU Sigma Nu
Putnamville Correctional Facility	Boy Scout Troop 99
Quail Forever	Girl Scout Troop 1734 & 10307
Joe Spiker Excavating	Quail Forever
Civil Engineering Consultants	Just R Time Construction
Walmart Transportation VAP Grant	Greencastle Civic League/ Artist Sarah Sims
Soil & Water Conservation District	Pathways Volunteer
Putnam County Health Dept	

2023 Hamrick Station Trail (3.0-mile) Open

Putnam Parks and Pathways, in collaboration with the National Road Heritage Trail, Inc. and the Putnam County Visitors Bureau, officially opened the rustic Hamrick Station Trail on a segment of the former railroad corridor that was purchased in two tax sales in the amount of \$3,445.56. Starting at Manhattan Road and West County Road 575 South, the trailhead to the rustic footpath sits on the west side of Manhattan Road, with an information kiosk and small parking area.

This segment extends 3.0 miles west along the abandoned railroad corridor and has a grass “floor” suitable for foot or mountain bike use. With trimming and clearing done by a contractor and dedicated volunteer crew; Allison Leer, Greg Midgley, Eric Freeman, & Jim Woody, the natural beauty of the area has been revealed and made accessible. Coming up to the banks of Big Walnut Creek, the 6-8-foot-wide trail travels through a heavily wooded area of the county that may be the most beautiful stretch to-date.

The Hamrick Station Trail addition, which leads toward Reelsville, extends People Pathways to nearly 22 miles of open trail, and brings the National Road Heritage Trail closer to a continuous pathway across Putnam County.



2025 Westward Ho! Future Trails

Planning for the future, west of Reelsville to County Road 800 West, two parcels of the former railroad property have been purchased and preserved for future trail development for a total of 1.50 miles. One parcel was purchased by People Pathways in 2015 tax sale for \$192.05. The second parcel was purchased directly from the owner for \$39,000, half from Putnam Parks & Pathways funds and half from a private donation.

SUSTAINABILITY

People Pathways began as a grassroots, informal committee with the understanding that as the project grew, a more formal structure for implementation and sustainability would be required.

A huge step forward in formalizing the committee was presented in 2012 when National Road Heritage Trail, Inc. was formed by Greg Midgley. The formal agreement between NRHT and People Pathways served as a resource for funding opportunities and information regarding rules/regulations for multi-use trail development.

The People Pathways Endowment Fund has been established at the Putnam County Community Foundation to help support Pathways in perpetuity.

Further, in 2021, People Pathways became formalized and sustainable as a new entity, "Putnam Parks & Pathways" (3Ps). Putnam Parks & Pathways, in partnership with the Putnam County Visitors Bureau (CVB) under the guidance of the newly created Putnam County Park Board, provides oversight for trail maintenance, ongoing development, and promotion.

COMMUNITY ASSESS

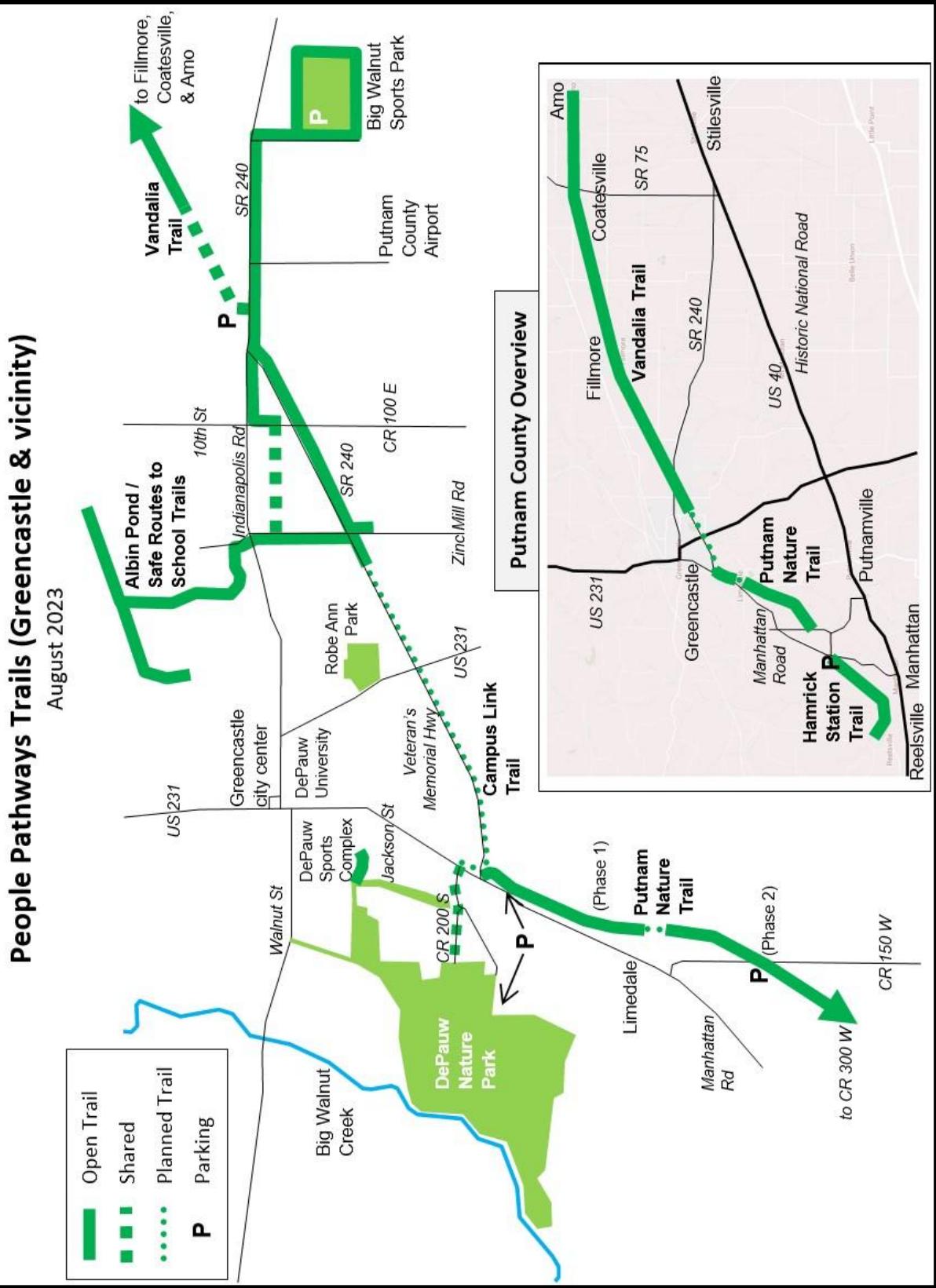
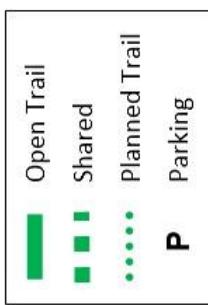
For 30-years, the People Pathway Project was built one "link" at a time. Communities and neighborhoods have been linked across Greencastle, Putnam County, and Indiana, while the past has been "linked" to the future by repurposing the former railroad corridor for a new use.

In 2025, thanks to a unique, collaborative partnership of "time, talent, and treasure", the People Pathways story that began with a vision and \$20,000 of seed money has grown to a \$6,719,457.61 investment in our community! An investment in our growing almost 26-mile network of multi-use trails offering 22 miles of open trail, 2.40 miles pending construction, and 1.25 miles preserved for future development. It is our Putnam County "linear park" for local citizens and visitors to enjoy!



People Pathways Trails (Greencastle & vicinity)

August 2023



Between 1995 and 2025, thanks to a collaborative partnership between the City of Greencastle and the People Pathways Committee, 10 phases of our community's multi-use trail network have been developed with an additional phase pending construction in 2026, and one segment preserved for future development.

Greencastle–Fillmore Trail	(completed 1999)	3.40 miles	\$ 68,617.00
Big Walnut Sports Park Link Trail	(completed 2002)	1.75 miles	\$ 144,974.00
Big Walnut Sports Park Loop Trail	(completed 2005)	1.25 miles	\$ 184,067.00
Albin Pond/Safe Routes to School Trail	(completed 2010)	2.30 miles	\$ 826,354.00
Putnam County Vandalia Trail	(completed 2014)	4.60 miles	\$ 196,470.00
Putnam Nature Trail, Phase 1	(completed 2016)	0.80 miles	\$ 52,752.77
Putnam Nature Trail, Phase 2a &2b	(completed 2018)	2.60 miles	\$ 139,747.23
Campus Link Trail, Phase1	(completed 2020)	1.20 miles	\$1,450,493.00
Zink Mill Road Connector Trail	(completed 2021)	1.00 miles	(Included in Zinc Mill Road Street Improvements)
Hamrick Station Trail	(opened 2023)	3.00 miles	\$ 3,445.56
Campus Link Trail, Phase 2	(construction pending 2026)	2.40 miles	\$3,613,345.00
Reelsville West Connection	(preserved)	<u>1.50 miles</u>	<u>\$ 39,192.05</u>
TOTAL		25.80 miles	\$6,719,457.61

THANK YOU PATHWAYS PARTNERS

The following past & current partners are acknowledged with gratitude for their contribution of approval, development, support, and promotion of People Pathways:

CITY

Mayors: Nancy Michael, Sue Murray, William Dory, Lynda Dunbar

City Attorney: Laurie Hardwick

Engineers: Chris Barnes, Glen Marrow, Garth Hughes, Jessica Hartman, Jeff Mahan

Parks Director: Kathy Staton, Rod Weinschenk, Jason Keeney

Planning & Zoning: Scott Zimmerman, Blaine Rout

Dept. of Public Works: Tom Miles, Brad Phillips, Andrew Rogers

City Council: Norm Crampton, Mark Hammer, Joe Liechty, Tom Roach, Mike Rokicki, Adam Cohen, Vincent Aquirre, Katherine Asbell, Stacie Langdon, David Masten, Tina Nicholson, Darrel Thomas

COUNTY

Commissioners: Gene McFarland, Dennis O'Hair, Don Walton, David Berry, Tom Helmer, Rick Woodall

County Council: Danny Wallace, Keith Berry, David Fuhrman, Larry Parker, Gene Beck, Phil Gick, Darrel Thomas, Jay Alcorn, Amanda Brown, Brian Berry, Wayne Hoffman, Kerry Williams, Stephanie Campbell

Sheriff's Department: Supt. Scott Stockton, Road Crew Chief Terry Eastham & Brad Alspaugh

County Highway Department: Mike Ricketts, Clint Maddox

Fillmore Town Board: Margaret Alexander, Albert Epple, Curt Leonard, Alan Jones, C.J. Huller, Bill Ashcraft, Robin Duncan, Meridith Trusty

Putnam County Convention Visitors Bureau: Eric Freeman, Mike Richmond, Will Bartlett, GreenStreet, Jared Jernagan

VOLUNTEERS

The following are just a few of the **MANY** volunteers who shared their special skills, guidance, and “get-‘er-done” spirit. It is with apologies if your name is missing. It is not because you are unappreciated, but rather due to a faulty memory.

Lee Stewart, Rita Schendel, Steve Raines, Linda Raines, Bryan Hanson, Leslie Hanson, Bill Marley, Clyde Spencer, Garth Hughes, Joe Liechty, Darrel Thomas, Jim Luzar, John Phillips, Jim Benedix, Mark Hammer, Jeanette Hammer, Mike Hecko, Greg Midgley, Pat Martin, Jim Daugherty, Aaron Slater, Jim Katterjohn, Shawn Gobert, Bob West, Bill Fielding, Jackie Baumann, Joe Baumann, Jan Firebaugh, Lynn Wilson, Tami VanRensselaer, Dr. Robert Heavin, Joni Young, Erin Basiger, John Garner, Dan Holmes, Kitzie Pallas, Kim Brattain, Drew Brattain, Allison Leer, Jim Woody, Sara Campfield.

Compiled by
Joy Marley, Volunteer/Wagon-Pusher