

**Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Outdoor Recreation**

2006 Trails Plan

INDIANA TRAILS GOAL:

A trail within 10 minutes of every Hoosier by 2020. The Indiana trails goal will be measured in terms of having a trail within 7.5 miles of every Hoosier.

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

Strategy 1: Improve coordination of trail development, planning and design at local, state and federal levels

Action 1: Encourage interested and affected representatives including urban and rural landowners, not-for profits, the agriculture community, businesses, public transit and governmental entities to get involved in all phases of developing new trails

Action 2: Secure the participation of representatives in the health and wellness profession and related businesses, such as insurance and pharmaceutical industries

Action 3: Ensure that trails are included in road right-of-ways, road abandonment and bridge development and expansion projects

Action 4: Include engineers, architects and planners during all phases of trail development to ensure natural resource preservation and ADA compliance

Action 5: Foster a working statewide support network composed of agencies, legislators, planners/designers, organizations, managers and citizens interested in trail development

Strategy 2: Increase trail funding to provide trails to meet present and future demand

Action 1: Initiate and increase state funding mechanisms to augment annual operating budgets and capital expenditures for acquiring and developing trails

Action 2: Encourage local initiatives for trail funding

Action 3: Encourage and provide incentives for private funding for trails from such entities as foundations and corporations

Action 4: Include funding for long-term trail maintenance in operational budgets

Action 5: Encourage and support not-for-profits to acquire and develop trails

Action 6: Encourage and support public and private partnerships that acquire and develop sustainable trails and bikeways

Strategy 3: Acquire more land for trails

Action 1: Identify and extend opportunities for intra and inter-state trail connections

Action 2: Improve the acquisition process of former railroad corridors for trail development

Action 3: Advocate that trails be included in land-use planning, including re-negotiation of road right-of ways and bridge developments

Action 4: Advocate that developers be required to set aside land for trails

Action 5: Expand the number of areas available for the legal use of ATVs, motorcycles, off-road bicycles and off-highway vehicles

Strategy 4: Provide increased education about trails and trail benefits

Action 1: Encourage and support research on Indiana trails and related issues

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- Action 2:** Inform the public about the health, economic and social benefits of trail use.
- Action 3:** Develop and distribute educational materials about trail use and environmental ethics/etiquette.
- Action 4:** Increase public awareness of trails and trail locations via the Internet and other media.
- Action 5:** Install signs that interpret natural, historical and cultural features of trails.
- Action 6:** Install multilingual signs where appropriate.
- Action 7:** Encourage the development of design guidelines that use standardized signs and symbols to designate trail activities and facilitate trail navigation statewide.
- Action 8:** Include health education information on trail maps and guides.