

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

**2015 Trails Plan Goals**

**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 5 miles of every Hoosier.

**Objective 1:** Partner Federal, State, Local, Not for-profit and private resources to build and maintain a statewide network of trails.

**Objective 2:** Support non-state entities that acquire, develop, operate and maintain 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.

**Action 6:** Review laws, policies, etc. that directly or indirectly impact trail development and seek revisions as deemed necessary.

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

**Action 1:** Advocate for stable, long-term state and Federal funding mechanisms for acquisition, development, maintenance and operations of trail facilities.

**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 public, private, and not-for-profit organization partnerships that work to 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.

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**Action 5:** Expand the number of areas available for the legal use of off-highway vehicles, off-road bicycles, equestrians, and water trail users.

**Action 6:** Encourage co-location of trail facilities within existing and future utility corridors.

**Strategy 4: Provide increased education about trails and trail benefits.**

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

**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.