Brookville Reservoir
Whitewater Memorial State Park
Interpretive Master Plan
2011
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Introduction

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks and Reservoirs has requested an interpretive master plan for the Brookville Reservoir and Whitewater Memorial State Park properties. The goal is to assess current conditions and recommend changes.

The plan provides a resource overview to understand the natural, cultural and management stories of the properties. Existing conditions address assets and liabilities at each property. The recommendations take into consideration the highly decentralized nature of the properties, differing missions of the two properties and limited staff. The recommendations end with proposed phases and a timeline for completion.

Several appendices include additional resource information on the natural and cultural resources of the region. The information will provide a further understanding of the rich stories of the properties and background information for future interpretive efforts.

The property management has done a wonderful job providing interpretation with limited staff, few facilities and a huge geographic area to cover. It is hoped that, with the help of this plan, the Brookville/Whitewater complex can reach regional and underserved audiences, develop programming that focuses on the property’s unique story and create facilities and media to accommodate both.
Resource Overview

I. Natural History

A. Geology

1. Topography
   The Brookville/Whitewater (B/W) region is deeply dissected by streams, creating a rugged landscape. Uplands and valleys may vary in elevation from 101’ to 750’ above sea level. The highest elevations in the state are nearby. While described as rolling and in some cases steep, there are few cliffs.

2. Soils
   Soils are silt over till deposited by the Wisconsin Glacier. Most of the regional soils are well-drained and agriculturally productive.

3. Bedrock
   The oldest bedrock in Indiana is found in the B/W Region. This is because the area is at the top of the Cincinnati Arch. The bedrock consists of Ordovician shale, limestone and dolomite.

4. Fossils
   The Ordovician bedrock is rich in ancient marine fossil life. Among the fossils found in the Ordovician:
   a. Bryozoans. These animals built colonies attached to the sea floor. The colonial structures that are preserved as fossils.
   b. Brachiopods. Brachiopods are two-shelled animals that attach themselves to the ocean floor with a fleshy stalk. Generally, the two shells are of unequal size. The shells remain as fossils.
   c. Trilobites. These extinct marine arthropods moved across the ocean floor, and were covered by an exoskeleton.

5. Ice Age
   The most recent Ice Age, the Wisconsin, reached its southernmost extreme near the B/W area. At that point, the glaciers were melting at the same rate that they were advancing. Volumes of meltwater formed the Whitewater River basin.

6. Water
   Groundwater
   Southeastern Indiana does not have abundant groundwater, but along the Whitewater River drainage, wells in sands and gravels are productive. Communities rely on the Brookville Reservoir for their water supply.
Brookville Reservoir
The Brookville Reservoir became operational in 1974. The maximum depth of the reservoir is 140’, with the average depth being 30’. The reservoir is fed by the Whitewater River and other tributaries.

Whitewater River
From the IDNR web site: The Whitewater River may have been misnamed because there is really no true white water on the river. However, there are many rapids due to the steep gradient present. In fact, the Whitewater is said to be the swiftest river in the state as it falls an average of six feet per mile.

It rises in southern Randolph and Wayne Counties and flows in two main branches which are scarcely 10 miles apart as they flow southward before joining at Brookville. From here the Whitewater flows southeasterly into Ohio where it eventually joins the Miami River, a tributary of the Ohio River.

The watershed is generally steep, dissected land with farming taking place in the bottomlands and gently rolling uplands. Natural forest vegetation is limited to the banks of the watercourses and other slopes too steep to cultivate. The river was formed as the retreating glacial ice sheet dumped its meltwater to flow toward the Ohio River. Thick deposits of sand and gravel resulted and still characterize the river’s bottom today.

B. Flora

1. Pre-settlement
The natural region that includes B/W was historically a beech-maple forest. This part of Indiana was the first settled in the state, so was the first cleared for farming. Only steep slopes that couldn’t be plowed are representative of the original forests that once covered the area.

A 1915 account of the forests:
Franklin County probably has more standing timber than any of the contiguous counties. Among the trees still standing can be seen the black walnut, white oak, red oak, bur oak, chestnut oak, black oak, sycamore, red elm, white elm, slippery elm, hickory, pignut, shellbark, white beech, yellow poplar, white poplar, rock maple, white maple, red or swamp maple, butternut, white cherry, honey locust, buckeye, blue gum, mulberry, red cedart, sweet gum, linden and cottonwood.

2. Today
The natural region that includes B/W is noted for its deep, forested ravines that include a great diversity of tree species. A dozen species may dominate a given stand (Homoya). Species include American beech, white ash, blue ash, sugar maple, white oak, chinquapin oak, red oak, shagbark hickory, tulip tree, Ohio buckeye and black walnut. Appalachian species such as yellow buckeye and white basswood are found at the edge of their range at B/W.
The Brookville Reservoir was originally cleared for farming and is now managed for wildlife. Open fields and early successional areas include honey and black locust, black cherry, soft maples, white ash, sumac, dogwood, hackberry, elm, boxelder, sassafras and hawthorn.

With the creation of the reservoir, wetlands have formed along the periphery. Wetlands contain emergent, floating and submergent vegetation.

Appendix A is a list of state listed flora and fauna species found in Franklin and Union Counties.

C. Fauna

1. Historic
The deep forests of southeastern Indiana were once home to woodland bison, cougar, wolf and black bear. Flocks of passenger pigeons numbering in the hundreds of thousands moved through the woods. Turkeys and eagles were common.

With the arrival of European settlers, many of the large mammals and game birds were hunted out of the region.

2. Today
Turkey, white-tailed deer and bald eagle were reintroduced into Indiana and can be found at B/W. The lake is stocked with channel catfish, striped bass, muskellunge, walleye, largemouth bass, white bass, black crappie, bluegill, redear, rock bass, smallmouth bass, rainbow trout and brown trout. Other fish species include carp, gizzard shad, white sucker, minnows and darters.

3. Wildlife Management
Reservoir
The mission of Brookville Reservoir includes managing the property for sport hunting and fishing. Activities include managing habitat, leasing cropland for wildlife food production, and timber management. Specific wildlife management plans are updated and available for review.

Game species at Brookville include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mammals:</th>
<th>Birds:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fox Squirrel</td>
<td>Mourning Dove</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gray Squirrel</td>
<td>Bobwhite Quail</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-tailed deer</td>
<td>Ruffed Grouse</td>
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<td>Rabbit</td>
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<td>Coyote</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pheasant</td>
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<td>Crow</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Whitewater Memorial State Park is managed with a preservation mission. No sport hunting is permitted, although deer reduction is allowed. A state designated Nature Preserve is managed to protect an important forest ecosystem. No plant, nut or mushroom collecting is allowed in the Nature Preserve.

II. Cultural History

A. Pre-History

Prehistoric mounds have been identified on the property. The Glidewell Trail travels past one mound.

In a 1915 account of Franklin County:

*These mounds are so situated with reference to each other, that a person standing on a mound in the most northern part of the county, overlooking the valley of the river could see the next mound below him, and from the second, the third was in view, and so on with all others, thus forming a chain of observatories . . . The author goes on to speculate that the mounds were used to relay signals of approaching enemies.*

*In the 1980s, the mounds at Mounds State Park in Anderson, Indiana were determined to be oriented to mark celestial events. Perhaps the Brookville mounds, rather than being used for signaling, were also a celestial calendar.*

Woodland Indians

When European settlers arrived, they encountered tribes including the Miami, Delaware and Illinois. The hills, valleys and abundant water resources provided excellent hunting grounds. Numerous artifacts from this time period have been identified.

By 1795, the resident tribes were forced to relinquish their claim to the land in the Treaty of Greenville. The treaty resulted from their loss during the Battle of Fallen Timbers in Ohio. The treaty ceded to the United States the territory that is now southern Ohio, and a strip of southeastern Indiana, including the B/W complex.

B. European Settlement

With the Treaty of Greenville, the first portions of the Indiana territory were opened for settlement. Within ten years following the 1795 treaty, settlement was advancing quickly. Early accounts in Franklin County note land being entered in 1804, fourteen years before statehood.

The river valley provided level, rich alluvial soils for farming. Most settlers entered the region from Ohio and Kentucky. Hanna Creek in the B/W complex is named for one of its first settlers.

1. Hanna Family

Robert Hanna, Sr.

Hanna Creek is named after one of the first settlers. Robert Hanna, Sr. was born in Delaware in 1744. According to a 1915 history of the region, Robert Sr. established a cabin with his wife, Mary, four grown sons and at least one daughter. The Hanna Cabin became a stopping point for other settlers upon their arrival to the area. Robert
Hanna, Sr. established the first orchard in 1806 with trees purchased in Lawrenceburg. Robert’s wife, Mary, was the second death in the region, passing away in 1807. The following is information about three of Robert Sr.’s sons.

Robert Hanna, Jr.
Robert, Jr. became a general and a member of the constitutional convention that led to Indiana becoming a state in 1816. He later moved to Indianapolis where he died in 1856.

Robert, Jr. wrote a letter to his friend, Thomas Jefferson, requesting that Revolutionary War widows be granted a pension. Jefferson and Hanna had been students together at William and Mary College in Virginia.

Jefferson’s reply to Hanna:
Monticello, January 16, 1820
A letter from you, dear sir, comes to me like one from the tombs of the dead. So long is it since I have had any evidence that you were in the land of the living and so few are now who were fellow-laborers in the struggle for the liberation of our country. And I rejoice to find that advancing years are the only assailants on your health mentioned in your letter. Time, as well as ill-health, bear heavily on me. Immediately on the receipt of your letter, I forwarded it to the President (James Monroe) with the expression of interest I felt for your petition, and he will not be slow in giving his attention to Revolutionary mothers.

I tender you my best wishes for the continuance of your life and health as long as you shall yourself wish them to continue.

Thomas Jefferson
***

John Hanna
John was the eldest son of Robert Sr. He built a log cabin near that of his father and established his own farm. He was already married when he arrived in the region with his father.

Joseph Hanna
Joseph established a farm on the East Fork of the Whitewater River, near the mouth of Hanna Creek. The creek was named by Joseph Hanna. Joseph was a noted politician in the region, and like his brother, John, came to the region with his wife and his parents.

2. Communities
a. Fairfield
Fairfield was the only town destroyed with the construction of the dam and reservoir. Fairfield Road crosses the lake as a causeway. There is also the Fairfield Marina and the Fairfield Boat Ramp.

The town of Fairfield was platted in October of 1815 by four landowners whose properties met at that point. The landowners were Hugh Abernathy, George Johnston, Thomas Osborn and James Wilson.

The Fairfield Post Office opened in 1820, Charles Shriner being the first postmaster. The village also boasted a tavern. Thomas Eads opened a general store in 1816. A produce dealer from Cincinnati regularly drove a wagon through Fairfield. The dealer sold goods and bought farm produce such as eggs to take back to Cincinnati.

Other businesses in early Fairfield included a weaver, Robert Dare who make “fancy coverlets”. John Miller
was the town shoe maker. Doctors Smith, Miller and St. John provided medical services to the community. In 1838, Fairfield had a singing master, T. W. Bonham, who taught thirteen lessons for one dollar.

When Fairfield formed, the counties of Indiana did not have their current boundaries. Fairfield was to be the county seat of Franklin County and was laid out with a public square for a courthouse. Hitching posts and a water pump were installed, but before the courthouse was built, Franklin County was re-drawn, and the county seat was moved to Brookville.

In 1915, Fairfield included a general store, drug store, butcher, doctor’s offices, barber, boarding house, dairy, blacksmith, sawmill, school and church. Social lodges included the Masons, Oddfellows, Red Men, Knights of Pythias, each with their ladies auxiliary societies. Photos and articles about Fairfield can be found in Appendix B.

b. Brookville

In 1808, Brookville was established and during its early days was the political center of Indiana. From 1825 to 1840, the Governor’s residence was in Brookville, and the land office was located there. With the establishment of Indianapolis as the capital and land office location, Brookville stagnated. Additionally, Franklin County was broken up into Franklin, Fayette and Union Counties, taking much of the land base away from the county seat.

In the mid-1830s, the prospect of the Whitewater Canal rejuvenated Brookville. It was also at this time that a huge influx of German immigrants began to arrive and establish farms in the region.

The canal allowed locally produced goods to be transported to distant markets. Small industries flourished along the canal. Sawmills, gristmills, cotton and wool factories, distilleries, breweries, pork packing establishments, carriage and wagon shops sprang up. By 1861, the canal era ended due to cost overruns and the rise of railroads as the means of transportation.

3. Transportation

Upon arriving in the region, settlers first needed to build shelter for themselves and their animals. Next came the arduous task of clearing land for planting the first crops. The first year was usually subsistence farming, providing for the family’s needs. As more fields were created, surplus crops needed to be transported to other markets. The modes of transporting produce out and manufactured goods in improved.

a. Roads

From the 1915 History of Franklin County:

*The frequent use of the word ‘trace’ betrays the southern birth of the early settlers. Scores of roads in the county mention the Wetzel, Carolina and Balinger traces, either as crossing or branching off from one of them. The rough character of the land, together with the heavy forests, made the building of highways not only difficult, but also very expensive as well. The first roads were little more than narrow paths cut through the woods and many of these were only wide enough for traveling on horseback. Each succeeding year saw better roads, but it was not until after the Civil War that the use of crushed stone came into use as a road-making material. The first good roads in the county were made by incorporations of local men and were familiarly known as toll*
roads. These were in use in parts of the county until the latter part of the last century (late 1800s), and it is safe to say that this was the only method by which it would have been possible for the people to get good roads. There was too little public money to keep the roads in repair, even after they were laid out, and it was only by the toll system that enough money could be raised to keep the roads in a passable condition.

b. Water
Common goods transported out of the region were pork, cured hams, flour, whiskey and furs.

From the 1915 History of Franklin County:
Owing to the fact that the roads leading from Franklin County to the Ohio River were in such poor condition in the early history of the county, the enterprising merchants early conceived the idea of utilizing the Whitewater River as a means of getting their produce to market. They would save what could be transported by water safely until the spring freshets and then construct as large rafts as the river could accommodate. On these rude rafts would be stored barrels of pork, whiskey, flour, furs, etc. Frequently the produce was taken direct from Brookville to New Orleans without making a change. The raft, which was always constructed out of as good timber as could be obtained, was sold for lumber after the cargo was disposed of. Flat-boating continued intermittently until the canal was opened in 1839. As early as 1822, a large amount of produce was flat-boat ed down the Whitewater from Brookville.

c. Canal
The Whitewater Canal was initiated in 1834 and ran from Cambridge City to Lawrenceburg. Transportation by canal was more efficient than by river. Canal boats could travel up- or downstream, towed by mules or horses. Produce could be taken out of the region and manufactured goods brought back on the same boat. Unlike the river, a constructed canal with locks provided the most direct route and accommodated elevation changes.

The length of the canal was 76 miles with a fall of 491 feet, requiring 56 locks and seven dams. The estimated construction cost per mile was $14,908.

Towns and industries sprang up along the canal. Laurel, Cedar Grove and Metamora are all canal towns.

Other canals were being constructed in Indiana during this time as part of the state’s Internal Improvements Act of 1836. The ambitious project of canal, road and rail building eventually bankrupted the state.

From the 1915 History of Franklin County:
The established cost of the canal from Hagerstown to Lawrenceburg was $1,567,470 and yet to construct it to Brookville had cost $664,665. The state debt had become so large that it could not pay the interest. On August 18, 1839, it was announced that the state was bankrupt and could do nothing more in the way of building the canal, and the state accordingly sold the canal in 1842 to Henry S. Vallette, a wealthy Cincinnatian, who proceeded to complete it. In November, 1843, the first boat, the “Native”, in charge of Captain Crary, reached Laurel at dark with a grand excursion from Brookville. During the night the bank bursted and left the merrymakers eight miles above Brookville—and they walked into town. In June, 1845, the canal reached Connersville. The first boat to arrive at Herron’s lock was the “Banner.” The following October the canal reached Cambridge City and had cost the company $473,000. In 1846, it was completed to Hagerstown and, according to the report of the Auditor of State for 1848, had cost the state $1,920,175.13. In January, 1847, a flood destroyed the aqueduct.
at Laurel and also the one on this side of Cambridge City, and cut channels around the feeder dams at Case's, Brookville, Laurel, Connersville and Cambridge City. The damage was estimated to be $90,000 and $70,000 was expended during the summer in repairs. The following November there was another flood that destroyed all that had been done and $80,000 more was expended, leaving $30,000 of repairs undone, and the canal was not ready for use until September of 1848. Disaster followed disaster; the cost of maintaining it exceeding the revenue until July 22, 1863, when it was sold . . . to the Indianapolis and Cincinnati Railroad for $63,000.

d. Railroad
With the demise of the canal and its sale to a railroad company, railroads became the means of transporting goods and people. The purchasing railroad company planned to use the towpath as a railbed, and convert a canal tunnel into a railroad tunnel.

4. Floods
The level areas of the Whitewater River Valley were the ideal place for farms and river communities. Unfortunately, they were also the places most susceptible to flooding. Floods repeatedly damaged the canal and the businesses along it, making the canal system financially unsustainable. Other floods damaged downstream communities and took lives.

See Appendix C for accounts of two major floods.

5. Whitewater Park History
The park was established in 1949 as a memorial to those who served in World War II. The acreage for the park was acquired through the efforts of citizens from Fayette, Franklin, Union and Wayne counties.

6. Brookville Reservoir History
Construction of Brookville Lake began in 1965 and the reservoir began operating in 1974. The purpose of the reservoir was to control flooding in the Whitewater Valley and control flows into the Ohio River. The lake is also a municipal water supply for the region.

The reservoir is managed by the Corps of Engineers. Land surrounding the reservoir is leased to the Indiana DNR for recreation and wildlife management.

References
The Natural Regions of Indiana, Michael Homoya
Geology of Indiana, 2nd Edition, Dr. Robert D. Hall, IUPUI
Brookville Lake, COE brochure
Cradle of Life, Donald P. Franzmeier, from The Natural Heritage of Indiana
Brookville Reservoir property map
History of Franklin County, Indiana, Her People, Industries and Institutions. August J. Reifel, 1915
The Indiana Way, James Madison
Existing Conditions

I. Audiences
A. Audiences
The different missions of the two properties attract different audiences. The following audiences are using the properties, but are not specifically attending interpretive programs.

B. Campers
Visitors to the reservoir are attracted to the large body of water. Sailing, water skiing, and access for larger boats is possible on Brookville Reservoir. Visitors typically own large motor homes. In contrast, Whitewater Park visitors are more likely to be tent campers and come to enjoy passive recreation activities such as canoeing, hiking and birding.

C. Day Use
A variety of activities attract people to both properties for the day. During hunting season, hunters arrive at Brookville to enjoy their sport. Additionally, Brookville Reservoir manages a shooting range available to local sportsmen and women. Boaters come to both the reservoir and the park’s lake for a day of fishing and boating. Both properties have beaches that attract day users during the summer months.

D. Veterans Groups
Whitewater Memorial Park was dedicated to the memory of all war veterans. Veterans organizations from the region use Whitewater as a site for memorial ceremonies and events.

E. Universities
Local universities conduct field trips at the properties. The fossil beds are a popular destination for geology students from Earlham, Miami of Ohio and IU East. These programs do not utilize the interpretive service, because it is unavailable during the school year.

F. Birders
The local Audubon chapter conducts Christmas Bird Counts at the properties. Additionally, volunteers maintain over 300 bluebird boxes.

G. Visitor Demographics
Ohio provides close to 75% of the property users at Brookville and Whitewater. Most of these are coming from the Cincinnati area, 50 miles away. Ohio provides both overnight campers and day users.
II. Facilities

A. Whitewater Memorial State Park
   1. Naturalist Cabin
      The naturalist cabin was formerly a set for the 1970-80s DNR television program, “Indiana Outdoors”. The cabin was transported from Indianapolis to Whitewater and is located within close proximity to the Campgrounds and Beach.

      The small cabin has a front porch and one large interior room. There are no restrooms. Water is available, but there is no hot water.

      A demonstration garden, including bird feeders is next to the cabin. A small roofed amphitheater has several benches and is used for concerts.

      Inside the cabin, a desk serves as the office area for the naturalist staff. Several taxidermy mounts are displayed, along with aquariums and information brochures. Shelves line the walls and work tables are in the center of the room.

   2. Memorial Area
      Whitewater Memorial Park was dedicated to those who served in WWII. A memorial area near the beach contains flags and markers honoring veterans and POW/MIAs. The location is used for events by veteran groups.

   3. Trails
      Several trails loop through the park and are used for interpretive hikes. Trails mentioned on the schedule include the Cattail Trail and the Memorial Trail. Both are moderate, short and form loops. Both of these trails originate in easy-to-find public locations.

      A short loop trail in the Hornbeam Nature Preserve is linked to the larger Lakeshore Trail (Trail 4). This trail originates from a parking pull-off, and is not close to the main public areas of the park.

   4. Beach
      The beach offers a high use area for roving interpretation.

   5. Playfield
      A large play field is located near the Campgrounds and Saddle Barn. The field is used for large group activities.
B. Brookville Reservoir

1. Beaches
There are two beaches at the reservoir: Mounds Beach and Quakertown Beach. The Mounds Beach can get 5000 visitor a day on a hot summer day. It is the second largest DNR beach and is a good location for roving interpretation.

2. Camp Store
The camp store at the Mounds SRA doubles as a recreation hall and interpretive program site. Interpreters bring a portable shelter for conducting programs. A fire ring and picnic tables are available for use.

Inside the camp store is a pool table and activity tables. A bulletin board near the tables announces upcoming events and information. Craft programs, game nights and drop-in activities are hosted by the interpretive staff.

3. Amphitheater
The Mounds SRA has an amphitheater that is roofed and has benches on it. People coming to concerts bring a blanket or chair to sit on. The amphitheater is close to a parking lot and the campgrounds.

4. Trails
Brookville Reservoir has a number of trails that vary from .7 miles to 16.5 miles in length and from easy to rugged in difficulty. The .7-mile self-guided Wildlife Wonder Trail is located at the Mounds SRA.

5. Campground Playgrounds
Two playgrounds are occasionally used for large group game areas.

6. Other Sites
Other educational sites exist at Brookville Reservoir. These sites cater to a specific hunting or fishing audience and are not utilized by interpretive staff. They merit note, though, because other levels of programming are occurring on the property.

   a. Shooting Range: This area has posted hours and is staffed by a DNR representative. It is located at the Quakertown SRA.
   b. Archery Trail: Also located at Quakertown, this trail offers skills training in bow hunting.
   c. Dog Trial Area: Bird dog trials are conducted at this site.
III. Staff

Two 180-day interpreter positions provide programs for both properties, covering a large geographic area. Staff is headquartered at the Naturalist Cabin, located at Whitewater. At present, school-year obligations prevent the current interpreters from conducting their full allotment of days and attending spring training.
IV. Programs

A. Interpretive Programs
Interpretive programming occurs primarily during the summer months. The interpretive service operates out of the Naturalist Cabin at Whitewater Memorial State Park, but conducts programs at both Whitewater and Brookville.

Program topics include crafts, activities, games and hikes. Roving interpretation at beaches reaches a large audience. Programs with the highest attendance were craft, outdoor activities and outdoor skills programs. See Appendix D for attendance numbers.

Most of the program attendees are kids, especially at Brookville. At Whitewater, there is a greater family participation and interest in traditional nature programs.

B. Special Events
The interpretive service assists with tournaments, concerts and hayrides. The staff conducts programs prior to the hayrides.

C. Other Programs
Other staff and organizations use the property for programs and special events. Veterans groups have events at Whitewater. Brookville has a dog trial facility and holds events there.
V. Media

A. Exhibits
The Naturalist Cabin at Whitewater Memorial State Park has taxidermy mounts on display and live animals during the summer.

B. Bulletin Boards
Bulletin boards are placed at strategic points throughout both properties. They contain property information and interpretive schedules.

C. Brochures
1. Wildlife Wonder Trail. A short loop trail at Brookville has numbered stops and a corresponding brochure. Brochures are picked up at the trailhead.
2. Property Maps. Maps for both properties contain natural and historical information about the property.
3. Adena Trace Hiking. The brochure provides history and trail info.

D. Signs
1. Adena Trace Trailhead. A trailhead sign at the Adena Trace trail provides rules, a trail map and an overview of the site.
2. Hornbeam Nature Preserve. An introduction to the Nature Preserve is located near the trailhead. This fiberglass embedded sign is very old and in poor condition.
VI. Partnerships

A. Corp of Engineers.
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers owns the Brookville Reservoir and manages the lake, including controlling the lake level. The DNR leases the acreage surrounding the lake from the Corps. The Corps lends staff and program support to Brookville.

B. Brookville Lake Sailing Association
The sailing association conducts lake clean-ups at Brookville.

C. Saddle Barn
The saddle barn operation at Whitewater conducts hayrides and special events with the interpretive staff.

D. Local Businesses
Several area businesses partner with the properties. Some provide prizes and supplies for special events. Others promote events through advertisements.

E. Veterans Groups
Whitewater Memorial Park was dedicated to WWII veterans and contains a memorial area. Local veteran groups conduct events at this site.

F. Scouts
Local scout troops provide volunteers for special events.

G. Hoosier Hikers
Volunteers from this organization provide trail maintenance.

H. Town of Brookville
The Town of Brookville provides a shuttle bus to town for town special events. This service has not been well attended, but could be with better promotion. The Brookville Explorer and Gad-a-bout advertise and promote the properties and their events.
VII. Regional Opportunities

A. Within 10 miles
   1. Whitewater Canal State Historic Site, Metamora
      The Metamora SHS represents the town’s canal heyday in the 1830s. Replica horse-drawn canal boats and a scenic railroad tour are attractions. Historic buildings include a mill, dry goods store, hotel, drug store and residences. Several shops and restaurants are also available.

   2. Whitewater Valley Railroad, Metamora
      Several trip options are available along a route from Metamora to Connersville. Some rides are themed, such as a Wild West Train.

   3. Wally World, Liberty
      This local icon offers go-kart racing, batting cages, arcade games, basketball and golf activities.

   4. Sagamore Resort, Liberty
      This resort is located on Brookville Lake and offers a golf course, marina, boat rental, and a restaurant.

B. Within 20 miles
   1. Levi Coffin State Historic Site, Fountain City
      This historic home belonged to Levi and Catharine Coffin, Quaker abolitionists. Their home became a stop on the Underground Railroad and over the course of 20 years, they helped more than 2,000 slaves escape to freedom. The mid-1800s home tour features several ingenious hiding areas in the home, and wagons used for transporting slaves.

   2. Hueston Woods State Park, College Corner, OH
      This Ohio park is just across the border. Amenities include a lodge, cottages, camping, hiking, swimming and golf course.

   3. Shrader-Weaver Nature Preserve, Bentonville
      The 96-acre preserve has two self-guided trails through old-growth upland forest, old field and lowland forest habitats.

   4. Oldenburg, Indiana
      This historic town was settled by Germans in the mid-1800s. It is noted for its architecture and German “Freundenfest” in July.

   5. Hayes Arboretum, Richmond
      The Hayes Arboretum is 466 acres of old growth and reforested woods. It contains a nature center, Indian mounds and wetlands.

C. Within 50 miles
   1. Cincinnati, Ohio
      Many visitors come to the properties from this region, yet Cincinnati is also a destination. Visitors to Cincinnati can attend a Reds Game, visit the acclaimed Cincinnati Zoo, or tour the historic river and German regions.
2. Riverboat Casino, Lawrenceburg
   The casino docks on the Ohio River near Cincinnati. A variety of table games and slot machines are on board.

3. King’s Island, Cincinnati, OH
   The amusement park offers thrill rides, family rides, entertainment and dining.

4. Summit Lake State Park, New Castle
   The 2,600-acre park includes fishing, swimming and hiking opportunities.

5. Versailles State Park, Versailles
   The park is nearly 6,000 acres in size and includes a 230-acre lake, swimming pool, hiking and boat rentals.

6. Cope Environmental Center
   The mission of the center is “to promote the sustainable use of the earth’s resources through education, demonstration and research.” The center has over 100-acres of land and conducts school and public programs.
VIII. Theme

The Whitewater River and its valley has defined the landscape, natural history and heritage of the Brookville/Whitewater Complex.

A. Landscape
   1. Glacial meltwater carved through Indiana’s oldest bedrock, forming the river bed.
   2. The narrow valleys and steep topography made flooding a common occurrence.

B. Natural History
   1. The soils and slopes of the river valley produced rich, diverse forests.
   2. Forest and aquatic wildlife remains abundant in the B/W Complex.

C. Heritage
   1. Early people left mounds and other evidence of their lives in the river valley.
   2. The valley’s water, land and wildlife resources contributed to its early settlement, communities and transportation.
   3. Revolutionary War veterans played a role in the first land acquisitions in the region, and today all veterans are honored.
   4. The B/W Complex provides opportunities for wildlife, recreation and preservation.
IX. Recommendations

A. Staff

1. At current staffing level.

   The B/W interpretive staff currently consists of two 180-day positions. Returning seasonal interpreters have found it difficult to complete the full allotment of days due to their own professional school-year commitments. This means that the B/W is not providing a service to its potential.

   It is recommended to either:
   a) hire interpreters who can commit to the full 180 days, or
   b) hire another interpreter to complete the season. Perhaps a seasonal from another property whose allotment has ended could transfer. Providing housing in the form of free camping or a cabin during the few remaining weeks could be an incentive for the brief relocation.

2. Creating a full-time position.

   The geographic area and attendance numbers at B/W justify the need for a full-time interpreter. There are several reasons for instituting a full-time position.

   a. Serving new audiences. The current staffing level limits interpretation to the summer seasonal audience: campers, boaters and beach users. Having a full-time position while still maintaining the 180-day positions would create opportunities to target underserved audiences. While the seasonal interpreters are conducting programming at the properties, the full-time interpreter can be planning and leading workshops, school programs, summer camps, longer canoe trips, or meeting with local and regional audiences.

   b. Continuity. Having a permanent position ensures continuity year to year with less potential for turnover. The incumbent will have a deeper knowledge of the properties, the audiences, agencies and procedures. They will have an opportunity to evaluate and expand programming.

   c. Community Connections. A full-time position creates a presence in the local community. The interpreter is the public relations and information representative for the property. This is of great benefit when explaining management issues.

   d. Resource Building. The interpretive service is the archive and library for the property. Photos, books, artifacts, articles, inventories and other records are continually gathered, filed and updated. This role is difficult to accomplish at properties without a full-time interpreter. It is extremely important that Brookville build a relationship, collect oral histories and gather resources from the pre-dam region before that history is lost.

   With a full-time position, the current 180-positions would still be in place. One position would be assigned to Brookville, and one to Whitewater. The full-time position would hire, train, supervise and evaluate the two seasonal positions. The full-time position would also be staggered so as to cover programming during seasonal days off, giving each property a continuous presence. All staff would overlap for administration, program planning and evaluation.

B. Audiences

The interpretive program audience at both properties is primarily summer visitors coming from the Cincinnati area. The addition of a full-time interpreter will allow expansion of audiences at B/W to include more diverse and local audiences.
The full-time interpreter can:
• offer year-round programming to those currently using the property, but not the interpretive service. This includes birders, hunters and veterans groups,
• target community programming in the region,
• target school and scout groups that are not active during the summer,
• conduct outreach programming such as articles in local newspapers and presentations to local organizations,
• connect with regional birding and historical organizations.

C. Facilities

1. Whitewater Memorial State Park

   a. Naturalist Cabin
   The cabin’s lack of parking, utilities, restrooms, office and storage space makes the building inadequate to serve as a Nature Center. There are a few options to improve the building.

   Options:
   i. Provide restrooms, parking and utilities to the building. This would allow the facility to meet public expectations for a nature center.

   ii. Use the building as program site. Rather than maintaining regular hours, the building would be open and available for scheduled programs that require an indoor facility. For example, a program on bird feeding could have a powerpoint of common feeder birds, make use of the outdoor feeding station and then provide work space for making feeders. Programs would be of a short duration so that the lack of restrooms wouldn’t be much of a problem.

   iii. Create an exploration area. The entire room would become a kid’s area, reading area and hands-on activity area. The building would be open for two hours in the evening or other set time, and visitors would come and go. Activities would be self-guided, but an interpreter would be on duty to facilitate.

   b. New Interpretive Center at the Beach House
   The upstairs of the Beach House can be converted into a Nature Center. Its location on the beach and close to the campgrounds would attract a high visitation. Adequate parking, restrooms and utilities provide the amenities the public expects. Storage and work space needed for a functioning Nature Center are also present. Large open outdoor areas provide space for games and school group activities. Proximity to trailheads and the lake makes the site a good location for a variety of programs.

   The downstairs of the building would continue to serve as a shower area and first aid station for the beach.

   Repairs and remodeling to the current structure are required to make this work. The current floor plan and a possible Nature Center floor plan appear in Figures 1 and 2.

   c. Memorial Area Labyrinth
   A labyrinth is a circular pathway that that leads the walker to the center and out again. Labyrinths are used in memorials and other contemplative locations. Stones line the pathway to mark the path.
A labyrinth at Whitewater would be in close proximity to the flag and memorials in the flat area near the beach. Stones could be flush to the ground for easy mowing. They could be engraved with significant dates, names, or local historical events. Another option would be to engrave a timeline for the region using the stones. Stones could be donated, with the donor’s name or remembrance engraved on it.
2. Brookville Reservoir

a. New Interpretive/Visitor Center

At present no interpretive center exists at Brookville Reservoir. One possible center location is in the field to the west of the Campground Amphitheater. The location’s proximity to the campground audience, parking and utilities are positives. Its distance from the beach and lake is a negative. No trailheads are at the site, however, a connector trail to Trails 3 and 4 is possible. Trail 4 is a small self-guided loop trail and would be ideal for school groups and other programs.

b. Trail Around the Lake

The southern portion of the lake is circumnavigated by a trail system. Continuing a trail around the northern portion of the lake would create a 75-mile trail, something rare in Indiana. Depending on the individual, this could be a 7-day backpacking experience. Campsites would be located along the trail, and a registration fee charged.

An interpretive center at the location mentioned earlier would serve as the trailhead. Its location is close to Trail 3, part of the larger loop. A short spur between the Interpretive Center and the trail would be installed. Trail information, the registration fee, and long-term parking would be handled at the Interpretive Center.

D. Media

1. Whitewater Memorial State Park

a. Hop Hornbeam Nature Preserve Entry Sign (replacement)

The current fiberglass-embedded sign is quite old and the fibers are visible, making the sign cloudy and difficult to read. In addition, the sign is very text-heavy and complicated in places.

The old sign needs to be removed and replaced with one that has more graphics and fewer words. It would be good to make this sign match the standard used in the Adena Trace trailhead sign.

b. Hornbeam Nature Preserve Trail Media

The 81-acre preserve contains a large diversity of tree species. Species noted include hop hornbeam, ironwood, oaks, walnut, tulip poplar, maples, beech, basswood, elms, hackberry, ash, pawpaw, hickories, redbud, sycamore, cherries and dogwood. A deer exclosure, visible from the trail, demonstrates understory comparisons, but is not interpreted.
This trail would make an excellent self-guided trail about forest types, tree identification and forest ecosystem issues such as deer overpopulation. Self-guided media could be a brochure with numbered stops, or signs with text and graphics at each stop. This latter type is more expensive initially, but does not require regular maintenance and brochure reprints.

c. Interactive Exhibits at the Naturalist Cabin
If the Naturalist Cabin becomes an exploration area (see Facilities A.), a collection of self-guided games, puzzles, art projects and books would be developed. All activities should relate to B/W and the region. For example, puzzles could be developed from historic photos. A guessing game incorporating local fossil identification is another park-related example. A touch table would include pelts from regional fauna.

2. Brookville Reservoir

a. Mounds SRA Kiosk
A 3-panel kiosk at the beach would explain the natural history, cultural history and management at Brookville. (see example at left)

b. Mound Sign. The Native American mound has a sign identifying it from both directions of the trail. The routed sign indicates the age of the mound. The mound itself is highly damaged from foot traffic. A new sign bringing attention to the fragility and importance of the mound needs to be installed before the mound is lost. The interpretive sign would give some background on the mound builders, how mounds were utilized and how valuable and fragile this mound is.

c. Wildlife Wander Trail
The Wildlife Wander Trail is in a good location. The trailhead is across from a shelter with restrooms and adequate parking. As a self-guided trail, this would be a good experience for school groups. Paving the trail would increase its access for wheelchairs, strollers and the elderly.

The trail is due for repairs and revisions. An evaluation of the current stops appears in Appendix E.

E. Programs

1. General Recommendations
   a. Tie Programs to the Properties.
   Interpretation needs to be specific to the site. While there are many current examples of this, there are other programs that have no relationship to the site. Craft programs, for example, can be related to local nature in topic and/or materials. For example, making yarn spider webs would include information about spiders, common spiders at B/W and a short exploration looking for spiders.

   b. Expand Audiences.
   i. Wider age range. Summer programs are geared primarily for children. Programs can be designed in layers
so that there is something for everyone. A program on fossils can give more detailed information on fossil formations for adults, while having an interactive activity or craft for youth.

ii. Year-round programming. A full-time interpreter can provide programming to currently underserved audiences such as schools, scouts, community organizations and others that are more active during the school year.

c. New Program Structures
Other program structures besides the one-time public program have been successful at other properties. Examples are day camps, workshops and pre-school classes. These programs are longer in length or meet weekly, and cater to the local community. Examples are the Master Naturalist or Outdoor Woman classes. They require advance planning and registration, but are also revenue generating. A full-time interpreter is helpful, for organizing these types of programs.

2. Program Topics
a. Historical
The properties and region are very rich in history. The region was the first part of Indiana to be settled. Some ideas for historical programming:
   i. First-person interpretation or reenactment dealing with the Treaty of Greenville, Fallen Timbers, Hanna’s involvement in the Revolutionary War and his friendship with Thomas Jefferson. This could be part of a larger history event or reenactment at the veterans memorial.
   ii. Hanna Family interpretation.
   iii. Historical Hikes. These could be longer and advertised through hiking organizations. Some could follow historical routes or traces from one destination to another, replicating how early settlers traveled on foot.
   iv. Replica flat boat. Early produce traveled the Whitewater River by flatboat. A replica flatboat at the Whitewater Beach would be used as a prop to tell of this history.
   vi. Coverlet show. This ties to the coverlet weaver who lived in Fairfield.

b. Resource Management
   i. Assist with hunting/fishing education programs.
   ii. Outdoor Woman class teaching outdoor skills.
   iii. Historic hunting: muskets, archery, fishing, trapping techniques. This could be a special event with several demonstrations.
   iv. Wildlife recipes and cook-off.
   v. Hunting dog demonstrations.
   vi. Field dressing demonstrations.
   vii. Farrier, horse care and blacksmithing demonstrations.
   viii. Boater safety programs with Corps of Engineers.
   ix. Fish cleaning and cooking.
   x. Bluebird box workshop.

c. Outdoor Recreation
   i. RV shows.
   ii. Bike maintenance workshops with local bike shops.
   iii. Bike rides.
   iv. Bike shows with recumbent, 3-wheelers, mountain bikes to try.
   v. Campfire cooking programs through the campground store which would sell ingredients and supplies needed.
vi. Sorphum maze in the fall.

d. Cultural Arts
   i. Art shows, demonstrations and activities. This would be a special event featuring local artists, regional arts, etc.
   ii. Expand music concerts that are financially sponsored to attract traditional musicians.

F. Partnerships

1. Friends Group
   A Friends Group is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to assist the property through fund raising and volunteers. It would cover both the state park and reservoir properties. A Friends Group would provide extra hands for programs and funding for events and projects. Examples of Friends Group activities could include:

   • Staff assistance for Spooktacular.
   • Conducting an oral history project that collects stories and photos.
   • Raising money for exhibits, signs or other media.
   • Providing food for day camps or other events.

   The opportunities for activities depends on the people volunteering, their skills and available time.

2. Farmer’s Market at Wally World
   The market held at Wally World, adjacent to the property, would be a good place to conduct roving interpretation or informal activities. A kid’s activity would allow parents to shop, helping out the market, while promoting the B/W complex.

3. Brookville Shuttle Bus
   In the past, Brookville has provided bus service from the properties to Brookville events. Providing promotion of the events, publicity for the bus service, and an interpreter on the bus would increase attendance and create a good community relationship.
### Phase I with time estimate and reference identifiers

**Phase I assumes two 180-day positions**

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<td>Provide restrooms and parking to Naturalist Cabin</td>
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<td>Convert Naturalist Cabin to program only site</td>
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<td>Memorial Area Labyrinth</td>
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<td>Pave Wildlife Wander Trail</td>
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<td>Expand trail system around northern portion of the reservoir</td>
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<td>Mound sign</td>
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<td>Include property tie to all programs</td>
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<td>Develop programs to attract age diversity</td>
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### Phase II with time estimate and reference identifiers

**Phase II assumes full-time interpreter position, plus two 180-day positions**

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<td>Develop year-round programming</td>
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<td>Establish networks and programming with communities</td>
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<td>Establish programming with schools</td>
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<td>Establish networks and programming with environmental and recreation organizations</td>
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<td>Develop regular articles for local publications</td>
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<td>New Interpretive Center at Whitewater Beach House</td>
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<td>New Interpretive/Visitor Center at Brookville</td>
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<td>Self-guided trail for Hornbeam Nature Preserve</td>
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<td>Interactive exhibits for Naturalist Cabin exploration area</td>
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<td>Self-guided trail Wildlife Wander Trail</td>
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<td>Develop year-round programming</td>
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<td>Develop program structures (camps, workshops, pre-school classes)</td>
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<td>Develop historical programming (1st person, special events)</td>
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<td>Increase recreation management programming</td>
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<td>Increase outdoor recreation programming</td>
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<td>Expand cultural arts programming</td>
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<td>Form Friends Group</td>
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<td>Develop program exchange using Brookville shuttle buses</td>
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## Appendix A: Species Lists

### Indiana County Endangered, Threatened and Rare Species List

**County:** Franklin

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<th>Common Name</th>
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<td>S2</td>
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<td>Barrens - bedrock limestone</td>
<td>Limestone Glade</td>
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<td>SG</td>
<td>G3?</td>
<td>S3</td>
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<td>Water Fall and Cascade</td>
<td>GNR</td>
<td>SNR</td>
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Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center  
Division of Nature Preserves  
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**SRANK:** State Heritage Rank: S1 = critically imperiled in state; S2 = imperiled in state; S3 = rare or uncommon in state; G4 = widespread and abundant in state but with long term concern; SG = state significant; SH = historical in state; SX = state extirpated; B = breeding status; S7 = unranked; SNR = unranked; SNA = nonbreeding status unranked
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<td>ST</td>
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<td>High Quality Natural Community</td>
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Indiana County Endangered, Threatened and Rare Species List
County: Union

Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center
Division of Nature Preserves
Indianapolis Department of Natural Resources
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SRANK: State Heritage Rank: S1 = critically imperiled in state; S2 = imperiled in state; S3 = rare or uncommon in state;
G4 = widespread and abundant in state but with long term concern; G6 = state significant; SH = historical in state;
SX = state extirpated; B = breeding status; S7 = unranked; SNR = unranked; SNA = nonbreeding status unranked
Breeding Birds in Franklin County

**Confirmed**
Canada Goose  
Wood Duck  
Mallard  
Wild Turkey  
Great Blue Heron  
Bald Eagle  
Red-tailed Hawk  
American Kestrel  
Killdeer  
Rock Dove  
Mourning Dove  
Barred Owl  
Chimney Swift  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Down Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Easter Wood-Pewee  
Acadian Flycatcher  
Eastern Phoebe  
Eastern Kingbird  
Warbling Vireo  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Horned Lark  
Purple Martin  
Tree Swallow  
Rough-winged Swallow  
Bank Swallow  
Cliff Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
 Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
 Carolina Wren  
 House Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Eastern Bluebird  
 Wood Thrush  
American Robin  
Gray Catbird  

**Northern Mockingbird**  
Brown Thrasher  
European Starling  
Yellow Warbler  
Yellow-throated Warbler  
Prairie Warbler  
American Redstart  
Common Yellowthroat  
Yellow-breasted Chat  
Summer Tanager  
Eastern Towhee  
Chipping Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Blue Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Orchard Oriole  
Baltimore Oriole  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow  

**Probable**
Northern Bobwhite  
Green Heron  
Cooper’s Hawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Common Nighthawk  
Belted Kingfisher  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Willow Flycatcher  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
White-eyed Vireo  
Yellow-throated Vireo  
Cedar Waxwing  
Blue-winged Warbler
Mammals of Union and Franklin Counties
Based on maps from Mumford and Whitaker
“Mammals of Indiana”

**Marsupials**
Opossum

**Shrews and Moles**
Short-tailed Shrew
Least Shrew
Eastern Mole

**Bats**
Little Brown Bat
Big Brown Bat
Red Bat
Hoary Bat

**Rabbits**
Eastern Cottontail

**Rodents**
Eastern Chipmunk
Woodchuck
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel
Gray Squirrel
Fox Squirrel
Red Squirrel
Southern Flying Squirrel
Beaver
Deer Mouse
White-footed Mouse
House Mouse
Jumping Mouse
Meadow Vole
Prairie Vole
Woodland Vole
Muskrat
Southern Bog Lemming
Norway Rat

**Carnivores**
Coyote
Red Fox
Gray Fox
Raccoon
Least weasel
Mink
Badger

**Deer**
White-tailed deer
Reptiles and Amphibians in Franklin and Union Counties
From Amphibians and Reptiles of Indiana, Sherman A. Minton
Note: these records pre-date the reservoir, hence the lack of water turtles and frogs.

**Salamanders**
- Hellbender
- Mudpuppy
- Spotted Salamander
- Marbled Salamander
- Small-mouthed Salamander
- Northern Dusky Salamander
- Slimy Salamander
- Red-backed Salamander
- Ravine Salamander
- Two-lined Salamander
- Long-tailed Salamander
- Orange Cave Salamander

**Frogs and Toads**
- American Toad
- Western Chorus Frog
- Leopard Frog
- Pickerel Frog
- Wood Frog

**Turtles**
- Eastern Box Turtle

**Lizards**
- Northern Fence Lizard
- Broad-headed Skink

**Snakes**
- Northern Banded Watersnake
- Queen Snake
- Kirtland’s Watersnake
- Eastern Garter Snake
- Butler’s Garter Snake
- Blue Racer
- Black Rat Snake
- Rough Green Snake
- Northern Ringneck Snake
- Worm Snake
- Northern Copperhead
FAIRFIELD . . . ‘Unhappy Little Town’

BY JACK SIMCOX
Of The Enquirer Staff

FAIRFIELD — There is confusion and sadness among the 180 residents of this southeastern Indiana hamlet. They are to be flooded out of their homes by a project to prevent floods in other places.

It is confusing to talk of progress in such conflicting circumstances even though studies show that towns almost always benefit by major additions such as the 7700-acre lake that will be formed.

But the studies are cold comfort to families forced to give up their homes to the lake.

The Federal government is building the flood-control dam on the East Fork of the Whitewater River between Fairfield and Brookville. The dam will back the water up to cover Fairfield by 1970.

Land for the lake bed is already being bought by the government. The ground breaking for the dam will be December 11.

“TD SAY this is an unhappy little town right now,” says Elmer Tomsett Davis, a trucker and property owner in Fairfield.

“The greatest thing in the world is to be satisfied. I’m 64 and I was born here. I don’t think I’ll be satisfied anywhere else,” he says.

There is little doubt that Mr. Davis speaks the sentiments of many of the people of Fairfield.

“Even at twice the price, they (government representatives) don’t pay for sentimental feelings. We have a mantle in one of our houses they’ll never pay for,” he said.

Clifford Schieley, a Franklin County deputy sheriff and Fairfield farmer, has a little different viewpoint, although he is not sure just how the change will effect him yet.

“I’m for progress,” he said, “and the ground water is getting pretty low in Fairfield. Some farmers are drilling down over 100 feet and not getting any water.”

Mr. Schieley thinks the recreational potential of the new lakes may be a good thing for Fairfield.

Mrs. Joan Browning, owner of Joan’s Restaurant in Fairfield, does not know whether she will stay in the restaurant business when she has to move out of the rented building she now occupies.

Finding another suitable place would be a problem, she says. “Besides, this is a hard job and the hours are long.”

BEFORE THE lake is filled, everything floats — houses, furniture, barns, stores and fences—must be carried out of the valley.

When the government buys a piece of property, it offers to sell the buildings on it back to the original owner at a moderate price for whatever can be salvaged.

There are people in the community working to preserve Fairfield as an entity, although the town, at present, is not incorporated.

Fairfield Redevelopment, Inc., is the non-profit organization working to develop the land on two farms on a hill into the new site of Fairfield. Membership in the corporation is $10 and guarantees the member the right to buy a lot in New Fairfield. There are 60 paid members.

THE LAND for the proposed new town belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Huber and Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Klein. Each family has 100 acres under option to the corporation.

Sieco, Inc., of Columbus, Ind., a consulting engineering firm, laid out the lots, streets, water lines, sewage lines, shopping area and park of New Fairfield.

Mr. Huber has farmed his land overlooking Fairfield for 33 years.

He says, “This town is laid out to help the people of Fairfield help themselves. I don’t care how much land is sold or how big the town gets.

“If we don’t sell any, I still have the land to farm—I’ve never done anything else,” he said.
Fairfield Residents Divided on Coming Inundation

Editor’s Note: This is the first of a series of three stories about Fairfield and its residents. The little Franklin County community will be inundated when the Brookville Reservoir becomes a reality.

By Mrs. Jean Chapman

Editor and Correspondent

FAIRFIELD — “I wish they’d do whatever they’re going to do, so I’d know what I can do,” says Ada Linegar, owner of a home in Fairfield and a farm on the west side of the east fork of the Whitewater river just north of town.

“The farm is my livelihood,” she continued. “I don’t know where I will find comparable ground, or what I will have to pay when I do.”

Fairfield, located in the picturesque Whitewater valley, eight miles north of Brookville and west of Ind. 104, is scheduled for inundation by the Brookville Reservoir, now planned for completion in 1956.

While the purpose of the reservoir is the elimination of future flooding of the Whitewater river from Brookville south to the Ohio river, 152 home owners in and near Fairfield will be flooded because of it.

To date, approximately $646,000 has been federally appropriated for construction of the dam on the east fork of the White-water river, one mile north of Brookville. The last allocation was on Aug. 11, 1964, and included $250,000 for construction purposes.

Only an act of God or a national emergency will stay these plans.

Some Plans Made

Some residents have already purchased other property.

Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Burkett have purchased a farm in College Corner.

Mrs. E. H. Klein has purchased a residence in Liberty.

During the past five years, as tangible evidence mounted regarding ultimate construction, groups evolved in the Fairfield area.

Residents who have relatives and loved ones buried in the local cemetery comprised the first group. The thought of their deceased being embalmed under tons of water was a disturbing one. Comments within this group ranged from quiet concerns to vociferous complaints.

Then word was received that the cemetery would be relocated. A major obstacle had been overcome.

Willie E. Davis, former grocery store owner, best exemplified the attitude of the second group. He said, “It would mean...

The Fairfield cemetery will be destroyed.

Franklin county, then I am all for it going in.”

Davis and his family lived in Fairfield and operated a store here for 17 years. Last November the store was closed and the family moved to Brookville.

Earl Logan summed up the prevailing attitude when he says, “It’s going to come, then the quicker the better!”

Several people have not curtailed their activities pending developments. Many folks have followed their usual pursuits. Some have even improved a bit.

The Marshalls and Webbs have put hardwood floors in their home.

“We will probably move closer to Connersville since that’s where Marshall works,” said Mrs. Webb. “If we can’t find what we want we may build,” she added.

Added Breezeway

Ralph Wilkerson has added a breezeway connecting his garage with his home.

“I work in Richmond so we will probably move there,” he said.

Three years ago, while soliciting voters’ heads, Clarence O’Hara built a new house. Undaunted by the coming deluge, this man’s courage has enabled him to experience the unique joy of a brand new dwelling for the past three years.

Affluence vary as they dobleast always will. There are problems, as there always will be.

But it will only be in retrospect, many years hence, that we may evaluate the course.

By Max Knight

FAIRFIELD — The eight families still living in Fairfield, the town to be inundated by water when the Brookville Reservoir is finished, have received a reprieve.

The federal government has decided they can remain in the town for one year under a lease agreement.

Under the plan, those who desire to stay may file a letter with the Army Corps of Engineers and the federal government will lease them their home for $216 per year.

This amount may be paid in quarters, thereby meaning a family may move anytime during the quarter and will pay no more. This makes the quarterly payment $42.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hensford, who sold their home last April, have decided to take advantage of the offer. Others are considering it.

Mr. and Mrs. Hensford had taken one 30-day extension when they received word no new extensions would be granted. However, a check with the Army Corps of Engineers at Brookville gave them the solution for staying a few more months.

Those still left in town who have settled with the federal government are Chester Bosse, Ralph Wilkerson, Robert Preston, Leroy Stevens rental, and the Hansfords. J. C. Linegar a member of the Indiana State Police, lives in the Stevens rental.

Those not settled include Chester Bowne, A. J. Banning and Hazel and Jim Davis.

The Fairfield Methodist Church has closed due to few members remaining in the immediate vicinity, and those who still are nearby are urged to attend the church at Blooming Grove.

The group trying to get a new Fairfield built at the top of an area known as the Mound has discussed moving the church there. However, there are few in the area who believe this will be done.

If it is not, the building will be torn down.

The Fairfield covered bridge also is in question as to its future.

The Army Corps of Engineers says nothing can be done to save it unless an interested group of citizens wishes to band together and have it moved.

Those who have investigated this from Fairfield have found the cost to be prohibitive.

The final day for moving from Brookville has not been definitely set but is expected to be about Oct. 1, 1967.
Brookville News

Property Sold

BROOKVILLE — Additional transactions between the United States and residents in the path of the Brookville reservoir have been filed for recording in the office of Franklin county recorder, Ann E. Robinson.

Those filed this week include: Fairfield Methodist Church (the church and parsonage property); Brookville Metropolitan School District (the old Fairfield school); Silos Pope and wife; Ray Thackrey and wife and James Ford and wife.

Prices ranged from $23,900 for the church property; $21,500 for the school property, $24,000 for the parsonage, to $27,100 for some of the rural property.

Other realty transfers filed for recording include: Margaret Winn and husband to Thomas J. O’Connor, trustee; 70 acres in 4-16-13.

Thomas J. O’Connor, trustee, to Henry Winn and wife; 70 acres in 4-16-13.

Pauline J. Short and husband to Agnes Ronnebaum, trustee; 70 acres in 20-12-13.

Agnes Ronnebaum, trustee, to Pauline J. Short and husband; 70 acres in 20-12-13.

Virgil Heppner and wife to Howard Heppner and wife; part lot 88, Oldenburg.

McConathy Land and wife to Lloyd Cox and wife; lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 in Fohl’s addition, Cedar Grove.

Edward Schoettelotte to Audrey B. Dudley; 1 acre in 21-8-2.

Freshmen Invited

A banquet for freshmen students and their parents who are interested in agriculture will be held Thursday, July 28, at 7 p.m., at the Hospitality Center in Brookville.

Purpose of the meeting is to acquaint the youth of this vicinity with the opportunities available for students in agriculture and related business.

Those wishing to attend should call the Brookville High School principal’s office and make their reservation.

A related occupations consultant committee of the vocational agriculture department of Brookville High School was recently formed to offer students of this department an opportunity to get on the job training while attending high school.

It is planned to place senior agricultural students in related business and industry in part-time jobs where they will work for two hours each day and obtain school credit for this work.

Related businesses include feed mills, farm machinery dealers, and lumber yards. This program will provide instructions and experience in off the farm agriculture pursuits.

Members of the committee are Robert Ariens, president; Paul Smith, secretary; Harold Robinson, William Zimmerman, Vernon Dorrel, Don Smith, Harry Applegate and R. A. Everett. George McKinney, principal, and Robert Meyerholz, vocational agriculture teacher, are ex-officio members of the committee.
Fairfield--The Town That Is Going To Sleep

By Henry S. Wood

Franklin County. This little village is due to be inundated in less than three years when the Brookville Dam is completed across the branch of Whitewater River in the valley where this little hamlet is located.

When you visit Fairfield you don't find any excitement and commotion about the matter. The citizens seem to be taking the matter in stride and the little town is just gradually going to sleep for its long rest.

WHEN YOU GO to the corner grocery on the main square, you find that the stock has been moved out to a new store in Brookville, and all the clutter just left on the floor. All other business buildings are deserted except one.

This is the Charles Conner restaurant, a small room which contains, aside from the grill and equipment, for cooking food, and drinks, a pool table, three pinball machines and a juke box. In this small restaurant there are no seats. On warm days tables in front of the restaurant are used.

Conner has a good business, for his place is the only place in town where you can buy a package of cigarettes, a loaf of bread or a bottle of milk.

WHEN THE school bus unloads the sixty grade and high school children who live in the town and attend school at Brookville, you can scarcely find standing room in the small place. Conner expects to stay with his business where he has no competition as long as possible and then he will go on to his main highway near Cambridge City and start a restaurant.

There has been talk about a new Fairfield built on a hill above the lake, but many of the citizens question whether or not there will ever be a new Fairfield. The citizens are planning to go in many directions. “A number who work in Connersville have bought lots in the little town of Blooming Grove which is just five miles west of Fairfield and just eight miles from their work.”

Four families are planning to move to Liberty, and others planning to move near Richmond. Elmer Doerrflin, a farmer who owns a farm adjacent to the town will move to a Rush County farm near Glenwood. All the citizens will be so scattered that it will be impossible to move a church or lodge. One thing that makes it easy for the little town to fall asleep is that it has been in a somnolent mood for a number of years.

FAIRFIELD WAS laid out in 1816 with great promise. Before Union and Franklin counties were separated, Fairfield was scheduled to be the county seat of the two counties. A public square was donated for the courthouse, but all these years the square has been empty, surrounded with hitching posts which have now rotted down.

Fairfield residents will tell you that a shrewd politician who, with his friends, owned large tracts of land near Brookville saw that the county seat was established there.

Early in the history of the town there were water-powered grist mills, a large sawmill and large stores. South of the public square one of the largest buggy factories in the Midwest was developed. Part of the building which formerly covered an entire square still stands, empty except a small portion which has been converted to apartments.

West of the square, three-story brick buildings housed large stores on the street fronts, and lodge halls in the top parts. The town then had a busy post office and the hotel north of the square was a busy stopping place.

The little town started to go to sleep with the coming of the automobile which slowed the manufacture of buggies, the main product of the town. It wasn’t long until the hotel was not needed. Next the town lost its post office. Then the new highway 101 missed the town about a mile. Last year the school was closed and the children taken to Brookville.

THE VILLAGE has made quite a contribution to the state and nation. In the 1840’s the Rev. Gregg Thompson, a Baptist minister, lived in a small house in the town. This little house is still standing, and it was the birthplace of James Maurice Thompson, famous author of “Alice of Old Vincennes.”

Vincennes University is anxious to get this small house and the marker out front to restore and preserve on their campus.

One of the first merchants in the town was Thomas Eads, father of James Eads, the famous engineer who built the great expansion bridge across the Mississippi River at St. Louis.

The Eads family moved to Lawrenceburg before the young engineer was born. A long covered, wooden bridge which stood the ravages of the turpid Ohio River must give way to the great lake.

Yes, Fairfield is going to sleep. Whether there will ever be a new Fairfield is yet to be determined.
Guide to Fairfield photos
1. Plat Map
2. Town sign
3. Church
4. Aerial
5. Main Street
6. Restaurant
7. Town square
8. Restaurant
9. House
10. Dr. Preston’s Office
11. Residents
12. Houses
13. Aerial
14. Buggy Factory
15. House
16. General Store
17. School
18. Garage
19. Postcard
20. Residents circa 1950
21. House
22. School
23. Downtown
24. Covered Bridge
25. Class photo 1959-60
26. 1956 Basketball team
27. Class photo 1939-40
28. Basketball team
29. Basketball team
30. Graduation ceremonies at church
31. House
Appendix C: Early Floods

Two major floods noted in the 1915 History of Franklin County:

March 22, 1898

After many days of hard raining, the climax came on that night, when bells rang out loudly and the steam whistles blew with a very alarming sound. The citizens were soon out to see what was wrong at the river. The mad waters of the East Fork were raging in fearful currents in the valley section of the town. Fifty families were obligated to abandon their homes and seek safety on higher lands among their friends. Rescues were effected by means of boats, wagons, buggies and on horseback. The only available lights were those from flickering lanterns, from one in the morning until daylight. The west end of Whitcomb Bridge was weakened, letting it down to the water’s edge. The next day many came as sight-seers from the surrounding country. The Brookville canning factory was destroyed by this flood. The Standard Oil Company’s tanks were floated from off their foundations and swept some distance. The public schools were dismissed, on account of the great excitement and disorder in the town—all wanting to see the flooded districts. There were two men drowned, Philip Schuh and Bert Osgood.

March 25, 1913

Hundreds and thousands of dollars’ worth of property was destroyed and fifteen lives lost. Six hundred people in Brookville were rendered homeless and scores of dwellings swept away and torn to pieces. The flood was the result of many days’ rain, and every rivulet and creek in the valley was a roaring torrent, which went sweeping down the two branches of the Whitewater River. The heaviest blow was sustained at Brookville, where the two streams unite. Both valleys—that of the East fork and West fork—were submerged in many feet of water. At the depot and paper mills the water was fully twenty feet above the tracks.

The earliest intimation of danger was soon after midnight on Monday and about two o’clock a.m. the scenes in Brookville were beyond description. The electric light plant was under water and all lights were put out, so that lanterns had to be brought into use by the hundreds of people who had been startled by the shrill steam whistles and the clanging of church bells. People in the flats were warned and as fast as possible conveyed to safe places, while their property was swept away and lost forever.

When daylight came, the scene was one of desolation. The only land to be seen in all the valley part of town was a narrow strip from the Christian Church to the old bank building. Men and women were seen perched on housetops, waving distress signals from windows and clinging to wreckage.

The water continued to rise until it reached its climax on Tuesday morning at nine o’clock, when it reached a point ten feet higher than any previous flood record.

The work of rescue went forward all day under a heavy downpour of rain, and some had not been rescued when nightfall came on. A relief committee was appointed and went to work at once. A kitchen was set up in the basement of the town hall, where food was served. Reports soon came in and confirmed what had been rumored earlier that the greatest loss to property in the county was its bridges. The railroad bridges at Laurel and Brookville, the one over Salt Creek, the one over Duck Creek, at Metamora, the paper mill bridge at Brookville, and old Stringer Ford Bridge and the “Old White Bridge,” and the new concrete bridge. Also the bridge at New Trenton,
and those over the Whitewater and Big Cedar rivers in the southern portion of the county were swept from their abutments. After the flood had gone down and the survey could be carefully made, it was found the loss to be much greater than at first believed. The loss sustained by the railroad company, the paper mills and other local factories and mills in Brookville was great. The farmers in the county also came in for their share of loss, in way of washed-away fences, barns, outbuildings, grain, hay and stock.

The list of dead and missing was as follows . . . John A. Fries, Mrs. J.A. Fires, John Fries, Jr., Paul Fries, Margaret Fries, Hedwig Seiwert, Mrs. Margaret Bunz, Sophia Buckingham, Isaac Osgood, Mrs. Margaret Fries, Margaret Colebank, Mrs. Elizabeth Seiwert, John Stearns, John Schuster, John Houston (New Trenton).

This was the county’s greatest calamity. The many homes broken up, the furniture, clothing, money and rare keepsakes of so many scores of families dwelling on the lower portions of Brookville were all swept away and the pretty gardens and comfortable homes of a happy, contented populous section, in one short night were ruined and the hearts of the men and women to whom they belonged were all but broken.

Perhaps the saddest incident connected with this flood was the drowning of the entire John A. Fries family and the inmates of Mr. Fries’ mother’s home, which stood close by her son’s, both being in Stavetown, on the flats to the south of the town. This is the old brick and tile district, where for so many years these families had lived in two old landmarks, both of which were swept away. The hours at which these houses were washed away is not known, but sometime after midnight. In these two homes all eight of the occupants were drowned, including members of three generations—the grandmother, eighty years old, the son, and the granddaughter, Margaret, a prattling babe of six months. The funerals were held at St. Michael’s Catholic Church on Monday following the flood. All business places were closed during this sad ceremony. Four hearses conveyed the remains to the Catholic cemetery. The body of Grandmother Fries was never found.

The report of the relief committee shows the following facts: The Flood of March 25, 1913, affected residences in the town of Brookville which furnished homes for eight hundred and seventy people, or two-fifths of all in the town. Fifteen lives were lost, all bodies but one being recovered. Eleven residences were washed away or totally wrecked. Twenty-four other residences were badly damaged. A large number of outbuildings, hen houses, barns, storage houses, smokehouses, etc. were washed away or totally ruined.

The county has always suffered as a result of the floods which sweep down the Whitewater Valley and the swift-flowing streams which unite with it in the county. The size of the Whitewater is such that it takes at least twenty thousand dollars to construct a bridge and at the time of the flood in 1913 there were ten bridges across the Whitewater. The flood carried away four of the bridges at Brookville and also those at Cedar Grove, New Trenton and Metamora.
# Appendix D: SP 48s

## Brookville/Whitewater Interpretive Activity Report

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**GRAND TOTALS**  
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## Brookville/Whitewater Interpretive Activity Report

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## Brookville/Whitewater Interpretive Plan

### INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITY REPORT

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# Brookville/Whitewater Interpretive Plan

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Appendix E: Wildlife Wander Trail Evaluation

General:

1. Some of the current stops rely on foliage being visible. If these stops were adapted to include other features (bark, buds, etc.) the trail could be used year-round.

2. This trail is a short loop and fairly level, making it a good candidate for paving. Paving the trail would make it more accessible for wheelchairs, strollers and the elderly.

3. Consider making the text more site specific. Stop 5 is a good example. Perhaps some local uses of the plants, original forest composition, etc.

Stops:

1. Log Decomposition. The subject of this stop is decomposition and makes reference to a specific log. The log referred to is almost completely decomposed. Move the post to a new rotten log. Good examples are in close proximity.

2. Hickory. The information is good. An illustration of a compound leaf to go with the text description would be helpful.

3. Poison Ivy. The poison ivy vine has been cut and removed by trail crews, so there is no example to go with this stop.

4. Red oak. The text is good. Consider including an illustration of an acorn.

5. Crop Fields. Typographic error--“farm” fields, not “farming” fields. Open the view so that hikers can see the field better.

6. Tree Holes. The post is there, but the number is missing.

7. Wire Fence. I couldn’t find the fence wire being referenced. Maybe the text could just reference fencerows.

8. Redbud. I located one small redbud about 7’ to the right of the post. Consider moving the post to better location. There are several redbuds several feet to the right of the current post location.

9. Stream. The numbered sign is being chewed by a rodent.

10. Greenbriar. This sign is broken. A Virginia creeper is growing up the post. People might think this is the vine referred to in the text. Include an illustration of greenbriar as a reference.

11. Grape Vine. Typographic error --“its” not “it’s”

12. Squirrel Nests. The sign is missing, but post is there. I didn’t see a nest, but it may be more visible in winter.
13. Beech. No beech tree near the post. There is a small one further down the trail. Consider moving the post closer to it.

14. White Oak. Good example. Typographical error -- “its” not “it’s”.

15. Standing Dead Tree. The tree being referenced is hard to find in surrounding foliage. Add “40’ back from this sign”.

16. Good wrap-up.