Pumpkinvine Trail Talk™
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# Birds love greenways like the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

*By John J. Smith*

*National Geographic* magazine (along with the national Audubon Society, BirdLife International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology) is celebrating 2018 as the Year of the Bird, because 2018 is "the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the most powerful and important bird-protection law ever passed" (National Geographic website). In its January issue, *National Geographic* includes articles with many fine photos of birds of all types from around the world. The central idea of the articles is "birds matter." The greater number of bird species in a community, the healthier the community.

The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail connects many natural areas that support a great diversity of birds. Goshen birder Bob Guth verifies that diversity every time he walks the trail, listing the species he observes. Bob has walked the five miles from County Road 33 to State Road 4 at Abshire Park over 40 times. He keeps cumulative lists of what he calls three "hotspots" in that section: #1 from County Road 33 to County Road 26 (122 species); #2 County Road 26 to County Road 28 (116 species); and #3 County Road 28 to State Road 4 (126 species). That's a lot of birds.

In the stream and trail edge habitat at mile 5.0 (near CR 33) and in the well-preserved hardwood forest around mile 4.5, Bob has seen pileated woodpeckers, eastern Phoebes, yellow-billed cuckoos, red-bellied woodpeckers, tufted titmice and black-capped chickadees. In the open area with native grasses and prairie wildflowers, he has spotted Lincoln sparrows, white-throated sparrows, Baltimore orioles, and eastern bluebirds; occasionally he sees goldfinches, white-crowned sparrows, tree sparrows, and song sparrows eating Indian grass. Christine Guth (Bob's wife) once saw a pair of foxes with three kits near mile 4.0. Horned larks nest in the farmland between 3.5 and 3.0 and snow-buntings and Lapland longspurs migrate through in late fall. Sandhill cranes fly over the trail near Butts Lake, near mile 1.5, in the fall. Wild turkeys frequent the trail between mile 1.0 and 0.5. This is only a sampling of the birds along the trail.

Before European settlement, Elkhart and LaGrange counties were covered with hardwood forests and wetlands, with smaller pockets of prairies and savannas. Today only fragments of these habitats remain. The Pumpkinvine is an important 16-mile long and 80-foot wide green connector of the remaining fragments. This connector allows birds, insects and mammals to move from fragment to fragment, where they feed, breed and raise their young. Connected habitat fragments helps sustain the vitality and size of animal and plant populations. Interconnecting diverse populations of native species is critical to sustaining a high quality natural environment. By providing a connecting greenway for birds, the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail plays an important role in improving the environmental quality of Elkhart and LaGrange Counties.

An index to birds along the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail can be found at www.ebird.com. See page 9 for more details.

*Photos from left:*

*Bob Guth has identified more than 360 birds along the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail*

*Wild turkey south of SR 4 – Photo by John Yoder*

*Pileated Woodpecker – Photo by John Harley*

*Easter Phoebe – Photo by John Harley*

*White throated Sparrow – Photo by John Harley*

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*See back issues of this newsletter at:*
www.pumpkinvine.org

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Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. are cyclists, hikers and naturalists who are working with area park departments to create a linear park and greenway on the former Pumpkinvine corridor between Goshen, Middlebury and Shipshewana, Ind.

*From the president*

# The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail effect

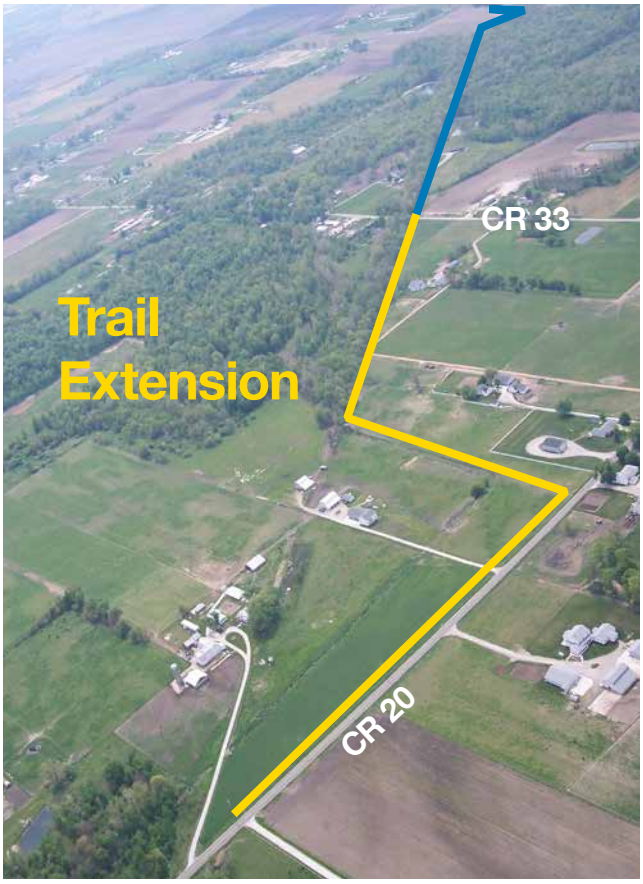
I've lost track of the number of community meetings I've attended where the speakers praised trails like the Pumpkinvine as an important element in improving the quality of life in a community, along with good schools, meaningful jobs and a strong business community. One such meeting was at the Lerner Theatre several years ago when the president of the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, Pete McCowen, was promoting the Vibrant Communities initiative. In explaining the kind of initiatives the foundation was interested in promoting, he gave three examples of projects the Community Foundation had supported that had made a significant difference in our community's quality of life: The Lerner Theater renovation and the creation of the Wellfield Botanical Garden in Elkhart and the birth of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail.

I was pleased that the Pumpkinvine was on his list, but not really surprised because I'd heard the same comments in numerous other meetings about what factors make a town a desirable place to live. Surveys that measure what communities want put accessible places to walk and bike – what trails provide – near the top of the list. That's where people want to live. One such ranking that uses these criteria is the annual "Best Places to Live" article in Money magazine.

Now our community has an opportunity to make our trails into an even better trail system. The story on page 10 of this newsletter introduces the Quaker Trace Trail, an off-road trail that supporters would like to see connect Elkhart, Bristol and Middlebury. If they are successful it would connect with the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail in Middlebury and (with the MapleHeart Trail from Goshen to Elkhart, form a 40+ mile, off-road loop around Elkhart County.

This loop promises to enhance the trail system in Elkhart County just as other additions to the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail have done, e.g., the MapleHeart connecting Goshen to Ox Bow County Park and Elkhart, the Abshire Trail and Monroe Street trails connecting the Pumpkinvine to the Elkhart County fair grounds and the Ridge Run Trail connecting the Pumpkinvine with Greencroft Middlebury, the Essenhaus and Northridge schools.

It is worth noting that trails have the support of many rural residents, as well as city folk. Last fall when the Friends of the Pumpkinvine contacted area Amish churches and asked for donations to support construction of the Pumpkinvine between County Road 20 and County Road 35, the Amish community responded with a generous contribution – a tangible way of saying that they support this extension of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. This community, which uses bicycles more than any other group for transportation, recognizes that the Pumpkinvine improves the quality of rural as well as urban life.




## Construction on CR 33 to CR 20 to begin this spring

The long-anticipated construction of a one-mile extension to the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail between County Road 33 and County Road 20 is scheduled to begin this spring. The exact date is uncertain because trail consultants and Elkhart County Parks, the agency that will oversee construction of the trail, are waiting on a permit from the Army Corp of Engineers related to wetlands in the construction area.

The Friends of the Pumpkinvine received title to the trail route from five farm families in June 2017. "Because of wetlands near the proposed trail corridor, a number of agencies had to sign off on the construction plans," said John Yoder, Friends of the Pumpkinvine president. "Those agencies include the county drainage board, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, the Army Corp of Engineers and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources."

Estimated cost of the section is $885,204. Funds for construction have come from Community Foundation of Elkhart County that provided a $300,000 matching grant, $200,000 from Recreational Trails Program of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, $75,000 from Elkhart County Parks, and numerous donations from individuals and corporate sponsors. A grant of $35,000 from the Bicentennial Nature Trust went toward purchase of the land.

The first signs of construction will be the cleaning of the south fork of Pine Creek along County Road 20.

## John Ferguson joins Friends of the Pumpkinvine board

*By John J. Smith*

The Friends of the Pumpkinvine are pleased to announce that John Ferguson has recently become a board member. Originally from Pittsburgh, Pa., Ferguson and his wife have been area residents for many years now, raising their family in Goshen.

Ferguson comes to the board with a great deal of experience in marketing and fundraising for area nonprofits such as the ETHOS Science Center in Elkhart and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Elkhart County. Not only has he written many grants, but he has also managed a number of fundraising campaigns, golf outings, dinner auctions and the like. He hopes to draw from this blend of experiences to help make a difference for the Friends of the Pumpkinvine as well.

"I have always admired what the Friends have accomplished over the years and thought maybe there's something I can do to help," he says.

Another reason why Ferguson was interested in joining the board is that the trail is important to him. As a cyclist riding 100-160 miles per week, he views riding the trail as a sort of "therapy." It adds to his quality of life.

"I enjoy the trail all year-round, but especially in the wintertime when it's not so busy," says Ferguson. "Cycling allows me to blow off the dust and frustrations of the day and refocus."

He adds, "Communities are so engaged with quality of life issues these days. The focus has become making communities more than just places to work, but places to LIVE. The trail plays a huge role in that."

# Frequently Asked Questions About the Campaign to Close the Gaps

**Why is it important to close this gap in the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail?** The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail attracts many riders who do not feel comfortable riding on busy county roads. Even experienced riders who use the trail to commute to work are at risk, since traffic on County Road 20 and County Road 35 is heavy and fast. Closing this gap will allow bikers, walkers and others trail users to avoid these county roads and make their recreation or transportation experience safer.

**Is there land to buy?** The Friends of the Pumpkinvine are buying the 620 feet they do not own at the north end of the corridor. After the purchase, they will donate the entire corridor to Elkhart County Parks who will build and manage the trail.

**What will it cost to build this section?** Our consultants estimate it will cost $600,000 to build the trail in this section, if there are no complications.

**Where will funds come from to buy and build the trail?** The Friends of the Pumpkinvine received a $250,000 grant of from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County to build the trail.

Additional funds must come from donations to the Friends of the Pumpkinvine from individuals, corporate sponsors and the annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride.

**How much money is still needed?** The Friends of the Pumpkinvine still need $100,000 from donations, sponsors and income from the Pumpkinvine Bike Ride to finish this section.

## How can we help close the gaps?

Donate to the Campaign to Close the Gaps. (See form below.)

Individual, families and organizations that contribute $1,000 between Dec. 1, 2017 and Dec. 31, 2018 will have their names displayed on a plaque in this section.

Contributions of $10,000 or more will be honored with their name on a stone.

☐ **Yes, I support the Campaign to Close the Gaps in the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail between CR 20 & CR 35.**

**Enclosed is my contribution of:**

☐$50 ☐$100 ☐$250 ☐$500 ☐$1,000 ☐$2,500 ☐$5,000 ☐$10,00 ☐Other

**Make checks payable to:** Friends of the Pumpkinvine, PO Box 392, Goshen, IN 46527. All contributions are tax-deductible. Please return this form and your check in the enclosed envelope.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

# YOU'RE INVITED

## 4 · 24 · 18

**The Crystal Ballroom**
**410 South Main Street**
**Elkhart, Indiana**

## Friends of the Pumpkinvine
# ANNUAL DINNER

**Registration deadline is Friday, April 13**

We're pleased to invite you to the Friends of the Pumpkinvine 17th Annual Dinner – an opportunity to meet other trail supporters, celebrate the progress on the trail in the past year and learn about plans for the next. After dinner, Friends President, John Yoder will report on the progress that has been made "closing the gaps" in the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and what to expect in 2018.

The dinner will be held Tuesday, April 24th at the Crystal Ballroom in the Lerner Theater in downtown Elkhart. Doors open at 6 p.m. for viewing trail-related exhibits and meeting with other trail supporters. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m., attire is business casual. Free parking is available in several public lots north of the theater.

Door prizes include gift certificates and other items donated by local bike shops and a grand prize Giant Momentum City-Commuter bike medium blue-bronze donated by Family Bicycle in Dunlap. Key features include a bell, fenders, kickstand, integrated rear rack and even has a built-in cup holder.

Please join us for this important event. Invite family members, friends, neighbors and any others who would be interested in learning more about the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. The cost per person, including tax and gratuity, is $35.

Registration is online at: https://pumpkinvinedinner.eventbrite.com. You will also find a link to the registration site at www.pumpkinvine.org. During registration you may select your table; if you wish to sit with friends, be sure to select seats at their table--all tables are numbered. It is easiest to accomplish this by registering together in the same transaction. **Registration deadline is Friday, April 13th.**

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please consider sending a tax-deductible donation in your place. For questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at sbshort07@gmail.com or call 574-849-5825.

*The Giant Momentum, this year's grand door-prize.*

# 19TH ANNUAL PUMPKINVINE BIKE RIDE

## Saturday, June 16, 2018

www.ride.pumpkinvine.org

### The ride

The Pumpkinvine Bike Ride will likely be the best ride in your 2018 cycling season. The 50- and 100-mile routes will be on lightly traveled county roads and will pass through countryside where you will see livestock grazing in summer pastures. Bicycle beside horses and buggies while listening to the click-clack rhythm of horse's hooves. You will enjoy our ride whether you are an avid cyclist or prefer a relaxed pace.

If you do not feel safe cycling on roadways, the 22- and 37-mile routes are on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. The trail follows a curvy route through fields, woodlands and towns. There are various wildflowers along the trail as well as cultivated flower gardens, including the well-known Krider World's Fair Garden in Middlebury. You will ride in the company of local residents who use bicycles for everyday transportation year around. Trees shade more than half of the trail in case the day is too warm. Bicyclists of all ages enjoy the ride, so make it a family event and bring the children.

Rest stops (SAGs) in Middlebury and Shipshewana will serve drinks, fruit and energy foods. Cold-cut sandwiches will be served at lunch time. Mini-SAGs will replenish your drinks and provide restrooms where necessary. Enjoy the traditional pie and ice cream at the end of your ride.

### When & where

Start at your convenience on Saturday, June 16, from 7 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. EDT. The ride begin at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds on County Road 34 (Monroe St.) in Goshen, Ind., a half-mile east of Goshen High School. Enter at the Fairgrounds at Gate 1.

### Benefits

The Pumpkinvine Bike Ride is an annual fundraising event for the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. Fundraising is especially vital now because Friends are working to close "gaps" in the trail where county roads are presently used as connectors.

Registration through May 16 is $30 per person. May 17 thru June 11 the fee is $50. June 12 to June 16 the fee is $65. Children 13 years and under ride for free. You can reserve a 2018 t-shirt for $15.

### Ride routes

- **Trail route (22 and 37 miles) –** The 22-mile route will follow the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail to the Middlebury SAG and then return to Goshen. Three-and-one-half miles will be on county roads where there is a gap in the trail. The 37-mile route will continue on the trail from the Middlebury SAG to the Shipshewana SAG and then return on the trail to Goshen via Middlebury. Four-and-a-half miles will be on county roads.
- **50-Mile route –** This ride will head east from the fairgrounds winding through Elkhart and LaGrange County countryside until it reaches Shipshewana. From there it will return on the trail by way of the Middlebury SAG to Goshen.
- **100-Mile route –** It will start on the 50-mile route and will separate later to loop more extensively around LaGrange County. Then it will go west through the Bonneyville hills and then return to Shipshewana. Finally, the route will follow the trail to Goshen via Middlebury.
- There will be rest stops every 15-20 miles.

### Friday Evening Dinner Ride – June 15, 4:30 p.m. EDT (limited to 100 bicyclists)

Work up an appetite by bicycling 10 miles to an Amish home and enjoy a Thresher's Dinner served family style. The menu is ham loaf, poppy seed chicken breasts, homemade bread, apple butter, mashed potatoes, gravy, homemade noodles, green beans, broccoli-cauliflower salad, coffee, ice cream with caramel sauce and pie. Here are a few things you need to know:

- You must register for the Saturday ride to participate in the Friday Evening Dinner Ride.
- The ride starts at Woodlawn AM Church, 62861 County Road 41, Goshen, Ind. Plan to arrive there by 4:30 pm. to get your bike ready to ride. Park on the south side of the church. Find detailed directions and a link to a map at ride.pumpkinvine.org.
- We will depart for the 10-mile ride to dinner starting around 5 p.m. We will return to the church parking lot before dark.
- Cost $30 per person.
- **Please do not sign up for this ride unless you can ride for one hour at 10 mph!**

## Registration

All registration is online. Go to **ride.pumpkinvine.org** for a link to the registration site. The ride website has additional information including overnight accommodations and photos from previous rides. RV camping is available at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds. Visit 4hfair.org/fi/fair/fair-camping/ for details.

## Volunteers needed

The Pumpkinvine Bike Ride is made possible by volunteers. If you would like to help host the ride as a volunteer, contact Chuck Thompson at 269-651-5344 or email: CRT@hughes.net.

# Poets on the Pumpkinvine

**We are pleased to announce the three winners in the first annual Pumpkinvine Poetry Contest, which concluded January 31, 2018.**

**First prize:** Four tickets for the annual dinner or Pumpkinvine Bike Ride.

## Awe

*By Matthew Lind*

Each day it waits, patiently.
I know it's there
And even that
Fills me with anticipation.
It is a place where freedom lies
And comfort, perhaps
And awe…

Awe?
Aren't the Rocky Mountains "awe"?
Maybe Precipice Trail,
Red River Gorge,
Angel's Landing,
The Highland Trail…

But the Pumpkinvine?

Let me explain.
It is awe,
Brought down to earth;

A miracle that forms
This wondrous NOW.
It does not shout;
It whispers:
"Rider, awake!
Walker, awake!"

There is a place
For majestic mountain peaks,
For the overload of senses
That completely humbles.

Yet here this is:
Of forest and field,
Of understated beauty,
Of awe laid low.
Our back yard
Where we live,
Yet animated by the same
Dizzying atoms
That form Yosemite's vistas.

It does not shout.
It whispers:
"Come, walk my path.
Awake!"

**Second prize:** Three tickets for the annual dinner or Pumpkinvine Bike Ride.

## The Path

*By Elizabeth Linn*

I am snowy carpets, bare branches
and peace.
I am green grass, budding leaves and
hope.
I am warm sunshine, wildflowers and
fulfillment.
I am crisp air, vibrant colors and
contentment.
In all seasons, I am exchanged
greetings, shared smiles and
community.

**Third prize:** 1 ticket for the annual dinner or Pumpkinvine Bike Ride.

## Haiku

*By Steve Ellis*

Silence on the Pumpkinvine.
The bike chain hums
And peace overtakes my soul.

## Comment by Ervin Beck, contest judge

All the poems fulfill in a thoughtful, artful way the goal of the contest: to help us see and experience the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail in a new, imaginative way.

Matt Lind casts his poem in a *free verse* form and uses very short lines to create a breathless, passionate argument. He persuades us to "Awake!" to the beauty that lies in the seemingly mundane "atoms" of the nature trail. No matter that his poem has 40 lines instead of the limit of 30 stated by the contest rules. Plenty of the short lines could be combined with others, without loss.

Elizabeth Linn *personifies* the trail, giving it a speaking voice. Like the Psalms and Walt Whitman, her pleasing poetic form consists of parallel sentence structures, with images blossoming into meaning. Elizabeth knew where to stop. Just one more line would be too much.

Steve Ellis masters the *haiku* form, the Japanese poetry that consists of 17 syllables divided among three lines. Much in little. His concrete images move us toward deep feeling.

Consider this: Every time we ride the Pumpkinvine we engage a kind of proto-poem. Our trail does not have a boring, literal name, like Monon, 146th Street, Angola, B & O, or Big Four. We could have named our trail similarly, as the Lakeshore and Michigan Southern. Unlike those names, our trail is a "pumpkinvine," that is, a metaphor, and metaphors are basic ingredients in poems.

The asphalt is really a pumpkin stalk, winding back and forth, up and down, creeping slowly toward Shipshewana or Goshen. A "branch" of the vine heads for the Essenhaus. The streams and rivulets are tendrils on the vine. The wildflowers are pumpkin buds. Where is the pumpkin fruit? Maybe in an Essenhaus pie?

Admiring these poems and riding on the metaphor might inspire you to write a poem for the 2019 contest. "Awake!" Enjoy!

## Resolution Run starts the New Year off right

Despite subzero weather and a wind chill well below -10 degrees, over 220 hearty souls – 167 runners and walkers and 60 volunteers – participated in the 4th Annual Resolution Run to benefit the Middlebury Food Pantry.

The course was intended to be a loop course, starting at the Essenhaus, and using the Wayne Street Trail, the Ridge Run Trail and the Pumpkinvine. However, with a minus 15-degree wind chill, the organizers opted for a two-mile out-and-back course or a mile course that would allow runners to bail out and keep the volunteers in one area, so they could rotate in and out of cars to stay warm.

The Parks Department plowed the snow off the path, which was very dry and light, and blowing along the course. Fortunately, there are snow poles, so you can always see where the path goes, even if it isn't plowed.

"We are grateful for the hearty souls that came out, and all the volunteers," said Paula Turk, race director. "The support from the Middlebury police, city and parks department was amazing."

"The support and generosity of the community is almost overwhelming" said Pam Bingamen, manager of the Middlebury Food Pantry. "I am so grateful to be part of it."

*Spencer Short leads runners on the Jan. 1, 2018 Resolution Run on the Ridge Run Trail. "It was brutally cold that morning," he said. "My front hydraulic brake actually stopped working correctly soon after we started because of the cold.*

## Time to re-enroll in Kroger rewards program

The Friends of the Pumpkinvine receive a donation from The Kroger Community Rewards Program when Friends' supporters link their Plus card to the Friends of the Pumpkinvine on the Kroger Rewards' website. Last year the Friends of the Pumpkinvine received over $700 from this program from the purchases of participating households.

However, **all participants must re-enroll in the program each year for the benefits to continue.** Note: the re-enrollment process has changed. Here are the steps to enroll or re-enroll.

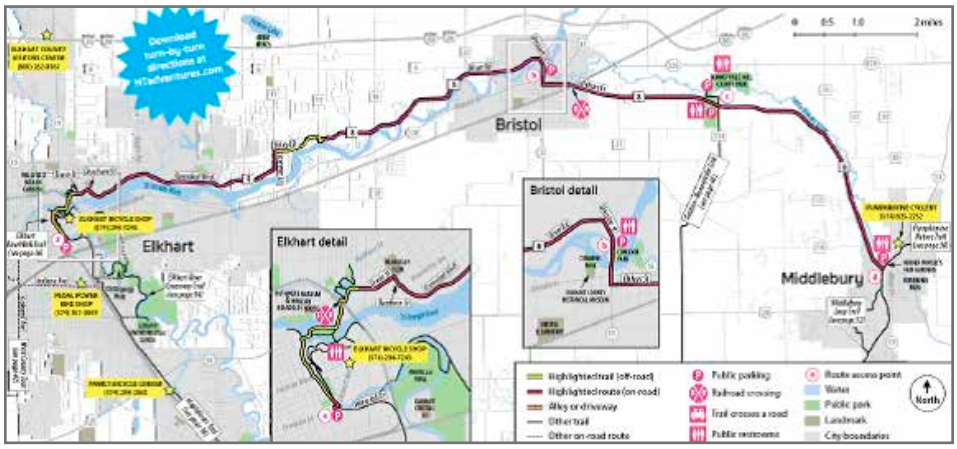
- Create an account or sign in at: https://www.kroger.com
- On the next page, click on the black figure beside your name in the upper right-hand corner (above "Checklist").
- In the drop-down menu, click on "My Account."
- Scroll down the page to "Community Rewards." (If you are re-enrolling, note the Friends of the Pumpkinvine number: 40758.)
- Click on the "Edit" button.
- In the blank under "Find your Organization," enter 40758 or Friends of the Pumpkinvine.
- Click on the "Search" button.
- Click on the button beside Friends of the Pumpkinvine.
- Click on "Enroll."

EBIRD

### How to use www.ebird.com to see an index of bird along the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

- Go to www.ebird.com
- Click on "Explore" in the top list of options
- Click on "Explore Hotsports"
- In the "Hotspot" box at the top, enter "Pumpkinvine"
- Choose from the list of 10 geographical sections of the Pumpkinvine
- Click on "View Details" to see what birds have been identified in each section, along with who made the identification and the date.

*A section of the Quaker Trace Trail is completed along County Road 8 east of Elkhart.*




*One of the options for the Quaker Trace Trail is along County Road 8.*

# The Quaker Trace Trail would connect Elkhart and Bristol to the Pumpkinvine

*by Steve Braden*

Wouldn't it the nice if there were an off-road path from the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail in Middlebury to Bristol and Elkhart? We have seen the recreational, health, safety and economic benefits the Pumpkinvine has brought to Goshen, Middlebury and Shipshewana. Now it's time to connect Bristol and Elkhart and complete a 40-mile triangle of off-road, multi-use paths.

The Quaker Trace Trail – named to honor Elkhart County's history with the Underground Railroad – will do just that. The trail is in the early stages, and this article will describe where things stand as of January 2018.

Unlike the Pumpkinvine, the Quaker Trace Trail is not a rails-to-trails project, so there is no pre-existing route. County Road 8 has been marked as the potential route, but it has not been determined whether the new path will follow that road entirely or partially.

The Quaker Trace Trail starts in downtown Elkhart as a designated the bike route along Greenleaf Blvd. At County Road 15, it becomes a dedicated off-road path, going east through a tunnel under Co. Rd. 17 and continuing to Echo Lane, where it ends. The next phase will take the path to the outskirts of Bristol. No determination has yet been made on the route through Bristol or from Bristol to Middlebury.

The current focus is on the segment between Elkhart and Bristol. The initial design proposal along County Road 8 received stiff opposition from landowners for being overly intrusive. The County Commissioners ordered additional design options to be prepared. Three of these went along County Road 8; the fourth went south of State Road 120, following utility easements for part of the way. After receiving public input, the Commissioners chose the option of building a curb along the north side of County Road 8, reducing its speed to 35 mph, improving the road's safety, and building the path on the north side closer to the road (approximately 4.5 feet of buffer). This would put most, though not all, of this 2.7-mile segment within the existing right-of-way.

As of January, funding and design for this segment is still pending. Design funding ($500,000-600,000) will involve the County Commissioners, the County Redevelopment Commission and the County Council. Since the segment is not yet designed, there is no solid estimate of construction costs. They will be substantial, since a good portion of the road will be rebuilt. Major grants and individual donations will be needed.

**At present, it is crucial that public support for the Quaker Trace Trail be visible to governmental and grant-making entities. Please write or email the Commissioners, the Council, and your local newspaper in support of the Quaker Trace Trail.**

The Friends of the Quaker Trace Trail is now being organized as a tax-exempt non-profit entity. John Yoder has been very helpful in giving guidance. Please visit the Quaker Trace Trail Facebook page and the Friends of the Quaker Trace Trail website: quakertracetrail.org. For further information, contact Steve Braden at sbbike9@gmail.com.

# Wildflower Bike Ride and/or Hike on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

*Sponsored by Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society (INPAWS) - North Chapter*

## Saturday afternoon
## April 21, 2018

Open to INPAWS members & the public

*Spring Beauty*

The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail replaces most of an abandoned railroad from Goshen to Shipshewana, about 16 miles. The section of the trail around mile 4.5 has a nice wildflower display from mid-April to mid-May. On April 21, 2017 there were about 15 species blooming, but Spring 2018 may be different. John J. Smith, a member of INPAWS and the Friends of the Pumpkinvine, will lead the hike.

There are two options for this event -- a 10-mile round-trip bike ride or a one-mile round-trip hike.

### Wildflower Bike Ride

Bikers will meet at the Abshire Park parking lot at 2:15 p.m. on Saturday, April 21 to ride together the five miles to the intersection of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and County Road 33. Abshire Park is in Goshen on State Road 4 (1302 East Lincoln Ave.), less than one mile east of the Elkhart County Courthouse. There is a large lot at Abshire Park, for parking and unloading bikes. The trail begins near the parking lot. We will ride bikes together to mile marker 5.0. En route we will stop briefly at two-or-three places to see what's blooming, but the best wildflower display is near mile 4.5. We will meet hikers at mile 5.0 to begin the hike at 3 p.m. The hike will end at 4:30 p.m. Bikers will return to Abshire park at their own pace. **Note: Bikers must pre-register by contacting johnjaysmith39@gmail.com or at (574) 533-9496 by April 16. There is a limit of 15 bikers.**

### Wildflower Hike

Walkers are to meet at 2:45 p.m. at the Abshire Park lot (see directions above) to car-pool to County Road 33, where there is space for only two vehicles. The hike will begin at 3 p.m. and end by 4:30, when the car-pool will return to Abshire Park. **Note: Hikers must pre-register by contacting johnjaysmith39@gmail.com or at (574) 533-9496 by April 16. There is a limit of 10 hikers.**

We will go rain or shine, unless there are thunderstorms; call John at (574) 903-0191 if the weather is uncertain.

# WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK

these local businesses and organizations that supported the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. and Pumpkinvine Bike Ride.

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**Complete the form below to become a supporting member of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail or to renew your membership. Your tax-deductible donation will be used to build and maintain the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and goes toward paying the day-to-day expenses of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. No board members receive remuneration. By showing your Friends' membership card, you are eligible for discounts on specified purchases at the following area bicycle shops: Elkhart Bicycle Shop, Elkhart; Family Bicycle, Elkhart; Lincoln Avenue Cycling and Fitness, Goshen; House of Bicycles, Osceola; and Pumpkinvine Cyclery, Middlebury.**

## Has your membership expired?

You are receiving this newsletter because you have contributed to the Friends of the Pumpkinvine in the past two years. If the date on the label of this newsletter has passed, we hope you'll consider renewing your membership in the **Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail**. Membership levels are:

☐ Individual $30 ☐ Family $40 ☐ Sustaining $60 ☐ Contributing $100 ☐ Patron $250

☐ Benefactor $500 ☐ Benefactor Silver $1,000 ☐ Benefactor Gold $2,500 ☐ Benefactor Platinum > $5,000

Send your membership payment to:

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