

Pumpkinvine

Volume 19 No. 1

March 2010



Trail receives funding for tunnel under US 20

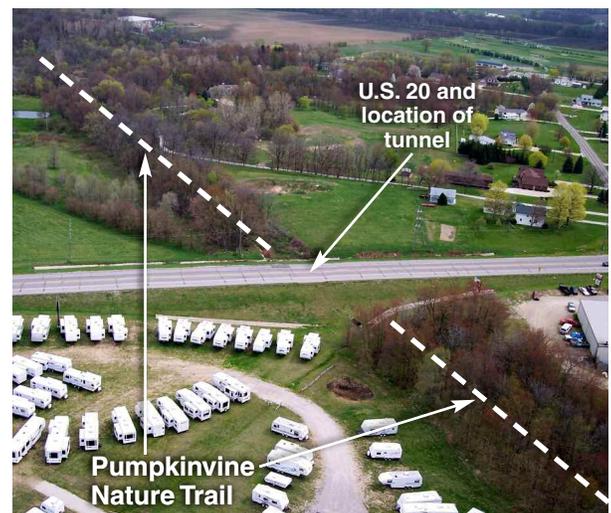
By Buddy Dyck

Thanks to the persistence of individuals, agencies, and government departments, over a million dollars in federal stimulus monies has been designated for the construction of a tunnel on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail at U.S. 20, southwest of Middlebury.

The significance of the tunnel can hardly be overstated. "The tunnel provides for safe passage under the biggest physical obstruction along the entire Pumpkinvine Nature Trail corridor," said Mark Salee, Middlebury Town manager. "The tunnel allows for uninhibited use of the trail without crossing a major highway, while staying within the original railroad corridor." Furthermore, Salee maintains, this "tunnel adds a unique feature to the trail, which already includes the original trestle bridge over the Little Elkhart River in Middlebury."

Larry Neff, the Superintendent of Elkhart County Parks, holding similar views, added: "Eventually it should make the citizens of Middlebury and Elkhart County have a greater appreciation of the quality of life afforded in our area. It should have an economic impact that should be felt all through that area and make exercising a mental- and physical-health reality."

According to Salee, it was Neff who was the driving force in obtaining stimulus monies (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) for this underpass. Salee also credited the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation for assisting in directing the needed funds to the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail.



The tunnel will be due north of the convergence of County Road 22 and County Road 37 and will be about 70 feet long, with undetermined additional footage at each end. Neff said construction will begin as soon as weather permits and is scheduled to be completed by Oct 1, 2010.

Crossing U.S. 20, even at the nearby stoplight on CR 37 and Orpha Drive (one option considered if there wasn't funding for a tunnel) has been "an enormous hurdle in the process of bringing the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail to completion," said John Yoder, Friends president. "This funding is wonderful news. I think the tunnel will become a signature feature of the completed trail."

Board of Directors Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc.

John Yoder, President
533-4943
Jdyoder2@verizon.net

Larry Neff, Vice President
& Liaison to Elkhart County
Park Department
534-8223
lneff@elkhartcounty.com

Rhonda Yoder, Treasurer
266-4265
Rhonda_yoder@hotmail.com

Robert Carrico, Secretary
Trail Operations Manager
266-1362
rjcarrico1@verizon.net

Jim Smith
Executive Director
533-7862
kneesrus@comcast.net

Mike Bontreger
825-3051
logisticsbb@aol.com

Holdeman, Jr., Quinn
825-7258
kathie18@peoplepc.com

Cathy Miller
825-1939
cwsmiller@verizon.net

Chet Peachy
533-5418
crpeachy@gmail.com

Frances Ringenberg
825-2676
mfvr@juno.com

John McKee
Liaison to Middlebury Park Board
825-3900
johnlyndamckee@aol.com

Danny Graber
Bike Ride Chair
266-4265
dannysg@verizon.net

Newsletter design
david george & associates, Inc.
dga@dgaonline.net

From the president

The tunnel is great news: here comes the criticism



The tunnel under U.S. 20 southwest of Middlebury is a monumental achievement for the dream of a seamless Pumpkinvine Nature Trail from Goshen to Shipshewana. Our thanks to Larry Neff, superintendent of Elkhart County Park Dept. for his tireless efforts to secure the funding that made it possible.

So a grant of over \$1 million that creates hundreds of local jobs should logically be welcomed by everyone in the community. Not so. When I sent out word of the grant, one person wrote back to question spending the money on a tunnel instead of helping the homeless and the hungry in our community. Not long after that, letters appeared in the *Goshen News* making the same point about the bicycle-pedestrian tunnel the City of Goshen is building under County Road 119 (Plymouth Ave.) at Shanklin Park: spending money on bicycle-pedestrian projects is a waste of money, shows a lack of concern for those less fortunate in our society, and, in addition, will become a haven for muggers and rapists.

First, although our society could shift our tax dollars toward helping those without housing and who face food insecurity and away from other projects, that policy isn't a priority in our society or government. So until the people in power change our national priorities all we can do is work within the funding system we have.

Fortunately in the last 15 years that system has shifted a small fraction of our transportation dollars away from motor vehicles to alternative forms of transportation, like bicycles. Those transportation enhancement funds, along with monies from the Dept. of Natural Resources and federal stimulus monies (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) are what have funded development of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. They can't be spent for food or shelter, and moreover, if we don't spend them on bicycle-pedestrian projects, another city in Indiana will be happy to.

What the Pumpkinvine has done for the economy is create jobs. When completed, the trail construction will have brought over \$6 million into this community. It is estimated that the tunnel alone will employ over 100 workers. In a small way, it is helping house and feed local workers.

Second, the claim that tunnels are unsafe is precisely the argument we heard when we proposed creating the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. That prediction proved to be false because although it is **possible** for bad things to happen on the trail, it isn't likely. Just because something is **possible** doesn't make it **probable**.

According to the 2005 National Crime Victimization Study, the vast majority of assaults are committed by someone known to the victim. Of course, people need to exercise caution in any public place, be it a tunnel, trail, road or sidewalk, but statistically, a rapist isn't likely to be a masked stranger hiding in the bushes or the tunnel.

As I write, work on the tunnel has not started, but when it does, I suspect we'll hear these same criticisms: spending a million dollars on a tunnel is money misspent for reasons X, Y and Z. And it will be dangerous. I disagree. The tunnel will become a highlight of the trail, and something we can all be proud of. It is creating local jobs and making this community a more desirable place to live.

— John D. Yoder

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, Indiana.

Learn more about the Pumpkinvine and Rails Trails issues, or see back issues of our newsletter at:
www.pumpkinvine.org

Friends of the Pumpkinvine 9th Annual Dinner

Town Center, 760 S. Van Buren St.,
Shipshewana, Indiana

Tuesday, April 27, 2009

Doors open at 6 p.m. for viewing exhibits
and enjoying light refreshments.

The dinner/meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. sharp.

Dress is casual; seats are not assigned. However, if you fill
a table of eight, we will reserve your table.

You also can register online from a link at www.pumpkinvine.org.



Name(s) _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

The annual dinner will bring you up to date on the recent past and Friends' plans for the future. You will also hear brief reports from the local trail managers about the impact of the trail on their staffs and departments. Come and enjoy an evening with other trail enthusiasts.

- Circle total # of tickets and write check for that amount.
- Make check payable to: Friends of the Pumpkinvine.
- Mail check and completed Reservation Form to:
FRIENDS OF THE PUMPKINVINE
P.O. BOX 392
GOSHEN, IN 46527-0392
- No refunds will be possible after April 15.

Ticket Calculator

1 x \$23.50 = \$23.50

2 x \$23.50 = \$47.00

3 x \$23.50 = \$70.50

4 x \$23.50 = \$94.00

Can't attend? Consider making a tax-deductible gift to the Friends.

- Enter your name and address above. Indicate the amount of your gift.
- Make checks payable to Friends of the Pumpkinvine
- Mail your check and this form to: Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, P.O. Box 392, Goshen, IN 46527-0392

I can't attend the meeting, but enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$ _____ . Thank you!

Spring wildflower walk on the Pumpkinvine

You are invited to a guided wildflower walk along the newest section of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail with John Smith, professor emeritus of education at Goshen College. The walk will be Sunday, April 18, 2010 from 3 – 5 p.m.

You will likely see Hepatica, Spring Beauty, Harbinger of Spring, Wild Ginger, several species of Violets, Bloodroot and other early spring flowers.

The walk will explore the area between County Road 31 and County Road 33. Because there is no parking close to the walking area, plan to meet at Abshire Park and car pool to the walk. You may, of course, bicycle the three miles to County Road 31. Plan to arrive there by 3:10 p.m. The walk will last approximately two hours.

If you have questions, contact Smith at johnjs@goshen.edu or 533-9496.



Hepatica

11th Anniversary Pumpkinvine Bike Ride – June 19

Join 1,000 other riders for the 11th year for the Pumpkinvine bike ride. The 30, 48, 69 and 102-mile routes will satisfy bicyclists who want a light or vigorous workout on low-traffic county roads. The routes are also interesting to bicyclists who want to experience horses with buggies, farm animals in fields, flower gardens, country schools and small towns. Country stores and businesses that operate without electricity are marked on the route maps and you are welcome to stop for a visit.

There is also a 12.5-mile ride for people who only want to ride on the trail or ride the trail and mix in a few miles on county roads.

New this year:

- **New start location in Goshen.** The ride will start at Goshen High School, 401 Lincolnway East, Goshen, IN. See our web site for a map.
- **New roads in the 69- and 102-mile routes**
- **Showers** will be available at Goshen High School after the ride.

Register using the form in this newsletter

Register online: You can register online for an added fee (minimum \$3) based on the total charges. For online registration, you can find a link at www.pumpkinvine.org. You can also download a registration form from this same site and register by mail.



Cost: 48-, 69- and 102-mile routes are \$21 by May 31 and \$26 after May 31. Family registration is \$42 by May 31 and \$52 after May 31. The 12.5 ride is \$18 before May 31 and \$23 after May 31. T-shirts are \$10.



- **Friday Dinner Ride.** Bicycle 28 miles, round trip, and enjoy an Amish-cooked Thrasher's Dinner at the half-way point.

Special features of the ride include:

- Excellent SAG stops with cyclist-specific food and drinks, restrooms and biker assistance.
- Homemade pie with locally made ice cream at the end of the ride.
- Opportunity to see working farms with horses, foals, sheep, goats and cattle.
- Colorful short-sleeved T-shirts available for purchase.
- Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. tote bag available for purchase.

Staging area: All rides start at Goshen High School, 401 Lincolnway East, Goshen, Ind. for the Family Trail Ride and the 12.5, 30, 48, 69 and 102-mile loops.



For more information and maps of all the routes, check our web site: www.pumpkinvine.org or contact Bob Carrico at (574) 266-1362 or tjcarrico1@verizon.net or Danny Graber at (574) 266-4265 or dannys@verizon.net.

Proceeds from the ride support the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc., in their efforts to convert the entire 17-mile Pumpkinvine corridor into a linear park and greenway.

Register early... Save money!

To be sure to get this year's commemorative T-shirt; preorder on the Bike Ride registration form.

11th Annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride (PBR) Registration Form

June 19, 2010

- One person or one family with the same mailing address per application (you may photocopy this page).
- No refunds after May 31, 2010.

Name (Please print)	Age	Distance	❖ <i>Make checks payable to:</i> Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. ❖ <i>Mail registration materials to:</i> Bob Carrico 52829 Wildflower Lane Elkhart, IN 46514		
Street address:					
City:			E-mail address:		
State:		Zip Code:		Phone number:	
Emergency contact phone:					
Entry Category		Quantity	Per Unit Price By May 31	Per Unit Price After May 31	Total Fee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children age 11 or under free • Immediate family includes parent(s) & children age 17 or under 					
Individual(s)			\$21.00	\$26.00	
Immediate Family		1	\$42.00	\$52.00	
Individual - Trail Ride*			\$18.00	\$23.00	
Immediate Family - Trail Ride*		1	\$36.00	\$46.00	
Friday Dinner Ride, must be registered for Sat. ride			\$23.00	Not available	
Pie & ice cream for non-bikers			\$3.50	\$3.50	
PBR T-shirts	Indicate number ordered for each size:				
	S	M	L	X-L	XX-L
					Total shirts X \$10.00
Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail membership: Individual - \$30 Family - \$40					
*12.5-mile round trip on trail plus some city streets. Choice of some county roads.					Grand Total

Release of Liability: I, the undersigned, know that participating in the Pumpkinvine Bike Ride (PBR) is a potentially hazardous activity and I participate in it out of my own free will and choice. In choosing to participate in the PBR and related events, I fully accept and assume all risks including without limitation, physical injury, mental injury or trauma, death, contact with other participants, equipment failure, inadequate safety equipment, the effects of weather including extreme temperature conditions, traffic, contact with motor vehicles of all types and descriptions, collision with other riders or fixed objects, the conditions of the road and participating in events along the route, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. I examined PBR routes and recognize that they are on and across public roads without special bike lanes. I agree that PBR is not responsible for the conditions of public roads. I assume the risk of all conditions and occurrences during the PBR and its related events and waive all specific notice of the existence of either. I shall pay my own medical and emergency expenses in the event of accident, illness, or other incapacity regardless of whether I have authorized such expense.

I understand and agree that a situation may arise during the PBR which may be beyond the control of the sponsors, promoters or organizers and agree to ride so as not to endanger myself or others. I agree to abide by all traffic rules applicable to automobiles and recognize that failure to do so can put me and others in danger. I agree to be solely responsible for the condition and adequacy of my bicycle, safety gear and riding equipment.

Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of my entry acceptance, I for myself and anyone acting on my behalf, waive and release PBR sponsors and participating clubs, government agencies, communities and organizations, PBR officials, volunteers and their representatives, Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. and the officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, and successors of all of the above (the "Released Parties"), from any and all claims of any kind I have, may have or may hereafter accrue against the Released Parties either directly or indirectly, including claims brought by third parties, arising out of or relating in any respect to my attending or participating in the PBR, including without limitation, damage or harm to me or my property which may be caused by any negligent act or omission by the Released Parties. I further agree to indemnify and hold the Released Parties from any and all losses, damages, claims and expenses, including attorney fees, arising from or relating in any respect to my participation in the PBR or related events. I further agree to abide by all PBR rules and regulations. I agree that photos and videos taken of me during this ride may be used in Friends of the Pumpkinvine newsletters, website or ride brochures.

A parent or legal guardian must sign for anyone under 18

CPSC- or SNELL-approved helmets are

Signature

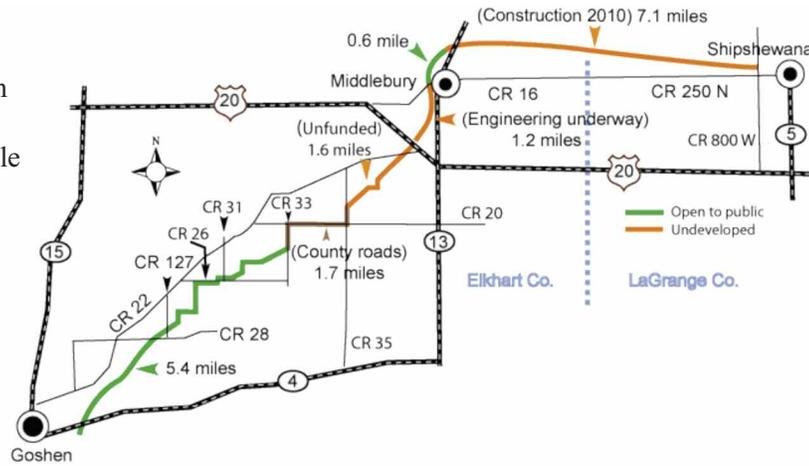
Signature

Signature

Signature

Trail status report

This map and table shows construction progress on the various phases of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. See the table below for those details.



Pumpkinvine phases in geographical order from south to north: Goshen to Middlebury to Shipshewana.

Phases	Location	Miles	Managing Agency	Status
1	State Road 4 to CR 28	1.75	Goshen Park Dept.	• Opened in 1999
5A1	CR 28 to CR 127	0.54	Elkhart County Parks	• Completed in 2008
5A2	CR 127 to CR 26 & 31	1.61	Elkhart County Parks	• Opened June 6, 2009
5A3	CR 26 & 31 to CR 33	1.24	Elkhart County Parks	• Opened June 6, 2009
5B	CR 33 to CR 35	1.70	(County roads)	• No current plans
5C	CR 35 to US 20	1.60	Elkhart County Parks*	• Funding still needed
5C & 6	Tunnel under US 20		Elkhart County Parks	• Funded • Completed by Oct. 1, 2010
6	US 20 to Wayne St.	1.20	Town of Middlebury*	• Design work began in August 2009 • Completion in 2011
2	Wayne St. to York Dr.	0.64	Town of Middlebury	• Opened in 2005
3	York Dr. to Elkhart Co. – LaGrange Co. line	2.40	Elkhart County Parks	• Funded • Construction to begin Sept. 1, 2010
4	Elkhart Co. – LaGrange Co. line to CR 850 West	4.70	Town of Shipshewana	• Funded • Construction to begin Sept. 1, 2010
	Total Miles	17.4		

Changed since the last newsletter are in bold

*Parts of this section are owned by the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc.

We would like to thank these local businesses that supported the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc.

Silver level



Bronze level



Stewardship Solutions



GREENCROFT® COMMUNITIES

Ghost whistle heard on the Pumpkinvine

By Paul Koepke

One of the things I most anticipated last spring was the opening of new sections of the Pumpkinvine. On many occasions I would ride from south Goshen to Abshire Park and on to CR 28. There I pondered what it must have been like to hear the old steam engines as they lugged their supplies and materials up that incline to Middlebury. After a sip of water and nibbles on an energy bar, I would continue plying the county roads anticipating the progress of the Pumpkinvine.

About three weeks before the new sections of the trail officially opened, I met a distinguished and experienced senior rider. We chatted for a while and fantasized about what the opening of the additional sections of the Pumpkinvine would mean for the various communities and biking enthusiasts. As we parted, his last words were: “Sometimes, Paul, if you listen closely, you can still hear steam whistles on the Pumpkinvine.” As I continued my journey, I wondered: What did his statement mean?



◀ “Ghost” whistle

Some weeks later, with the new sections now open, I was surveying the wondrous morning countryside from atop “Moore’s Hill.” In the quiet, I thought I heard what sounded like a whistle from a steam engine. Was my imagination playing games with me? Because I “heard” the sound briefly, I couldn’t determine its location or direction.

Several weeks later returning from Middlebury on CR 37 I was taking a break on the corner of CR 37 where CR 26 becomes CR 28, when I heard what was unmistakably a steam whistle! The sound was longer and more definite, and I could determine its approximate direction.

There was no mistake about what I heard. I rode west on CR 28 about 100 yards to where an Amish woman was hanging wash on the line. I asked her if it were possible that I heard a “steam train whistle” a few moments ago. She looked inquisitively at me, noting my watch and said: “What

time is it?” I replied: “8:28 a.m.” With a nod of her head in the direction of the sound, she said, “That’s A & R Machinery on CR 20. It signals the end of their early morning break. They’ll blow it around 11:30 a.m. for lunch.”

What a euphoric moment -- my mystery was solved, well, partially. I rode home that day with energy I never knew I had. I told my wife what I had discovered, and vowed the next day that I would locate the “holy grail.”

Since locating the source might require some back tracking, I took my car the following morning. I went to the machine shop on CR 20 where I thought the sound may have come from, and the kind gentleman at the site said it was not them. They had had a steam whistle, but because their neighbors complained that it bothered their chickens, they no longer used it. He directed me four miles west to the A & R Machine Shop.

I “flew” to A&R, parked the car, and bounded to the front door. Just as I stretched out my hand to grasp the door handle, a steam whistle blew above my head announcing “back to work” for the employees!

What followed was an amiable chat with the owner. I shared what the elderly cyclist had told me about “steam whistles still heard on the Pumpkinvine” and the owner offered a wry smile and said: “That was probably us. It’s how we tell time around here.”

My question had been answered: **Steam whistles are still heard on the Pumpkinvine!**

Hearing a steam whistle as one rides the Pumpkinvine is, in my estimation, an incredible historical connection. It’s a link with the past. It’s part of our roots. It would be unique if, on special ride events (with the cooperation of the owner of A & R Machine) more riders might have the opportunity to hear “a steam whistle” as they ride the Pumpkinvine.



You may become a supporting member of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail or renew your membership by completing the form below. Your tax-deductible donation will be used to complete the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and goes toward paying the day-to-day expenses 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 Union Cycle Works, Shipshewana.

Has your membership expired?

If the date on the label of this newsletter has passed, it's time to renew 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 Bronze \$1,000 Benefactor Bronze \$2,500 Benefactor Gold \$5,000 Benefactor Platinum > \$5,000

Send your membership payment to:

Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail • P.O. Box 392 • Goshen, IN 46527

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 172
Goshen, IN 46527