



2016 PEOPLE PATHWAYS PROGRESS REPORT

The 2016 People Pathways Progress Report is presented for your review in celebration of the newest “link” in our community’s multi-use trail system, the “Putnam Nature Trail”.

We welcome this opportunity to share a few highlights as we gratefully acknowledge community partners who helped in the development of this beautiful almost one-mile segment:

- The Trailblazer’s first encounter with the former railroad property in 2013 revealed both the challenges and the possibilities of repurposing the corridor for a new use!



- With donations of property from the City of Greencastle & Buzzi/Lone Star, a plan from Civil Engineering Consultants, and a funding award from the Putnam County Community Foundation’s Envision 2016 Grant initiative, trail construction was ready to begin!
- Initial heavy clearing was done by Buzzi/Lone Star who knew how to “move it, move it” with final clearing, tiling, and grading done by Hurley Construction.



- Of special note, in the trail clearing process only a minimal number of trees were disturbed retaining the “majestic” appearance of the corridor. The trees that needed to be removed were either pushed to the side to create a property barrier and small animal habitat or cut-up and removed by volunteers for firewood.
- A thick white ribbon of Hanson Aggregate’s fine stone was laid down by Hassler Trucking and compacted to create the trail surface.



Amenities have been added to enhance the natural beauty of the environment and safety of the trail:

- Rail fencing, gates, and signage have been added through a collaborative effort of Putnamville Correctional Facility, Bethel Church, Putnam County Sheriff’s Department, Greencastle Department of Public Works, and People Pathways volunteers.



- Even though the “abyss” presented a huge challenge, many partners came together to reclaim and reshape this once impassible briar patch into a “Putnam Nature Trail” destination spot. Followed by McCullough Excavating’s re-grading, volunteers from Quail Forever, Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District, People Pathways, Walmart Transportation VAP Program, and Putnam County Families in Nature Group joined forces to plant native grasses and wildflowers to attract bees, birds, and butterflies. It was an opportunity to practice patience as we awaited signs of growth in this rocky, poor soil. *Gradually*, with a special assist from Mother Nature, some hardy seeds started to sprout! With modest greening & flowering of the valley, the much-hoped-for pollinators started visiting!



- Benches, donated by Civil Engineering Consultants and West Central Solid Waste District, were added along the trail to offer trail users a spot to rest, reflect, and refresh.



- Forty flowering trees, donated by Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District, were planted and mulched by strong, enthusiastic Boy Scout Troop #99 and DePauw students. Our community will have the privilege of watching these young trees grow as a reminder of the young men who planted them!



- With the goal of completing the project on time and anticipation of Opening Day, Joe Spiker Excavating and GreenStreet Residential Maintenance added “finishing touches”.



- On September 23, 2016, guests were warmly welcomed by gracious hostesses of Girl Scout Troops #1734 & #10307 as we gathered to celebrate the “Putnam Nature Trail” opening by gratefully acknowledging our community partners and cheering celebrity Bicentennial Torchbearers Emma Wilson & Malcolm Romine who “linked” the “Putnam Nature Trail”!



We are grateful for these community partners who share the vision of multi-use trail development in our community as we work together to “link” communities across Putnam County and the State via the National Road Heritage Trail initiative AND “link” the past to the future by re-purposing the former railroad corridor for a new use and community asset.

We are pleased to report that thanks to the generosity of many community partners who helped with the development of the “Putnam Nature Trail” (please see attached), our community’s People Pathways has now grown to 12.8-miles!

Again this year in addition to regular use by individuals and families, segments of our community’s multi-use trail offered a venue for special events such as:

SENTENCED TO SERVE 5K AND PUDDLE JUMPING!



PUTNAM COUNTY BICENTENNIAL TORCH RELAY



WALK & BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY



REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION

In closing, if you enjoy People Pathways, our community's "linear park", and agree that it is one component of our community's quality-of-life, will you please consider making a donation to People Pathways this year?

For reference, People Pathways is a not-for-profit group that functions under the tax-exempt 501c3 organizations of Friends of the Parks Association of Putnam County, Inc. and National Road Heritage Trail, Inc. with every dollar spent locally to build, maintain, and promote our community's multi-use trail system.

You may choose to send your tax-deductible contribution to either the People Pathways Endowment Fund at the Putnam County Community Foundation, 2 North Jackson Street, Greencastle, IN 46135 or People Pathways at 459 Ridgeland Road, Greencastle, IN 46135.

Again, many thanks for your consideration in helping to take care of and grow People Pathways. We are grateful for your encouraging support as we work together to enhance the quality-of-life of our community, promote the good-health & wellness of our citizens, and create Putnam County's "link" in the developing 150-mile, cross-state National Road Heritage Trail.

With appreciation,
Joy & the People Pathways Committee



PEOPLE PATHWAYS PUTNAM NATURE TRAIL PARTNERS

Buzzi Unicem USA	West Central Solid Waste District
City of Greencastle	Putnam County Sheriff Dept.
National Road Heritage Trail	Silverwood Signs
John Phillips, Surveyor	Putnam County Bicentennial Committee
Hurley Construction	Putnam County Families in Nature
Hassler Trucking Services	McCullough Excavating & Silt Removal
Hanson Aggregates Midwest	Headley Hardware
Pingleton Sawmill	Bethel Baptist Church
Putnamville Correctional Facility	GreenStreet Residential Maintenance
Quail Forever	DPU Alpha Phi Omega Community Service Fraternity
Joe Spiker Excavating	DPU Sigma Nu
Civil Engineering Consultants	Boy Scout Troop 99
Walmart Transportation	Girl Scout Troop 1734
Soil & Water Conservation District	Girl Scout Troop 10307
Putnam County Health Dept	
Corner Properties, LLC	

Putnam County Community Foundation

People Pathways Volunteers