



# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2024 | Indiana

# About Greenways Foundation

We strengthen pathways to resiliency for people, business, and nature by providing advocacy, support, and funding to Indiana's trail organizations.

## Advocates

We advocate for trails at the local and state level by providing decision-makers with the knowledge they need to support trails.

## Experts

Trails organizations can get the support they need to get off the ground and grow with the help of our experienced working board.

## Changemakers

Our grassroots, crowdfunded grants program helps local trails groups get the funding they need for 501c3 designation and for trail building, maintenance, and growth.



# About the Indiana Trails Caucus

In 2020, Greenways Foundation collaborated with Rails-to-Trails Conservancy to form the first Indiana Legislative Trails Caucus. The Caucus represents a group of state legislators that includes Republicans and Democrats from the House and Senate who are committed to creating a statewide trails network that provides significant health, economic, and other quality of life benefits for all Hoosiers.

Today the Caucus boasts strong membership with nearly 30% of the General Assembly participating.



# Critical Trails Initiatives

## **Regular Funding for Next Level Trails**

Indiana's Next Level Trails (NLT) program has made significant strides in building and supporting our world-class trail system, providing numerous communities with the funds to develop and improve accessible trails. Indiana has transformed from a state with limited trail infrastructure to a national leader in trail connectivity. Greenways Foundation supports the ongoing funding of NLT to ensure its economic, recreation, and public health advantages continue to benefit Hoosiers.

## **Complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Indiana**

The Great American Rail-Trail, a project by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, stands as an inspiring and ambitious endeavor aimed at facilitating an alternative transportation route that crosses the nation, connecting the coasts of the Atlantic and the Pacific. It's worth noting that Indiana, often referred to as the Crossroads of America, occupies a central position along this economy-boosting trail. A substantial portion of the Indiana segment has already been successfully finished! Greenways Foundation ardently supports the completion of the remaining 95.7 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail within Indiana.

## **Cultivate Active Transportation**

Active transportation, like walking and cycling, promotes physical fitness and contributes to a healthier population by encouraging regular exercise. It reduces traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, making it an environmentally sustainable mode of transportation. Active transportation fosters a sense of community, encouraging people to interact with their surroundings, neighbors, and local businesses, enhancing the overall livability of an area. Greenways Foundation supports the adoption and realization of Complete Streets initiatives and other community-enriching active transportation projects.

## **Enhance Safety of Trails**

As communities progress in the establishment and improvement of trails, prioritizing safety remains paramount. Initiatives such as Safe Routes to Schools and Safe Streets and Roads for All set the standard for secure and sustainable alternative transportation. Greenways Foundation commends the noteworthy adoption of a statewide 3-foot bicycle passing law by the Indiana General Assembly and supports further measures that ensure the safety of trail users.