



## Fact Sheet

### What is Aboite New Trails, Inc.?

Created in December, 2001, Aboite New Trails, Inc. is a dynamic, not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to improve the quality of life for Aboite Township citizens through the creation of nearly 50 miles of multi-use trails.

### Tangible and Intangible Benefits of Trails

- Adds character and vitality to a community
- Provides safe form of recreation and transportation for all ages, disabilities and socioeconomic situations
- Improves health and fitness of the community
- Promotes civic pride by enhancing quality of life
- Reduces traffic and pollution
- Provides pleasant, auto-free routes for all forms of exercise
- Stimulates economic development
- Increases property values near trails
- History is preserved, local culture is enhanced
- Promotes community meeting places and provides a canvas for social interaction
- Provides links to places of employment, parks, historic destinations, open space, recreation and community facilities, downtown areas...

AND SO MUCH MORE!!

### Milestones.

GAI Feasibility Study. Aboite New Trails, Inc. commissioned a feasibility study in 2003 by Fort Wayne-based GAI Consultants, which examined existing road conditions and made recommendations about the types of facilities best suited for multi-use paths.

Public Meetings. In an effort to educate area citizens and garner volunteer and financial support for the project, the following public meetings were held:

- December 2001, Homestead High. Over 150 area residents attended.
- May 2004, Summit Middle School. Over 180 residents, supporters and media attended the public meeting. Also in attendance: Senator David Long, Representative Jeff Espich, City Council person Dr. John Crawford, City Council person Tom Hayhurst, SWAC Superintendent Dr. Brian Smith, SWAC School Board Member Mark Gilpin, INDOT: Gerald Nieman & John Leckie, Aboite Township Trustee Barbara Krisher; and local media.

### Project Goals.

- To improve safe pedestrian and bicycle travel throughout Aboite.
- To install a comprehensive network of multi-use trails serving cyclists, runners, walkers, wheelchairs, in-line skaters, strollers, cross-country skiers, and others.
- To link people to people, places to people, neighborhoods to area amenities.

**Current Projects.**

The following projects are either currently underway or are scheduled to happen:

Two sections approved and scheduled: Aboite Center Road; SR 14  
Two more sections approved by SWACS: Covington/West Hamilton; Aboite Center Road/Homestead

**When Complete.**

When complete, the more than 40 miles of trails within these three phases will serve over 33,000 people in Aboite Township. It will miraculously connect hundreds of neighborhoods, at least 5 schools, more than 60 businesses, nearly 20 churches, multiple playgrounds and parks, and ultimately link to the other major networks of trails throughout the City and its environs. Covering all major roads throughout the Township, the Aboite New Trails system of trails will bring people closer to one another, adding vitality to this community, and improving a way of life for everyone.

**Public Support.**

Letters. Aboite New Trails has received in excess of 200 letters and emails in support of trails.

Local efforts. Following the May public meeting several groups adopted ANT as its community project and either raised capital or volunteered time and energy.

Meetings. ANT has met with the following groups, organizations and government departments: Congressman Mark Souder's office; Indiana State Senator David Long; Dianne Hoover, Fort Wayne Parks & Rec.; Allen County Planning Commission; Allen County Planning Department; Mike Fitch, Allen County Highway Director; Mayor Graham Richard's office; County Commissioners; Ron Zartman, County Parks & Recreation; Barbara Krisher, Aboite Township Trustee; Pam Holocher, City Planning Department; NIRCC; INDOT; multiple private corporations.

**Fundraising.**

In addition to creating an enthusiastic and energetic Board of Directors, hosting public meetings, and working diligently with public and private companies and government officials, ANT has begun its formal fundraising efforts. Even prior to its formal fundraising efforts, which begins late 2004/early 2005, over \$50,000 has been raised through individual, corporate and community foundations.

Sources of Funding:

Federal, State and local grants  
Community Foundations  
Corporations  
Individuals