



Support from Aboite Residents and Community Leaders

health and recreation

"As a physician, mother and resident of Aboite Township, I would like to voice my strong support for bike/walking trails construction in this area. Children are increasingly sedentary, and we are forced to drive everywhere. My own children have nowhere to ride a bike. Childhood obesity is directly linked to inactivity and I feel this is not just a quality of life issue but a public health issue." ~ **Christine Tremper, M.D.**

"The biggest constraint to suburban life in Aboite is that it is a car-based society. We have to drive everywhere outside of our immediate neighborhoods...The collector streets around our neighborhood, including Aboite Center, Homestead Road, and Covington Road, are dangerously narrow with higher speed limits making walking and biking unsafe at all times... Our family's main recreational activities have always been biking and walking. I consider these activities to be absolutely vital to our health and psyche. New neighborhoods should not be permitted that do not provide interior links within their bounds and plans to link to a wider network of trails to the outside. Let's begin to reverse our unhealthy dependence on cars within Aboite. Let's work together to re-engineer and re-build our lives and encourage healthier lifestyles in this suburban landscape." ~ **Jeanne R. Shaheen**

"I can't wait to ride my bike to school. It's only outside our neighborhood. I would also like to ride my bike to my basketball games. My Mom is always driving me places and I can't wait to use my bike in places other than on my street." ~ **Max Krueger, 9 years old**

safety

"...Indiana has fewer recreational trails than other Midwest states and Fort Wayne has fewer trails per capita than most other large cities in Indiana...I strongly support the development of trails in the Fort Wayne area. Currently there is a significant lack of areas for safe walking, running or biking in our area. Approximately 6 years ago I lost one of my best friends, who was killed by a motor vehicle while riding his bicycle. And there are other people who have been killed or injured on local roads and highways. It is very likely that these people would be alive today if recreational trails were available." ~ **Doug Martin**

"As a 22 year resident of Aboite Township and a parent of two teenagers, I cannot express how strongly I feel we need a bike trail system in our township. With the addition of Indian Trails Park and the Jorgenson Family YMCA, we are now only lacking a trails system to link them with homes and schools. It would provide the safest way for ALL of us to better navigate and utilize these fine facilities."
~ **Jane Jorgensen**

economy

"As a Fort Wayne native, retired CEO of a major Fort Wayne employer and Aboite resident, I am extremely excited about the Aboite New Trails project and what it will mean to this community. This network of trails and its ultimate connectivity to people and places throughout Allen County will be a meaningful feather in our cap as we work to attract new businesses and jobs. While Mimi and I have always enjoyed and promoted the wonderful quality of life in Fort Wayne, I think these trails represent a true enhancement opportunity. I fully support this project and encourage others throughout Fort Wayne and its surrounding areas to join me in that support." ~ **Ian Rolland, retired CEO, Lincoln National Corporation**

quality of life

"The trails will draw us together as a community, and connect Southwest Allen with other parts of our metropolitan area in a way that will benefit all of us. These trails are going to change our lives in more ways than people realize." ~ **John Bloom, President of the Board, Southwest Allen County Schools**

"When I moved back to Indiana ten years ago, the thing I missed the most about Chicago was being able to walk anywhere and do or get what I needed. I always incorporated my workout with errands or getting to and from work. I loved taking my rolling cart to go grocery shopping, hauling everything back in the cart. It was just a way of life to not always drive or be driven somewhere, it really added to my quality of life. When Aboite New Trails succeeds in paving a trail along Covington and Scott Roads, I plan to purchase a new rolling cart and enjoy walking to the grocery again!" ~ **Julie Eckert Clancy, Owner, Jophiel**

"These trails will improve the quality of everyone's life in Aboite Township. With two young grandchildren, we look forward to long bike rides on these trails. The safety of our family is first and foremost to every one of us and these trails are going to ensure that every generation has a safe place to ride." ~ **Rick and Kathy Hawks, Pastor and wife, The Chapel**