



ELKHART COUNTY  
PARKS  
.ORG

SPRING/SUMMER 2020

# NEWS & NOTES

vol.1 no.1





## Our Mission

The Elkhart County Parks Department mission is to enhance the quality of life, preserve the County's cultural, historical, and natural resources; and provide educational and recreational opportunities.



## Administration Office

**Hours:** Mon–Fri / 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Closed weekends & County holidays)

**Office Location:** 211 W. Lincoln Avenue, Goshen, IN 46526-3280

**Phone:** 574-535-6458



## Park Hours (Subject to change without notice)

**Jan / Feb / Nov / Dec**

9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Apr / Sept**

9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

**Mar / Oct**

9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**May / Jun / Jul / Aug**

9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

*Note: Boot Lake Nature Preserve closes one hour before all other parks.*

### Elkhart County Parks

211 W. Lincoln Ave.  
Goshen, IN 46526-3280

**PHONE** / 574-535-6458

**FAX** / 574-535-6616

**TDD** / 574-535-6420

**WEBSITE** / [elkhartcountyparks.org](http://elkhartcountyparks.org)

**EMAIL** / [parksinfo@elkhartcounty.com](mailto:parksinfo@elkhartcounty.com)

**DIRECTOR** / Ronda DeCaire

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PARK**

**OPERATIONS** / Bernard J. Cunningham IV

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INTERPRETIVE SERVICES** / Dr. Kelby Rose

### Elkhart County Parks Board

**PRESIDENT** / William Wilson

**VICE PRESIDENT** / Larry Andrews

**SECRETARY** / John P. Hardy

**MEMBERS** / Jeff Burbrink, Karin Frey, Karen Mackowiak, Klaus Mueller

### Elkhart County Council Members

**DISTRICT 1** / Douglas S. Graham

**DISTRICT 2** / Randall D. Yohn

**DISTRICT 3** / Darryl J. Riegsecker

**DISTRICT 4** / David L. Hess

**AT LARGE** / John K. Letherman

**AT LARGE** / Thomas Stump

**AT LARGE** / Tina Wenger

### Elkhart County Board of Commissioners

**PRESIDENT** / Mike Yoder

**VICE PRESIDENT** / Frank Lucchese

**MEMBER** / Suzanne Weirick

### Friends of the Elkhart County Parks Board

**MEMBERS** / Judy Ferrell, Larry Ford, Patricia Frank, Kay Bontrager-Singer

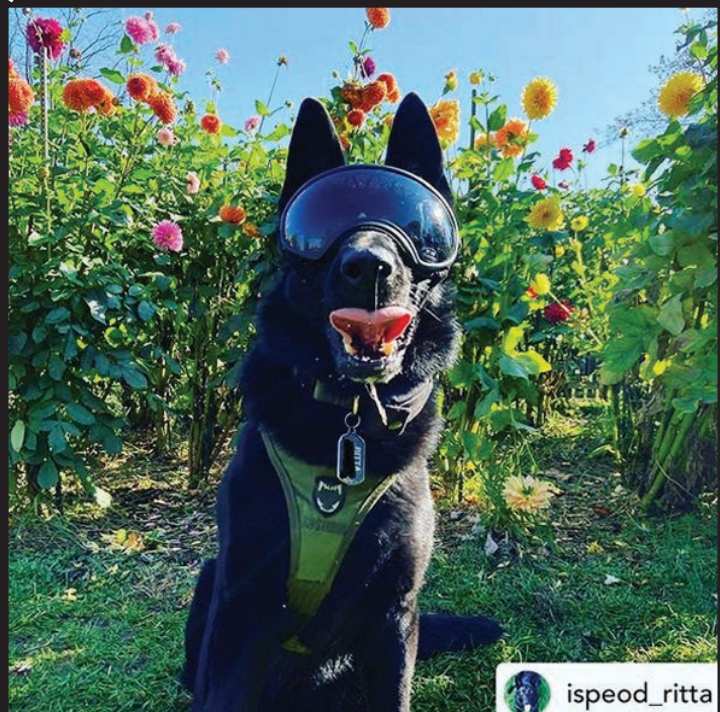


Let's keep in touch.

[f](#) + [i](#) /elkhartcountyparks

visit > [elkhartcountyparks.org](http://elkhartcountyparks.org)

Worth Sharing



**Bow WOW! We dig this dahlia dog (K-9 Ritta) taken at the garden in Bonneyville Mill County Park. Thanks Indiana State Police for sharing this shot! ❤️**

**#elkhartcountyparks**  
Facebook/Instagram

On the Cover / Photos by (clockwise from top): Judy Morris, Mike DuBois, and Beth Smith.

# LETTERS FROM OUR DESKS



## DIRECTOR RONDA DECAIRE

Mother Nature is in constant change. Whether it is the patterns of the clouds moment by moment or

the transition of blooming wildflowers from spring ephemerals in the forest to prairie forbs in summer, nothing in nature is constant. Elkhart County Parks also creates change and growth. Fresh new programs, roofs on buildings, and planning a new park are just some of the ways we are evolving and changing.

One big change over the past year was introducing an online system

for shelter reservations and program registrations. It has proven to be successful and has created many efficiencies for visitors and staff. Visitors without internet access are welcome to come to the Administrative office in Goshen for assistance, but over 95% are booking from the comfort of home at any time of the day.

With that change comes another. You will notice with this issue of *News & Notes*, we have expanded the layout to tell you more about the great stories happening within your Elkhart County Parks. As always, all of the details of our expansive list of programs can be found at [elkhartcountyparks.org](http://elkhartcountyparks.org).

If you want reminders of this amazing array of programs and events, following Elkhart County Parks on Facebook is a great way to start.

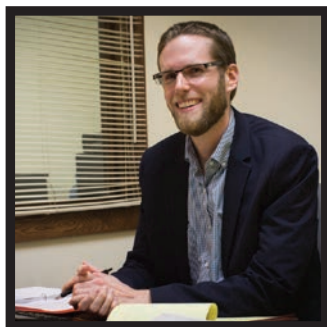
With these changes, we have started publishing this magazine twice per year (rather than three times). We hope to save some paper in the process, which in turn helps to save a few trees – not to mention lightens our carbon footprint with delivery. Look for the Fall/Winter issue in September.

Like the caterpillar turning into a butterfly, we hope you find awe in the changes you discover in nature this spring and summer.

## INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

### KELBY ROSE

As the weather turns warmer, the Interpretive Services team is preparing to welcome thousands of local preK–12 students to our parks on school field trips. Nothing makes us happier than building lifelong connections with Elkhart County's natural environment and cultural history. Even if your school days are long behind you, I know you will find something to enjoy in our diverse lineup of programs and events. This spring and summer, you will discover exciting new educational and



recreational opportunities, as well as some returning favorites. Stay updated on everything we do by visiting [elkhartcountyparks.org](http://elkhartcountyparks.org) and following us on Facebook.

## PARK OPERATIONS

### BERNARD J. CUNNINGHAM IV

removing hazardous trees, prepping landscaped areas for planting, and a regular mowing schedule. With visitation increases, shelters will start to be cleaned on a daily basis and prepped for rentals and events. Staff is always very busy in the summer but all welcome a friendly conversation. As you're enjoying the parks, don't hesitate to say "hi," ask questions, or let us know how we can make your visit more enjoyable.



Spring and summer in our parks bring new activities for visitors as well as a change in tasks for park maintenance staff. The team is wrapping up the repair of vehicles and equipment, structures, tables and benches, and hopefully putting away the snow plows. As the weather changes, staff begin to focus on the care of park grounds by clearing vegetation,



# GALLERIES TRANSFORMED

By Julie Parke, Museum Director

**Crossroads of Elkhart County** examines the vibrant story of Elkhart County through three new exhibits in the museum's first floor galleries. The project has been nearly three years in the making and unfolded in three phases.

The first chapter in the project, *Forging a Path* explores the Native cultures of this area from the earliest Paleo people, though the Archaic and Woodland eras and concludes with an in-depth look at both the Miami and the Potawatomi, conveyed in their own words. Highlights include the museum's mammoth tusk and mastodon tooth, numerous stone implements, a traditional lacrosse stick, *pakitahaakani*, made by Miami craftsman Doug Peconge and hand-painted

maps by artist Amy Christiansen-Janicki. *Forging a Path* concludes just before the Native groups of this area come into direct contact with the French.

The story of Phase II, *Claiming the Land* is told through the people who lived it. Miami, Potawatomi, French, British, American and new arrivals to Elkhart County all contribute to an understanding of life here from the 1670s through the 1850s. The second chapter begins with Native trade with the French and follows the sometimes violent path through the numerous groups that sought to influence and control this area. The central map feature illustrates the changing authority over this region. Maps range from pre-contact ancestral Miami land, *Myaamionki*, through an 1842 Indiana map

which includes Elkhart County towns that no longer exist. The staff selected meaningful objects that represent this tumultuous period including a long rifle used in the War of 1812, household objects brought here from states in the east, land grants and a stove made from Elkhart County bog iron and forged in neighboring Mishawaka.

The final gallery opens this summer, and the title has yet to be revealed. Phase III tells the story of dramatic local transformation wrought by the arrival of trains in 1851. This new form of transportation stoked the rise of industry and commercial agriculture. Noted Elkhart County industries include textiles, band instruments, support for trains, pharmaceuticals, kitchen cabinetry, horticulture, automobiles,

RVs and manufactured housing, among others. Industry and agriculture may characterize Elkhart County, but history is about people. Much like *Forging a Path* and *Claiming the Land*, the third phase focuses on people – the famous and the not so famous. The period since 1851 has seen significant migration to the region, and the exhibit examines race relations as communities evolve to accommodate changing demographics.

The completed project gives museum visitors a solid footing when exploring what makes Elkhart County unique, from the earliest hunter-gatherers who passed through here following mammoth and mastodon to the hard-working and innovative people who make Elkhart County remarkable today.



Hawks Furniture Factory along the hydraulic canal by the bridge – Goshen



Mammoth Tusk – Elkhart County Historical Museum

# DINOSAURS IN INDIANA?

By Andy Langdon, Interpretive Naturalist

**A**lthough more varieties of dinosaurs have been discovered in the United States than anywhere else in the world, no dinosaur bones have ever been found in Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, or Ohio. This makes you wonder, “did dinosaurs ever live in Indiana?”

It is believed that dinosaurs lived on the land now called “Indiana” during at least some of the Mesozoic period. Known as the Age of the Dinosaurs, the Mesozoic period includes the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods spanning about 252 to 66 million years ago. This was during a time when a supercontinent called Pangea began breaking apart and moving. Our region was under a sea of warm water during some of the Mesozoic period, and was located south

of the equator, far from where it is today. During this same time, the rock formations of the Mesozoic period (which hold the dinosaur bones) were eroding rather than forming in Indiana, and were further destroyed by the glaciers during the last ice age. Since we lack Mesozoic rock formations in Indiana, we don’t find dinosaur bones here today.

Indiana is home, however, to spectacular aquatic fossils including crinoids and trilobites! It is also home to a large collection of mastodon bones and tusks. Many other now-extinct mammals also lived in Indiana until around 12,000 years ago, including the woolly mammoth, short-faced bear, camel, saber-toothed cat, musk ox, peccary, dire wolf, wild horse, giant ground sloth, and giant beaver.



# MEET THE ZAKUSILOV FAMILY

By Krista Daniels, Interpretive Naturalist

The Zakusilov family has been attending programs at the Elkhart County Parks for over a decade. We caught up with them recently to talk about their experiences.

**Q:** Which of the Elkhart County Parks is your favorite and how long have you been going there?

**A:** We started going to Ox Bow Park 14 ½ years ago. It's definitely our favorite because it's so big and has tons of fun trails and a disc golf course!

**Q:** What brought you to Ox Bow County Park initially?

**A:** Disc golf is what brought us initially to the park, plus the fact we used to live so close to it. I used to take our boxer out on all the trails before we had kids. Now we enjoy the kids programs and playgrounds!

**Q:** What meaningful experience have you had at Ox Bow County Park?

**A:** A favorite memory would be sledding at Ox Bow with our kids!

**Q:** In your opinion, why should people visit the parks?

**A:** If people are looking for a fun way to enjoy the outdoors and get some exercise, we highly recommend the Elkhart County Parks!



immersive programs, workshops, field trips, nature hikes...  
**experience it all.**



ELKHART COUNTY  
**PARKS**  
\_ORG

# 2019 BY THE NUMBERS



2000+

BOX BOW ANNUAL PASSES SOLD



2449 VOLUNTEER HOURS



WEBSITE

38,000+ VISITORS



161,000+ VIEWS



189

HIKING CLUB



HIKERS

1400+ NEW PAGE LIKES ON FACEBOOK



215 SPECIES RECORDED



SPRING BIRDING CHALLENGE



408 SHELTER RESERVATIONS



388 CLASS FIELD TRIPS



4663

ATTENDEES AT

SPECIAL EVENTS





# BONNEYVILLE MILL



## ADDRESS

53373 C.R. 131  
BRISTOL, IN

## BUSINESS HOURS

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY  
10 A.M.-5 P.M.  
MAY-OCTOBER

### GRITS

*YELLOW & WHITE*

1 lb for \$3.00  
2 lb for \$5.00  
5 lb for \$8.00

## QUALITY FLOUR

### CORNMEAL

*YELLOW & WHITE*

1 lb for \$3.00  
2 lb for \$5.00  
5 lb for \$8.00

### BUCKWHEAT

1 lb for \$4.00  
2 lb for \$6.00  
5 lb for \$12.00

### RYE

1 lb for \$3.00  
2 lb for \$5.00  
5 lb for \$8.00

### CRACKED WHEAT

1 lb for \$3.00  
2 lb for \$5.00  
5 lb for \$8.00

### SCOTTISH OATS

1 lb for \$4.00  
2 lb for \$6.00  
5 lb for \$12.00

### WHOLE WHEAT

*HARD RED, HARD WHITE  
& SOFT WHITE*

1 lb for \$3.00  
2 lb for \$5.00  
5 lb for \$8.00





# MEMORY QUILT



I am happy to share with you *Our Daily Bread*, a memory quilt made using the flour bags from my late father, Bob Barth, who was the family bread baker and my husband, Chris Henderson, who is carrying on the tradition.

Our trips to Bonneyville Mill for stone-ground flour, the smell of yeast and flour rising and the comforting aroma of bread baking are wonderful, heartfelt memories that I represented in the memory quilt.

I only had Bob's last two flour bags, so these were placed on each corner like he is wrapping his arms around Chris' work. It also reminds me of how family and friends would just

happen to stop by my parents' house when they heard it was Bob's bread baking day.

In keeping true to the history of Bonneyville Mill, I love that the quilter used all reproduction 1800s fabrics that match perfectly with the colors on the flour bags.

To say the least, there are many stitches and various quilting patterns used on this quilt.

I hope you have enjoyed seeing this memory quilt made from my family's Bonneyville Mill flour bags and that it inspires you to share what you make with your flour bags from the mill.

Sincerely,  
Gloria Henderson

To see Gloria's quilt in full detail visit: [sues-stitchin.blogspot.com/2019/09](http://sues-stitchin.blogspot.com/2019/09)

Elkhart County Parks staff were thrilled to see the Bonneyville Mill flour bags reused in such an innovative way. We are celebrating this wonderful quilt by calling others to show us more creative ideas for repurposing Bonneyville Mill flour bags. Winners of the top five projects will receive prizes from the Mill.

## FLOUR BAG CONTEST

### ELIGIBILITY

1. Project entries must use at least one Bonneyville Mill flour bag.
2. Entries must be labeled with the artist's full name and phone number.
3. Elkhart County Parks employees and family members are not eligible for prizes, but are welcome to compete in the "Staff Only" challenge.

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Deadline** All entries must be delivered to Bonneyville Mill on or before Sept 19 by 5 p.m.

**Display** Projects will be displayed at Bonneyville Mill Sept 26–Oct 4 during regular Mill hours.

**Pickup** Following the contest, projects will be available for pick up Oct 7–18 during regular Mill hours.

Any unclaimed projects after Oct 18 will become property of Elkhart County Parks.



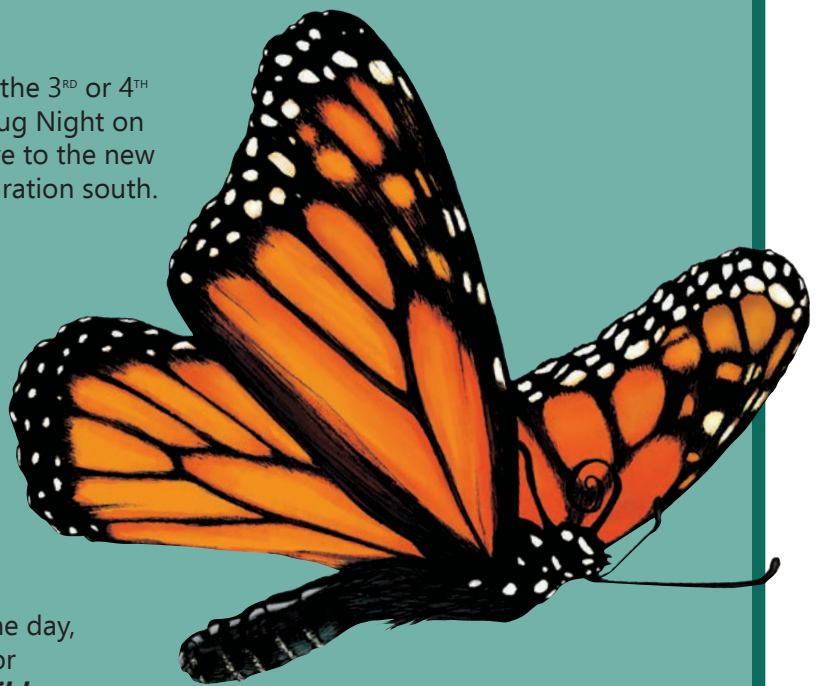
# Nature's Calendar

## SPRING



- **Trilliums** are some of the first wildflowers to bloom in spring. They have three large leaves and one flower, often white or red. Look for trilliums low to the ground (below knee-level) in woodland habitats.
- With temperatures rising above freezing, look for **snakes** basking in the sun. As the weather continues to warm, snakes will venture from their winter dens towards their summer habitats.
- **Virginia Opossum** babies are born in the spring. Litters of up to 13 young will spend the first two months in their mother's pouch. They remain dependent for three more months relying on her for food, shelter, and transportation.
- Starting as early as March, **Mallard** duck hens make nests from soft materials such as grasses, weeds, and down feathers. Once they lay their eggs, hens will spend about a month incubating them before they hatch.

- **Monarch Butterflies** seen from June to late fall are the 3<sup>RD</sup> or 4<sup>TH</sup> generation that overwintered in Mexico. Join us at Bug Night on August 7 at Cobus Creek County Park to say goodbye to the new generation of butterflies before they begin their migration south.
- As water temperatures raise to around 60° F, male **Largemouth Bass** make small shallow nests on the bottom of rivers and lakes. Once a male's nest is chosen by a female, he will stay with the 2,000–40,000 eggs until they hatch.
- **Turkey Vultures** have two unique ways of staying cool during summer: featherless necks and legs, and defecating (going to the bathroom) onto their own legs. Vulture feces is highly acidic, which helps cool and sanitize them.
- Summer is when wild strawberries, mulberries, grapes, and other fruits are ripe for eating. During the day, look for evidence of nocturnal animals like Red Fox or Striped Skunk near some of these **seasonal wild edibles**.



## SUMMER



# RIDE on

Pick up the pace and explore our county on two wheels. From energizing paved cross-country rides to thrilling mountain biking, Elkhart County has cycling routes that cater to all levels. Here are a few recommended rides:



Photo: Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

## 1 BONNEYVILLE MILL MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL

BEST FOR RUGGED RIDES

Crafted specifically for mountain bikers, Bonneyville's six-mile interlooping trails serve up a thrilling ride for those up for an adventure. Ribbons of single-track trail wrap around woodland hillside, zigzag through towering pine forests, and ascend to open meadow overlooking the rolling countryside.

Sections of the trail take riders through steep inclines and drops, so intermediate experience mountain biking is recommended before riding the entire route.

**Distance:** 6 miles

**Difficulty:** Intermediate–Advanced

**Route Type:** Interlooping circuit

**Park Address:** 53373 CR 131, Bristol

**Trail Access:**

Baldwin One–Room Schoolhouse –

Located on CR 131, SE of the main parking lot. Trailhead is next to the Schoolhouse lot.

Briar Patch Shelter – Located 2.5 miles east of Bristol on CR 8 (1/4-mile west of CR 131). Trailhead is at the base of the shelter driveway.

**Resources:** For more information on the mountain bike trails, visit: [nimba-bike.org](http://nimba-bike.org)

## 2 MAPLEHEART TRAIL

BEST FOR LAID-BACK RIDES

Spanning Goshen to Elkhart, the Mapleheart Trail provides an easy getaway for city riders of all levels. While the majority of the route runs parallel to the historic Lincoln Highway and US 33, a connecting 1.2-mile trail in Ox Bow County Park provides an easy escape from the hustle and bustle. As a bonus, park admission is free for all bike riders.

Ox Bow's trail meanders from Fisherman's Camp Shelter to Ox Bow Haus Shelter and offers a relaxing scenic ride through the park.

**Distance:** 11.6 miles  
(Ox Bow section: 1.2 miles)

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Route Type:** Linear

**Park Address:** 23033 CR 45, Goshen

**Trail Access:**

Fisherman's Camp Shelter – From the gatehouse, take the first right and continue for a 1/4 mile – the shelter is on the right.

Ox Bow Haus Shelter – From the gatehouse, take the first left and continue for a 1/4 mile. The shelter is adjacent to the Athletic Field and Sledding Hills.

## 3 PUMPKINVINE NATURE TRAIL

BEST FOR DAY-LONG RIDES

Riding the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail is a bit like traveling through a postcard of Elkhart County. The scenic trail spanning Goshen to Shipshewana beckons riders through lush woodland corridors surrounded by rolling pasturelands – picture-perfect.

But the trail is more than simply scenic tracts of land. The route traces the original tracks of the Pumpkinvine railroad corridor, allowing you to ride through a unique chapter of the county's history.

**Distance:** 16 miles

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Route Type:** Linear

**Trail Access:**

This trail has multiple access points. Visit [pumpkinvine.org](http://pumpkinvine.org) for a list of trailhead locations.





## TURNING OF THE TURBINE by Ronda DeCaire, Director

A piece of Elkhart County Parks will someday create new energy in Wisconsin. Last fall, the Elkhart County Park and Recreation Board and staff worked with Modern Hydro to remove a Leffel hydroelectric turbine from the Baintertown Hydro in River Preserve County Park. More than 95 years after it was first installed, that equipment will be restored to once again generate sustainable energy.

The Baintertown Hydroelectric plant was constructed in the

mid-1920s by Interstate Public Service Company. The original work order from The James Leffel & Company shows the turbine was a Leffel "45" Type Z and was installed at Baintertown in 1925. Historically, the water power was used to generate electricity for homes in the New Paris area and the Winona Interurban Railroad. Several electric companies operated the power plant until the final owner, NIPSCO, discontinued its use and donated the land to Elkhart County Parks in 1970.

Over the decades, the canal system has filled with silt and nature has taken its course with breaches in the river system. Although several proposals have been brought to the Park Board to again generate hydroelectricity in the canal, the amount of available water has diminished to the point that the project would not be feasible without major alterations to habitat within River Preserve County Park. When the Elkhart County Park and Recreation Board was approached with

the concept of moving the Leffel unit to a new home, they agreed that re-use of the turbine would be an environmental positive.

Within two years the turbine will be restored and installed to be a sustainable energy source during its second century. Its new home will be Mauston, Wisconsin. Proceeds from the sale of the turbine will be used to repair the Baintertown Hydro building and install interpretive signage to tell the story of the turbine.



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: PETE MESTELLE

By Krystin Hildebrandt, Bonneyville Mill County Park Manager

Pete Mestelle has graced Bonneyville Mill County Park with his highly skilled labor for more than a decade. Retired from the construction field, Pete gladly takes on any project presented to him. He has been instrumental with many complex structural projects including roofing, bridge and electrical repairs/replacements throughout the property.



*"I started volunteering at Bonneyville Mill County Park as a way to give back to the gracious management, for letting me lay out a cross country course for White Pigeon schools and to hold our home meets there. Although we have not had a meet there in several years, I will continue to volunteer, because I have become friends with Krystin, and she is a wonderful manager."*

Pete also passes his stewardship down to the students, involving them in activities such as trail maintenance and trash pickup. In addition, he has donated project materials and suggested contractors, who have provided low cost labor to complete other park improvements.

Thank you, Pete, don't know what we would do without you!

## BE A FRIEND OF THE ELKHART COUNTY PARKS

### WHO ARE THE FRIENDS?

The Friends is a 501 (c) 3 non-for-profit volunteer group dedicated to building Elkhart County Parks' future in:

#### PRESERVATION

Preserving the county's cultural, historical, and natural resources.

#### RECREATION

Enhancing the quality of life through diverse opportunities in outdoor recreation.

#### EDUCATION

Providing interpretive education resources for our community – no matter the age.

### THE FRIENDS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Since the Elkhart County Parks was founded, community members have been instrumental in the growth and development of our park system, and that's a tradition well worth continuing into the future.

**OUR MISSION:** Since 1995, the Friends of the Elkhart County Parks has provided an opportunity for volunteers and donors to share their skills, contributions, and knowledge to support the Elkhart County Parks.

**YOUR GIFT:** Your donation is tax deductible and 100% will be used to create a stronger and sustainable Elkhart County Parks system.

## WISHLIST

Looking for a way to support your Elkhart County Parks in a small, but impactful way? We are in need of the following items for future projects and programs and could use a helping hand:

- ▶ black oil sunflower seeds & suet
- ▶ native plants (seed or plugs)
- ▶ compressed coconut fiber for animal bedding
- ▶ zipties
- ▶ ziploc bags
- ▶ flash drives
- ▶ dry erase markers
- ▶ paint supplies
- ▶ hand tools
- ▶ new dewalt drill with bits
- ▶ 2-inch chains for closing signs
- ▶ 200-foot ropes for sledding hills
- ▶ treated lumber (any size boards)
- ▶ leather gloves
- ▶ wasp spray
- ▶ 2-gallon pump sprayer
- ▶ insect repellent

Donated items can be dropped off at either of these locations:

Elkhart County Parks' Administration Office at:  
211 W. Lincoln Ave, Goshen  
( M–F, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. )

Ox Bow County Park Gatehouse  
( open daily, 9 a.m.–closing )

**Thank you for your generosity and support!**



Please mail checks payable to '**Friends of the Elkhart County Parks**'  
Address: 211 W. Lincoln Ave. Goshen, IN 46526



## PARK INFORMATION

Come experience the Elkhart County Parks! Each site offers fantastic recreational opportunities—from scenic hikes to family picnics. Discover more about our park destinations on our website at [elkhartcountyparks.org/parks](http://elkhartcountyparks.org/parks)

### Boot Lake Nature Preserve

51430 C.R. 3 • Elkhart, IN Acres: 300



Experience the natural beauty of Boot Lake now restored to its former natural state of wetland, forest, and prairie habitat. The state-dedicated nature preserve hosts a wide variety of plants and wildlife.



### Ox Bow County Park

23033 C.R. 45 • Goshen, IN Acres: 200



Mere minutes from Elkhart and Goshen, Ox Bow County Park offers countless ways to make the most out of your visit—from nature programs and woodland hikes to archery and disc golf, you'll be spoiled for choice on what to do next.



### Bonneyville Mill County Park

53373 C.R. 131 • Bristol, IN Acres: 222



A unique blend of regional history and natural beauty can be found at Bonneyville Mill County Park. Gently rolling hills, woodlands, marshes, and open meadows form a perfect background for picturesque Bonneyville Mill.



### Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

1302 E. Lincoln Ave • Goshen, IN Miles: 16.5



The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail is a linear park and greenway on the former Pumpkinvine railroad corridor. Take a stroll or bike ride through lush woodland corridors surrounded by rolling farmland on this scenic 16-mile trail running from Goshen to Shippshewana.



### Cobus Creek County Park

30680 C.R. 8 • Elkhart, IN Acres: 84



Spend the day by the creek and take in the natural beauty of the region in this local Elkhart gem. Once farmland, the park now features a diverse landscape, including a Sensory Garden, restored prairie, woods, wetlands, and a cold water trout creek for which it is named.



### River Preserve County Park

67380 C.R. 29 • New Paris, IN Acres: 358



Historic canals, dams, and foundations blend seamlessly with wild beauty in this vast linear park that runs along the Elkhart River. Get away from the crowds and let your inner-explorer go wild for these timeless landscapes rich in history and natural splendor.



### DeFries Gardens

17477 C.R. 46 • New Paris, IN Acres: 13



Nestled in River Preserve County Park, DeFries Gardens is a reminder of our human connection to the environment. Explore seasonal gardens of ornamental flora and native plant collections at this picturesque property.



### Treasure Island

56226 Armour Ave. • Elkhart, IN Acres: 4



Located on the banks of the lower St. Joseph River, Treasure Island offers a place for visitors to relax and enjoy nature. The park is closed in winter from December thru March (dependent on weather conditions).





### Bonneyville Mill

53373 C.R. 131 • Bristol, IN



**Mill Hours** (open May–Oct)  
Wed–Sun • 10 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Bonneyville is the oldest continually operating mill in Indiana, producing quality flour for more than 180 years. Interpretive staff are on duty to lead visitors through the “daily grind.” While you are there, purchase freshly ground flour for a taste of local history.



### Elkhart County Historical Museum

304 W. Vistula St. • Bristol, IN



**Museum Hours** (closed Sun–Mon)  
Tues–Sat • 9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
The Museum fosters appreciation and preservation of local history and culture through exhibits, educational programs, and an accessible library and archives. Come hear the stories of the many people, places, and events that make up the history of Elkhart County.



## LEGEND

### THINGS TO DO



BIKING



CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING



FISHING



KAYAK / CANOEING

### SITE AMENITIES



PLAYGROUND



RESTROOM



SHELTER



HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

### Boot Lake Nature Preserve

51430 County Road 3  
Elkhart IN, 46514

### Bonneyville Mill County Park

53373 County Road 131  
Bristol, IN 46507

### Cobus Creek County Park

30680 County Road 8  
Elkhart, IN 46561

### DeFries Gardens

17477 County Road 46  
New Paris IN, 46553

### Ox Bow County Park

23033 County Road 45  
Goshen IN, 46528

### Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

1302 E. Lincoln Ave  
Goshen IN, 46526

### River Preserve County Park

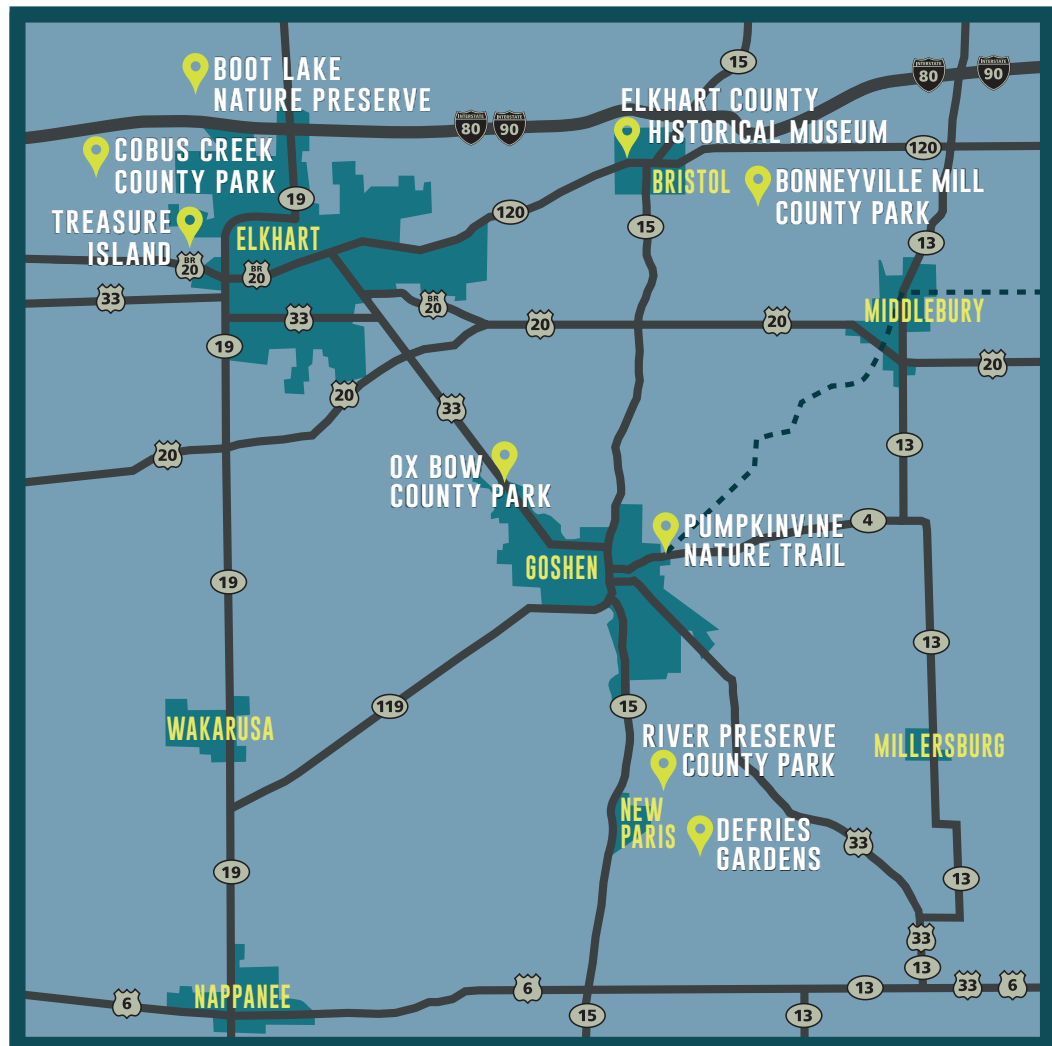
67380 County Road 29  
New Paris, IN 46553

### Treasure Island

56226 Armour Ave.  
Elkhart, IN 46516

### Elkhart County Historical Museum

304 West Vistula Street  
Bristol, IN 46507







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