



DEPARTMENT OF  
BUILDING, PLANNING  
& DEVELOPMENT



# 2018 Trails & Sidewalk Plan

Presented: October 9, 2018





## Introduction

**The 2018 Trail and Sidewalk Plan serves as a guide to direct the future growth and improvement of the City of Auburn’s trails, sidewalks, and bikeways.**

This *Trails & Sidewalk Plan* evaluates the City of Auburn’s current trails, sidewalks, and bikeways. Opportunities have been provided throughout the planning process for residents to verbalize needs and concerns with regard to trails and sidewalks. The Trails & Sidewalk Plan concludes with a list of projects that focus on providing safe access and connectivity between points of interest for pedestrians and bike-riders.

## Background

The City of Auburn has promoted the construction of sidewalks within subdivisions and recently been focused on requiring walks along perimeter streets. The City created its first *Trails & Sidewalk Plan* in 2009. This effort was tied to the regional effort spearheaded by the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council and the Region 3A Development Council. A draft version of the City’s plan was incorporated into this regional effort as part of the creation of The Northeast Indiana Trails and Greenway Plan; Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan; and The Upstate Indiana Trails Plan.

## Terminology

**Sidewalk:** a pedestrian facility that is located alongside a road. Sidewalks are generally 4 to 5-feet wide and have a concrete surface. Sidewalks provide local connectivity.

**Trail:** a pedestrian facility similar to a sidewalk, but at least 10-feet wide to accommodate walkers, joggers, cyclists, and strollers. Surfaces can be hard surfaces or dirt, mulch, or the like. Trails provide both local and regional connectivity.

**Bikeway:** a path or lane for the use of bicycles. Bikeways provide both local and regional connectivity.



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### Planning Process

The process of developing the *2018 Trails & Sidewalk Plan* involved relying on existing and previous plans, conducting site visits, and obtaining citizen input. Citizen participation was primarily accomplished through public information workshops and focus group meetings over the past couple of years. There is also opportunity for public input during a Public Hearing before the City of Auburn Plan Commission.

Since regional connectivity is an important feature of the *2018 Trails & Sidewalk Plan*, the City distributed the plan to DeKalb County and other municipalities within DeKalb County to initiate collaboration. Additionally, the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council met with the Building, Planning & Development Staff and Auburn Plan Commission. This collaboration led to the 2018 Trails and Sidewalk Plan, as well as updates to the Northeast Indiana United Trails Plan.

Once the Public Hearing is held, the Plan Commission will forward a recommendation to the Auburn Common Council. Ultimately, the Common Council makes the final decision in adopting the *2018 Trails & Sidewalk Plan*.



## Goals and Objectives

### **Goal 1: Maintain an accurate and up-to-date inventory of trails and sidewalks.**

- Update the current trail and sidewalk inventory, conducting field checks as necessary.
- Develop a process to ensure this inventory is updated each year and assign responsibility for those updates.

### **Goal 2: Publicize information about existing trails.**

- Use social media and the City of Auburn App to providing information about existing trails.
- Capitalize on existing special events in the community to educate residents and visitors about existing trail routes.

### **Goal 3: Expand upon existing pedestrian facilities and systems and create new pedestrian facilities and systems to provide connectivity locally and regionally.**

- **Residential:** Require sidewalks within new residential developments as well as perimeter sidewalks connecting adjacent developments. Encourage private property owners to maintain sidewalks along their property.
- **Points of Interest:** Ensure pedestrian access to the City's points of interest including Downtown Auburn, Cedar Creek, commercial service centers, parks, schools, and museums.
- **Non-residential:** Require sidewalks within non-residential developments when improvements are made, as well as perimeter sidewalks connecting adjacent development. Encourage private property owners to maintain sidewalks along their property.
- **Regional:** Capitalize on opportunities for regional trail connectivity as opportunities arise including requiring pedestrian easements for development that seems remote, but has potential for future connectivity. Incorporate regional branding when branding is available.



**Goal 4: Promote an awareness campaign for bikeways**

- Establish bikeways and create community-wide awareness of the bikeways. Consider the use of “sha-arrows” (share the road arrows) to easily identify bikeways throughout the City.
- Promote bicycle safety - for vehicle operators, as well as cyclists.



**Goal 5: Participate in planning and implementation efforts to develop a Blue Trail (canoe trail) along Cedar Creek.**

- Promote existing canoe launches, including Doc Coleman Landing canoe launch on County Road 35.
- Support efforts trying to achieve the creation of new canoe launches, such as a launch at the James P. Covell ACRES Nature Preserve.





## **Trails & Sidewalk Projects**

### **Top Priority**

The trail and sidewalk projects listed below are the City of Auburn's top priority projects. These projects are illustrated on the attached maps.

- Rieke Trail North  
*Trail from Betz Road to DeKalb High School*
- Rieke Trail South (AKA Pufferbelly)  
*Trail from Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum to County Road 11 A and Heron Lake trail system, across Interstate 69 to County Road 56 to abandoned rail corridor*
- Fifteenth Street Sidewalk and Bikeway  
*Sidewalk from Touring Drive to Union Street; Share the Road arrows from Touring Drive to Union Street*
- Cedar Creek Trail  
*Trail from Morningstar Road to Acres Land Trust property*
- Seventh Street  
*Fill in missing sidewalk links from Potter Drive to County Road 35*
- Old Brick Road  
*Sidewalk along Union Street from Fifteenth Street to Eighteenth Street to Coventry Court*

### **Other Important Pedestrian Linkages**

The trail and sidewalk projects listed below are important pedestrian linkages that should be considered when improvements and/or investments are made on adjoining properties.

- Morningstar Road  
*Fill in missing sidewalk links from Main Street to County Road 35*
- Grandstaff Drive  
*Sidewalk from North Street to Auburn Drive*
- Union Street  
*Sidewalk from Harrison Street to Eckhart Park*



### **Regional Connectivity**

Fort Wayne has a large, far-reaching trail network that includes 68 miles of trails. Connecting to the Fort Wayne / Allen County trail network increases opportunities for recreation and accessibility while increasing exposure of the City of Auburn to visitors and/or tourists.

- County Road 35  
*Trail from South of Auburn to Waterloo*
- County Road 52  
*Trail from County Road 427 to County Road 35*
- County Road 29  
*Trail from Old Brick Road to Lakewood Park*
- Auburn Drive / Abandoned Rail Corridor from town, southwest  
*Trail from Wayne Street west to abandoned rail corridor south, southwest to County Road 56*
- Auburn Drive / County Road 48  
*Trail from County Road 35 to the City of Garrett*
- County Road 40  
*Trail from YMCA Soccer Complex, northwest on County Road 36A, west on County Road 40 towards Garrett*