



## Hoosier Rails to Trails Council

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Dear Fellow Hoosiers:

The Hoosier Rails to Trails Council strongly supports the efforts and the energies, which the many friends of The Whitewater Canal Trail and Franklin County pathways are applying, to promote walking, bicycling, history, and related activities in southeastern Indiana.

Further, HRTC calls upon other individuals and organizations to also give general support, to donate skills, to offer financial aid, and to provide materials which will strengthen, buttress, and promote pathway progress in Franklin County and connections to nearby areas.

To become a friend by directing support and resources to The Whitewater Canal Trail, contact Mick & Jenny Wilz, who are the general WCT chairs, at P.O. Box 126, Brookville, Indiana 47012, or e-mail to [canaltrail@brookville47012.com](mailto:canaltrail@brookville47012.com).> The website is [www.whitewatercanaltrail.com](http://www.whitewatercanaltrail.com).>

While most Hoosiers know of Metamora and how it explains the roles of canals, gristmills, and small towns in early Indiana history, the canal trail, as it be extended and connected to Laural (Dam), Brookville, to other communities, to other historic sites, and to other recreational areas, not only becomes the link in expanding history, but it also necessarily recreates walking and waterflow transportation perspectives as hiking and observing water flow will both rededicate the very geographic routes and corridors of southeastern Indiana, but will also replicate the speed of transport almost two hundred years ago.

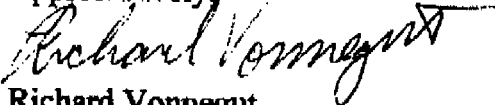
The Hoosier Rails to Trails Council is the state advocate for walking, bicycling, and rail-trails. As such, it has followed the efforts to develop trails in Franklin County. That trailbuilding requires cooperation between not-for-profit groups and government agencies, the juxtaposition within southeastern Indiana of the Whitewater Canal Trail citizens group, and the Indiana State Department of Natural Resources puts in place the essential elements in order to symbiotically and creatively advocate, operate, and grow not only trails in Franklin County, but beyond.

Two of the goals of HRTC are to encourage both a bicycle link between all county seats, and a walking route within all counties and county seats. That the Canal Trail friends are dedicated to linking points along the Whitewater River, the Whitewater Canal, and the Whitewater RR line is important. That the Whitewater folks are bent on preserving the corridors which still exist is important. That the Whitewater folks are intent on reclaiming seemingly lost portions of rights-of-ways is important. That the Whitewater folks are willing to collaborate with other people and groups in the surrounding environs is important. All of this is important to encouraging walking and bicycling and to further develop the social, business, and public health of Metomora, Franklin County, and southeastern Indiana.

Mick & Jenny have explored the resources and terrain of the area. They have organized walks and hikes to explore the corridors. They have hosted meetings to promote trails. Canal folks have talked to neighbors, friends, officials, and others seeking support. They have researched deeds and records in order to more fully understand legal positions and land ownerships.

For all of these reasons, HRTC calls for all Hoosiers - and friends of Hoosiers - and Hoosiers at heart to support the folks of the Whitewater Canal Trail generally, and Mick and Jenny Wilz in particular, as they are stepping out to improve Hoosierdom. They deserve our support. Direct your packet of funds, materials, and/or energy to the Canal Trail at the Wilz's.

Appreciatively,



Richard Vonnegut

Vice-Chair

Hoosier Rails to Trails Council