

Help us make the trail a success.

**Please observe the following
so everyone can enjoy the trail.**

Trail Rules

1. In the event of an emergency, telephone 911.
2. Be safe and courteous.
3. Respect the rights of other trail users.
4. This is a primitive trail; please proceed at your own risk.
5. Keep young children in your sight at all times.
6. Horses and Motorized vehicles are prohibited on trail corridor.
7. Use of alcohol or drugs prohibited.
8. Trail open from dawn to dusk.
9. Respect the privacy of adjacent landowners. Stay on trail.
10. Leave no trace; be sure to pack out at least as much as you pack in.
11. Be sensitive to the earth beneath you, wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage.
12. All pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet or confined and under control at all times.
13. Pet owners are required to remove pet waste.
14. Firearms and hunting of any kind are prohibited including bow and arrows.
15. Do not disturb wild animals or trail vegetation.

Parking Rules

1. Parking at Trailhead is for trail users only.
2. No overnight parking.

The path of the Whitewater Canal Trail is part of the Whitewater Canal State Historic Site. The members of Whitewater Canal Trail are pleased to be working in cooperation the Indiana Department of Natural Resources as we build and maintain the trail. For more information:



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**Whitewater
Canal
Trail**

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The purpose of Whitewater Canal Trail Inc. is to foster activities along the Whitewater Canal corridor that focus on

- historical preservation and interpretation
- outdoor recreation
- and natural resource conservation

while promoting sustainable development and improved quality of life in connected communities.

Please contact us about membership and volunteer opportunities.

Whitewater Canal Trail



Yellow Bank Trailhead

Along the trail at Yellow Bank Creek

At first glance, the Yellow Bank section of the Whitewater Canal Trail is a quiet trip through a wooded area bordered by farm fields. Two sections of the trail start at the parking lot: the east, about 3/4 miles along the old canal; to the west, about 1/4 mile to the ruins of the Yellow Bank lock. Along the trail you will walk on an old railroad track bed, which generally follows the path of the historical Whitewater Canal.

The path you follow was built over 150 years ago. On the trail today you can see many reminders about Franklin County's transportation and commercial history. The following descriptions refer to the numbers on the map at the bottom of the page

1) **Railroad Bridge.** As you enter the trail you immediately cross a small bridge where the old canal bed goes under the railroad. The canal then turns and runs next to the trail. The trail now follows the old railroad bed which was built on the tow path of the canal. Although the railroad was built mostly on the towpath of the canal there are a number of places where the routes separated.

2) **Ice Pond.** The low-lying area seen from here used to be "Hendrickson's Ice Pond". In the 1800s, there were ice ponds along the canal. Ice from these shallow, flat-bottomed ponds was "harvested"

during the winter and stored in ice houses. Some of the ice was used locally, but most was shipped to the Cincinnati area.

3) **Habitat Management.** The canal and the railroad have been gone for years, so the basin of the ice pond and the areas along the trail are returning to nature. Whitewater Canal Trail will maintain three distinct habitat areas to provide homes for a wide variety of plants and animals. Much of the area will remain in larger trees. Other parts will be kept in younger trees. The area under and near the power lines will be a "prairie" area made up of native grasses and wildflowers. The nest boxes along the trail are part of a larger project to provide more homes for cavity nesting birds such as bluebirds, tree swallows, chickadees and more.

4) **Old Highway Bridge.** From this point, what is left of an old stone wall and concrete bridge is visible. These are the remains from the old river road that eventually became part of the highway connecting Brookville with Indianapolis. This bridge and the old highway were abandoned when US Route 52 was built.

Much of Franklin County's transportation history is here: the new Canal Trail travels the path of the canal and the railroad. It overlooks the old canal bed. Across the canal is the ghost of the road that ran through the river valley, and just beyond the current highway can be seen or heard.

5) **Milepost 46.** This concrete post is typical of the markers used by the railroad. Although its paint faded long ago, this is milepost 46, indicating that this point is 46 miles from Cincinnati.

6) **Canal Separates from Railroad.** From this point, the canal bed moves gradually to the north, marked by the ridge that originally served as the towpath for the canal. The railroad did not need to closely follow the "water level route" like the canal, so the railroad sometimes took a straighter path when the canal made a big curve. On the other side of the trail, there is an unusual earth structure. Little is known about when or why it was built, so it is a bit of a mystery for now.

7) At the west end of the parking lot, a short trail to **Yellow Bank Lock** starts. The lock sits next to Yellow Bank Creek, just a few hundred feet from US Route 52, but almost no one knows it's there. Yellow Bank Lock is just one of the hidden treasures of Franklin County's canal heritage. On this short walk, you can stand in the center of the lock chamber, and climb some steps to the top of the lock wall for a view of the entire structure.

**Private property borders most of the trail.
Please respect the rights of our neighbors -
No trespassing**

