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NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA

June 2024



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Camp Tecumseh to the Rescue

A couple weeks ago, we were fortunate to be visited

Canal Days Festival Is Here

Get ready for the grandest festival of the year at Wabash & Erie Canal Park in Delphi! **This Saturday, July 6**, from **10AM-4PM**, you're invited to step back in time and experience Indiana's Canal Era with fun activities for all ages.

Let's take a quick tour of the excitement that awaits:



Canal Boat Rides: Take a narrated cruise aboard *The Delphi*, a 54-foot replica canal boat along the only remaining navigable stretch of the Wabash & Erie Canal in Indiana. Dock departures are on the half-hour, from 10:30 through 3:30. [You can purchase your tickets online at this link](#) until the office closes on Friday, July 5. On Saturday, you can purchase tickets at the Interpretive Center front desk, pending availability.

by the CILT (Campers in Leadership Training) crew of YMCA Camp Tecumseh, and they did a real number on the north trails!



Overflowing with youthful energy, this group of 30+ teenagers cleared brush, removed invasive plants, hauled away the old decking of the Red Bridge, and helped with the construction of the new Woodpecker Trail.



David McCain has been developing a new trail spur, the Woodpecker Trail, near Founders Point since last year. It is exciting to see the project taking shape! The trail will eventually allow visitors to see a small wooded area that hosts a variety of delightful wildlife and gorgeous plants. David is passionate about appreciating and conserving nature, and we can't wait to open this new offering in the historic trail system.



Pioneer Village: If you have wanted to explore the many historic buildings in Canal Park and see historic trades in action, this is your chance! Build and take home a birdhouse, make your own paper, take a free shuttle down to the Railroad Depot, play kids' games and enjoy crafts at the Kuns Cabin, and so much more! Special guest Joe Reed, from the Buckley Homestead in Lowell, Indiana, will demonstrate rope-making at the Bowen Cabin, and every building will have something to see and do!



Vendors: The park will be buzzing with food vendors, craft vendors, and informational booths for fellow historical organizations. Whether you're looking for ice cream, homemade pies, delicious lunch, or handmade crafts and products, you'll find it at Canal Park this weekend!



The best part of working with volunteer groups is to see new people catch the contagious fun of community service. One teen commented, "This is hard, sweaty work. But it's also really rewarding to see what we've accomplished!"

After the work was complete, we were glad to show the students *The Delphi* in the boathouse, inviting them aboard for a short history lesson and a photo opportunity on the picturesque boathouse loading dock.

We are so thankful for YMCA Camp Tecumseh because they are an incredible asset to Carroll County! Thanks to Camp Tecumseh's help, Wabash & Erie Canal Park can offer beautiful spaces and trails for public enjoyment as we promote preservation, education, and recreation.

VOLUNTEER
TODAY!

INfields for Indiana Fun

Wabash & Erie Canal Park is a proud founding member of INfields, a new nonprofit organization promoting rural tourism in our part of the state. You'll want to check it out: [visit infields.org today!](https://infields.org)



Special Guest, Jared Nally: As part of the new Delphi Bayou exhibits, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma has graciously offered to share their history at Canal Days! Jared Nally will host a booth where guests can try traditional finger weaving, kids games, and hear the story of the Miami Tribe's removal from Indiana via canal boat. Native American history and canal history have a difficult but crucial intersection, and we are glad for new listeners to hear this story.



Reed Case House and Interactive Canal Museum: Of course, you can pick up tickets to tour the historic, restored Reed Case House and the hands-on story of the Wabash & Erie Canal in our award-winning interpretive museum. While you're in the museum, be sure to check out our array of new merchandise and try your hand at the different games and activities. In the Reed Case House, step back in time and experience urban luxury in true 1850's style.

There are so many more fun activities on the way for you and the whole family at Canal Days 2024. None of this would be possible without the many dozens of volunteers who bring the park to life throughout Canal Season and beyond.

We also wish to thank our event sponsors, [Duke Energy](https://www.dukeenergy.com) and



Please be sure to [sign up for the email newsletter](#) so you can keep up to date with all the happenings of member organizations.

You can also follow INfields on social media! Keep up to date with opportunities for enriching and fun experiences for all ages and interests.

Delphi Bayou Progress

As we previously shared, there are new outdoor exhibits coming to Wabash & Erie Canal Park in the coming years! This new project is called the Delphi Bayou, and it has been funded in part by a grant from the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund, administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology.



The aim is to share what life was like in Delphi and the Wabash Valley *before* the canal radically transformed life in this part of the country. The exhibits will spark visitors' imaginations as they

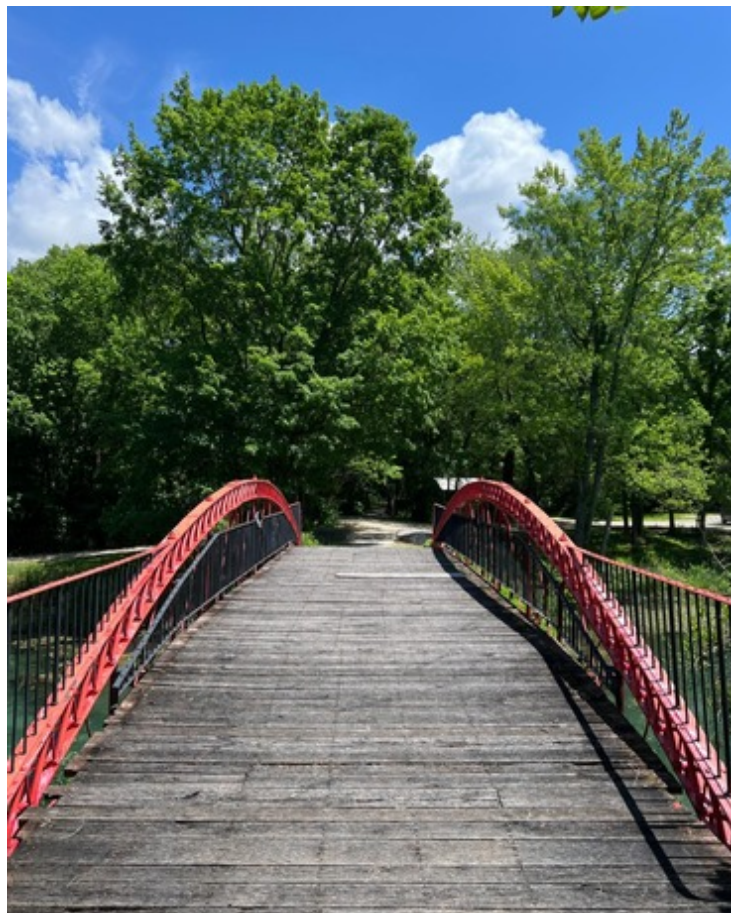
[Mustangs to Fear](#), for their support of this community event. We can't wait to see you at Wabash & Erie Canal Park!

New Deck for the Red Bridge



Have you seen the brand new deck on the Red Bridge yet?

The illustrious Monday-Wednesday-Friday Crew completed hours of prep and finishing work, plus some special guests assisted with the deck installation, and now the bridge deck is ready for pedestrians to enjoy!



Above you can see the deck as it was prior to the work being

consider the wide-ranging impacts of America's longest canal.



Currently, the planning team is laying out a vision for the three different exhibit zones: Early Settlers, Native Americans, and Canal Builders. Above you can see a model cabin built by Mac Carlisle which will serve as a guide as the team revises and seeks to match the description of the cabin built by Magdalena McCain's family upon their arrival in Carroll County in the 1820's. We are excited to highlight the role of women in the settlement of Indiana.



The Delphi FFA was also a huge help as we began clearing the entry path for future construction. We will seek to use a wooded patch of Canal Park land to recreate the feeling of transporting back to an era of Indiana history when wooded terrain dominated the landscape.

Stay tuned as we continue to make developments on this

completed. Boards were in constant need of replacement and patching, and it was difficult to keep up with the ongoing needs! Thankfully, the [Community Foundation Serving Howard, Clinton, and Carroll Counties](#) stepped in with vital grant funding to see the bridge restored!

The original deck boards were milled on site about twenty years ago from white oak timbers. They performed admirably during their lifetime, and but we are glad to have treated 2x10 boards in their place to carry pedestrians and cyclists over the historic Wabash & Erie Canal for many years to come.



Pictured above is the new deck, and it's super sturdy and a beautiful sight to see. As with so much of our other work, the combination of community support and volunteer dedication are vital to saving endangered history.

The next step for this project will be to apply a new coat of red paint to this 1874 treasure. If you might be interested in joining this effort, email director@canalcenter.org and we will gladly get you connected to save local history!

See Canal Park on WTIU!

As we reported last month, Wabash & Erie Canal Park was featured on the WTIU show "Journey Indiana." If you haven't already seen this fun and engaging episode, make sure you give it a watch! You can find the episode streaming online at your convenience at the link

exciting addition to Wabash & Erie Canal Park's exhibits!

Upcoming Events

Here are some ways you can experience Wabash & Erie Canal Park for yourself in the coming weeks!

July 6: Canal Days Festival, 1-4PM. It's the grandest event of the year, and you're invited! Join us at Canal Park for a full day of fun for all ages, including vendors, special guests, and all the history fun you love on the canal!

July 13: Canal Season Saturday, 1-4PM. Ride the canal boat, explore the Pioneer Village, and tour the museum and the Reed Case House! You can also enjoy a presentation on the Underground Railroad in Indiana, thanks to our friends at the [Delphi Public Library](#). Dr. Larry McLellan will share the harrowing stories of seeking freedom through the Hoosier State's transportation corridors. [You can find more information on this event at this link.](#)

July 20: Canal Season Saturday, 1-4PM. Ride the canal boat, explore the Pioneer Village, and tour the museum and the Reed Case House! It's the full canal experience all in one place.

July 27: Canal Season Saturday, 1-4PM. Ride the canal boat, explore the Pioneer Village, and tour the museum and the Reed Case House! It's the full canal experience all in one place.

below. Included on the episode, the hosts narrate from aboard *The Delphi*, plus there is an informative interview about Indiana's Canal Era with Canal Park's executive director Mike Tetrault.

[See Wabash & Erie Canal Park on "Journey Indiana"!](#)



Williams Way

Note: This series originally aired on WBOI FM public radio of Northeast Indiana. Thanks to Tom Castaldi for allowing and facilitating its reproduction.



There's one piece of Wabash & Erie Canal history that continues to be passed over. Burnett's Creek Arch on the Towpath Road in Carroll County has served travelers for nearly two hundred continuous years.

Did you know...?



You can hold your wedding, corporate meeting, or birthday celebration at the Canal Center?



We offer a variety of options for each different type of event. We offer free wifi and can accommodate up to 300 guests!

[Save your date today!](#)



Thanks to Our Sponsors!

We are fortunate to have many generous businesses in the community who place great value on preservation, education, and recreation.

If you have need of any services offered by the businesses below, we strongly recommend you reach out to them! They are all wonderful organizations who care about the community they serve!



Wabash & Erie Canal engineers crossed the stream by building a stone bridge they called Culvert Number 100, thus enabling canal boats to pass along their way up and down the line. While there were other Wabash & Erie stone structures built in the 1840s, Burnett's Creek Arch became a road bridge over the stream when the towpath ceased serving the canal. For decades the arch saw horse, buggy and wagon traffic yet even today cars, trucks, farm equipment and bicycles cross it daily.



All along the line many of the canal structures from Fort Wayne had been built of nearby timber and wood was prone to decay when exposed to the elements. Suitable building stone was not found until the line cut through Georgetown Quarry a mere six miles up the line from Burnett's Creek.

Well-built from the start, it is 150-feet long and 15-feet high. A relic from Indiana's canal days, it has and continues to earn its keep handling traffic as it has since 1841. An historical sign marks the site, and a set of wooden steps leads down to the stream for a closer view of canal-era stonemasonry.

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- *Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette*

If you'd like to add your business to this list, please email: director@canalcenter.org and check out the [Sponsorships Brochure on our website.](#)



For a complete list of activities please visit us at www.wabashanderiecanal.org



You can pass over this piece of history at Burnett's Creek, on the Towpath Road at Lockport. It's on the north side of the Wabash River between Logansport and Delphi, through some of the most beautiful scenery in the region. The old Towpath Road is a totally different country and most who visit feel the difference. It's a piece of history to be passed over by people who would do so to feel what difference almost two centuries can make.

The Wabash & Erie Canal Newsletter is brought to you by:



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