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April 2025

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Spring Cleanup Day



Everyone knows that spring cleaning chores at your house are no fun. But it IS fun to maintain a community treasure while working outside

with other dedicated volunteers! If you want to join the festivities and enjoy a delicious, free lunch from the Delphi Psi Otes, join us at Canal Park on **May 3, THIS SATURDAY, from 9AM to noon.**



Above you can see an example of the delicious lunch they prepare and bring for volunteers to enjoy.

We will clear brush, sticks, and debris from the Pioneer Village and surrounding trails. We will also be tending to various tasks like mulching and making sure the lovely Canal Park gardens are set up for success this season.

Families and groups are welcome, but please send a quick RSVP via our website to let us know how many people are coming with you!

Whether you're looking for volunteer hours, a chance to get outdoors with other community-minded people, a free lunch, or an opportunity to learn about the canal's ecosystem, we invite you to join us for Spring Cleanup Day on May 3!



Volunteer Fair Recap



Earlier this month, Wabash & Erie Canal Park hosted a Volunteer Fair, and it provided plenty of reasons to celebrate and be thankful! In over fifty years of serving the community, volunteers have been the heart and soul of all that we do.

We made a bunch of new friends as the community was invited to get a behind-the-scenes peek at Canal Park and the many ways to participate as a volunteer. To start the afternoon, everyone gathered in the Interpretive Center's reception hall to get to know one another and share about their interest in participating as a volunteer.

After these introductions, the incredible volunteers from the Pioneer Village, the Reed Case House, the canal boat, the Monday-Wednesday-Friday Crew, the Archives, and more gave a red carpet tour for guests.

The added benefit was that veteran volunteers were able to get insights into the many operations of the park. Typically, the veterans are so busy at their work they don't have the occasion to see everyone else in action!

At the end of the day, we were able to connect new friends with the many opportunities for serving the community in a variety of ways. We

have already started training some new people, and we can't wait to see how these generous people will make a difference and carry on the Canal Park legacy for years to come!



Whitewashing the Reed Case House

If you have ever visited the Pioneer Village or the Reed Case House at Canal Park, you may have noticed that the foundation wall of the Reed Case House is a brilliant white color. What you may not know: this brilliant white color comes from whitewashing with a historical method and recipe!



Nick Harby has been volunteering for years at this task, periodically putting on a new coat as needed. Above you can see Nick at work during his most recent visit.

Whitewashing was a preferred method for protecting buildings during the Canal Era, since the materials needed were inexpensive and accessible. Plus, the process is rather straightforward, so anyone can give it a try!

The "recipe" calls for a gallon of water, six pounds of hydrated lime, and two pounds of salt. You must dampen the surface that you'll whitewash, then apply a coat of the milky mixture. And that's all it takes!



Whitewash is slightly antimicrobial, plus it allows the underlying surface to "breathe," unlike paint which seals over the surface. Therefore, it was a great choice for frontier families who were looking for a way to "freshen up" their living space and help maintain a clean environment.

After Nick's visit, we put together a short tutorial video of his process and uploaded it to social media. Nearly 250,000 cumulative views later, it seems that plenty of people are interested in knowing the history and application of this historic skill! You can watch the video for yourself below.

**3: Add 2 lbs of salt
to the mix**





**Sign up for Historic
Trades Classes before
it's too late!**

Register
Today!



We Need Your Help!

**Bring a Gator
to Canal Park!**

Recently, Canal Park's trusty golf cart began showing its age and was knocked out of commission for weeks. We are looking to add a workhorse

vehicle so our volunteers and staff can adequately care for the many acres of trails and historic space here in Delphi!

Chip in Today!



While we aren't properly licensed to bring an alligator to the canal, having a Gator would be an immense blessing as we handle the many needs that arise while stewarding miles of trails and acres of publicly accessible park area. Recent wind storms brought down untold numbers of trees and limbs, and it has been quite a challenge with limited tools to address the issue. If you are able to support this initiative in any amount, it would be very much appreciated! You can click the red button above, or you can [visit our donations page anytime](#). If you're able to support with a personal check, please make it to Wabash & Erie Canal Park, and write "Gator" in the memo line.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

**Lafayette
Canal
Uncovered**

Special thanks to Liz Solberg for sharing her wonderful photographs for us to share with you.



If you were to visit downtown Lafayette today, you might be struck by the important north-south artery that railroads currently serve. If you had been in this area during the 1990s when that railroad was being relocated, you would have stumbled upon the long-dormant remains of the Wabash & Erie Canal in one of its busiest ports!

In a project that took many years to orchestrate, Lafayette's railroads were moved off city streets and placed over the top of the old canal

bed. As you might imagine, the canal provided an unobstructed, generally straight line to bypass the congestion of car traffic. Contractors were not anticipating having their work paused for months as canal remnants were unearthed and explored by archaeologists. When enough artifacts and documentation had been gathered, the canal was carefully covered over, and the modern-day railroad was layered upon it.

Recently, Liz Solberg, who was the lead figure in the Railroad Relocation Project, shared some of her photographs with us, and we wanted to pass them along for you to see! Especially if you are familiar with downtown Lafayette, it is so fascinating to get a glimpse back at yesteryear.







Need More Canal History?

The Canal Society of Indiana is an amazing resource for all things related to the stories of Indiana's canals. On their website, you can explore historic canal routes laid over modern maps, you can read numerous biographies, and you can browse a wealth of research materials that are top-notch and engaging! Click the button below to visit, and be sure to sign up for a membership!



Camp at the Canal

Enjoy a peaceful getaway while also getting hands-on with Indiana history! We have options for all camping needs, including rustic cabins if you would rather not bring your own shelter!

Winter camping is available for self-contained RV's, or you can book your future adventure today!

[Reserve Now](#)



Plan an Event with Us!

You can hold your wedding, birthday celebration, corporate meeting, or family reunion in the beautiful reception hall at the Canal Center in Delphi! We offer a variety of options to custom-fit your needs, and we can accommodate events up to 300 guests. Click below to get started with your event!

[Book Now](#)



Volunteer with Us

Join a group of incredible people doing amazing things! There is a place for you, whatever your skills and interests might be.

[Volunteer Today](#)

Thanks to Our Sponsors

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