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May 2025

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Canal Season Preview



We often greet visitors who have the same burning question: When can I ride the canal boat and tour through all those cool buildings in the park? Friends, the answer to that question is right now!

Canal Season officially opens THIS SATURDAY, May 24, and you can get the full Canal Park experience every Saturday afternoon 1-4PM through September 13.



There is plenty to see and do, and it is a delightful time for all ages:

- Ride *The Delphi*, a 54-foot replica canal boat along the only remaining navigable stretch of the Wabash & Erie Canal in Indiana. Dock departures are at 1:30 and 2:30.
- Explore the Pioneer Village, complete with artisans and historical interpreters sharing the stories of 19th century Indiana life.
- Tour the interactive Canal Museum and learn the story of Indiana's canals from start to finish.
- Experience the height of 1850's luxury as you stroll through the Reed Case House.
- Hike miles of historic trails along the canal.
- **Plein Air Painting Event:** May 24 only, artists are invited to create art in the picturesque surroundings of Canal Park all day! Visitors can enjoy seeing the artists producing their works during the afternoon programming.



Park entry, parking, the Pioneer Village, the canal playboat, and the trails are all FREE. You can purchase tickets for the museum, Reed Case House, or canal boat ride [on our website anytime](#). On the day of each event, tickets are for sale in person only, pending availability.

As always, we have to give all credit to the amazing volunteers who generously share their time and talents with visitors. It is because of this community spirit that we can highlight Indiana's canal history, sparking the imagination of all ages and instilling an appreciation for the past!

School Tours Recap



As the school year draws to a close, we are thankful for the incredible efforts of Canal Park's volunteers and the faithful support of the community to keep this historic gem alive and vibrant for students to enjoy!



In the months of April and May, about **750** students visited Canal Park in Delphi! We were pleased to serve students from public schools, private schools, and homeschools that came from Fort Wayne, DeMotte, Winamac, Indianapolis, Lafayette, and more. That makes for a lot of boat rides, museum tours, and Pioneer Village visits!



Thanks to the partnership of generous donors like Tri Kappa in Delphi, we were able to ensure that cost was not a barrier for students to come experience the magic and history of America's longest canal. If you are interested in supporting school tour scholarships, [please visit our donations page](#) and make a note for "School Scholarships" with your gift!



One of our greatest joys is seeing students light up as their imaginations are captured at learning about Indiana's past, especially the mystique of travelling across this great state on a manmade waterway! We couldn't host so many eager young learners without our members, sponsors, and volunteers--**THANK YOU** for bringing history to life for Hoosier students!

Pike County's First Interstate

If you have ever wanted to learn more about the southern portion of the Wabash & Erie Canal, you're in luck! The Canal Society of Indiana has shared that Preston Richardt will be presenting in Petersburg, Indiana on June 21 from 1:00-3:00pm at the Pike County Historical Society (1104 Main Street, Petersburg, IN 47567).

Pike County's First Interstate The Wabash & Erie Canal

This program will discuss the path of the Wabash & Erie Canal, its engineering features, and some of the people of Pike County that influenced it.

Presented By: Preston Richardt (Canal Society of Indiana)

June 21, 2025

1:00 PM – 3:00PM (EDT)

Pike County Historical Society

1104 Main St, Petersburg, IN 47567



If you haven't yet met Preston, he is a wealth of knowledge, and an energetic and fun speaker! The presentation will include details about the structures and route of the Wabash & Erie Canal in Pike County, along with the people who helped bring the canal to operation. Come enjoy this free opportunity to expand your horizons and learn about the hidden highway that shaped Indiana!



We Need Your Help!

Bring a Gator to Canal Park!

Recently, Canal Park's trusty golf cart was knocked out of commission for some 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!



For all those who have already contributed, a huge **thank you** is due! This beautiful park was built by the generosity and consideration of hundreds of people throughout the decades, and we can't wait to see what the future will bring. We still have a long way to go to reach the \$8,000 needed to get the needed vehicle, but thankfully we have enlisted some expert volunteer helpers to find something at an optimum price to stretch every dollar to the max.

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. This spring brought an abnormal amount of storms and wind, and it has been quite a challenge with limited tools to address the fallen trees and limbs. 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!

Roads and Ways

From Allen County Historian Tom Castaldi's series, "Canal Notes"



Traveling where boats once plied Wabash & Erie Canal waters, now cars and trucks make journeys on roads with names such as "Canal" in Fort Wayne, Roanoke, Huntington, Peru, Lafayette and cities further south. "Water Street" in Wabash, and in Logansport "Water Street" as well as "Erie Avenue," stand where water once provided the means of travel. In Miami County there is even a town named "Erie" taken from the days when canal fever swept popular opinion. Canals and roads meant improvements for new states such as Indiana because it opened up world markets for getting goods and services in and out of an otherwise landlocked area.

Most of these towns have a "Clinton Street" named for the Father of the Erie Canal and once Governor of New York. DeWitt Clinton pushed for and opened the great Erie Canal across New York in 1825. In 1843 at the grand celebration for the Wabash & Erie, Clinton said that the people of Indiana had shown the way for his New York canal to reach the west.



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!

[Canal Society of Indiana Homepage](#)



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

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 contact them! They are all wonderful organizations who care about the community they serve.

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