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CURRENTS
NEWS FROM WABASH & ERIE CANAL PARK
WABASH & ERIE CANAL
DELPHI, INDIANA
Presented by Delphi Properties LLC

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April 2026

Playboat Fixes and Volunteer Fair

Nature Walks Announced

Spring Cleanup - April 11

Canal Society Symposium - April 25

Canal Notes: Meeting at the Pass

There's a lot happening at Wabash & Erie Canal Park! Click "view entire message" at the bottom of this email so you don't miss anything.



You're Invited: Volunteer Fair 2026

The illustrious Monday-Wednesday-Friday Crew, tasked with various special building and maintenance projects around Wabash & Erie Canal Park, recently began touching up the canal playboat. Their eye for detail and skills are already making a difference to freshen up our

most-used piece of equipment in the park for children to enjoy in 2026!

Much of the vital work at Canal Park relies almost exclusively on volunteer magic: hosting tours, piloting the canal boat, tending the unique historic gardens, and much more! Would you consider joining our team in 2026?

On April 18, we invite you to **get on board** at Wabash & Erie Canal Park and attend a special Volunteer Fair! At the Interpretive Center from 1:00-3:00pm you can meet current volunteers, learn about present openings, and get started on your journey to be connected to your community while providing an irreplaceable service! Check out the poster below for more information, or [visit our website](#). We hope to see you there!

GET ON BOARD



**WABASH &
ERIE CANAL**
DELPHI, INDIANA

VOLUNTEER FAIR

- Connect and make a difference
- Explore options for all interests
- Serve the community

APRIL 18, 1:00-3:00PM
WABASH & ERIE CANAL PARK
1030 N WASHINGTON ST, DELPHI

For more details, visit:

wabashanderiecanal.org

Nature Walks Announced



Wabash & Erie Canal Park is excited to announce our newest program series: monthly nature walks along the historic trails of Delphi.

Our community is blessed with miles of beautiful trails that provide free, accessible recreational opportunities. In addition, visitors can enjoy stepping through history and taking in the natural beauty of the canal corridor.

Join your hosts David McCain, Lois Johnston, and Carl Seese on walks throughout the year, and take in the wonder of nature and history along the way.

The walks will depart from the Interpretive Center unless otherwise specified. At present, the **July 11** walk will be the only deviation, meeting at the Blue Bridge trailhead (behind Pizza Hut in Delphi, accessible from Bicycle Bridge Road).

Walks will generally be on level terrain, but there are some portions with stairs or with brief inclines. All ages are welcome, and we hope to see you out on the trails this year!



WABASH & ERIE CANAL

DELPHI, INDIANA

Nature Walks 2026



Date	Time	Guide	Theme
April 18	2:30pm	David McCain	Nature and Wildflowers at Woodpecker Trail
May 23	2:30pm	David McCain	Canal Park and Delphi Bayou
June 6	2:30pm	David McCain	Canal Park and Delphi Bayou
July 11	10:00am	Lois Johnston	VanScoy Towpath Trail
August 8	10:00am	Lois Johnston	Walk to Founders Point
Sept 12	2:30pm	David McCain	Canal Park and Delphi Bayou
Oct 24	2:30pm	Lois Johnston	TBD
Nov 7	2:30pm	David McCain	Canal Park to the Limestone Kilns
Dec 26	1:00pm	David McCain Carl Seese	Day After Christmas Walk

Canal Society Symposium: April 25

The Canal Society of Indiana will be hosting an exciting day of learning and exploration on April 25 at the Historic Forks of the Wabash Park, and you're invited!



The day will begin as early as 10:00am, with self-guided tours available through noon, with helpful docents present. You can enjoy a lunch at one of the local dining establishments, or you can come for the program schedule starting at 12:30pm.

The symposium will invite guests to learn more about Indiana's canals and to consider how they fit into the 250-year history of our nation.

This event is **free to attend**, but please register in advance! **To register**, please send a quick email to **indcanal@aol.com** with the names of those attending **by April 18**.

See below for the sessions, and reserve your place today!

- 12:45: "The Western Waters: Nature, Culture, and Improvement in the Upper Wabash River Watershed 1784-1845," Dr. Jeffrey Webb, Chair of History & Political Science, Huntington University
- 1:45: "The Irish War at Lagro," Alec Guenin, Wabash County Historian
- 2:45: "Expanding Indiana's Canal Heritage," panel discussion hosted by Bob Schmidt, with representatives from Delphi, Lagro, Metamora, and more.

- 4:00: Optional excursion: Exploring Lock 10 at the Forks with Lowell Griffin



Spring Cleanup APRIL 11



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 **April 11, THIS SATURDAY, from 9AM to noon**. Below 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 THIS SATURDAY, April 11!

Meeting at the Pass

From historian and author Tom Castaldi's series, "Canal Notes"

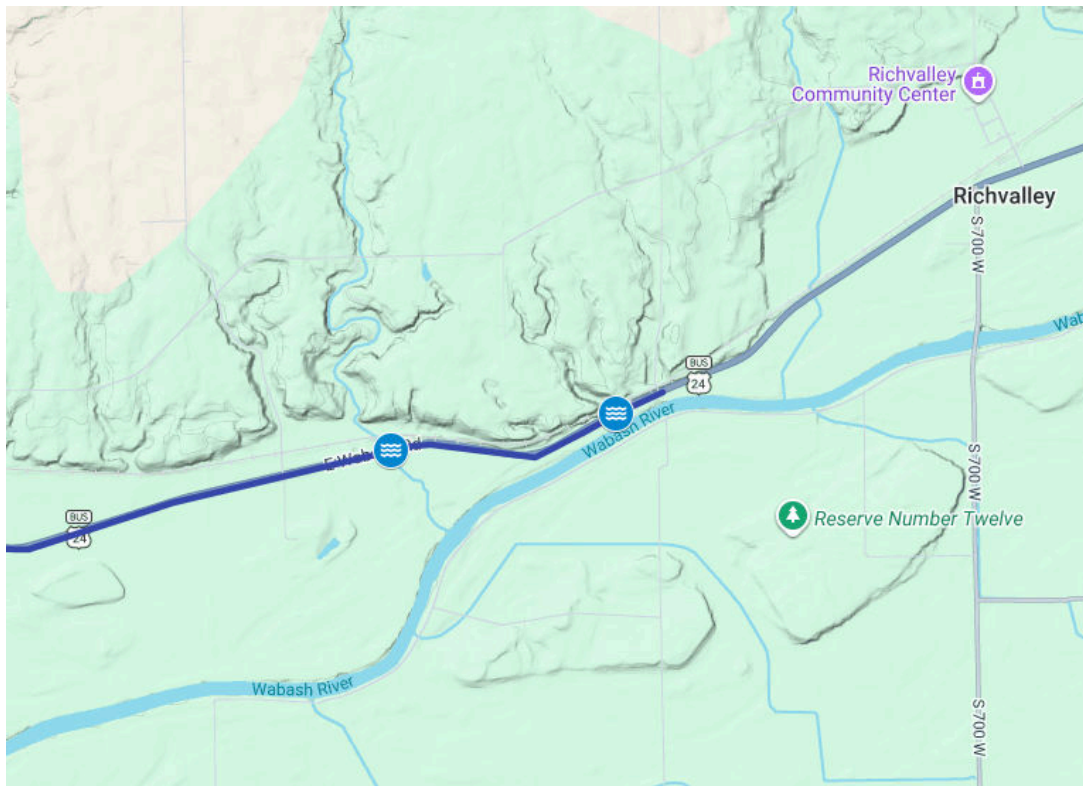


In the Old West, you could expect to meet the posse at the pass – usually where two mountain ranges met – with just enough room to squeeze through. In the Old Old West, passes were created by different natural barriers. Wabash & Erie Canal builders, following the Wabash River and confronted with a line of bluffs to the north, at times, found it too was a tight squeeze.

One such place with little passage between river and bluff, is the Wabash/Miami County line near Richvalley east of Peru. Within the space of a few yards, at one time or another, trail, canal, road, railroad,

and interurban electric trolley, all came together at the pass. So here, canal planners routed their line atop old trails and wagon paths.

The below image comes from the Canal Society of Indiana's fantastic [Wabash & Erie Canal map](#), which has been overlaid upon Google Maps. With this tool, you can explore the best estimate of the canal's precise path across Indiana. Note the very narrow squeeze between the Wabash River and the adjoining bluff!



In west Allen County the Aboite Creek flows where the Myaamia people established a portage trail, making the land connection from the St. Lawrence Seaway via the Maumee River to the Wabash River and the Gulf of Mexico. Here the Wabash & Erie builders made a level passage between the marshy headwaters of the Wabash and the rising bluffs.

At the Aboite Pass are the abutments of canal, interurban and road bridges. The canal abutments can be sorted out easily from the others. They're the ones made of large rectangular limestone blocks that supported Aqueduct Number Two. See the 2024 photo below from Roger Bireley.



Below in the stream, its supporting timbers still are visible (see Roger Bireley's photo below). And, as long as they stay submerged in water, they resist decay. After one hundred years and more, these pieces remain for our wonderment. So, to this day you can still travel along the canal's historic route and meet whomever you want at the pass.



Help Us Build the Future

If you believe in the mission of Wabash & Erie Canal Park and wish to contribute towards its future, click below to learn about

becoming one of our valued supporters!

Donate Today



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](#)

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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