



## Holliday Park Trail Improvements

▲ Photo: One of the many trails at Holliday Park

A major goal of the IWF Certified Sustainable Trails program is bring a collective effort to our trail partner's property and significantly increase the work being done to expand or improve the trails in their network. Sometimes, we bring extra volunteers from a corporate service day or we offer expertise on nature hikes or we seek out grant money to create opportunities not otherwise possible. We're proud to announce that we have helped secure a \$16,000 from Reconnecting to Our Waterways to restore trails in Holliday Park, one of the most popular trail destinations in Indianapolis with over 323,000 guests every year.

Holliday Park's trail system gives users access to a beech-maple forest that holds over 400 tree, plant and wildflower species and the more than 200 bird species that have been documented in the park. Additionally, deer, fox, beaver, rabbits, squirrels and many other native species reside in or pass through the park's heavily wooded, plunging ravines. The trails at Holliday play host to numerous home school groups, public and private school field trips, trail runs, seasonal hikes, bird-watching tours, nature exploration events and social gatherings.

continued on page 2 >>

### Inside This Issue:

- LETTER FROM THE ED

p3

- CWD IN INDIANA

p5

- NEW POSITION AT IWF

p6



Due to the high use of the trails, boardwalk structures have become heavily worn and some parts of the trail paths have become eroded and washed-out. These issues can cause trail users to create their own footpaths that unwittingly damage sensitive plant communities, disrupt wildlife nesting and breeding behaviors and degrade the quality of habitat that exists in the overall area.

IWF and Holliday Park will apply this grant to addressing these foot traffic issues as well as formalize a connection from Blickman Education Trail to the Monon Trail and IndyGo Red Line. We believe the 64th and Meridian Street entrance can become a hub for connectivity into one of the premiere greenspaces in Indianapolis. It goes without saying that efforts like these require the passion and dedication of our amazing and growing group of volunteers. Not only can we all work together to create and maintain vital spaces for wildlife, we can also add much-needed connectivity for Indy's increasing number of pedestrians choosing to walk or bike their way around the city.

Research indicates that access to nature and spending time in outdoor environment provides numerous health and wellness benefits like stress reduction, improved physical health through a more active lifestyle and improved cognitive function. Routine access to the outdoors also fosters the emotional attachment to nature that will ensure a new generation of young conservationists to continue to fight for protecting our natural landscapes. This welcoming, pedestrian connection into Holliday Park will increase equitable access to the White River as well as improve the condition of Indianapolis waterways and adjacent communities to be healthier, more accessible, and more inviting.

Supported by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, our trails program strives to engage with trail users and community volunteers on a deeper-level as we all work to aid in the physical implementation of trail improvements, invasive removals, and native plantings. We hope everyone involved will gain a deeper understanding of sustainability in outdoor design, minimizing negative human-wildlife interactions, and the critical role of native plants in our ecosystems. We believe these outdoor community experiences are one of the most valuable services our organization can provide as we fulfill our mission to promote the conservation, sustainable use and sound management of Indiana's wildlife and wildlife habitat.



▲ Photo: A heavily used boardwalk in need of repair

## Letter from the Executive Director

Greetings IWF Members,

This month, the United Nations released a [report](#) that asserts that approximately 1,000,000 species of plants and animals are currently at risk of extinction. This risk is driven by massive human alterations to our global seascapes and landscapes. Specifically, the report states that about 66% marine environments and 75% of land-based environments have been significantly altered by human actions.



While the report displays the problematic state of our natural world, it also clearly indicates that while this information is staggering, not all hope is lost. According to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Chair, Sir Robert Watson, "The Report also tells us that it is not too late to make a difference, **but only if we start now at every level from local to global.** Through transformative change," he states, "nature can still be conserved, restored and used sustainably – this is also key to meeting most other global goals."

The Indiana Wildlife Federation has been driving transformative change for wildlife and habitats for over 80 years. Our track record of being engaged on the most critical issues both locally and regionally is evident. Behind each of those successes has always been a robust membership that allows us to demonstrate that our work is endorsed by a vast number of Hoosiers.

With all IWF memberships set to expire on June 1st, I invite you to [renew](#) your membership today and become a part of the transformative change that is needed to protect and preserve our natural heritage.

We always hope to see people [volunteer](#) with us, follow us on [social media](#), subscribe to our [podcast](#), or join us at an [event](#)! But don't worry; you're not alone if you are someone that routinely wishes they had time to be more engaged—that's actually another pretty solid reason to [support us as a member](#).

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter to catch up on all the various ways your membership is working for wildlife in Indiana!

Yours in conservation,

Emily Wood, Executive Director

## Calendar Updates

June 4 - Pecar Nature Park Habitat Workshop

June 8 - National Get Outdoors Day

June 8-16 - Nature Play Days

June 11 - Dearborn County SWCD Habitat Workshop

June 15 - Holt Scholarship Application Deadline

June 23 -Paddles and Pollinators Event

June 17-23 - Pollinator Week

July 12 - 2nd Indiana Monarch Summit

September 21 - Urban Wilderness Trail Monarch Tagging

## Reminder the IWF Memberships expire on June 1st!

IWF's outreach, education, and advocacy would not be possible without the support of our dedicated members. By renewing your membership, you'll help promote common sense conservation in Indiana for years to come and strengthen our unified voice on critical wildlife and habitat issues.

It's easy to renew today, simply visit [www.indianawildlife.org](http://www.indianawildlife.org) and click the RENEW button!



## Save the Date!

We've outgrown our location from last year. The next **Indiana Wildlife Federation Annual Conference** will take place at **The Garrison at Fort Harrison State Park on January 18, 2020!**

The venue may be new, but we will still have amazing guest speakers, a silent auction full of great items, and plenty of opportunities to meet and engage with other Hoosiers passionate about conservation and wildlife.

We hope to see you there!



## INDIANA WILDLIFE PODCAST



We have a podcast now! Stay up to date on all the latest conservation conversations with our fun and friendly Indiana Wildlife Podcast. [Click here](#) to listen to the pilot episode or visit our website for more information.

## There's Still Time to Apply for the 2019 Holt Scholarship!

The June 15th deadline for applications is quickly approaching. Please remind any students you know who are at or above a sophomore level and studying a field related to resource conservation or environmental education to submit their applications!

Visit [www.indianawildlife.org/Holt-Scholarship](http://www.indianawildlife.org/Holt-Scholarship) to apply.

## The Outbreak Affecting the Deer Family: Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a disease that is affecting North American cervids (members of the deer family), including white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, and moose. This disease is a fatal neurological illness, and it is spreading. Contrary to some claims, humans cannot contract CWD. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there has been no cases of CWD in people ("DNR: Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)", 2019). Although humans are safe from this disease, we need to spread awareness and education about this disease so that we can focus on what matters; preventing the spread of CWD to more animals within the deer family. CWD may be a heated topic of conversation, but this is not something that is new. Since its discovery, in 1967, there has been a handful of cases. In the past few years, CWD has spread to more areas and has become more common in deer family populations. CWD spreads either through direct contact or indirectly through environmental contamination of soil, plants, food or water. ("DNR: Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)", 2019).

This disease may be visible in some deer, however, according to the Quality Deer Management Association, it can take up to 2 years for a deer to show signs of CWD (Thomas, 2018). Therefore, hunters can truly make a difference in the monitoring of this disease by leveraging sampling stations. Various states, including Indiana, have sampling stations where members of the DNR have containers for hunters to drop-off a part of their game for scientific sampling and research. Directions for how to use these stations are located on the DNR website. These sampling sites are very important because they truly help identify and monitor the health of the local deer. Additionally, there are multiple other ways to help prevent the spread of this disease. A few simple ways to make a big difference are:

- Don't ship or import a whole carcass or an intact trophy head
- Don't feed wild deer and moose
- Bag and dispose of carcass parts in the trash or landfill
- Do not burn, compost, or melt down carcasses

This fatal disease continues to threaten white-tailed deer, elk, and moose across the nation. By spreading awareness, following regulations, and leading by example, we can save the deer family from the continued spread of this disease and ultimately provide a more sustainable and balanced ecosystem. If you have any questions regarding CWD or other diseases in wild deer, contact the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish & Wildlife at (812) 334-3795 or at the link <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/9650.htm>.

## New Program Position

Through the generous support of the **Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust**, the Indiana Wildlife Federation's Certified Sustainable Trails Program has grown tremendously over the last two years. To rise to meet the rapidly growing, on-the-ground needs and requests for trail certifications, we are thrilled to announce that the **Herbert Simon Family Foundation** has awarded IWF a grant to fund a new staff person to focus exclusively on trails engagement and implementation for one year. We will soon be seeking a new IWF team member to fill the role of **Sustainable Trails Coordinator**. We are grateful for the support of these two generous organizations, and for the support of our members that make our work for Indiana wildlife possible.



## Habitat Programs Updates

### Certified Habitat Workshop

A big thanks to all of the clubs and organizations that have invited us to deliver our Wildlife-Friendly Habitat Workshop over a dozen times this spring! You're instrumental in helping us get the word out about wildlife conservation.



### Certified Sustainable Trails?

There is a new trail in Greenwood thanks to the Greenwood Stormwater Lab and Nature Center, in partnership with volunteers from Nachi. This newly Certified Sustainable Trail is on a property currently being improved for public access.



## Corporate Sponsorship for Conservation

Does your business share the IWF vision of sustainable wildlife and wildlife habitats for Indiana? If your business would like to show its commitment to conservation and be highlighted for doing so through our communications and website, please contact us by email at [info@indianawildlife.org](mailto:info@indianawildlife.org) or by phone at 317-875-9453