



Sullivan Trail Connector

ENVI 460 | SPRING 2021
Conservation and Sustainability of Natural Resources

Dr. Jim Speer
Department of Earth & Environmental Systems

Picture from historica

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Mayor Clint Lamb, *City of Sullivan*

ABOUT SC

The Sustainable Cities (SC) Program is an experiential learning partnership focusing on sustainability and cities in Indiana. Disciplines across the institution are tasked with addressing sustainability issues in a specific community by integrating these into experiential projects for ISU students. These problems range from strategic planning recommendations to community needs assessment, and understanding the impacts of waste strategies to mapping trail systems, and many other issues.

This is a year-long partnership, in which students and faculty in courses collaborate with one specific community partner on these projects. Communities throughout Indiana have leaders who want to make real change. These leaders are passionate about moving their cities forward into the future, but are often limited by lack of resources, staff, and budget.

The SC Program utilizes the innovation and energy of students and faculty to provide ideas that will address these issues. This relationship reinforces and strengthens our Indiana communities.

Each ISU course and community partner will produce tangible and relevant outcomes for the community partner while providing ISU students with real world project completion. This report serves as this outcome.

SC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Nancy Rogers, Ph.D., Vice President for University Engagement

Greg Bierly, Ph.D., Dean of the Honors College

Heather Dalton-Miklozek, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Community Engagement

Daniel Pigg, Director of the Business Engagement Center

Garrett Hurley, Interim Sustainability Coordinator

ABOUT SULLIVAN

Sullivan, IN is the county seat of Sullivan County and serves as a hub for the towns of Carlisle, Dugger, Farmersburg, Hymera, Merom, and Shelburn. Sullivan, IN was founded in 1853 and became the county seat. The total city limits is 1.88 square miles, but there are more residents living outside of this area that contribute to the community of Sullivan. Today, Sullivan has the largest estimated population as an incorporated town in Sullivan County.

Sullivan faces many similar social, environmental, and economic challenges to other rural Hoosier towns and others that are unique to the city itself. There are approximately 8,500 people available for the labor force in Sullivan County. Since 2009, the unemployment rate has steadily decreased in the county. There's approximately 2,500 people that live in Sullivan but work in other counties. Some of the major employers in Sullivan are Raybestos Powertrain LLC, Hoosier Energy Emergency, Peabody Energy Corp., Sullivan County Community Hospital, and Raybestos Products Co.

A common thought among Sullivan community members is that students that go to college graduate and don't return to Sullivan. The highest degree attainment of folks 25 and older in Sullivan County is a high school diploma. Trade programs and certifications are a community concern from folks.

Sullivan has a vast history and many points of interest in the community. The Sullivan County Public Library is one of 1,679 libraries designated as a Carnegie library. The Sullivan Civic Center was recently renovated to provide a central location for community member sin Sullivan. The Heart of Sullivan is a civic organization that hosts many large events throughout the year. One of the largest events hosted in Sullivan is the Sullivan Annual Rotary Corn Festival.

This community is full of potential and is being led through a strategic plan intended to bolster its standing for Hoosiers. The ISU Sustainable Cities program intends to help reach that potential.

COURSE PARTICIPANTS

Michael Morel, *Professional Aviation Flight Technology, Aviation Management*

Noah Mourey, *Professional aviation Flight Technology, Aviation Management*

Jack Valier, *Professional Aviation Flight Technology, Unmanned Systems*

Seth Warren, *Recreation and Sports Management*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

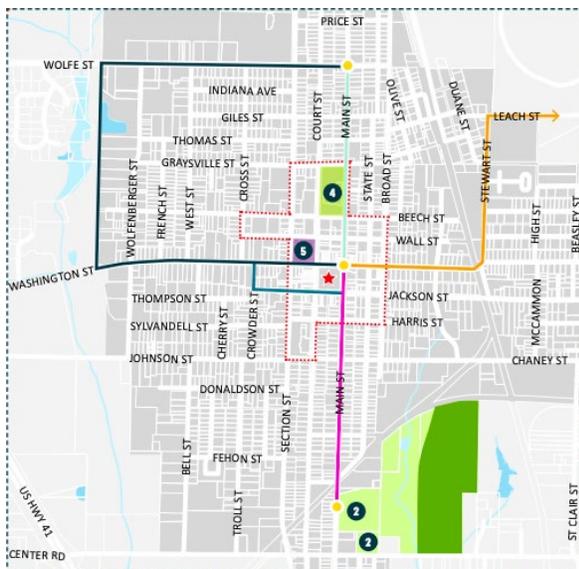
Executive Summary.....	7
Introduction.....	8
Trail Expansion.....	9
Multi-Use Recommendations.....	10
Conclusion.....	11

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Sullivan has multiple plans for trail connectors throughout the city. ENVI460 students provided recommendations for a trail connector between the City of Sullivan and Sullivan County. This trail connector harnesses positives of both the city and county to increase use. Students also provided recommendations for multi-use options on the trail system.

INTRODUCTION

The City of Sullivan has an existing trail system that leads through downtown. In the Quality of Life plan, Sullivan intends to expand the trail system and brand it to the downtown area. ENVI460 students were tasked with providing recommendations for expanding the trail and how to connect it to the community. Students provide sustainable recommendations relevant to outdoor recreation for community and potential tourists.

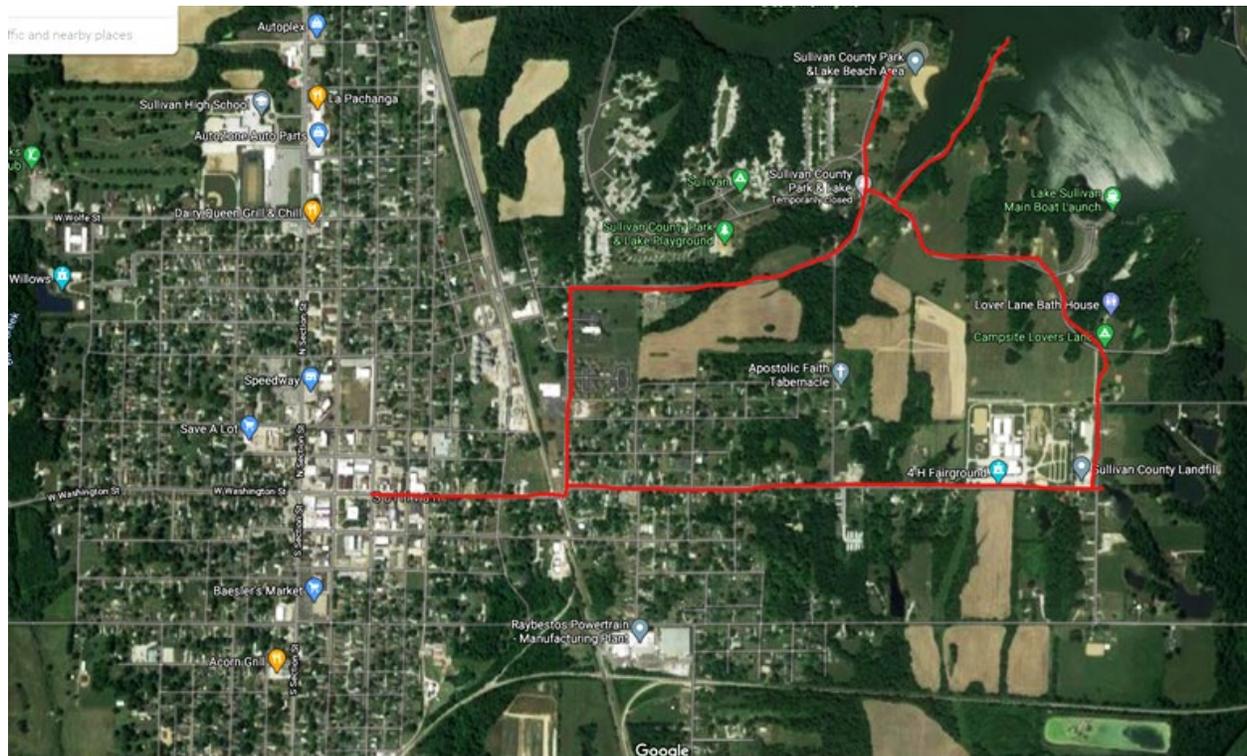


There are four existing and proposed trail systems that all lead to the downtown area. (1) along Washington St. and Wolfe St., (2) Stewart St. and Leach St., (3) Main St., (4) Small connector between Main St. and Washington St.

These trails lead to the downtown area and comprise North, South, East, and West of the city limits. However, these are not attached to Sullivan County trail systems. These trails are also in the urban center of the city, concrete paved, and single-use.

TRAIL EXPANSION

Students in ENVI460 identified multiple needs for a trail expansion in the Sullivan trail system. A trail expansion needs to address the multi-use of trails, the connection to existing outdoor recreation areas like Sullivan lake, and the path type. Addressing these in the Quality of Life plan for trail expansion will benefit Sullivan greatly.



The students suggest expanding the Stewart and Leach Street trail out into the county limits that incorporates Sullivan lake in the middle of the trail. This trail also passes by the county 4-H fairgrounds and includes easy access to both the Sullivan and Lovers Lane campsites. There are multiple stop locations along the way.

The path will need to match the beginning of the trail at some points with a concrete trail, but not last the entire trailway. There is a

need to plan for flooding and height changes by adding drainage and leveling before paving concrete. There will be a need to construct covered stops along the way. Along the trailway at the lake, there could be an integrated bike trail for further expansions. A parking area close to the trailway in the county limits is also necessary to have multiple trailhead locations. This will also be necessary for tourists using the lake and looking to come into town.

MULTI-USE RECOMMENDATIONS

The existing and proposed trailway systems are concentrated along the urban center of the Sullivan city limits. These trails are concrete paved sidewalks and have some stop sites along the way such as sculptures and art. There are multiple opportunities to improve the use of these trails to get multiple types of users from the community and tourists.

The City of Sullivan should implement bike paths where sidewalks along the trailway are, so that bicyclists are drawn to the trail system. Also, adding bike paths along the highways about 10-20 feet away from the road would draw folks to the area.

Crosswalks should be added to areas where bike paths or trail systems come to intersections. Yield signs can also be added to give trail users the ability to cross without implementing full stop intersections. Signage along the trail system that engages the community and tourists in education about local issues and environmental issues will be appealing. Adding local art around the trail system in the inner urban area will be helpful. This could draw more folks in from the county limits.

Some other recommendations relevant to use of the trail system: Encourage local businesses to open along the trails, provide bike and scooter rentals to community members, host events that use the trail system, and incorporate new parks along the trails.

CONCLUSION

Students provided recommendations for a multi-use trail that connects the downtown area to Sullivan County and the heavily trafficked area of Sullivan Lake. Students suggested expanding the Stewart and Leach Street trail out into the county limits. Thinking about the use that tourists and community members will have for this trail is important. Students recommended integrating bike trail components and expansions and having concrete path in some locations with more rough pathways as well. Overall, their recommendations provide some additional ideas for the trail improvements that will bolster the community.

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