Quoting a Beatle is not your typical start to a planning document. Then again, what you are about to read is not intended to be your typical plan.

“Greenways are the paths where the natural and human landscapes coincide.” This quote by former Supreme Court Justice John Clarke brings to bear the essence of the Northwest Indiana Regional Greenways & Blueways Plan. The purpose of this plan is to provide a roadmap: a blueprint: a “call-to-action” for all stakeholders, private and public. The goal is to inspire preservation of valuable environmental remnants – to soften the inevitable collisions between the natural and human landscapes. The overriding vision of this document will become fully expressed through the implementation of its findings on local ordinances, the mobilization of private landowners, and ongoing conservation efforts of the region’s numerous environmental advocacy groups and individuals.

Above all, this plan seeks to provide simple and clear actions to the stakeholders. Instead of page after page of technicalities and policy briefs, the focus will deal with a cursory review of the issues and what can be done immediately. Far from “gathering dust,” the authors hope you will take a vested interest in the plan’s recommendations and clear strategies to secure a region that our future generations can enjoy and submerge themselves into.

“Life is what happens to you while you’re busy making other plans.”

- John Lennon
Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
Chairman
Leigh H. Morris
Mayor of LaPorte
Vice-Chairman
Joseph M. Stahura
Mayor of Whiting
Secretary
Jerry Cooley
LaPorte County Councilman
Treasurer
H. Jonathan Costas
Mayor of Valparaiso

Executive Board
Chester F. Dobis
State Representative/Governor Appointee
Stanley Dobosz
Griffith Town Councilman
Kevin Breitzke
Porter County Surveyor
Ron Lombard
Trail Creek Town Councilman

Commissioners
Gerry Scheub
Lake County Commissioner
Will Smith, Jr.
Lake County Council
George Van Til
Lake County Surveyor
Patricia Wisniewski
Cedar Lake Town Councilwoman
Dan Klein
Mayor of Crown Point
Robert Rybicki
Dyer Town Councilman
Richard Medina
East Chicago City Councilman
Shirley Stanford
Gary City Councilwoman
Thomas M. McDermott, Jr.
Mayor of Hammond
Michael Griffin
Highland Clerk-Treasurer
Linda Buzinec
Mayor of Hobart
Ronald Good
Lake Station City Councilman
Judith Walters
Lowell Clerk-Treasurer
Shawn M. Pettit
Merrillville Town Councilman
David F. Shafer
Munster Clerk-Treasurer
Roger Pelfrey
New Chicago Town Council
Sherry Sury
St. John Clerk-Treasurer
Mike Troxell - Schererville Town Councilman
Richard Ludlow - Schneider Town Councilman
William Teach
Winfield Town Councilman
Robert Harper
Porter County Commissioner
Mike Bucko
Porter County Councilperson
Joan Bliss
Beverly Shores Town Councilwoman
Robert M. Perrine
Burns Harbor Town Councilman
David Cinicoski
Chesterton Town Councilman
Benjamin Bolton
Dune Acres Town Councilman
Don Ensign
Hebron Town Councilman
David Brooks
Kouts Town Councilman
P. Thomas Clouser
Ogden Dunes Town Councilman
Cathi Murray
Pines Town Councilwoman
Douglas W. Olson
Mayor of Portage
William Sexton
Porter Town Councilman
Edward Morales
Porter Township Trustee
Anthony Pampalone
Union Township Trustee
Mike Bohacek
LaPorte County Commissioner
Robert Przybylinski
LaPorte County Surveyor
Ed Ritter
Kingsbury Town Councilman
Rosalie A. Jacobs
Kingsford Heights Clerk-Treasurer
Robert Schaefer
Long Beach Town Councilman
Steve Millick
Michiana Shores Clerk-Treasurer
Charles E. Oberlie
Mayor of Michigan City
Susan Tochell
Pottawattamie Park Town Councilwoman
Stephen E. Mockler
Wanatah Clerk-Treasurer
Karl Browning
INDOT Commissioner
Jerry Hanas
NICTD/NW Indiana Transit Operators

Contributing Staff:
John A. Swanson
NIRPC Executive Director
Gerald W. Adelmann
Openlands Executive Director
Mitch Barloga
Project Manager, NIRPC
Ders Anderson
Project Manager, Openlands
Craig Shillinglaw
GIS Coordinator, Openlands
1 COMMENCEMENT

15 TYPES OF GREENWAYS

17 GREENWAY BENEFITS

23 BLUEWAYS
   A WATER TRAIL NETWORK FOR NORTHWESTERN INDIANA

59 IMPLEMENTATION
   STAKEHOLDER STRATEGIES
   CASE STUDIES
   ASSISTANCE MATRICES