

Welcome to West Lafayette Trails



While visiting the trail



Please respect the rights of adjacent landowners and other trail users.



Please watch for wildlife.



Bicyclists must yield to pedestrians and skaters, and skaters must yield to pedestrians.

P Parking

— Cattail Trail

— Northwest Greenway Trail

--- Bike Lane



Yesterday and Today



Wisconsinan Glacier (70,000 - 10,000 years ago)

The flat terrain that the trails cover results from the Wisconsinan Glacier. The glaciers flattened the region and left behind rich soil and wetlands. Massive torrents of meltwater from the glaciers gouged out the Wabash River. The post glacier climate was temperate and included spruce forests and mastodons.



Prairie and Forest (10,000 - 500 years ago)

This region marked the border between the western prairie and the eastern deciduous forests. It was a mixture of woodlands, savannahs and open grasslands. The ragged line between prairie and forest moved east and west several times over the past five thousand years due to climate changes.



Settlement (500 years ago to present)

The rich soil, flat terrain and rivers left by the glaciers provided abundant resources for early European settlers. Wildlife supplied food and a lucrative fur trade. The region was claimed by France, then Britain before becoming a United States territory in the early 1800s. Although you can still see an Ice Age bog and forest remnants along the trails, this area is now primarily farms and cities.



Today

The Cattail Trail and Northwest Greenway Trail are designated as National Recreation Trails. As part of the National Trails System, they are central features in the network of parks and open space. They provide healthy recreational experiences and encounters with the natural world. Enjoy your trail experiences!