

The Middlebury Learning Corridor  
is a cooperative project of:



Fund for Middlebury

Middlebury Parks and Recreation Department

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## Right Tree-Right Place Arboretum



The Right Tree – Right Place Arboretum is a cooperative project with the Northern Indiana Public Service Co. (NIPSCO), the Middlebury Park and Recreation Department and the Middlebury Tree Board. NIPSCO donated 27 trees that were planted along the Railroad Street section of the Middlebury Greenway.

This educational arboretum demonstrates the correct type of tree to plant under overhead power lines. The different tree varieties are low growing so that they will not interfere with the power lines when the trees are mature.

Each tree variety has an identification sign describing the tree's growth and blooming characteristics.

This arboretum was the first of its kind in the NIPSCO service area.

## Middlebury Railroad Depot



until the railroad stopped operating in 1980.

The early railroad served as a link for travelers and as transportation for agricultural goods to and from the Middlebury community. In later years the railroad served Krider Nurseries, the community's largest business, to bring in plant materials and shipping out nursery stock across America. A railroad spur was located near the Depot for the Krider Nurseries warehouses where the Middlebury Historical Museum is located today.



## Bluebird Trail

The Blue Bird Trail is a series of Blue Bird nest houses along the Middlebury Greenway. The objective of the Blue Bird Trail is to provide a place for Blue Birds to nest and raise their young in a location that provides favorable habitat.

The trail is a managed area attempting to discourage unwanted bird species and provide clean nests for Blue Birds to raise multiple broods per season and return to annually.

## Habitat Garden



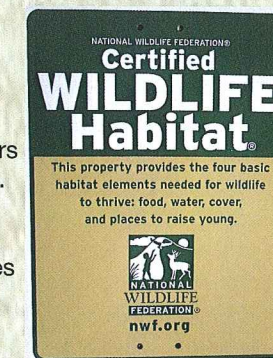
The Middlebury Habitat Garden was developed by a group of Indiana Master Naturalists. Many native and low maintenance plants were selected because of their hardiness as well as benefiting wildlife while adding four seasons of interest and eye appeal.

The Habitat Garden features trees, shrubs and perennials that not only attract and protect wildlife but also provides food sources.

## National Wildlife Federation Certification

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has recognized the Middlebury Greenway on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail as a Certified Wildlife Habitat site. The Habitat Garden serves as an educational example for assisting others who wish to create an oasis for wildlife.

The NWF celebrates the efforts of the Middlebury Parks Department and volunteers to create areas that improves habitat for birds, butterflies, frogs, and other wildlife by providing essential elements for their survival.



## Middlebury Learning Corridor



Along the Middlebury Greenway on  
the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

*"Making Life Better"*





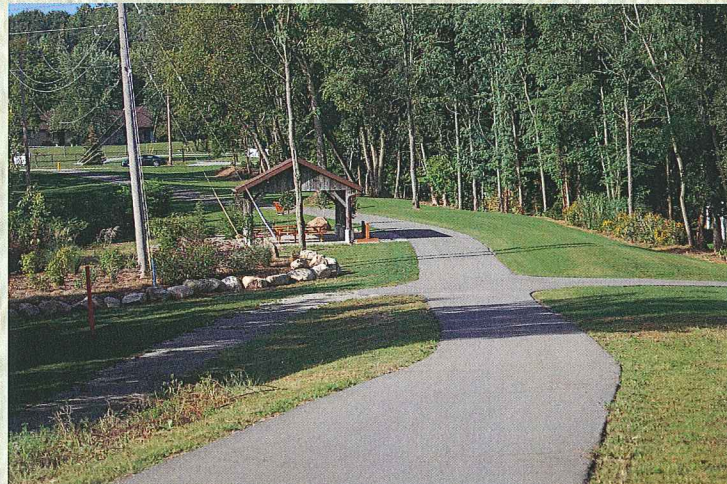
## Along the Middlebury Greenway on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

The Middlebury Greenway is a safe place to relax and exercise while enjoying the beauty of nature. A special section of the Greenway from the Little Elkhart River to the location of the former Middlebury railroad depot includes many opportunities to learn about our community's history, about nature, about wildlife and enjoy the diverse flora and fauna offered in the different gardens.

This is the **Middlebury Learning Corridor** where you will find several informational signs explaining each location. You will find the **Middlebury Learning Corridor** a place to exercise your mind, while taking a relaxing walk with history, nature and wildlife.

*Enjoy these attractions along the Middlebury Learning Corridor.*

### Middlebury Greenway



The Middlebury Greenway is a multi-use asphalt trail constructed on the rail bed of the Lakeshore and Michigan Southern Railroad. This section was commonly known as the Pumpkinvine Railroad due to the many turns and curves in its route to Middlebury from Goshen.

The railroad operated from late 1888 to 1980 and was instrumental in the growth and development of the Middlebury community. The early railroad served as a link for travelers and as transportation for agricultural products to and from Middlebury.

### Little Elkhart River

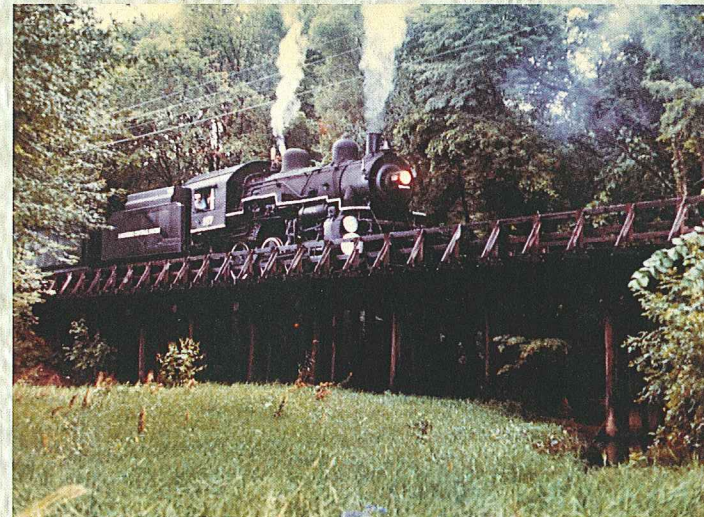


The Little Elkhart River is a small, beautiful northern Indiana stream. The stream rises in southern LaGrange County and flows in a northwesterly direction through the Town of Middlebury before entering the St.

Joseph River at Bristol. It is one of only three cold water natural trout streams in northern Indiana.

The river was important to the development of the Town of Middlebury. Before the Europeans came to the region, the Miami and later the Potawatomi Indians settled and farmed along the river. In 1832, the first settlers came from Middlebury, Vermont. They chose this specific area because the rolling hills reminded them of Vermont and the Little Elkhart River provided the resources necessary for a settlement.

### Historic Trestle Bridge



Wooden trestle bridges are a feature of the past. This one, across the Little Elkhart River, was constructed in 1900 by the Lakeshore and Michigan Southern Railroad.

This 158 foot bridge is a pile driven post construction bridge and was abandoned for years after the railroad stopped operating in 1980.

In 2004 the Middlebury Park Department restored the bridge to serve as a bicycle/pedestrian bridge as part of the Middlebury Greenway on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail.

In 2006 the Elkhart County Historical Society recognized the trestle bridge as a saved historic structure.

### Krider World's Fair Garden

The Krider World's Fair Garden blends a wide variety of plants, shrubs and trees with our area's history to make a special place for leisure activities and special events. This 2.4 acre park was donated to the Town in 1993 by the Krider Nurseries stockholders. The gardens were originally designed by Krider Nurseries for their display in the 1934 Chicago "A Century of Progress" World's Fair. After the fair, the Krider Nurseries brought the exhibit to Middlebury as a display garden.

There are two informative and historical signs at the Bristol Avenue entrance to the Garden. One was given in memory of Clarence Wesdrop and tells the history of the Krider Nurseries, with many old photographs. The other sign was given in memory of Vernon H. Krider. It has photographs of the Krider family, more information on Krider Nurseries, the 1934 World's Fair, and an interesting poem written by Vernon H. Krider.



### Krider Quilt Garden



The annual Krider Quilt Garden is one of many Quilt Gardens and Murals located in seven communities in Northern Indiana Amish Country. It combines the traditions of quilting and gardening in Northern Indiana and attracts thousands of visitors to the area. Each Quilt Garden is planted in a unique quilt pattern that changes each year. Annual flower plants are used to display the quilt pattern.

### Rain Gardens

A rain garden is a natural or dug shallow depression designed to capture and soak up storm water runoff from a roof or other impervious areas such as a parking lot. The Rain Gardens in Krider Park were built to be both functional and as public demonstrations of the value of a rain garden to our fresh water supply. They are used as a buffer to capture storm water runoff before it enters the Little Elkhart River. These rain gardens are planted with native plants with deep root structures allowing water runoff to soak into the ground and protect water quality.



*Making Life Better*



### Middlebury Community Historical Museum



The Middlebury Community Historical Museum has been "Bringing History to Life" in Middlebury since October, 2004. It is the mission of the museum to preserve, present and interpret the history of the Town of Middlebury, as well as that of Jefferson, Middlebury, and York Townships.

The museum offers exhibits and displays that change frequently by rotating artifacts and themes to encourage visitors to return often. These exhibits present artifacts, pictures and information that depict life in this area since 1836, when the Town of Middlebury was chartered.