

Board Meeting – July 16, 2026
Historian Report - 70th Birthday Hikes
Submitted by Mervyn Cohen

I have been working with a committee for several months. Committee members are Richard Stroup, Jamie Westermeier, Patrick Eaton and myself. We have completed the list of 7 hikes with a backup list of 3 more hikes. They are very varied and scattered in many directions from Indianapolis.

The guidelines we used for the hikes are as follows:

- 7 hikes in Indiana in locations the Club has never hiked before.
 Cannot be a “new trail” in a park we have previously hiked in.
- Available trails should be 5- 6 miles in length. On occasional loop trails this may need an out and back. Whenever possible, we will offer 3- and 10-mile options.
- Overnight trips may be needed. We can do this by doing one of our 7 hikes in an afternoon and another hike at a regular nearby location on the second day morning.
- We will spread the hikes over 2027, avoiding winter months of December, January and February.

Leaders

We have identified leaders for all the hikes.

THE HIKES

Hike name	Miles Away	Trail miles	Difficulty E, M or H	Comments
TOP 7 HIKES				
Green Bluffs – Freedom Trail/South Trail	SW 80	6.5 mile loop	M	Beautiful nature preserve Nr Bloomington S of Spencer https://www.hoosierhikerscouncil.org/greens-bluff-south-trail/ www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/us/indiana/long-trail
Tipsaw Lake	S 140	6 mile loop	E-M	Walk around the lake. Bikes Hoosier National Forest https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/indiana/tipsaw-lake-loop https://www.alltrails.com/explore/parks/us/indiana/tipsaw-lake-recreation-area
Martell Forest	NW 75	7 mile loop	M-H	Near Lafayette forest walk https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/indiana/martell-forest-loop
Gabis Arboretum	NW 130	6 mile loops	E	Flat in 300 acre Arboretum near Valparaiso https://www.pnw.edu/gabis-arboretum/

Wabashiki Loop	W 80	6 miles	E	Paved flat nr Terra Haute. Part is on Wabash River https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/indiana/wabashiki-loop https://www.indianatrails.com/wabashiki-trail
Columbia Mine Preserve	SW 150	8 mile several loops	M-H	Off I69 near Jasper sycamore land trust Beautiful several ponds https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/indiana/columbia-mine-preserve
Aurora-Lawrenceburg Trail	E 100	7.9 miles flat	E	Along the Ohio River. Do out and back. Good history https://sycamorelandtrust.org/preserves/columbia-mine-preserve/
THREE ALTERNATE HIKES				
Hawthorne Park nr Terra Haute	West 90	4.5 + miles	E	Trees + lake. To get more miles can cross road and explore rose Hulman campus or do several any loops https://www.alltrails.com/parks/us/indiana/hawthorne-park--2
Jasper Riverwalk along Patoka River	SW 140	4.6 miles	E	Paved. Do out and back. There are potential add ons at each end. This could be a great 2 nd morning hike after the Columbia Mine Preserve (30 miles away) https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/indiana/jasper-river-walk
Springs Valley Trail	S 100	10 miles	M	Nr French Lick. Around Tucker lake. 1 mile entry then 8-mile loop. Forests https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/indiana/spring-valley-trail