



## PATHWAYS Keep Growing

You can get further on foot in Valparaiso these days as the city adds more than a mile to the pathway network this year. By the end of 2012, the city will boast 11.5 miles of pedestrian and pedal-friendly pathways and looks to have 15 miles by 2014.

“Valparaiso is one of the leaders in our area in terms of pathways. We see them as miles of linear parks and our goal is to provide a grid connecting our city,” said John Seibert, Parks Director. “Once we accomplish that, which should happen in 2013, we’ll start working outward to connect to the regional trail system,” he said.

### The Latest Links:

Here are the pathway links that will be added in 2012:

- Silhavy Road from the new roundabout south to LaPorte Avenue
- Completion of the Glendale Boulevard pathway that began last year, from the corner of Silhavy Road to Roosevelt Road
- Roosevelt Road south of Evans Avenue to the Canadian National Railroad tracks
- A section of Evans Avenue from Calumet Avenue to Franklin Street

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## Appreciating Art

The city is appreciating added art these days as two new installations have already appeared: the Cumberland Crossing Art Walk and downtown bike lockers. “We’re excited to add spots to enjoy and appreciate art in our city. It’s another way for residents and visitors to enjoy all our city has to offer,” said Mayor Jon Costas.

The added arts are largely due to a new nine-member Art Committee formed through the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission. “We like the idea that Valpo has become a destination for people to come for dinner, to enjoy our parks, and to do business. We wanted to build on that with art,” said Laura Campbell, President of the Redevelopment Commission and chairman of the Art Committee. The committee chose three initial projects:

**Art Walk**— A series of 15 sculptures create a free Art Walk on the city’s north side, in the Cumberland Crossing area (between Vale Park Road and Bullseye Lake Road). The sculptures will be leased for a period of one year. Each work is also for sale and the city will earn a commission on any sales generated from the Art Walk. Enjoy an enormous Rubik’s Cube (#3), talk to your friends through the Purple Whisper Bench (#5), and experience a Waterfall (#13), just to name a few. The Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission funds the project.

**Bike Lockers**— The city’s 10 downtown bike lockers have become public art displays, each highlighting a design from one of the city’s public elementary and

middle schools. The art was selected by the principal at each school and then transformed into a wrap for each locker. The Redevelopment Commission funded the production costs along with a \$500 grant to each school.

**Orville!**— A bronze statue of the city’s iconic popcorn king, Orville Redenbacher will be seated in Central Park Plaza by Labor Day, along with a plaque honoring Charlie Bowman, the other half of the



**Purple Whisper Bench is #5 on the Art Walk at Cumberland Crossing. Whisper into one end and your friends can hear you on the other!**

dynamic duo that innovated the famous popcorn. Artist Lou Cella of Chicago is creating the work. Cella has also created such sculptural works as Harry Caray and Ernie Banks at Wrigley Field and the 7-acre war memorial park in Munster. The sculpture is being funded through private donations. To contribute, call the Valparaiso Parks Foundation at 219-462-5144.

**Check out the free Valparaiso Art Walk at Cumberland Crossing, with 15 eye-catching sculptures. You can enjoy the Art Walk at your own pace, any time between now and April, 2013.**

**D**ear Citizens:

What a great time of year to be in Valpo! Summer means we can take full advantage of our pathways, our parks, and our improvements. We're adding more than a mile to the pathway network this year, making it even easier to get around Valpo on foot or by bicycle.

Visit [www.valpo.us](http://www.valpo.us) for City News, Announcements & Events

We've also added some fun attractions in the new Art Walk at Cumberland Crossing. I seem to find a new favorite each time I visit the Walk. Have you whispered into the Purple Whisper Bench yet? This free new art installation is the brainchild of our newly-formed

Art Committee and it's drawing new visitors and art lovers from all corners of our city.

Summer brings fun activities to all parts of our city, but the fun may be centered on Central Park Plaza. We're loving the Farmers Markets on Tuesdays and Saturdays and the fun movie nights under the stars on Tuesdays. We have some great concerts in store too. Check out the lineup at [valparaisoevents.com](http://valparaisoevents.com).

I hope to see you all out enjoying the season. For more updates, visit us online at [valpo.us](http://valpo.us).

All the best,

**Jon Costas**

Jon Costas  
Mayor

## Getting Greener New Facility Makes City Cleaner

The city celebrated the opening of a new facility this spring that makes Valparaiso even friendlier to the environment. The construction of the CSO Disinfection Facility marks the final stage of a three-step plan to expand wet weather capacity of the city's wastewater treatment services.



The Disinfection Facility eliminates the discharge of untreated sewage that could be caused by a wet weather event. In the past, communities would be forced to make a difficult decision: Release untreated waste from a combined sewage overflow (CSO) into waterways or allow the overflow to back up into neighborhood basements. "Valparaiso has been a leader in its efforts to protect the environment by finding and building ways to reduce our overflows," said Steve Poulos, Assistant Director for Valparaiso City Utilities. "In recent years, the city has been able to reduce its CSO volumes by 90 percent and its events by 80 percent through enhancements at our plant and projects such as the Valparaiso Street sewer separation," he said.

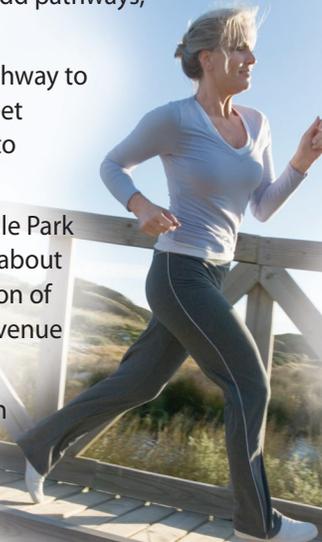
"This new facility means that on those rare occasions that remain—when we absolutely must protect neighboring homes by releasing a CSO, that overflow can be disinfected before it reaches the waterway," said Poulos. The combined sewer disinfection facility has the ability to treat a volume of 100 million gallons per day – enough to handle a rain of up to two inches per hour. This adds up to a better, healthier and greener Valparaiso."

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### The Next Steps

- In 2013/2014, the city will add pathways, including:
- Extending the Vale Park pathway to run between Campbell Street and Westside subdivisions to Windsor Park
- A link from the bypass at Vale Park Road to the planned roundabout at the five-points intersection of Roosevelt Road, Calumet Avenue and Vale Park Road
- Campbell Road from Ogden Gardens to Lincolnway
- Sections of Lincolnway and LaPorte Avenue near the existing hospital



### Footing the Bill

Much of the funding for pathways has come from the city's Redevelopment Commission, along with grants. A \$780,000 federal grant through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) is funding the Keystone/Windsor Park pathway and the segment on Evans Street is funded as part of the stormwater project.

### Find Your Favorite Route

Maps of the city's pathways are available on the city's website [valpo.us](http://valpo.us) by clicking "Parks" and searching for "walking routes" or at the Parks offices at 3210 Campbell St.

green  
town

Join us on Sept. 27 (pre-conference) and 28 (main event) to hear from inspiring speakers, learn from been-there case studies and discuss actionable ways to make communities greener, healthier and more prosperous.



## Valpo Hosts Greentown Event Coming This Fall

**T**he City of Valparaiso is gearing up to host GreenTown: The Future of Community, a regional conference designed to create healthy, sustainable communities. The event will take place **Sept. 27-28 on the campus of Valparaiso University** and will feature renowned speakers and sessions designed to advance thinking on topics such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste, local food, green infrastructure, green jobs and walking/biking infrastructure. It will draw participants from throughout Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and Michigan.

### Sustainability Initiatives

Valparaiso was chosen to host the second ever Indiana GreenTown event for its progressiveness and strong leadership. "Valparaiso is the perfect host because both the city and the university are working on sustainability initiatives, from energy to water to green jobs to healthy food to a walkable, bikable community," said John Harris, organizer of the event.



### Community Involvement

To engage the community, GreenTown will hold a public event on Sept. 27 at 7 pm in Central Park to share ideas for sustainability. "We're delighted to have been chosen to host this innovative conference," says Mayor Jon Costas. "We have long shared the commitment to be good stewards of the planet and look forward to sharing ideas with such a prestigious group."

In addition to the City of Valparaiso and Valparaiso University, conference supporters include Valparaiso Economic Development Corporation (VEDC), Porter County Economic Development Alliance (PCEDA), Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission/MPO (NIRPC) and Indiana Dunes Tourism. The event is produced by a5 and Seven Generations Ahead. To learn more, visit [greentownconference.com](http://greentownconference.com).

## Building healthy, sustainable communities

# Visual Valpo

An easy way to get a rapid response

**T**he Visual Valpo program is working well, making us all "city inspectors" and giving us ways to easily report problems that compromise public safety or appearance, such as a light bulb out, pothole or graffiti. If you spot something amiss, Visual Valpo encourages you to report it in one of three easy ways:

**1** Call the Visual Valpo line at 548-4850 and leave a message detailing the location and nature of the problem.

**2** Text your message to 313131. Your initial message must say "visualvalpo" only. Text your issue after receiving the confirmation message.

**3** Report online at [www.valpo.us/requesttracker.aspx](http://www.valpo.us/requesttracker.aspx) or clicking on the "Let us Know" tab on the city's homepage, [www.valpo.us](http://www.valpo.us).

In all cases, your message will be directed to the proper department for prompt attention. A free cell phone app for iPhone is also available (called "Citizen Request Tracker"), which provides a shortcut to the online request base.

**3 WAYS TO REPORT IN:**

- TEXT 313131 KEYWORD VISUALVALPO
- CALL (219) 548-4850
- [WWW.VALPO.US/REQUESTTRACKER.ASPX](http://WWW.VALPO.US/REQUESTTRACKER.ASPX)

## Counting Raindrops

### Rain barrels available for residents

Did you know that the one inch of rain falling on 1,000 square feet of roof can yield 600 gallons of water? It's true and the City of Valparaiso is encouraging residents to take advantage of this free water source and protect local waterways at the same time by using rain barrels. A rain barrel collects and stores rainwater from rooftops that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to storm drains and streams, carrying with it any pollutants it picks up along the way to creeks and rivers.

"Using rain water for your lawn or garden is great for your plants and it's free," said Mingyan Zhou, of the city's Engineering Department. Zhou serves as the city's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Operator. The city estimates that lawn and garden watering makes up nearly 40 percent of total household water during the summer months so rain barrels can help residents in meeting this seasonal need.

The city is working with a company to provide residents with a reduced rate for 55-gallon rain barrels made from recycled food grade barrels. The barrels have a screw-on lid with one-inch holes, screen mesh to keep out debris and mosquitoes, an overflow male hose connection, a drain valve and a connection to attach additional barrels. You can attach a garden hose, landscape tubing or drip tubing to the barrel for easy access as a full 55-gallon rain barrel would weigh more than 450 pounds.

#### How to Get Your Rain Barrel

To learn more about the advantages of rain barrels and how to purchase your own, visit [valpo.us/MS4](http://valpo.us/MS4) or contact Mingyan Zhou at [MS4@valpo.us](mailto:MS4@valpo.us). Barrels purchased through the city will be available for pick up at Central Park Plaza on July 19.



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searching for **Valparaiso**  
Now and clicking



**Check us out!**

Use this code with your smartphone to access  
the city's new site or visit **[www.valpo.us](http://www.valpo.us)**