Singing Sands Lighthouse Trail
and
Inner City Bike Loop Plan

Parks and Recreation Department
Michigan City, Indiana

March 31, 2003
A Short History of Michigan City

During the 1670's, Father Marquette discovered the Potawatome tribes at mouth of Trail Creek in Michigan City, Indiana. Major Isaac C. Elston laid out the town in the early 1830's.

Michigan City's lakefront has been a destination point for out-of-towners ever since the city was incorporated in 1837. Michigan City has one of the oldest natural harbors on the Great Lakes. It is located at the mouth of Trail Creek.

During the roaring 20s, the Oasis Ballroom brought in big-name bands. A large amusement park consisted of a roller coaster, merry-go-round, and other concessions. The Michigan City Zoo was established in 1928. Various governmental agencies took part in establishing public services and beautifying the north end of town. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) put more than 200 unemployed people to work, building the stone park benches, walkways, animal shelter and other structures in the zoo. In 1939, the U.S. Naval Armory and LaPorte County Courthouses were built, and the U.S. Coast Guard took over the lighthouse service.

The historic downtown area took on a new look with an urban renewal project in the 1960s. Several building went up including City Hall and a new Public Library.

The lakefront continues to be the pride of Michigan City and the center of recreational activities. Washington Park is on the National Register of Historic Places, as are the Old Lighthouse (1858, now a museum) and the East Pierhead, Light Tower and Catwalk (1904).

The Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department offers something for everyone! Our many city parks offer playgrounds, asphalt walking trails, tennis courts, ball diamonds, basketball courts, fishing ponds, hiking trails, sledding hills, and soccer fields. For a listing of all park properties and amenities call the Park Office at (219) 873-1506.
Bike Smart and Stay Safe

- Always wear your helmet – Be sure it covers your forehead and fits properly. Helmets are for all ages. Please set a good example to others by wearing your bicycle helmet every time you ride.
- Ride with the traffic - on the right side of the road.
- Obey all traffic laws – Stop at stop signs & stop lights and obey one-way streets.
- Signal and look before turning.
- Use a mirror. Be aware of what is behind you.
- Bike Smart – Share the road.
- Establish eye contact with drivers. Look behind you & use the proper hand signals before turning or changing lanes.
- Stop at all stop signs and red lights.
- At night, wear reflective clothing and have reflectors, a white front light, and a red rear light.
- Stop and look both ways before entering the street from an alley, sidewalk, or driveway.
- Always ride in the same direction as traffic. NEVER ride against traffic.
- Watch for opening doors and parked cars.
- Be visible. Wear light or bright colors for visibility. Use lights in poor visibility.
- Do not litter.