

Indiana Transportation Museum

I- 367

Hamilton East Public Library
Crossroad Discovery Center Archives
1 Library Plaza
Noblesville, IN 46060

By Hayes Lupin, Crossroads Discovery Center Assistant, and Jessica Layman, Genealogy and Local History Librarian

Collection Overview

Title: Indiana Transportation Museum

Collection ID: I-367

Creator: Indiana Transportation Museum

Extent: 5 linear inches

Arrangement: The collection is arranged in one series: I. Files

Date Acquired: unknown

Languages: English [eng.]

Scope and Contents of the Materials

The Indiana Transportation Museum collection contains materials created during its operation in Forest Park, Noblesville, Indiana between the 1980s to early 2000s.

The collection includes:

- brochures, newsletters, and pamphlets of the Indiana Transportation Museum for the public to learn about news and events taking place while it was in operation.
- newspaper articles and press releases written about the Indiana Transportation Museum.
- An annual report of the Indiana Transportation Museum.
- letter templates, mission statement, letters, and educational material the Indiana Transportation Museum created.
- one photograph of Engine No. 587.

The collection was named “Indiana Transportation Museum” to facilitate discoverability. Collection materials are of interest to researchers who are likely to know about the Indiana Transportation Museum or to those with an interest to transportation and railroads in Indiana.

Collection Historical Note

The Indiana Transportation Museum was a volunteer nonprofit that operated in Forest Park, Noblesville, Indiana between 1960 to 2018. The Indiana Transportation Museum’s purpose was to preserve Indiana’s railroad history and to educate visitors on railroad history. The museum also provided experiences such as railroad travel as they operated 38 miles of the Peru & Indianapolis track which was known at one time as the Nickel Plate line. It housed many important pieces, most notably the Nickel Plate Engine No. 587.

In December 2017, the City of Noblesville did not renew the Indiana Transportation Museum lease in the Forest Park location, citing bad stewardship with the location and its materials. The Indiana Transportation Museum pushed back hoping to delay the eviction but had failed. Noblesville and Fishers selected the Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad to operate the Nickel Plate line. 9.2 miles of the original rail line was converted into a pedestrian trail named the “Nickel Plate Trail.”

Sources

Material in the collection

Fischer, Jessica. "Indiana Transportation Museum - Encyclopedia of Indianapolis." Encyclopedia of Indianapolis, 20 Aug. 2024, indyencyclopedia.org/indiana-transportation-museum.

Tuohy, John. "Noblesville evicts Indiana Transportation Museum after 52 years." Indianapolis Star, 20 Dec. 2017, www.indystar.com/story/news/local/hamilton-county/2017/12/20/noblesville-evicts-indiana-transportation-museum-after-52-years/969387001.

"Indiana Transportation Museum - General Information." 4 Dec. 2024,
web.archive.org/web/20091018021341/http://itm.org/gen_info.htm.

Biographical Note

Related Material

Separated Material

Subject/Index Terms

Indiana Transportation Museum (Noblesville Ind.)

Forest Park (Noblesville Ind.)

Museums (Ind.)

Transportation (Ind.)

Trains (Ind.)

Nonprofits (Ind.)

Forms of Material:

brochures,

clippings,

letters,

magazines,

newsletters,

newspapers,

notes,

pamphlets,

photocopies,

photographs,

reports,

Administrative Information

Repository: Crossroads Discovery Center at Hamilton East Public Library

Alternate Extent Statement: 1 box; 5 linear inches

Access Restrictions:

Use Restrictions: Any existing copyright rules apply to the materials in this collection.

Acquisition Source:

Acquisition Method:

Preferred Citation: Indiana Transportation Museum Collection at the Hamilton East Public Library

Box and Folder Listing

Series I: Files

Box 1:

CRDC at HEPL I-367 Indiana Transportation Museum

Folder 1: Indiana Transportation Museum 1991-1993, 1995-1996

Folder 2: Indiana Transportation Museum 1983, 1986, 1991-1992, 1994, 1996

Folder 3: Indiana Transportation Museum 1988, 1991, 1994, 1996

Folder 4: Indiana Transportation Museum 1990, 1992-1994, 1996

Folder 5: Indiana Transportation Museum 2001-2005

Folder 6: Indiana Transportation Museum 1979-1980, 1990-1995, 2001

White Envelope: Indiana Transportation Museum pulled from Vertical Files