When water levels were high in the Great Marsh, you could paddle a canoe from the Wabash River in Huntington to the St. Marys River in Fort Wayne.

In dry periods, canoes were carried or "portaged." This important trade route connected the Mississippi and Great Lakes watersheds, establishing Fort Wayne as an economic hub by the 1700s.

THE GREAT MARSH

FORT WAYNE

Saint Joseph River

To Lake Erie

Maumee River

Saint Marys River

Lindenwood Nature Preserve

Swinney Park

Rockhill Park

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PORTAGE

PORTAGE

Graham-McCullough Ditch

Eagle Marsh

Fox Island County Park

To Huntington

Former channels of the Little River

Little River

Little River

LITTLE RIVER VALLEY

LC Nature Park

INTERSTATE 69

To the Wabash and Mississippi River

Myaamia (Miami) Chief Little Turtle (Akima Mihšihkinaahkwa) expressed the importance of the Portage eloquently at the Treaty of Greenville in 1795. He called it "*that glorious gate … through which all the words of our chiefs had to pass from north to south and from east to west.*"

This roughly nine-mile portage connecting the Mississippi and Great Lakes watersheds is one of the main reasons that Fort Wayne exists.





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