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## Press Release

**EMBARGOED until 3 p.m. ET:**

**Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018**

### **Gov. Holcomb details Next Level Trails grant program**

INDIANAPOLIS – Gov. Eric J. Holcomb today announced the launch of the Next Level Trails grant program, which will dedicate \$90 million to connect communities through more hiking, biking and riding trails. Next Level Trails is part of Gov. Holcomb’s Next Level Connections, a \$1 billion statewide infrastructure program announced in September.

“By linking communities, we will make a serious investment in connectivity and quality of life,” Gov. Holcomb said. “Next Level Trails’ strong focus on partnerships will drive collaboration among neighboring cities, towns and counties, as well as fill gaps among existing trails to create a larger network for more Hoosiers to enjoy the great outdoors.”

Next Level Trails is the largest infusion of trail funding in state history. The grant program is divided into two components: a \$70 million fund for regional projects and a \$20 million fund for local projects. Each fund will require a minimum 20 percent project match, which can include monetary contributions, land value, and in-kind donations of materials and labor. Projects funded through this program must be open to the public.

“We’ve seen trails positively impact communities of every size across Indiana over the past decade,” said Cameron Clark, Department of Natural Resources director. “The Next Level Trails program will build upon these successes by developing many miles of trails at an accelerated pace to benefit more Hoosiers and their hometowns.”

Next Level Trails funds will be awarded in rounds until all funds have been allocated. The opening round will include up to \$20 million in regional projects and up to \$5 million in local projects. The application period for the first round begins Jan. 1, 2019 and ends Feb. 15, 2019. Eligible applicants include units of government or 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

Those interested in applying are encouraged to attend one of the three application workshops:

- Dec. 12 at Fort Harrison State Park Inn in Indianapolis (also offered via a webinar)
- Dec. 19 at Potato Creek State Park near North Liberty
- Jan. 9 at Falls of the Ohio State Park in Clarksville

All workshops will begin at 3 p.m. ET.

More information regarding Next Level Trails is at [on.IN.gov/nextleveltrails](http://on.IN.gov/nextleveltrails).

More information regarding Next Level Connections is at [in.gov/gov/nextlevelconnections.htm](http://in.gov/gov/nextlevelconnections.htm).

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