

PRESS ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

For Additional Information – Eddie Bird, (812)-232-2727

Pat Martin, (812) 244-4922

June 1, 2012

CITY OF TERRE HAUTE TO OPEN MAPLE AVENUE NATURE PARK AND HISTORIC COLLETT PARK PATHWAY TRAILHEAD

Terre Haute – The City of Terre Haute will open the Maple Avenue Nature Park and the Historic Collett Park Pathway Trailhead located at 500 Maple Avenue on Monday, June 4th at 9:30 a.m.

Mayor Duke A. Bennett will host a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new 24.3-acre signature recreational facility that includes an 11-acre IDNR stocked trout fishing lake and a 0.6-mile paved trail and trailhead parking area.

Development and construction of Terre Haute's Maple Avenue Nature Park and the Historic Collett Park Pathway/Trailhead were possible with generous financial and technical staff support from the Indiana Brownfields Program, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Divisions of Outdoor Recreation, Fish and Wildlife, and Urban Forestry, TREES, Inc., Indiana State University, Purdue University, and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Civil Engineering Department.

The Maple Avenue Nature Park is a one-of-a-kind Wabash RiverScape Master Plan natural environment project area that will eventually include native prairie grass and wildflower plantings, additional trails, shelters, restrooms, fishing access facilities, ecological education interpretation areas, and environmental art. Native plantings will enhance bird and wildlife habitat, withstand periodic flooding, minimize mowing, and promote new sustainable maintenance practices for all city parks.

As a trailhead facility for the Historic Collett Park Pathway, the Maple Avenue Nature Park becomes an extension of the City of Terre Haute Trails and Greenway System. The State of Indiana recognizes the National Road Heritage Trail as a "priority visionary trail" intended to extend from the Indiana-Illinois border to the Indiana-Ohio border, thereby linking to other trail and park systems across the entire State of Indiana.

The Maple Avenue Nature Park and Historic Collett Park Pathway trailhead opening highlights Terre Haute's significant growth of fitness and recreational trail opportunities achieved in the past decade as the NCAA Division I National Cross Country Championships host community including recognition as "Cross Country Town USA".

###