



For immediate release
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Contact: Jim McGoff, IFA, Director of Environmental Programs, (317) 234-2916, jmcgoff@ifa.in.gov
Jessica Ewing, IFA, Communications Manager, (317) 234-3803, jaewing@ifa.in.gov

IFA approved more than \$100,000 to improve the State's trails and parks

INDIANAPOLIS—The Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) Board approved grants from its Indiana Brownfields Program's Trails and Parks Initiative (TPI) that will benefit four projects. TPI provides eligible units of local government and non-profit organizations funding to enable Phase I and/or Phase II Environmental Site Assessments of brownfield properties where trails, parks, greenspace or recreational reuse is planned. Clinton, Muncie and Terre Haute will benefit from these of grant awards.

A total of \$106,251 will be provided from funds approved by the IFA Board this month. TPI is funded by two \$200,000 grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency which were awarded to the State in May 2007 and \$200,000 in matching funds provided by the IFA.

Two of the four projects, Beech Street and Brown Boulevard in Terre Haute, are part of the National Road Heritage Trail, a trail that runs across Indiana from Richmond to Terre Haute. The Beech Street portion of the trail, awarded \$36,958 in TPI funds, is a stretch of railroad tracks formerly operated by the Vandalia Railroad Company. The Brown Boulevard site has been designated to be developed as the trailhead and \$37,900 in TPI funds will be used to assess petroleum contamination on the site to determine any necessary future remediation.

IFA awarded \$26,943 in TPI funds for assessment of a 5.37-acre site in Muncie that was last operated by the Gill Clay Pot Company, also known as the Hughes Nature Preserve site, which is nestled between the Cardinal Greenway and White River. The site is overgrown with invasive plant species and bears the remnants of historical industrial operations. Redevelopment plans include developing trails through the site to provide public access and develop a connection between the Cardinal Greenway and White River. The Red-tail Conservancy holds a permanent conservation easement on this site.

Plans for a former freight depot in Clinton include a future museum and connection of the site by trail development to an already renovated former passenger depot on the same former railway. The former freight depot is adjacent to the proposed Hunt-Spur Trail, part of an abandoned CSX railway. This freight depot project will receive \$4,450 in TPI funds to conduct assessment activities.

"To improve public health, Governor Daniels' goal is to have a trail within 15 minutes of every hoosier," said Jennifer Alvey, Public Finance Director of the State of Indiana. "The Trails and Parks Initiative provides a valuable tool for Indiana communities to begin transforming underutilized, potentially contaminated properties into vibrant public amenities, which will create opportunities for families to participate in physical activities and enjoy the outdoors."

For more information on the Indiana Brownfields Program Trails and Parks Initiative, contact Susan Harrington at (317) 233-1504, sharrington@ifa.in.gov. For information about the Indiana Brownfields Program's various other financial incentives, contact Sara Westrick Corbin at (317) 234-1688, swestrick@ifa.in.gov or visit www.brownfields.in.gov.

About the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA):

Governor Mitch Daniels created the IFA in 2005 to more effectively manage State-related finances under one entity. The IFA manages various financial programs, which include the Indiana Brownfields Program and the State Revolving Fund Loan Programs.

About the Indiana Brownfields Program:

The Indiana Brownfields Program, a part of IFA's Environmental Programs, works in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other Indiana agencies to assist communities in making productive use of their brownfield properties. The program's mission is to encourage and assist investment in the redevelopment of brownfield properties by helping communities via educational, financial, technical, and legal assistance to identify and mitigate environmental barriers that impede local economic growth.