



For Immediate Release

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***IFA approves first round of assessments
through Trails and Parks Initiative***

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) Board has approved four projects to receive the first round of assessments through the Indiana Brownfields Program’s Trails and Parks Initiative (TPI). TPI provides eligible units of local government and non-profit organizations with Phase I and/or Phase II Environmental Site Assessments of brownfield properties where trails, parks, greenspace or recreational reuse is planned.

Two of the four projects, the B-Line Trail in Bloomington and the Ohio River Greenway Project in New Albany, will be ready to move forward with Environmental Site Assessments this spring. The assessments will be performed by environmental consultants qualified and retained by the IFA.

“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.”

Plans for the B-Line Trail project in Bloomington involve redeveloping a 25-acre former CSX rail corridor into a multi-use pedestrian/bicycle path and linear park known as the “B-Line Trail.” The new trail will enhance Bloomington’s downtown area and connect to another existing trail and park.

The Ohio River Greenway site in New Albany will be redeveloped into a multi-use path that will connect two nearly completed adjacent segments of the Ohio River Greenway. When the Ohio River Greenway is complete, it will include over seven miles of trails along the riverfronts of Jeffersonville, Clarksville and New Albany.

Also approved for assessments through TPI were the former Shouse Landfill in Plainfield and the former rail corridor for the Monon Trail extension in Hamilton County; final plans or timelines have not yet been established for these projects.

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. The Indiana Brownfields Program is managed by the IFA, which was created by Governor Daniels in 2005 to more effectively manage State-related finances under one entity.

For more information on the Indiana Brownfields Program Trails and Parks Initiative, contact Susan Harrington at (317) 233-1504. 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.