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Contact: Cortney Stover , Indiana Finance Authority, (317) 234-3803
or Jim McGoff , Indiana Brownfields Program, (317) 234-2916

Bloomington receives grant to clean up brownfield

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Brownfields Program has awarded \$300,000 to the City of Bloomington to begin remediation of a former rail corridor. The City has purchased the property to redevelop into a trail network. The City has also received over \$5 million in federal funding towards this project.

“The City of Bloomington is very appreciative of the Indiana Finance Authority's generous award,” said Mayor Mark Kruzan. “The grant propels a rails-to-trails conversion that will generate Downtown economic, cultural, educational, social and fitness opportunities for area residents and visitors alike. The State's support of local government brings to reality a long-held vision of revitalizing our community.”

“Reclaiming this long-abandoned property and turning it into a dynamic, vibrant green space is a legacy we can all be proud of,” said State Senator Vi Simpson. “Revitalization efforts like this one often take a back seat to other initiatives, so I applaud the Indiana Finance Authority for making this a priority.”

A brownfield is a property where redevelopment can be complicated due to actual or potential environmental contamination. The Indiana Brownfields Program aims to help communities identify and mitigate these environmental barriers, which could impede the economic growth of the community.

“I have been a strong proponent of using state assistance to clean up brownfields,” said State Rep. Matt Pierce. “This grant will eliminate environmental contamination and develop a project that will promote physical fitness, recreation and alternative forms of transportation. I am pleased that the state will help make the Bloomington trails project move forward.”

“Cleaning up distressed properties in our cities and towns and adding new recreational opportunities leads to a healthier state – one of Governor Daniels’ top priorities,” said Ryan Kitchell, Public Finance Director of the State of Indiana .

The Indiana Brownfields Program is managed by the Indiana Finance Authority and offers financial, legal, technical, and educational assistance to entities involved with brownfields

redevelopment. The Indiana Finance Authority was created by Governor Daniels in 2005 to more effectively manage State-related finances under one entity.

Communities can obtain more information on grant eligibility from the Indiana Brownfields Program at www.brownfields.in.gov or contact Sara Westrick Corbin at (317) 234-1688 or swestrick@ifa.in.gov.

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