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Little River Trail construction continues



PHOTOS PROVIDED

GROUNDBREAKING: (From left) Joe Blomeke, Huntington city councilman, Jim Lewis, Huntington Area Recreational Trail Association, Jim Schellinger, Indiana Economic Development Corp. president, Michael Galbraith, Regional Development Authority executive director and Rev. James Jones, Heritage of Huntington board of directors member break ground at the Little River Trail phase 4 on Friday.

Groundbreaking ceremony held to commemorate Phase 4

BY JENNIFER PERYAM
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A groundbreaking ceremony was held Friday for section four of the Little River Trail in Huntington.

Section four runs from South Lafontaine Street to the Erie Bridge and will include hiking, walking and biking trails, according to Huntington Mayor Brooks Fetters.

"The multi-use paths are designed for anyone of all abilities to enjoy that are ADA accessible, and to get people connected to the beautiful Little River that runs through Huntington," Fetters said.

Fetters said trails provide alternative transportation to get to interesting sections of town, adding that people of any and all ages and abilities can enjoy



LITTLE RIVER TRAIL: City of Huntington Mayor Brooks Fetters (center) spoke during the fourth phase of the Little River Trail groundbreaking. (From left in the foreground) Joe Blomeke, Huntington city councilman, Michael Galbraith, Regional Development Authority executive director and Rev. James Jones, Heritage of Huntington board of directors member.

them. Initiative approved a \$255,000 grant to be used for the trails in September, Indiana Regional City with The Little River Trail

costing approximately \$1.1 million and funding coming from the RDA grant and the city of Huntington.

"It is the Regional Cities initiative out of the state of Indiana put out by the Indiana Economic Development Corp. and Governor Mike Pence to put out funding for quality of life improvements to strengthen regional areas around the state," Fetters said.

The city of Huntington trail plan involves two major trails: The Little River Trail designed to run from the Historic Forks of the Wabash Park to the Police Activities League grounds along the south edge of the river for five miles. The second major trail is the Erie Rail Trail designed

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to follow the old Erie Rail bed from Hier's Park 4-H grounds to the Huntington University Ball Park that will be 3.5 miles.

Little River section one is from the Forks of the Wabash Park to Quayle Run

completed in 2009, second phase will go from Quayle Run Trailhead to Elmwood Park that will be constructed from 2018 to 2020.

Section three will be from Elmwood Park to South Lafontaine Street that was completed in 2012. Section five will run from the Erie Bridge out to the PAL grounds along Riverside Drive.

Mark Wickersham, Huntington County Economic Development executive director, said the trail groundbreaking is another example of how economic development works best in a "collaborative spirit."

"Success with projects such as this will make it so much easier to win future industrial projects," Wick-

ersham said. "Over the last few years we've had 93 industrial project successes in our county amounting in \$270 million in capital in-

vestments." Quality of place economic development projects like the trails work together to help retain and attract

talent for industrial growth and to simply be a better place for the community to live and work, according to Wickersham.