

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Central Indiana Mayors Endorse Mounds Greenway Proposal for Conservation, Recreation, and Economic Opportunity

(INDIANAPOLIS, IN)- Mayor Dennis Tyler of Muncie, Mayor Andy Cook of Westfield, Mayor James Brainard of Carmel, and Mayor John Ditslear of Noblesville have declared their formal support for the Mounds Greenway, a sustainable plan for conservation, recreation and economic opportunity along the West Fork White River between Muncie and Indianapolis.

"Muncie is excited to be a part of this opportunity to connect to the Mounds Greenway along White River. We look forward to the opportunity to enhance quality of place by connecting with other communities throughout east central and central Indiana", said Dennis Tyler, Mayor of Muncie.

"Expanding our White River Greenway is just as important to a community as developing commercial and residential land," explains Andy Cook, City of Westfield Mayor. "The Mounds Greenway proposal will not only protect Indiana's native plants and waterways surrounding the White River, but also encourage an active lifestyle and economic growth."

Mayor John Ditslear of Noblesville said, "The White River is an asset for many Indiana communities. The Mounds Greenway plan allows more access to the river, enhances recreational and economic opportunities and connects cities in a new and exciting way. The future connection with the Mounds Greenway will allow our residents another option to explore the beauty of nature and the unique cities as they head northeast to Anderson and Muncie."

"Carmel's success is largely due to our emphasis on quality of life and in particular the Monon Greenway. With more than 188 miles of multi-use paths and trails, we have always placed a high value on transportation alternatives for both residents and visitors. The prospect of our pathways and parks being connected to a broader regional system of greenways and trails, with the White River as a centerpiece of this network, is a valuable outcome of completing the Mounds Greenway," said Carmel Mayor James Brainard.

The support from these four Mayors represents the Mounds Greenway's first official endorsements from elected officials, and enhances the strong support for a plan already backed by over 50 local businesses and community organizations.

"We are delighted to have the support of these outstanding Indiana mayors, and appreciate their recognition of the importance of quality of place in building great communities," said Tim Maloney, senior policy director for the Hoosier Environmental Council.

A recent health, environmental and economic study forecast the Mounds Greenway's potential benefits at \$13 million annually for Anderson, Muncie, and the communities in between. With the long-term goal of a fully connected Muncie to Indianapolis Mounds Greenway along the White River, the future impact would be far greater.

For links to the mayors' letters and to learn more about the Mounds Greenway plan for a linear park and trail system along the White River, and its economic, environmental and health benefits, visit <http://www.hecweb.org/issues/open-spaces/hec-releases-mounds-greenway-plan/>

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About Hoosier Environmental Council:

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