

## Site Highlight: B-Line Trail in Bloomington

Bloomington residents will soon be able to take advantage of the warmer spring weather and enjoy a walk or bike ride on the new B-Line Trail. Construction of the first phase of the trail project is complete and will be opening to the public later this spring. When the entire project is finished, the multi-use pedestrian/bicycle trail will stretch 3.1 miles through downtown Bloomington on a former CSX rail corridor and will connect with another trail and existing park.

For over 100 years, the land that would become the B-Line Trail was used as a rail line. Extensive coal ash and cinder material was present throughout the property, and the soil was contaminated with metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). When CSX stopped using the line in 2004 and planned to abandon the property, the City of Bloomington took action to buy it, address the contamination, and transform the land into an asset to the community. The City utilized a variety of local, state, and federal funds to make the B-Line Trail a reality. A \$5.4 million Transportation Enhancement (TE) grant from the Indiana Department of Transportation funded the purchase of the CSX rail corridor, the master planning process for the corridor, and the construction of the first phase of the trail. The Indiana Brownfields Program issued a Comfort Letter to the City of Bloomington in 2005 addressing the City's environmental liability associated with acquiring the property. The Indiana Brownfields Program awarded the City an assessment grant in 2001 and a remediation grant in 2007 for environmental work for the first phase of the project. Remediation of the soil contamination was performed concurrently with the trail construction.

Development of the second phase of the trail is well underway. The environmental assessment is nearly complete, and the soil remediation and trail construction are planned to begin in fall 2009. Environmental assessment of phase two of the trail was funded with a Trails and Parks Initiative award from the Indiana Brownfields Program, and an additional Stipulated Remediation



The B-Line Trail under construction

Grant was awarded by the Program in February 2009.

Features of the completed trail include attractive lighting, signage, trees, benches, and bike racks. The trail will be used to display artwork and will provide gathering places for events in the community. It is hoped that businesses along the trail will benefit greatly from the increased traffic of pedestrians and cyclists, as is the case in many mixed-use trail projects across the country. In this way the B-Line Trail can provide fitness, recreational, and economic opportunities to the community.

For more information, please visit [http://bloomington.in.gov/sections/viewSection.php?section\\_id=444](http://bloomington.in.gov/sections/viewSection.php?section_id=444) or contact Dave Williams of the City of Bloomington at [williamd@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:williamd@bloomington.in.gov) or Tracy Concannon of the Indiana Brownfields Program at [tconcann@ifa.IN.gov](mailto:tconcann@ifa.IN.gov).