

Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Newsletter

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Madison Heritage Trail Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony



Members of the Madison Heritage Trail, one of Historic Hoosier Hills' first project committees, held a groundbreaking ceremony on Friday, October 26 to kick off the construction phase of their project. When completed, the trail project will connect the hilltop with downtown Madison and give walking access to Madison's historic district from the Madison State Hospital grounds and from Clifty Falls State Park.

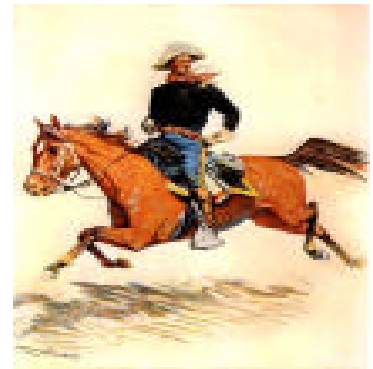
The group formed in 1996 and has worked tirelessly to build support for the trail, secure partners and cooperation from the city and property owners, and secure grant funds. The committee hired a consulting firm, Schneider Engineering, to help with trail location and design. This first leg of the trail will connect the Madison State Hospital campus with the historic downtown district. When work is completed, the trail will be blacktopped.

Madison Mayor Al Huntington participated in the groundbreaking ceremony and commended the group on their success. "I have never seen a group get more doors slammed in their face and still keep on going as this group has" commented the Mayor. They have been committed to a common goal and it has paid dividends by making their dream a reality.

Tom Pritchard is committee chair; Karen Bump is Vice Chair and Jim Olson is Treasurer for the group. The committee has about a dozen members and has developed good community support. A sixth grade class at Eggleston Elementary even adopted the trail as its service learning project. They have successfully secured funds from Historic Madison, Inc, from local businesses, and from the Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County. In addition, they secured funding from the Build Indiana Fund, the Conservation Fund, from Arvin Sango, and from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail Brochure Now Available

The long-awaited navigational brochure developed by the John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail Committee is now available thanks to a grant from the Tourism and Film Development Division of the Indiana Department of Commerce and TEA-21 Funds from the Indiana Department of Transportation. The brochure thumbnails the Civil War, covers U.S. history during that period of time, and then details the raid of Confederate General John Hunt Morgan and his two thousand cavalrymen, starting at Burksville, Kentucky and ending at West Point in northeast Ohio. The inside of the brochure goes into depth about the raid through Indiana, marking 24 sites on a map of southeastern Indiana and explaining what transpired at each site. The brochure is designed to be a navigational guide



for a driving tour and used with twenty-four four-color historic signs that will not be installed until 2002. But the brochure is a wealth of information on the raid and Indiana's involvement in this ear of our history. Once the signs are in place, the brochures will be distributed through numerous tourism outlets throughout the state, including the visitor centers in each southeastern Indiana County.

The brochure is the first of five products the committee plans to produce, according to Richard Skidmore, project committee chair. The next project is a four-color educational brochure on Morgan's Raid which will be printed in 2002 and made available free to fourth grade history classes in southern Indiana. The third product will be a detailed guidebook, designed for the serious Morgan's Raid enthusiast. In fifty-three pages, it covers in great detail many events that occurred along the raid route through southeastern Indiana. The book is a result of the efforts of Lora Schmidt Cahill, committee member and Civil War historian.

The fourth product is an audio tape which covers in first-person accounts ("you are there"- style) the raid activities complete with background cannon fire and horse hoofbeats. It can be used as a driving tour guide or can be listened to at home.

The fifth product is the four-color signs which the committee hopes to be ready to install by the summer of 2002. These will match the 24 sites on the navigational brochure and will explain in depth what took place at each stop along the route. There will also be a series of route markers between signs to help keep visitors on the right route. The driving tour follows the raid route as accurately as possible, starting near Mauckport in Harrison County and ending at West Harrison in Dearborn County. Six of the seven counties along the raid route have contributed funding to help with sign costs so far.

Single copies of the brochure are available free from the Historic Hoosier Hills office. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope (legal size) to the Historic Hoosier Hills office to receive a copy of the brochure.

Funds for the Future....The Historic Hoosier Hills Endowment Fund

How and When Should I Make Charitable Gifts?

By Louise Markel, Executive Director, Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County

Deciding where to give needn't be difficult, although it will take a little time and thought. Once you narrow the field, you'll actually save time, feel less harassed by solicitations and feel more fulfilled.

Here are some tips from the book Wealthy and Wise: How you and America can get the most out of your giving. But it applies to those of us with modest means as well.

1. **Examine Values.** You can't give to every cause, so identify which causes interest you most: Youth or elderly? Local or national? Education, arts, environment, substance abuse? Your church? Then rank your causes in order of your priority.
2. **Remember Local Issues.** There are many worthy national causes, but you can more likely achieve constructive goals and feel the impact of your efforts if you also invest in causes close to home.
3. **Qualify Your Causes.** Start at the top of your list and do enough homework to determine that each cause represents a truly critical issue that needs to be addressed. Then identify charities that address the issues.
4. **Develop an Allocation Plan.** Determine how much you can contribute overall to charity and then set approximate proportions to allocate amongst your chosen charities. Donors of limited means should consider focusing their gifts on just a few charities, while larger donors might consider more. Regardless of your capabilities, concentrate your focus so your gifts aren't spread too thinly. The greater the role of your money, the better your chances are of helping a charity fulfill its vision, and hence a greater sense of accomplishment and pleasure for you. However, in certain organizations small contributions have great impact.
5. **Seek Efficient Charities.** Ask tough questions. Management is all-important. Request information addressing quantitative and qualitative measures of the charity's effectiveness, and its operating costs. This might be found in a charity's annual report.
6. **Involve Your Family.** Philanthropy is an outstanding parental example for future generations, as well as a deeply satisfying activity to share with children, siblings, and of course your spouse.

All this might sound overwhelming, but it's actually not hard. The return will come both emotionally to you and substantively to your favorite causes.



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Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Council meets on the 4th Monday of every other month. The Executive Committee meets on the 3rd Friday of every other month that the Council does not meet. All meetings are open to the public. Anyone wishing to attend will certainly be welcome.

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D

Mission Statement:

“Serve as a catalyst to empower local people to solve the overall economic and natural resource problems of the area, and to properly develop, utilize, and conserve our natural and human resources.”

Vision Statement:

“Workable economic climate in harmony with natural resources developed to their full potential for a higher quality of life.”

Officers & Staff

Council President – Lilian Carmer
1st Vice-President – (vacant)
2nd Vice-President – William Corning
Treasurer – Raymond West
Secretary – Barbara Corning
RC&D Coordinator – Gary Conant
RC&D Assistant – Phyllis May
Proposal Writer – Barbara Jachimiak