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## Trail project raises needed matching funds

### Staff report

A late rush of donors in the final month of 2005 has enabled the Salt Creek Trail project to take a major step forward.

"With the impetus from an anonymous donor who agreed to match contributions up to \$25,000, we were able to raise \$42,795 in the final two months of the year," said Tom Tuley, chairman of the capital campaign for the trail.

"The \$42,795, plus the \$25,000 match which we expect to come in shortly, means we raised a total of \$67,795 since October 1," said Mr. Tuley, "And it now appears we have enough money raised locally to meet the match required for the first phase of the trail."

But he added that does not mean the fundraising effort is over.

"Far from it. We still need money," he pointed out. "This meets our match for the first phase only. We still need to raise approximately another \$200,000 for Phase Two, plus an additional \$200,000, which will be needed later for trail maintenance.

The trail was awarded an \$850,000 grant by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) in October of 2004. But that money required a 20 percent local match. The total raised locally now stands at \$186,200.

"It appears that will be enough to meet our match requirements for phase one," said Mr. Tuley. Phase one will take the trail from Jefferson Street in Nashville to the east property line of the YMCA.

The trail committee is applying with INDOT for additional funding this month, which would extend the trail from the YMCA to the north entrance of Brown County State Park.

"It will be later in the year before we will know if we will receive the grant for phase two," said Mr. Tuley. "But we will continue to raise local funds in anticipation of receiving that grant."

Work is already underway on environmental and archeological studies of the route, as required by INDOT. At the completion of that process, acquisition of easements can begin and construction will follow.

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Phases one and two will take the trail along the north bank of Salt Creek from Jefferson Street to the north entrance of the state park, a distance of approximately three miles. It will be paved, 10-12 feet wide, and will be available for runners, walkers, bicyclists, and others.

Depending on the time required to obtain permits and easements, phase one of the trail could be under construction before the end of this year.

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