

Valparaiso Wins Grant to Further Extend Trails

The City of Valparaiso has been named as a recipient in the Next Level Trails grant, winning \$364,500 for the \$520,950 project to extend the city's current pathway from Campbell Street west along Vale Park Road. The new pathway will extend through the new Brooks development to Froberg Road, then north along Froberg Road to Indian Summer Way. The new 10-foot wide, hard surface pathway will add 1.4 miles to Valparaiso's current pathway network, bringing the total to more than 37 miles of hard/soft pathways and bicycle lanes.

"Making our community even more pedestrian-friendly has been a priority for Valparaiso. This funding helps us extend our dollars and our miles of pathways," said Mayor Matt Murphy. "With this added pathway, pedestrians can travel on Vale Park Road all the way from Froberg Road to Sturdy Road by foot or bike, adding both recreation and safety," he said. The Vale Park Trail also connects to the Campbell Street Trail, Calumet Avenue Trail and Cumberland Loop.

The grant is through the Next Level Trails program by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The grant process is highly competitive, and Valparaiso was chosen as one of 18 projects from 62 applicants statewide. In a special presentation for the newly selected grant recipients, Governor Eric Holcomb reaffirmed Indiana's commitment to pathways, sharing that the goal would be for every Hoosier to be within five miles of a trail.