



## VANDERBURGH COUNTY

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EVANSVILLE, INDIANA 47708

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**CHERYL MUSGRAVE, PRESIDENT**

**BILL NIX, VICE-PRESIDENT**

**TOM SHETLER, JR., MEMBER**

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For Immediate Release

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The Vanderburgh County Commissioners today authorized Burdette Park General Manager Steve Craig to complete a project to add up to 40 miles in bike trails to the park facilities. It is projected that the bike paths could be ready as soon as this summer.

“The idea is that the bike paths will start at the western edge of Burdette Park, near the Discovery Lodge,” said Craig, “and then go into the county roads in Union Township. Right now we are projecting four separate routes, with some overlap, and connectors. The trailheads will be at Burdette Park and, if it can be worked out, an oasis at DogTown Tavern.”

The routes, tentatively identified as routes 1, 2, 3, and 4, will be from 2 miles to over 17 miles in length, and will be identified by road signs. Warning signs, both for motorists and bikers, will also be posted at regular intervals, as will a map of all the routes at the trailheads.

“This is really a great indication of the creativity of our county employees,” said County Commission President Cheryl Musgrave. “With Steve’s idea and work, we are looking to add a substantial recreational facility for county residents, at almost no cost to the taxpayers. I know I am looking forward to being one of the first to use the trail when it is finished.”

Craig reported that the cost will be primarily for signage, which should be absorbed as part of the park’s trail budget. “We are talking very few dollars, really,” said Craig. “No special appropriation, no asking for federal dollars, just doing it with the assets we already have.” The ride in the river bottoms will be a great asset to the USI/Burdette Bike and Pedestrian trail.

Another advantage of the projected trails is that they will meet at Burdette Park with the proposed bike trail connecting the park with the University of Southern Indiana, allowing easy access to the new system for the USI students and community.

“This is a win-win situation for everyone—USI students, county residents, park patrons,” Commissioner Tom Shetler, Jr. stated. “Everyone will benefit from this project, and because it is being done basically in-house there is almost no down-side, especially as regards cost.”

Commissioner Bill Nix agreed. “Facilities like this are also important in economic development. One of the things that companies look for in a new community is recreational facilities. This could be a big selling point for Vanderburgh County in the future.”

The county engineer office and the Evansville M.P.O. have also cooperated in the planning and execution of this project.

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