



The West Lafayette Parks and Recreation says the new trail connecting Happy Hollow and the Wabash Heritage Trail will make Happy Hollow safer and more accessible to the public. (BY MICHAEL HEINZ/JOURNAL & COURIER)

Happy Hollow trail project nearly complete

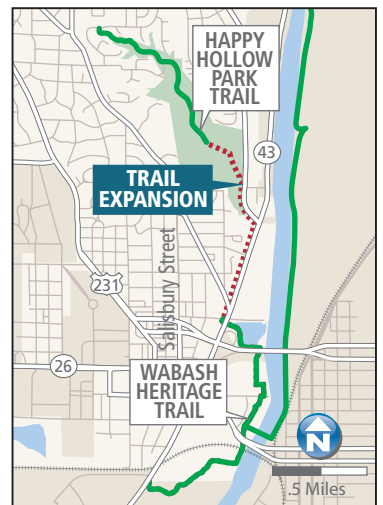
By ABIGAIL MAURER
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A paved trail running along North River Road is ready for walkers and cyclists, right in time for the prime outdoor recreation months.

The new trail is part of a parks department project aimed at connecting Happy Hollow with the Wabash Heritage Trail, making Happy Hollow safer and more accessible to the public, said Joe

Payne, superintendent of West Lafayette Parks and Recreation. "The project extends our trails in the West Lafayette area," he said.

The various components of the project include developing a paved trail along North River Road, improving crosswalks, creating bus stops along the trail, and updating trails and adding



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THOMAS MAXFIELD/JOURNAL & COURIER

TRAIL

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street lights in Happy Hollow.

The trail and crosswalk improvements are completed. The remaining work in Happy Hollow Park will be done this summer. Before the renovation began, the pedestrian access along North River Road proved a serious safety issue, Payne said.

“We wanted to make a nice connection from the Wabash Heritage Trail to the rest of Happy

Hollow Park and the two neighborhoods by the park.”

Alison Howard, a self-employed resident of Lafayette, frequents the park with her granddaughter and enjoys riding bikes on the trails with her husband.

She said the park improvements were needed.

“I feel safer on the trails, and it is easier to ride from Tapawingo Park to Happy Hollow Park.”

Temple Pearson, a walking enthusiast from West Lafayette, appreciates the improvements to the park

and trail system.

“I love the new lights they put up,” he said. “They’re very attractive.”

Pearson, who serves as the contact person for the Happy Hollow Walkers, is looking forward to the completion of the trail connecting Happy Hollow Park with Rose Street.

Pearson said she will save money on gas because she will be able to walk from her home to Happy Hollow.

“I’m so looking forward to using the new trails in the park.”