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For More Information, Contact:
Brian Conley, TREES, (812) 235-4576
Pam Louks, IUFC, (317) 591-1170



"101 Trees of Indiana at the Indiana Mile" Receives State Award

(Carmel, IN)—The Indiana Urban Forest Council has presented TREES, Inc. with its "Project of the Year" award for the "101 Trees of Indiana at the Indiana Mile" project located at Memorial Stadium in Terre Haute. The award was presented to Brian Conley, past president of TREES, Inc. and member of the Terre Haute City Tree Advisory Board, at the IUFC Fall Conference in Carmel, Indiana on October 8, 2008.

The Indiana Mile is a one-mile pedestrian/bicycle trail in the shape of the state of Indiana that was designed and constructed by the Terre Haute City Engineer's Office. Based on inspiration from the 2004 field guide, *101 Trees of Indiana*, by Indiana State University professor emeritus, Marion Jackson, TREES volunteer, Hank Metzger, conceived of the idea to plant these 101 species plus 16 additional species of Indiana shrubs around the trail to serve as a living classroom and recreational destination.

The project was made possible by the partnership of many:

- Dr. Jackson lent his expertise to the project by assigning each tree species to the area of the "state" on the trail where it would naturally grow and thrive.
- Kevin Runion, associate vice president of Facilities Management at Indiana State University and TREES, Inc. member, donated his professional landscape architect services to design placement of the trees and shrubs for optimum beauty and practicality.
- Funding for purchase of the trees was received from the estate of TREES member, Dr. Guido Miescher.
- The Terre Haute City Parks Department was active in planning the project and agreeing to maintain the trees. The City Tree Advisory Board and City Forester facilitated communication among all the partners.
- Hank Metzger Landscape, Inc. located and planted the trees in addition to underwriting half the cost of installing drip irrigation and maintaining it for the City.

"TREE," a four-part steel structure created by Mark Wallis of Spencer, Indiana, and installed by Art Spaces, Inc. draws attention to the site while

providing an aesthetic component that conceptually unites the massive structure of Memorial Stadium with the natural attraction of the trees.

"This project is unique to west central Indiana and perhaps to all of Indiana," said Conley. "Where else in Indiana can you walk only one mile and see this many different species of trees up close and personal?"

For more information about this project, go to:

http://www.treesinc.org/Indiana_Mile.html

TREES Inc. is a local non-profit environmental volunteer group founded in January 1990 to encourage the planting of trees to:

- Replenish our declining urban forest,
- Educate citizens about the importance of maintaining our existing trees,
- Improve the environment,
- Beautify the community, and
- Stimulate community participation and civic pride.

The Indiana Urban Forest Council promotes public understanding of the need for trees and other natural resources in and along parks, green space area, streets and urban woodlots and assists Indiana communities in protecting, expanding, and improving their urban forests. The council is a broad-based volunteer organization dedicated to assisting the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Community and Urban Forestry program, non-profit groups, and volunteer groups through educational programming.



(L to R) Indiana Department of Natural Resources State Forester, John Seifert, TREES representative, Brian Conley, and Indiana Urban Forest Council president, Tim Detzner