

# Switzerland County Economic Development Strategy Update Newsletter

## Switzerland County Receives Grant for Business Park

### What's New:

- *Switzerland County Receives Grant for Business Park*
- *Switzerland County Gives Final Approval to New Industrial Park*

The U.S. Economic Development Administration has awarded a grant to Switzerland County to assist in targeted industry assessment for the Markland Business Park. The \$10,000 grant is to be used for examining the strengths and weaknesses of the surrounding region, as well as targeting and market research development of a business park near the Markland Bridge.

This is the second time the U.S. Economic Development Administration has awarded grant dollars to plan for business development near the Markland Bridge. The agency funded a study of an industrial park in the same area in 1994.

This new grant was requested and will be administered by the Southeast Indiana Regional Planning Commission. It is expected that all research will be completed by mid 2007.



**Switzerland County was awarded a grant for market research on a potential business park near the Markland Bridge**



## Switzerland County Gives Final Approval to New Industrial Park

Switzerland County officials are planning an aggressive entrance into the highly competitive economic development arena.

Voting in October to move forward on a new 117-acre business park near the Markland Bridge, county leaders have taken a significant step of providing development sites to prospective businesses. County leaders expect the site to be attractive to those supplying the new Honda facility in Greensburg, Indiana and businesses seeking to be near the fast-growing northern Kentucky region.

Economic growth in Switzerland County for years has been stunted by a lack of interstate highway access, but new highway construction in the region will create a strategic advantage for advanced manufacturing, distribution and logistics-based companies interested in locating in southeastern Indiana, southwestern Ohio or northern Kentucky. The planned extension of Kentucky 1039 will connect the

county to I-71 and the reconstruction of Indiana 129 will make the county more accessible from the north.

The development of industrial sites near the Markland Bridge has been studied since the early 1990s but it was not until the arrival of the Belterra Casino and Resort that the necessary infrastructure was in place and that the Switzerland County could afford the project. With the proximity to the Belterra Casino and Resort (approximately one mile), the county is considering a mixed use development that would provide acreage for businesses that might cater to the casino, as well as sites for light manufacturing development.

The purchase of the property is expected to conclude in early 2007, which will begin a planning and pre-development phase that will last 12-18 months before construction of the park's infrastructure begins. Sites are expected to be available in early 2009.



**The Markland Business Park will be located just one mile from Belterra Casino, adjacent to the bridge to Kentucky/I-71**