

Switzerland County Economic Development Strategy Update Newsletter



“Shovel Ready” Status for Markland Business Park

Switzerland County has completed an important step in the development of the Markland Business Park by earning a Shovel Ready designation by the state of Indiana. Indiana’s Shovel Ready program identifies sites which have undergone extensive title work, proof of ownership, legal and environmental review and qualify for expedited permitting with state regulatory agencies. Shovel Ready certification allows prospective businesses to identify sites that can be developed quickly without long

delays for engineering and permitting.

Shovel Ready sites are certified by the Fast Access Site Team (FASTeam). Certified sites have been eligible for matching grants to assist with eligible costs associated with applying for the Shovel Ready program.

Currently, only twenty sites in Indiana are certified as *Shovel Ready*.



The Markland Business Park has been certified “Shovel Ready”

What’s New:

- “Shovel Ready” Status for Markland Business Park
- Local Economic Development Program Looks at Agriculture
- Vevay Included in New Rural Development

Local Economic Development Program Looks at Agriculture

The Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation has partnered with The Indiana State Department of Agriculture to bring the Agricultural Economic Development Initiative to Switzerland County.

The Initiative is a three-level program. The initiative brought together city planners, farmers, economic development leaders, elected officials and agribusinesses to collabo-

rate on economic development opportunities that capitalize on local, regional and statewide strengths.

The product of the Initiative was an Agriculture Economic Development Strategy for Switzerland County that was included in a statewide agriculture economic development strategy.

Vevay Included in New Rural Development Project

Vevay will be included in a new pilot program aimed at redeveloping main streets throughout rural Indiana. The Real Estate Capital Access Program (RECAP) is a joint effort between Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, and The Indiana Office of Tourism Development.

RECAP is a source of funding that will be used to facilitate the development of commercial

space and related residential space in areas that might not otherwise be revitalized, particularly in the “main streets” of rural areas and small towns. The town of Vevay was one of three communities selected to receive more than \$333,000 in loans and grants to assist with redeveloping entire buildings. The community’s involvement in collaborative efforts. Like the *Vision for Switzerland County Project*, was a deciding factor in the grant decision.