

For Immediate Release

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Fort Harrison Reuse Authority

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Lawrence Village at the Fort Infrastructure Incorporates “Green” Initiatives

Indianapolis, Indiana – Sustainability is one of six guiding principles for the development of Lawrence Village at the Fort – a master-planned, walkable, mixed-use community which will include residential, commercial and retail offerings. The project, which started in May 2009 and is scheduled for completion in December 2009, is a \$9 million investment by the Fort Harrison Reuse Authority to support Lawrence Village at the Fort.

Over fifty percent of the concrete material from the former PX and Commissary, which was demolished in 2007, has been reused for backfill for pipe excavation in the infrastructure construction project at Fort Benjamin Harrison. “Anytime you can reuse materials on site that’s already there, you’re saving what you put into land fills and the cost of new material,” said Jesse Bolte, the construction’s project manager with Poindexter Excavating.

Last week Poindexter started mixing the structural soil which is being used in all of the tree beds throughout the entire project. Structural soil, which is mostly rock with organic base in it, “allows for tree roots to grow outside of the boundaries of the tree pits beneath the pavement and sidewalks, preventing roots from breaking through or trees from dying prematurely,” said Jon Hutslar, landscape architect with Browning Day Mullins Dierdorf. Ten percent of the project is in landscaping with over 386 four inch flowering and canopy trees; 2,377 shrubs, and 23,272 perennials and ground cover throughout the development.

Because much of the Village area drains through the state park and into Fall Creek, the project drainage plan incorporates certain controls which are being implemented as green infrastructure such as rain gardens and bio-swales. For example, the Ravine Park was designed as a passive park for the community to reconnect with nature through the use of an elevated boardwalk over a restored stream that will also serve as a storm water detention basin.

The project was also designed with “Complete Street” principles, incorporating sidewalks and bike lanes on each side of the roads, giving the community and visitors a safe place to walk, run and bike. “Fort Benjamin Harrison has always been a place to recreate because of its proximity to Fort Harrison State Park and the Benjamin Harrison YMCA,” said Kris Butler, Executive Director of the Fort Harrison Reuse Authority. “Our goal with this project is to simply add to what’s already here at the Fort and do it in a way that maintains a sustainable environment for all.”

The Fort Harrison Reuse Authority is actively pursuing land sales for the remaining 58 acres within the Village boundaries and has received increased interest from retailers, restaurants, and multi-family developers that possess a similar vision for sustainable development.

About Lawrence Village at the Fort

Only minutes away from Castleton, Geist Reservoir, and downtown Indianapolis, Lawrence Village at the Fort is a contemporary village-style live, work, play master-planned community. Lawrence Village at the Fort will serve 5,000 employees at Defense Finance and Accounting Services; 6,000 students at Ivy Tech Community College – Lawrence Campus; and visitors to the Fort Harrison State Park, the Lawrence Soccer Complex, and the Benjamin Harrison YMCA. The Fort Harrison Reuse Authority (FHRA) is a quasi-governmental agency established by law to reuse – by redeveloping – the former Fort Benjamin Harrison Army Base, which was closed by the federal government in 1991.

To learn more about the Fort Harrison Reuse Authority (FHRA) or Lawrence Village at the Fort, contact Kris Butler at 317.377.3400 or visit our website, www.FHRA.org.