



**NEWFIELDS**

A PLACE FOR NATURE & THE ARTS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Images available upon request.*

**Newly funded construction begins at Newfields this summer**  
*Projects to support infrastructure, campus enhancements and connectivity*

**INDIANAPOLIS**, June 25, 2019— This summer Newfields is beginning the construction of three major projects, including key infrastructure upgrades to help increase capacity and generate connectivity to Newfields. These projects are the first of many priority projects in the institution's 30-year masterplan, which was unveiled in late 2017.

"Newfields is committed to strategic, impactful and sustainable growth that benefits the Indianapolis community. With these key infrastructure improvements we will be able to welcome more people to Newfields and improve the quality of their experiences on our campus," said Dr. Charles L. Venable, The Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO."



**From left:** Jonathan Wright, Ruth Lilly Deputy Director for Horticulture and Natural Resources; Katie Betley, Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees; and Charles Venable, The Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO breaking ground on the new Parking Green. *Image courtesy of Newfields.*

**Project: Parking Green**

**Timeline: Ongoing–Fall 2019**

Newfields is enhancing its ability to host and accommodate more visitors on peak days and events. The new Parking Green will consist of 200 new parking spaces by converting 78,000 sq. ft. of existing turf into reinforced turf, which allows for a safer and more sustainable way to park cars on grass without damaging the turf below. The Parking Green will be adjacent to Newfields' existing surface parking lot, located near the front entrance.

To make this reinforced turf, we are using a product called GEOBLOCK. GEOBLOCK is made from recycled plastic and lays flat underneath the grass to help distribute the weight of a vehicle. This weight distribution helps the grass grow back quicker and healthier. Once the construction is complete the Parking Green will be covered with a new layer of sod. When finished, the area product will continue to be a grass lawn and only used for parking during peak attendance periods.

This project will enable Newfields to implement additional large-scale seasonal festivals and exhibitions in response to the desires of today's arts and culture audiences. October 3-6, 2019, Newfields will debut its inaugural [Harvest](#) festival, a campus-wide art and nature experience.

**Project: Multi-Use Path**

**Timeline: Late Summer–Fall 2019**

With funding from the Department of Public Works and the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation, Newfields can better connect its campus to community neighbors with the creation of a new multi-use path. The new path will begin at 42<sup>nd</sup> St. and continue all the way around Newfields perimeter, ending at the 38<sup>th</sup> St. entrance.

Key crosswalks at 42<sup>nd</sup> St., the Michigan Road entrance and the 38<sup>th</sup> St. entrance, will also be installed to allow guests to more safely cross these busy intersections. To also increase safety, the path will be wide enough for both cyclists and pedestrians.

**Project: Pacers Bikeshare station**

**Timeline: Fall 2019**

Newfields has partnered with the Indianapolis Cultural Trail Inc. to add a Pacers Bikeshare station to its campus, which is another way to increase neighborhood connectivity and mobility. This new Bikeshare station will be located on The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art and Nature Park: 100 Acres side of the Central Canal Towpath and is intended to increase multimodal transportation to and from the Fairbanks Park.

**About Newfields**

Newfields offers dynamic experiences with art and nature for guests of all ages. The 152-acre cultural campus features art galleries, lush gardens, a historic mansion, performance spaces, a nature preserve and sculpture park. From inspiring exhibitions in the Indianapolis Museum of Art Galleries, to concerts in The Toby, to a stroll through The Garden with a glass of cheer, guests are invited to interact with art and nature in exciting new ways. Newfields is home to the Indianapolis Museum of Art, among the ten largest and oldest general art museums in the nation; the Lilly House, a National Historic Landmark; The Garden, featuring 40 acres of contemporary and historic gardens, a working greenhouse and an orchard; and The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park: 100 Acres, one of the largest art and nature parks in the country. The Newfields campus extends outside of Indianapolis with Miller House and Garden in Columbus, IN.—one of the nation’s most highly regarded examples of mid-century Modernist architecture. For more information visit [DiscoverNewfields.org](http://DiscoverNewfields.org).

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