



**What the country needs
is dirtier fingernails and
cleaner minds. -Will Rogers**

Public Participation

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation, through various methods, was an integral part of the planning process. Four (4) methods were determined to be critical to successful public involvement and identification of needs for Comprehensive Plan development.

Those methodologies were:

1. Public Meetings
2. Indy Parks User Surveys
3. Random Public Surveys
4. Existing Plan Summaries

The following text summarizes each of the methods and results.

Results-Public Meetings

February-April Meetings

The first set of public meetings held were intended as information gathering meetings. Parks staff opened with 45-55 minutes of background information. This included explanation of a Comprehensive Plan, and overviews of Indy Parks, Indianapolis demographics and Indy Parks 2008 Comprehensive Plan. The next 30-45 minutes was spent gathering input from the attendees. This came in the form of spoken comments and discussion, written comments. A summary of the input from each meeting follows. Notes from the meeting in their entirety are included in Appendix f.

Public Access television recorded the Center Township meeting and broadcast it several times during the two-week public review period.

February 21st, Franklin Township Carver Education and Technology Center

Attendance for this meeting totaled 38 due to snowy and icy weather conditions. New initiatives: Interest was expressed in continuing Indy Parks efforts in the areas of greenways and helping with the Franklin connectivity plan. Development of an aquatic facility, establishment of mountain biking trails, and re-establishment of cross country meets in Southeastway Park.

February 26th, Warren Township Education and Community Center

Attendance for this meeting totaled 50 on a very cold evening. Interest was expressed in continuing Indy Parks efforts in the areas of land acquisition, senior programs, and upgraded maintenance in parks and along Pleasant Run Parkway. New initiatives suggested more ranger presence along trail usage at night, and to build Pennsy Trail.

February, 28th, Lawrence North High School

Attendance for this meeting totaled 54. Interest was expressed in extending Fall Creek Trail through Ft. Benjamin Harrison State Park, developing Nature Center in Skiles Test Park, and connecting neighborhoods by Greenways, bike lanes, and sidewalks. Comments were made calling for more park land to be acquired in Township.

March 1st, (A.M.), Krannert Park

Attendance for this meeting totaled more than 41. Suggestions were made to construct new facilities in Wayne Township area including a Family Recreation Center, Aquatic Center, South side Greenways (B & O and Eagle Creek Greenways) and better river access. Support was expressed for continued land acquisition in rapidly developing areas of Marion County. Comments were also made calling for improvements to playground equipment in Southwestway Park. An aquatics program was requested in Decatur Township as well as a multi-use sports complex.

March 1st, (P.M.), Decatur Township Branch Library

Attendance for this meeting totaled more than 22. Suggestions were made to construct new facilities in the Decatur Township area including a Family Recreation Center, Aquatic Center, South side Greenways and better river access. Support was expressed for continued land acquisition in rapidly developing areas of Marion County. An aquatics program was requested in Decatur Township as well as a mountain biking.

March 6th, Glendale Branch Library (upper level, south end)

Attendance for this meeting totaled 62. Indy Parks was encouraged to do better job on maintaining parks in Washington township especially between Holiday and Marott Parks along Blickman Trail. Proposal was made for a recently closed school in Wash MSD to be donated to department for a park. Request was made to connect Broad Ripple Park to Monon Rail Trail.

March 13th, Indianapolis Zoo White River Garden's Building (Hulman River house)

This meeting was recorded by City of Indianapolis and televised for at least one month on various dates and times on city's public access channel 16. Attendance for this meeting totaled 64. Indy Parks was encouraged to do better job on maintaining parks in Center Township and to renovate historical features such as Taggart Memorial and Bush Stadium. Proposal was made for a downtown dog park to be developed along with extension of Fall Creek Greenway from Monon bridge. Member of public made a request for vacant land along downtown canal not be developed but kept as green open space.

March 18th, Southport Branch Library

Attendance for this meeting totaled 47. Indy Parks was encouraged to do better job on maintaining parks in Perry Township especially in Perry and South side Parks. Request was made for Perry Park Ice Rink to be expanded and renovated for year around ice. Letter was presented to staff that showed a family center was promised by former director in South side Park.

Mayor's Advisory Council on Disability

March 19th and April 16th, Washington Park Family Center

Attendance for the first of these meetings totaled 31. Attendance for the second of these meetings totaled 18. Indy Parks was encouraged to do better job on maintaining parks and providing access for physically, visually, and mentally impaired. Request was made for better access to greenways, tennis courts, dog parks, and for accessible porta-lets. Staff highlighted grant applications, new accessible playgrounds, and aquatic facility lifts.

March 25th, Pike Township

This meeting was held after being rescheduled. The original Pike Township meeting was to be held on March 4th, but was cancelled do to weather. Attendance for this meeting totaled 69. Indy Parks was encouraged to do better job on maintaining parks in Pike township. Request was proposed to build and recreation facility at 56th & Reed Rd. with an enclosed soccer field. Also more land acquisition efforts in the county were requested along with no parking signs at 46th Street node of Eagle Creek Trail. Request was made to pave gravel lots at 56th & Reed Rd. soccer complex.

November Meetings

In November of 2008, seven public forums were conducted to present a summary of the draft plan. The same content was presented at all seven meetings, held in various areas of Marion County. A brief summary of each meeting follows. Notification was sent to the same list as for the first round meetings, with the addition of all attendees from these earlier meetings. Attendance at this round of meetings exceeded 111 persons. Indy Parks' staff presented to the attendees the results of the surveys as well as the first round of meetings. A summary of the data obtained from comparison cities, benchmark standards and an analysis of service areas were presented. Staff concluded with a summary of the Action Plan. The floor was then opened for public comment and discussion.

Public Access television recorded the Center Township meeting and broadcast it several times during the two-week public review period.

General Public Meeting Input regarding Facilities:

- Better Maintenance
- Land Acquisition in Developing Areas
- Family Centers, Aquatic Centers and Nature Centers in Areas Without These Facilities
- More Parking
- Dog Parks (downtown & southern townships)

Public Participation

General Public Meeting Input regarding Greenways:

- Better Maintenance
- Extend Greenways to Southern Townships and West Portion of County
- Help Complete Connectivity Plans
- Develop Nature Trails (canoe, mountain bike, pedestrians)

General Public Meeting Input regarding Programs:

- Celebrate Culture Through Arts, Concerts, and Movies in Parks
- More Adult/Senior Programs: Swim Times, Aerobics
- Expand Fitness Programs, Publicize Better
- Partner with Schools
- List Needs on Web site for Donations

Special User Groups

- Mayors Advisory Council on Disability
- Mountain Biking
- Ice-skating/Hockey
- Dog Parks
- Skate Boarders
- Disc Golf

November 11th, Franklin Township Carver Education and Technology Center

Attendance for this meeting totaled 12. Parks staff were strongly encouraged to press for acquisition of parkland adjacent to Southeastway Park, and in other developing areas of the township. Parks was encouraged to pursue developers to include parks and greenway connections in their projects. Some concern was raised about Indy Parks using eminent domain to acquire lands for greenways, and it was shared that this is an extremely rare occurrence. Request was made for contact person for coordination boy/girl scout projects.

November 12th, Lawrence North High School

Attendance for this meeting totaled 13. Questions were asked about the plan's implementation schedule and how actions would be funded.

These details are included in the action plan. Staff was encouraged to give consideration to park acquisition in under served, developed areas, such as the Allisonville area. Clarification was requested on the organizational structure for the Parks Board. Meeting was slow in progressing because outburst by one citizen regarding the development of Gardner Park.

November 15th, (A.M.), Krannert Park

Attendance for this meeting on Saturday only totaled only 6. Questions were raised about the Capital Improvement Plan section. It was suggested that the plan should include funds specifically for acquisition. The Department's accountability to its constituents was discussed, as well as Department Accreditation, the Parks Board and Park Advisory Groups as mechanisms for this accountability. The service area maps in the plan were discussed. The debate centered on the appropriate diameter for a park's service area and the development of B&O Greenway.

November 17th, H. Dean Evans Community & Education Center, MSD of Washington Township

Attendance for this meeting only totaled only 11. Questions were raised about the Capital Improvement Plan section. It was suggested that the plan should include funds specifically for acquisition. The Department's accountability to its constituents was discussed as the potential of park land being leased out for commercial purposes. The debate centered on the appropriate diameter for a park's service area when invitations are sent out for public meetings.

Mayor's Advisory Council on Disability November 19th, Washington Park Family Center

Attendance for this meeting exceeded 27 persons. Parks staff highlighted survey results related to accessibility and made promise to get draft of plan in Braille.

November 20, Indianapolis Zoo White River Garden's Building (Hulman River house)

Attendance for this meeting on totaled only 30. Questions were raised regarding plan to remove

lights from parks and any plan to light greenways. Also if parks would be interested in purchasing equipment to recycle used tires. Also a request was made to develop master plan for Riverside Regional Park and to renovate Taggart Memorial.

November 24th, Pike High School Freshman Center

Attendance at this meeting exceeded 12. A request was made to include the source of Indy Parks budget funds in the plan. Parks staff were encouraged to use discretion before accepting land from developers, to assure that it is suitable for parkland. Planning greenway connections to adjacent communities was stressed, such as Zionsville, Brownsburg and Cumberland. The parks survey results and response rate were a topic of discussion as well.



INDY PARKS USER AND RANDOM SURVEYS

In an effort to obtain detailed information from the public, 2 types of surveys (paper & digital) were distributed in 5 different categories or areas: Golf, Aquatics, Greenways, Recreation Centers, General and General Short Survey. Park user e-mail addresses were obtained from information submitted during previous public meetings, by facility users, park staff, and Friends groups. Paper surveys were distributed at aquatic facilities, golf courses, family and nature centers, and greenways offices. Also a web link was distrib-

uted for the same surveys. We do not have an exact count for the number of surveys distributed but we estimate over 5,000 user surveys were distributed via paper or digital formats. With 1400 paper/internet surveys returned to date, the response rate exceeds 10%. For the survey itself please refer to Appendix g. For a summary of survey results please refer to Appendix h.

User Group Survey Results

The results we received from our user group surveys were generally very positive about the way Indy Parks is executing its mission. 89% of respondents find park locations convenient. 95% find parks to be safe. And 70% use parks daily or weekly. 79% of respondents described the number of parks in our system as 'good' or 'excellent,' while 89% thought that parks were conveniently located. 78% felt that Indy Parks was doing a good job of protecting our natural resource areas.

66% reported using parks facilities 12 or more times a year with 17% reporting they use them daily, and 47% reporting weekly use. This is very encouraging given that Indy Parks has placed an emphasis on providing facilities for everyone. Tempering this success is the fact that 65% reported that there is not a park within a five to ten minute walk, and over 90% say that they get to parks by automobile. 72% say that they would travel over a mile to participate in specific programs. 53% say that they are not using parks as often as they would like.

90% say that more greenway trails are 'very important,' and 59% say completion of planned greenways system is important. When asked what facilities people would like to see more of, 54% of all respondents want 'More Trails.' Clearly there is a great deal of work to do in connecting our residents to parks near their homes.

Public Participation

Regarding specific facilities, survey recipients were asked to rate Aquatic and Family Centers, and Golf Courses. These facilities were rated on topics ranging from quality of the facility and maintenance, to hours of operation, professionalism of staff, and ease of fee collection. A clear majority of respondents rated these facilities ‘very good’ to ‘excellent.’ Very few individuals rated any elements as ‘poor’ (between 1% and 6%). 58% of all respondents found our aquatic facilities to be better and much better than they expected them to be. The most popular activities were open swim, followed closely by water slides and spray pools. 84% found family centers were better and much better than they expected, but 31% said that they ‘didn’t have enough time’ as the reason they didn’t use them more often. Another 73% found golf courses to be better and much better than they had expected, and 58% would be willing to pay higher greens fees if it meant improved course conditions.

Despite occasional concerns about crime in municipal parks, 95% of respondents feel safe at Indy Parks’ facilities. Many of those that didn’t feel Indy Parks are safe cited specific incidents they are aware of, while 25% said a greater law enforcement presence would alleviate the problems. A full 90% of respondents declared an opposition to the conversion of parkland for any commercial, industrial, or non-recreation governmental use.

Respondents to the survey were divided closely between Male (51%) and Female (49%).

Random Public Survey Results

Indy Parks contracted Survey America to provide independent survey of park users at its selected family/nature centers and greenways.

The majority of respondents to the random survey indicated that they were happy with Indy Parks’ performance. Results were for the most part very similar to the results from the User Survey. The most significant differences occurred up in the rating of specific facilities such as Aquatics and Family Centers, and Golf Courses. The responses from the random surveys tended to give a slightly lower approval of these specific facilities.

As in the User Survey, these three specific facility types were asked to be rated on topics ranging from quality of the facility and maintenance, to hours of operation, professionalism of staff, and ease of fee collection. Across the board, respondents tended to give more ‘good’ or ‘very good’ than the ‘very good’ or ‘excellent’ results found in the User Survey. The Random Surveys also saw a slightly higher percentage of ‘poor’ ratings. Overall, however, fewer respondents actually filled out these specific facilities sections than did in the User Survey. In all cases, however, of those who did fill them out, a majority of respondents still found the facilities to be at least ‘Good.’ Respectively, 46% in Aquatics, 55% in Family Centers, and 59% at Golf Courses indicated that these facilities provided what was expected of them. The most popular activities at the Aquatic Centers were open swimming (42%) and water slides (25%). When asked what factors limit participation in programs at family centers, ‘not enough time’ and ‘didn’t know about them’ tied at 42% each. 41% of Golf Course respondents said that they use an Indy Parks course, even when another course is closer to their home. When asked why, 36% said it was to ‘meet a friend’ for a round, while ‘variety of play’ and ‘better price’ each scored 27%. Of respondents, 44% indicated that they would be willing to pay more if it meant improved playing conditions.

Regarding number and location of our parks, 73% felt the number of parks was good or excellent, while 77% felt that parks were conveniently located. 55% reported a park within a five to 10 minute walk from their home, however, 80% of respondents would travel over a mile to participate in a specific program or event. 79% felt that Park and Recreation facilities were accessible.

Trail systems also rated high on most respondents’ list. 49% thought that trails inside parks were ‘very important’, while 36% thought that they were ‘somewhat important’. An overwhelming 77% felt that Greenways trails were ‘very important’ and 20% thought that they were ‘somewhat important’. More trails were also noted prominently when respondents were asked what other recreation of park facilities that they would like to see developed.

Maintenance turned out to be the area most respondents thought needed work, with 66% feeling that outdoor facility maintenance was good or excellent and 63% feeling the same way about the maintenance of indoor facilities. 86% of respondents felt that Indy Parks are safe, while those who didn't either felt that more Ranger presence would alleviate the situation, or cited a specific incident. An overwhelming 97% oppose the idea of parkland being used for commercial, industrial, or non-recreation government usage.

The survey respondents also revealed that 60% utilize the parks at least once a month, with 12% overall reporting daily use, and 41% reporting weekly use. 68% felt that Indy Parks does a good job of protecting natural areas.

Most respondents to the survey were female (59%). The most were returned from Center Township (27%) while the least came from Pike Township (2%). Decatur (4%), Franklin (4%), Lawrence (6%), Warren (13%), Wayne (13%), Perry (14%) and Washington (17%) Townships made up the rest.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

In addition to the surveys conducted for public comment, Indy Parks provided ten (11) different opportunities for public meetings.

The first set of public meetings was held between February 21 through April 16, 2008. These meetings were identical and held in all township areas of Marion County. Total attendance for these 11 meetings was 220. These meetings were advertised through local newspapers, Indy Parks web site and by 2,800 direct mailers to neighborhood organizations and residents.

A second set of meetings was held between November 11 and March 24, 2008. These meetings were held in six areas of Marion County; Center, Franklin, Lawrence, Pike, Washington, and Wayne.

EXISTING PLAN SUMMARIES

The City of Indianapolis and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources already have in place a

system for public participation and review. As a result of the ongoing process of "city-planning," the Department of Metropolitan Development, Indy Parks, and the State of Indiana have completed references documenting the needs of the public within the county. Recent documents that were reviewed included the 2007-2008 GINI Plans, the 2007 Multi-Modal Pedestrian Plan, the 2002 Indianapolis Greenways Plan, and all previous Comprehensive Park Plans. The staff also reviewed existing plans from the Department of Metropolitan Development. Those included the Marion County Comprehensive Land-Use Plan, each of eight township Comprehensive Plans, the Indianapolis Regional Center Plan and all existing Neighborhood Plans. The planners also reviewed the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2006-2010 to determine Marion County's status compared to other counties and regions in the state. INDNR is in the process of updating this plan at this time. A list of all documents reviewed is included in the Bibliography.

Results-Existing Plan Summaries

The following section identifies actions and needs that have already been identified in other public planning documents.

Comprehensive Park Plans

The Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation has a long, and visionary history of park planning. Historic plans that were located by the park planners, included original linen drawings by J. Clyde Power, dating to the early 1900s. Those drawings are located in the Architectural Archives at Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana. Historic documents that were reviewed dated from 1928.

The actions identified in the historic comprehensive plans, repeated, in so many words, the same actions.

They are:

- Provide open-space, recreational facilities, and programs which serve the citizens and improve the environment.

Public Participation

- Provide even distribution of leisure services so the public has safe, adequate access to recreation and leisure services.
- Establish a base level of maintenance service per park type, additional service should be prioritized.
- Secure community involvement, participation and financial support for programs and other leisure public services.
- Develop creative ways to better serve youth, young adults, and senior citizens.
- Promote a leadership style which will encourage staff to be creative and show new initiatives toward developing programs, services, etc.. that directly benefit the public.
- Develop a minimum standard to guide future development of recreation facilities.
- Devote efforts to making acreage available for recreation uses in new residential developments.
- Increase the number of qualified professional staff to carry out the Recreation Division programs.
- Increase promotion and marketing activities to increase the delivery of programs to the public and the public's knowledge of the division.
- Emphasize cultural activities that will involve more of the public.
- Use school facilities for neighborhood recreational services in partnership with Indy Parks.
- Emphasize the acquisition of areas of high natural resources.
- Develop park sites for areas currently or potentially under supplied with recreation facilities.
- Provide a legal framework for the provision of leisure services, including procedures requiring dedication of adequate leisure areas in newly

Krannert Park



developed areas; preservation of flood plains, marshlands, wetlands; other ecologically significant areas; and historic and cultural sites.

2006 Multi-Modal Pedestrian Plan

In 2006, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, which is a branch of the Federal Transportation Agency dealing with Transportation issues for Marion and its surrounding counties, hired Storrow-Kinsella to produce Multi-Modal Pedestrian Plan and Guidelines for greenways, trails, and sidewalks in and around Marion county. That report has not been approved by Metropolitan Development Commission but Indy Parks, specifically Greenways will refer to its findings and recommendation in the update to the 2002 Greenways Master Plan.

GREAT *Indy* NEIGHBORHOODS

2007-2008 GINI Plans

In early 2004, local community development corporation leaders, through the Indianapolis Coalition for Neighborhood Development (ICND), met with city leaders to discuss a renewed vision for neighborhood improvement in Indianapolis. As a result of this discussion, stakeholders recognized that maximizing the impact of their efforts would require getting more people involved in developing a vision for community development. ICND, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and the City of Indianapolis worked together to convene focus groups to exchange ideas about community development in Indianapolis. The enthusiasm demonstrated through the focus group discussions resulted in the Community Development Summit, convened in October 2004.

Based on the summit discussions, the strategy group articulated principles of healthy neighborhoods. These principles describe a system that integrates economic, physical, and human development and outline a framework for working together to affect sustainable change. These ideas are not new, but instead corroborate neighborhood activities

and call for systematic support of these activities. Guided by these principles, the strategy group began a process of identifying strategies that would foster greater engagement and support for a more comprehensive approach to neighborhood development.

In spring 2005, the strategy group sponsored two community forums to explore key concepts of neighborhood development: vision for community building and collaboration across boundaries. Open to the public, these forums were opportunities for interested citizens to participate in and work on the priorities identified at the summit and in early strategy group work. Each forum brought together more than 150 participants who heard from national speakers and panels of local leaders discussing how they turned ideas about engagement and comprehensive community development into action.

Building on these initial efforts, the Community Development Strategy Group began to explore the idea of comprehensive community development: an approach to community development activities that integrates economic, physical, and human development to create healthy neighborhoods.

Comprehensive community development approaches neighborhood life as a whole and encourages neighborhood-based, multi-faceted, and cooperative improvement efforts. These collaborative neighborhood efforts give residents and stakeholders more control over the direction of their communities. Behind this approach is the conviction that the community accomplishes more when it is an active partner in decision-making.

In October 2005, the Community Development Strategy Group convened a community meeting to share the first draft of the GREAT INDY NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVES: an action plan that uses these founding ideas to call for more community building, holistic community planning, and collaborative partnerships over a three-year period. In late October and early November, the strategy group convened seven community input sessions for public comment and idea sharing. Those ideas are incorporated into the initiatives outlined in different plans.

Public Participation



NEIGHBORHOOD	PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE
BRAG	4.1 Develop safe pedestrian access on: 71st Street from Allisonville east to Hague Road; Hague Road from 82nd Street south to 71st Street; Shadeland Avenue from 82nd Street south to 71st Street; 75th Street from Shadeland Avenue east to Hague Road	4.1.2 Begin construction on pedestrian access/sidewalks
BRAG	4.2 Provide safe pedestrian crossings at major intersections	4.2.1 Provide safe pedestrian crosswalks at 75th Street and Shadeland Avenue
BRAG	4.2 Provide safe pedestrian crossings at major intersections	4.2.2 Provide safe pedestrian crosswalks at 71st Street and Shadeland Avenue
BRAG	4.2 Provide safe pedestrian crossings at major intersections	4.2.3 Provide a safe pedestrian crossing across Binford Boulevard
BRAG	3.1 Continue work on the Skiles Test Nature Park Master Plan	3.1.2 Develop a Nature Center
BRAG	3.1 Continue work on the Skiles Test Nature Park Master Plan	3.1.1 Increase and/or improve amenities in Nature Park, i.e. walking path along Fall Creek, trash cans, picnic tables, improving existing trails, improved signage and tree identification, bike racks, etc.

Entire plans can be viewed online at www.greatindy-neighborhoods.org. Outlined below are priorities and objectives from the neighborhood plans as they relate to parks and greenways:

NEIGHBORHOOD	PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE
Near West	3.2 Clean-Up public parks and corridors	3.2.4 Support Indy Parks with development plans for Mozell Sanders Park behind School #63 along White River Parkway
Near West	3.2 Clean-Up public parks and corridors	3.2.1 Each neighborhood adopts a local park to keep clean and beautiful
Near West	3.2 Clean-Up public parks and corridors	3.2.2 Clean, trim shrubbery and maintain smaller neighborhood parks. Encourage youth participation through community service projects
Near West	3.2 Clean-Up public parks and corridors	3.2.3 Identify and develop resources to improve park landscaping, and provide playground equipment
Near West	6.1 Support broad community use of the Community for Life Wellness Center at GWCS for personal health	6.1.2 Continue to conduct healthy life style events at schools and other community events to increase awareness
Near West	2.1 Engage 50 more residents across all 5 neighborhoods in networking and communication to improve public safety	2.1.5 Increase the number of drug prevention classes and gang prevention for youth in all five neighborhoods
West Indianapolis	4.2 Provide a high quality, high amenity public environment	4.2.3 Design and construct/install attractive gateways into the neighborhood initially promoting Kentucky Avenue at Morris per the Morris Street Bridge
West Indianapolis	4.2 Provide a high quality, high amenity public environment	4.2.4 Identify where and how to provide greenway connections to new Washington-to-Raymond corridor
West Indianapolis	4.2 Provide a high quality, high amenity public environment	4.2.9 Promote and celebrate tree planting in Rhodius Park
West Indianapolis	2.1 Continue incorporating community engagement into daily work and project planning	2.1.1 Continue planning annual Community Day event
West Indianapolis	2.1 Continue incorporating community engagement into daily work and project planning	2.1.2 Prepare strategy for bringing intergenerational focus to senior activities (potentially using study circles as a tool for generating ideas)
West Indianapolis	1.4 Maximize school effectiveness and youth involvement/development opportunities	1.4.7 Continue providing youth and young adult programming (including before- and after-school, summer youth employment, youth employment services, day camp, and GED)
West Indianapolis	1.4 Maximize school effectiveness and youth involvement/development opportunities	1.4.4 Develop inter-agency community-wide plan for youth programming

SOUTHEAST

Making Pleasant Run A Truly Pleasant Place

You can't buy a stream. But through years of neglect, people have nearly thrown away Pleasant Run. This plan is about clearing and preserving this valuable natural resource and the green space that surrounds it.

THE PROJECT:

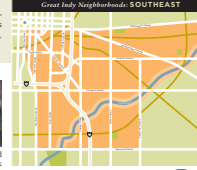
After years of neglect, Pleasant Run Parkway and the stream that flows through it are returning as points of pride for the Southeast neighborhood. Neighborhood volunteers will continue to come together for cleanups to remove trash and debris from the creek bed, while the neighborhood will work with various organizations to restore the stream bank by removing invasive plants and replacing them with native species. Meanwhile, Southeast Neighborhood Development will engage neighborhood residents with an education program on the causes and effects of Pleasant Run's pollution, signage around the creek bank, and distribution of pamphlets and brochures designed to help ensure the cleanup efforts have a long-term impact. The result will be improved water quality and a safer environment.

BENEFITS:

Pleasant Run has suffered from years of neglect. A clean and safe Pleasant Run Parkway would provide residents an inviting and attractive area to enjoy - while having a positive impact on the environment and instilling pride in the Southeast neighborhood. In addition, with its proximity to local schools, a clean creek can potentially provide outdoor learning opportunities for students.

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:

SEND's mission is to revitalize the Southeast side of Indianapolis. Since 1991, SEND has invested more than \$35 million in development projects - while improving housing, attracting businesses, fostering education, and sponsoring unique events.



LOCATION:

Pleasant Run Parkway and Creek

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY:

- \$100,000 - \$200,000 per acre for 20 acres of creek bank restoration
- \$15,000 for educational components

OVERALL PROJECT VALUE: \$175,000

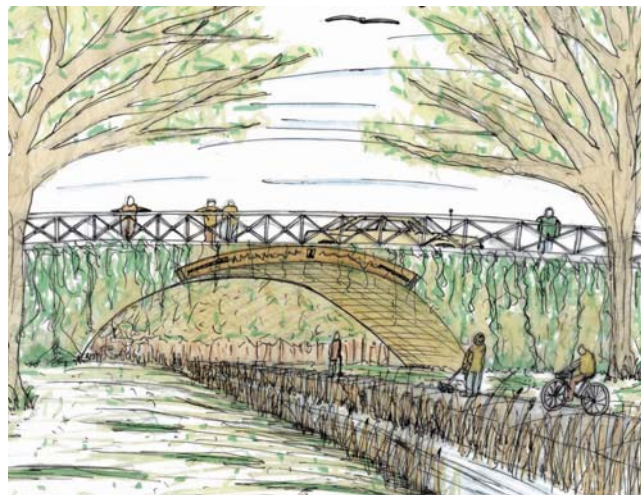
TIMELINE: Ongoing project

PARTNERS:

Southeast Neighborhood Development (lead), Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Indy Parks



For more information, contact
MARK STEWART (317) 634-5079
mark@send-inc.org



Public Participation

NEIGHBORHOOD	PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE
Near East	5. Expand arts and cultural programming.	5.3 Add at least one piece of public art to each neighborhood and city park, encouraging the use of works by Near Eastside area artists.
Near East	3. Develop and maintain community greenspaces and implement green practices.	3.1 Develop and implement Indy Parks master plan for Pogue's Run corridor parks. Contract with Project for Public Spaces for planning assistance.
Near East	3. Develop and maintain community greenspaces and implement green practices.	3.2 Work with Indy Parks and neighborhoods to ensure that public and community greenspaces are properly maintained.
Near East	3. Develop and maintain community greenspaces and implement green practices.	3.3 Develop pocket parks, community gardens, and playgrounds to provide access to a community greenspace within convenient walking distance of every Near Eastside home.
Near East	3. Develop and maintain community greenspaces and implement green practices.	3.5 Encourage residential greenscaping through wildlife habitat designations, plant exchanges, and encouraging homeowner pride in lawn care.
Near East	3. Develop and maintain community greenspaces and implement green practices.	3.6 Work with KIB's NeighborWoods initiative to increase tree canopy in non-park spaces.
Near East	1. Continued development of East 10th Street Corridor.	1.4 Connect Indy Cultural Trail with Near Eastside via 10th & Monon gateway. Explore development of, and connection with, a Near Eastside Systems Trail.
Near East	4. Continue to enhance all major corridors throughout the Near Eastside.	4.2 Develop New York and Michigan Street into walkable, neighborhood-friendly corridors.
Near East	3. Improve quality cultural and educational experiences for adults in the neighborhood.	3.7 Develop and maintain a community training calendar including parenting, arts/culture, language classes, etc. available in the neighborhood.
Near East	3. Develop and maintain community greenspaces and implement green practices.	3.7 Support green practices by becoming an implementation neighborhood for Indy GreenPrint.
Near East	4. Preserve historic character of neighborhoods.	4.2 Preserve and restore significant public buildings including, but not limited to, Rivoli Theater, School 97, Spades Park Library, Washington Street Library, and Brookside Family Center & Gardens.
Near East	4. Preserve historic character of neighborhoods.	4.3 Secure Historic Landmarks designation for entire Kessler Park and Boulevard system.
Near East	1. Encourage grass-roots model of community development to best utilize local resources.	1.6 Develop training opportunities on house how-to instructions: gardening, maintenance, basic repair programs, etc.
Near East	2. Improve neighborhood connectivity.	2.1 Convert Michigan and New York Streets to two-way. Plan and develop an identity for the Michigan and New York Street corridors, including bike lanes, tree plantings, traffic calming, streetscape development, and an asset inventory.
Near East	2. Improve neighborhood connectivity.	2.3 Complete Pogue's Run Trail and explore trail along Sherman to connect Pogue's Run, Pleasant Run, and Monon trails.
Near East	3. Increase interactions and communications between area families and community resources.	3.2 Promote increased awareness of community resources available to families.
Near East	6. Expand and enhance youth programs.	6.3 Develop Near Eastside Athletic Association as umbrella for youth sports on the Near Eastside.
Near East	4. Foster intergenerational community strategies for youth and seniors.	4.3 Develop a neighborhood history project for youth to capture near eastside historic stories from interviews with seniors.
Near East	2. Enhance the role of schools, churches and community centers as the center of community life.	2.1 Identify, publicize and support neighborhood institutions providing daycare and youth programming.

NEIGHBORHOOD	PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE
Southeast	Goal 2.6: Continue coordination and promotion of neighborhood beautification	2.6.3 Work with neighborhood groups to expand Operation My Town program through KIBI
Southeast	Goal 2.6: Continue coordination and promotion of neighborhood beautification	2.6.7 Promote, market, and facilitate continued neighborhood clean-ups
Southeast	Goal 2.6: Continue coordination and promotion of neighborhood beautification	2.6.2 Determine feasibility of a recycling center in the Southeast neighborhood
Southeast	Goal 2.6: Continue coordination and promotion of neighborhood beautification	2.6.4 Engage residents and merchants to develop and maintain the Fountain Square commercial corridor
Southeast	Goal 2.6: Continue coordination and promotion of neighborhood beautification	2.6.5 Work with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful to intensify tree planting program in neighborhood hot-spots
Southeast	Goal 2.6: Continue coordination and promotion of neighborhood beautification	2.6.6 Advocate for the 96-gallon trash can system for all Southeast neighborhoods
Southeast	Goal 2.5: Public spaces are managed, maintained, and a master plan exists to monitor their progress	2.5.2 Identify and map sites or areas in current planning stages (ex. Cultural Trail)
Southeast	Goal 2.5: Public spaces are managed, maintained, and a master plan exists to monitor their progress	2.5.3 Work with neighborhood groups to identify desired infrastructure improvements
Southeast	Goal 2.5: Public spaces are managed, maintained, and a master plan exists to monitor their progress	2.5.5 Continue working with neighborhood groups to advocate for capital improvements and infrastructure repair
Southeast	Goal 2.5: Public spaces are managed, maintained, and a master plan exists to monitor their progress	2.5.1 Create map of Southeast side with existing public spaces, parks, greenways, and pedestrian access
Southeast	Goal 2.5: Public spaces are managed, maintained, and a master plan exists to monitor their progress	2.5.4 Use Master Plan research to focus and prioritize neighborhood needs and communicate them to DPW, DMD, and the Mayor's Office
Southeast	Goal 2.6: Continue coordination and promotion of neighborhood beautification	2.6.1 Create asset map that identifies engaged community groups and incorporate them into the SE public space master plan
Southeast	Goal 2.3: Develop and manage a system to maintain SEND-sponsored public space improvements	2.3.2 Assign responsibilities to partners
Southeast	Goal 2.3: Develop and manage a system to maintain SEND-sponsored public space improvements	2.3.1 Identify public spaces that need to be maintained and potential partners
Southeast	Goal 2.3: Develop and manage a system to maintain SEND-sponsored public space improvements	2.3.3 Determine sources of funding for maintenance
Southeast	Goal 2.3: Develop and manage a system to maintain SEND-sponsored public space improvements	2.3.4 Establish regular inspection process to ensure accountability

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Regional Center Plan-2020

The Regional Center Plan is updated every 10 years and consists of recommendations that are designed to enhance life on Indianapolis's Downtown area while acting as a guide for future growth and development.

Parks and Recreation issues were addressed in the Regional Center Plan process by the Place making Downtown Committee. This committee met monthly from December 2002 to June 2003. Four Priorities and Initiatives were identified and are listed below. In addition, four goals related to Parks and Open Space were formulated and are also included below.

The Place making Committee focused much of its time on considering issues where improvements need to be implemented. The underlying assumption is that Indianapolis has a strong historic base and a clearly identifiable center. The location of Indianapolis regionally and the lack of other urban competitors places the Regional Center in the position of being accepted as the center of the state and city. The following themes represent initiatives which are important to Place making and embrace more than one objective.

Priorities & Initiatives

- **Preserve and Enhance Existing Assets:** The existing historic resources, neighborhoods, parks, universities, government centers, convention facilities and entertainment facilities provide a strong framework for planning. Preserving, maintaining and supporting what the Regional Center has is inherent in the Committee's deliberations.
- **Design** The quality of design is very important and urban design guidelines should be developed to guide development. A design center to provide information, educational opportunities, research, support and advocacy for quality should be established.
- **Cultural Trail** The accessibility and connection of Regional Center assets is important to way finding, sense of place and development. The proposed Cultural Trail will link cultural districts, greenways, neighborhoods and arts venues while serving to connect core retail to neighborhoods, neighborhoods to the University and be a strong

destination in and of itself.

- **Environmental Responsibility** All development should be environmentally sensitive. Improving air quality, water quality and energy conservation are important to the future. Opportunities to use plant materials and passive energy strategies are also recommended.

Goal 21 Linkages

Connect neighborhoods, institutions, cultural amenities, cultural districts and business districts to the Downtown core by improving way finding and developing mass transportation, greenways, pedestrian ways, bikeways and rest areas. Routes should be safe, accessible, aesthetically pleasing and promote a more sustainable environment.

Goal 22 Parks and Open Space

Maintain and enhance parks, open space and waterways that provide for the needs of area residents, workers and visitors and positively contributes to the overall image of the city. Needs of residents could be met by this goal if further investigation of park and programmable open space is done in regional center and new parks are developed. Examples of sites needing investigation are former Market Square Area and Canal Park opportunities. (See Identified Needs and Implementation & Action Plan sections for more discussion on Regional Center)



Broad Ripple Dog Park

Goal 23 Historic Preservation

Protect, restore and preserve the historic built environment including art, parks, infrastructure, urban archaeology and the original “Mile Square Plan” of Alexander Ralston.

Goal 24 Ecology and Sustainability

Develop projects that embody sustainability by conserving energy, protecting nonrenewable resources, improving air and water quality and protecting the natural environment.

Marion County Comprehensive Land-Use Plans

Indianapolis Insight: The Comprehensive Land-Use Plan for Marion County, Indiana was adopted in 2002. Subsequent Township Plans were adopted between the years 2005 and 2006. Before embarking on this effort, a series of meetings was held to develop a Community Values Component, which included guideline for the land use mapping sessions. This Community Values document had the participation of over 700 residents, as well as various steering and issues committees.

The following list is an excerpt from the list of community recommendations for the development of Marion County’s Land Use Maps.

The following recommendations were intended to guide land use recommendations throughout the writing of the plan.

- Encourage property owners to preserve their land in its natural state for its beauty and to provide a habitat for wildlife.
- Assemble and preserve lands and corridors for regional scale parks, open space, recreation needs and natural areas.
- Promote the reuse of brownfields as open space and greenspace.
- Provide linkages for parks and recreation areas in the region using trails, greenways, pathways and bike routes. These linkages should serve both recreational needs and as transportation alternatives.
- Strongly discourage use of parkland for non-park purposes; any taking of parkland should be at market value, as a direct purchase, lease arrangement or trade for similar land in the vicinity.
- Promote use of the cluster option available in the

Dwelling District Zoning Ordinance as a valuable tool for preservation of woodlands.

- Encourage brownfield redevelopment through the development and implementation of financial incentives to address barriers to redevelopment.
- Closely coordinate future land use planning with transportation systems plans. Preserve existing rail rights-of-way and identify those that should be reserved for future mass transit use. Preserve rights-of-way for future regional public transportation.
- Continue to redevelop blighted and deteriorating areas proactively and in partnerships among the City, local non-profit developers, neighborhood associations, community centers and for-profit developers.

The mapping standards listed below were used to guide the public and staff in the land use designation, to assure consistency throughout Marion County.

- Recommend land uses in wellfields that are less polluting uses such as parks, open space, residential, and office.
- Identify natural features that provide for clean water benefits, i.e. wetlands (natural and constructed), forested tracts, ravines, and feeder streams or headwater areas.
- Propose land uses that are likely to have the least impact on increasing flooding and are likely to be the least impacted by flooding within the floodplains.
- Depict native forest fragments, riparian corridors, stands of native trees, wooded wetlands and important urban and pioneer woodlands as Environmentally Sensitive Areas.
- Use a parks-to-population standard of 17.3 acres of parkland for every 1000 persons of actual or projected population.
- Provide a park within 1 mile of each residential development.
- Use the updated Indianapolis Greenways Plan as the basis for the Linear Park designations.
- Provide greenways links through jurisdictional borders.
- Develop stream valleys and transportation corridors for multiple use (utility, recreation) purposes.

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The development methods section was intended to improve methods for putting together physical attributes of the City.

- Encourage development practices that protect existing natural features/assets, promote innovative land use designs and focus on sustainable natural systems.
- Develop programs to identify and work to conserve street trees and notable specimen trees.
- Encourage more interconnections of communities in the region with bicycle trails, pedestrian sidewalks and pathways.
- Provide sidewalk, multipurpose paths and other pedestrian mobility infrastructure to improve access to all public transportation.
- Retrofit existing neighborhoods with sidewalks or multipurpose paths where appropriate and wanted.
- Provide sidewalks or multi-purpose paths on arterial streets that currently do not have sidewalks as part of significant roadway projects (widening, full depth resurfacing).
- Increase development of multipurpose paths as part of roadway projects.
- Use utility rights-of-way for multi-modal paths.
- Foster public life throughout the city by incorporating a variety of open spaces and community gardens into neighborhoods. These areas can function as “public living rooms” for informal gathering and recreation.
- Capitalize on opportunities for promoting community identity through the design of street space. Preserving, or encouraging among other things: street furnishings that reflect the ethnic heritage or architectural character of the surrounding neighborhood; artworks and markers commemorating important events or individuals; details that can reinforce community identity and authenticity such as light standards, street name markers, stone curbing or cobblestone paving or types of street trees; space for landscaping projects, etc.

The supporting issues recommendations do not have an impact on the land use of Marion County, but do impact the quality of our lives, and were thus included in the plan.

- Develop a reliable funding mechanism for the acquisition of land for parks and greenways.

- Use parkways, greenways, open space areas and other community assets as economic development tools to attract new businesses and residents.
- Promote partnerships among cultural heritage agencies, City government, and community organizations to develop a program and marketing strategy to celebrate Indianapolis’s cultural diversity.
- Work in partnership with artists, arts organizations, ethnic, cultural, musical, community associations, and educational institutions to foster opportunities for life-long cultural exploration for all citizens.
- Encourage informal opportunities for learning about and enjoying arts and culture through performances and events in non-traditional settings and the integration of arts and culture into the everyday workings of public and private entities.
- Use public spaces for arts and cultural activities and events.
- Facilitate volunteer public arts projects, such as community murals, by identifying locations where art is desirable, can be accommodated safely, and will be enjoyed by many people.
- Involve youth in the design and implementation of public art projects.
- Include libraries, cultural institutions, parks and recreation and education providers in redevelopment planning.

The final list of recommendations from the plan addressed possible changes in ordinances or procedures to improve the work of the Department of Metropolitan Development.

- Amend the cluster option in the Dwelling District Zoning Ordinance to allow transfer of preserved open space to the Department of Parks and Recreation at the approval of the Department as it meets their mission.
- Amend the Zoning Ordinances to require preservation of existing dense vegetative cover or the planting of dense vegetative cover along stream and tributary banks for the purposes of erosion control, contaminant capture, water cooling (important for retaining oxygen levels) and habitat preservation.
- Develop a county-wide tree conservation ordinance for all lands that limits site clearing, and uses a tiered approach based on forest types.

2002 Greenways Plan

The Greenways Plan, a subset to the Parks Comprehensive Plan, designated 16 corridors for management by Indy Parks. Some of these corridors contain paved greenway trails, some are planned for trails in the future, and others are designated for natural conservation. Many of the properties are owned by Indy Parks or the City of Indianapolis, while others are privately held. In the case of private properties, Indy Parks simply advocates and advises on issues of conservation. The 16 corridors are:

White River	Buck Creek
Mud Creek	White Lick Creek
Fall Creek	B & O Rail Corridor
Indian Creek	Eagle Creek
Pogues Run	Crooked Creek
Pleasant Run	Central Canal Towpath
Grassy Creek	Monon Rail Corridor
Little Buck Creek	Pennsy Corridor

Each corridor was subjected to public review and comment in public workshops and general support was found for the concept of developing these greenways in Indianapolis. A specific set of implementation actions was developed which included formation of a Greenways Commission, creation of a Greenways Division within Indy Parks, commitment to City financial support of greenways for development and maintenance, and a future plan for development of the greenway corridors.

The 2002 Greenways Plan has been used in this comprehensive planning process as a source of valuable information and actions appropriate for Indy Parks to consider. Specific actions are found in the Action Plan.

A subsequent update to the Greenways Master Plan should be completed in early 2010.

Neighborhood Plan Summaries

The Department of Metropolitan Development, Division of Planning has, as part of its mission, the responsibility of developing neighborhood and community plans. These plans cover a broad

range of land use, infrastructure and development issues. Parks are often a part of these plans. The following list is a compilation from a review of the many neighborhood plans. The issues below are themes repeated in many neighborhoods.

- Need for additional leisure activities.
- Need general improvements at local park.
- Need more parks.
- Need linkages between public open spaces
- Need better supervision, security.
- Need better maintenance in parks.
- Need Recreation Center.

State-wide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan-2000-2004 (SCORP)

In preparation for compiling its SCORP document, the state conducted a Recreation Issues Survey. This survey was sent to a random sampling of Indiana's residents, environmental groups and state and local agency personnel. The top five issues identified are listed below.

1. A source of long term, consistent funding for outdoor recreation should be provided at the state and local level.
2. The state's current river recreation areas need to be protected.
3. Priority should be given to acquiring lands in urban areas for outdoor recreation.
4. New or additional partnerships should be developed between the private sector and local, state and federal agencies to develop and maintain outdoor recreation opportunities.
5. Economic impact data needs to be used in outdoor recreation planning.

Park Master Plans

The following list identifies those parks having master plans and the dates that they were approved. The planners recognized that the needs of each park may have changed since the plan approval. The planners also recognized the need to review and perhaps update existing master plans and to

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create master plans for all lands under the jurisdiction of Indy Parks.

- Carson Park (1981)
- Paul Ruster Park (1983)
- Northwestway Park (1983-revised-2001)
- Clermont Park (1983)
- Tarkington Park (1985)
- Haughville Park (1985)
- Eagle Creek Park (1985-revised-1997)
- Sahm Park (1986)
- George Washington Park (1986)
- Southeastway Park (1987)
- Southwestway Park (1987)
- Fall Creek Parkway/Woolens Garden/Skiles Test Nature Park (1988)
- South side Park (1988)
- Arsenal Park (1988)
- Garfield Park (1989)
- Ellenberger Park (1989-revised 2001)
- Christian Park (1990)
- Post Road Community Park (1990)
- Eagle Highlands Park (1991)
- Franklin/Edgewood Park (1991)
- Gustafson (1993)
- Tolin-Akeman (1994)
- Juan Solomon (1996)
- Raymond Park (1997)
- Rhodius Park (1997)
- Thatcher Park (1999)
- Bowman Park (2001)
- Clayton & LaSalle Park (2001)
- Highland Park (2001)
- Willard Park (2001)
- Basswood Park (2002)
- Windsor Village Park (2004)
- Emhardt Park (2005)
- Canterbury Park (2005)
- Taggart Memorial Renovation Plans (2005)
- Garfield Park Cultural Landscape Report (2005)
- Acton Park (2005)
- Riverwood Park (2005)
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Park (2005)
- Thompson Park (2005)
- Stamm Park (2005)
- Alice Carter Place (2006)
- Southeastway Park (2006)
- Acton Park (2007)
- Grassy Creek Regional Park (2008)
- Southwestway Park (2009)



Grassy Creek Regional Park Masterplan Meeting



Meeting with the kids at Lynwood Elementary for Seerley Creek Park.