



Indianapolis-Marion County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan 2009



"I long to ride a bike, dance, whistle, look at the world, feel young and know that I'm free."

-Anne Frank



Parks for Tomorrow

Dear Marion County Resident:

This is the Indianapolis Parks Department Open Space Plan. Based on hundreds of hours of public input and participation as well as in-depth research and analysis by park professionals, this plan presents a strong voice for planning over the next five years as we focus on our mission and vision. The conclusions and recommended action steps have been written to advance our mission and core services; ultimately helping achieve our goal of sustainable parks and recreational services.

On behalf of Mayor Ballard and the staff of Indy Parks, we thank all those who took time to participate in this open and inclusive public process. Your voice helps shape our vision for the future and is essential as we strive to be strong stewards of public lands.

The Implementation and Action Plan section of this document has been drafted to include actions that make Indy Parks a better agency. Below is a sampling of some of these actions steps:

- Work with Public Safety to increase police presence in parks and along greenways
- Inventory and align staff and resources to meet current needs, mission, vision, and values
- Increase frequency of on-site inspections and improve efficiencies for better turn-around times
- Increase new amenities & uses in our parks
- Pursue land acquisition in developed & developing areas and adjacent to parks
- Partner with DPW to connect bike lanes to existing and planned greenway corridors
- Identify safe and viable re-uses for RCA Dome material
- Pursue LEED certifications for new & existing facilities and accreditation for park staff

Several actions were carried over from the last Open Space Plan. These are activities that Indy Parks deems should be continued over the next five years:

- Work to preserve and enhance the integrity of George Kessler's Indianapolis Park and Boulevard System
- Plan and construct more trails within park properties for walking, jogging, roller blading.
- Strengthen our volunteer program to help provide needed additional staffing of facilities, program instructors, maintenance and stewardship assistance.

Countless dedicated staff and residents have contributed to this plan. Marion County is fortunate to have 206 beautiful parks and over 58 miles of greenways trails. Our unique trails, facilities, fields, parks, and aquatic centers all combine to celebrate the spirit of our community and promote the value of open green spaces. I know the passion of our parks is reflected in this plan.

We look forward to serving all our users as we strive to strengthen our system.

Best wishes,



Stuart Lowry
Director, Indy Parks

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Credits

The overwhelming participation from the community leaders, residents, businesses, and institutions has made this 2009 Indianapolis-Marion County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan possible. Indy Parks would like to thank everyone who participated in this public process. Indy Parks would like to especially thank:

Administration:

Mayor Gregory A. Ballard, City of Indianapolis
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Benjamin Hunter	21	Lincoln Plowman	25
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Brian Mahern	16	Kent B. Smith	AL
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Parks for Tomorrow

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