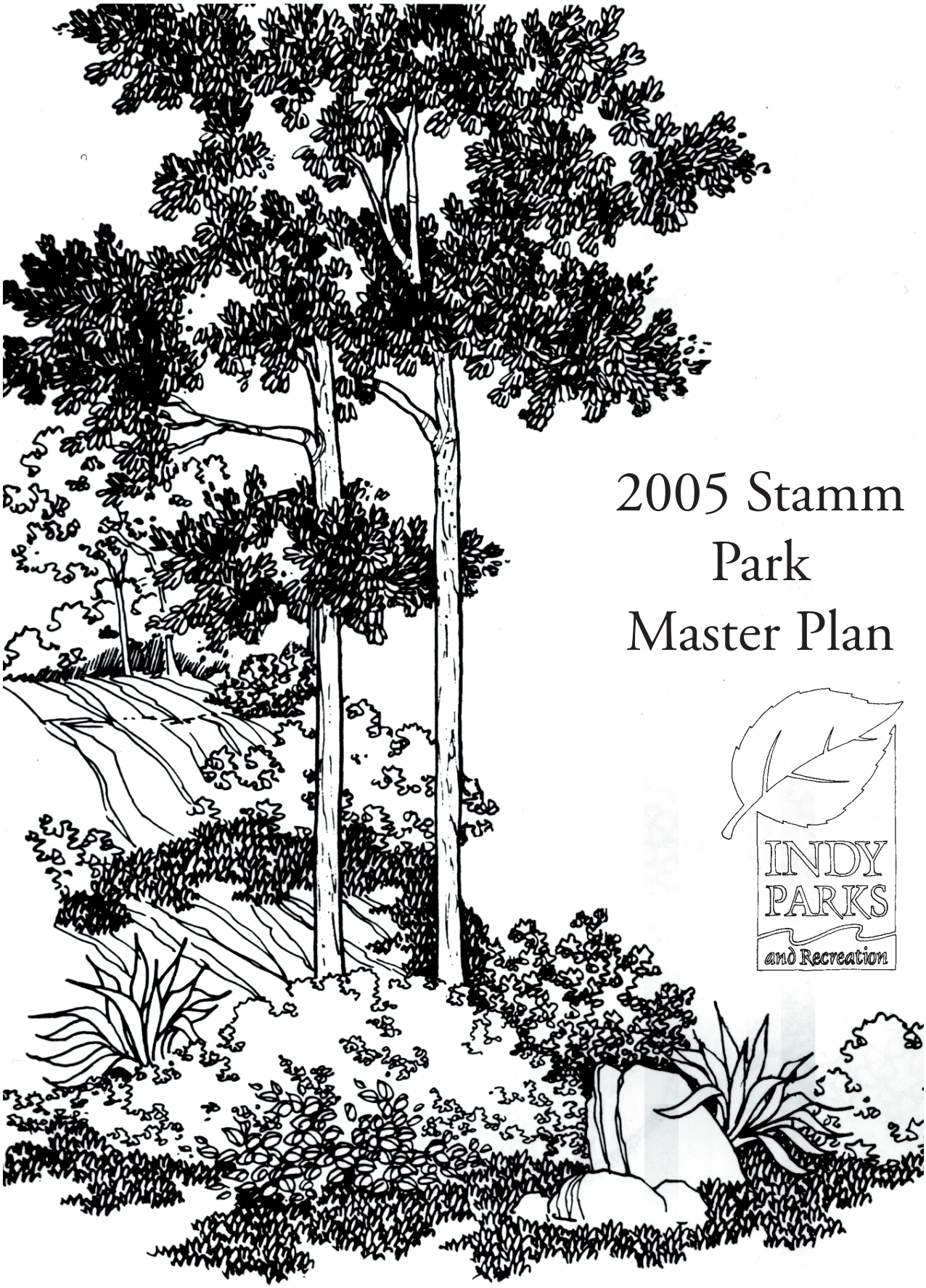

2005 Stamm Park Master Plan

INDY PARKS and Recreation

City of Indianapolis; Bart Peterson, Mayor

Administration:
Mayor Bart Peterson, City of Indianapolis
Jane Henegar, Deputy Mayor for Community Affairs

City-County Council and Districts:

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Dr. Philip Borst	23	Angela Mansfield	2
Greg Bowes	7	Lynn McWhirter	6
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Vernon Brown	18	William C. Oliver	10
Virginia J. Alig Cain	5	Marilyn Pfisterer	14
Bob Cockrum	22	Lincoln Plowman	25
Lonnell Conley	AL	Isaac Randolph, Jr.	1
N. Susie Day	20	Earl Salisbury	13
Sherron Franklin	12	Joanne Sanders	AL
Ron Gibson	AL	Scott Schneider	4
Monroe Gray, Jr.	8	Mike Speedy	24
Scott Keller	16	Steve Talley, President	11
Becky Langsford	21		

City-County Council Parks Committee:
Monroe Gray Jr., Chair
N. Susie Day
Dane Mahern
Earl Salisbury
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Ron Gibson
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Joseph Wynns, Chair
Ms. Emily G. Nichols
Mr. Richard J. Cockrum
Mr. Bill Stinson
Dr. Jacqueline S. Greenwood

Department of Parks and Recreation:
Joseph Wynns, Director

Project Coordination:
Donald A. Colvin Jr., Administrator, Resource Development
Michael Krosschell, Principal Park Planner
Benjamin Jackson, Senior Park Planner

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2005 Stamm Park Master Plan

INTRODUCTION

Stamm Park, acquired in 2004 and made up of 2.03 acres, serves the residents of Indianapolis' Ravenswood neighborhood. Located at 1616 E. 71st Street, it is made up of two 1 acre parcels, bisected by Kingsley Drive. Howland Ditch, which drains much of the Allisonville Neighborhood and Castleton area into White River, runs through the eastern half of the park.

According to the 2004 Indianapolis-Marion County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan; Natural Resource Areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space and visual aesthetics/buffering. Stamm Park was acquired for the purpose of securing open space and habitat in this area. The Howland Ditch channel is a major wildlife corridor and popular for birders.

HISTORY

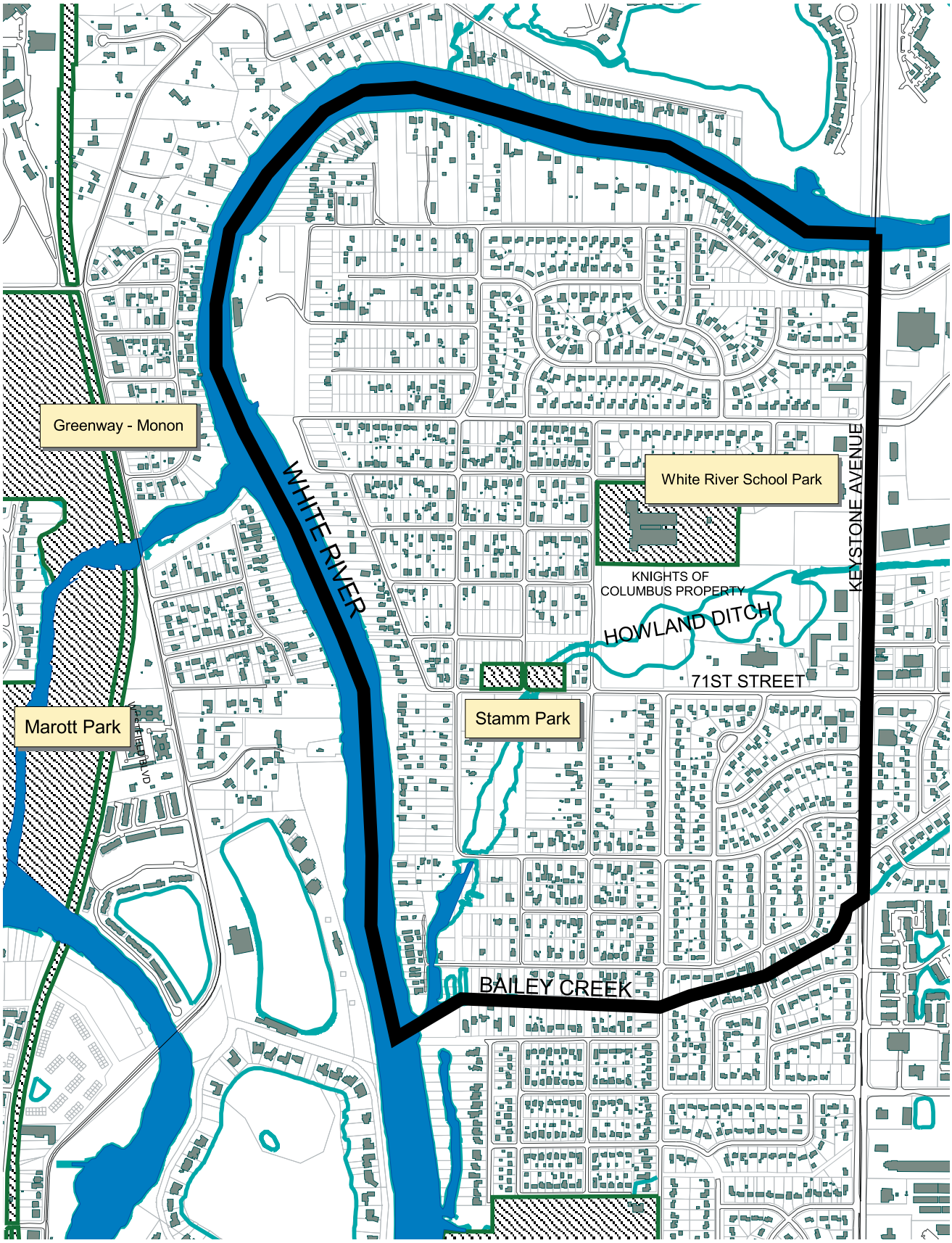
The 10 parcels that make up Stamm Park have been undeveloped open space at least as far back as 1937. From that time through the 1950's they were wooded land. In the 1990's, the western half of the park was filled and now sits 3-6 feet above the surrounding streets. Indy Parks acquired this western half first through a donation from the Shank Family. The eastern portion of the park was acquired from Marion County Treasurer later in 2004 through a tax sale.

In May of 2004, the property was named Stamm Park by the Board of Parks and Recreation. This name recognizes Helen Marie Stamm and her daughter, Susie Stamm, both active members of the community and longtime residents.

SERVICE AREA

Stamm park is one of two parks in the Ravenswood neighborhood. It should be considered as the complementing natural area to the active park at White River School. These parks serve the residents of the area bounded by Keystone Avenue, Bailey Creek and White River. There are approximately 800 homes in this area. Residents south of 71st Street may also be drawn to use Broad Ripple Park, 1/2 mile to the south.

Because of unique birding opportunities along Howland Creek, Stamm Park's users may actually be drawn from a much larger service area. For this reason, provision for vehicle parking should be considered.


Greenway - Monon
WHITE RIVER
White River School Park
KEYSTONE AVENUE
KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS PROPERTY
HOWLAND DITCH
71ST STREET
Marott Park
Stamm Park
BAILEY CREEK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The western parcel of Stamm Park is raised 3-6 feet above street grade. It's soil is clean fill, with little or no organic content. It was apparently stockpiled here after being left over from a nearby sewer project. The vegetation is successional volunteers, except for some successional tree growth in the southwest corner. There is a level area 10-20' wide along both adjoining streets.

Drainage flows overland to a beehive drain at the southeast corner or to a culvert pipe at the southwest corner. At times of heavy rain and flooding, Howland Ditch can rise to the level of 71st Street, causing these drainage structures to back up.

West Parcel facing Northwest

West Parcel along 71st Street

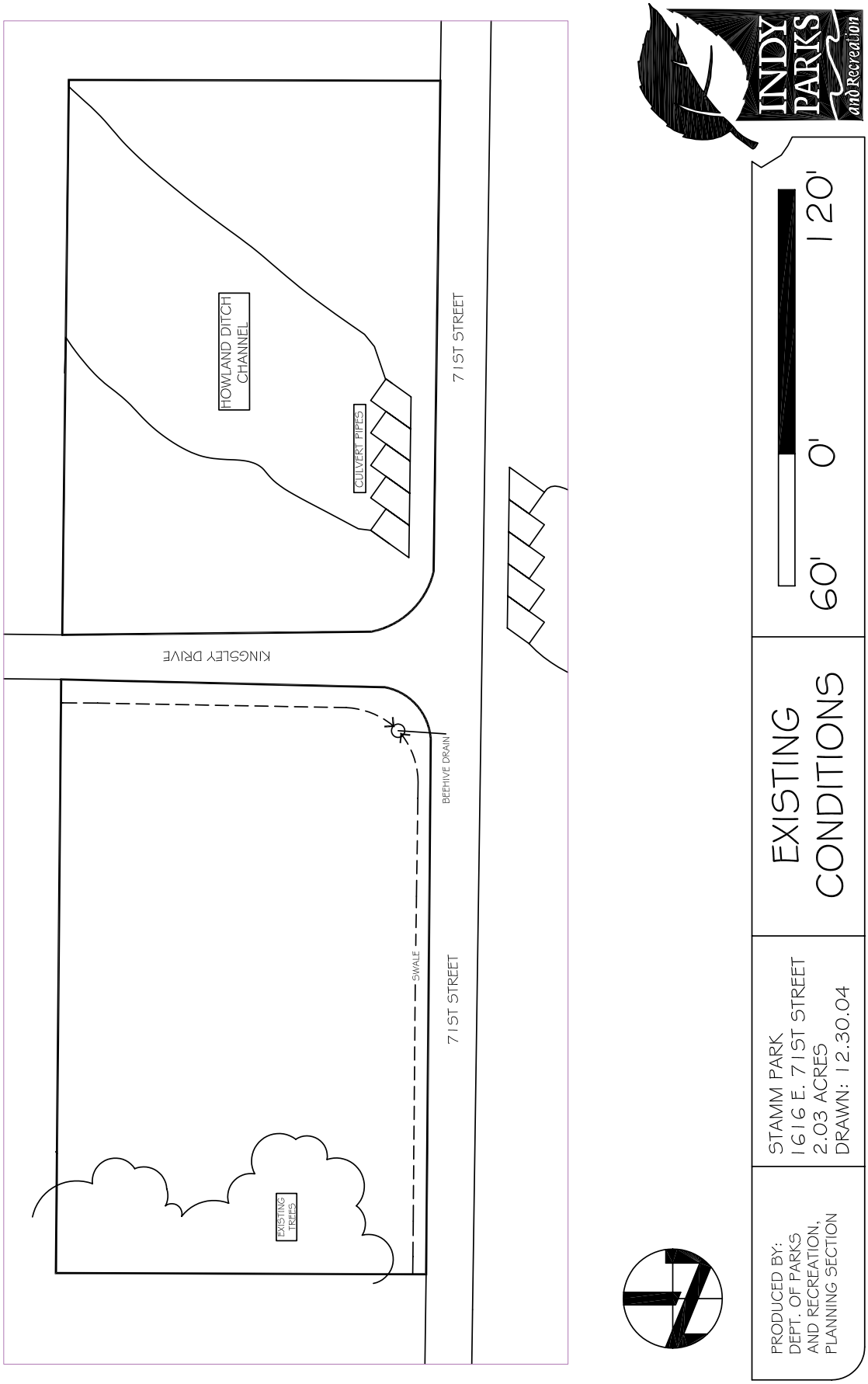
West Parcel facing West (fence is at northern boundary)

The eastern parcel of Stamm Park is divided in half by Howland Ditch. The ditch drains much of the Castleton shopping area to White River, roughly 1/2 mile south of the Park. The remaining dry land portions of the parcel, the northwest and southeast corners is volunteer successional growth. The margins of the stream are used by fishermen with some frequency.

East Parcel containing Howland Ditch

East Parcel facing East

East Parcel facing West


HOWLAND DITCH CHANNEL
CULVERT PIPES
71ST STREET
KINGSLEY DRIVE
BEEHIVE DRAIN
SWALE
71ST STREET
EXISTING TREES
INDY PARKS and Recreation
60'
0'
120'
EXISTING CONDITIONS
STAMM PARK
1616 E. 71ST STREET
2.03 ACRES
DRAWN: 12.30.04
PRODUCED BY:
DEPT. OF PARKS
AND RECREATION,
PLANNING SECTION

View of Stamm Park from the North

DEMOGRAPHICS

Stamm Park's service area is best described by Census Tract 3206.00. This tract includes the area described on Page 5 as the Park's Service Area. The population of this Tract is compared to Washington Township and Marion County statistics.

2000 Census Data		Tract	Washington Township	County	Tract	Washington Township	County
Race	Total	2,889	132,927	860,454	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
	One Race	2,851	130,701	846,335	98.68%	98.33%	98.36%
	Two Race	38	2,226	14,119	1.32%	1.67%	1.64%
	White	2,750	90,627	606,502	95.19%	68.18%	70.49%
	Black	40	35,840	207,964	1.38%	26.96%	24.17%
	Hispanic	51	4,183	33,290	1.77%	3.15%	3.87%
	Ai Alask	11	741	2,181	0.38%	0.56%	0.25%
	Asian	25	1,913	12,325	0.87%	1.44%	1.43%
	HawaPi	1	45	365	0.03%	0.03%	0.04%
Age	Total	2,889	132,927	860,454	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
	Under Age 5	170	7,873	63,640	7.17%	5.92%	7.40%
	Age 5-19	494	23,429	181,069	17.34%	17.63%	21.04%
	Age 20-59	1,796	78,519	490,785	59.58%	59.07%	57.04%
	Age 60-84	399	20,748	113,447	14.34%	15.61%	13.18%
	Age 85 and above	30	2,358	11,513	1.56%	1.77%	1.34%
Housing Units	Total	1,345	65,117	387,183	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
	Occupied	1,288	59,606	352,164	95.76%	91.54%	90.96%
	Vacant	57	5,511	35,019	4.24%	8.46%	9.04%
	Owner Occupied	1,052	33,721	208,957	81.68%	56.57%	59.34%
	Renter Occupied	236	25,885	143,207	18.32%	43.43%	40.66%
Gender	Total	2,889	132,927	860,454	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
	Males	1,469	63,138	415,998	50.85%	47.50%	48.35%
	Females	1,420	69,789	444,456	49.15%	52.50%	51.65%

Statistics of note are a much higher percentage of white residents, and a conversely lower percentage of black residents than the county averages. Age distributions within the resident population are similar to the Township and County figures. The percentages of Occupied Houses and Owner Occupied housing units are both much higher than the Township and County statistics.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The design of the neighborhoods and communities that make up Indianapolis wouldn't be successful without good communication. An integral part of the park master planning process is the public meetings held with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) staff, neighbors, neighborhood organization leaders and special interest groups. Without this critical external communication, Indy Parks would not be successful in serving park users.

In developing the Stamm Park Master Plan, Indy Parks conducted one focus group meeting and a follow-up meeting with the general public. The following is a summary of these meetings.

On September 13, 2004, Indy Parks staff met with several neighborhood leaders and park neighbors to discuss a planning process for Stamm Park. Neighbors had prepared a draft plan of the park, with suggestions as to its layout and design. This plan was discussed and critiqued. It included walking trails, plantings, a community garden, parking and benches.

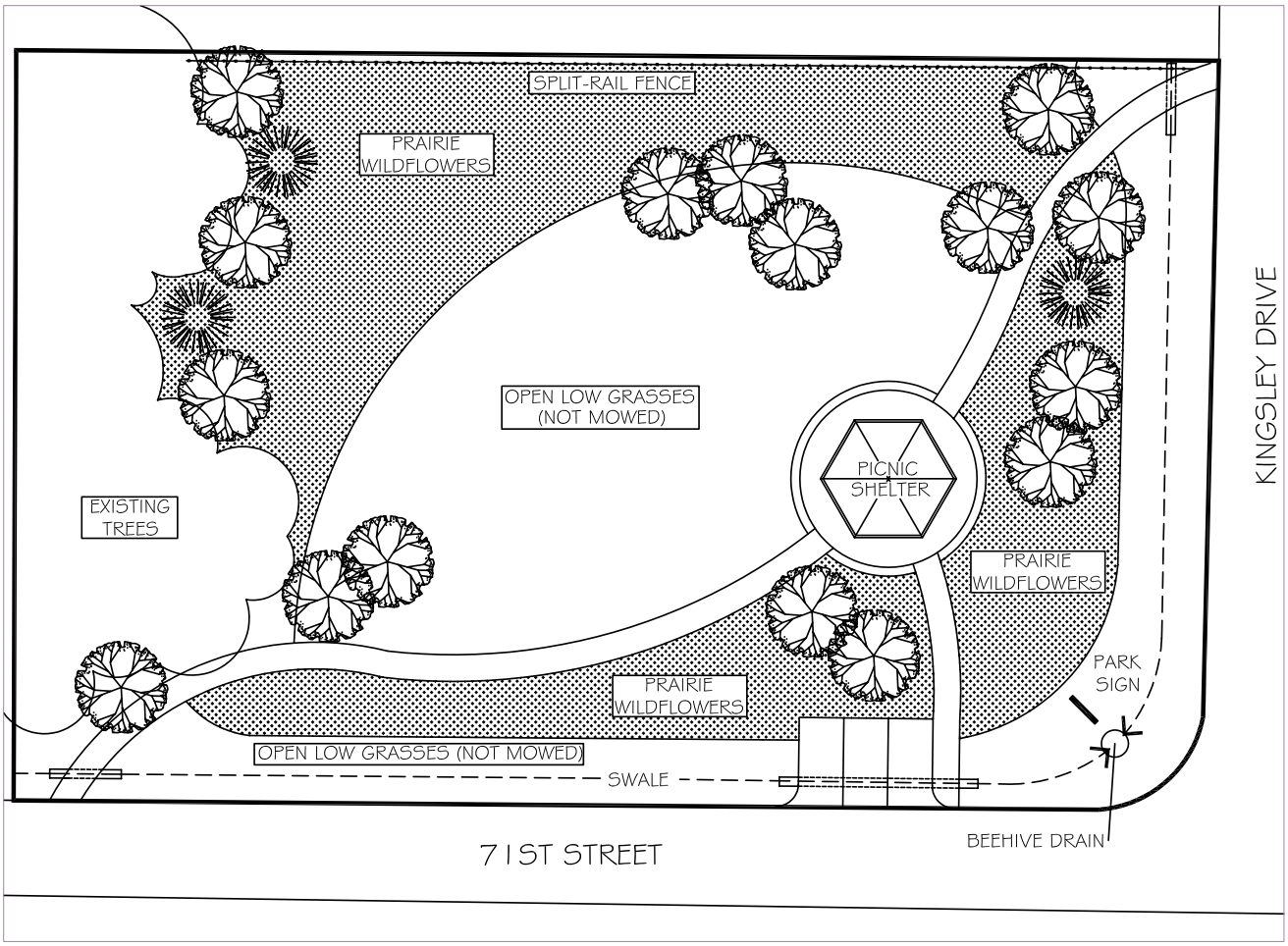
It was agreed that any plantings installed should be native to Indiana. It was also agreed that a community vegetable garden was better sited in a larger park, with staff oversight and water available. Indy Parks planning staff scheduled to return at a neighborhood meeting with a revised plan for presentation and discussion.

On October 4, 2004 Indy Parks staff presented at the regular Ravenswood White River Neighborhood Association meeting. Principal Planner Michael Krosschell presented a draft Master Plan to the approximately thirty five attendees. The following is a list of discussion points raised:

- Parking is better located off 71st Street.
- The picnic shelter should be small and highly visible.
- The park should be signed as soon as possible, including rules prohibiting off-road vehicles.
- The park should not be lighted.
- The north boundary of the western parcel should be defined with a split-rail fence.
- Paths should not be built in the eastern parcel of the park.
- A point of clarification was made between an Indy Parks' Nature Park and a Nature Preserve. Indy Parks intends to manage this park by restoring native vegetation on this highly disturbed site. The moniker Nature Preserve in not appropriate because of this past disturbance. The needed reclamation of Stamm Park will require that the site be disturbed once again, for the purpose of shaping the land and replanting of native vegetation. Public access is a part of Indy Parks mission and shall be provided to the site.

Given the positive response from the public meeting and agreement on a revised park concept, it was decided by those in attendance that no additional meetings were necessary. It was agreed that the plan would be taken to its final form by DPR staff to expedite the next steps of Board of Parks and Recreation and Metropolitan Development Commission approval.

2005 Stamm Park Master Plan

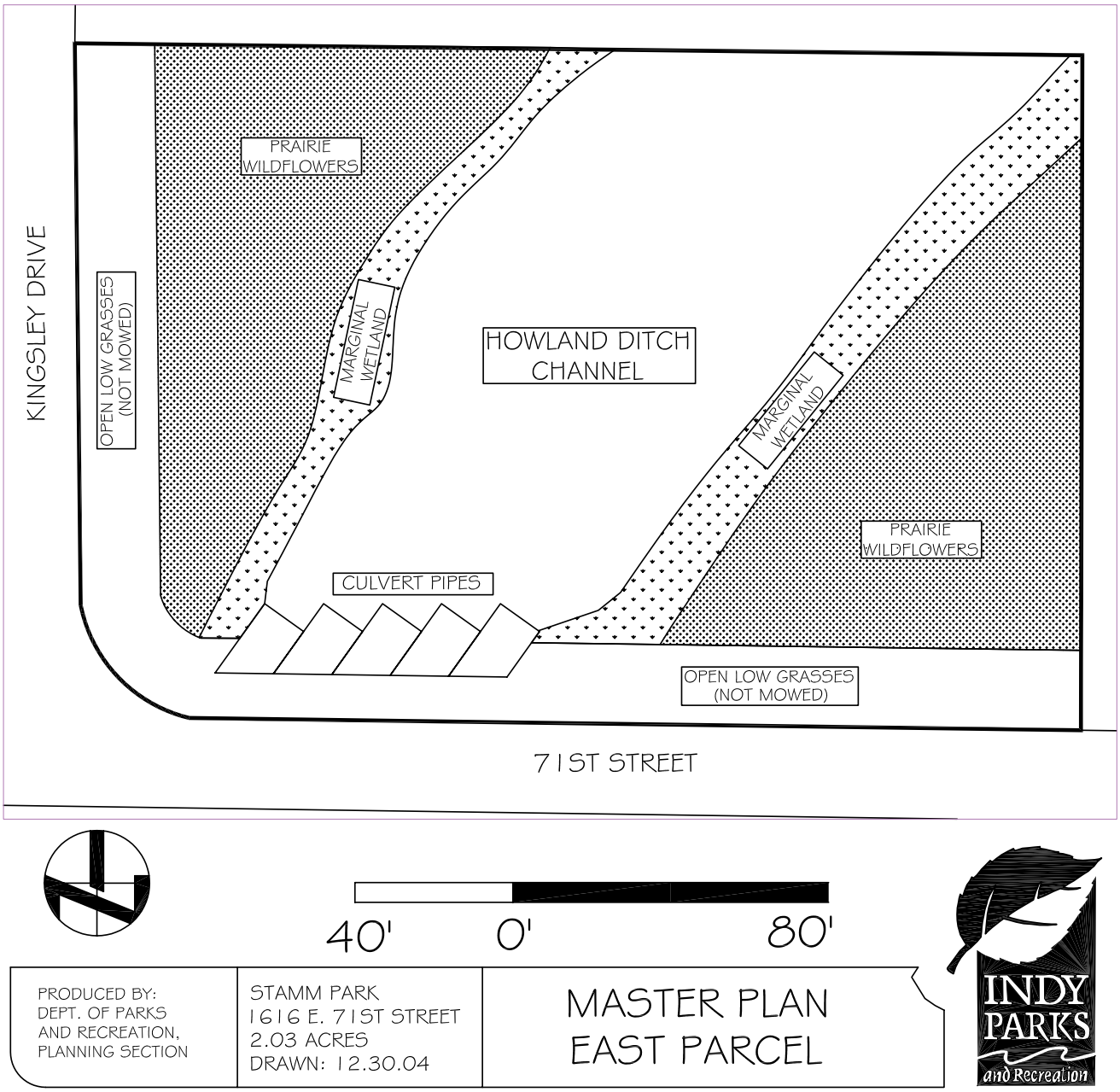


PRODUCED BY: DEPT. OF PARKS AND RECREATION, PLANNING SECTION	STAMM PARK 1616 E. 71ST STREET 2.03 ACRES DRAWN: 12.30.04	MASTER PLAN WEST PARCEL

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Situated in the midst of a residential area, Stamm Park has the opportunity to provide a natural recreational outlet. Passive recreational features such as a picnic shelter and walking paths will allow the public to experience the natural beauty of this park and its wildlife.

The following list of park amenities have been developed from public input and staff experience, recommendations and expertise.



FENCING AND SIGNAGE

Stamm Park should be identified as an Indy Parks property by a standard sign, 2' by 4' located as shown on the plan. This will help neighbors to differentiate this parcel from other vacant parcels in the neighborhood, hopefully raising the level of respect shown to it. To address the problem of all terrain vehicle use, a fence should be constructed on the northern edge of the west parcel. This in combination with Indy Parks rules signage should bring this use to an end.

NATURALIZED PLANTINGS

Stamm Park as it exists today is a collection of successional volunteer plant species, some native and some not, some desirable and some not. This plan calls for the regrading of the site to more sustainable and accessible slopes, and the revegetation of the park with desirable, native species. The park will be planted with the three different plant communities described below. Scattered within these zones, native deciduous and evergreen tree species should be planted to provide habitat, food sources and protection for wildlife.

Along the park's street frontage and in a large part of its interior, a low grass planting should be seeded. This will provide a more a more formal presentation to passersby, while providing a more varied habitat than mown turfgrass. This should be a seed mix that will reach a height of no more than 12 inches, and only need to be mowed once or twice a year.

Within the interior of both parcels, a native prairie planting should be seeded. This should be a species mix that will include grasses and wildflowers, to provide year-round interest. Maintenance for these areas should only require mowing once a year.

The third planting zone is along the margins of Howland Ditch. These areas, wet and frequently inundated should receive marginal wetland plants and trees to begin to restore natural conditions, thereby improving water quality.

PARK BENCHES

Benches, one or two at the most, could be located at strategic locations along the trail, where there are notable natural features or pleasant views.

PARKING LOT

For both safety and accessibility reasons, several parking spaces should be provided at the park. These have been located off of 71st Street, in a flat area with good visibility for oncoming traffic. These spaces could be paved with gravel. They should have a direct connection to the park's interior paths to maintain universal accessibility. These spaces will also accommodate birders, known to visit the park from greater distances.

PICNIC SHELTER

A small shelter would be a great asset for the park. This would allow all-weather enjoyment of the space, as well as increased programming opportunities. This structure should be small and on a concrete surface, with only a couple of tables. It could be enclosed by a small, stone seatwall or row of benches.

WALKING PATHS

To allow pedestrians access into and through the park, a small network of crushed stone paths should be constructed. With minor regrading of the site these can be made universally accessible with a pleasant curvilinear layout, converging on the picnic shelter.

ACTION PLAN

The action plan is written to serve as a guideline for improvements within the park. It is not meant as a strict schedule, but should help guide Indy Parks in developing its Capital Improvements Program. The timeline portion of the Action Plan is meant to help prioritize actions.

All in attendance at public meetings felt the first priority should be signing and fencing the park to inform residents that the property is now managed by Indy Parks, and that it is available for appropriate public use.

The first major improvement to the property must be the reshaping and grading of the land. This, coupled with the planting of appropriate vegetation, will make a significant difference in the quality of the natural habitat. Walking paths and a parking area should follow, allowing the public access into the interior of the property for passive recreational enjoyment.

For each element of this plan to be successful, it must first meet administrative approval within Indy Parks. It must also prove feasible in terms of site constraints and availability of funds. For this reason, the proposed timeline and estimated cost of each action plan element is subject to change.

#	IMPROVEMENT	ESTIMATED COST	1st-3rd Year	4th-8th Year
1	Signage and Fencing	$ 6,000	Completed	
2	Naturalized Plantings	$ 5,000		
3	Parking Lot	$ 2,000		
4	Walking Paths	$ 8,000		
5	Picnic Shelter	$ 16,000		
6	Park Benches	$ 1,000		

CONCLUSION

As the master planning process is completed, the community begins to look ahead to implementing specific park improvements spelled out in the plan. Indy Parks and Recreation is committed to bringing these plans into reality, and fortunately there is local and national funding available for our parks and open spaces. The opportunities listed in the Appendix are just a few examples of resources available for park development. It is important to remember to coordinate all requests to the groups listed on the following pages with Indy Parks Planning, Partnership & Grant staff members. Any parks question should be addressed to 327-PARK.

The processes undertaken to develop this master plan involved a variety of people with diverse interests and concerns. Their involvement in the process has helped to insure that the recreational needs of the neighborhood are satisfied.

This master plan should be frequently reviewed and periodically updated, so that Indy Parks can continue to be responsive to the community surrounding Stamm Park.

APPENDIX

Funding Opportunities Appendix II
Park Board Approval Appendix IV

MASTER PLAN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Park Advisory Councils - "Friends Of" groups

Park advisory councils represent one opportunity for participation by community members. These are volunteer citizens who come together to assist the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) with managing a park's development. The Northwestway Park Advisory Council has assisted DPR in recent years with input about a disc golf course, a playground and trail improvements. Advisory Councils who wish to fund raise to advance park improvements can utilize the Indianapolis Parks Foundation to administer these funds.

Some Advisory Councils have taken the step of registering as 501(c)(3), non-profit organizations, whose mission is to benefit the park. These "Friends Of" groups have been instrumental in raising awareness, funds and the standards for their parks. The Friends of Holliday Park has recently raised $3.8 million to construct the Holliday Park Nature Center. The Eagle Creek Park Foundation is in the midst of an ambitious $10 million program to improve Eagle Creek Park. The Friends of Garfield Park have raised more than $1 million to fund a maintenance endowment for the sunken gardens.

Granting Opportunities

DPR in 2000 assigned a staff person as Grants Coordinator for the Department. These duties include identifying, researching, applying for and administering grants for capitol improvements and programs in Indianapolis Parks. Recent grants have funded the Summer Lunch Program and improvements to Talbott & 29th Street Park. DPR is happy to assist community members who wish to apply for a grant to benefit a park. There are a great number of grants available to make parks better places to recreate. If you have a project you wish to seek a grant for, or know of a grant that could benefit a particular park, call 327-7050 and ask for information about grants.

Indianapolis Parks Foundation

The Indianapolis Park Foundation is a charitable organization that was created in 1991 to increase recreational opportunities in Indianapolis through contributions from our community. The Parks Foundation has been a vocal advocate for DPR and has provided more than $4 million in capital improvements, and nearly $1 million for parks programs. The Parks Foundation's vision is that parks in Indianapolis will be quality spaces for all citizens to enjoy and that adequate financial resources will be available to support park projects, programs, maintenance and capital needs. To fulfill this vision, the Indianapolis Parks Foundation is currently initiating an aggressive fund raising campaign to strengthen its support of DPR. More information can be found at www.indyparksfoundation.org.

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB) is a local non-profit organization that works to secure private donations for the benefit of local organizations, such as DPR. Founded in 1976 and renamed in 1997, KIB has been especially effective in establishing volunteer tree plantings in many Indianapolis Parks. KIB's organizational abilities have helped both private companies and neighborhood organizations to hold successful volunteer planting events, building a sense of ownership and unity with in a community. More information can be found at www.kibi.org

MASTER PLAN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The LWCF was established by Congress in 1965 to promote quality outdoor recreation opportunities in the United States. In the 30 years since its creation, LWCF has been responsible for the acquisition of nearly seven million acres of parkland and open space and the development of more than 37,000 parks and recreation projects. This grant must be applied for by a governmental agency, such as DPR and it requires a 50% percent funding match. Specific grant award levels vary by year. For more information visit www.ncrc.nps.gov/PROGRAMS/LWCF/index.html

UPARR Program

The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program was established in November 1978 by to provide matching grants and technical assistance to economically distressed urban communities. The purpose of the program is to provide direct Federal assistance to urban localities for rehabilitation of critically needed recreation facilities. The law also encourages systematic local planning and commitment to continuing operation and maintenance of recreation programs, sites, and facilities. DPR has recently completed improvements at Willard Park, assisted in part by a $500,000 UPARR grant, and is now implementing a grant for Martin Luther King Park pool renovations. More information can be found at www.nps.gov/pub_aff/uparr/grants/index.html.

General Resolution No. 16, 2005

Board of Parks and Recreation
Consolidated City of Indianapolis, Indiana

Be It Resolved That The Board Hereby Approves:

the adoption of the 2005 Master Plan for Alice Carter Place Park, 5700 North Meridian Street.

FURTHER, RESOLVED, that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation is hereby authorized to implement such master plan for and in behalf of the Department.

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONSOLIDATED CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

Jenny Descher-Rhoades
Assistant Corporation Counsel

Joseph Wynns

Sandra J. Young
Sandra J. Young, Secretary

Emily G. Nichols
Emily G. Nichols

April 28, 2005
Date

Richard J. Cockrum

William H. Stinson

Jacqueline S. Greenwood
4/25/05