

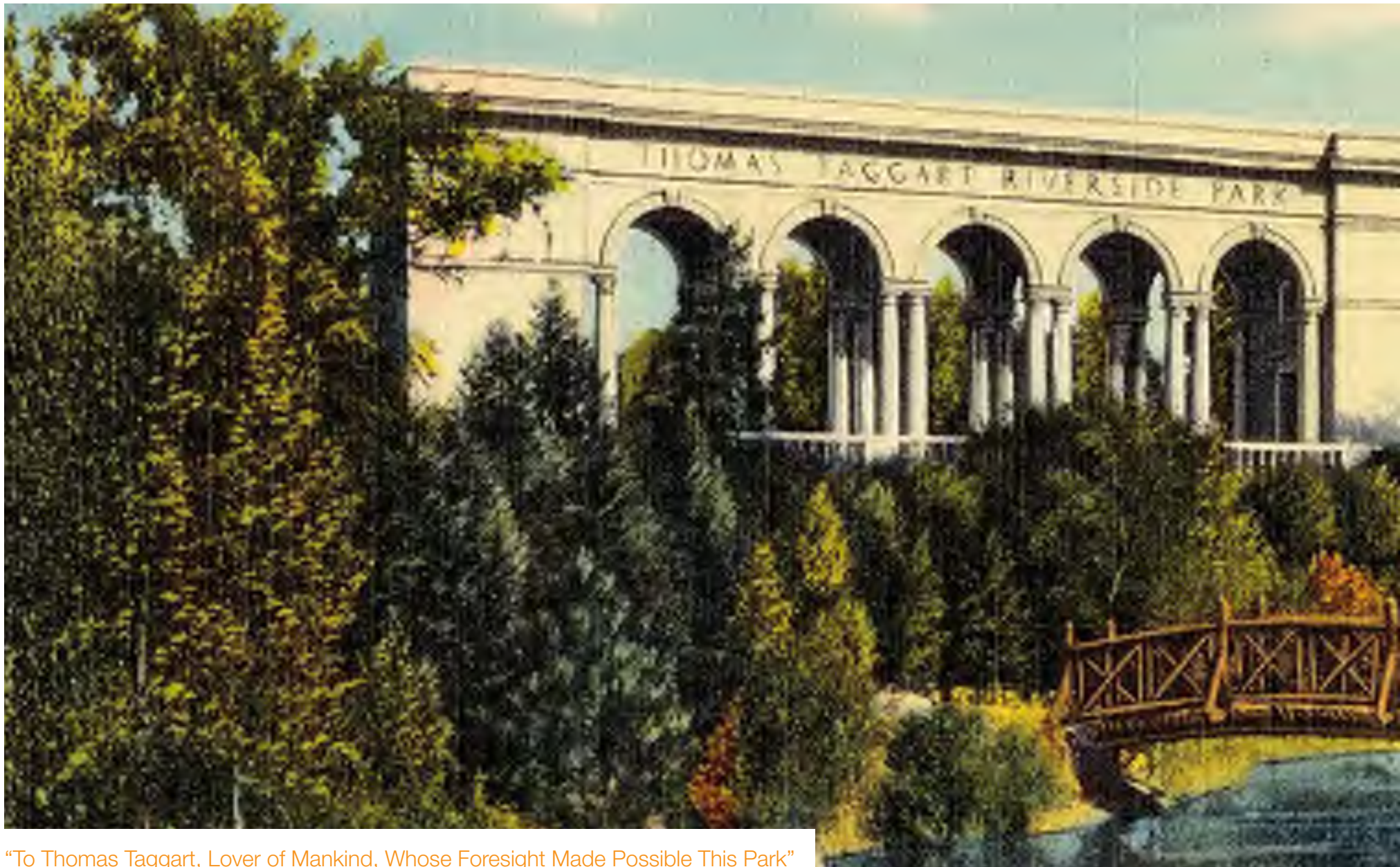


# RIVERSIDE REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN



Adopted by  
the Metropolitan  
Development  
Commission as  
an element of the  
Comprehensive Plan  
for Indianapolis  
and Marion County

December 6, 2017  
2017-CPS-R-004



"To Thomas Taggart, Lover of Mankind, Whose Foresight Made Possible This Park"



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# Executive Summary

This document summarizes a far-reaching planning process that has resulted in a visionary plan for Riverside Regional Park. Implemented as depicted, it will be one of the most ambitious and transformative projects ever undertaken by the City of Indianapolis. Implementation of the plan over the next 20-25 years will significantly enhance the quality of life for the neighborhoods surrounding the park, highlight Indianapolis as a city that understands the value of urban parks, and create a regional destination that will result in new investment and increased awareness of the value and rich cultural history of the community around the park.

## The Need for A Plan

At 862 acres, Riverside Regional Park is second only in Indianapolis to Eagle Creek Park in size, but has not been master planned since the creation of the park. Changing recreational trends, decades of disinvestment, development pressures, better awareness of how parks can serve as catalysts for enhancing quality of life and economic development, and the need for Indianapolis to keep pace with our peers nationally are some of the reasons that it became critical to create a comprehensive plan for the park.

Riverside Regional Park has been a critical part of the recreational and social infrastructure of the City of Indianapolis since its establishment under Mayor Thomas Taggart in 1903. The park was initially conceived as one unified space of 943 acres. Over time, the individual venues within the park took on their own identities, land was lost to the creation of the LaRue Carter Hospital and I-65, and efforts to control flooding resulted in a loss of a cohesive identity for the whole park.

By the late 1980s, “Riverside Park” was widely perceived to be the 90-acre portion of the park bounded by Burdsal Parkway, Riverside Drive, White River Parkway Drive, and 30th Street. The surrounding golf courses, golf academy, soap box derby venue, Lake Sullivan, the Indy Cycloplex, and even the White River were seen to be separate facilities. One significant accomplishment of the planning process was to reestablish the concept of Riverside Regional Park as one place now consisting of 862 acres of unique recreational experiences.





## Guiding Principles

Indy Parks' mission, as stated in the 2016 Comprehensive Master Plan, is to "connect communities by providing places and experiences that inspire healthy living, social engagement, and a love of nature." With this mission in mind, as well as the organizational values that Indy Parks strives to incorporate into its daily operations (fun, inclusion, collaboration, sustainability, and innovation,) the planning team and steering committees developed the following set of guiding principles for the Riverside Regional Park Master Plan.



### Spirit

- by integrating the arts in ways that inspire
- by supporting a culture where all feel welcome

## Riverside Regional Park will benefit the:



### Mind

- by creating opportunities to learn
- by providing opportunities to engage



### Body

- by building opportunities to play
- by providing opportunities that nourish



### Community

- by motivating people to connect
- by celebrating diversity as a core value
- by investing in ways that allow the neighborhood to grow



### Environment

- by using natural systems to make water clean
- by designing landscapes that protect
- by incorporating practices that sustain



## Results

The engagement process and public input resulted in the establishment of the key elements in the proposed plan. In no particular order, the following is a summary of the highlights of the plan:

- There is widespread support and a strong desire for transitioning Riverside Golf Course and South Grove Golf Course to other recreational uses that are more readily accessible to the general public and better positioned for the potential to generate revenue for Indy Parks
- Coffin Golf Course and the Riverside Golf Academy remain and become improved
- A new regional aquatic center returns indoor swimming and brings outdoor competitive swimming to the park
- A new baseball and softball venue will be a regional destination for tournaments in addition to serving the daily needs of the neighborhood
- A new adventure park marries ecology and recreation with wetlands, boardwalks, a nature center, zipline and canopy walk experiences
- An integrated system of pathways creates connectivity throughout the park and to existing bike/ped systems
- The Taggart Memorial is restored and becomes a performance venue
- A new Riverside Promenade creates pedestrian access along the park's east edge at Riverside Drive and honors notable members of the community surrounding the park
- Access to the White River is enhanced through boat rental facilities and activation of existing riverside venues like the Marina, Lake Indy Boat Launch, and Municipal Gardens
- Municipal Gardens is expanded north to engage and activate Memorial Grove, effectively doubling the size of the current site
- Cycling facilities are significantly expanded to include a cyclocross venue, an entry-level mountain bike experience, and a bike park/playground
- An urban farm will provide opportunities to engage people of all ages while addressing issues of food access in the surrounding community
- The skatepark doubles in size
- The Family Center is renovated and expanded to include new program offerings and a new identity for the heart of the park. An adjacent plaza will activate the Family Center site
- New vehicular circulation and parking have been sensitively integrated into the plan to serve the new and expanded venues
- Art will be an integral and ongoing part of the park as the plan is implemented
- The identity of the park will be unified through the development of design standards and creation of gateways

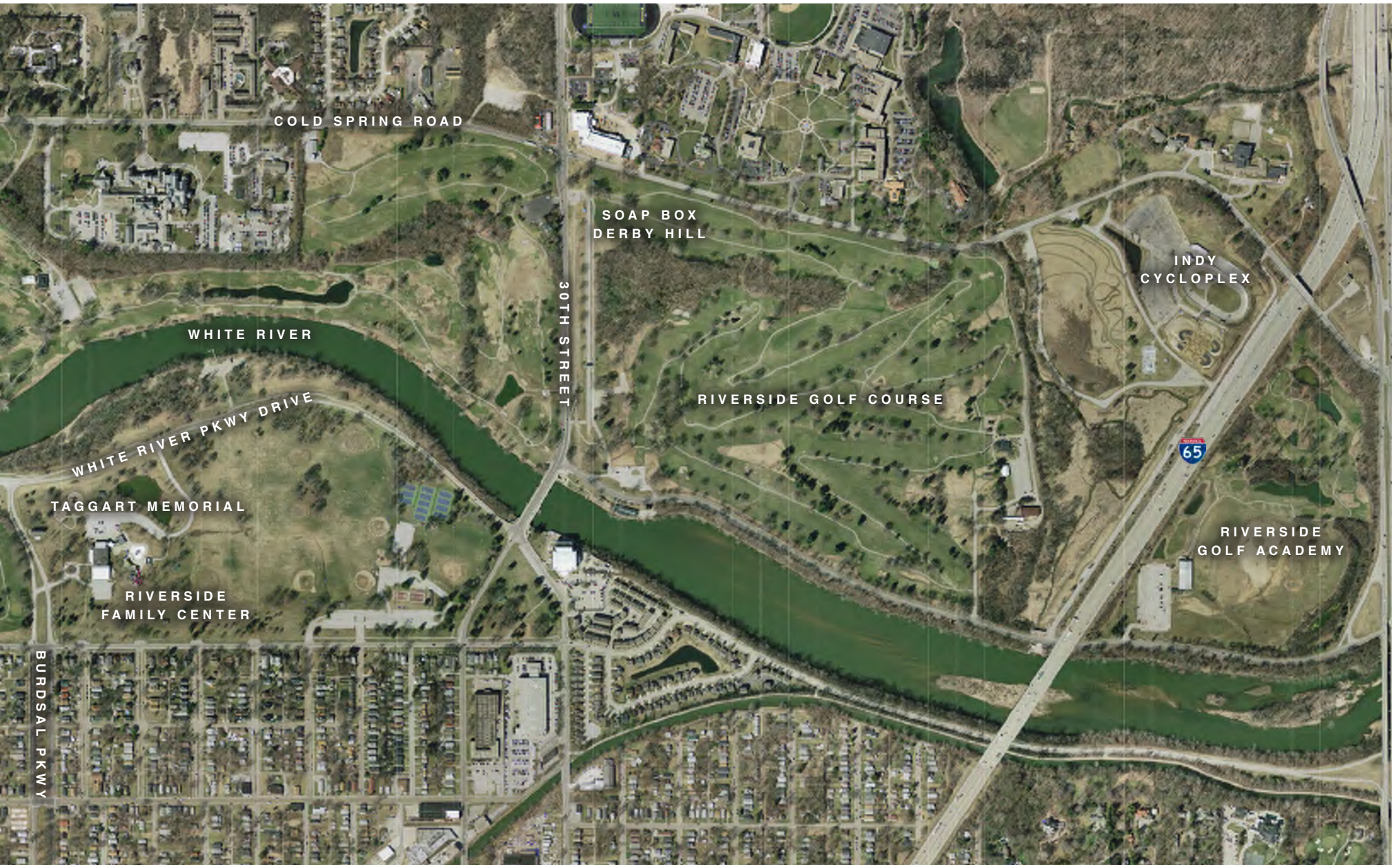
## Implementation

The plan is designed to be implemented over 20-25 years. The estimated cost of all improvements outlined in the plan is approximately \$118 million. Implementation of the plan will depend on the creation of strategic partnerships with many organizations – the City of Indianapolis will not be able to accomplish the implementation alone.

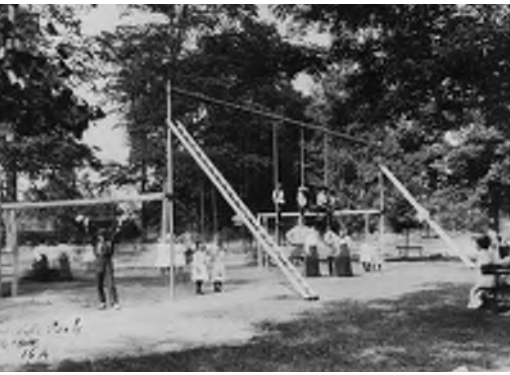
Ultimately, the implementation of the plan will be one of the most transformative initiatives ever undertaken in Indianapolis and presents the opportunity for the city to show the world that we are dedicated to the concept that parks are a critical part of our community, economic development strategy, and quality of life.

# Existing Conditions





# History



# 1 History

## Early History

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The area now occupied by Riverside Park was developed for agricultural use beginning in the 1820s. Although it was comparatively close to Indianapolis, little development occurred in this area until the 1870s. The area along the White River became a popular recreation space during the last half of the nineteenth century and several privately owned parks opened along this corridor.

## Design & Development

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In 1898, the Board of Park Commissioners and Mayor Thomas Taggart negotiated the purchase of large tracts of land around Indianapolis to form new park and parkway systems in the northwest and northeast parts of the city. The largest was the 953-acre tract along the White River that would become Riverside Park. When it opened in 1899, Riverside Park was one of the largest municipal parks in the United States. It would remain the largest park in Marion County until the creation of Eagle Creek Park in 1962.

Investment in Riverside Park declined after World War II and many facilities were demolished and never replaced while others suffered decades of neglect. Interstate 65 was built through the park in the 1960s, destroying some of its popular recreational spaces. Riverside Park was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2003 as a part of the Indianapolis Park & Boulevard System Historic District.

# History

## Key Designers

The design of Riverside Park was defined by Park Superintendent J. Clyde Power and was enhanced by subsequent improvements under the direction of landscape architect George E. Kessler. H. W. Klausmann designed the park's two landmark bridges and landscape architect Lawrence Sheridan continued Kessler's work and designed new planting schemes for specific sections of the park.

### J. Clyde Power

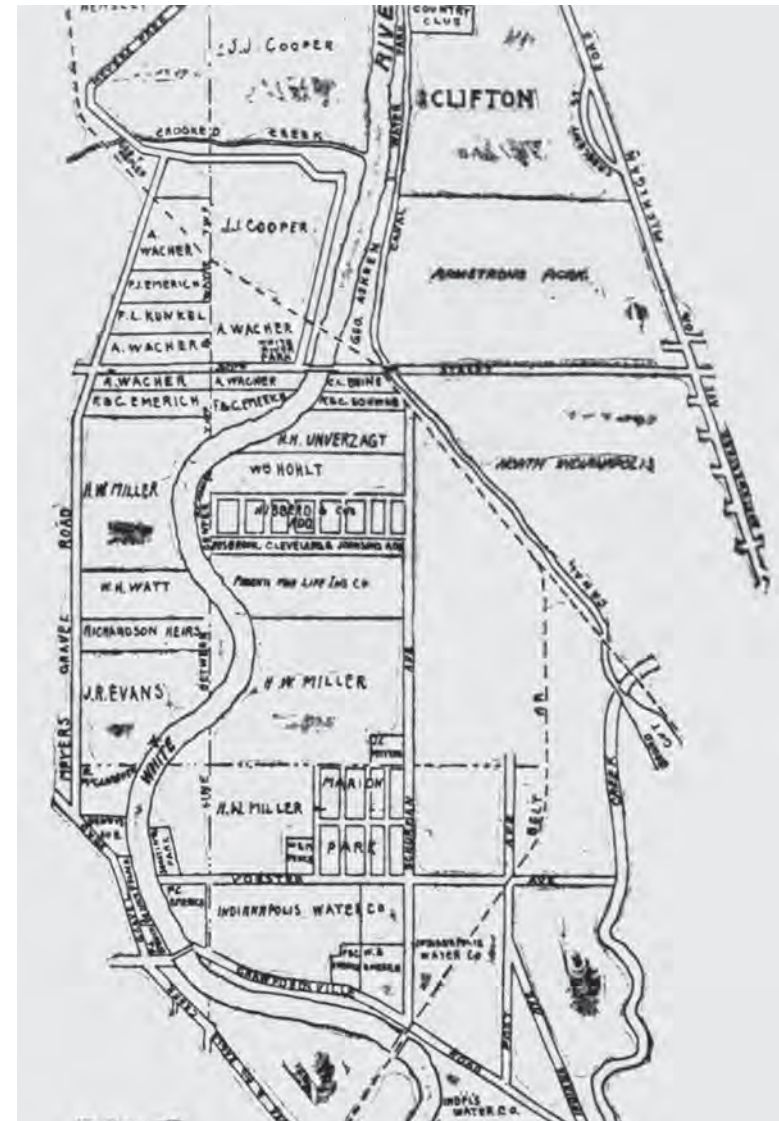
James Clyde Power (1861–1922) was a civil engineer who served as Park Superintendent for Indianapolis from 1895 to 1907. Power oversaw the planning and development of the city's park system, including the acquisition and improvement of Riverside, Brookside, Highland, and Indianola Parks, the expansion of Garfield Park, and the improvement of numerous smaller parks. Power's vision and planning established the basic layout and key amenities of Riverside Park, creating a framework for subsequent work by George Kessler.

### H. W. Klausmann

Henry "Harry" W. Klausmann (1868–1918), a civil engineer, served as Marion County Surveyor and as Indianapolis' City Engineer. He designed several bridges for Indianapolis' waterways and helped to define the new City Beautiful bridge paradigm for the city at the turn of the twentieth century. Klausmann designed the Emrichsville Bridge (1905-1906) and 30th Street Bridge (1906-1907) in Riverside Park. He also designed the College Avenue Bridge (1905) and 39th Street Bridge over Fall Creek (1905), and the Morris Street Bridge (1905, replaced 1928), River (Oliver) Avenue Bridge (1905, replaced 1925), and Michigan Street Bridge (1905, replaced 1948) over the White River. Klausmann, the son of German immigrants, was also active as a musician and band leader.

### George E. Kessler

German-American landscape architect George Edward Kessler (1862–1923) prepared the *Indianapolis Park and Boulevard Plan* (1909), a comprehensive



Property ownership at time of initial park development



J. CLYDE POWER.

J. Clyde Power



Thomas Taggart

framework for the development of a park and boulevard system encompassing the entire city. Large parks at the edge of the city would contain both natural areas and planned landscapes while smaller parks would provide open space within various neighborhoods. A system of parkways along the six major streams flowing through the city would preserve these waterways as natural areas and public open space while providing transportation and recreation corridors connecting neighborhoods and parks across the city. Kessler designed many features of the parks over the following years, including the formal gardens of Garfield Park. He provided guidance on bridge design, leading to the replacement of all metal truss bridges over Fall Creek with modern stone and concrete arch bridges designed to tie into the landscape.

George Kessler continued to provide guidance for Indianapolis' growth, including the planning of a ring road that was later named Kessler Boulevard in his honor. Kessler's long relationship with Indianapolis continued the legacy of innovative urban planning and design established by Alexander Ralston's 1821 design for the city. Kessler's successor, Lawrence Sheridan, continued to build on this legacy, expanding Kessler's parks plan to encompass all of Marion County in 1928.

## Historic Core

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The historic core of Riverside Park was at the northwest corner of the White River and 30th Street. This area developed between 1898 and the 1910s at the termination of the streetcar line and included a large shelter house, zoological department, playgrounds, and boat houses.

### Riverside Park Shelter House / Casino

The Riverside Park Shelter House was designed by Park Superintendent J. Clyde Power in the Spanish Mission style and built between 1903 and 1904. The basement contained men's and women's golf locker rooms and a bicycle storage room, the first floor was an open dining and picnic room with a refreshment stand, the second floor contained an assembly room, and the roof featured four observation towers with views of the



George Kessler

## History

park. The building was also known as the Riverside Park Casino; the term “casino” was used for recreational pavilions and did not specifically connote gambling.

The Riverside Park Shelter House was built at the same time as the Garfield Park Pagoda and the Military Park summer house and branch library building, both of which survive. The Riverside Park Shelter House was demolished sometime between 1956 and 1962.

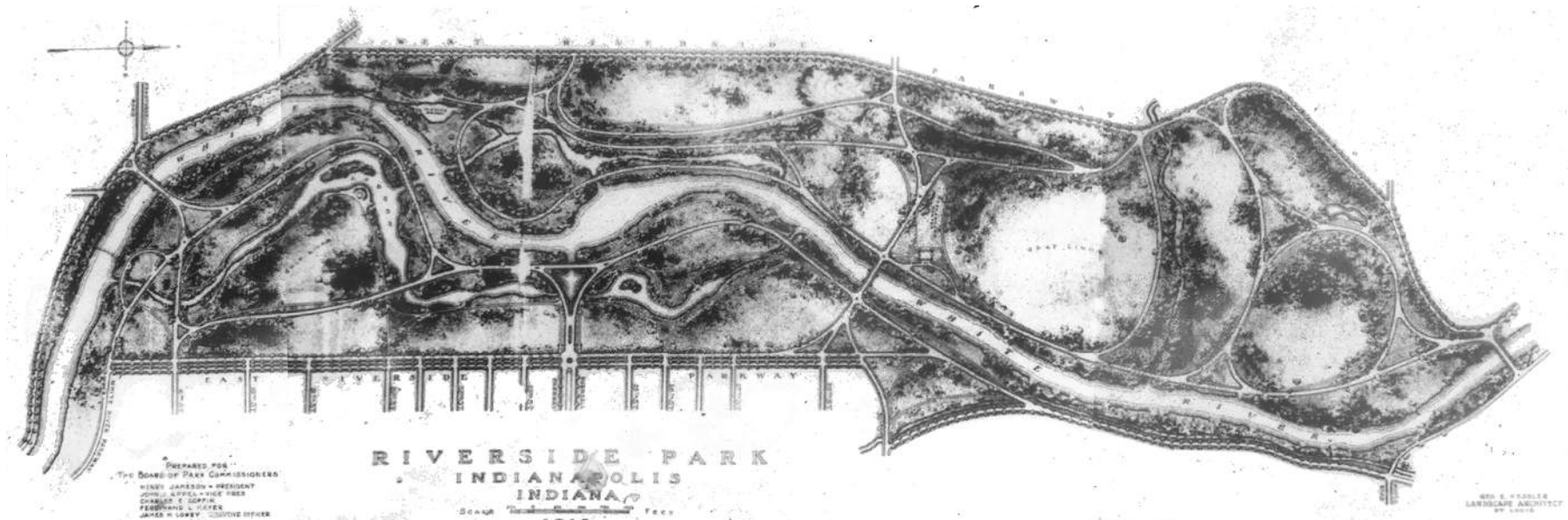
### Zoological Department

Riverside Park housed Indianapolis’ first zoological garden, which began in 1898 with exhibits containing eagles and foxes. In 1899, the Bear Pit was built into the hillside near the cold springs. The 20-foot-diameter pit housed two brown bears

and was enclosed by stone steps and two concentric seven-foot iron fences. A fenced deer park was also created in 1899 on land south of 30th Street and housed a population of deer and elk. By 1901, the zoological department also included four monkeys, pheasants, quail, owls, wolves, possums, and other animals and birds. By 1916, the zoo also included raccoons and coyotes. The zoological department had been abandoned by the 1940s and a new Indianapolis Zoo opened in 1964, moving to its present location in 1988.

### Wilbur Shaw Memorial Soap Box Derby Hill

The Indianapolis Soap Box Derby was first held in 1934, one year after the first such event was organized at Dayton, Ohio. The event focuses on gravity-powered vehicles made of a variety of reused materials. The Soap Box Derby







Bear Pit



Riverside Park Shelter House

peaked in popularity during the 1950s and 1960s. Boys were the only competitors until 1971, when girls were allowed to compete. In 1953, the Wilbur Shaw Memorial Soap Box Derby Hill track was built in Riverside Park. Said to be the longest such track in the United States, the facility was named for Wilbur Shaw (1902–1954), an American race car driver and three-time Indianapolis 500 winner who served as president of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway from 1945 until his death.

### Riverside Marina

Built between 1962-1972, the Marina building housed the Sarge Johnson Boxing Center during the mid-1990's, and was remodeled and expanded 1997 as the Riverside Marina Restaurant. At that time, it was possible to rent a canoe and row down the White River from Broad Ripple Park to the Riverside Marina. In 2000, the building was occupied by a restaurant called Just Wingin' It. The building has been vacant since 2007.

### Wacker House / Iron Skillet Restaurant

August Wacker (1848–1931) came to Indiana from Wurtemberg in 1870. He purchased a farm near 30th Street and Cold Spring Road and built a large brick house on the property. Wacker operated a farm and garden, supplying fresh vegetables and flowers to customers in Indianapolis. He also developed land around Indianapolis, laying out new additions and building houses. August's brother, John Wacker, operated White River Park, a private park at the northeast corner of 30th Street and the White River, during the 1890s.

The City of Indianapolis purchased the Wacker farm and surrounding properties in 1898 and improved the land as Riverside Park. Wacker's property included a vineyard, and park staff harvested grapes in 1899 with the intent to make wine. The Wacker house served as the residence of Park Superintendent J. Clyde Power from at least 1899 to 1906. Around 1917, the house was converted into the clubhouse of the Highland Golf Club. In 1953, the Kelso family opened the Iron Skillet restaurant in the house, serving family-style dinners.

## History

### Riverside Park “Proper”

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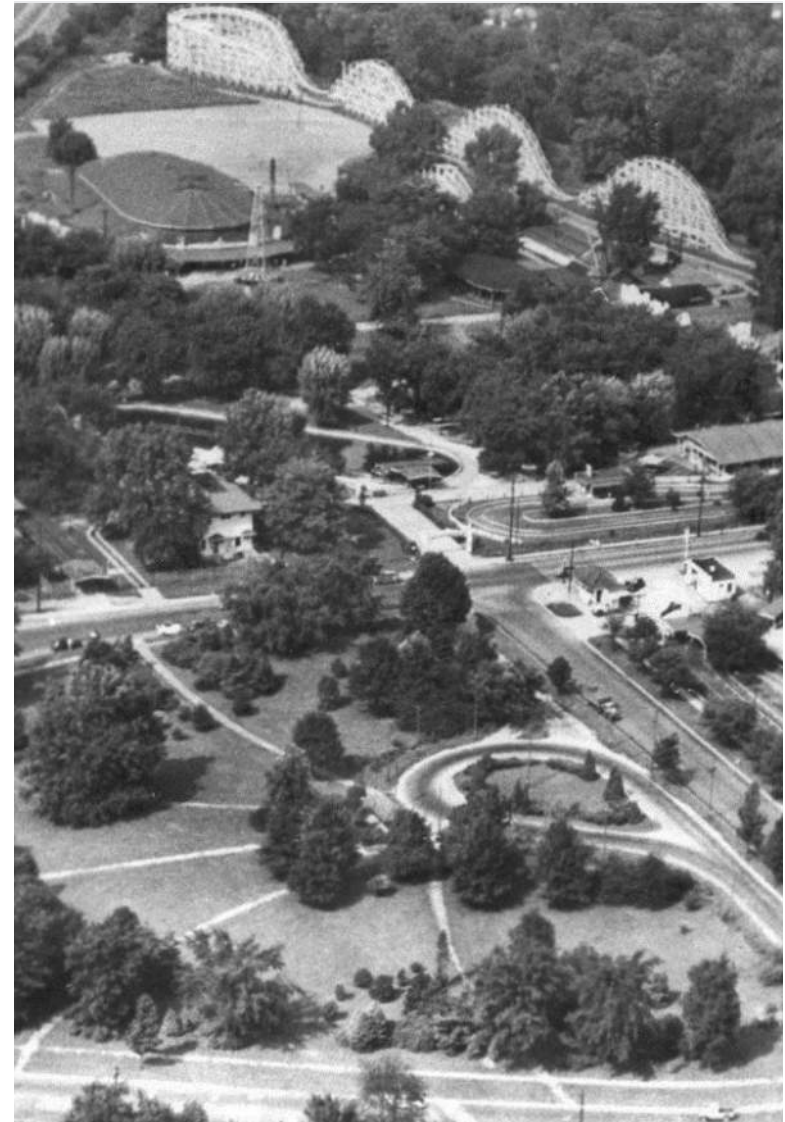
The area now regarded as Riverside Park “proper” by Indy Parks served as the main entrance to Riverside Park and contained mainly unprogrammed open space during much of the park’s history. The drive extending from Burdsal Parkway was planned as the main driving entrance and the Taggart Memorial was later built on the median as a key landmark of the park. The electric streetcar terminus for Riverside Park included a turnaround loop in the triangular area between East Riverside Drive and 29th and 30th Streets, offering easy access to the core of the park and to the adjacent Riverside Amusement Park.

Following the 1913 flood, earthen levees were built along the east bank of the White River, cutting off most views of the river and the City Beautiful bridges that had been built to enhance the corridor. This section of the park now contains the primary programmed areas aside from the golf courses.

#### Amusement Park

Built by a private corporation on land adjacent to the public Riverside Park, with easy access from the city via electric streetcars, Riverside Amusement Park contained roller coasters, a mirror maze, a carousel, a miniature railway, a large shoot-the-chutes ride, a skating rink, a dancing pavilion, canoe and rowboat rentals, a bathing beach with six-story diving tower, and arcade and carnival games.

Beginning in 1919, the park’s owner operated it as a segregated facility, with African Americans only permitted one day per year. Citizens began to protest the segregationist policy of the amusement park during the 1940s and it was finally desegregated in 1963. Riverside Amusement Park closed in 1970 and the site was redeveloped as the River’s Edge subdivision between 1999 and 2006.



Electric streetcar terminus at Riverside Amusement Park



Thomas Taggart Memorial

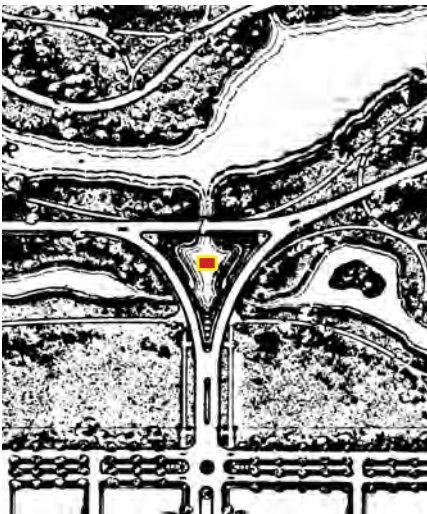
**Thomas Taggart Memorial**

Thomas Taggart (1856–1929) was born in Ireland and was brought to the U.S. by his parents at age five, growing up in poverty and as a member of an immigrant group seen as undesirable by many Americans. Taggart worked his way up from his first job as a small town restaurant waiter to the manager of the restaurant at Indianapolis’ Union Depot. He became active in politics after moving to Indianapolis in 1877. In 1895, Taggart was elected Mayor of Indianapolis, becoming the first Irish American to hold a major city office. Taggart was a strong advocate for the development of a city park system and oversaw the purchase of more than 1,100 acres of land that would become Riverside and Brookside Parks. After leaving office in 1901, Taggart became a national figure in Progressive Era Democratic politics as well as a co-owner of the French Lick Springs Hotel. Taggart was one of the few major political figures in Indiana who opposed the 1920s Ku Klux Klan.

Riverside Park was formally renamed Thomas Taggart Park in 1926 and bronze signs were installed at all 16 park entrances proclaiming the name “Tom Taggart Park.” It is unclear when the park’s name reverted to Riverside Park.

Following Taggart’s death, community leaders commemorated his legacy of public service and as the father of Indianapolis’ park system through a neoclassical memorial colonnade in Thomas Taggart Riverside Park. Designed by Carleton B. McCullough with Burns & James in association with landscape architect Lawrence Sheridan, the neoclassical pavilion served as an ornament to the park while commemorating Taggart’s role in the creation of the park system. The Taggart Memorial was dedicated in 1931.

After the 1930s, the Taggart Memorial suffered from neglect and from alterations to the landscape contradictory to the park’s master plan. The reflecting basin was drained in 1940, and Sheridan’s planting scheme was eliminated after World War II. In 1994, the north half of the main entrance drive was removed and the south half was realigned. These changes left the Taggart Memorial isolated on one side of the new drive, severely damaging the formal entrance to Riverside Park and the carefully-designed processional experience.



Original alignment of Burdsal Parkway



# History

## Riverside Family Recreation & Aquatic Center

The Riverside Family Recreation Center was built sometime between 1962 and 1972 on land north of Burdsal Parkway. An aquatic center was built to the north in 1994. At this time, the park entrance drive extending from Burdsal Parkway was severely altered and a new playground was sited on top of the north half of the entrance drive.

## Athletic Facilities

This section of Riverside Park has housed several generations of athletic facilities, including baseball diamonds, football fields, and tennis courts. The park's four initial tennis courts were very popular and required expansion by 1902. By 1916, Riverside Park contained eight of Indianapolis' 19 baseball diamonds and the Indianapolis News reported that vacant lot baseball had all but disappeared with the availability of quality public facilities.

# Riverside Park Northwest

## Riverside Nursery

In 1898, Park Superintendent Power established a nursery for the propagation of thousands of trees, shrubs, and flowers for the city's parks. The 75-acre nursery was part of a system with the Garfield Park Conservatory, which propagated flowers and tropical plants. During World War I, land adjacent to the nursery was developed as a victory garden, raising produce that was sold at cost. The nursery was eliminated c.1994 and the Riverside Golf Academy was built on the site.

## Riverside State Fish Hatchery

In 1910, the Board of Park Commissioners leased 20 acres in the northwest part of Riverside Park to the State of Indiana for use as the Riverside State Fish Hatchery. A total of 31 ponds were built, taking water from Crooked Creek. The hatchery raised largemouth bass, bluegill, redear, crappie,



Nursery and Office, 1930



Fish Hatchery

and rock bass. Nine large display ponds featured a variety of fish, turtles, alligators, and other aquatic species. The Riverside State Fish Hatchery was destroyed when Interstate 65 was built through the site in the 1960s.

**Major Taylor Velodrome**

The Major Taylor Velodrome and parking lot were built on the south part of the Riverside State Fish Hatchery site between 1979 and 1982. The facility is named for Indianapolis native Marshall “Major” Taylor (1878-1932), a prominent African American cyclist who set several world records and won the world 1-mile track cycling championship in 1899. It was the first facility in Indianapolis built with public money to be named for an African American person. The Major Taylor Velodrome was used during the 1982 National Sports Festival and the 1987 Pan American Games. This section of the park is now part of the Lake Sullivan Sports Complex, including a skate/bike park and an off-road BMX track near the Major Taylor Velodrome.

**Lake Reginald Sullivan**

Lake Reginald Sullivan was built in 1934 by the Civil Works Administration, a New Deal program to create manual labor jobs for unemployed workers. The lake was named for Reginald H. Sullivan (1876–1980), mayor of Indianapolis from 1930-1935 and 1940-1943. Sullivan was the son of former mayor Thomas L. Sullivan (in office 1890-1893) and great-grandson of Jeremiah Sullivan, who suggested the name “Indianapolis” for the new capital city in 1820. During the election of 1929, Sullivan’s campaign was notable for bringing together African American and Roman Catholic voters, two groups who had been marginalized by the KKK-affiliated Republican leadership of Indianapolis during the 1920s. Sullivan’s victory, by a margin of 33,000 votes, was seen as a repudiation of the Marion County Republican Party’s ties with the KKK.

Lake Reginald Sullivan was created by excavating land on the north side of Crooked Creek. The surrounding area included a large rock garden with waterfalls. It was built to serve as a nature study area and to provide habitat



Major Taylor, 1906



Lake Reginald Sullivan

## History

for waterfowl, occupying what had formerly been “waste ground” within Riverside Park. The site was used extensively for biology and nature field studies by Indianapolis Public Schools students. The lake required regular dredging to address the accumulation of silt from Crooked Creek.

Plans for the route of Interstate 65 developed during the 1950s ran through Lake Sullivan and would cut the north tract of Riverside Park in half. The route was criticized for unnecessarily damaging a popular park facility in addition to displacing thousands of families, dividing neighborhoods, and destroying thousands of buildings in Downtown Indianapolis. The disproportionate impact on Indianapolis’ African American community was noted in many articles of the period.

In 1966 the Indianapolis Metropolitan Park Board voted to sell a 46-acre tract of Tom Taggart Park including the former Riverside Fish Hatchery and Lake Sullivan, to the highest bidder. The Park Board cited the planned route of Interstate 65, directly through the center of the land, as a change that would make the site “useless for park purposes.” This proposal resulted in a backlash from angry citizens and was eventually abandoned.

Interstate 65 was built through Lake Sullivan in the late 1960s. The northeastern part of Lake Sullivan was filled in and the lake was extended to the northwest, likely because of excavation to provide fill for the highway embankments. In 1972 the City obtained funding from the State of Indiana to repair damage to the lake caused by the construction of I-65. The remaining portions of



The Indianapolis News, 1967



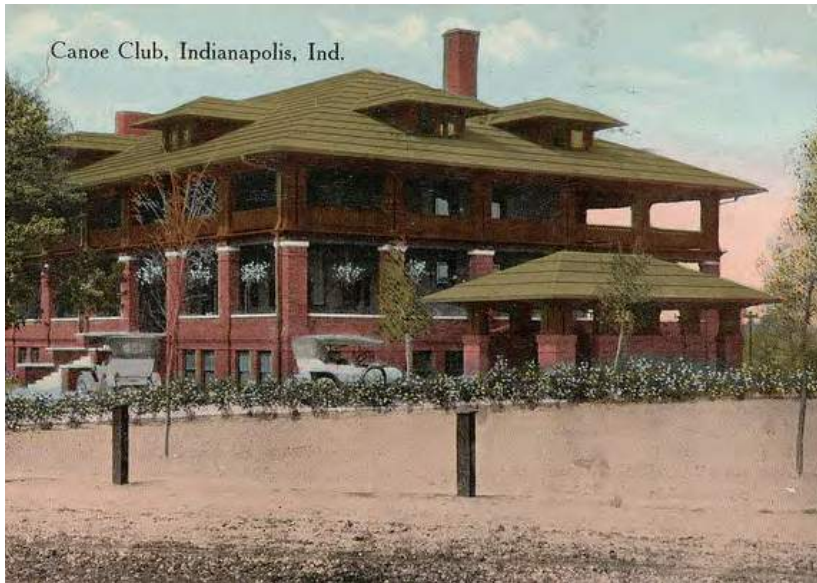
Lake Sullivan, 1946

the lake continued to fill with silt, leaving a linear detention pond area along the south side of I-65. A square island with large trees was retained during the 1960s alterations and remains a distinctive geometric intervention in the landscape. Lake Sullivan was stocked with channel catfish beginning in 1977 and saugeye beginning in 1983. In 1995 Indy Parks and the Center for Earth and Environmental Science (CEES) entered into an agreement to manage Lake Sullivan as a center for wetlands education. The lake now contains partially naturalized sections of Crooked Creek. The western part of the site is now part of the Lake Sullivan Sports Complex, including a skate/bike park and an off-road BMX track near the Major Taylor Velodrome.

## Riverside Park Southwest

### **Indianapolis Veterans Administration Hospital / Larue Carter Memorial Hospital**

The Indianapolis Veterans Administration Hospital was built between 1931 and 1932 and expanded in several phases through 1951, when the Veterans Administration moved to the present Roudebush Medical Center. The property housed a tuberculosis hospital from 1951-1960s and has been occupied by the Larue D. Carter Memorial Hospital since 1996. The campus, including 24 resources, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2012.



Canoe Club



VA Hospital, 1932

# History

## Indianapolis Canoe Club / Casino Gardens / Municipal Gardens

The Indianapolis Canoe Club, an exclusive private country club, opened in September 1900 at the northeast corner of 30th Street and the White River, on the site of the present-day Riverside High School. The club grew to about 600 members and built a new facility east of Lafayette and Cold Spring Roads during 1912-1913. The clubhouse contained a basement rathskeller pub, a main floor parlor and dining room, and a second floor ballroom overlooking the White River. The clubhouse burned in December of 1916 and was rebuilt following a revised design by architect Herbert L. Bass. The club sold the facility in 1920 and new owners opened it as the Casino Gardens Jazz Club. The City purchased the property in 1927 for use as a dance and music hall and sports venue, renaming it Municipal Gardens. It is now regarded as a section of Riverside Park. The building was remodeled in 1979 and c.1998 and a large addition was built to the northwest in 2004.

## McClamrock's Woods / Camp Robinson Memorial / Memorial Grove

During the Civil War, a military training camp called Camp Robinson operated southwest of present-day Riverside Park. The Eleventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry was assembled and trained under the command of General Lew Wallace. Part of the property was later owned by Robert McClamrock and became known as McClamrock's Woods or McClamrock's Grove. In 1899, the University of Indianapolis sought this property as a site for a joint campus with what would become the John Herron Art Institute, but the plan was never realized. The area became known as Cold Spring Woods and was acquired by the Indianapolis Canoe Club about 1912. In 1914, a memorial commemorating Camp Robinson was built in this grove.

In 1922, a 21-year-old man named George Tompkins was lynched in the Cold Spring woods near the Camp Robinson Memorial. As with many lynchings of African Americans during the Jim Crow period, Tompkins' death was ruled a suicide despite evidence of murder and the perpetrators were never prosecuted.

The site was purchased by the City of Indianapolis in 1927 as a part of the Municipal Gardens section of Riverside Park.



Camp Robinson Memorial, 1914



Canoes, 1916



Shelter House, 1905





5-EMRICHSVILLE BRIDGE, INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

Emrichsville Bridge



The Indianapolis Sunday Star: September 10, 1922

## Bridges & Dams

Riverside Park contains several historic bridges and one historic dam. At the time Riverside Park was created, the property contained existing iron truss bridges at 16th and 30th Streets. George Kessler and park superintendent J. Clyde Power felt that these bridges were inconsistent with their natural settings and planned for new concrete arch bridges following the principles of the City Beautiful movement and including Beaux-Arts neoclassical limestone cladding and ornamental lampposts.

### Emrichsville Bridge / 16th Street Bridge

A bridge over the White River on the extension of Indiana Avenue connecting to Crawfordsville and Lafayette Roads was built before 1855. Upon the creation of Riverside Park in 1898, a drive extending north from Crawfordsville Road at the east end of the bridge served as one of the park's two main entrances. A 1902 inspection found the old Emrichsville Bridge to be structurally deficient and Mayor Charles Bookwalter advocated for replacement. The bridge was closed to vehicular traffic and planning for a new bridge began in 1904.

The new Emrichsville Bridge, designed by H. W. Klausmann and built by the Central States Bridge Company, opened in 1906. This bridge represented the apogee of City Beautiful infrastructure improvements in Indianapolis. The Beaux-Arts style bridge featured three Melan concrete arches and was clad in buff Bedford limestone. Carved limestone ornaments atop the piers depicted seashells and dolphins, while limestone balustrades trimmed the pedestrian walkways. The east abutment was topped by a large stone arch flanked by two towers, offering a dramatic gateway into Indianapolis and Riverside Park on a major highway.

In 1912, Carl G. Fisher, James A. Allison, Frank Wheeler, and Arthur Newby, former competitive cyclists and founders of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, laid out the suburb of Speedway, Indiana, advertising the connection to Indianapolis via the beautiful Emrichsville Bridge and scenic Riverside Park.

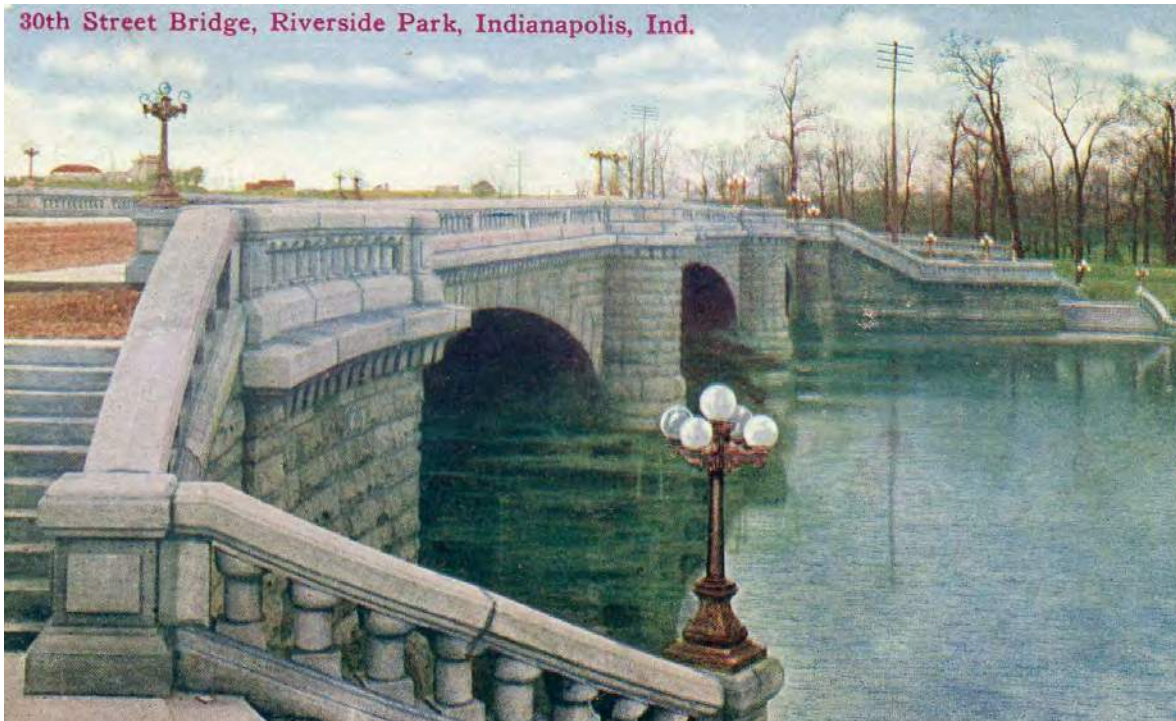
# History



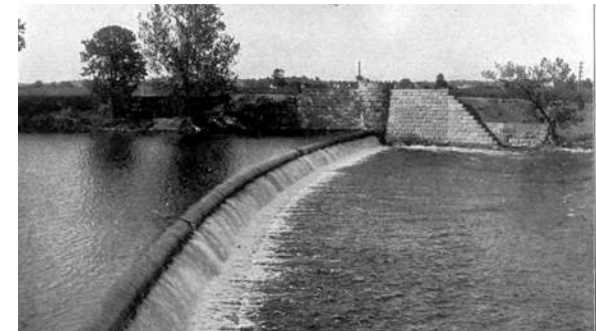
Cold Spring Road Bridge at Lake Sullivan



Suspension Bridge - located at current Lake Indy Boat Launch



30th Street Bridge, c. 1920



Emrichsville Dam



30th Street Bridge, c. 1905

In 1914, 16th Street was extended west from Indiana Avenue to Crawfordsville Road at the east side of the Emrichsville Bridge. Highway traffic was rerouted along Indiana Avenue and Sixteenth Street and the section of Crawfordsville Road between the Emrichsville Bridge and Indiana Avenue was renamed Speedway Avenue and improved as a boulevard component of the parkway system. It is now known as Waterway Boulevard.

After World War II, traffic engineers recommended the replacement of the Emrichsville Bridge to allow for high-speed highway traffic through the area. It was bypassed by the present Sixteenth Street Bridge (1946-1948) and demolished in 1949.

### **Emrichsville Dam**

The Emrichsville Dam was built during 1899-1900 to raise the water level of the White River through Riverside Park and points north, making it more conducive to boating. The owners of private excursion boats that operated on the river initially objected to the completion of the dam, but a 1900 decision by the Army Corps of Engineers ruled that the White River was not navigable and that the dam did not require a lock. The dam is of concrete with Bedford limestone facing. Crenelated turrets on the wing walls at either bank were designed as observatories offering views up and down the river. The dam was repaired in 1906 and 1908 to correct undermining of its foundation and the east wing wall was repaired in 1912.

### **30th Street Bridge**

The present 30th Street Bridge was built during 1906-1907, replacing an iron truss bridge dating from the 1870s or 1880s. It was designed by H. W. Klausmann, who also designed the Emrichsville Bridge, and included similar features: a Melan concrete arch structure, Beaux-Arts style cladding in limestone, ornamental lampposts, and grand staircases leading down to the river at either bank. The east approach of 30th Street was realigned in 1916. The bridge was rehabilitated in 1979.

### **Big Four Bridge**

The Lafayette & Indianapolis Railroad was built between 1849 and 1852, running northwest through present-day Riverside Park north of 30th Street. This line later became part of the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis (CCC&StL or “Big Four”) Railway. The 1913 flood destroyed the railroad bridge over the White River north of 30th Street and the railroad was rebuilt along a different route.

### **Suspension Bridges**

In 1899, the Board of Park Commissioners planned two bicycle and pedestrian suspension bridges across the White River within Riverside Park. The steel bridges were manufactured by the Wabash Bridge & Iron Works in 1900 but the abutments and installation were not completed until 1901. One was located about a mile below the 30th Street Bridge and the other about a half mile north of 30th Street, near 35th Street. The north suspension bridge was damaged by an ice gorge in January 1904 and it is unclear whether it was repaired or removed. The south suspension bridge was swept away by an ice gorge in February 1918 and the steel was sold for scrap.

### **Cold Spring Road Bridge**

The Cold Spring Road Bridge over Crooked Creek was designed by George Kessler and was built in 1914. This was part of a comprehensive improvement that turned Meyer’s Free Gravel Road into a boulevard then called West Riverside Parkway. The road is today known as Cold Spring Road but this name formerly referred only to the section north of 38th Street. The bridge is believed to have been rehabilitated in 1935 and 1969.

### **Crooked Creek Bridge (Lake Reginald Sullivan)**

A wooden bridge was built over Crooked Creek in 1898 during the initial improvements to Riverside Park. It was replaced by a concrete arch bridge in 1912. This bridge was typical of the Beaux Arts concrete bridges built under Kessler’s direction. The bridge later served as the western terminus of Lake Reginald Sullivan. It was demolished c.1994.

# History

## Golf Courses

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Riverside Park contains three golf courses that initially opened between 1900 and 1903. Golf became a popular new sport for wealthy Americans during the 1880s and 1890s. In 1897, the first golf course in Indianapolis was built adjacent to the Indianapolis Country Club, now the Woodstock Club's golf course. The plan for Riverside Park included municipal golf courses, meeting demand for the popular sport among those who could not afford to join private country clubs. Golf grew rapidly in popularity during the 1910s and all municipal golf courses required intense maintenance and improvements to keep up with demand. All three golf courses appear to have undergone at least one major redesign during the twentieth century.

### **Riverside Golf Course**

The nine-hole Riverside Golf Course opened in 1900 as Indianapolis' first municipal golf course and the fourth such course in the United States. It was expanded to an 18-hole course in 1902. The Riverside course required an annual membership for use.

### **South Grove Golf Course**

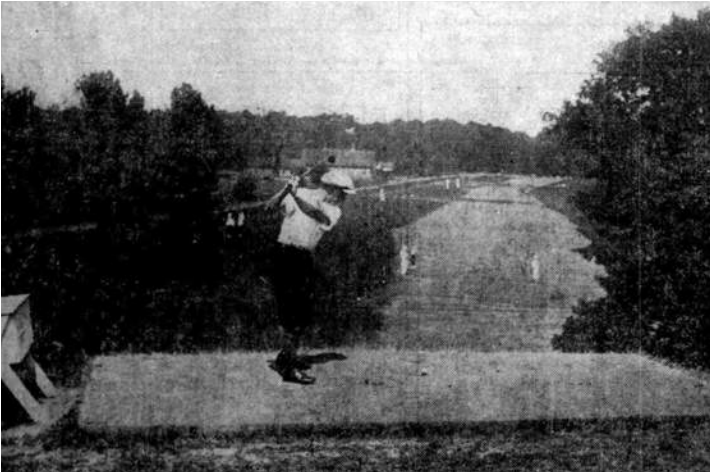
South Grove Golf Course opened in 1901 as the second nine-hole golf course in Riverside Park. Heavy use led to the expansion of the course to 18 holes in 1915. This course was free and open to the public without membership. The grounds included a lagoon along the west side of the course. This lagoon, originally provided with a rustic footbridge, was largely

filled in during the 1990s. In 1916, Riverside and South Grove were the most heavily used golf courses in Indianapolis, and South Grove maintained a golf professional on staff year-round to keep up with demand. A two-story brick clubhouse with a wraparound porch, locker rooms, a refreshment stand, and a second-floor assembly hall was built in 1916. Another clubhouse was built nearby around 1990 and the historic clubhouse was demolished c.1994.

### **Highland Golf Club / Charles E. Coffin Golf Course**

In 1903, the private Highland Golf Club was organized to lease the southwest part of Riverside Park for use as a golf course. The City of Indianapolis leased the land to the club, allowing them to construct a 9-hole golf course and a clubhouse that would eventually become public property. The golf course and clubhouse opened in 1904. A lease renewal in 1908 included space for expansion to an 18-hole course. Upon the expiration of the final lease in 1921, the property became a municipal golf course and the Highland Golf Club relocated to a new 100-acre property near Rocky Ripple.

The property has operated as a municipal golf course since 1921 and was known as the Charles E. Coffin Golf Course by 1924, honoring Charles E. Coffin (1849–1934), a real estate developer, long-time member of the Board of Park Commissioners, and director of numerous community organizations. The present clubhouse was built about 1962. The course was redesigned and rebuilt in 1995.



Riverside Golf Course circa 1916



South Grove Golf Course circa 1935



South Grove Golf Course circa 1924



Coffin Golf Course



A tennis outing in early 1900's



By 1924, the City formally segregated public parks



Riverside Park enjoyed diversity from about 1899 to 1916



The Civil Rights Acts of 1964 outlawed segregation

## Segregation

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Indianapolis' park system was developed during the Jim Crow period, an era spanning 1890 to 1965 in which state and local laws were passed to create and enforce racial segregation. During this period, public facilities like parks were often regarded as de facto white space. Articles in the Indianapolis Recorder, the primary news outlet for Indianapolis' African American residents, indicate that African Americans used Riverside Park from 1899 through 1916, when it frequently hosted church picnics and social outings.

Segregation of Indianapolis' public facilities intensified in the late-1910s, corresponding to the rise of the Indiana Ku Klux Klan after 1915. This organization combined white supremacy, antisemitism, anti-Catholicism, and anti-immigrant sentiment, and eventually counted roughly 30 percent of the state's native-born white men as members. During this period, state and local officials pushed policies requiring separate and unequal facilities for African American Hoosiers. Segregation was enforced by terrorism and intimidation as well as by law. Racial animosity against non-whites grew during this period.

In 1921, the City of Indianapolis opened Douglass Park, named for Frederick Douglass, designating it as the sole city park for African Americans. The park was gradually improved to offer inferior versions of amenities found in the rest of the park system, including a swimming pool (1922), a skating rink, and a six-hole golf course (1928). A 1926 investigation by the Indianapolis Recorder revealed that the City refused to grant permits for events attended by African Americans in any park but Douglass Park. The park superintendent issued a statement asking African Americans to use only Douglass Park, which comprised approximately 43 acres out of a city-wide system of more than 3,500 acres of park and parkway space. Beginning in 1919, the privately-owned Riverside Amusement Park admitted African Americans only one day per year. In 1922, George Tompkins was lynched at Cold Spring woods, a privately-owned tract that became part of Riverside Park in 1927.

The Indiana KKK fell apart during the 1925 trial of its leader, D. C. Stephenson, for the kidnapping, rape, torture, and murder of Madge Oberholtzer. The aftermath

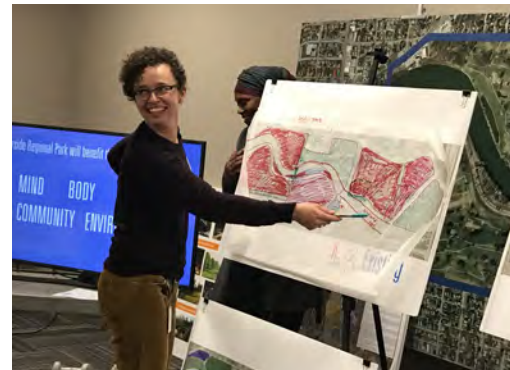
of Stephenson's trial brought down numerous political officials who had made deals with the KKK; Governor Ed Jackson was indicted and the mayor of Indianapolis and the chairman of the Indiana Republican Party went to prison.

The decline of the KKK during the late-1920s did not end Jim Crow segregation or institutional racism in Indianapolis. The desegregation of Indianapolis Public Schools during the late-1940s and 1950s led to rapid white flight to suburban township school districts in order to maintain school segregation. Articles in the Indianapolis Recorder indicate that African Americans experienced limited use of Riverside Park during the 1940s and 1950s, mainly in the context of church and school picnics. Citizens began to protest the segregationist policy of the adjacent Riverside Amusement Park during the 1940s.

By the 1960s, African Americans began moving into the neighborhoods surrounding Riverside Park. Continuing integration of Indianapolis Public Schools led to further suburban flight from white families seeking to maintain school segregation. Riverside Amusement Park ended its segregation policy in 1963 and closed in 1970. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in public facilities. When Indianapolis and Marion County governments merged in 1970, school segregation was maintained by leaving the existing township school districts intact. In 1971, a federal court ruled that Indianapolis was guilty of de jure school segregation. The subsequent busing plan intended to integrate the schools fueled further white flight beyond Marion County.

By the late 1960s, Riverside Park was once again fully open to African Americans. The park hosted a three-day black cultural festival in 1971. White flight and the associated population decline in Indianapolis' neighborhoods reduced the city's tax base and led to less funding for civic services and institutions like schools and parks, contributing to ongoing inequities in maintenance and programming in Riverside and other parks during the late twentieth century.

# Public Process





## 2 Public Process

The public engagement process for the Riverside Regional Park Master Plan was the most extensive undertaken to date for a single park in Indianapolis. The process was designed to be as inclusive and meaningful as possible. Indy Parks and the planning team wanted not simply to create awareness of the plan - we wanted the engagement to result in real and tangible direction of the physical plan and programs the plan proposed. This was accomplished through a diverse approach that utilized a wide array of engagement tools. The following is a summary of the tools and results:

### Steering Committees

Unique to park planning efforts in Indianapolis to date, the process utilized two steering committees. A Technical Steering Committee (TSC) consisted primarily of staff representatives from Indy Parks, Indianapolis DPW, DMD, and public safety. The focus of the TSC was to, as the name suggests, provide technical guidance to the planning team - but also bring an awareness of broader initiatives being undertaken by the City that may have a bearing on the direction of the plan.

A Citizens Steering Committee consisted of neighborhood residents and representatives of supporting organizations and institutions. The focus of the CSC was to evaluate proposed plan concepts, bring issues to light, collaborate with and inspire the team, advocate for the process, give information to and gather feedback from their respective community groups, and assist the planning team with engaging the community.

The committees met separately, but the same number of times (9 meetings each), and always on sequential days.

Why two committees? The use of two committees facilitated several planning goals:

- It created a broader base of regular input
- It incorporated diverse perspectives that resulted in a system of checks and balances
- It accomplished the practical need to allow as much time as possible for individuals to voice their opinions and concerns during meetings

## Public Process

The rosters of the committees were developed based on input from Indy Parks leadership, elected officials, and the planning team's knowledge of the community. Each committee consisted of 17 members. For a complete list of the membership, please see the acknowledgments page at the beginning of the document.

The agendas were the same for the two committees. The agenda always included a review of recent progress, summaries of public input received to date, and opportunities for input on current questions. Most meetings included a guest speaker that educated the committees on salient topics. These guest speaker sessions included information on park history, levees and floodplains, economic development, regulatory land use limitations, urban agriculture, and city-wide tourism initiatives.

Members of the committees would confirm that one of the most informative and eye-opening events of the planning process was a field trip to Chicago on July 10, 2017. The trip had several goals:

- Create greater awareness of how parks are designed, programmed, funded and used in other cities
- Inspire the committees and the planning team to think big about the opportunities at Riverside Regional Park
- Develop an appreciation for how art can be an integral and critical part of public spaces
- Create a shared vision for the possibilities at Riverside

Several program elements in the final plan were a direct result of the shared experience in Chicago.

### Stakeholder Interviews

The planning team conducted stakeholder interviews with 42 individuals representing 34 institutions and organizations. The stakeholders included a wide range of perspectives, from neighbors and volunteer leaders of community organizations, to elected officials and executive directors of supporting institutions. The interviews lasted approximately an hour each, and were typically conducted in the planning



Steering Committee Trip to Chicago



Steering Committee Trip to Chicago



Stakeholder Interviews



Stakeholder Interviews

studio at the Riverside Family Center. When more convenient to the participants, the planning team met them at their places of business. The input gleaned during these interviews had a significant impact on the outcome of the plan. The interviews included input from the following individuals and organizations:

- Michael Saahir ..... Riverside Reunion Committee
- Bob Coy ..... 16Tech
- John J. Kish ..... 16Tech
- Laura Miller ..... 16Tech
- Anthony King ..... M.G. Dads Club Youth Football League
- Mark Nance ..... MAN Golf Management
- Deb Lawrence ..... Marian University
- Frank Merritt ..... SRAM, Hoosier Mountain Bike Association
- Joe Simpson ..... City County Councillor, District 7
- Vop Osili ..... City County Councillor, District 11
- Monroe Gray ..... City County Councillor, District 8
- William Oliver ..... City County Councillor, District 9
- Mike Lennox ..... Play Ball Indiana
- Monica Brase ..... National Junior Tennis League
- Judy Toth ..... Central Indiana Women’s Soccer League
- Tyrone Chandler ..... A Few Good Men, resident
- Joe Wynns ..... Indy Parks Board
- Andrea Scott ..... Indy Parks Board
- Kristen Moreland ..... Indy Parks Board
- Josh Bowling ..... Indy Parks Board
- Ryan Vaughn ..... Indiana Sports Corp
- Ramon Morrison ..... Kappa Alpha Psi
- Ian Yearwood ..... Vision Academy
- Katie Dorsey ..... Riverside High School

## Public Process

Deb Cooney ..... Riverside High School  
Bob Getts..... Indianapolis Soap Box Derby  
Tim Devlin ..... Indy Skatepark Advocates  
Josh Scism ..... Indiana Family and Social Services Administration  
Bill Krohne ..... Capital City Golf Management  
Brad Beck ..... Capital City Golf Management  
Mike David ..... Indiana Golf Association  
Brandon Cosby ..... Flanner House  
Julia Muney Moore ..... Arts Council of Indianapolis  
Dave Lawrence ..... Arts Council of Indianapolis  
Jim Martin ..... Ritter High School  
Chris Pryor ..... MIBOR  
Jerry Suiter ..... Indianapolis Disc Golf Club  
James Fadely ..... Taggart Memorial Task Force  
Joann Richardson ..... Occupational Therapist  
Hayes O'Brien ..... Attorney  
Robert Hill ..... Professional Tennis Registry  
Greg Taylor ..... Indiana Senator, District 33

### Project Studio

For the first time in Indy Parks' history, a dedicated planning studio for a park master plan was established for the duration of the engagement process. Located in the education room at the Riverside Family Center, the studio served as the venue for all steering committee meetings and most stakeholder interviews. The studio was also staffed by the team on Tuesdays and Saturdays for 34 weeks, providing anyone who had a desire to learn about the process and plans a chance to come at their convenience and offer input.

### Project Website

A project website provided information about the process, presentations, park history, drawings, meeting minutes, photos of engagement events, schedule and contact



Project Studio at Riverside Family Center



Project Studio



Riverside Master Plan Website

information. A survey was posted on February 28, 2017 and ran continuously throughout the planning process. The survey gathered more than 300 responses from a wide variety of park users and stakeholders. The final results of the survey are included in the appendix. It is important to note that the survey was not a statistically valid survey, which was not possible to accomplish within the project budget. The survey nevertheless provided meaningful and specific direction to the planning team. Notable conclusions from the survey include:

- There is an overwhelming public opinion that too much land within the park is dedicated to golf and that other uses for some of the courses should be explored
- There was significant concern about selling or dedicating public lands for private uses
- There is an overwhelming desire for more trails and paths throughout the park
- There is a significant interest in a zip line experience being added to the park
- There is a significant interest in having a concert/event venue in the park

**The top 5 programs desired in the park were:**

- Adult sports
- Outdoor adventure
- Large special events
- Youth sports
- Nature education

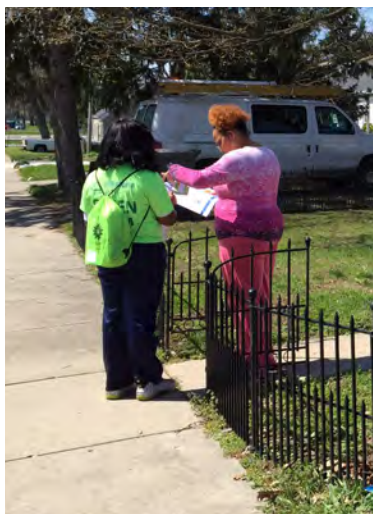
**The top 5 facilities and amenities desired in the park were:**

- Walking trails
- Picnic areas/shelters
- Natural areas
- Mountain bike trails
- Playground equipment

Please see the full results of the survey in the appendix for a detailed breakdown of the responses.

**Door to Door Canvassing**

Members of the planning team conducted door to door visits throughout the



Door to Door Canvassing



## Public Process

neighborhood to communicate the planning process and advocate for neighborhood participation. This was done because the team had been advised that some residents of the surrounding community may be hesitant to engage the digital points of entry to the process, or may not have the resources to do so. The scope of the door to door canvassing included all properties within two blocks of the park. In total, 1,246 properties were canvassed. When the team visited a home, residents were told about the process and they were given hard copies of the survey with self-addressed stamped envelopes.

### Pop-Up Workshops

Even though the public open house events were advertised many months in advance, the planning team knew that not everyone would be able to attend. For that reason, the process included participation by the planning team at existing events already expected to draw crowds...in short, the planning process was brought to the people in addition to asking people to come to the process. The three events the team participated in were:

- Summer Celebration Art Fair at Riverside Park, May 13, 2017, 11 am - 2 pm
- Health Fair at Municipal Gardens, June 10, 2017, 9 am - 1 pm
- Riverside Reunion at Riverside Park, June 17, 2017, 12 pm - 5 pm

### Phone Blasts

Phone blasts are used commonly in the Riverside Neighborhood to communicate information about community events. The planning process incorporated this tool prior to each Public Open House. The results of the phone blasts are as follows:

- March 1, 2017: 1,093 calls, 66% connection success for 721 contacts
- May 2, 2017: 1,149 contacts, 67% connection success for 770 contacts
- August 9, 2017: 1,160 contacts, 65% connection success for 754 contacts

In total, the phone blasts resulted in 2,245 contacts communicating opportunities to engage in the planning process.



Pop-Up Workshop: Health Fair at Municipal Gardens



Media Coverage



Yard Signs and Banners



Youth Engagement

### Media Coverage

The planning process was covered by the Indianapolis Recorder on April 13, 2017, WTLC's Community Connections call-in radio program on August 9, 2017, WTHR on August 10, 2017, and Indy Monthly's November 2017 issue (anticipated).

### Yard Signs and Banners

The planning process was advertised with yard signs and 3 large banners. The banners were limited to a 2-week placement per code and were placed 2 weeks prior to Open Houses. Yard signs remained in participating neighbors' yards throughout the process.

### Youth Engagement

Youth were specifically engaged in the planning process through a variety of activities. At the March Open House, stations and input activities designed to engage children were included. The team also provided project information sheets to local schools, and conducted placemaking intervention activities in the park.



Youth Engagement



Youth Engagement



Youth Engagement

## Public Process

### Public Open Houses

The process included three public meetings which occurred on March 2, May 4, and August 10, 2017. All meetings were held at the Riverside Family Center. The first two meetings were facilitated as “Open Houses,” meaning that participants were free to come at a time convenient to them and stay as long as they liked.

### Public Meeting 1 | March 2, 2017 Format: Open House

The goals of the first public meeting were to:

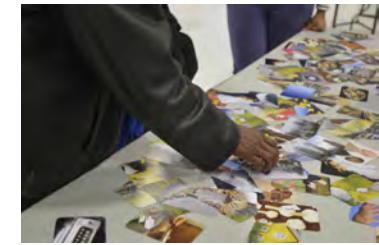
- Introduce the public to the project and process
- Solicit initial opinions and preferences for desired changes and programming
- Communicate information about floodplains and levees
- Share the history of the park
- Identify how art can become an integral part of the park
- Engage children and seniors in the process

The meeting was organized around several “stations” that were staffed by the consulting team and Indy Parks staff. Input was solicited in a variety of creative ways and included an indication of preferences for programs, facilities, and amenities, a “Keep, Toss, Create” station, and a visioning cards exercise. Children were given an opportunity to draw improvements they’d like to see and participants were walked through the website.

65 people attended the first public meeting and made a number of important contributions to the direction of the plan.

#### Outcomes:

The outcomes of the Visioning, Preferences, and Keep, Toss, Create exercises can be found on the following page.





# Keep Toss Create

What do you love about Riverside Park?  
 Is there something at Riverside Park that you don't think is working?  
 What new things would you like to see or do at Riverside Park?

## Keep

- Sports facilities: tennis courts, baseball & softball diamonds, basketball courts, football fields
- Adult exercise activities: taekwondo, aerobics, yoga
- Colts playground
- Open gym
- Programs for kids: 4-H
- Family Center
- Park shelters
- Natural areas & open space
- Trails
- Swimming
- Horseshoe pits (with improvements)

## Toss

- The park's negative image
- Athletic field lighting (needs improvement)
- Ability to drive on grass at the park (safety concerns for children)
- Parking area near basketball courts should be redesigned as a gathering space and access improved
- Improve communication to the community about events
- Traffic flow issues
- Maintenance issues
- Extend summer pool hours
- Taggart Memorial (repair)

## Create

- Additional amenities such as restrooms, water fountains, concession stands, benches & seating
- Indoor swimming pool, extended hours, adult swim
- Additional lighting & safety measures
- Evening programs: sports, exercise, swimming
- Events: festivals, farmers market, art, music
- Improved maintenance
- Walking & biking trails
- Educational programs
- Art in the park

# State Your Preferences

Program	Votes	Facilities / Amenities	Votes
Youth Sports .....	16	Outdoor Tennis Courts .....	20
Youth Learn to Swim .....	15	Indoor Swimming Pools .....	16
Water Fitness .....	14	Walking Trails.....	15
After School Programs .....	13	Swimming Pools & Water Parks .....	15
Adult Fitness & Wellness.....	13	Indoor Fitness Facilities.....	15
Senior Programs .....	13	Outdoor Basketball Courts .....	13
Youth Fitness & Wellness.....	12	Indoor Running & Walking Track .....	13
Adult Performing Arts .....	11	Indoor B-Ball / V-Ball Courts.....	11
Golf .....	11	Soccer Fields .....	10
Martial Arts/Self Defense .....	10	Golf Courses .....	10
Youth Performing Arts .....	10	Mountain Bike Trails.....	09
Adult Sports .....	10	Picnic Areas & Shelters.....	08
Youth Summer Camp.....	09	Youth Baseball & Softball Fields.....	07
Life Skill Classes.....	07	Multipurpose Fields .....	07
Childcare Programs.....	06	Adult Baseball & Softball Fields .....	07
Teen Dance .....	06	Outdoor Water Spray Parks.....	06
Trips .....	06	Nature Center.....	06
Large Special Events.....	06	Playground Equipment .....	06
Preschool Programs.....	05	Outdoor Fishing Areas.....	06
Outdoor Adventure.....	05	Outdoor Adventure Parks.....	05
Nature Education .....	04	Off-Leash Dog Park.....	05
Adaptive Programs.....	01	Skateboarding Park.....	04
		Indoor Sports Complex .....	03
		Natural Areas.....	02
		Pickleball Courts.....	01

# Visioning Exercise

Which Image Best Represents Your Vision for the Park?



Adults  
inspiring  
Kids



Everyone  
welcome,  
we all  
can play  
together.



Nature  
Center



Vibrant Colors  
in the Park

## Common Threads

- Inclusive. Everyone is welcome
- Trails & greenways
- Sports: more and improved facilities
- A safe & active place for kids
- Vegetable gardening, self-sufficiency
- A unique identity for the park
- A gathering place, the center of the community

## Public Process

### Public Meeting 2

May 4, 2017  
Format: Open House

The goals of the second public meeting were to:

- Share initial land use concepts
- Obtain preferences for land use changes within the park
- Educate the public about the scale of the park and program venues
- Serve as a resource for ongoing questions about park history, floodplain concerns and art integration

All of the land use concepts developed to date were shared with the attendees. Two land use concepts in particular that had been vetted and approved by the two Steering Committees were shared with the attendees and they were asked to indicate a preference for one or the other. The land use concepts were kept at a high level and were designed to focus attention on the most important question at that point in the process: how much land should be devoted to golf versus other activities?

50 people attended the second public meeting and made several important contributions to the direction of the plan.

#### Outcomes:

Attendees expressed a preference for Concept A. Through conversations and engagement with attendees, the consulting team also learned that there were significant concerns within the neighborhood about privatization of public land, how the changes would be funded, and whether changes would lead to gentrification.



Initial Land Use Concepts



Concept A

- Retain golf at the Academy, on the front 9 holes of Coffin and on the back nine holes of South Grove
- Change the front nine holes of South Grove to some other park use, and transition all of Riverside Golf Course to another use
- Provide two pedestrian bridges connecting the east & west sides of the park



Concept B

- Retain golf at the Academy
- Maintain nine holes each at South Grove, Coffin, and Riverside and connect the courses for a 27-hole experience
- Change the use of the land in Coffin Golf Course immediately adjacent to the river to public use
- Provide one new pedestrian bridge aligned with Burdsal Parkway

## Public Meeting 3

August 10, 2017  
Format: Presentation

The goals of the final public meeting were to:

- Review the public input process
- Review the park history
- Share the results of the input to date
- Present two developed master plan concepts
- Share art incorporation concepts and approaches
- Receive feedback and comment on the plan concepts and process

More than 100 people attended the meeting.

### Outcomes:

For this meeting, attendees were offered the opportunity to address the audience and share concerns or praise for the project, process, and concepts.

The majority of attendees expressed support for transition of South Grove Golf Course and Riverside Golf Course to new uses. Two individuals expressed concern about changing the golf courses to other uses but this did not seem to be a concern shared by many attendees. There was a great deal of concern about what impact the development of the park will have on property values, who would pay for the changes, and whether any of the land would be sold for private development. City County Councillor Vop Osili was present and shared the status of an initiative to enact residential tax abatement legislation designed to address gentrification concerns.



## Both concepts feature

- Transition of South Grove Golf Course in its entirety to new activities and programs, including baseball, multi-use sports fields, open space, trails and a new tennis facility
- No changes in use to Riverside Golf Academy site
- A new regional-scale aquatic center
- Expanded and improved Family Center including: a café, meeting space, neighborhood history displays, and other facility upgrades
- A new pedestrian bridge across the river connecting the east and west sides of the park
- Development of a wetland and adventure park experience at the location that is currently the first four holes of Riverside Golf Course
- Expansion of Municipal Gardens to include: development of Memorial Grove as a rentable venue, improvements to river access area
- Improvements and upgrades to Kuntz Stadium
- Creation of a Riverside Promenade on Riverside Drive
- Creation of a shared use path along Cold Spring Road
- Enhanced river access at multiple locations
- Expanded skatepark
- Playgrounds
- Public gardens
- Substantial trail networks
- More picnic shelters
- Additional vehicle circulation and parking facilities



### Unique Features of Concept 1

- Preservation of 9 holes of golf at Riverside Golf Course
- Preservation of 9 holes of golf at Coffin Golf Course
- A connection across 30th St. to allow Riverside & Coffin to function as one course
- Change in land use along the riverbank in Coffin Golf Course to be publicly accessible



### Unique Features of Concept 2

- Preservation of all of Coffin Golf Course as an 18 hole facility
- Transition of Riverside Golf Course in its entirety to other uses, including: a nature center (adaptive re-use of clubhouse), cyclocross course, mountain bike trails, bike park, and wetland/ecological experience
- Relocation of the levee at Taggart Memorial to create a performance venue with a direct visual and physical connection to the river

Design Vision



# 3 Design Vision

The Master Plan selected by the steering committees and preferred by the public meeting attendees presents a bold vision for Riverside Regional Park. The steering committees ultimately felt, based on public input and national parks and recreation trends, that gradually transitioning South Grove and Riverside Golf Courses to other public recreational uses would be the best and most broadly appealing use of the land. Coffin Golf Course and the Riverside Golf Academy remain in this vision, and will be enhanced to provide an even more enjoyable and valuable golf experience.

The change from golf to other uses in South Grove and Riverside Golf Courses means that:

- **The public will have access to an additional 250 acres of green space that is currently limited to one sport**
- **New programs can be implemented that present more substantial revenue generating opportunities to sustain the park**
- **The new programs present opportunities for more ecologically sensitive land uses**
- **The park’s relationship to the river and its ability to create visual, physical, and cultural connectivity to the river is significantly enhanced**

Plan enlargements on the following pages describe the specific improvements in each neighborhood within the park.

# Design Vision







1. Kuntz Stadium
2. Multi-purpose athletic fields
3. Tennis center & indoor sports complex
4. Baseball & softball complex
5. Municipal Gardens & Memorial Grove
6. Coffin Golf Course to remain with improvements
7. Celebration Green
8. Renovated Taggart Memorial & performance venue
9. Town Center
10. Pedestrian bridge
11. Regional aquatic center
12. Wilbur Shaw Soap Box Derby Hill
13. Riverside Golf Course to be converted to public recreational uses
14. Wetland ecosystem
15. Sullivan Ecology Park & nature center
16. Indy Cycloplex to remain with improvements
17. Riverside Golf Academy to remain with improvements



# Design Vision



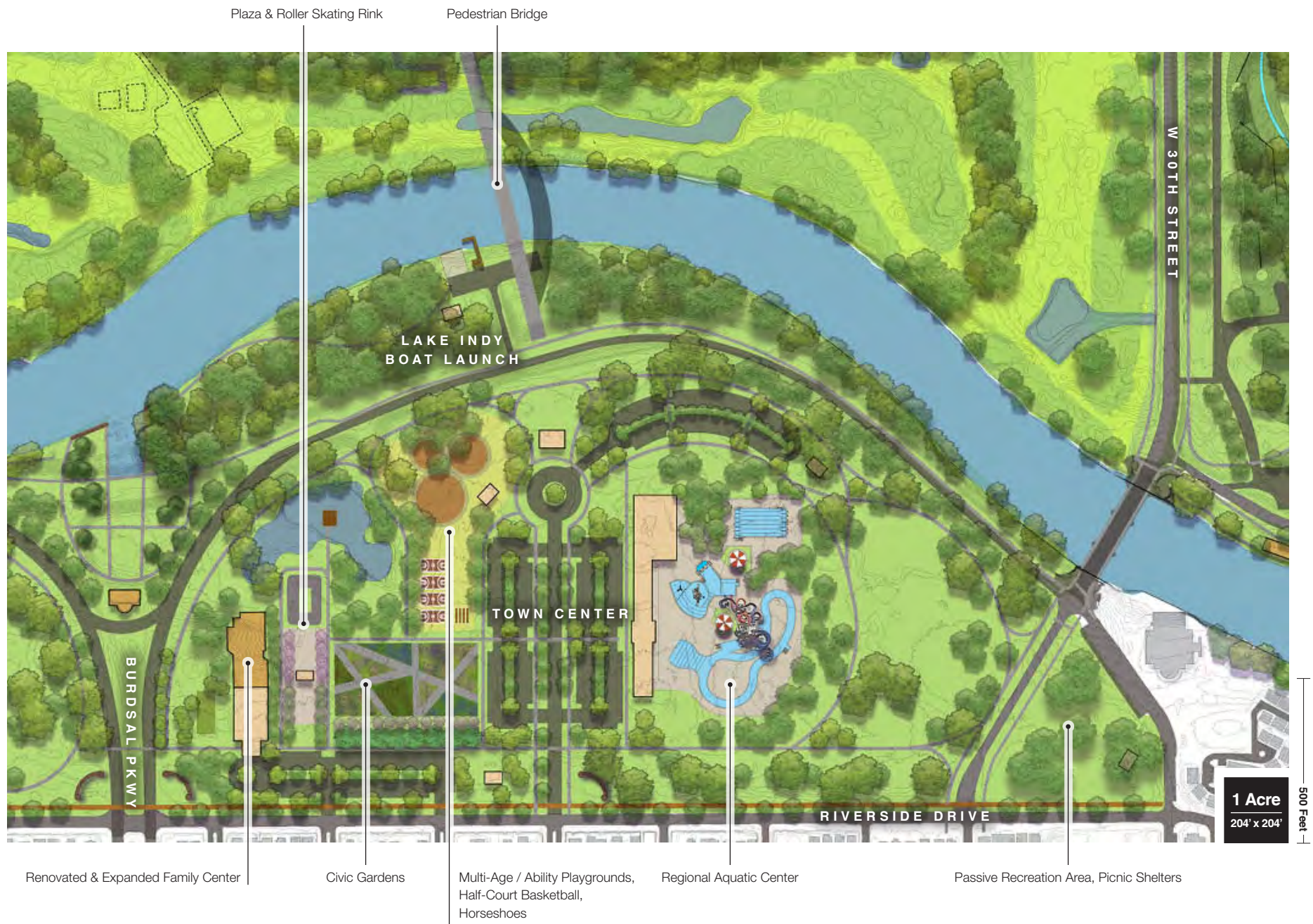
## South Fields

The plan depicts a re-purposing of South Grove Golf Course to several new uses. The proposed program relocates baseball, tennis and multi-purpose fields to the golf course from their current location north of the Family Center. The rationale behind relocating these elements to South

Grove is that the land south of Burdsal Parkway is not encumbered by restrictions associated with Land and Water Conservation Funding which affect Riverside Park “proper” (the land bounded by Burdsal Parkway, Riverside Drive, White River Parkway, and 30th Street.) These restrictions prevent Indy Parks from being able to lease facilities in that portion of the park, which limits the park’s ability to generate revenue. A new baseball facility at Riverside could potentially serve as a home for partner(s) focused on urban youth baseball or softball, which could in turn mean that Riverside Regional Park could host regional or national tournaments. A new tennis center that includes indoor courts and an indoor multi-purpose field presents another active recreational experience not currently offered by Indy Parks. As such, these are additional revenue generating opportunities. Multi-purpose fields are located proximate to Kuntz Stadium to extend that venue’s capacity. Paths, picnic areas, and a great lawn present passive recreational opportunities and maintain a pastoral landscape character between 21st Street and Burdsal Parkway. Most importantly, a new venue called the Riverside Promenade will create a managed edge, gateway experience, and opportunity for recognition of notable residents of the community. New vehicular circulation and parking will provide access to the new venues. The existing South Grove Clubhouse will be retained as restrooms, concessions, and park management offices. The maintenance facility south of the clubhouse could be used for storage for M.G. Dads Club Youth Football League or other youth sports organizations, which currently lack any formal storage space.



# Design Vision



## Town Center

The plan proposes that the 90-acre Riverside Park “proper” remain the cultural heart of Riverside Regional Park. In this vision, the Family Center is renovated and expanded to include a café, conferencing spaces (something in which 16Tech has expressed interest), a small museum experience dedicated to telling the story of the park and surrounding community, and multi-purpose spaces for educational and athletic programming. The existing playground would be replaced by a larger, more contemporary playground. A multi-level plaza will provide opportunities for small performances, a splash pad experience, and integration of art. A roller skating rink provides a new venue for Indy Parks, and public gardens create a four-season urban oasis. North of the Family Center, a new regional aquatic center will include recreational aquatic experiences as well as a return of indoor and outdoor lanes for instruction and competitive swimming. New parking and vehicular circulation, including an additional point of entry at Roache Street, will provide access to the expanded venues and new experiences. Bike share facilities located here offer multi-modal transportation options. New paths, picnic areas, basketball courts, and horsehoop pits are woven around and through the new venues.



# Design Vision

Provide Better Pedestrian Access along 16th Street and Across Bridge.  
Improve Dangerous Trail Crossing at 16th Street.



Artificial Turf Field



## Kuntz Stadium

Kuntz Stadium is home to two natural grass soccer fields along with supporting facilities. The venue is used by the general public but receives much use from Vision Academy (located immediately adjacent to the facility) and the Central Indiana Women's Soccer League. The heavy use of the existing grass fields means that they have to be shut down periodically to allow the playing surface to re-establish. To address this, the plan proposes a new artificial turf field on the current west practice field. The venue also requires general upgrades to the seating and buildings on site.



# Design Vision





## Sullivan Ecology Park

Riverside Golf Course has suffered from frequent flooding (often 3-4 times per year) for many years. This has caused significant damage to the course and means that much of the revenue generated by the course (as well as that generated by the Golf Academy) is spent on repairs. This situation begs the question of whether the location at the confluence of Crooked Creek and the White River is a good place for a golf course – one of the most maintenance intensive landscapes there

can be. The plan proposes turning Riverside Golf Course into an ecologically-oriented adventure park that is designed to flood periodically. The plan enlargement at left depicts the area around the existing clubhouse and roughly the first 4 holes of the golf course. The yellow areas indicate a native wetland landscape character. The native wetland will serve to clean stormwater, support pollinators and provide habitat for fowl and other animals. It is possible that the wetland could be designed and permitted to be a wetland bank. In the event that a wetland bank could be created, it could potentially generate \$4M - \$5M in revenue (Lake Sullivan and the first 4 holes of the course are about 57 acres, and current market conditions suggest about \$85,000 an acre in revenue).

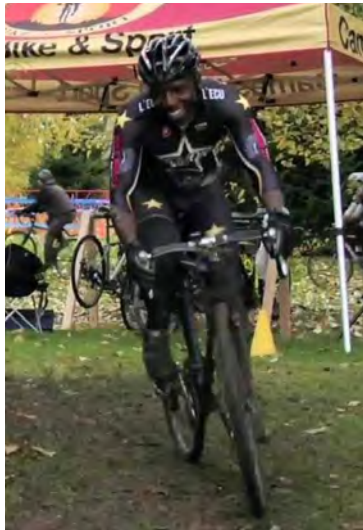


The plan proposes that the clubhouse become a nature center, and that the storage and maintenance buildings provide service functions for the new experience. Boardwalks and paths will provide pedestrian and bike access through the native areas, and shelters will be available to be reserved by the public. New vehicular circulation and parking will provide access to the new amenities, while the existing parking lot at the clubhouse will continue to be available to the nature center. The Lake Sullivan area and tree stand to the north of the clubhouse will become a venue for a zipline and canopy walk experience. If configured correctly, the zipline will be visible to the interstate and will generate interest in the park, as well as revenue from the use of this exciting amenity. Finally, this part of the park will feature a nature playground and off-leash dog park.



# Design Vision





## Cycling Experience

The west side of the existing golf course is envisioned to serve as a new cutting-edge venue for a beginner-level mountain biking course and a championship cyclocross venue. These uses are compatible with those of the Indy Cycloplex to the north of Crooked Creek - which is anticipated to remain - and is consistent with national recreational trends. It appears that if carefully planned, a disc golf course could potentially wrap around the two cycling venues. Should this not be possible, the cyclocross course would be a priority over the mountain bike experience. The plan proposes that vehicular circulation and entry points be clarified by creating one point of entry from Cold Spring Road, and a new bridge is proposed crossing Crooked Creek. The bridge would create a greater sense of connection between the Cycloplex and the adventure park experience. Within the Cycloplex, the plan shows an expansion of the skatepark, doubling the size of the existing venue. Paths and boardwalks create access through the wetland south of the Cycloplex parking lot. The plan proposes that the Soap Box Derby remain and be enhanced with the addition of a storage and workshop facility at the west end of the track. Due to its topography, this area also presents opportunities to activate the park in winter with activities like sledding and cross country skiing.



# Design Vision





## Riverside Golf Academy

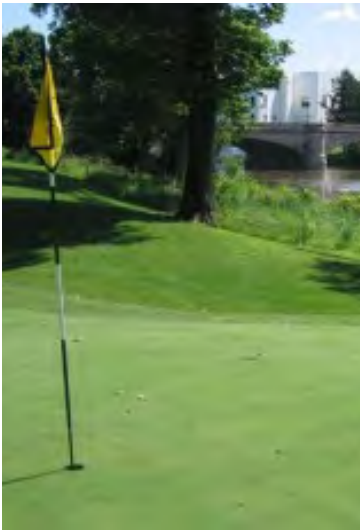
The master plan proposes that the Riverside Golf Academy remain and be enhanced. The academy generates more revenue than the existing golf courses, but the revenue from the academy is used in large part to cover the cost of repairs and maintenance needs at Riverside and Coffin Golf Courses. Without the burden of Riverside to draw on the revenue, it appears that the academy as a stand-alone business entity under private management may prove to be more sustainable. The First Tee Program of Indiana has expressed interest in locating their headquarters at the academy. Should this occur, First Tee or a similar entity may be a partner in implementing improvements to the nine-hole par 3 golf course and the Academy building. The presence of a state headquarters in the park would bring visibility, and potentially a steady revenue stream to support the park.



# Design Vision

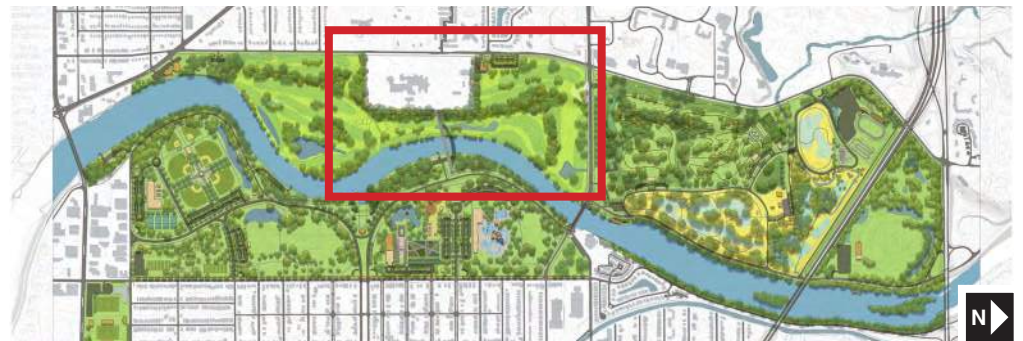
Relocate Coffin Clubhouse To More Visible Cold Spring Rd. Location.  
Expand Existing Maintenance Building to Provide Clubhouse and Banquet Facilities.





## Coffin Golf Course

The plan proposes that Coffin Golf Course be enhanced and celebrated as the park's remaining 18-hole golf experience. Since Riverside and South Grove are considered easier courses, the plan recommends that some redesign occur that might make Coffin more appealing to less experienced golfers. This may include relocation of forward tees to more advantageous positions. The plan also proposes that the clubhouse and maintenance functions be relocated from the current location, either adjacent to the Iron Skillet Restaurant or adjacent to the maintenance building located just north of LaRue Carter Hospital and immediately adjacent to Cold Spring Road. Either of these locations would present a more visible, accessible site for the clubhouse, and address the current need for significant updates and renovations to the existing facility. A new clubhouse location and adjustments to tee locations suggest that the course will need to be redesigned as part of the implementation of the plan.



# Design Vision

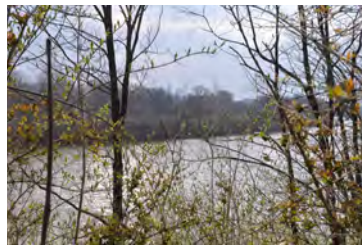
Improvements to Municipal Gardens and River Frontage

Shelter at Scenic Overlook



River Access / Boat Take-Out





## Municipal Gardens & Memorial Grove

The plan proposes that the white tees on the number 5 hole at Coffin Golf course be relocated in order to create a destination and potential revenue generating venue on the bluff overlooking the river at Memorial Grove. The venue would be accessed from Cold Spring Road at the existing location of the historic stone walls. A small parking area could provide accessible spaces just beyond the gates. The plan recommends that Municipal Gardens be renovated. Improvements likely include a new elevator and updates to interior finishes, as well as renovation of the river frontage area. The plan also proposes a new side path running along the east side of Cold Spring Road to the Indy Cycloplex. This path would provide a critical link between Municipal Gardens and points north, and a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists wishing to access the west edge of the park.



## Design Vision

Taggart Memorial venue looking southeast from the White River toward downtown Indianapolis



Creation of a performance venue at the Taggart Memorial would result in a dramatic and inspiring connection to the river.

## Taggart Memorial

There is widespread support for and interest in renovating the Taggart Memorial. The memorial was dedicated to Mayor Thomas Taggart, who served from 1895 to 1901 and is credited with the creation of the park. Repairs to the memorial are not only necessary to stabilize it; the renovation would also be symbolic in its demonstration of the City's commitment to returning the park to its former glory. The memorial has been in a state of disrepair for many years due to a lack of funding. In 2005, a comprehensive study of the memorial's history and its needs was conducted by Jacobs Pannicke Architects and NINebark, and in 2006, plans were developed detailing the work necessary to conduct a full restoration. This plan recommends implementation of the 2006 plans. In 2012, Eric Fulford with NINebark continued to champion the development of the memorial area and developed illustrative plans depicting a relocation of the levee to the east side of the monument. This would create a direct visual and physical connection to the river. The Riverside Regional Park planning process of 2017 resurrected this idea and expanded upon it to include consideration of the space between the memorial and the river as a performance venue and location for a hardened edge that could serve as a small harbor. In this vision, the memorial itself would become a stage for performances. The image at left depicts the potential of this space.

While this would be an expensive undertaking and should be considered a long-term vision, creating this kind of connection is consistent with the vision that will likely be established through the larger White River Master Plan that was just beginning to get underway at the time of the conclusion of the Riverside Regional Park Master Plan.

### Feasibility

It is commonly assumed that relocating the levee would involve permitting and involvement of the US Army Corps of Engineers. The levee is in fact owned by the City of Indianapolis, and as such, the decision to allow it to be altered rests with local authorities only.

The top of the levee occurs at elevation 710, and is the elevation that would have to be maintained to provide the level of desired protection established by the City (this is 3' higher than the 1913 flood that resulted in the decision to create the levee.) The finished floor elevation of the monument is 707.2. This means that the relocated levee would form an elevated enclosure of several feet around the east side of the monument. New site elements would need to be developed to create a logical, accessible and pleasing transition down from the levee to the monument's amenities. This grade change is not considered a limiting factor to implementing the idea, but would contribute to the cost and would require further study and evaluation prior to implementation.

Creation of a performance venue in this location would result in a dramatic and inspiring connection to the river, and would serve as an example of how the region is elevating the value of the connection to one of our most underutilized natural resources.



## Design Vision



## White River Access

Riverside Regional Park was originally envisioned as a public greenspace within the city of Indianapolis where people could connect with the White River. Over the years since the park's creation, this connection has been largely limited, by the creation of a levee to protect from flooding, by pollution that made the river a less attractive option for recreation, and by

the fact that much of the land within the park that is adjacent to the river became golf courses. The river is the backbone of the park, as well as its physical connection to downtown Indianapolis. In the same way, the idea of reconnecting people to the river - and connecting the east and west sides of the park - has been a thread of continuity throughout the planning process. Efforts to improve water quality are beginning to show positive results. Riverside Park can contribute to these efforts by accommodating the natural ebbs and flows of the river with a wetland ecosystem, creating habitat for native plants and wildlife, and providing people with recreational opportunities that connect them to the river and give them a sense that it is an asset and a resource worth protecting. The Marina, Lake Indy Boat Launch, the proposed Taggart Memorial venue, the picnic grove and fishing area, and Municipal Gardens are just a few of the locations where river access can occur. Paddleboat, canoe, and kayak rentals could be provided at the Marina and the Lake Indy Boat Launch. Fishing piers and pedestrian trails connecting waterfront locations create opportunities for bird watching and quiet contemplation. Municipal Gardens was the historic home of a Canoe Club, and improvements to the riverfront area there are needed. The area on the east bank of the river between 16th & 18th Streets could be an ideal location for a boat take-out, before reaching the 16th Street dam.



## Design Vision

The Pedestrian Bridge will provide an important way to connect Municipal Gardens with the amenities on the east side of the park.



Pedestrian bridge spanning the White River from Lake Indy Boat Launch to Larue Carter Memorial Hospital

## Pedestrian Bridge

The two sides of Riverside Regional Park were once connected with several bridges (see the history chapter). Within the park, pedestrian access across the river today is limited to the 30th Street Bridge. The 16th Street Bridge does provide another way across the river and is not far from the park, but it is far enough south that it does not feel integral to the park.



The plan proposes that a new pedestrian bridge be constructed in the general location of the Lake Indy boat launch. This location is proposed for several reasons. First, one of the park's historic bridges was located in this spot – in fact, the concrete abutments can still be seen in the river. This bridge was demolished in 1917 by an ice gorge. Second, the bridge would provide an important connection to the future residents of the LaRue Carter Hospital site and to the neighborhoods west of Cold Spring Road. Imagine how important it could be to the success of the park and the residents (seniors in particular) to have easy access to the aquatic center, Family Center, and other amenities on the east side of the park.

The bridge would also provide an important way to connect Municipal Gardens with facilities and amenities on the east side of the park. The pedestrian bridge would be expensive to build and would be subject to lengthy amounts of time related to permitting, but these issues pale in comparison to the physical and symbolic connections that the bridge would provide.

In this scenario, the bridge spans the golf course but would be high enough that play could occur below it. The planned improvements to the golf course could also include a redesign of the holes in this area to create a green on one side of the bridge and the next tee box on the other side. This would eliminate any concern about having to drive a ball below the structure.



Design Vision





## Urban Farm

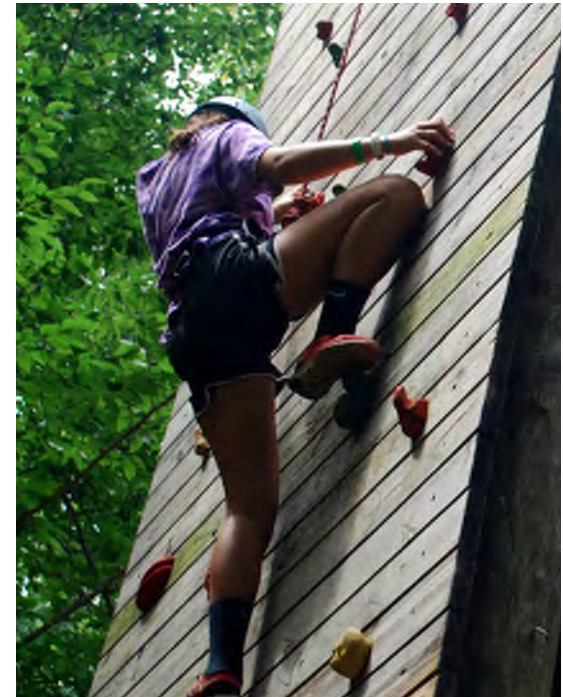


It is estimated that about 180,000 people are food insecure in Marion County - 80,000 of these are children. Food insecurity is defined as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. The communities surrounding Riverside Regional Park are particularly faced with food access issues, with very few grocery or corner stores located in this part of Indianapolis. The plan proposes locating an urban farm within Riverside Regional Park just south of the Indy Cycloplex and adjacent to Crooked Creek, providing easy accessibility to a water source for irrigation.

An urban farm of this size (roughly two acres) has the potential to produce upwards of 30,000 lbs. (250,000 servings) of food annually. Indy Urban Acres - an Indianapolis Parks Foundation project - also grows flowers and sells bouquets through local farmers markets and grocers to financially sustain farming activities. Specialty programs for youth, seniors, and families would offer supervised and focused activity, giving people an improved sense of community pride and stewardship, increasing knowledge about the food cycle, and providing people with new skills. Produce grown on the farm can be an ongoing resource for local food pantries and food programs at schools, churches, and community organizations. An associated community kitchen could teach cooking and food preservation skills and healthy meal planning.



# Design Vision



# Play

Inclusive and diverse play opportunities will be central to the Riverside Regional Park experience. The Master Plan process did not allow for detailed designs of individual playgrounds, but the plan does make a commitment to include play experiences for a variety of ages and abilities.

The Town Center will include a large playground that will consist of cutting edge play structures designed to appeal to children 6-23 months, 2-5 years, 5-12 years, and 13+ years. The adventure park area will include a nature play-based experience oriented to creative play using natural materials and “loose parts.” A climbing tower may be a part of the adventure park experience as well. The bike park

will include a bike playground with a pump track and other features designed to develop agility and confidence in young cyclists. The passive recreation area will include a small playground that will support picnicking and large gatherings. In addition to these specific playgrounds, the park will offer children many opportunities for less structured play. These include experiences within the aquatic center, a water feature at the town center plaza, sensory opportunities within the civic garden, sledding in the winter, kayaking on the river, and opportunities to be courageous on the canopy walk. In all cases, the play experiences will reflect the unique context of the river and will include elements that refer to the river in some way or include water.

### Play For All

In all cases, playgrounds will be designed to include special needs-friendly and sensory-friendly components within the park. These would go beyond ADA accessibility requirements to address other issues such as autism, sensory disorders, and vision impairments. Components may include things like musical instruments, sand/water tables, or “talk tubes” in addition to bucket swings and rubberized surfacing geared toward those using mobility devices. For children affected by certain challenges, water features and splashpads will be more appealing than swimming pools.



# Design Vision

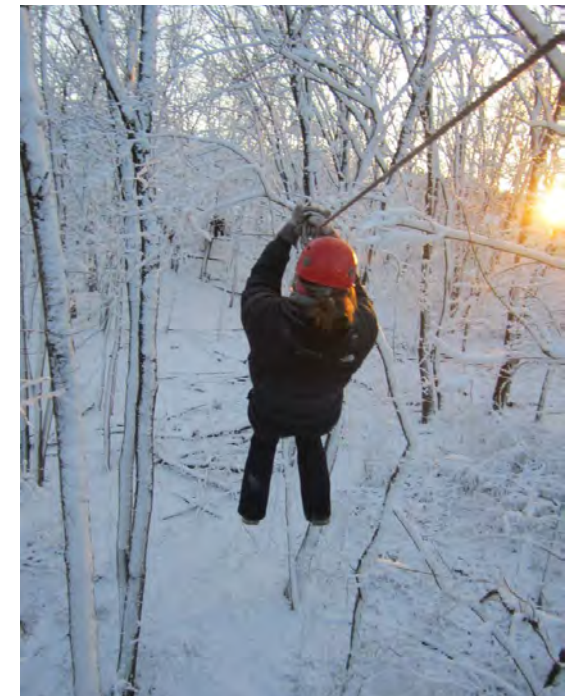
## Winter

One of the benefits of re-programming land that is currently used for golf is that the opportunities to enjoy Riverside Regional Park in the winter expand exponentially. The plan proposes that the grade change at the cyclocross course be used for a sledding experience during winter months that could be run by a vendor who would manufacture snow on site. Cross country skiing can occur on the trails throughout the park, ice skating will be accommodated in the plaza at the town center, and an annual ice sculpture festival could be created to bring seasonal arts interest to the park. The plan identifies a site adjacent to Soap Box Derby Hill that could host a toboggan run that

would provide an experience similar to Pokagan State Park. Full realization of this would mean the creation of a chilled trough and installation of the necessary mechanical equipment. This most likely would also be provided and operated by a vendor.

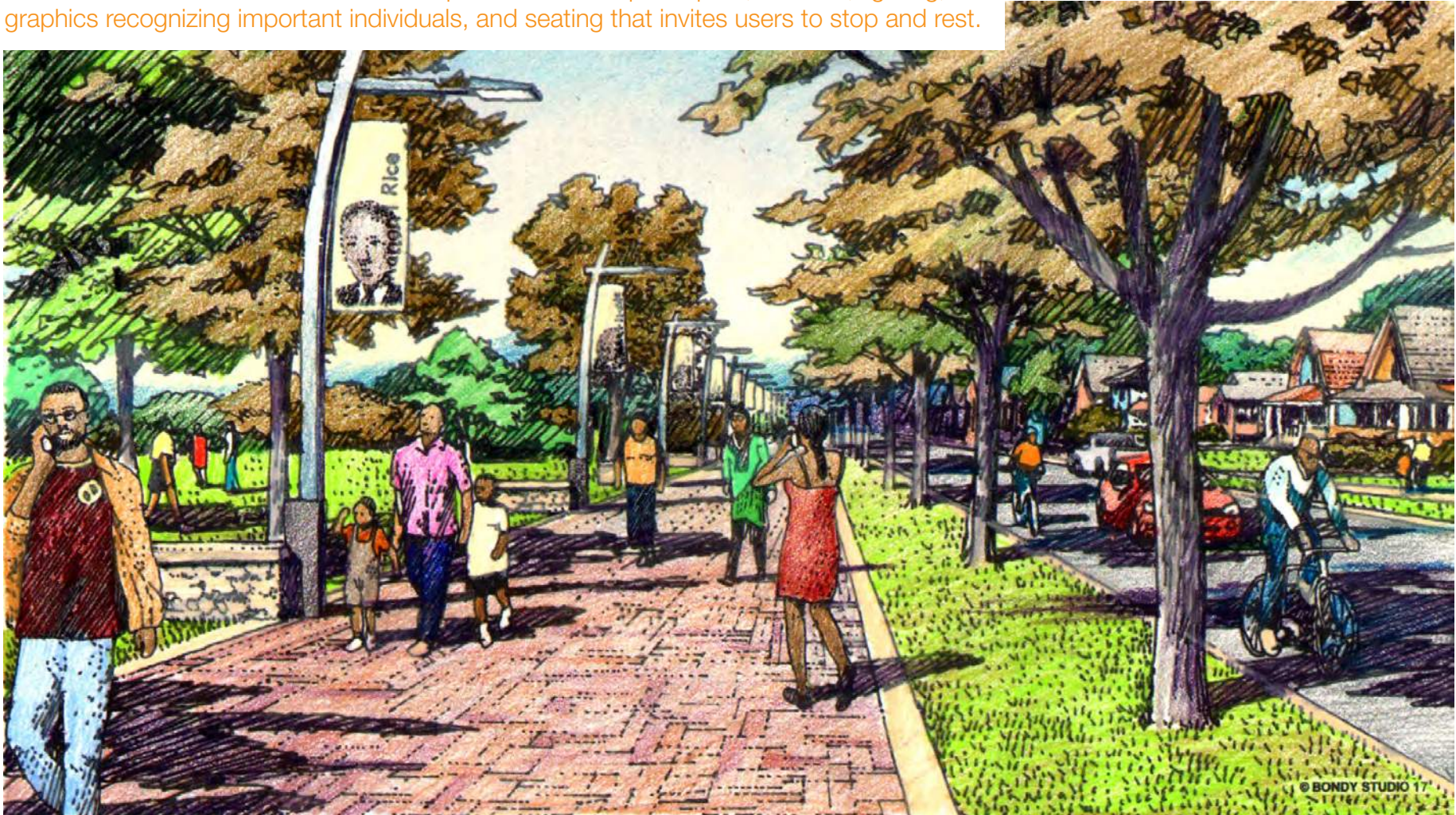
Many experiences in the park can also continue to be available during the winter months regardless of whether there is snow on the ground, including hiking, birding, observing nature, the canopy walk, use of the playgrounds, driving range under heated bays at the Golf Academy, and the many indoor programming options available at the Family Center and nature center.





## Design Vision

The Promenade is envisioned to be composed of a wide paver path, tree row, lighting, graphics recognizing important individuals, and seating that invites users to stop and rest.



Riverside Promenade looking to the north, along the east edge of the park at Riverside Drive



## The Riverside Promenade

The Riverside Promenade will occur on the west side of Riverside Drive from 18th Street to 30th Street. The Promenade serves several purposes: it creates an active, managed edge along the east side of the park, connects the park to the adjacent neighborhood, becomes a venue for recognizing members of the community who have made notable and important contributions to society, and serves as a gateway to the park at both 18th Street and 30th Street.

The Promenade is envisioned to be composed of a 15-20 foot wide unit paver path, tree row, lighting, graphics recognizing important individuals, and seating that invites users to stop and rest. Use of stacked stone elements would help to visually tie the Promenade to the neighborhood. It is anticipated that the Promenade could be implemented early in the overall phasing of park projects, and that construction of the section from 18th Street to Burdsal Parkway could begin before South Grove Golf Course transitions completely to other uses.



## Design Vision

The Plaza will provide opportunities for smaller events and performances such as local musicians, slam poetry readings, dancing, a farmers market, and other community events.



The plaza, looking south toward the renovated & expanded Family Center





## The Riverside Family Center Plaza

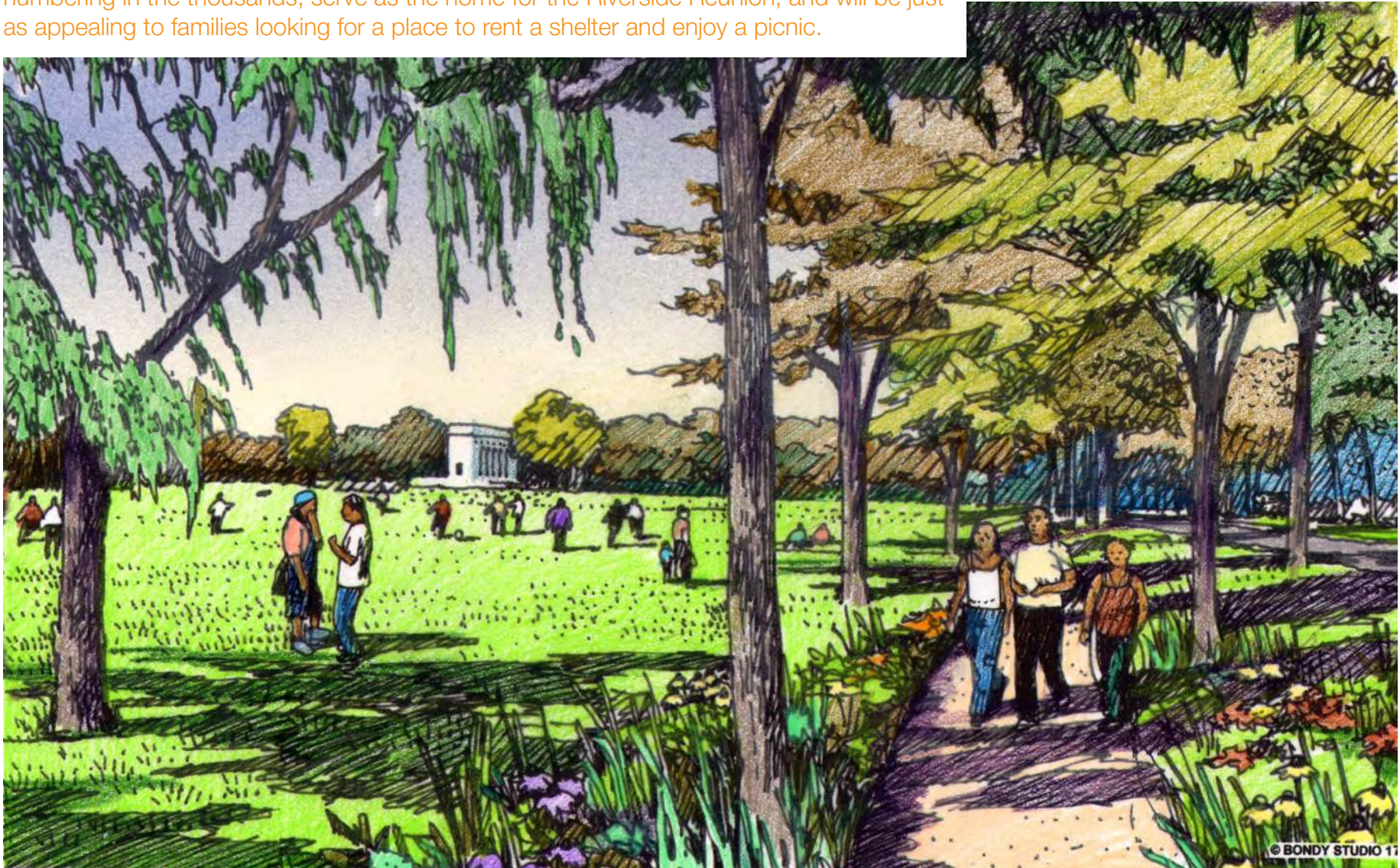
The plan proposes an expansion and renovation of the existing Family Center, to include an outdoor multi-level plaza to the north of the building. The plaza will provide opportunities for smaller events and performances such as local musicians, slam poetry readings, and dancing. It would also be an ideal location for a farmers market and other community events. A fountain or splash pad experience is a draw for families and a universally accessible water recreation opportunity.

Integration of public art is important throughout the park: the Family Center Plaza is the “flagship” location at the park’s Town Center to express this priority and begin to create a unique artistic identity for Riverside Park.



## Design Vision

This 40-acre portion of South Grove Golf Course is designed to accommodate groups numbering in the thousands, serve as the home for the Riverside Reunion, and will be just as appealing to families looking for a place to rent a shelter and enjoy a picnic.



Celebration Green & pedestrian / bicycle path, looking northwest toward Taggart Memorial across what is currently South Grove Golf Course



## Celebration Green

Community input revealed a desire for unstructured open space for picnicking, informal games, large gatherings, reunions, and the simple enjoyment of being outdoors in unprogrammed space. This expectation is also consistent with all the precedent projects that served as points of reference for the community and steering committees throughout the project. Central Park has the Great Lawn, and Chicago's Grant Park, Forest Park in St. Louis, and San Francisco's Golden Gate Park also boast large open spaces that can be flexibly programmed. Tentatively titled Celebration Green, this 40-acre portion of South Grove Golf Course is designed to address the community's desire and will be able to accommodate groups numbering in the thousands, serve as the home for the Riverside Reunion, and will be just as appealing to families looking for a place to rent a shelter and enjoy a picnic. A small playground will support the activities in the Green.



## Design Vision

The community survey revealed that a zipline ranked highest among a list of activities desired within the park but not currently offered.



Zipline and canopy walk experience



## Zipline and Canopy Walk

The community survey revealed that a zipline ranked highest among a list of activities desired within the park but not currently offered. The zipline and canopy walk experience is envisioned to be in the woods north of the existing Riverside Golf Course. This area offers large mature trees and is highly visible from I-65, offering excellent exposure to a vendor who may wish to operate the feature and serving as a fantastic way to advertise a new day at Riverside Regional Park. Further study and coordination with a vendor would be necessary to confirm the exact location and suitable ground conditions for the venue, but it could be a part of an integrated adventure play experience.



## Design Vision

The wetland experience would create a landscape condition more ecologically appropriate than the current use, provide wildlife habitat, serve as a bird sanctuary, and would clean water at a critical point in the Crooked Creek watershed.



Wetland ecosystem, boardwalk, and shelter from what is currently the first tee of Riverside Golf Course

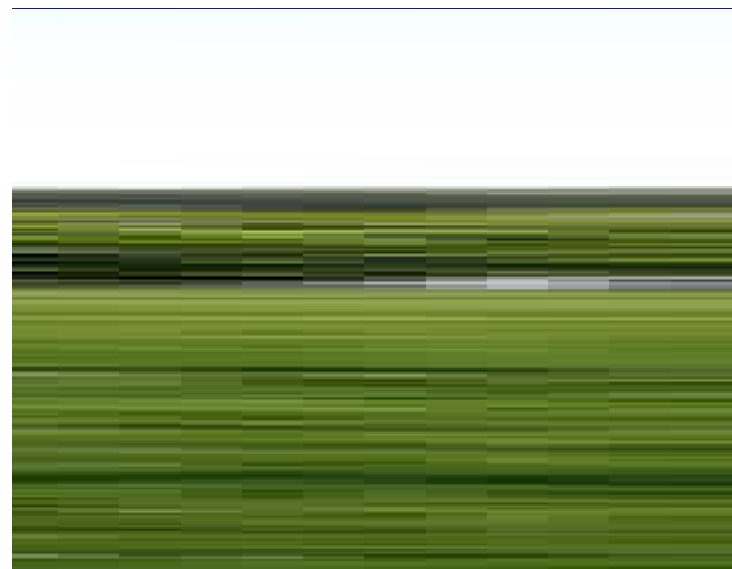
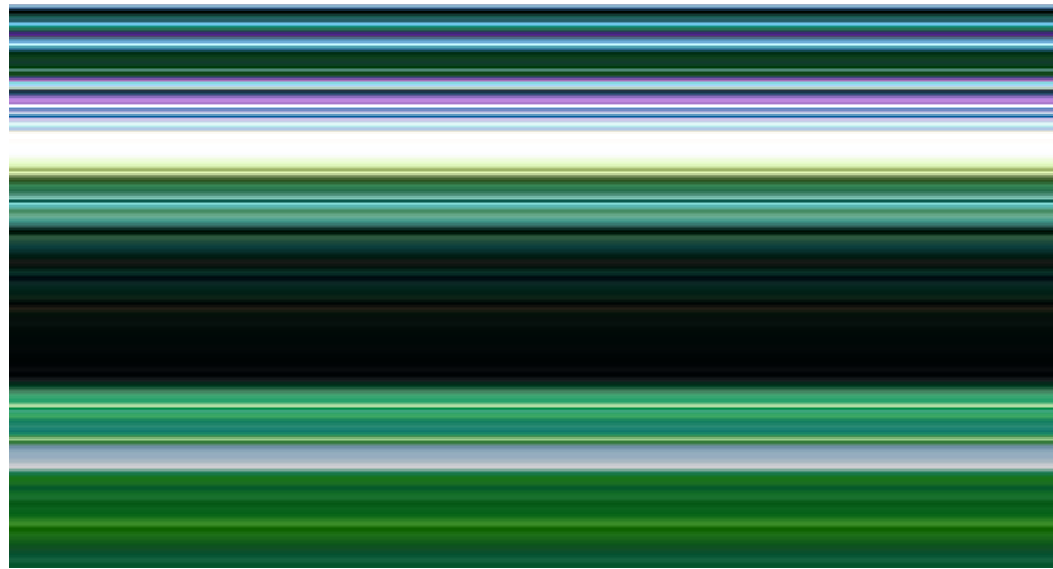


## Wetland Boardwalk

The wetland experience is envisioned to occur generally where the first four holes are located in the current Riverside Golf Course. This area floods consistently throughout the year and is within the floodplain of Crooked Creek. The wetland experience would create a landscape condition more ecologically appropriate than the current use, support pollinators, provide wildlife habitat, serve as a bird sanctuary, and would clean and absorb water at a critical point in the Crooked Creek watershed. The wetland would be accessed with a series of boardwalks and paths and served by shelters that could be rented. Riverside Regional Park will once again be an important part of an urban ecology curriculum for students throughout central Indiana.



# Public Art





# 4 Public Art

Riverside Regional Park's size and location within the Indianapolis community offer a unique opportunity to transform this park into an arts and cultural attraction, creative connector, and noteworthy gem for the city and for central Indiana. The park's proximity to six major city thoroughways, to the downtown core, and to a number of neighborhoods undergoing economic challenges, gives the park a unique position as an important cornerstone to Indianapolis' identity and national profile.

Riverside Park can benefit from its proximity to existing arts and cultural community attractions such as Newfields, (Indianapolis Museum of Art and The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park: 100 Acres), White River Trail, the Canal Towpath, Madame Walker Theatre, the Indiana Avenue Cultural District, the Indianapolis Cultural Trail, and the Crispus Attucks Museum, just to name a few. In addition, Riverside Park is located within 1-2 miles of two large community parks and other smaller parks - most notably Bertha Ross Park and Watkins Park. Its proximity to these community assets offers the unique opportunity to act as a connection point and cultural bridge, to become a hub of creative opportunities and experiences within the community.

Understanding national trends is key to creating opportunities that are adaptable, serve evolving populations across the generations, and support the goals of the surrounding communities. As such, it will be important to consider these trends during the implementation phases for new park facilities and programming. (See appended information for referenced studies by the National Endowment for the Arts, Americans for the Arts, and others.)

# Art is the Heart of Riverside

As Riverside Regional Park enters the implementation phase of the development process, the guiding principles of the plan must embrace as a primary goal that **Creativity**, **Innovation**, and **Art** sit at the heart of all future developments in the park.

This can be achieved through the following initiatives and approaches:

1. All functional aspects of the park (i.e. benches, shelters, lighting) can and should be infused with creative elements that inspire the community and give the park a unique identity. The park is a canvas and creativity is the paintbrush that elevates Riverside to a new level.
2. Develop programming and events in the park that connect with existing community initiatives and traditions such as the Indianapolis 500, the Mini-Marathon, the Indiana State Fair, Circle City Classic, Black Expo, as well as central Indianapolis art community activities like Penrod Arts Fair, First Fridays, or Primary Colours' Installation Nation. These efforts draw local, national, and international attendees, creating the opportunity for cross-cultural exchange and economic support for area artists and the Park.
3. Develop infrastructure within the park that supports a variety of programming and activities across seasons and uses, such as music festivals, food truck events, pop-up art opportunities, flea markets, art/craft festivals, and performances.
4. Identify areas within the park where art installations and public art can occur. This can include both temporary/rotating art and locations dedicated to permanent art pieces. Inclusion of display systems inside of park buildings would also allow for creative activation of indoor spaces.
5. Evaluate park facilities to determine the feasibility of incorporating specialized art amenities such as a ceramics studio, wood shop, commercial kitchen, metal shop,



Alexandra Koláková playground sculptures: Prague, Czech Republic



CHREECE Hip Hop Festival is an all-ages, hip-hop festival in the historical district of Fountain Square Indianapolis with six indoor and outdoor stages featuring forty diverse rappers, producers and DJs from all over Indiana.



**Food Truck Events:** Typically features music and other activities, but the focus is on the food.



**Artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude** installed 7,503 vinyl “gates” along 23 miles (37 km) of pathways in Central Park in New York City.

etc. This process should begin with currently existing structures, and incorporated into the design of new structures once implementation begins.

6. Work with existing Indianapolis arts and cultural institutions and organizations to develop programming that is complementary to their efforts, but also unique in order to differentiate Riverside Park as an important arts and cultural destination.
7. Develop partnerships whereby artists and/or arts organizations become “artists in residence” and offer arts opportunities to the community in exchange for utilization of the Riverside Regional Park facilities. For example, the National Parks Artist-in-Residence Program seeks professional artists including writers, musicians, craftsmen, composers, painters, sculptors, photographers, storytellers, performance artists, and videographers whose work is engaged in issues that are relevant to the park’s interpretive themes. A similar program, Arts Partners in Residence at the Chicago Park District, assesses a park’s available space and programming needs, and matches these with non-profit arts organizations in a barter relationship.
8. Advance a significant art program for the park, putting Indianapolis and Riverside Park “on the map” as a cultural destination. Chicago’s Millennium Park is an example of a park with a significant art program that draws local, national, and international attention and visitors, and impacts the vitality of the city on several fronts.
9. Provide support systems for arts programming, such as dedicated staff and improved marketing efforts across a variety of platforms including television & radio advertising, online presence, social media, and print media.

## Funding Opportunities

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There are a variety of opportunities to support art and cultural activities in the park beyond the general fundraising efforts sustained by the Indianapolis Parks Foundation.

## Public Art

These include, but are not limited to the following:

### Percent for Arts Program

In May 2016, Indianapolis passed a Percent for Art ordinance that established a steady funding mechanism for public art in the city. While similar to other cities' ordinances, Indianapolis' has unique features that create opportunity for community connections and "ownership" of the art in the park. The resulting effort, Chapter 271 Public Art for Neighborhoods Program, requires developers to put aside 1% of any city tax-increment financing incentives (TIF) dollars they receive to fund public art initiatives. If developers choose not to include art directly in their project, the money is put into a general fund that will be used to support various public art projects and cultural events around the city. At least half of the funds must be used in low-income communities. To access these resources, funding may be awarded to applicants who are non-profit organizations, are working with an artist, artist group, or arts organization and the community where the activity is to take place, and the activity is provided free to the public in a public place. As a non-profit organization, the Indianapolis Parks Foundation would be eligible to apply.

### Public Ordinance

Chicago's Millennium Park offers insight on exploring the possibility of the creation of city ordinances that would reserve tax dollars and gifts specifically for the development of the park. Some aspects of the Millennium Park Ordinance that are key in the governance of the park are grants, sponsorship, permits, revenues, and the City of Chicago's ability to work with the non-profit Millennium Park Foundation on sustainability. Millennium Park Foundation raises funds to support key components of the park.

### TIF (Tax Increment Finance)

Riverside Regional Park sits within and/or adjacent to two TIF districts, which could potentially access arts funding. Both the UNWA and Downtown TIFs are potential resources for use in the development of the park.



Arts for All Workshop entitled Quilts for Social Justice event presented at various Indy Park facilities.



Arts Partners in Residence at the Chicago Park District: This program assesses a park's available space and programming needs.



In Millennium Park, you'll find a new kind of town square – a lively, spectacular gathering spot located in the heart of the city

### Executive Decision

When the Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Hospital was developed, Indianapolis did not have a Percent for Art ordinance in place. However, the planning team made the executive decision to ensure that art would be included in the space. Their dedication to the importance of arts in the public realm has resulted in two of the installations in the hospital receiving national recognition. In 2014, artist Adam Frank's piece Arbor received the Americans for the Arts Public Art Network (PAN) Year in Review award. The following year (2015) would then see Rob Ley's May/September, a 12,000-square foot installation on the exterior of the Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Hospital Parking Garage receive the award. The PAN award is the highest recognition for public art in the United States.



Jaume Plensa at Yorkshire Sculpture Park in Yorkshire, England



Movies in the Park: The Chamber: Brazosport Area, Lake Jackson, TX

# Identity



# 5 Identity

Riverside Regional Park currently suffers from an identity crisis. Over time, the various venues within the park have taken on their own unique identity. This results in confusion about whether a venue is, in fact, part of the park, or its own park, or even a part of the Indy Parks system at all. To reinforce the Riverside Regional Park brand and experience, new sign standards will need to be developed with a consistent graphic character and design elements that are tied to other built features within the park.

The identity of the park will be communicated not only through signage but also through the design of the built amenities throughout the park. Gateways, shelters, lighting, wayfinding signage, and buildings should all be clearly linked aesthetically.

The design of these elements should be inspired by the unique character of the adjacent neighborhood. This will connect the park to the story of the neighborhood and ground the new elements in their context.

The material that offers the most promise in this regard is the stacked river stone that was used extensively throughout the Riverside community as it was being developed in the early 20th century. The stone was used commonly for retaining walls that are prominent along Riverside Drive but also occur throughout the community. The stone was also used as the primary masonry material on porches and chimneys for several prominent homes in the area.

The following pages show how stacked stone, graphics, and other standards might be used to create a distinct brand for Riverside Regional Park.

# Identity

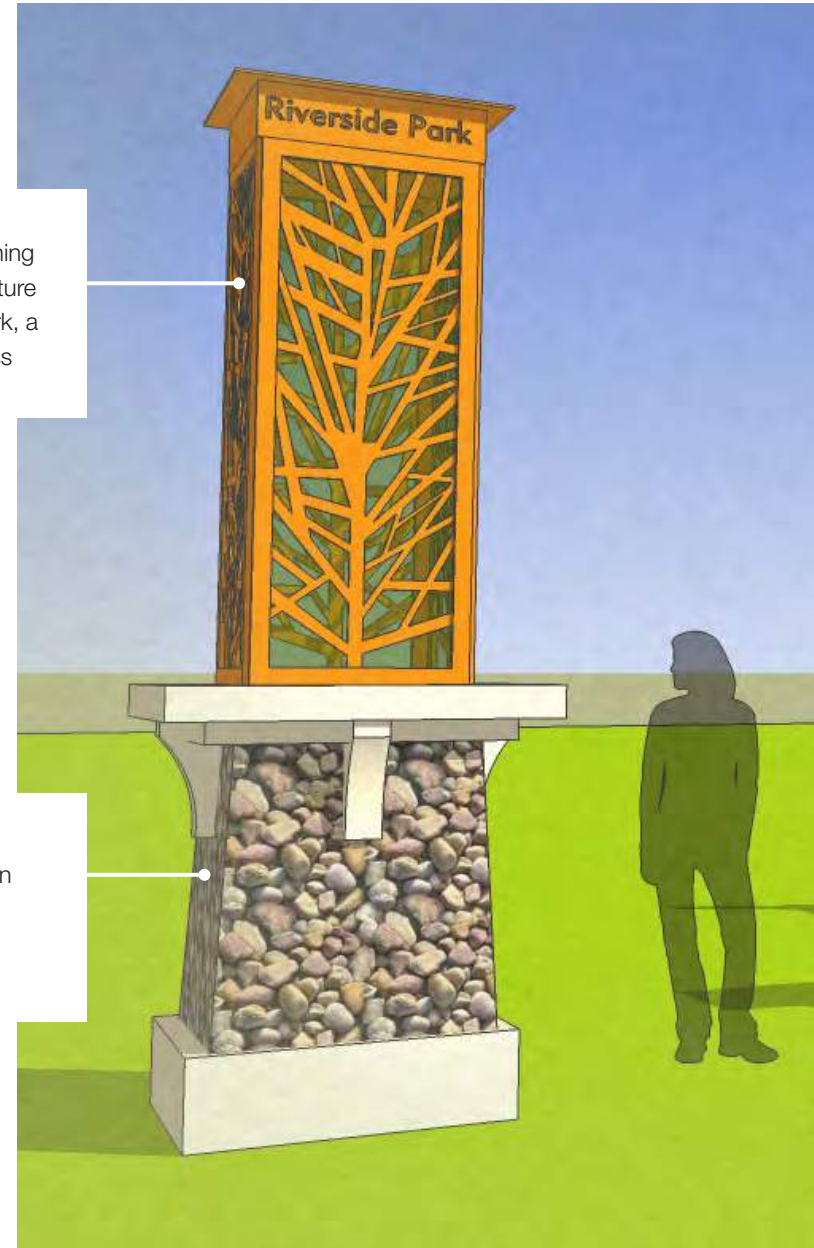
Gateways will be an important way to communicate entry and establish brand identity. A columnar element like the one shown at right could provide the flexibility of using them in pairs for major gateways and as single elements for subordinate gateways or where space is more limited. It will be important to place the columns in locations well clear of driving lanes to minimize the opportunities for damage.



Stacked river stone walls are prevalent throughout the neighborhood

Metal lantern with branching pattern represents the future of Riverside Regional Park, a way forward and progress

The stacked stone base represents the connection to the neighborhood and the foundation on which the park was built







Each venue within Riverside Regional Park should be given an entry sign that consists of the same design vocabulary of elements. In this example, a stacked stone base supports a sign that includes an abstracted branching graphic panel. The sign shows how partnering organizations might be recognized. The colors and materiality all connect visually to elements of the gateway structure.

Signage guidelines should have a clear hierarchy of message that emphasizes, in this order:

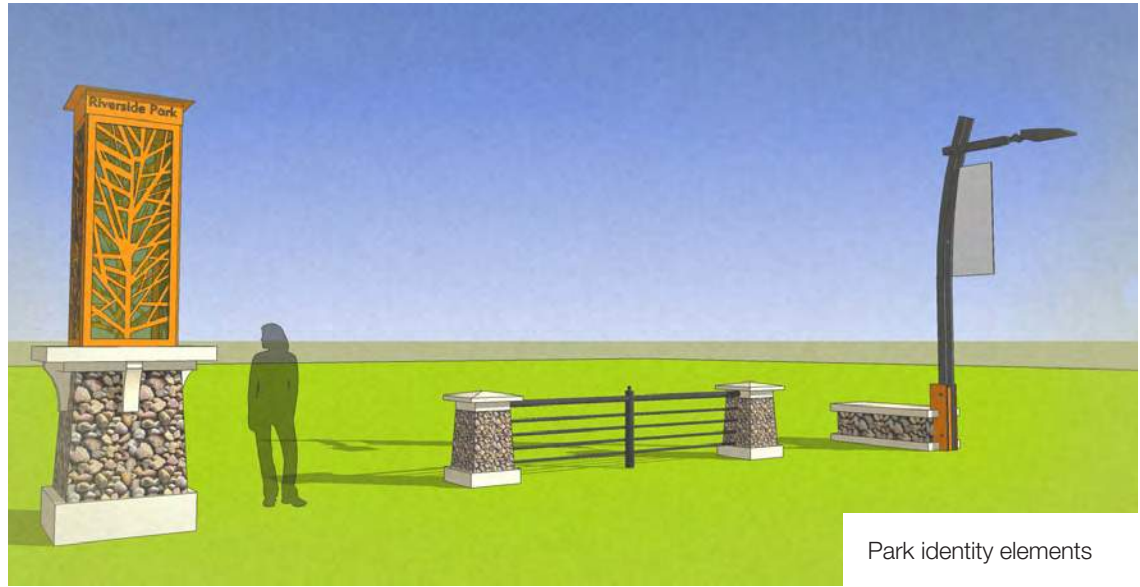
1. The Indy Parks brand
2. The overall location (Riverside Regional Park)
3. The venue
4. Any partnering organizations or sponsors associated with the venue

# Identity

## Park identity elements



The community expressed an interest in having a changeable electronic message sign at the park entry on Riverside Drive at Burdsal Parkway. If implemented, this should also carry the brand elements.



Park identity elements



Collected identity elements create a consistent identity and gateway at the Burdsal Parkway entry.



Large, medium and small shelters should share materiality and colors to establish them as a family. Consistency will help the built elements in the park contribute to the overall identity. These shelters are standard products of a manufacturer but they have been modified to show how adding stone to columns and hearths can extend the brand and tie these new structures to the context.



Icons based on the various program elements could be incorporated into the park's wayfinding system.

# 6 Next Steps

The following pages provide one potential scenario of how over \$100 million of planned improvements could be phased over a 20-year period. The implementation scenario depicted should not be construed to be the only way that the improvements could be implemented; rather, it is intended to provide an initial framework that allows the City to establish priorities and the Indianapolis Parks Foundation to structure fundraising initiatives.

### **Phasing**

The implementation framework is broken into four five-year phases. The phases are in five-year increments because this planning module tends to relate well to the amounts of time necessary for the development of partnerships, fundraising activities, design, bidding and construction schedules.

### **Partnerships**

The implementation of the master plan cannot be accomplished by the City alone. With an annual capital budget of around \$4.3 million, Indy Parks would never be able to fund the many opportunities that the planning process has identified will be necessary to help the park realize its full potential. Partnerships will be critical to the success of the plan. The Indianapolis Parks Foundation will no doubt need to play a significant role in securing funding, but the full realization of the vision for Riverside Regional Park will likely require the creation of a structure, management, and programming system that does not currently exist in Indianapolis. A new way to fund, program, and manage our signature parks is necessary, and will need to be explored in the next 3-5 years. For Riverside

Regional Park, one potential scenario may be the creation of a conservancy-type of organization. A precedent for this would be the Central Park Conservancy in New York City. The Central Park Conservancy includes a staff of over 45 people, raises 75% of the park’s annual budget, and is responsible for programming, management, maintenance, public relations, and capital improvements. If a Riverside Regional Park Conservancy were to be created, it would dramatically reduce the burden of funding, maintenance, and management on the City – but this approach will require time to implement.

In the meantime, the planning and implementation scenario depicted identifies several early priority projects that could demonstrate the City’s commitment to forward progress. Even these projects will require the support of partners. While no commitments have been made at this time, it is anticipated that partnerships could ultimately include participation from:

- The Indianapolis Parks Foundation
- Corporate entities
- Local utility providers
- Local health care organizations
- Financial institutions
- Private funders
- Local foundations and charitable trusts
- Sports organizations like the National Football League, National Basketball Association, Major League Baseball and local team representatives; Colts, Pacers, Indians
- Indiana Sports Corp
- State and national golf advocacy organizations
- Local cycling advocacy groups and manufacturers
- Local skateboard advocacy organizations, i.e. Indy Skatepark Advocates
- Visit Indy
- White River advocacy groups
- Environmental and ecological advocacy organizations
- Art organizations

**Costs**

It is important to know that the costs associated with each plan component are high-level estimates based on concept plan information. They are intended to present an “order of magnitude” cost only and could vary a great deal depending on the actual scope of work, the economic climate within which the work occurs, and the sources of funding, among many other factors.

## Next Steps

# Phase 01 Implementation Plan

Phase 1 represents the largest investment of the four phases and it is designed to demonstrate the City's commitment to implementing the plan. However, it recognizes that some projects have already been initiated. For example: detailed planning has already occurred for the skatepark expansion; the Taggart Memorial restoration has already been designed; an RFP for the re-use of the Marina has been issued; and the City has already budgeted money for the renovation of the 30th Street Bridge (as of publication, the design services had been solicited through an RFQ).

The management contract for South Grove Golf Course is scheduled to end in 2024, which means that detailed design and planning for the golf course's re-use should occur within this window.

The Riverside Golf Course management contract is scheduled to end within this timeframe, so detailed planning for that golf course's re-use should occur during this time. There will likely be a lengthy permitting process associated with the creation of a wetland experience, so that process should be initiated within this window as well.



Proj. #	Plan Component / Tasks
1.1	Riverside Promenade / Phase 01
1.2	Cold Spring Road Pedestrian/ Bicycle Path
1.3	Taggart Memorial Restoration
1.4	Municipal Gardens Improvements
1.5	Skatepark Expansion
1.6	30th Street Bridge Renovation
1.7	Adventure Park: Wetlands / Nature Play Experiences
	Adventure Park: Bike Trails
	Adventure Park: Clubhouse change to Nature Center
1.8	Baseball, Roads, Parking, Tennis
1.9	Golf Academy Improvements
1.10	Boat Launch Enhancements
1.11	Marina

2018				2019				2020				2021				2022				Estimated Cost	Notes
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
	DESIGN			BID	BUILD															\$2,400,000	Assuming half the length is done in Phase 01: 18th Street to Burdsal Parkway
								DESIGN		BID	BUILD									\$850,000	Part of the trail is the existing Coffin cart path
	DESIGN			BID	BUILD															\$4,000,000	Many documents completed as part of prior work
			D.	BID	BUILD															\$995,000	Swings, wedding venue, parking, elevator
				DESIGN	BID					BUILD										\$500,000	ISA has a plan
	DESIGN	BID	BUILD																	\$7,000,000	DPW issued RFP for this on 9/12/17
				DESIGN				PERMIT	BID	BUILD										\$9,000,000	Permitting may be much longer than 6 mos
				DESIGN	BID	BUILD															
				DESIGN				BID	BUILD												
	PARTNER											DESIGN	BID	BUILD						\$29,800,000	Construction can't commence until South Grove management contract is up
	PARTNER											DESIGN	BID	BUILD						\$1,500,000	First Tee may be willing to fund
	DESIGN	BID	BUILD																	\$500,000	
	RFP	DES.	BID	BUILD																\$0	Assuming Improvements are made by a private entity through an RFP process.
															PHASE 1 Estimated Cost	\$56,545,000					
															Contingency (10%)	\$5,654,000					
															Soft Costs (10%)	\$5,654,000					
															<b>PHASE 1 TOTAL COSTS</b>	<b>\$67,853,000</b>					

## Next Steps

### Phase 02 Implementation Plan

A highlight of Phase 2 will be to initiate the process of implementing the pedestrian bridge over the White River connecting the two sides of the park. The bridge will be subject to a lengthy permitting process and will be costly, so it is important to start the process no later than Phase 02.

The Taggart venue builds on the momentum generated by the renovation of the memorial in Phase 01, and the second phase of the Riverside Promenade (Burdsal to 30th Street) will build on the success and excitement generated by the implementation of the first phase (18th to Burdsal).

The aquatics center is planned for this phase because the baseball venue will need to be built first in Phase 01 (freeing up land currently devoted to baseball that is planned for the larger aquatics facility). The existing aquatics center can operate while the new one is being designed and built.



Proj. #	Plan Component / Tasks
2.1	White River Pedestrian Bridge
2.2	Riverside Promenade / Phase 02
2.3	Taggart Memorial Performance Venue
2.4	Aquatics Center
2.5	Town Center
2.6	Multi-Purpose Athletic Fields
2.7	Establish Urban Farm



2023				2024				2025				2026				2027				Estimated Cost	Notes
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
	DESIGN				PERMIT					BID										\$4,000,000	Would be preceded by lobbying effort
		DESIGN				BID	BUILD													\$2,400,000	Burdsal Parkway to 30th Street
						DESIGN				BID	BUILD									\$2,000,000	Relocation of levee; construction of performance venue
										DESIGN				BID	BUILD					\$8,500,000	Needs to be completed before old facility comes offline
														DESIGN						\$750,000	Renovation & expansion of Family Center; construction of plaza, gardens, parking, trails
	DESIGN					BID				BUILD										\$1,650,000	At least one athletic field will be artificial turf
	DESIGN				BID	BUILD														\$750,000	Hoop house, storage building, water distribution system, site preparation
																PHASE 2 Estimated Cost	\$20,050,000				
																Contingency (10%)	\$2,005,000				
																Soft Costs (10%)	\$2,005,000				
																<b>PHASE 2 TOTAL COSTS</b>	<b>\$24,060,000</b>				

## Next Steps

### Phase 03 Implementation Plan

The town center is implemented in Phase 3. And represents the most significant investment in this phase. Two transportation projects – the renovation of Riverside Drive and Cold Spring Road - will repair damage to the road cause by construction traffic from earlier implementation efforts and give the park new edges. This Phase will also see the renovation of Coffin Golf Course.



Proj. #	Plan Component / Tasks
3.1	Town Center
3.2	Rebuild Riverside Drive
3.3	Rebuild Cold Spring Road
3.4	Coffin Golf Course Enhancements
3.5	Kuntz Stadium Enhancements

2028				2029				2030				2031				2032				Estimated Cost	Notes
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
BID	BUILD																			\$9,980,000	Design complete in previous phase
								DESIGN				BID	BUILD							\$1,000,000	New Pavement and curbs
								DESIGN				BID			BUILD					\$1,000,000	New Pavement and curbs
DESIGN				BID	BUILD															\$1,000,000	Enhancements to be determined but intent is to create exceptional golf experiences
												DESIGN				BID	BUILD			\$1,500,000	Artificial turf field, general improvements to facilities at venue
PHASE 3 Estimated Cost																\$14,480,000					
Contingency (10%)																\$1,448,000					
Soft Costs (10%)																\$1,448,000					
<b>PHASE 3 TOTAL COSTS</b>																<b>\$17,376,000</b>					

## Next Steps

### Phase 04 Implementation Plan

The last phase of the project is dedicated to plan elements that may be more flexible in their timing. These elements could be implemented sooner if funding became available but are less tied to the successful completion of prior efforts. The most significant investment would be the implementation of the passive recreation area north of the multi-purpose playfields in the area that is currently South Grove Golf Course. The passive recreation area and other Phase 4 elements could potentially be funded, at least in part, by the revenues generated by the plan elements implemented in prior phases.



Proj. #	Plan Component / Tasks
4.1	Passive Rec Area
4.2	Soap Box Derby
4.3	Parking Lot Area Improvements
4.4	Security Enhancements
4.5	Miscellaneous Improvements
4.6	Toboggan Run

2033				2034				2035				2037				2038				Estimated Cost	Notes
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
	DESIGN			BID	BUILD															\$2,940,000	Paths, parking, shelters
		DESIGN			BID	BUILD														\$1,000,000	New maintenance and storage facility
						DESIGN		BID	BUILD											\$500,000	Paths, swings, other light touches to make more accessible
									DESIGN				BID					BUILD		\$650,000	Cameras, lighting
																	DESIGN	BID	BUILD	\$1,232,500	Benches, trash receptacles, signage, drinking fountains, etc
									DESIGN				BID	BUILD						\$750,000	Pokegan Like experience
															PHASE 4 Estimated Cost	\$7,072,500					
															Contingency (10%)	\$707,250					
															Soft Costs (10%)	\$707,250					
															<b>PHASE 4 TOTAL COSTS</b>	<b>\$8,487,000</b>					

## Q1. What do you love about the park?

278  
Respondents

- Peaceful, basketball courts, playground, swimming pool, bike trail
- Taggart memorial
- Trees
- I love the easy access to the multiple golf courses in close proximity.
- It's natural beauty close to the city.
- Its history and potential
- Location is great, scale of the park.
- The floodplain is not developed for occupied uses.
- Overall size
- Its scale - you can be "in the park" for a long time while on a bike or walking
- Size, location along the river, variety and number of amenities (especially tennis courts), relationship to a neighborhood, classic olmstead-like style, trees!
- Distance to home
- Greenspace. Walking and bike riding
- Location, openness, nature, and potential.
- The golf course, the location, the events, the history, the sports
- I enjoy the bike trail, the river, and the beautiful outdoor setting in an urban area.
- Open green space along the water
- Close, scenic river views, quiet,
- Trees. Not having mountain bikes.
- Riding bicycles along river and connecting to other parts of the city.
- Riding bicycles along river and connecting to other parts of the city.
- Variety of services
- Recreation
- Nice location and forest
- The big open space and old, classic structures
- It's a large and centrally located park with lots of options for recreation.
- Trails
- The ability to do certain cycling activities
- The great potential for bike trails
- Sloping grassy areas
- Location, the bike trail, it's a great way to get outside, feel away and enjoy the river views
- I love playing tennis at riverside park!
- Location and size
- Location and geography
- So much green space close to water.
- Walking path
- I have been a riverside park attendee for all of my 35 years. I love the people that have worked there for years, it is very much a family atmosphere. I love the location as well, though I live closer to the broad ripple area, I still enjoy the area... Golf courses, the derby, and the centers
- Open areas of green grass.
- That it is wide open, natural and minimal asphalt and cement!!
- Its connection to the white river greenway, the refurbished tennis courts, the shelter houses, the family-friendly feeling.
- Open spaces
- I love taking my kids to the park for picnics and they love the skatepark.
- The skatepark.
- I love kuntz stadium. I've played soccer there for years and the big grass fields are wonderful. It is easily assessable for players from all different directions and is an indianapolis treasure!
- Its location along the white river.
- Quite a number of attributes, but especially the vision of former mayor taggart who had the foresight to acquire the land. Also the restive quality made possible by the non-commercialized expanses of greenspace
- The wild woods behind the municipal garden building, at the intersection of laf & cold spring rds. We need to retain rough - & natural spaces for native habitats and (gentle) human exploration.
- Location
- Major taylor veldrome and bmx park

- Location on white river & near trails.
- Trails & location
- Trails & location
- The river and the variety of activities it provides. The beautiful trees. The mowing upkeep. I was awarded my eagle scout award in the pool house. And I love the golf courses. Have played all three countless times in my life. Coffin is especially beautiful!
- The nature, I like the river walk, and all the scenery
- I really like the nature aspect and the golf courses but 3 courses is a bit much.
- The views and it's a very relaxing and friendly environment
- Sense of community
- Place to be myself with no judging
- Never been there nor knew about it!
- The space
- The skatepark
- It's free
- The size / span and facilities available
- Green space for the community, playgrounds, aquatic center, trails, beautiful views (i live across the street) and the many waterways in riverside.
- The river access and trails. Fog in the morning and fresh snow in the winter. Looking out over green space from my homes front porch. Huge amount of green space in the middle of the city. Close access to three waterways in the city. History!
- The golf courses and the open beauty. Just soo much open space, even with lots of people there you still feel like you have the place to yourself.
- Trees, close to the river
- Trees, birds, original design, largeness 30th st bridge and boat access from it.
- Location! On the white river as well as accessible via the white river trail.
- The path along the canal. The amphitheater.
- Location - close to downtown.
- It's location and size
- The location. This area of the city needs more things like this.
- Green space and bikeways
- I've been using the skatepark multiple times a week for the past ten years. The skatepark has built a community and family for me, and holds many of my best memories.
- It's pretty and nice
- Central location in the city
- You can get to it via canal towpath from broad ripple.
- Skatepark and river!
- All the space.
- We love the large amount of green space and the skatepark.
- Outdoor recreation it provides for all walks of life.
- I enjoy public green spaces! I also like being able to ride my road bike or mountain bike in these spaces. I love the offroad natural surface trails I just wish we had more of them!
- Golf course is the only thing i've ever used there.
- Bike trail connection
- Surrounding area, proximity to home
- The variety of options that you have at the park
- Location
- Location
- The freedom of shelters for small cook outs
- Basketball
- Location
- I love the trails throughout the park that allow me to get out and run in nature instead of a city sidewalk!
- The variety of family activities at the park are great! The location is also close to downtown and other popular venues in indianapolis
- Trees and greenery.
- The open area
- Openness and views
- Clean
- That it's in the heart of the city in indianapolis
- Openness, a growth potential.
- Location, the river
- Accessible to the public
- Pool, tennis courts, playgrounds
- I really enjoy the open space and greenery. I also love seeing families and groups enjoying the outdoors together.

## Appendix: Survey Results

- The size of it, really river access, great location in the city
- I like the green space and all outdoor activities. I grew up in this park.
- I grew up in the area, and riverside park was always a place of activity for the community and city alike.
- History and close location
- Riverside golf academy & white river tow path
- I love the golf courses and I love the bike paths.
- The size and openness.
- Close to home. Big and beautiful.
- It's where I learned alot coming up...
- The free atmosphere and seeing the local community enjoy the park. I grew up in this park and have always loved this special place. Ball diamonds and football fields.
- An immensely, inspirational, centralized community, that interconnects deep cultural norms, values, and family respect, for common interactions, among youths, and friends, which helps bring out the best in people.
- The large open area
- The pool, shelter, and opened a of the area
- The open space and enjoy fun activities outside!
- The open space and enjoy fun activities outside!
- Nothing
- Large size, location, adjacent bike trail
- I love the park because it is a great place to spend time with my grandchildren. It is good for the whole neighborhood.
- Right next to my house, water park and playground
- Seeing people use the park
- It's regional park status within the kessler parkway and boulevard system and taggart memorial
- Proximity to my home. Nice walkways rental for cookouts.
- It's available to the community so that families & friends can gather to socialize.
- Taggart memorial
- Area and openness
- The park has recreational opportunities for all ages. Also I like the green space the park offers and that its close to the river. L
- Great open space; the river, the taggart memorial.
- Close to me, attractive to look at it brings beauty to the neighborhood.
- Beauty and exercise programs and activities for children
- Close to home, free activities
- The exercise program for adults.
- Big, river, close to downtown.
- The openness of it all. Access from many areas.
- The size and amount of green space. The historical value. The proximity to neighborhoods with lots of families.
- Location near river
- I love the location, the 18-hole golf course, the golf academy and that it is a park for the neighborhood
- The lake, water park, tennis courts, etc. So many options to enjoy the outdoors
- I can walk my dog
- Besides it's pure size and beauty, I love everything about riverside. It's historical and needs to be on a platform for the city to enjoy not destroy.
- Access to river; bike path
- Games and sports like baseball and skateboarding
- Picnic area
- Picnicking shelters
- Fun
- Serenity, great place to come and relax
- Its a nice space to get outdoors with family and friends instead of staying inside watching tv and video games. Fresh air and exercise.
- Everything
- The trees and cleanliness
- The trees, grass and the activity hike when they have one
- Gives our kids a place to relax and vent
- Many activities for the kids
- Basketball court
- Near our home, we can walk
- Quiet, friendly, compatible for all



- Everything especially the location and also the activities they offer
- Green space and fishing
- I like the location and the size of the park
- Down the street
- The center and events
- It's close to me, in walking distance. My grandchildren can go there to play and when the pool is open they can go swimming
- Family fun with games
- Close to home
- The grounds, the trees peaceful during the weekdays
- Open space
- Golf
- The amount of green space in the heart of the city is unique and special.
- It's close to my home.
- Location.
- Access to the river; bike paths through natural spaces.
- Public access to nature
- Community, open space and resources
- The open trails.
- Bike path, river access, sport fields
- Large shelters
- History
- Green space, walking the trails and golfing. Also, love the dads' club football and basketball at the gardens.
- Bike riding
- The large size and location.
- Lake Sullivan sports complex. The velodrome and cyclocross racing.
- It is a nice green space in the middle of the city. Overall, it creates a fairly peaceful setting in an urban area.
- The velodrome.
- Sloping terrain
- Walking trail system (we walk and bike). Tennis. New colts playground area (the electronic timers already need maintenance, by the way!)
- All the green space
- Close to home, lots of space and room to roam around. Little bit of water is nice too.
- Everything
- The beauty and cleanness
- The ability to do so many things
- Location
- Outdoors, nature, a since of connecting with the community
- Across the street from my home
- Size, its clean
- Close to home for picnics
- Picnic area, place for kids, walking, tennis
- It is still in operation
- The park is very spacious and there are any activities available like tennis, golf, picnic area, etc
- Swimming pool and water park
- They playground and swimming pool and water park
- That its right across the street, open gym for toddlers, playground
- That we have one in our area
- The view, the activities they have available
- Close distance to my home and activities for seniors
- I love the fact that its open to family celebration
- Indoor pool- exercise
- Driving by and seeing the children play
- I love all the things that one can do with family and friends
- Good environment, peaceful
- The variety
- It's always been fun and positive for the kids and adults
- Cool environment
- Chill spot
- Open space, green areas, outdoor venues
- Everything
- Golfing
- Basketball courts
- The swimming pool
- I love all the open space
- Open spaces
- The peace and quiet
- The soap box derby hill
- I love the size, the location, the history
- Size! What a great asset so close to downtown. Also, the white river trail is a great connector.
- All the trees and the river

## Appendix: Survey Results

- History
- Riding through on my bike.
- Westside location, elevation, closeness to marian
- An open park very close to the center of downtown indianapolis
- Proximity to the white river and the white river trail
- Reminds me of my childhood
  - playing tennis with my dad, swimming with my grandparents, watching games / golf players.
- The open space, basketball courts, football fields, baseball fields, car shows on the weekend, family center, swimming pool.
- Green space, basketball and tennis courts
- The boat launch
- The green space and the proximity to the river.
- The convenience to the community.
- The green space, and recreation center.
- Its nearness to the white river. Its size - it is huge. It is easily accessible.
- The pool and open space
- I enjoy playing tennis at the tennis courts. At times weeds grow in the cracks, my husband and I try to pull them up. If you need maintenance at the courts, I would be happy to volunteer: cgarner3602@yahoo.Com
- History
- The sports
- Grew up playing in this park
- The people and the large amount of ground space
- Location
- To play basketball.
- I love that when I get bored I can come here instead of being bored.
- It's in my neighborhood
- The natural beauty
- The recreation center. The free exercise and work out program. The availability of the gym.
- All the new improvements. Space for sports actions.
- I like our activities here and mostly my taekwondo class.
- Location, space, trails, taekwondo lessons
- The curbside and the swing and everything
- Rare people
- That you can meet people
- The history. The space. The potential
- It is close to my home, the sports equipment that has been added
- It's a very fun place to take children.
- Trees; white river trail
- Way it connects points between 30th and 16th, its river access, and ties to history of neighborhood.
- Size and potential to support economic development in the area
- The vast amount of land and the community
- Easy access
- The lack of facilities, neglected character, lack of river views
- Do not always feel safe when using the park.
- Lots of chemicals being used on the golf courses.
- Golf
- Cant see the river very much
- General state of disrepair, car-oriented access, poor condition of monuments and bridges, cut off from river. No place to eat nearby or within.
- No natural surface trails
- Golf courses - very few people allowed to enjoy a huge space.
- Lack of activities, lack of adult area, swimming for adults, finished trails, sidewalk, lighting.
- There is not color. The grass doesn't seem kept up. There needs to be new pavement.
- Not enough covered seating.

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Respondents

### Q2. What do you not love about the park?

- Bathrooms
- The decline of taggart memorial
- Facilities are dated
- I wish the park was better maintained to look as nice as the other parks near by.
- Needs more ways to interact with that beauty and natural features... Like the river

- Sometimes it is difficult to cross streets as a pedestrian or cyclist.
- Does not seem to get as much use as I would like and I wonder whether it is overly dominated by the golf courses and whether they get much use.
- Too much land devoted to golf courses
- Trash
- Need more areas for cycling
- Crime
- No mountain bike trails
- Missing mountain bike trails
- The rough roads around it
- Large areas of the park are under utilized. The parking areas along the river are also poorly lit and poorly patrolled making them a hot spot for illicit activity. Recreation options can also be expanded to be more inclusive.
- Lack of trail and all is exposed
- The lack of bike trails
- No mountain bike trails
- I only pass thru, I don't actually use the facility for anything other than biking
- Lack of regular maintenance of the tennis courts
- No offroad trails
- The inaccessibility of the pool that was once available.
- Not hike and bike friendly
- Crime and drugs in area.
- I would prefer that more money was invested into it... And other indy parks for the up keep and bettering. (I guess like this project). I also, while enjoying the pool, wish that they would have kept the indoor pool or at least kept the deeper depths of the pool, along with the diving boards.
- Upkeep
- No parking; cars riding through the park; trash
- The thought that the parks people will "improve" it with fake grass playgrounds, more asphalt and physical structures.
- Broken down bridge over 30th st which inhibits appreciation of the river, the former restaurant at 30th st that sits empty and unused, the lack of trimming around trees, the broken and mildewed fence along white river pkwy, a general lack of maintenance, the underutilization of municipal gardens, the general underuse and lack of access to white river for use by boaters, residents, and visitors, the lack of trimming along white river greenway, the trash along the greenway, the lack of maintenance of the greenway
- Trash around the river and boat ramp
- The limitations the golf park puts on the park as a whole.
- We've had a lot of break ins in the past in the area and that has meant we can't sponsor events there. It doesn't seem safe. My daughter went to marian and we had the soccer bus for the visiting team broken into one time and it was awful. I know the high school golfers who use the golf courses there have had multiple break ins. It has a reputation now of not being a good, safe area.
- The amount of the park that is wasted on a golf course.
- The lack of proactive litter prevention and enforcement detracts from all indianapolis parks. We need to raise the bar. I'm getting weary of picking up others' litter.
- The garbage within the woods at the intersection of laf & cold spring rd.
- Too much golf
- The roads surrounding the park are covered in pot holes
- Too many underutilized golf courses
- Too much golf/not usable space, car centric, not well maintained
- Golf takes up 99%of the park
- The lack of maintenance in some areas, i.E. The ball fields, tennis courts and the split rail fence on white river blvd just south of 30th! It is drastically under-utilized. I hate that the little cafe on the river, just north of 30th, has not been managed/marketed correctly and is wasting away. It was a fantastic place due to its location. Open it back up!!
- Its a lot of grass for no reason. Carnivals are not held there. Why not create some forested, farmed or meadowed areas? Or public art or other things to activate the area. Look at mill race

## Appendix: Survey Results

- park. Or ueno park, dolores park or golden gate park.
  - Why are there 3 golf courses and not a lot of different choices of activities?
  - More trails and skate address as well as resting areas
  - Gets crowded fast due to limited lines
  - Scooters
  - Little to do
  - The swampy area next to the skatepark
  - Needs a great skatepark
  - 30Th street bridge area is terribly overgrown and dilapidated. One public park restroom and it's always locked year-round. 1,000 Acres of green space, only 80 acres is public park, the rest is golf courses.
  - Condition of trails. Location and layout of family center with respect to the rest of the park. Lack of interest
- by parks in maintaining the taggart memorial through the years. Removal of the indoor lap pool from riverside family center. Too much overall space dedicated to golf courses and not other uses that can be enjoyed by people who don't golf. That it no longer has the some of the same caliber of facilities the park started out with early on (riverside park pavilion, river swimming and diving, zoo, marina, boating)
- I wish there was more accessibility to the water front, along with better/more boating/fishing. Its basically an island with all the water around, but it doesn't feel like it currently, need to see more of the water.
  - Liter, it's. Very car oriented, I really could just drive around it to enjoy and never get out of the car. 30th St. Bridge is in beautiful decay.
- Golf. In a city with a shortage of public green space its sad to see so much being used for used for one recreation type and very few people. Why does the city need 3 courses? Let alone in the same general vicinity. The city needs to adapt with the times. Golf is becoming less popular, particularly with younger residents. It is also a very expensive sport, which cannot be afforded by most of indianapolis residents even if they were interested in playing. The golf courses no longer meet the recreational needs of the city or this specific neighborhood.
  - Safety
  - Honestly, I have not been there in long time. I really only know it as a gold course and place to go sledding
  - Lack of amenities
  - Maintenance i.e. Trash, broken nets
- The lack of a skate park. There is only one public skate park in indianapolis. There is a demand among the community for more than one and it would benefit by helping generate revenue to that area that it would not have prior.
  - Not sure
  - The lack of working lights at the skatepark, and the empty field that only seems to serve as a floodplain.
  - There's no skatepark
  - Wasted space and no use.
  - It should have more trees and places to picnic
  - Use of the area for illegal activity.
  - Maintenance always seems behind at all indy parks facilities.
  - Often times the parks are crowded because we do not have enough of them!
- Not enough options for entertainment.
  - The bicycle entrance fee
  - No natural surface trails
  - Congestion, poorly maintained softball and baseball fields, traffic in the parking lot
  - Untapped potential.
  - Shelters cost so much money and the parking and no outdoor bathroom units or water drinking units
  - Lack of maintenance
  - The neglect of structures (bridges, buildings, etc.).
  - It's missing a skate park
  - There should be more activities that could included all walks of life.
  - There is very few walk ways and art.
  - Not having a new skatepark
  - No skatepark!!!
  - Very little activity

- I'd like to see more progressive facilities. First a foremost, a new skatepark. We only have one in indianapolis and it is pushing 20 years old. It gets lots of use, but an upgrade would be nice.
- Need another indy skatepark
- Not enough positive things to do for teenagers...In particular young men and teenage men.
- In need of updating, maintenance
- Not enough parking access
- I think having more activities for the youth is needed. Like computers at the rec center.
- There is absolutely nothing about this park I don't like. However, I would like to see a swimming pool again.
- Not being used for league activities as it was years ago.
- Limited crossing over the river
- I wish there was more access to cross the river. I wish there were more bike paths.
- The lack of maintenance / upkeep. Frequently trash and litter scattered around the park. Some amenities with restrooms and playground equipment but seems to be a lot of "wasted" space.
- Needs updating
- It would have to be the lack of maintenance and attention given to the park.
- The organization and community leaders and the once historical riverside amusement park and car box races at derby hill, which help promote revenue and indy.
- I think one of the shelters should be closed in.
- Sundays when groups of people hang in the parking lot close to 29th st and play loud music in their cars for no reason
- More events and amenities (e.G., A dog park and local farmer's market).
- Lack of direct access from my neighborhood
- I do not like how the weeds have grown all the way up to the walking trail. I now don't feel safe walking alone, can't see in the bushes
- Not a lot of walking paths
- More kids need to use the park
- Deferred maintenance which is destroying the tagger memorial
- No skatepark!!!
- Poorly maintained. No indoor gym.
- In the past the park's upkeep has been extremely poor. Compare to other public parks i.E., Holiday park, garfield park. I do not like it that riverside park doesn't have an indoor pool so that our youth can learn to swim year around.
- Lack of maintenance and disrepair.
- It needs to be a regulation pool indoors.
- The park has not been invested in and the grounds/ buildings don't look maintained compared to some of the other city park.
- Need to relate to river better; clear invasive plants
- Not enough active to teenagers to do. To keep them busy
- Pool not open long enough for children during summer
- Not enough outside restrooms
- Need for public relations and more community events
- Under-utilized.
- Not enough stuff to do. More exercise opportunities, skateboarding, long boarding paths, etc.
- There isn't a lot for the community to engage with.
- The recreation center could use some updating. The riverfront isn't being utilized and some areas of the park seem dangerous. Too much space is taken up by the golf courses, making that space unavailable to the wider (and more importantly, surrounding, communities).
- Not enough shelter areas, pool to small should have lap swimming available. Miss the indoor pool. River needs to be cleaned up.
- There is nothing that I do not love about the park
- Need to refurbish the crumbling taggart memorial. It could be a beautiful marker/symbol for the park.
- I can't walk my dog
- The lack of community involvement from the city... More things for teens.
- Pool always closed
- Temperamental youths making it dangerous

## Appendix: Survey Results

- No place to park our car to access walking trail
- Trash
- Children's playground area needs updating , equipment is old and rusty
- The geese
- Nothing
- To many activities for such a small park
- The city needs to keep it clean
- Rest rooms
- Restrictions of where cars can go
- Weight room equipment is old and water park is always closed
- The pool need new one
- Lack of upkeep
- The limited trails for bikes, walking, etc. There are no visible signs of artwork or historical lawnsites which indicates the history of the park and neighborhood
- It's not always clean to many birds down there and you can't walk because they might bite you
- The way some of the people just park, bus so far there hasn't been much trouble
- Summer fun with your children
- Needs repair (playground area)
- The giant parking lot at 29th and riverside dr
- No indoor swimming pool
- Condition of taggart monument, adjacent and through streets, and ball diamonds.
- Too many folks hanging out with loud music during key times that the park could draw a diversity of people. Also, the water park needs to be revived. The hours seem sporadic.
- I don't feel safe in the area.
- Golf courses
- Only one community building for rental. Shelters have no electricity available. Shelters and tables outdated. No amphitheater for concerts.
- The lack of trashcans and amount of trash.
- Needs more landscaping/ color
- I wish there was a free indoor walking path that I could refer patients to (i am a physician in the community). I would like more picnic tables at the waterside areas.
- Dirty at time. Families need to feel safe in the area
- Too much space wasted on golf courses
- We lost our indoor pool.
- Limited bike riding
- Lack of areas of natural growth (golf course included).
- White river pkwy and e. Riverside dr. Have a lot of bad potholes.
- The park and the surrounding roads seem to need some more routine repair and upkeep.
- That the velodrome is not indoors. The drainage in the velodrome parking lot is pretty poor. The roads surrounding the park are in terrible condition.
- Too many golf courses, not enough children's playground. Need a bike park
- Most amenities are run-down. Sidewalk does not continue on the east side of park all the way to south grove golf course. Many walkways are beat up and need repair. Park is often full of trash, especially along the walkways along the white river.
- The cordoned off parking space
- The equipment is old, need more shade areas, more walking paths.
- The geese and the grooming
- Needs more activities for children
- Not a thing
- How the park ranger runs everyone off from the park and they don't stay in the park to have a police presence to prevent anything from being wrong
- Secluded
- Not a lot for youth programs
- Dogs in the park. Owners who not have them on leash
- Booze
- Not enough to do for young kids
- There is a monument that is falling apart. Would be nice to have it fixed up and accessible to visitors
- Trash, people in the park after hours, very loud, empty medicine bottles found in the red and yellow playground, trash etc.

- It is not up to date with the times 2017. We do not have programs or wifi
- People drinking and smoking weed in the park when it gets warm
- All the geese droppings
- Lack of senior activities
- It needs a concession stand of some type or restaurant
- That all parking sections are not open to the public on riverside drive area
- The cost of entrance to the pool
- Needs to be more kids park toys
- When people litter
- Busted basketball courts
- Lack of maintenance
- Nothing
- The playground
- Fiberglass
- I don't love the picnicking area
- The lack of use for the open space
- Closed gates blocking access
- Sometimes it feels unsafe
- I don't love that it's overgrown, worn down and the fields are in disrepair
- Disconnected activities, not currently a place to stay only to pass through. Eyes on the street not easy here.
- Litter and so much turf grass that doesn't add to much
- The trash and pot holes
- Not enough golfers to maintain 3 parks next to each other. No bike trails
- Not a lot of amenities
- Lack of clean, porta-lets.
- Playgrounds need to be upgraded, need more lighting, need more restroom facilities, need upgraded gathering space. Save taggart memorial!
- Blocked off parking
- That I had to wade through a zumba class to get water.
- Trash, honey suckle growth
- Safety
- Lack of lighting, condition of shelters, baseball fields, no pathway through park, no updated play area for younger children.
- People perceive that the park is not safe. It needs some physical improvements.
- Lack of amenities
- I am disappointed in changes without input. There is only one entrance near the basketball courts - the 29th street entrance should be restored. The large parking area created by the basketball courts drew people
- Nothing
- Lack of things in the park
- Bigger swimming pool
- Need more lighting in the parks.
- Nothing
- Nothing
- No connected sidewalks, no swimming pool
- There's not enough outdoor activities i.E. Live music, theater.
- More senior things. Senior exercise class (chair)
- It's fine now because of the remodeling they have done to it.
- Not enough things to do for serving this community is not very friendly to the community. Big group of people gathering and drinking
- Nothing
- It's sometimes hard
- It is outside.
- Not enough to do
- How neglected it has become over time
- That the amusement park from long ago was taken away. Let the center be opened later 9:30-10:00pm
- It needs improvements with the park equipment and more equipment
- Maintenance - not enough
- Needs an inside walking track
- Illegal dumping, deteriorated shelter at launch ramp.
- Lack of consistent maintenance and innovation
- Needs more activities

# Appendix: Survey Results

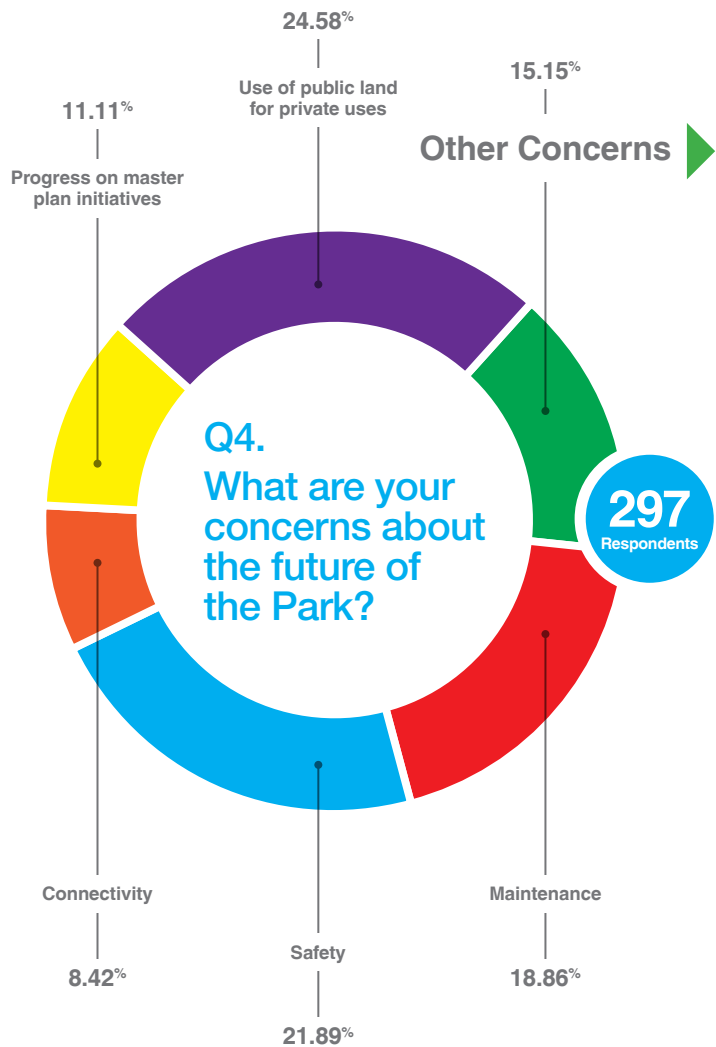


- It would be nice to restore the floodplains to a natural condition hydrologically as well as the flora and fauna
- Restore classic pieces (bridges, monument, etc.)
- Add bike park and mountain bike trails
- More activities for adults
- Change the soccer field into some other use, the pool facility is underwelming
- Perhaps reduce the number of holes, improve the quality.
- Mountain bike trails if possible.
- Mountain bike trails if possible.
- Mountain bike trail
- Add bike playground and mountain bike trails
- Add clay tennis courts for public use
- Add mountain bike trails
- Safer for families and seniors.
- Clean up the wooded areas, but leave as natural as possible. More trees.
- Increase the size of the skatepark or add additional skate-able features in the park like a pump track.
- Expand the skatepark.
- Keep the golf courses. Add bike paths, and for sure keep the grass fields at kuntz stadium. My priority would be to up patrol in the area and try to reduce the break ins.
- Expand the skatepark.
- There's adequate river access, despite the carping by certain interest groups. What about appropriate anti-littering signs?
- Build a skatepark for bikes and skateboarding
- Build a skatepark for bikes and skateboarding
- Skatepark and mountain bike park
- Bigger skatepark
- Skatepark!!!
- A skatepark
- I would cover the grass area of the skatepark with more skatepark
- Skatepark
- More public amenities (restrooms/playgrounds/restaurant/produce bodega) near main intersections, but leave lots of green space and open fields in the center for flexible recreation use.
- Some sort of mountain bike and off road running trail would be great and would utilize the terrain well. Perhaps marian college could help. (Full disclosure, i am filling this out after seeing the survey posted on a mtb fb page.
- Add a skate park.
- Keep expanding the skatepark



- Plant more trees
- Build a skatepark
- Add on and fix skatepark
- Skatepark and mountain bike trails!!
- Other
- Create a state of the art bicycle playground
- Maintain the park like a carmel park
- Insure safety
- Make a roller skating area
- Bike paths or maintenance of what is there to beautify existing structures.
- Add a skate park
- Roller skating facilities/rink
- Skate park
- Add a skatepark...
- Create a skateboard park
- A swimming pool and swimming competitions
- Add more walking paths.
- Change the golf courses/ facilities to another use (keep at least one), add more bike paths, create better access to the river
- Rebuild an amusement park, to promote indy and produce revenue, all year round and especially, during the indianapolis, 500 race.
- Improvements on the recreational center and rental
- Dog park, farmer's market, bike paths, walking paths, soccer goals
- Dog park, farmer's market, bike paths, walking paths, soccer goals
- Keep the park up. It looks soo bad
- Cut the weeds down the hill on the walking trail
- More free activities for children
- Restore taggart memorial as centerpiece of riverside.
- Put an indoors pool back in this neighborhood!
- Restore the taggart memorial
- Implementing more use of the space... Bigger playground more seating. Make all indy parks more technical.
- Add local gerry plants
- Better equipment and more space
- Add sidewalk on park side of the street
- The need to improve the picnic area/ make them better
- Add a basketball court for the little one's by center
- Revive water park. Build more parks and kids play areas.
- Add walking and bike paths around park and along river.
- Indoor as well as out door pool facilities.
- Replace our indoor pool.
- Fix the roads around the park
- Improve the roads surrounding the park.
- Turn into a bike park next to marian univ
- Geese removal, can't enjoy an old fashion picnic
- Trails and walkways
- More sheltered
- Bigger pools
- Add a building for soap box derby cars
- Improve the natural lansdcape - its not very diverse and needs tlc
- Create mountain bike trails/ bike park
- Add more bike paths and create better access to the river. Keep golf courses and improve
- Add a skating (roller) area; have kite flying contest
- More office's and restrooms
- Put the pumpkin stage coach back
- Live music, theater, arts festivals, water fitness
- Great walking path is more convenient for a family young and old
- Make swimming more better.
- Volleball outside
- Focus more on parks defining geographicsl feature, the river.
- Revitalize the facilities that are there and add new ones that make it a destination
- Plant more trees.

# Appendix: Survey Results



- Development of the floodplain for uses that further compromise the quality of riparian condition.
- What concerns me is that the people who actually use the park will not have a say in its future - from the looks of this survey, the future has already been decided regardless of what the community says
- Affordability and accessibility for the low income surrounding communities (in the case that it is more privatized)
- Mountain bikes
- The potential to miss out on constructing multiple bicycle trails
- Indy parks lack of funds
- It just doesn't get utilized in the community. There are not enough options for the community to recreate in the park. Why not do something get the neighborhood out, engaged and active. Add more biking options for kids, there are lots of cycling scholarships out there.
- Sustainability of the beautiful taggart memorial
- The threat of destroying nature and wild spaces in the name of "progress" - when really, in the "big picture" - cutting, clearing, and paving oxygen and life producing
- Do not better the park just because you want to see a change in the demographics of the community. Yes i am speaking on gentrification.
- I've heard that marian college will use part of the park
- Indy parks oversight and lack of funds
- for their baseball and track teams. Colleges usually limit the public use of their property. Why can't we have a large water park like other major cities.

"It just doesn't get utilized in the community. There are not enough options for the community to recreate in the park. Why not do something get the neighborhood out, engaged and active. Add more biking options for kids, there are lots of cycling scholarships out there."

green life is the worst thing we could do for this city.

- Accessibility to the skatepark. The learning curve is pretty steep. A new mellow beginner section would open it up to more skill levels
- Outside vandalism that would hurt expansion of skatepark
- Loss of the natural beauty and original intention of the park. Taggart, coffin, kessler, their vision was a city-wide park plan with riverside park being a natural landscape for leisure, picnics, community gatherings and recreation. Things should be updated for today's community, but please leave a lot of green space, there's not much left downtown.
- Getting rid of any of the golf courses or holes. People are forgetting that golf has been around for hundreds of years, and these golf courses have been here over a hundred

years now as well. Don't look at just the last decade or two for predicting how much interest there is. The interest is there, its just not the current population that lives around there. Gentrification or whatever you want to call it is going to continue in the city and push into the riverside area no matter what, and as that trend continues through out the years you will see more and more new residents wanting quality, historic, beautiful golf courses to play at. So don't take away something that you're going to regret and want back later. There is more than enough space already in the park to improve upon. Start with the huge empty football fields already existing in the park to build nature centers, and what not. Leave the golf alone, or improve upon it!

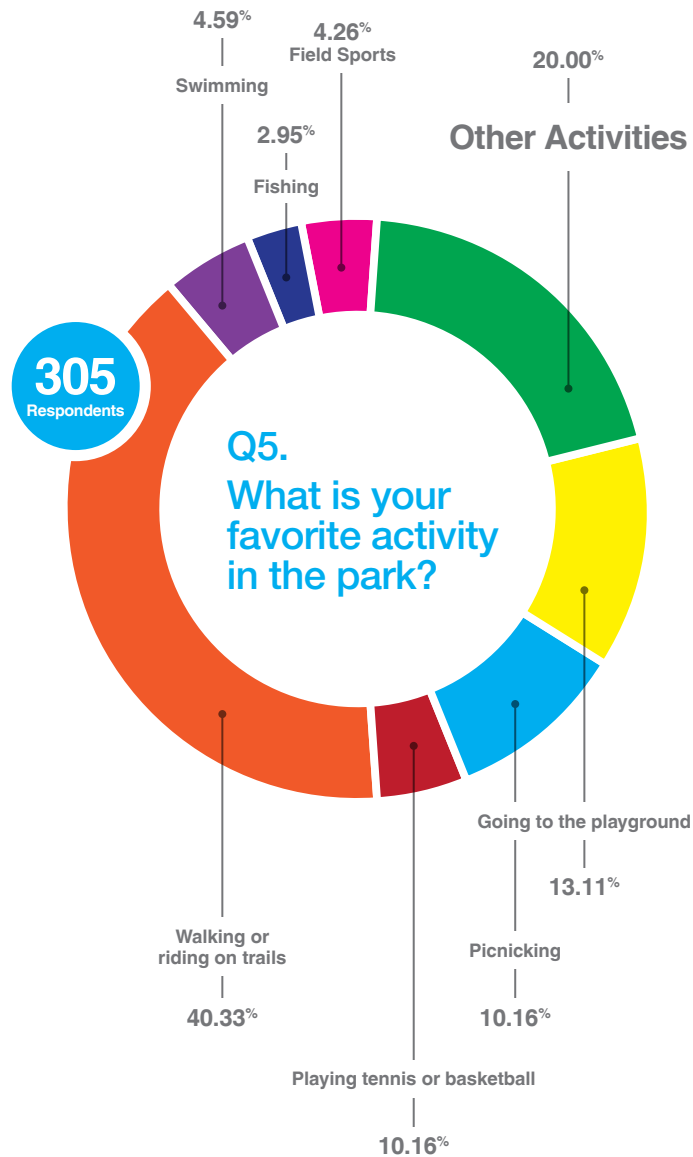
- Loss of public park land to other uses.

- Usage. The future of the park has to have a design and infrastructure that is inviting, accessible to the public in terms of socio-economic status, and types of recreation that are in demand and can be utilized by all ages & abilities. Please do not add a for-profit "adventure park" that most in the city can't afford. This is not a good use of public land!
- Indianapolis need more trail, running and mountain biking, etc. Green space!
- Need mountain bike trails/ skills
- There's no skatepark
- Won't be used unless it has attractions that people want.
- Indy parks budgets
- Use of public land for private uses, connectivity, maintenance
- Free programs

"Do not better the park just because you want to see a change in the demographics of the community. Yes i am speaking on gentrification."

- Progress on master plan initiatives, connectivity, safety, maintenance
- Safety, maintenance
- Groups of people just hanging in the park playing loud music from their cars for no reason
- Plans to make it a big park and lose the community feel.
- Destroying current programs
- No rest rooms
- Potential for gentrification. The park shouldn't be designed for white millennials. This has already happened at tarkington park.
- Oversight of bike riding.
- That the city will eventually raze the velodrome.
- Creating an environment not tailored for the people who live in the neighborhood
- Lack of youth activities
- No concerns
- Indy parks lack of budget to do some really great improvements
- Lack of trail based recreation
- Possibility of privatization
- It needs to be self-supporting and suitable for the 21st century, not the 19th.

# Appendix: Survey Results



- Golf
- Enjoying the bounty of the natural systems
- Playing golf
- Not the first nor second place i think of going to do any thing that would categorize as a favorite.... There's no appeal to go the park
- Golf and biking
- Birdwatching
- Biking around it
- Walking around
- Cycling at the cylceplex
- Biking thru the park
- Water skiing
- My kids love the skatepark.
- Skatepark
- Major taylor skatepark.
- I most often use the park for paddling access.
- Golfing
- Sledding in the winter
- Skatepark
- Enjoying the wild, "untouched" natural spaces
- they are sacred and restorative. "Forest bathing" is an international concept which this city needs to both acknowledge and celebrate.
- Biking and watching track riding at velodrome
- Skateboarding
- Skateboarding on the ground
- Never been there but would like a place to cycle to from downtown
- Skatepark
- Frisbee
- I use the cycloplex facilities a few times a week, through track and cyclocross season, as well as the skatepark. Additionally, my family will come here and use the other park facilities.
- Planning a skatepark
- Skating
- Skatepark
- Skatepark!
- Hold neighborhood meetings at municipal gardens without charge.
- Rolling on paths because there isn't a skatepark
- Currently i hike and use the park for lunch breaks and relaxing. Would love to see a skatepark feature in the park.
- Golf
- Going to the playground/ using play equipment, walking or riding on trails
- Going to the playground/ using play equipment, picnicking, walking or riding on trails, field sports, fishing
- Golfing & biking the tow path
- Picking one thing is not possible. This question should have allowed more than one answer.
- Walking along river with its views of the 5 bends of the white river within the park.

- Nothing
- Physical activities for all
- Free aerobics, walking trail
- Indoor exercise program
- Skateboarding at major taylor skatepark
- The golf course
- All of the above
- Walking in the grass
- The colts play 60 park.
- Riding around the park.
- Utilizing the velodrome.
- Enjoy taking walks with husband
- Soap box derby
- Grew up sledding there, need to bring back!
- Martial arts
- Exercise program indoors
- My taekwondo class
- Accessing white river both upstream and downstream
- I don't currently use the park

“Enjoying the wild, “untouched” natural spaces - they are sacred and restorative. “Forest bathing” is an international concept which this city needs to both acknowledge and celebrate.”

“Going to the playground/using play equipment, picnicking, walking or riding on trails, field sports, fishing ”

“Currently i hike and use the park for lunch breaks and relaxing. Would love to see a skatepark feature in the park.”

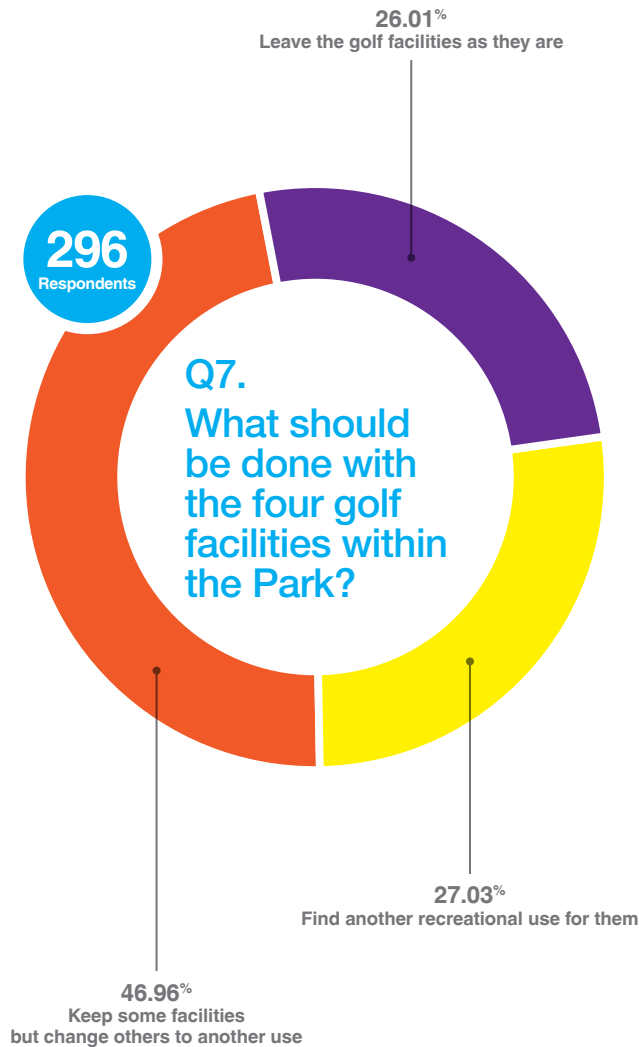
# Appendix: Survey Results



- Freebe golf.
- Mountain bike
- The park should embrace arts such as sculpture and theater. Pop up activities such as movies in the park, food truck once a month, vendor market would be nice to business ownership, corn hole, little leagues (not basketball or football)
- A mountain bike trail along the river would be nice.
- I'd love to see mountain bike trails, that would be great
- Off road bike trails
- Mountain bike trails
- Can i say all of these except zipline and ice skating? Yes.
- Race a bike in the park on schedule
- Mountain bike
- More biking, a pump track, mtn. bike skills course, trails
- Mountain bike
- Off road biking of any sort; pump track or skills park would be great too
- Large water park! Pickleball courts.
- Community garden
- Already enjoy the river
- A dog park would be nice.
- Dog park.
- Being able to walk in wild, unmanicured nature without tripping over obscene amounts of garbage. Cleaning the grounds at the corner of laf & cold spring rd - esp along the pavement and back, black coffin fence, would make a huge impact in the quality and enjoyment of the space. We need to treat the wild with more respect than to let it look like a dump.
- Mountain bike pump track
- Natural surface mountain bike trails and dirt bicycle playgrounds
- Use natural trails for hiking, running or riding a mt. Bike
- Skateboard
- The movies at the museum are always sold out! Walking / riding paths would be great; incorporating the many varieties of stately trees. Sitting stations and educational plaques for the vegetation. Hire a landscape architect to create and maintain gardens of decorative plants / flowers and lighting!
- Skateboard at the park would be a nice addition. Also some nice mountain bike trails.
- Skate at a skatepark
- Ride snow bicycles on the golf courses in the winter! Carmel did it last year and it was awesome!!!!
- Skateboard
- Ride my skateboard in a bowl
- Family friendly spaces and event: movies, concerts, food trucks, trail loops all good.
- Bike park, off-road bike trails.
- Educational ornithology, rafting, studying trees, drawing,
- Ride my bike on natural trails or in a bike park.

- More bike trails and improved river access (and quality of river access)
- Mountain bike / trail running
- Bike on a trail network that connects to other parks along the white river in Marion county and beyond
- Mountain bike
- Natural surface trails
- Skate board
- More bicycle trails & features
- Mountain bike trails with a pump track and skills area.
- Go to a public bike park - valmont in boulder, co is a great example.
- Have more beginner style trails and off road pump tracks for kids to learn on. Santos state park in ocala florida has a great set up for this. We need stuff like that
- bike trails or bicycle playgrounds.
- Roller skating, eat at food trucks, watch movies, enjoy an amphitheater
- Indoor roller blade skating rink. (Not skate board like "tony hawk") like roll bounce.
- I would like to roller skate at the park. Not ice skating.
- Roller skating
- A new skate park
- Skateboard park, pump track, mountain bike trail
- A modern skateboard park that would lead to true urban revitalization of a public space that is lacking in modern sports and multi use areas for teens and young adults.
- Skateboard. Skatepark features on trail or complete new skatepark.
- Eat at food trucks, grow fruits & veg in a community garden
- Watch movies in the park, go to a concert at an amphitheater, enjoy art/ sculpture, walk on a trail network or loop
- Ride a zipline, go ice skating, grow fruits & veg in a community garden,
- amusement park, mini golf for kids & family
- Go to a concert at an amphitheater, eat at food trucks, enjoy art/sculpture, grow fruits & veg in a community garden
- Eat at food trucks, enjoy art/ sculpture, grow fruits & veg in a community garden
- Walk on a trail network or loop, bike paths
- Grow fruits & vegetables in a community garden, walk on a trail network or loop, mountain bike
- An amusement park!!!
- Again, more than one answer allowed would be nice. Being able to do concerts and growing in a garden would be nice.
- Concerts in the park
- All of these things please!!! :-)
- Rent bikes and paddle boat like downtown on canal
- Boating on the white river.
- Roller skating
- Also skate station or small skate spots, flat ground and obstacles to ride.
- Indoor swimming
- Use the rest room in the fall and winter months
- I would like to bring what's good indy to the riverside maurina as an event / community center.
- Be able to rent bicycles especially 3 wheel ones for seniors
- Indoor pool
- Have designated areas for safe fires
- Indoor swimming pool with swim lessons for all ages
- Ride bike trails
- Concerts of established artist
- Tried of going to all the parks farther away for everything! Add art, festivals, etc and the community will come!
- Indoor water arobics
- We need swimming facilities
- More senior activities
- Bird and animal watching - right now the landscape is not very natural and so there is very little diversity. There should be a part of the park (of adequate size) that is a natural area with a little path through a corner of it. Along the river would be great.
- Off road cycling.
- Ride mountain bike trails!
- From one area of the city to socialize. The eliminate the problem parking.
- Amusement park like it use to be. I really had fun coming to the amusement park.
- Watch movies, enjoy art/ sculpture, grow fruits and vegetables
- Watch movies in the park
- Go ice skating, eat at food trucks, grow fruits and vegetables in a community garden, walk on a trail network or loop
- Festivals, concerts, restaurants, special events

# Appendix: Survey Results



- Change the least used course & preserve the most used course
- Don't know, but too much golf for a sport in a multiple year decrease in participation.
- South grove seems hostile with the tall fences right in the center of a neighborhood. Maybe consolidate riverside and coffin on the higher ground and use the flood-prone land for habitat restoration.
- Keep riverside and convert coffin and south grove. Maintain / improve the golf academy.
- The one which holds the most hydrologic and natural systems potential benefit.
- South grove is probably the most unremarkable of the three, so i'd ditch that one.
- Doesn't matter.
- I don't know how much the courses are used or how cost effective they are. However, golf courses require lots of maintenance, water and chemicals. If they are not profitable, please use one for as a nature park or mountain biking area.
- Keep coffin, that is the only good golf course, and the driving range and practice area at riverside. That way you still have one golf course and practice golf area downtown but the rest of the golf courses should be turned into something else!
- 54 Holes seems like a lot. If they are really being used then great, please keep and improve. If not, reduce the number of holes, decrease the maintenance cost and use savings to improve quality of experience without raising greens fees. Find other uses that attract users.
- The one that's furthest to the south - flattest land
- Leave golf courses alone if they are profitable.
- Leave golf courses alone if they are profitable.
- Keep coffin, the other two could be used in better ways.
- South grove should be better utilized for other recreation; skate/bike parks, bike skills parks, cyclo-cross courses.. Pretty much anything bike related. I feel that riverside should look to headquarters for inspiration. As a park located in an area that can greatly benefit from more youth engagement and community events i think the bicycle can make that happen.
- Change south grove
- Honestly, i don't know, but i surely would not take out all of them. Maybe turn one portion into something else, but not take out all of them.



- Three freaking golf courses!!!!!! With the limited amount of green space in indianapolis this is a slap in the face to working and middle class folks, the majority of which do not golf.
- Reestablish the forested riparian zone-- atone for steve goldsmith's egregious act of removing all the trees along the river at coffin to enhance the view for golfers. Consider eliminating the golf courses, based on a clear-eyed analysis of performance, cost, and future prospects. Golf is dying out.
- Create a green / conservation community involvement site to help plant native species flowers, trees, and gardens - to improve and beautify the area for our own - and also future generations.
- Change riverside and tie into adjacent park with more

- cycling opportunities for all ages and abilities
- If any of the courses are privately owned they should be preserved.
- If any of the courses are privately owned they should be preserved.
- I really like golfing but 3 courses so close to each other is a little much. We could use the other spaces for other outdoor recreation.
- I'd put more kid friendly stuff there like ice skating rinks and playgrounds or activities to keep the kids off the streets and give them a safe environment to turn to
- Dedicate one to frisbee golf
- Golf is not whatsup
- Not sure which is which
- I would preserve riverside golf course since it is the oldest, public 18 hole course in the country, est. 1902. I

would convert south grove to be more public use. It would be great to have a walking path that goes all the way down e. Riverside

“Create a green / conservation community involvement site to help plant native species flowers, trees, and gardens - to improve and beautify the area for our own - and also future generations. ”

drive from 30th to 18th. A dog park, playground, and a multi-purpose event space for farmers markets, festivals, fairs and concerts etc. Would bring in more university/ hospital/16 tech people and

prospective home owners/ businesses to our area.

- Would change either south grove and/or riverside golf courses. Certainly don't

want to get rid of all of them, as they are historic and the closest facilities to downtown.

- I know segregation is the reason for so many

golcourses- so unifying them into one would be most contemporary. I also know golf parks by kessler were drinking beirgartens like public parks which in a way he was more ahead of our times now.

- Convert riverside golf course to an international level cyclocross venue to further develop lake sullivan/indy cycloplex. Take a look at eva bandman park in louisville (home of the 2012 world championships)
- I sincerely believe that golf course use way too much resources, water, fertilizer, gas (mowing and trimming) and really only appeal to a few people.
- New natural surface multi use trails
- Not sure of current golf course usage
- Build a skatepark

## Appendix: Survey Results

- Bike trails and natural habitat
- Keep coffin.
- Change riverside and use the typography for nature surface trails. Utilize coffin for improvements like splash pad and ball fields
- Add top section of riverside along cold spring rd to marian university parking and retail and more dorms
- Consider which course is most used in making that decision.
- Not sure which course to change, but a fenced-in dog park would be nice
- Roller skating area and in door out door movie area with eat at food trucks
- Turn one into a skating rink.
- I like the keep three 9-hole courses plan with one clubhouse and one membership. While keeping one or more affordable golf

courses in the area, i like the idea of maximizing the river front for other uses. On the subject of the golf courses: keeping them affordable is important to me. They're very much public courses for proletariat golf.

- Ferris wheel, mini-golf, bowling alley

"I like the keep three 9-hole courses plan with one clubhouse and one membership. While keeping one or more affordable golf courses in the area, i like the idea of maximizing the river front for other uses. On the subject of the golf courses: keeping them affordable is important to me. They're very much public courses for proletariat golf. "

- Keep riverside academy, better deals on existing courses, eliminate south grove and make it useful for workers at 16 tech.
- Riverside golf academy is great! Riverside golf course and coffin have gone down hill. South grove is the nicest and floods the least,

but that land will be more valuable as green space with 16 tech coming in. Keep coffin and spend more money on it. Lower the prices so people can afford it, similar to riverside. Keep the golf academy and turn the current riverside course into mountain bike trails and let people rent bikes from the velodrome to take out on the trails (yay income!). Also consider putting in some kayak launch sites along the river with rentals (yay more income!). Build a sweet outdoor amphitheater on the southwest corner of the current south grove and call it the "sycamores amphitheater" after the giant sycamores that reside there and hold some sweet summer concerts that will attract the future employees of 16 tech. Watch the neighborhood blossom. Also, extend a

- path to the future brewery going in guggmanhaus? Sp? Consider putting in a dog park too because tech places love bring your dog to work. Downtown is "dog park desert" too, so a dog park here would attract people from downtown bringing more visitors to the park and neighborhood.
- Change golf course to amusement park.
- The golf academy should be given a way to contribute to golf teams of ips golf teams.
- Whichever golf course others think is best
- Use the academy and have it for more use too
- I would keep the golf academy, change coffin for different uses and keep riverside & south grove as golf courses.
- Nature park, as at ima
- Keep coffin, close south

grove and make it bike and skate paths.

- I don't know enough about the courses to comment on which one to eliminate. But to have three courses in such close proximity seems redundant. I feel that if you only had two you could improve these two to better serve the golfing community.
- Do not need 3 golf courses
- Keep coffin and change riverside to accommodate the park.
- Get rid of golf
- Keep riverside, change south grove
- 3 Golf courses. The one next to the wild life preserve
- Change south grove and keep riverside
- Riverside- new community center and pool
- South grove and coffin can be changed, preserve

“South grove seems hostile with the tall fences right in the center of a neighborhood. Maybe consolidate riverside and coffin on the higher ground and use the flood-prone land for habitat restoration. ”

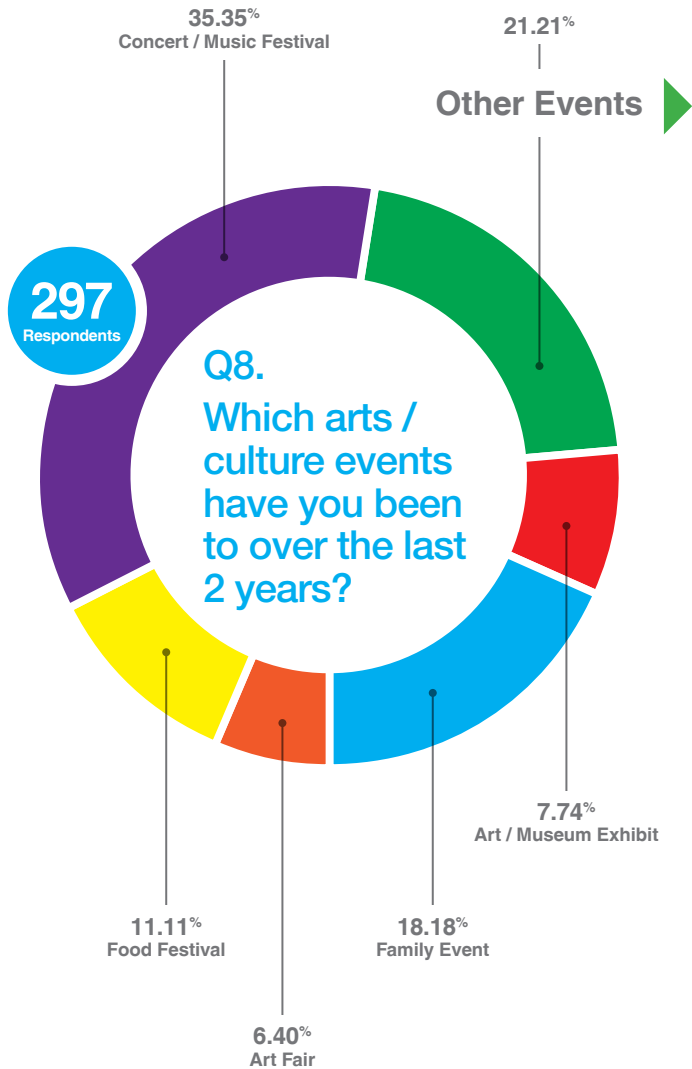
- riverside and academy
- Keep south grove and change coffin (with a pedestrian bridge across white river near the family center).
- Change riverside. Resident's view is a weedy fence and fees are prohibitive. Urban agriculture would better serve adjacent residents.
- I just feel that 3 in essentially one place is excessive.
- Riverside golf course is

- not a great course -- often under water and not well-maintained. Might be better used for other purposes, but not commercial or industrial.
- Do we really need three? Could be gardens for low income food, outdoor stage, outdoor art, dog park!!!
- Can the golf courses be used for other activities without getting rid of them
- Invest in coffin; redevelop riverside

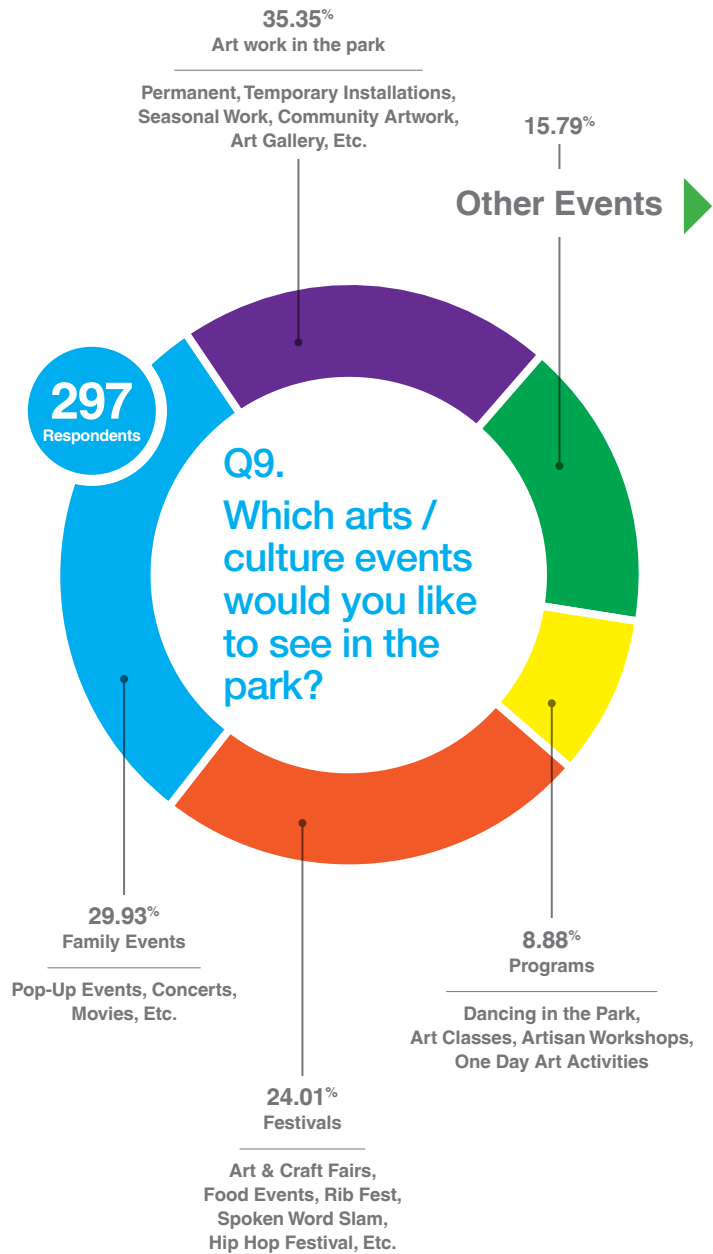
- Senior activities- 73 years old and been coming since i was a child
- I don't think that many courses are necessary. Evaluate which are the most productive and re-purpose the rest
- I would change south grove, as it is closest to the neighborhood
- Keep riverside - there's something to be said for a 100-year old course. Keep another one too. Its important to have afford places to play and these are some of the few. I would put more into maintenance and convert more turf grass into native grasses; better for the environment particularly so close to the river and once installed easier to maintain (i know this because my father does this back home).
- Change riverside or coffin.

- Coffin and south grove are good courses. Riverside could be updated or used for other recreation
- I would change south grove into an area that could be accessed by the nearby houses. Keep coffin and riverside as is.
- I would change one to mountain bike trails, so whichever is hilliest should be used for that.
- Add an exercise course, having stations and obstacles
- Riverside (keep)
- I would keep 1 course and change the other spaces to more modern uses for the community.
- I would suggest using the least attended course and look for a mixed income housing development
- Ampitheatre near river

# Appendix: Survey Results

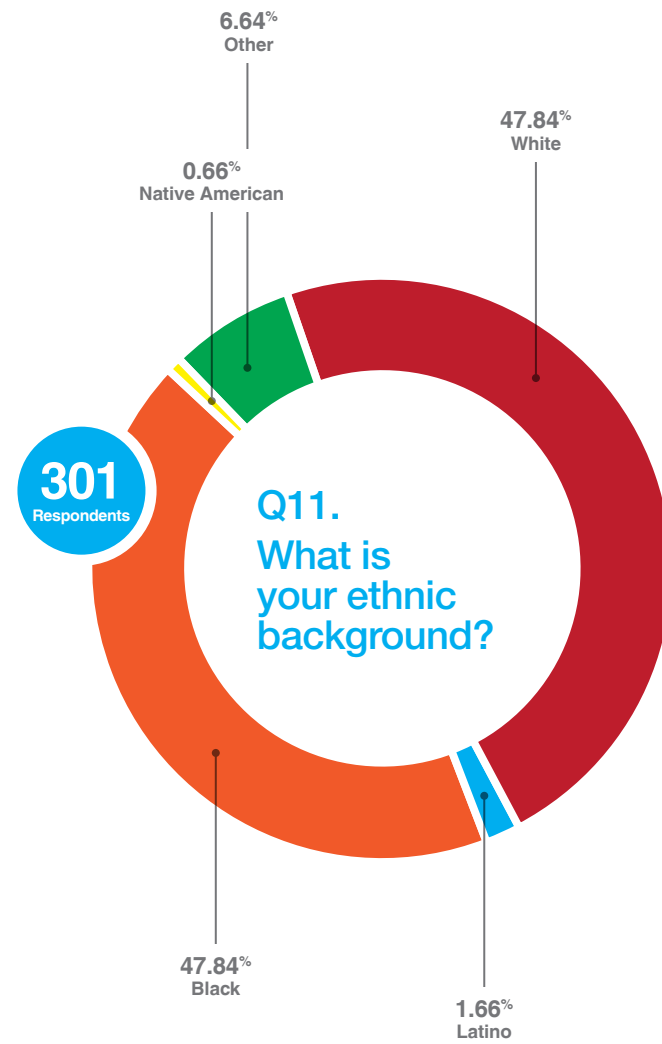
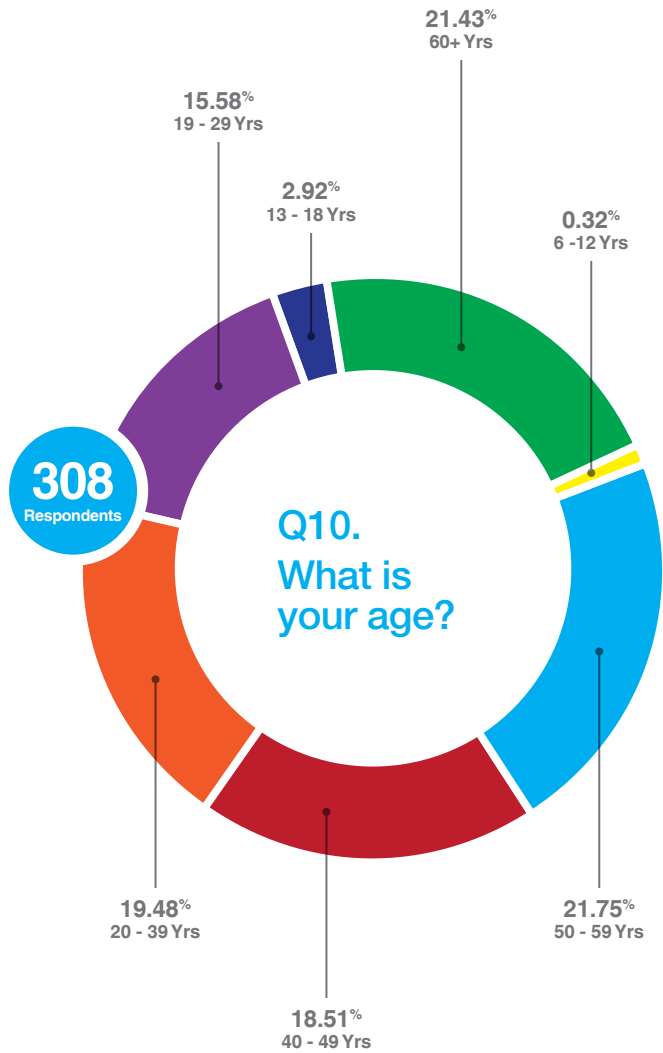


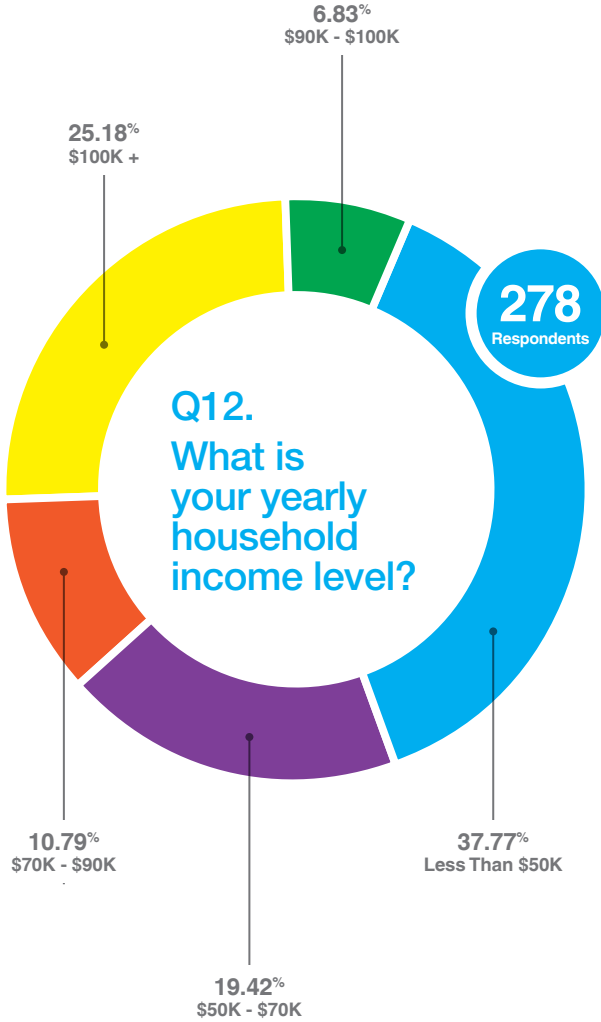
- Pet pride, chinese new year lantern launch
- Multiple answers: concert/ music festival, family events, art/museum exhibits
- All of the above
- Why can't multiples be chosen for this question? We have participated in at least one event from each category over the last year, let alone two.
- It will only let me choose one and ive all the above
- At riverside? Only soccer. I wouldn't feel safe due to the break ins that i've witnessed over the past several years parking my car and getting out anywhere else. If it were safer, i would love to attend a concert or music festival or art fair. Or food fair.
- Halloween skate jam at major taylor skatepark.
- All of the above, and more. Music - esp symphony, in peaceful wild spaces is one of my greatest delights
- None.
- All of these
- The skatepark jams
- Literally every one of those. We absolutely love getting outside and experiencing art and music, and family events.
- All of rthese except art fair.
- Only lets me check one box. We have participated in swimming, biking, food festivals, museum of arts exhibits, music/concerts, running events...
- Park currently does not have the recreation amenities i am looking for.
- Major taylor skate park halloween event
- Skate contest
- Mountain bike festivals
- Brown county epic. Indianapolis needs to have a mtn. Bike festival like this.!
- Community meetings/ exercise
- Concert/music festival, family event
- Concert/music festival, food festival, art fair, art/museum exhibit
- Concert/music festival, art fair
- Concert/music festival, food festival, family event
- All of these
- Riverside reunion.
- Food festival, family events, neighborhood reunions...
- User should be able to pick multiple; i have done all of these in town recently
- Concerts/music
- I do all the above all the time!
- We haven't had any. Would love to attend a festival or art fair
- Parade/block party
- Soap box derby
- Tae kwon do
- Art fair, family event, art/ museum exhibit
- Concert, however it has been over two years
- All of above. Survey only allowed for choosing one!



- Festivals to compliment the "international district" on west 38th.
- All of these!!!
- Music festivals
- Youth & Adult Art classes I don't live close, but would come to a fair or festival. Art work would be great in the park, but i would fear vandalism. Some very sturdy art would be great.
- No intrusive, superfluous public art just to appease the arts-industrial complex!
- Nature appreciation classes. Learning native plant species. Identifying leaves. Bird calls. Bug identification. Anything nature based.
- All of them! The park is huge. But will need a lot more parking. All of the above opportunities should be able to be accodated in two well designed facilities. The newly renovated tarkington park is a beautiful example, albeit on a much smaller scale! Riverside should be a jewel of the heat nw side. Our city government has invested very little in this area. It's time we got our share!
- Further develop regional and national and international cycling events
- Outdoor recreation/adventure events. Runs, rides, kayak
- All seem like great ideas. I lean towards art work or family events.
- Family events, festivals, programs
- Artwork in the park
- Family events, festivals, programs
- Art work in the park, family events, programs, dances, family nights with movies
- Family events, festivals
- Family events, festivals
- The park should be geared to what the community needs as residents. It has served the local community well with in recent years not much upkeep. We need more youth programs for the local kids just like parks in other areas cater to their local base.
- Family events. And festivals food events
- All of these!! But esp festivals and family events
- Mayoral walk featuring all the mayors of indianapolis along the river.
- More organized sports for senior citizens
- Families use the park now. Keep it for them. And free.
- Yoga
- All of the above!!!
- Artwork in the park, family events, festivals, programs
- Art intallations, festivals (muisc, art - not just food), art short courses for adults
- Bike park with art features
- Festivals and programs
- Keep work out area but make it free
- Community classes of all sorts, sports league

# Appendix: Survey Results





**Q14.**  
**Please choose**  
**the top five most**  
**important facilities /**  
**amenities to you or**  
**members of your**  
**household.**

**300**  
 Respondents

	% of Overall Votes	Number of Votes
01. Walking Trails	50.66%	154
02. Picnic areas/Shelters	38.82%	118
03. Natural Areas	37.83%	115
04. Mountain Bike Trails	35.53%	108
05. Playground Equipment	33.88%	103
06. Outdoor Adventure Parks	27.30%	83
07. Indoor Fitness & Exercise Facilities	26.64%	81
08. Nature Centers	25.66%	78
09. Off-leash Dog Park	25.00%	76
10. Outdoor Swimming Pools/Water Parks	20.72%	63
11. Skateboarding Park	18.75%	57
12. Indoor Swimming Pools/ Leisure Pools	16.78%	51
13. Outdoor Tennis Courts	14.47%	44
14. Indoor Running/ Walking Track	14.14%	43
15. Youth Baseball and Softball Fields	13.82%	42
16. Soccer Fields	11.51%	35
16. Outdoor Water Spray Parks	11.51%	35
16. Indoor Basketball/Volleyball Courts	11.51%	35
17. Golf Courses	11.18%	34
18. Multipurpose Fields (Cricket, Lacrosse, Football)	10.53%	32
19. Outdoor Fishing Areas	10.20%	31
20. Adult Baseball / Softball Fields	9.87%	30
21. Indoor Sports Complex (Baseball, Soccer, Etc.)	4.93%	15
22. Pickleball Courts	4.28%	13



**Q15.**  
**Please choose**  
**the top five**  
**most important**  
**programs to you or**  
**members of your**  
**household.**

**304**  
 Respondents

	<b>% of Overall Votes</b>	<b>Number of Votes</b>
01. Adult Sports	43.33%	130
02. Outdoor Adventure Programs	41.67%	125
03. Large Special Events	34.00%	102
04. Youth Sports	32.33%	97
05. Nature Education Programs	32.00%	96
06. After School Programs	30.00%	90
07. Youth / Teen Fitness and Wellness	29.67%	89
08. Youth Learn to swim	29.33%	88
09. Senior Programs	27.33%	82
10. Youth Summer Camp	25.33%	76
11. Life Skill Classes	21.67%	65
12. Youth Art, Dance, Performing Arts	21.33%	64
13. Trips (Day Trips and Extended Trips)	20.00%	60
14. Water Fitness Programs	19.00%	57
15. Golf	14.67%	44
16. Martial Arts or Self-defense	14.00%	42
17. Childcare Programs	11.00%	33
18. Pre-school Programs	8.00%	24
18. Adaptive (Special Population) Programs	8.00%	24

### Stakeholder Interview Takeaways

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The planning team conducted over 30 stakeholder interviews (see list on pages 33 and 34). The interviews were typically one on one conversations that lasted about an hour. The interviews sometimes included more than one person from the target organization. The input received from the stakeholders was wide and varied, depending on their perspective. However, the interviews did result in several common threads that were influential to the outcome of the plan. These included:

The intensity of the athletic field uses north of the aquatic center and the layering of uses results in congestion and concerns about safety (cars driving across the park to access baseball fields for example)

There is a lack of healthy options for food in general

It would be beneficial to find ways to acknowledge the history of the community and notable achievements of neighborhood residents in the plan of the park

Concerns about the impact of the park's improvements to property values, and a general concern about gentrification

Safety and lack of maintenance was often cited as a concern

LaRue Carter will transition from a psychiatric treatment facility to some other use in the near future. Potential uses include graduate student housing and senior housing, which would bring disposable income to the area. There has been some discussion of locating a charter school within the facility as well.

Golf generates very little revenue to the City due to the need to repair damage caused by frequent (3-4 times per year) flooding. The academy is the largest revenue generator but much of that revenue is spent on maintaining Riverside Golf Course.

There is a need for swimming instruction facilities in the neighborhood (which means pools; “you can’t teach a kid to swim in a spray ground”). It was noted that the national rate of accidental drownings is dramatically higher for African American youths than it is for other ethnicities.

Tennis has been an important part of the park since its creation and the courts continue to be heavily used. That said, there is interest in expanding the tennis offerings to include indoor courts.

Play Ball Indiana (the local RBI affiliate program of Major League Baseball) and the Indiana Golf Association both expressed interest in locating administrative facilities within the park.

There is a lack of facilities for mountain bikers. Experienced mountain bikers prefer trails 7-8 miles in length for them to be worth travelling to, and the park is probably not capable of providing that experience. However, there is a need for beginner level trails of 1-2 miles and this could potentially be accommodated.

# Appendix: Site Analysis



Flood Plain



Neighborhood Context

Circulation



Green Space



# Appendix: Site Analysis



Zoning + Land Use

- Residential
- Commercial, Mixed Use
- Cen. Bus. District
- Industrial
- Park
- Special Use
- Hospital



Soils

- Br
- CrA
- FoA
- FoB2
- FxC2
- Ge
- HeF
- MmB2
- MmC2
- MxD2
- OcA
- Sh
- Sn
- Ua
- UfA
- Ug

Circulation



## Preliminary Utility & Infrastructure Assessment

Shrewsbury Associates, LLC (Shrewsbury) was requested to review existing utilities and infrastructure for Riverside Regional Park (Park) as part of the RATIO Master Planning Team (RATIO) for Indy Parks and Recreation Department (Indy Parks). The Park planning area are IPR facilities bounded by I-65 to the north, Cold Spring Road and Lafayette Road to the west, 16th Street to the south and Riverside Drive to the east. In addition, Kuntz Soccer Stadium one block east of Riverside Drive on 16th Street is included in the assessment.

The intent of this study is to provide an overview of major facilities, comprising Riverside Regional Park sufficient to inform and assist in development of master plan infrastructure recommendations. The following facilities have been reviewed as part of this assessment:

- Major Taylor Sports
- Riverside Park Family Center, Aquatic Center, Playing Fields
- Municipal Gardens Park
- Lake Indy Boating
- Riverside Marina
- Shaw Soap Box Derby Hill
- Riverside Golf Academy
- Riverside Golf Course
- Coffin Golf Course
- South Grove Golf Course
- Kuntz Soccer Stadium
- Lake Sullivan Natural Resource Area
- White River Greenway
- Taggart Memorial

# Appendix: Infrastructure Assessment

To develop an understanding of utilities and transportation infrastructure in the study area various reports were reviewed, including utility mapping, GIS data and generalized site reconnaissance. This report summarizes the information obtained into a utility mapping and transportation infrastructure assessment.

## Research

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### Public Utilities

Available Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping from the City of Indianapolis was reviewed for public sanitary, water and stormwater utilities. Major sanitary and water lines above 12-inch diameter were noted on the utility map. Major stormwater drains were noted on the utility map, including outfalls to the White River. Section 2, Utility Review provides additional detail for public utilities.

### Private Utilities:

Mapping was requested from private utilities serving the Park from “Indiana 811” utility mapping location service. Facilities for the various communications utilities were mapped as well as major gas and power facilities. Section 2, Utility Review provides additional information for private utilities in the study area.

### Private Utilities:

GIS mapping review and on-site reconnaissance was used to identify locations and a baseline assessment of existing drives, parking areas, trails and sidewalks in the Park. Existing transit routes and stops have also been mapped. The pavement assessment focuses on generalized parking and drive pavement condition, trail condition and gaps in the overall transportation network and multi-modal connectivity. Section 3, Infrastructure Review provides additional assessment information for each of the infrastructure elements.

### Infrastructure:

GIS mapping review and on-site reconnaissance was used to identify locations and a baseline assessment of existing drives, parking areas, trails and sidewalks in the Park. Existing transit routes and stops have also been mapped. The pavement assessment focuses on generalized parking and drive pavement condition, trail condition and gaps in the overall transportation network and multi-modal connectivity. Section 3, Infrastructure Review provides additional assessment information for each of the infrastructure elements.

### Report Review

Various reports related to the Riverside Park area compiled for the Riverside Park Master Plan were reviewed for elements related to utility and infrastructure needs and future park growth and development.

Following is a summary of relevant information from the reviewed reports.

#### 1. Indy Parks And Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan, 2016

Park infrastructure recommendations include the following:

- Improve water access to the White River.
- Improve connections to adjacent trails and trail network
- Internal circulation and sidewalks in the Park need to be improved.

#### 2. Northwest Area Connectivity & Safe Routes To School Plan, 2016

The primary purpose of this plan was to address connectivity and provision of safe pedestrian ways to Indianapolis Public Schools 42 and 44. A 2-mile radius from each of these schools includes the Park study area.

Relevant pedestrian walk and trail improvements recommended in this study include the following:



- Trail connection to Fall Creek Trail along Burdsal Parkway from the Riverside Park Family Center.
- A continuous trail loop around the Park on Lafayette Road, Cold Spring Road, the roadway north of the Major Taylor Sports Complex, White River Parkway West Drive, Riverside Drive and 16th Street.
- Trail improvements between Riverside Dr. and Major Taylor Sports Complex.

### 3. Indianapolis Greenways – Full Circle Plan, 2014

This planning study provided a comprehensive look at alternative transportation and connectivity for Indianapolis and includes specific projects closing network gaps and recommends a blueways system.

Specific projects related to White River Trail which bisects the Park include the following:

- Construct a trailhead and rebuild the trail to Major Taylor Sports Complex.
- Improve the Central Canal Towpath Trail connection.
- Provide new trail access points with parking along White River Parkway East Drive between 18th and 30th Streets.
- Provide additional traffic calming features at the 16th Street crossing.
- Provide additional connections to transit stops.
- Provide new trail signage and wayfinding elements

In addition, the Full Circle plan recommended creation of White River Blueway. A blueway access point is recommended at Riverside Marina north of 30th Street.

### 4. United Northwest Area Neighborhood Plan, 2008:

This plan tied most development in and around Riverside Park back to the

historic Kessler Park and Boulevard Plan. Infrastructure recommendations include:

- Provision of additional Riverside Park access points
- Additional vehicular controls on roadways
- Improve pedestrian connectivity at parks as an economic development catalyst

### 5. Other Reports Reviewed

- Connected Indy, 2017: New trails are identified along Burdsal Parkway, 30th Street, Cold Spring Road, Lafayette Road, Major Taylor Sports Complex
- 30th Street Corridor Plan, 2010
- “Purple Line” bus rapid transit study, 2015: One mass transit corridor alternative runs along 30th Street
- United Northwest Area TIF Plan, 2009
- Northwest Area Quality of Life Plan, 2016
- Indianapolis Water Canal Development Guide, 2006
- Northwest Area Brownfields Study, 2016

## Public Utilities

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### Sanitary Sewers

Available sanitary sewer mapping from Indianapolis GIS mapping was reviewed. Large interceptors have been plotted on the utility drawing. Smaller laterals to neighborhoods, businesses and park facilities are not shown. Major mapped

## Appendix: Infrastructure Assessment

sanitary sewer facilities, operated and managed by Citizens Energy Group, include the following:

- A 36-inch interceptor enters the north corner of Riverside Golf Course at Cold Spring Road, extending southeast then bisecting the golf course in a north-south direction to 30th Street where it continues south and increases in size to a 42-inch interceptor across Coffin Golf Course to a point north of the Municipal Gardens Community Center. At Municipal Gardens it turns along the east side of Lafayette Road, increasing in size to a 54-inch interceptor, crossing 16th Street.
- A 42-inch force main beginning as an 8-inch collector runs along White River Parkway West Drive turning west, north of 30th Street. Along 30th Street the sanitary sewer is a 36-inch piped system. This line turns south on the east side of Cold Spring Road as a 42-inch force main and 48-inch interceptor to Lafayette Road. The 48-inch interceptor runs below Lafayette Road, paralleling the 42-inch interceptor. This interceptor is joined by another 42-inch interceptor south of 19th Street continuing south across 16th Street as a 72-inch interceptor.
- An interceptor sewer ranging in size from 42-inch and 45-inch extends along the west side of Riverside Drive from
  - 16th Street to 30th Street. North of 30th Street this line extends north along White River Parkway East Drive.

### Water

Water utility mapping available from Indianapolis GIS information was reviewed. 12-inch diameter and larger lines, operated and managed by Citizens Energy Group, are shown on the utility map. Water service connections to Park facilities were not shown on the available mapping. Adjacent to Riverside Park Family and Aquatic Center there is an 8-inch line along Riverside Drive. Major water utility lines in the Park include the following:

- A 12-inch ductile iron line runs along the east side of Cold Spring Road from

north of Cold Spring School. The line reduces in size to an 8-inch line south of Cold Spring School.

- A 12-inch cast iron water line runs along 30th Street. South of 30th Street a 12-inch cast iron water line extends along the east side of Cold Spring Road; crossing to the west side; north of Larue Carter Hospital. This line extends along the east side of Lafayette Road to 16th Street where it joins a 16-inch cast iron line on the south side of the street.
- The 16-inch cast iron water line on 16th Street turns to the north at White River Greenway to the north side of 18th Street where it turns to the east.
- A 42-inch reinforced concrete water line runs east-west across the Park in line with 21st Street.

### Stormwater Management

Stormwater and drainage mapping available from Indianapolis GIS information was reviewed. Larger diameter storm lines and major waterways contributing to the White River are shown on the utility map. There are numerous drain line outfalls to the White River. Notable mapped stormwater and drainage information includes:

- Crooked Creek drains across the Lake Sullivan Natural Resource Area and Riverside Golf Course. There are six large flap gates controlling Crooked Creek drainage into the White River. Several drain lines drain the Major Taylor Sports Complex and Interstate 65 to the Crooked Creek outfall along a tributary south of Interstate 65.
- Shallow swales and small diameter pipes run along Cold Spring Road to Crooked Creek from I-65 to the north and 30th Street to the south.
- Numerous outfalls occur along the White River, between Interstate 65 and 30th Street.
- There is a 36-inch outfall south of 30th Street on the east side of the river.

- Three, 60-inch diameter flap gates drain areas of Coffin Golf Course, the Shaw Soap Box Derby Hill, 30th Street, areas west of Cold Spring Road and areas of Riverside Golf Course south of 30th Street.
- The small lake at the Riverside Family Center drains to White River with a 24-inch reinforced concrete pipe.
- Areas west of Cold Spring Road and north of Lafayette Road drain to Coffin Golf Course by way of a 24-inch PVC pipe under Cold Spring Road near 21st Street.
- Areas west of Lafayette Road drain to the White River with a 48-inch reinforced concrete pipe north of the Municipal Gardens Community Center.
- A 24-inch reinforced concrete pipe drains areas west of Lafayette Road at 19th Street to the White River.
- 16th Street, west of the White River, drain to the river with a 36-inch reinforced concrete pipe south of 16th Street.
- Areas north of 16th St. and south of 18th St. east of the White River drain to the river at a point downstream from the Emrichsville Dam with a 48-inch outfall.

Discussion with Indy Parks personnel indicate there are instances in which White River drainage outfalls are prevented from releasing stormwater drainage into the river, resulting in flooding of Riverside and Coffin Golf Course's.

## Private Utilities

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### **Citizens Energy Group (Gas)**

Mapping of gas facilities in the Park area was provided by Citizens Energy Group. Larger diameter gas lines above 8-inch in diameter are shown on the attached utility map. There are numerous smaller diameter service lines to neighborhoods

and businesses adjacent to the Park which have not been mapped. Larger diameter laterals run to Marian University and Larue Carter Hospital. The following large diameter gas facilities in the Park are shown on the utility map:

- 8-inch diameter gas line along Cold Spring Road between 30th and 21st Streets, turning west at 21st Street.
- 16-inch gas transmission line along Cold Spring Road north of Lafayette Road; turning east, south of 21st Street. This line then parallels the White River, on both the east and west where it turns to the east at Burdsal Parkway.

Gas service is shown to the following Park facilities:

- Riverside Golf Academy: 2-inch service from Cold Spring Road north of I-65.
- Major Taylor Sports Complex: 2-inch service from Cold Spring Road.
- Riverside Golf Course: Service from Cold Spring Road.
- Coffin Golf Course: Service from Cold Spring Road.
- Riverside Park Family Ctr: 3-inch service to the Aquatic Ctr. from Riverside Dr.
- Municipal Gardens: Service to the Community Center from Belleview Place west of Lafayette Road.
- Kuntz Stadium: Service from the north side of 16th Street.
- South Grove Golf Course: Service from 18th Street west of the parking area.

### **Indianapolis Power & Light**

Mapping of power facilities in the Park were provided by Indianapolis Power & Light Company. Significant overhead and underground power lines are shown on the attached utility map. Service and distribution lines to neighborhoods and businesses and street lighting service lines which are not shown.

The following major power transmission and distribution lines are shown in or near the Park:

## Appendix: Infrastructure Assessment

- Overhead 3-phase primary service with 3.2kv and 13.2kv conductors along Cold Spring Road north of Lafayette Road.
- Overhead 3-phase primary service with 3.2kv and 13.2 kv conductors on the west side of Lafayette Road.
- Overhead 3-phase primary service with 32.kv and 13.2kv conductors on the south side of 30th and 29th Streets.
- Overhead 138kv service on the west side of Lafayette Road then extending east along 18th Street and 18th Street extended.

The following Park facility power service is mapped:

- Riverside Golf Academy: Underground service from Cold Spring Road north of Interstate 65.
- Major Taylor Sports Complex: Underground service from Cold Spring Road to the velodrome west and north of the parking area.
- Riverside Golf Course: Overhead service from White River Parkway West Drive.
- 29th & Riverside Playing Fields and Courts: Service from the south side of 29th Street.
- Coffin Golf Course: Service from Cold Spring Road south of Larue Carter Hospital.
- Riverside Park Family Center: Overhead 3-phase primary service with 3.2kv and 13.2kv conductors from Edgemont Avenue north of Burdsal Parkway.
- Municipal Gardens: Underground service from the east side of Lafayette Road.
- Kuntz Stadium: Underground service is provided from the east side of Harding Avenue and the north side of 16th Street.
- South Grove Golf Course: Service is provided from the south side of 18th Street west of the parking area.

### **AT&T Communications**

AT&T provided mapping showing their facilities in park at these locations:

- Buried 25 pair copper line to Riverside Golf Academy north of Interstate 65 from Cold Spring Road
- Buried conduit and overhead facilities along Cold Spring Road from 38th Street to the south side of Larue Carter Hospital.
- Buried copper lines to Major Taylor Sports Complex and Riverside Golf Course from Cold Spring Road.
- A major 6-duct conduit run on the north side of 30th Street with fiber and copper lines.
- A fiber housing equipment pad at the NW corner of Cold Spring Rd and 30th St.
- A 2-duct conduit run on the east side of Riverside Drive from 30th Street to Burdsal Parkway.
- A major 9-duct conduit run along the north side of 16th Street.

### **Lighttower Communications**

Lighttower Communications provided mapping showing underground facilities along 30th Street and Cold Spring Road with service to Marian University.

### **Level 3 Communications**

Level 3 provided mapping showing their facilities at the following locations:

- Overhead facilities are shown along 30th Street, 29th Street and Harding Street to 18th Street where it turns to the east.
- A combination of overhead and underground facilities along 16th Street.
- There are underground facilities along the north side of Lafayette Road.
- A combination of overhead and underground facilities serve Marian University from 30th Street.

### Indiana Fiber Network Communications

Indiana Fiber Network provided mapping showing their facilities in the project area at the following locations:

- West side of Cold Spring Road from Interstate 65 to Marian University.
- Serving the Vision Academy at Riverside from the south side of 18th Street, Harding Street and 16th Street.

### Zayo Bandwidth Communications

Zayo Bandwidth provided mapping of their facilities on Google Earth imagery which shows a portion of their US Longhaul Network along Interstate 65.

## Infrastructure Review

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### Introduction

A combination of visual field observation and aerial photography review was used. The intent is to assess existing transportation infrastructure condition, including parking facilities, drives and connecting trails and major walkways. Transportation infrastructure such as individual building sidewalks and public roadways adjacent to or passing through the Park were not assessed.

In addition to the assessment methods noted above, reviewed reports identified several items of infrastructure need. Each item listed below is also described in the “Report Review”,

- Improve access to the White River
- Provide White River access as needed for blueway implementation.
- Improve connections to trails, including: White River Trail, Central Canal Towpath

Trail and Fall Creek Trail (Burdsal Parkway).

- Improve sidewalks and internal Park circulation.
- Construct continuous loop trail around the Park along Cold Spring Road, Major Taylor Sports Complex, Lake Sullivan Natural Resource Area, White River Parkway West Drive, Riverside Drive and 16th Street.
- Improve Riverside Drive trail connections to Major Taylor Sports Complex.
- Construct trailhead and reconstruct trail to Major Taylor Sports Complex from White River Trail.
- Provide additional access points and parking along White River Parkway and White River Trail.
- Provide additional traffic calming features on roadways.
- Improve connections between trails and transit stops.
- Provide additional safety features at 16th Street and White River Trail.
- Improve pedestrian connectivity to Park facilities.
- Provide additional access points to Park facilities.

### Parking & Driveways Observations

Driveways and parking facilities were visually assessed as part of the study. The condition for each driveway and parking area were mapped on the infrastructure map. A system rating the pavement as good to fair, fair to poor, and poor was included on the infrastructure map. A rating of good to fair was provided for pavements in good condition without immediate need of repairs or maintenance. A rating of fair to poor was provided for pavements in fair condition in need of maintenance such as crack filling and sealcoating. A rating of poor was provided for asphalt parking and drives exhibiting pavement failure such as potholes and extensive pavement cracking.

This effort did not include a detailed pavement condition analysis such as

## Appendix: Infrastructure Assessment

pavement coring and loading assessment. The following parking and driveway areas were assessed:

- Major Taylor Sports Complex parking and driveways.
- Lake Sullivan Natural Resource Area parking and driveways.
- Riverside Golf Academy parking and driveways.
- Riverside Golf Course parking and driveways.
- Riverside Marina parking and driveways.
- Parking area at northwest corner of White River Prkwy. & West Dr. and 30th St.
- Shaw Soap Box Derby Hill parking and driveway
- Coffin Golf Course parking and driveways.
- Municipal Gardens Community Center parking and driveways.
- Kuntz Soccer Stadium parking and driveways.
- South Grove Golf Course parking and driveway.
- Lake Indy and Riverside Recreational Area water access parking and driveways.
- Riverside Park Family and Aquatic Center parking and driveways.
- Riverside Park Playing Field and Court parking and driveways.

### **Non-Motorized Trails Observations**

A visual review was provided for trails in the Park and major connecting sidewalks. In general, many of the sidewalks adjacent to, or in park facilities do not appear to meet current ADA accessibility requirements and were rated as fair condition. Some newer facility sidewalks are in good condition. The Indianapolis Greenways, White River Trail, bisects the Park along the White River. Other nearby trails include the Central Canal Towpath and Fall Creek Trail. Sidewalks serving individual buildings, golf course cart paths and public sidewalks along roadways were not individually assessed in terms of their overall condition.

Gaps in the pedestrian network have been included on the infrastructure map.

Notable gaps and assessment items include the following:

- The trail connection between Major Taylor Sports Complex and White River Trail is in fair condition with no vehicular controls along the abutting roadway.
- Crossing controls are not provided at White River Parkway West Drive for the Major Taylor Sports Complex connector trail.
- Pedestrian improvements are not provided on either side of Cold Spring Road from Major Taylor Sports Complex to Lafayette Road.
- A sidewalk is not provided on the south side of 30th Street between the Iron Skillet Restaurant and White River Parkway West Drive.
- A sidewalk is not provided on Lafayette Road in front of the Municipal Gardens Community Center.
- The sidewalk along Lafayette Road south of the Municipal Gardens Community Center to 16th Street is in poor condition.
- The White River Trail crossing at 16th Street is unsafe for trail users.
- There are no sidewalks on either side of 18th Street from the South Grove Golf Course parking area to White River Parkway East Drive.
- Sidewalks are not provided on the west side of Riverside Drive from 18th Street to 27th Street.
- Paths connecting to Riverside Park Family Center from Riverside Drive are in poor condition.
- Sidewalks are not provided along 29th Street between White River East Drive and Riverside Drive.
- The White River Trail is in fair condition.

### Mass Transit Assessment

There are four separate bus routes that run adjacent to or cross the Park. These include:

- Harding Street (#6): Abuts the Park at Riverside Drive between 29th and 30th Streets.
- West 34th Street (#15): Bisects the Park along 30th Street.
- West 16th Street (#25): Passes the Park along 16th Street.
- 30th Street Crosstown (#30): Runs along 30th Street.
- Park 100 (#37): Passes the Park along Lafayette Road.

Bus stops in the Park are located at the following locations:

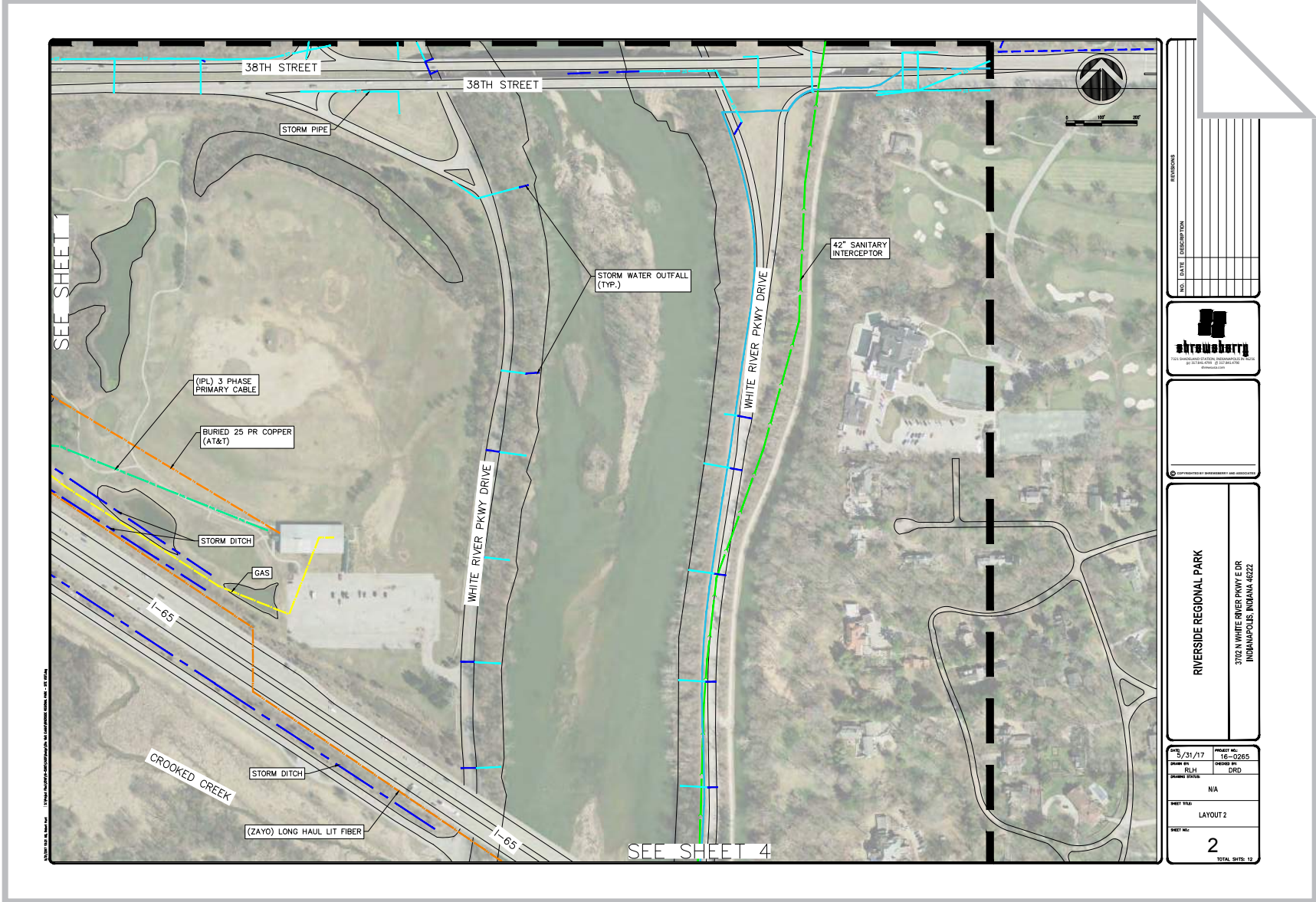
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- Northwest corner of 29th Street and White River Parkway East Drive
- Northeast corner of 30th Street and Riverside Drive
- Southeast corner of 29th Street and Riverside Drive
- Southeast corner of 29th Street and White River Parkway East Drive
- Southeast corner of Lafayette Road and Cold Spring Road
- Northwest corner of Lafayette Road and 19th Street
- West side of Lafayette Road at Gateway Inn
- Northwest corner of Lafayette Road and 16th Street
- North side of 16th Street west of Lafayette Road
- North side of 16th Street at Falcone Subaru
- South Side of 16th Street at United Refrigeration
- Southwest corner of 16th Street and Riverside Drive
- Northeast corner of 16th Street and Riverside Drive

- Northwest corner of 16th Street and Harding Street
- Southwest corner of 16th Street and Harding Street

In addition to the bus routes and stops described above a planning study for phase 2 of the bus rapid transit “Purple Line” prepared in 2015 identified the 30th Street corridor as an alternative alignment for the bus rapid transit line.

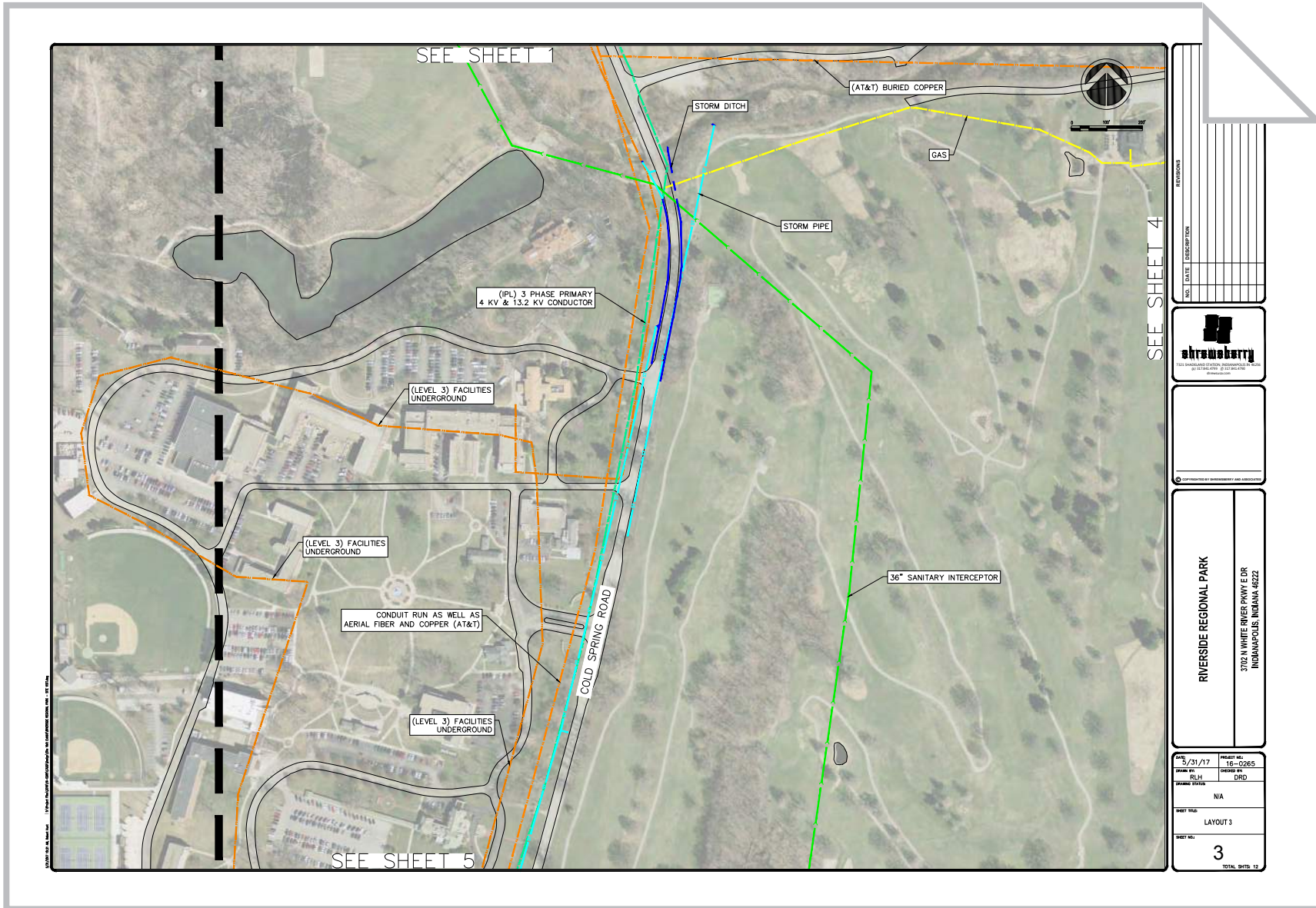


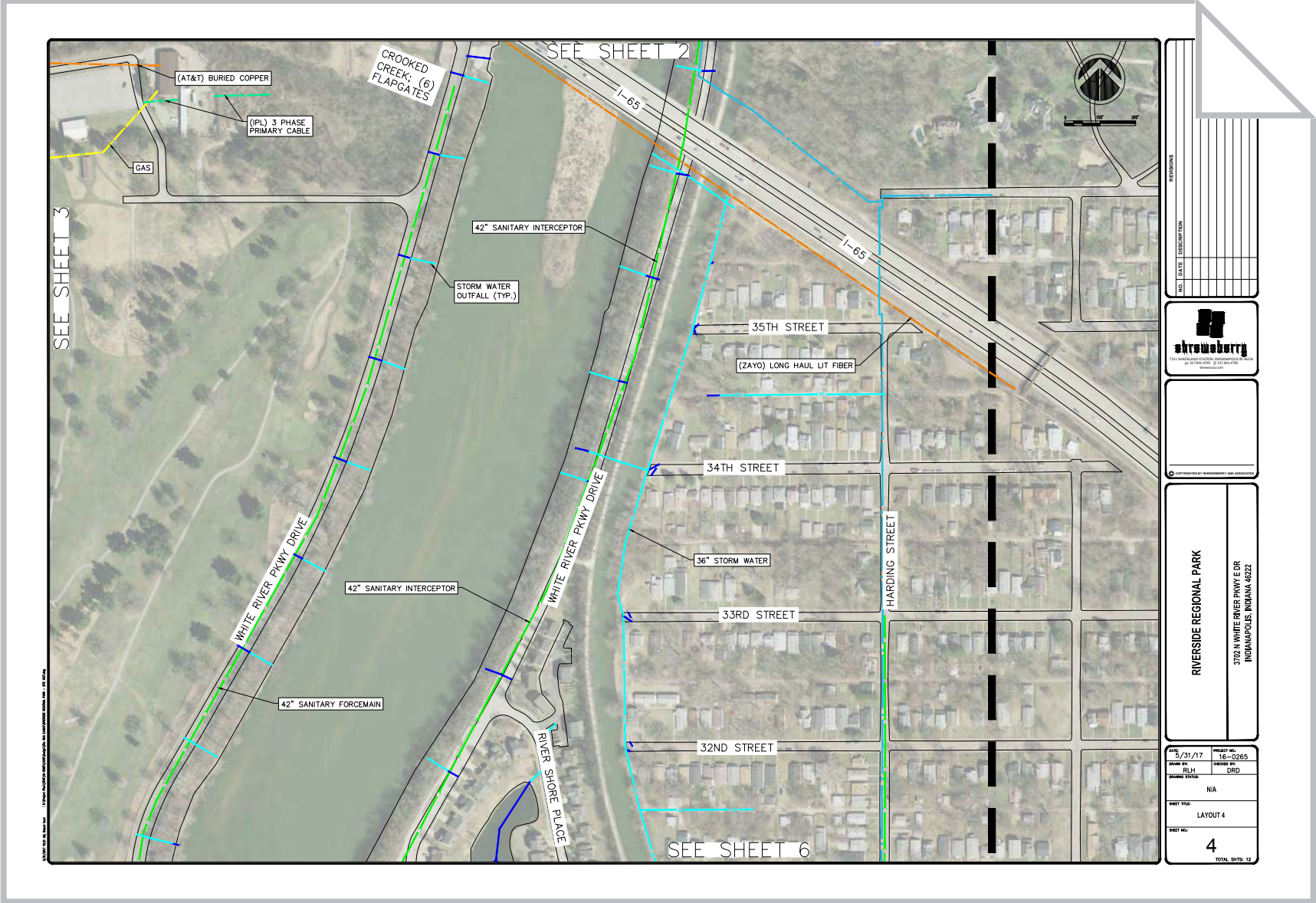




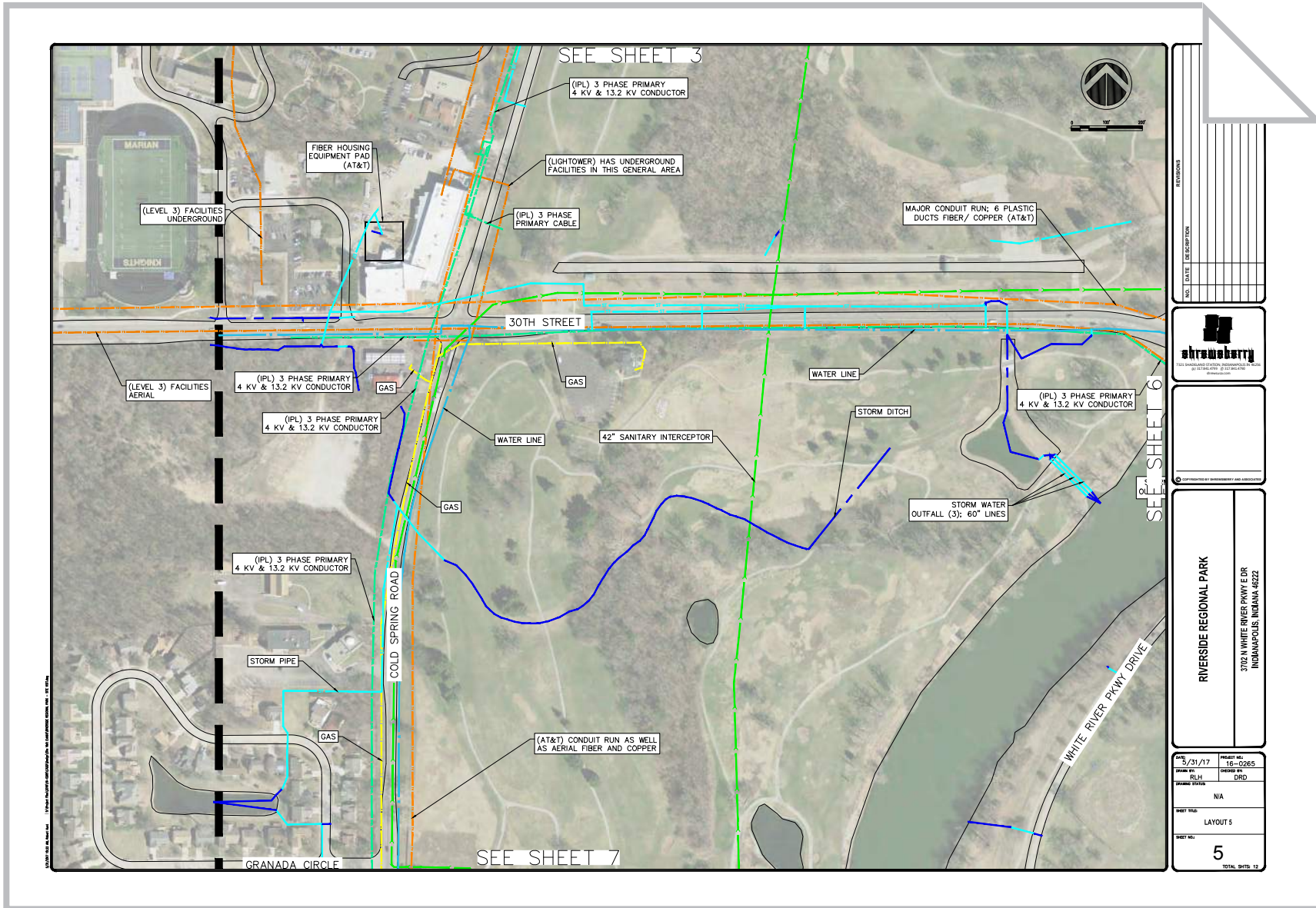
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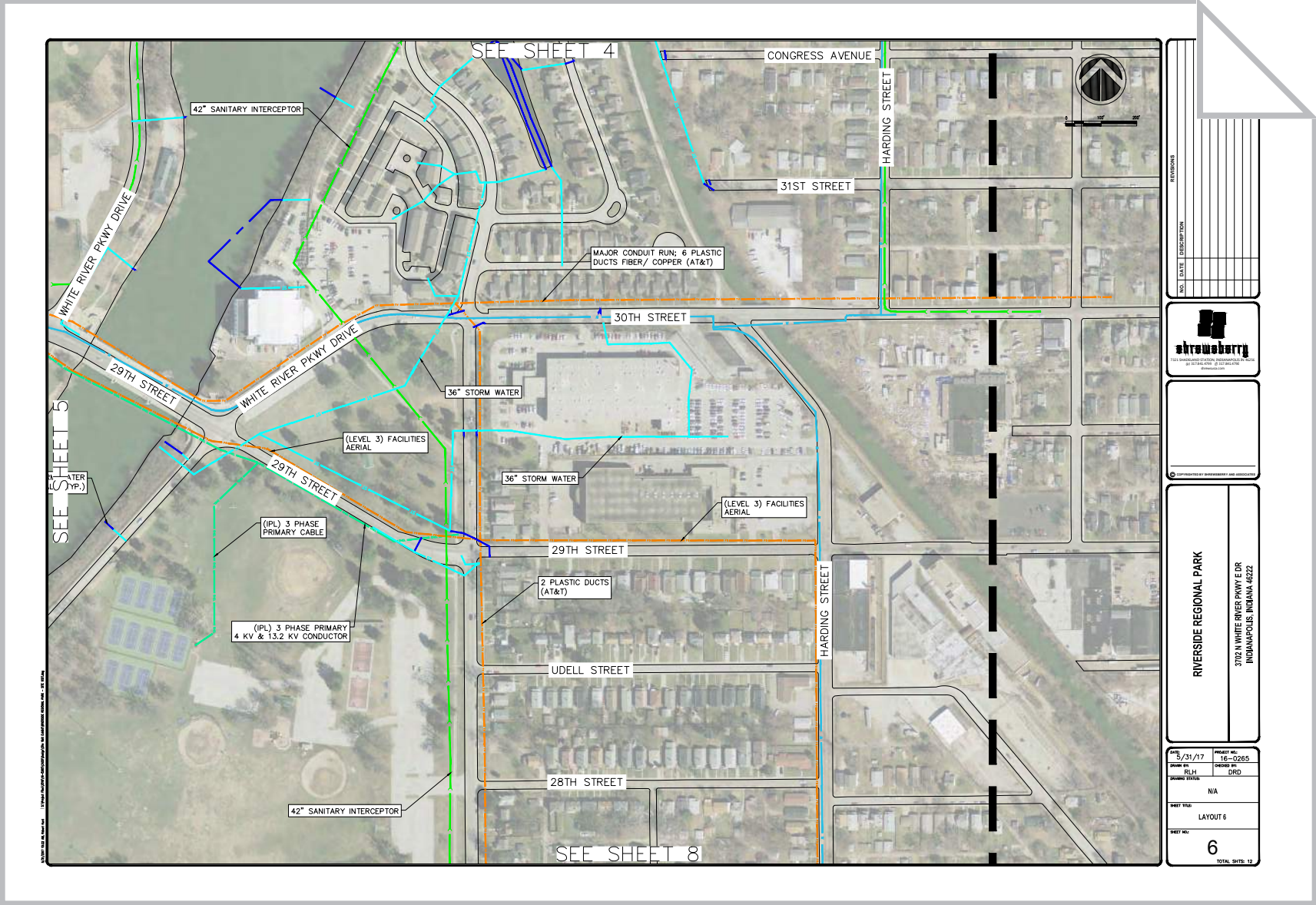
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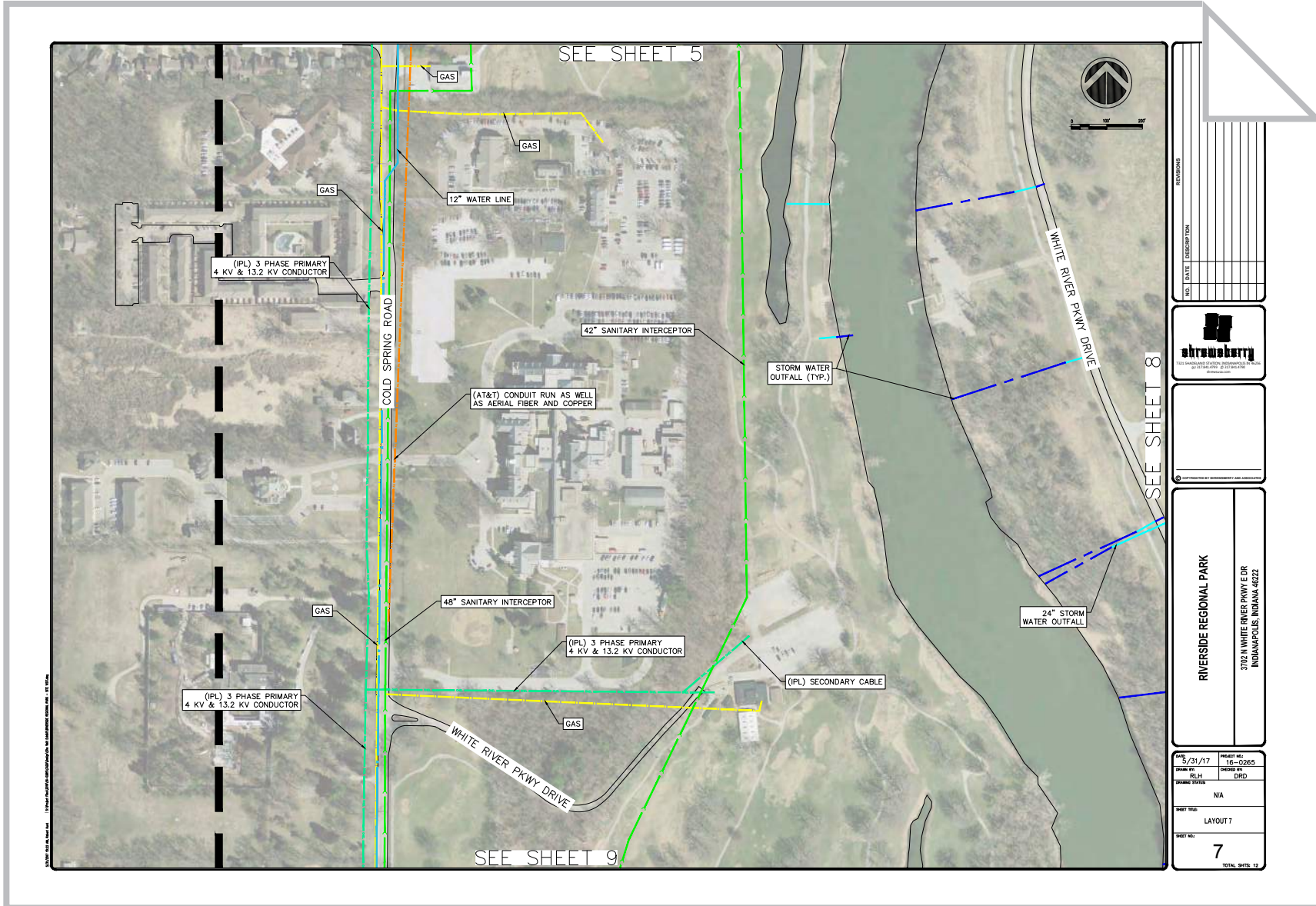
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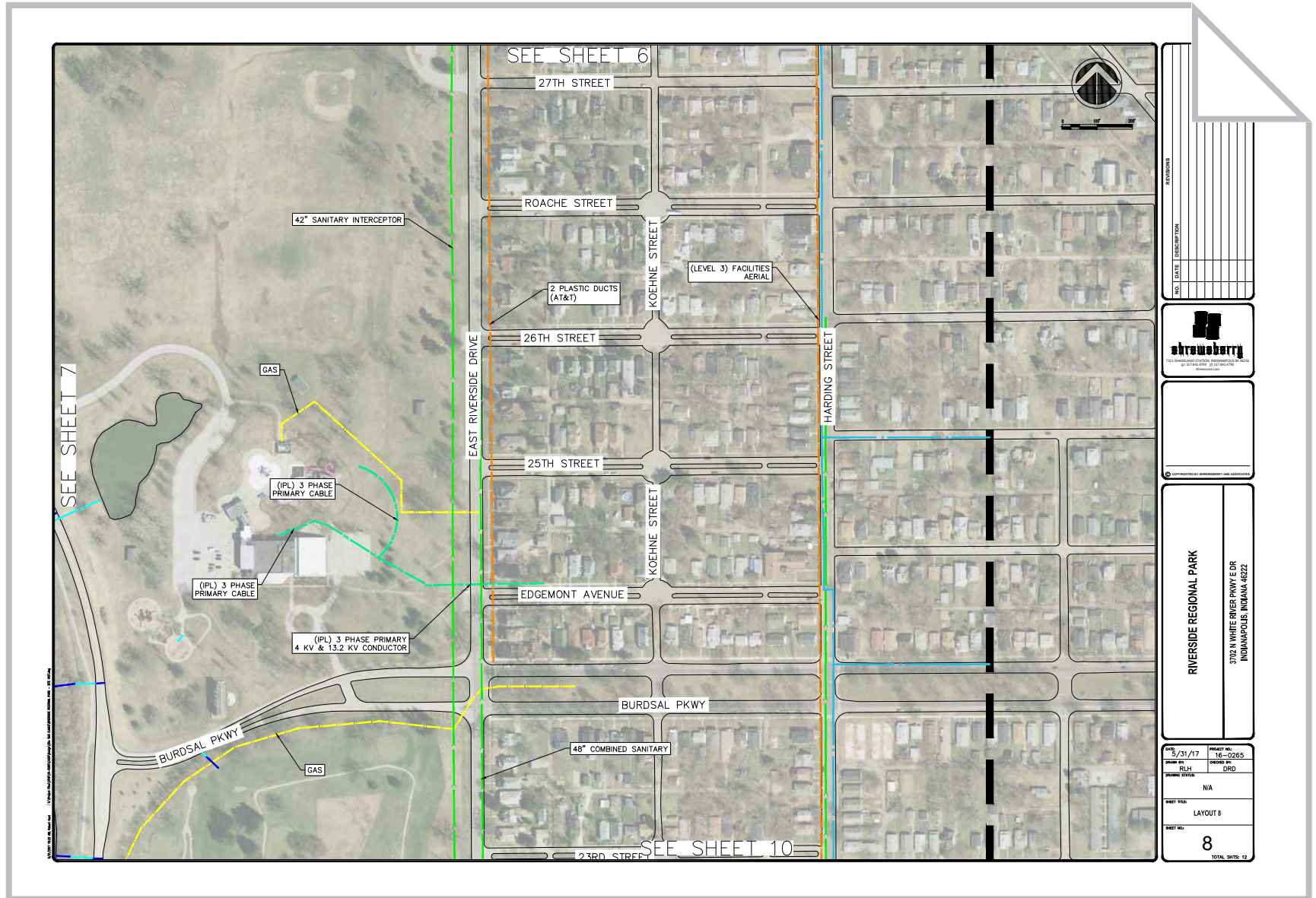




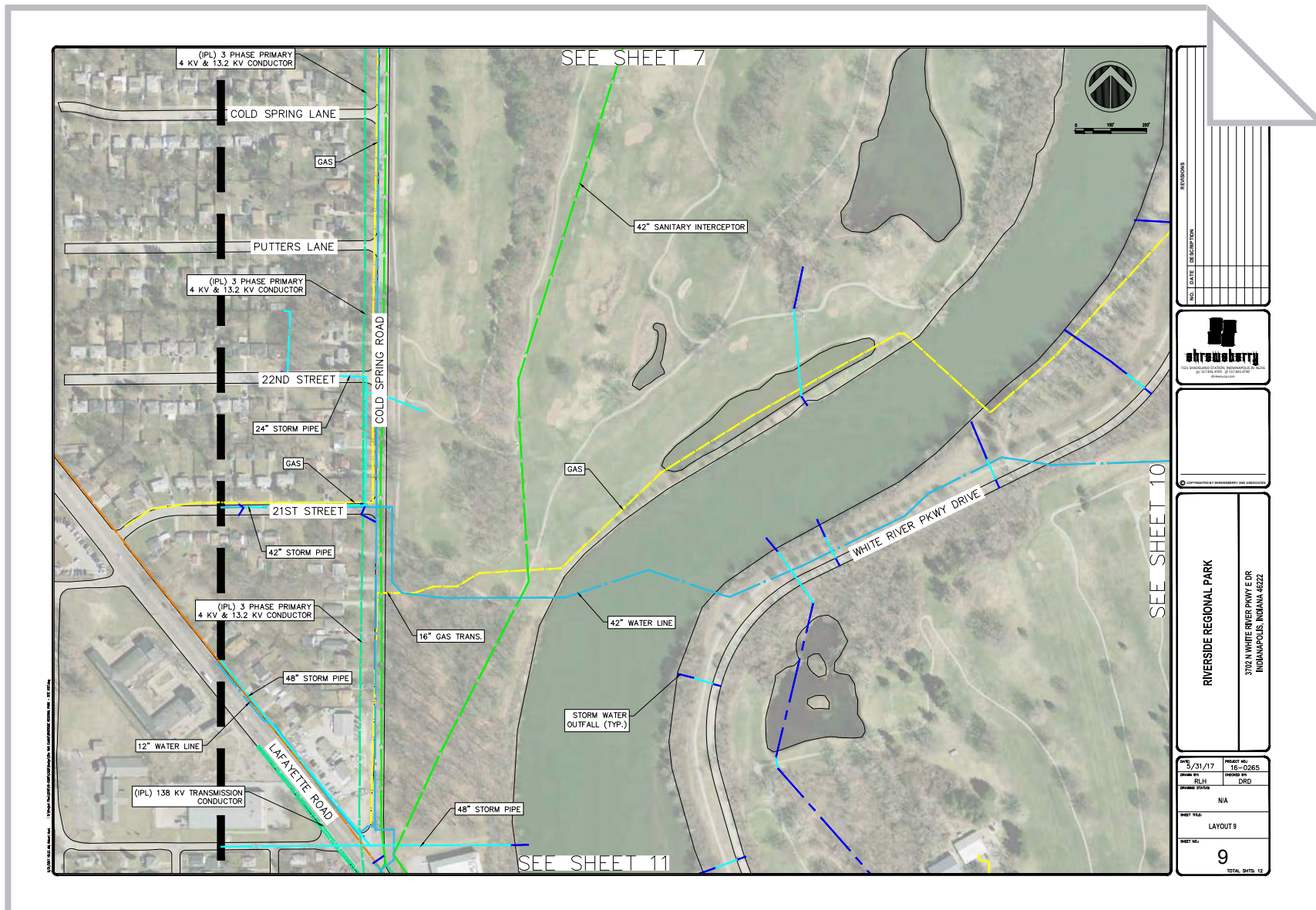
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# Appendix: Infrastructure Assessment

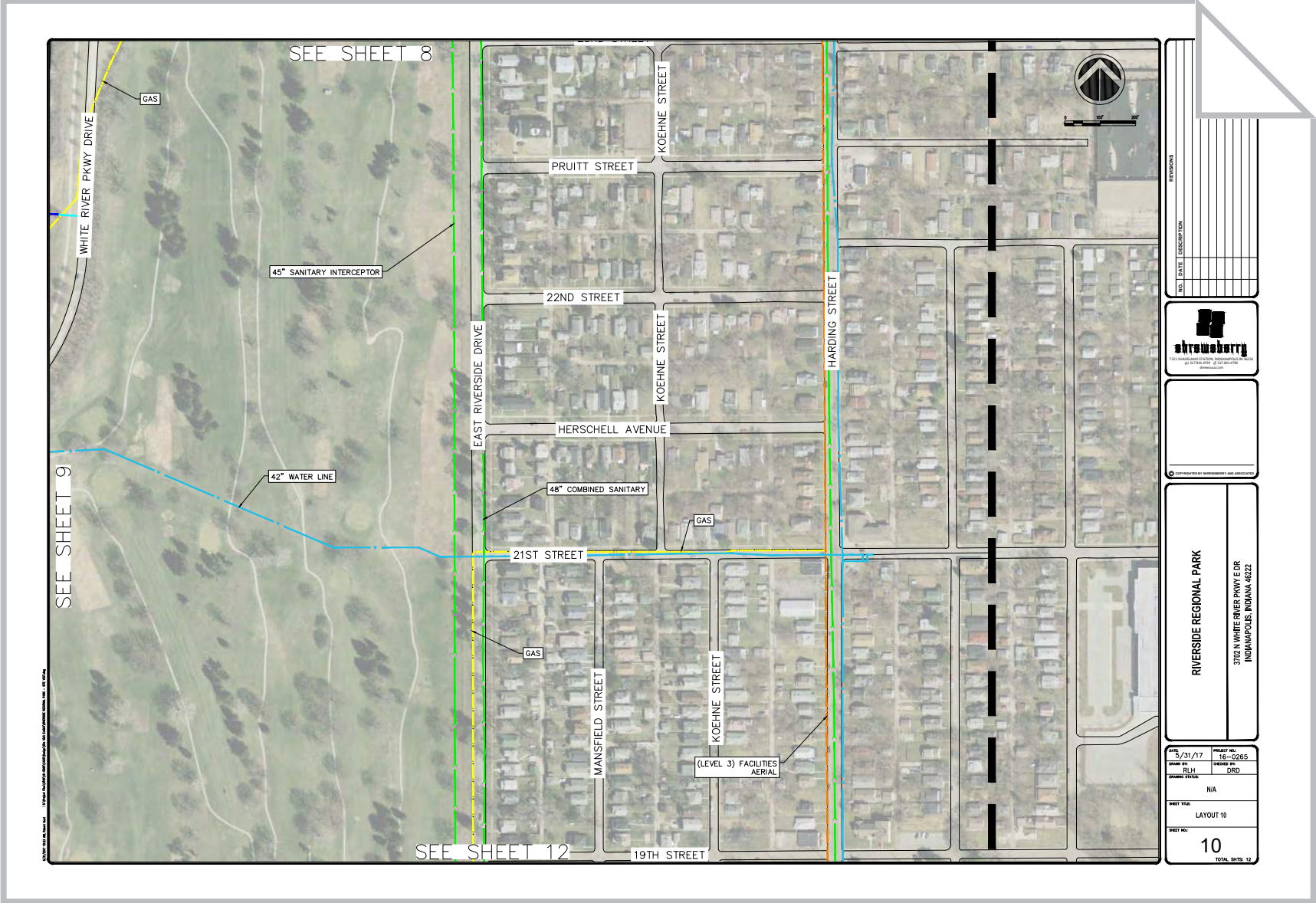




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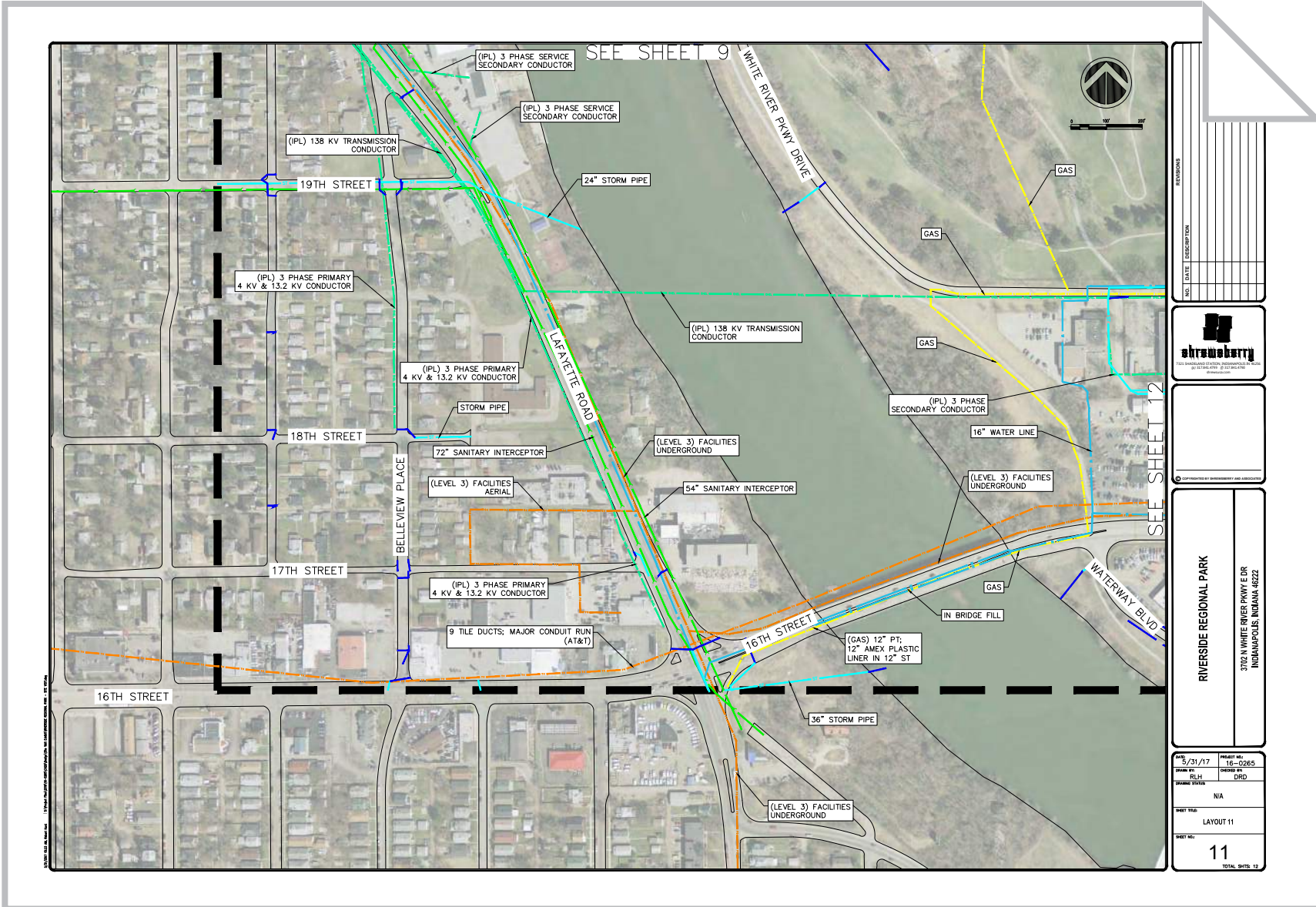






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# Appendix: Infrastructure Assessment



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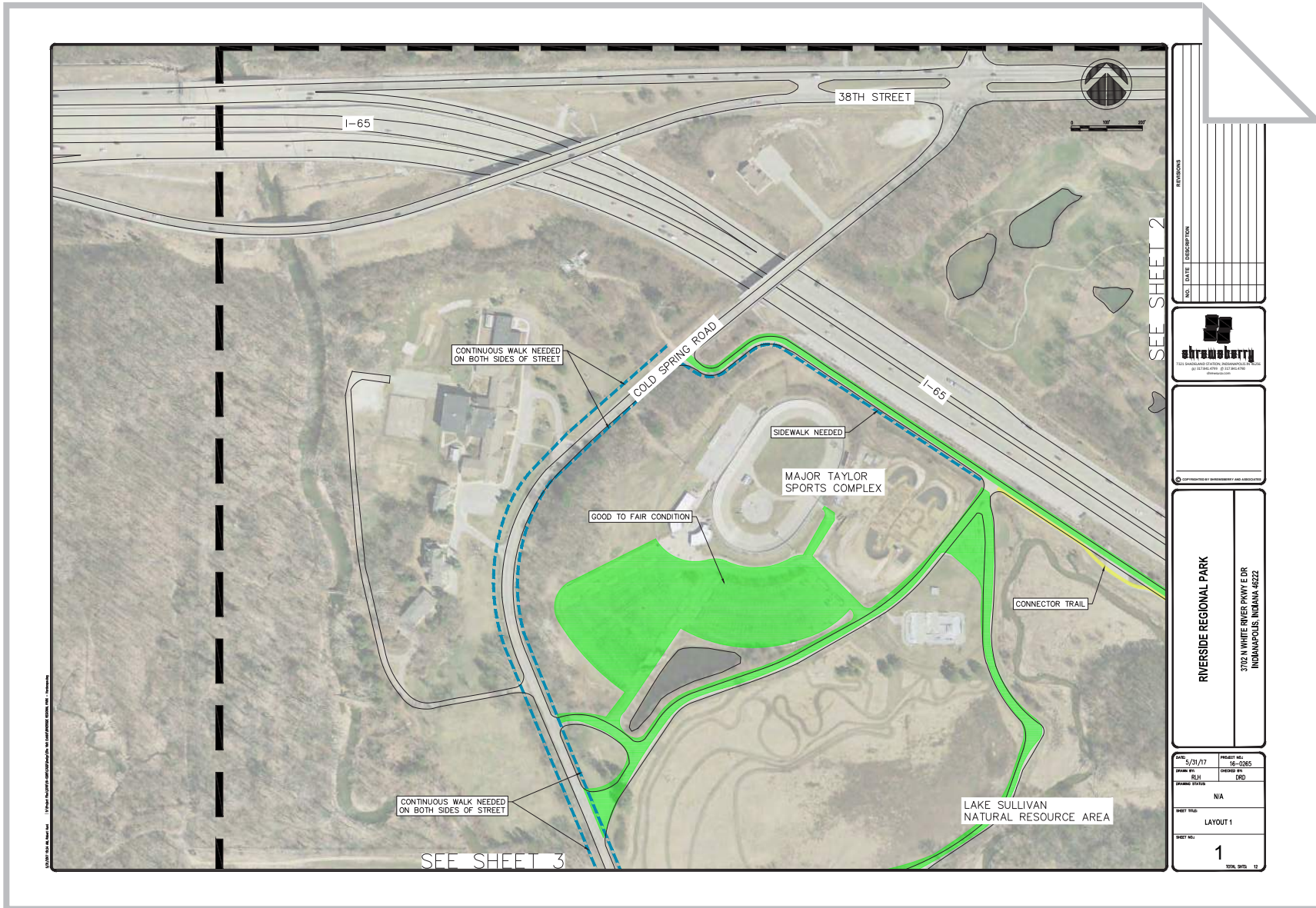
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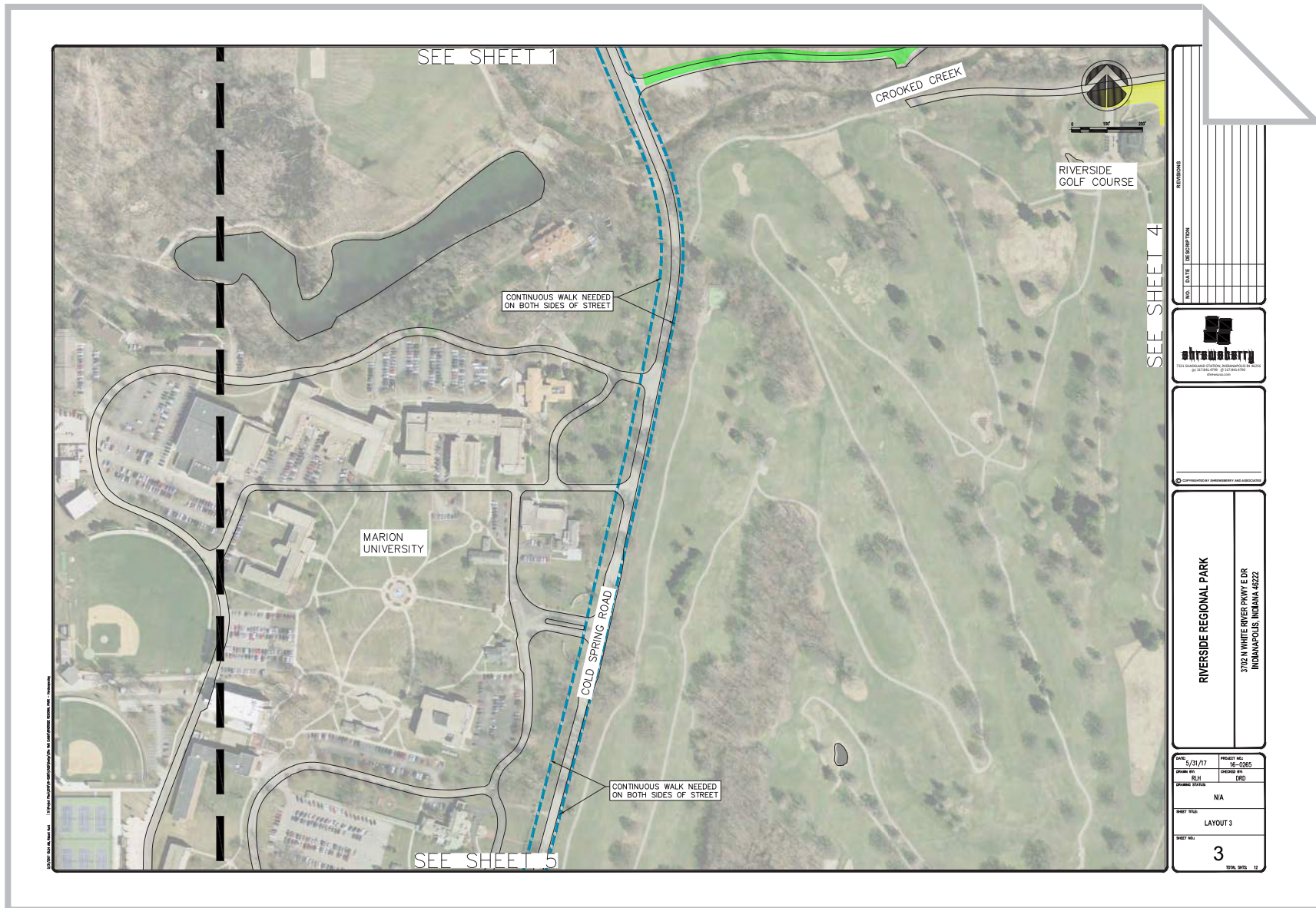
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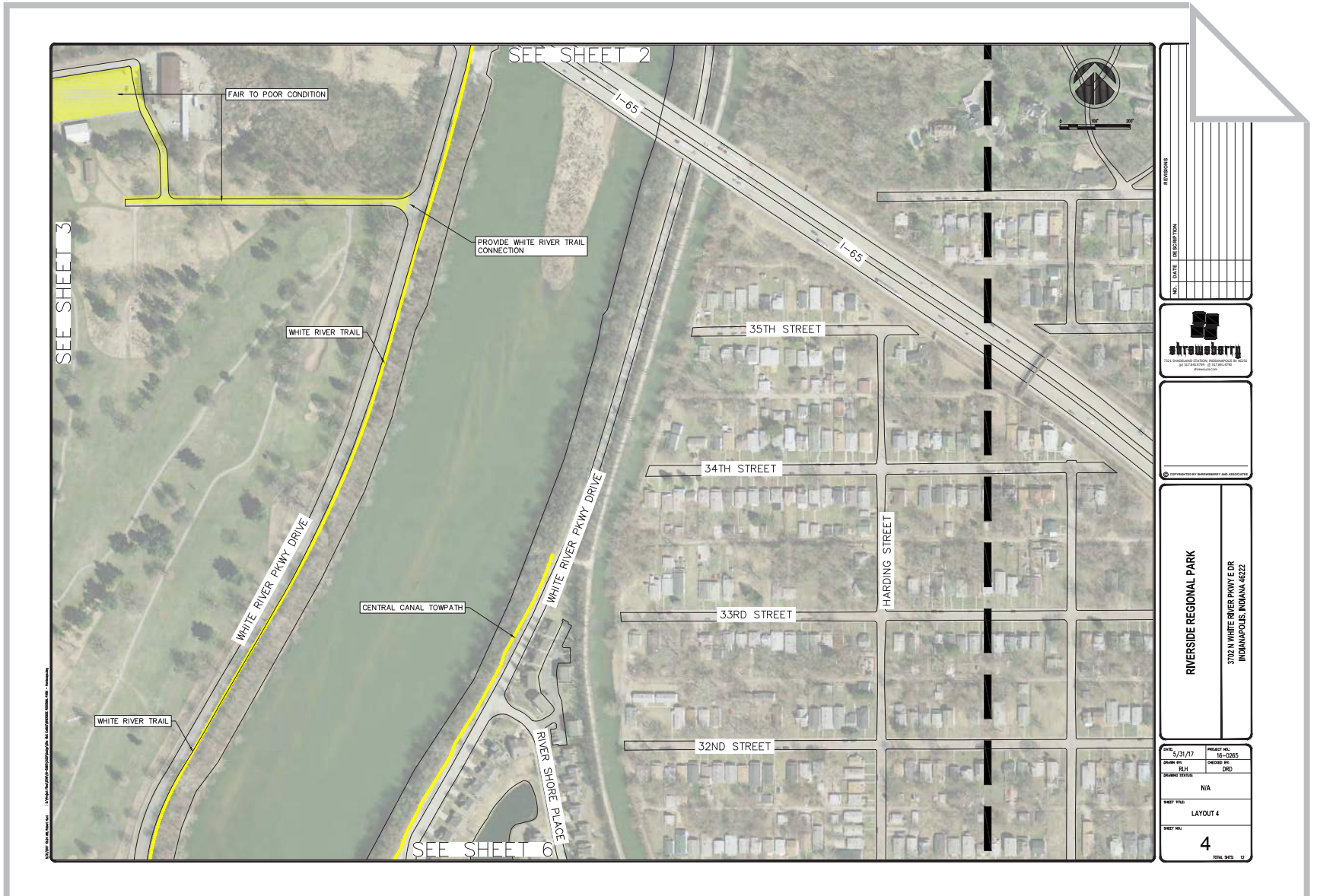


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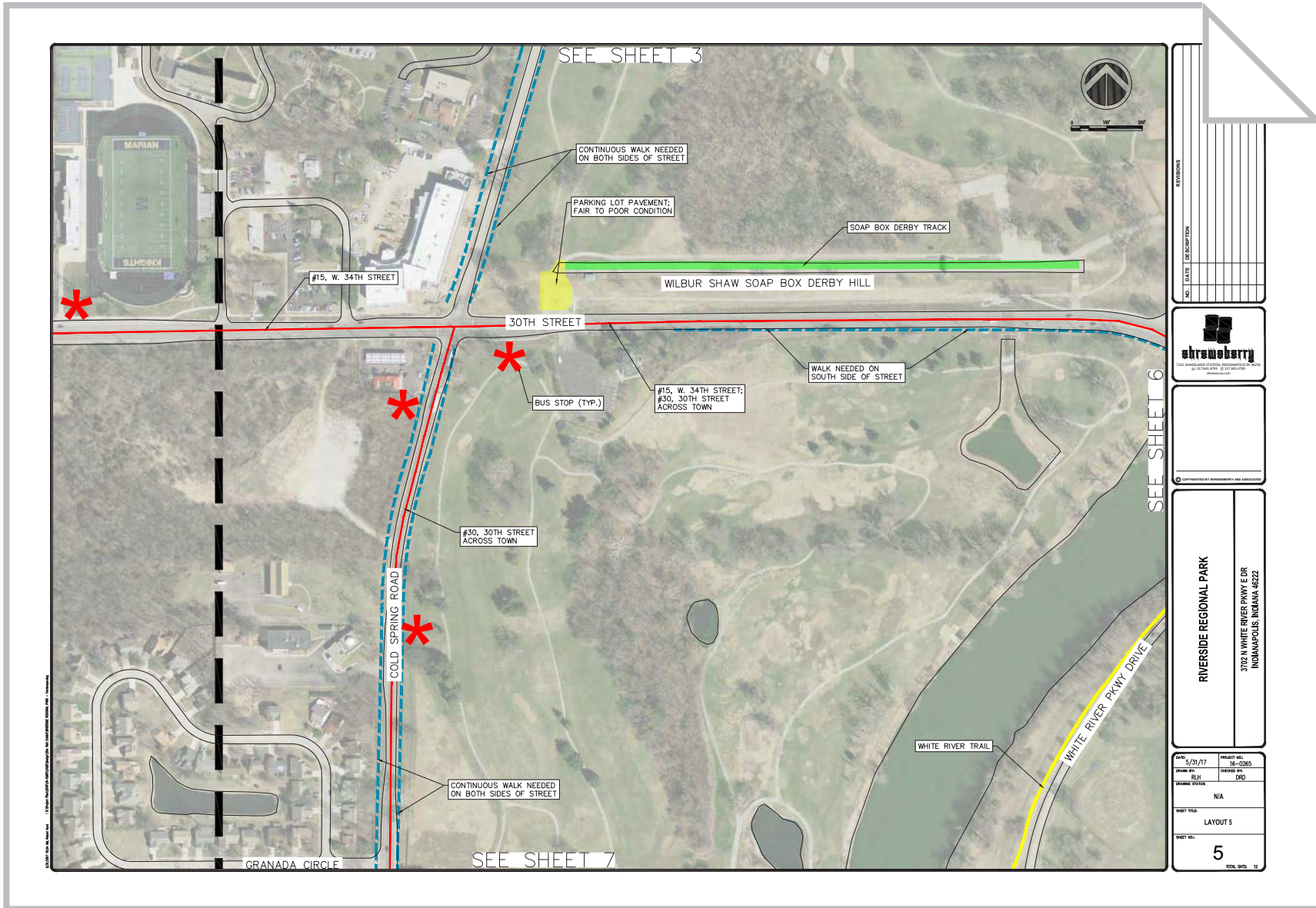


# Appendix: Infrastructure Assessment





# Appendix: Infrastructure Assessment



NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	ELEVATIONS



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 INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46222

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# Infrastructure Review

The headwaters of West Fork White River begin near the Indiana-Ohio border to the northeast of Indianapolis. By the time the river reaches Riverside Regional Park, the drainage area contributing flow to the river encompasses nearly 1,300 square miles. The confluence of Crooked Creek, with a drainage area of approximately 20 square miles, and West Fork White River occurs at the northern end of the park. West Fork White River continues in a southwesterly direction after flowing through the park and flows along the west side of downtown Indianapolis. West Fork White River is part of a larger watershed draining to the Gulf of Mexico via the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

Riverside Regional Park is largely within the backwater influence of a dam constructed across West Fork White River just downstream of the park. The Emerichsville Dam (also known as the 16th Street Dam) is a low-head dam originally built in the mid to late 1800s. This tends to make the river wider, deeper, and slower moving through the park than it would be without the dam. The future of the dam has been under discussion for several years, but competing stakeholder interests combined with ambiguity over the ownership of the dam and the source of funding for any changes to the dam have stalled those discussions.

The hydrology of the river and its tributaries is driven by the precipitation patterns for central Indiana. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Marion County, Indiana, "Indianapolis has a humid continental climate. The average precipitation of





39.9 inches is somewhat evenly distributed throughout the year. Spring and early summer rains usually exceed winter precipitation. The least precipitation usually occurs in February.”

Riverside Regional Park is named for its proximity to West Fork White River, commonly referred to as White River. This river dissects the park creating two separate blocks of land on opposite banks of the river. The river has played an important role in shaping both the form and function of the park. As future plans for the park are developed, the river provides an incredible opportunity to reconnect park users with the most significant local waterway. The river also poses challenges that need to be fully considered before a plan can be implemented.

### **Floodplain**

A significant portion of Riverside Regional Park is within the floodplain of West Fork White River and Crooked Creek. A floodplain is a generally flat area of land next to a river or stream. It stretches from the banks of the river to the outer edges of the valley. A floodplain consists of two parts. The first is the main channel of the river itself, called the floodway. Beyond the floodway is the flood fringe. The flood fringe extends from the outer edge of the floodway to the edges of the valley.

Flooding along West Fork White River usually occurs in winter and early spring and is typically triggered by heavy, widespread rainfall and/or snowmelt across the watershed. Indianapolis has experienced several significant flood events. The most notable was the flood of record which occurred in March 1913 and caused catastrophic damage to areas along the river, including much of Riverside Regional Park.

High risk flood zone areas within the floodplain are identified as being part of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).

According to FEMA, the SFHA is defined as “the area that will be inundated by the flood event having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year”. The 1-percent-annual-chance flood is also commonly referred to as the “Base Flood” or “100-Year Flood.” SFHAs are generally labeled as Zone A or Zone AE on FEMA FIRMs and are sometimes referred to as the “100-year floodplain”. As a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the City of Indianapolis must enforce development restrictions in the SFHA. In addition, structures in the SFHA with federally-backed mortgages are subject to mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements.

Moderate risk flood hazard areas outside of the SFHA are also designated on FIRMs and are labeled Zone B or Zone X (shaded). These areas are between the limits of the 1-percent-annual-chance and the 0.2-percent-annual-chance (or 500-year) flood. Levee protected areas can also be shown as Zone X (shaded) if the levees have been accredited by FEMA. A significant portion of Riverside Regional Park is mapped in either the moderate-risk or high-risk flood zones. Much of the portion of the park west of the river is not only in SFHA but is also designated part of the floodway.

Some development improvements are permitted within the floodplain. However, this depends on the nature of the improvements and the specific flood zone where the improvements occur. The floodway is the most restrictive area for new development and prohibits the construction of encroachments that would cause an increase in the depth of flooding upstream. Less stringent development restrictions apply for areas that are outside the floodway but still within the SFHA.

### **Levees**

In an effort to reduce the risk of flooding to Riverside Regional Park and adjacent areas, the Board of Flood Control Commissioners of the City of Indianapolis

## Appendix: Hydrology

constructed levees along both sides of the river through the park. According to the NFIP, a levee is defined as “a man-made structure, usually an earthen embankment, designed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices to contain, control, or divert the flow of water in order to reduce risk from temporary flooding”. The levee along the east side of West Fork White River is known as WR-20. The WR-20 levee begins at the confluence of Fall Creek near 10th Street and extends north (upstream) to an area of high ground just north of 30th Street. There are also two separate levee segments along the west side of West Fork White River (known as WR-21 and WR-22). Levee WR-21 begins at 30th Street and extends north (upstream) to Interstate 65. Levee WR-22 begins at Interstate 65 and extends just north of 38th Street.

The levees near Riverside Regional Park were built in response to the catastrophic flood that occurred in March 1913. The 1913 flood was an extreme flooding event that was much more severe than the current regulatory 100-year flood. As a result, the flooding was several feet higher than the current Base Flood Elevation shown on FEMA flood maps. The levees in this area do not have residential structures behind them within the SFHA. As a result, the levees were never submitted for FEMA accreditation to be recognized on the FIRMs since it would not have affected the flood insurance requirements for any residential structures. There are areas within the park that are mapped within the SFHA on official FEMA FIRMs even though they are protected by levees because they are not accredited.

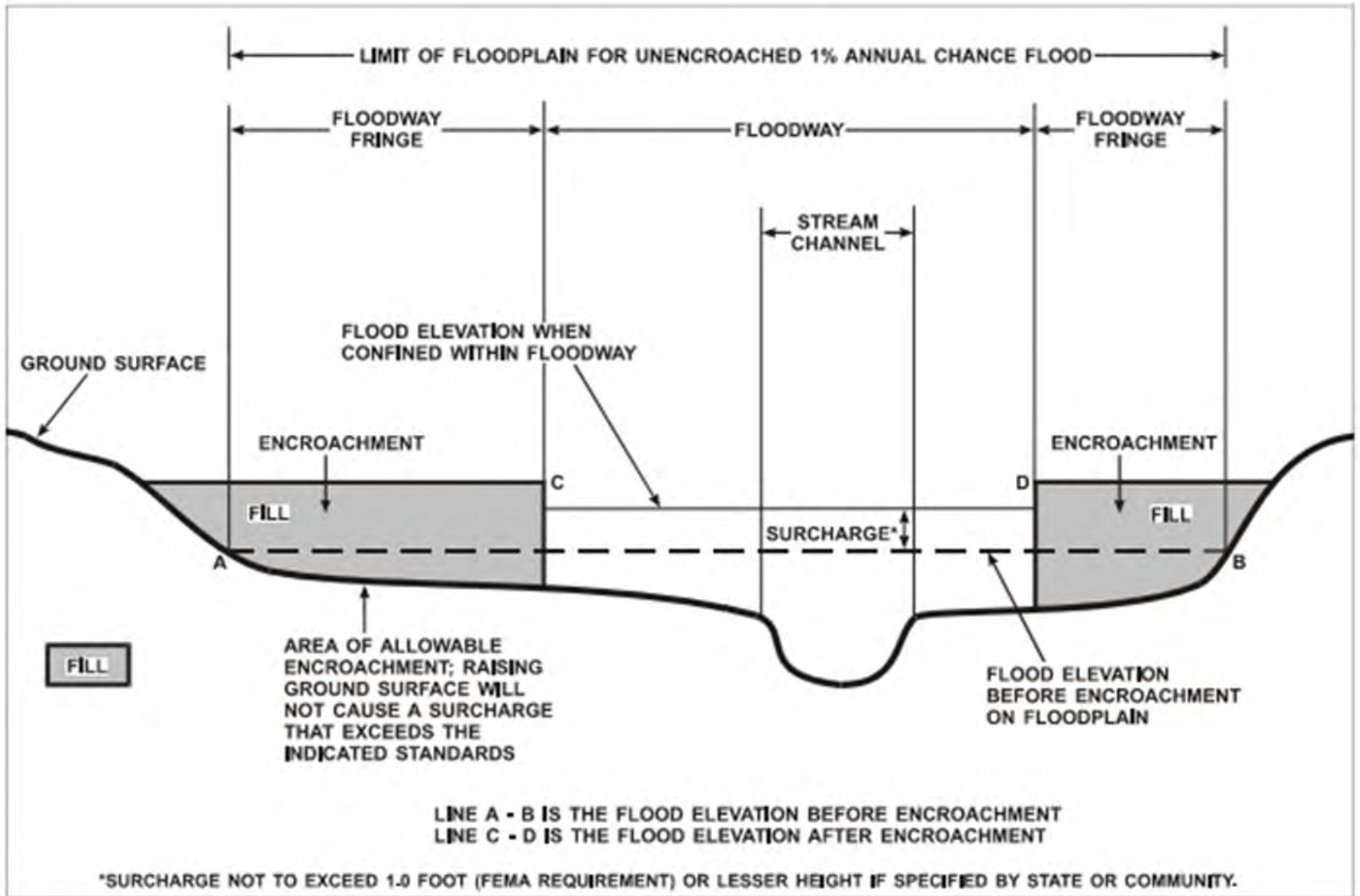
Today, the levees are owned and maintained by the Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW). Modifications to the levees would require approval from the DPW and would have to maintain the same level of protection that the levees currently provide.



Emrichsville Dam on West Fork White River



Levee WR-20 South of Riverside Regional Park



**General Resolution #19, 2017**

**Board of Parks and Recreation**

**Consolidated City of Indianapolis**

**Be It Resolved That the Board Hereby Approves:**

the adoption of the 2017 Riverside Regional Park Master Plan. This plan reflects the Indy Parks vision for the future of Riverside Regional Park.

This plan was developed with substantial public involvement and outlines a 20-25-year vision for the historic 862-acre park which was acquired in 1898. This plan contains an historical account of the park, describes the public engagement process, outlines a design vision, proposes a new identity and suggestions for public art and presents a phased implementation plan.

FURTHER, RESOLVED that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation is hereby authorized and directed to implement the Riverside Regional Park Master Plan for and on behalf of the Department.

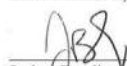
**BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
CONSOLIDATED CITY OF  
INDIANAPOLIS**

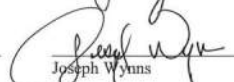
  
David Lichtenberger  
Assistant Corporation Counsel

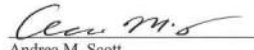
  
Louvenia Holstein, Secretary


10-26-17  
Date

  
Linda Broadfoot, Chairman

  
Joshua Bowling

  
Joseph Wynns

  
Andrea M. Scott

  
Ms. Kristen Schunk Moreland

Appendix: Adoption by the Metropolitan Development Commission

APPROVED  
DATE 12-6-17  
METROPOLITAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION  
A.A.

**METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA  
RESOLUTION NO. 2017-CPS-R-004**

RESOLUTION 2017-CPS-R-004, amending a segment of the Comprehensive or Master Plan of Marion County, Indiana, Riverside Regional Park Master Plan.

Be it resolved that, pursuant to I.C. 36-7-4, the Metropolitan Development Commission of Marion County, Indiana, hereby amends the Comprehensive or Master Plan for Marion County, Indiana, by the adoption of the Riverside Regional Park Master Plan, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as an amendment to the Comprehensive or Master Plan of Marion County, Indiana.

Be it further resolved that the Secretary of the Metropolitan Development Commission is directed to certify copies of this Resolution 2017-CPS-R-004 amending the Comprehensive or Master Plan of Marion County, Indiana, Riverside Regional Park Master Plan.

Be it further resolved that the Director of the Department of Metropolitan Development is directed to mail or deliver certified copies of this Resolution 2017-CPS-R-004, to the Mayor of the City of Indianapolis, the City-County Council of Indianapolis and Marion County, the Board of Commissioners of Marion County, Indiana and to the legislative authorities of the incorporated cities and towns of Marion County, Indiana that are directly affected by this plan: none. The Director shall also file one (1) copy of the Resolution and one (1) summary of the plan in the office of the Recorder of Marion County.

DATE: 12-6-2017

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM  
AND ADEQUACY THIS 20<sup>th</sup> DAY  
OF NOVEMBER, 2017

Christopher Steinmetz  
Christopher Steinmetz  
Assistant Corporation Counsel

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION OF MARION COUNTY,  
INDIANA

John J. Dillon III  
John J. Dillon III, President

**METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA**

STATE OF INDIANA )  
 ) SS:  
COUNTY OF MARION )

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Lena Hackett, Secretary of the Metropolitan Development Commission of Marion County, Indiana, do hereby certify that the attached Resolution 2017-CPS-R-004 AMENDING A SEGMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE OR MASTER PLAN OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA – Riverside Regional Park Master Plan – is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Metropolitan Development Commission of Marion County, Indiana, following a public hearing at a meeting of said commission on December 6, 2017, and that the original of said resolution is on file of record in the office of the Department of Metropolitan Development of Marion County, Indiana.

Witness my hand and official seal of the Metropolitan Development Commission of Marion County, Indiana this 6th day of December 2017.

Lena Hackett  
Lena Hackett, Secretary  
Metropolitan Development Commission  
of Marion County, Indiana

# Bibliography

## **Connected Indy - DRAFT (2017)**

Proposed trails within/near the Riverside Park Master Plan area include the following (the first two are categorized as having “high project readiness”):

Central Canal Greenway - 30th St. to 16th St. (p.48)

Fall Creek Greenway to Indiana Ave. (p.39)

Burdsal Parkway - off-road trail (Burdsal); destination project (Taggart Memorial) (p. 55)

Charlie Wiggins Trail - protected bike lane (MLK/ Clifton section); off-road trail (Canal section) (p.70)

IMA / Marian / Major Taylor Trail - protected bike lane (42nd/IMA/38th section); destination project (IMA Canal Access); protected bike lane / off-road trail (30th/Cold Spring Rd/Major Taylor) (p.82)

## **NWQOL Housing Strategy (2016)**

Phase 1 Target Area focuses on North Riverside & 29th/30th to Clifton for housing development and neighborhood mixed use development. Rebranding will be tied to parks/active lifestyle.

## **NW Progress and Redevelopment Plan (2016)**

There are no specific recommendations related to the Riverside Park planning area, but the plan contains a 16 Tech/Business-to-Business concept (p. 61) that if realized, would bring additional potential users near

the park. The plan also contains useful contextual information.

## **Indy Connect Purple Line (2015)**

Phase 2 of BRT Purple Line, which will connect Lawrence and Eagle Creek Parkway, will be west of Meridian. Options being considered include the alignment along 30th Street, which passes through the planning area.

## **16 Tech Design Guidelines (2016)**

No specific recommendations related to the Riverside Park planning area. Focuses on the 45-acre core of 16Tech, the purpose of which is to “drive a wide range of research, innovation, academic, entrepreneurial, technological, and commercial activity, it will also accommodate residential, retail, and recreational uses.”

## **Indy Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2016)**

“Community Input: bump Riverside Park up to “Signature Park” status. The location, constituency, and current configuration lends it to multi-level, strategic development. (p.25)”

Scheduled Projects - 2017-2021 (p.234)

Building renovation and HVAC replacement.

Replace North Wall in old pool area and Structural beam supports.

## **NWA Safe Routes to School Plan (2014, 2016 update)**

Destination Routes identified include alignments adjacent to Riverside Park Master Plan area (see map, 2016). Recommended priority infrastructure improvements are located along Cold Spring Rd., Riverside Dr., 29th St., Burdsal Pkwy, White River Pkwy West Dr.

## **NWQOL Plan (2014) pp. 54-69**

Vision: “We want our public spaces and parks to be vital components in our community and to support the quality of life for our residents. We want innovative programming and activities in our parks. Our collective vision around public spaces and parks is to begin to look for ways to expand their capacity and community use methods to support the parks efforts. We would also like to see our waterways – the Canal, the White River, and Fall Creek – become viable assets in the community that contribute to our quality of life, sense of community, and economic potential. And last but not least, we envision a community with more cultural and art opportunities available in a variety of methods.”

Goal 1: Expand use of the park's green spaces to accommodate intergenerational use.

Connect with local businesses, civic, and gov't organizations to develop partnerships to support park development, events, and programming.

Develop new program opportunities to bring alternative revenue streams into the Family Centers.

Work to create community supports to expand service hours of park family centers.

Plan activities in Riverside Park for Sundays in the summer to curb violence in the park.

Participate in the annual White River Festival

Start an annual Rib Fest in the community.

Identify methods to use the Family Centers as information hubs for the NWA QOL community."

"Goal 2: Improve equipment, wayfinding, and infrastructure.

Incorporate adult fitness stations into area parks

Incorporate disc golf course into Riverside Park.

Increase access to alternative athletic activities such as fishing, archery, biking, motorcar racing, kickball league, canoeing, kayaking, golfing, etc.

Incorporate Indianapolis Black Walk of Fame into the community connectivity plan.

Hold an art installation project throughout the entire Northwest QOL system and pilot in Riverside Park.

"Goal 3: Incorporate more art and cultural activities and spaces throughout the community.

Incorporate Indianapolis Black Walk of Fame into the community connectivity plan.

Hold an art installation project throughout the entire NWA QOL system and pilot in Riverside Park.

Develop an Annual Craft Festival centered in the community.

Develop a Quilt Show / Festival at Riverside Park."

"Goal 4: Utilize the arts and culture, parks, public spaces, and natural assets as a vehicle for economic development.

Increase income-generating opportunities at the parks by bringing in alternative revenue streams into the Family Centers.

Continuation of Fall Creek Greenway to connect to White River Greenway at 10th Street and at Riverside Park via Burdsal Parkway, and construction of Rails-to-Trails along the Canal.

Taggart Memorial restoration and redesign of site."

Youth Development

Goal 3: Increase access to art activities for youth

Goal 5: Increase access to safe places and spaces for the youth in the community.

Increase access to swimming classes and water safety courses.

Identify and develop programs that support opportunities for positive constructive community events and activities grounded in peace-building. Special interest in developing Midnight Basketball events in the area."

## **Indy Greenways Full Circle Plan (2014)**

Central Canal Towpath: Map shows proposed extension of Central Canal Trail from 30th St. to downtown, creating an alternative/parallel greenway route to the south. (p. 71)

Fall Creek Greenway: Construct Burdsal Parkway connection between Central Canal and White River and Fall Creek greenways.(p.78-79)

White River Greenway (p. 97-100)

Explore feasibility of extending northern terminus to IMA's 100 Acres.

Construct new trailhead and trail improvements between White River Parkway West Drive and the Lake Sullivan/Major Taylor Velodrome area.

Redesign and construct section of greenway North of 30th Street to provide separation from traffic and eliminate obstructions in trail. Improve the north and

# Bibliography

south approaches and crossing on the 30th Street bridge. Make repairs to existing historic bridge.

Improve connection to Central Canal Towpath by designating appropriate accessible route and improving wayfinding signage.

Identify and construct new access points with parking along the trail between 30th St and 16th St.

Make improvements to crossing at 16th Street.

Construct new access point along Waterway Blvd. near the Bush Stadium development and construct accessible connection between new parking area and the trail on top of the levee.

Make connections where feasible to public transportation and the future transit stations, including potential connections to the Purple Line BRT station near the IMA and the Blue Line BRT station near the Indianapolis Zoo (exact location of stations unknown at this time).

## **30th Street Corridor Plan (2010)**

Plan area include stretch of 30th St from White River west to Eagledale Dr. (see maps on p. 3, 18, 24, 67)

The portion of the 30th St. Corridor Plan study area that is east of the west right-of-way line of Cold Spring Rd is within the Indianapolis Park and Boulevard System Historic Dist. and includes the roads, bridges, land, golf course, riverbanks/river.

As a guide to development within the historic district itself and in the area within view of the historic district, it is recommended that:

1. Site details, materials, landscaping and other enhancements are compatible with the historic character associated with the Kessler Plan.
2. The integrity of the nationally significant historic district is not diminished, or destroyed by current or future development practices. (p. 16)”

“Some specific concerns and recommendations were named through citizen input to their community engagement process:

This area needs to be promoted as a tourist designation. Riverside Park and its components comprise up to a third of the area. Promoting the park as a primary attraction would help increase the quality of life for all residents living around it.

Promote pedestrian traffic in addition to facilitating vehicular traffic.

Promote the 30th Street Corridor as the center of civic activity for the neighborhoods by developing an identity that connects all communities.

Balance neighborhood, environment, green spaces, commercial activity and public spaces.

Increase safety for drivers and pedestrians by slowing traffic on 30th Street.

Add new street trees and landscaping.

Add new traffic signals and wayfinding signs. (p. 29)”

Sidewalk recommendations - see map p.49

“Land Use recommendation: Critical Area 1 (SW corner 30th St and Cold Spring Rd) recommendations include the following:

Land uses permitted in this site should be institutional, religious and community and neighborhood retail services. If office and retail land uses are developed on the site, they should be limited to locations on the West 30th Street frontage and extend no deeper into the site than the depth of the existing convenience store parcel. Retail and services that serve the patrons of the nearby parks, university campus and golf courses may be accommodated within the overall plan.

Pedestrian and bicycle connectivity should be strengthened throughout the critical area by the construction and upkeep of sidewalks, safe street crossings and connections to the proposed multi-use path along 30th Street and the east side of Cold Spring Road.

Development plans for this critical area should respect the historic Indianapolis Park and Boulevard Plan and its listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Cold Spring Road frontage abuts a parkway and parklands with historic and cultural significance.”



Wayfinding and Signage Locations recommendations include 30th St intersections of Cold Spring Rd and White River Parkway West Drive (p. 72). Landmark type gateway recommended for Cold Spring Rd. intersection. Destinations for wayfinding signage

UNWA TIF Development Implementation Plan (2009)  
The western edge of UNWA TIF District is adjacent to the Riverside Park Master Plan area from Burdsal Pkwy north to I-65. Long-term vision (Central Canal Opportunity Area) includes residential and commercial redevelopment of industrial sites along the Canal (p.47). Recommendations were made for short-term projects and included Central Canal Greenway Trail (Towpath Extension- Phase 1). (p.75)

### **UNW Neighborhood Plan (2008)**

“Riverside Park (p.47)

Goal: Improve facilities at Riverside Park.

Objective: Focus improvement on vehicular access, vehicular control, and water and bathroom facilities.

Projects/Programs

Construct one additional gateway at Riverside Park.

Design barriers to prevent motor vehicles from leaving dedicated roads and parking lots.

Provide a source of water and bathroom facilities, designed to minimize vandalism.”

“Park Programs and Events (p.47) (p.69)

Goal: Increase recreation advertising and variety of programs.

Objective: Utilize existing resources in an innovative way to meet recreation needs. Projects/Programs

Increase recreational opportunities for children and young adults.

Increase advertising for Indy Parks and Recreation programs and classes as Watkins Park as the focus.

Increase variety of programs assessing a current or future neighborhood survey.

Increase the number of musicians and other attractions at neighborhood parks.

Construct a shelter and utilize a park with shade (trees) that could house food booths for such festivals as RibFest.

Increase equipment and the number of classes related to computers.

Sustain Indy Parks and Recreation programs by increasing donated materials and staff.

Blend more education with recreation, primarily through schools and churches.”

“Goal: Explore new territory to increase the attractiveness of recreation in the UNWA neighborhood.

Objective: Focus efforts on cultural and historical

landmarks, pedestrian/vehicle movement, and increasing the resources/staff/public-private partnerships, and ethical standards.

Projects/Programs

Identify important cultural and historic landmarks in regards to tourism.

Connect parks together by pedestrian thoroughways as a catalyst for economic growth. Increase public transportation routes to increase park use.

Increase Parks’ funding for more resources and staff.

Develop higher standards for achievement and conduct for participants in Indy Parks.

Increase the public/private partnerships for recreation development.”

### **Water Canal Development Guide (2006)**

No specific recommendations related to the Riverside Park Master Plan area. Water Canal Development Guide applies to a narrow corridor from 30th St. to Burdsal Pkwy.

### **MLK Corridor Plan (2004)**

No specific recommendations related to the Riverside Park Master Plan area.