



Eagle Creek Park
MASTER PLAN 1997

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All Appendixes are located in the Eagle Creek Park Office
7840 W 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46254

Eagle Creek Park Master Plan, 1997

INTRODUCTION

Indianapolis Parks and Recreation's Mission Statement states that the Department "will improve the quality of life of citizens and their neighbors by preserving land, facilities, the environment, and our natural heritage, and by creating significant opportunities for recreation, conservation, education, and relaxation, for now and future generations".

The fundamental purpose of park master planning is to provide a framework for the development of park and recreation facilities within the City of Indianapolis and Marion County. The Master Plans that develop from the process reflect both the physical aspects of the park and the identified needs of the park users. Master plans vary from one park to another with respect to the size and complexity of the park and its users.

Eagle Creek Park is designated a Regional Park designed to provide the urban dweller with opportunities not available in other parks (i.e. Magnet and Neighborhood Parks). Indianapolis Parks and Recreation's definition of the role of a regional park is "to achieve a complete change of environment for a day or a weekend, provide a variety of recreational and educational programs and facilities utilizing the natural aspects of the park, and varied program activities for all citizens including the handicapped and the elderly".

The National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) defines a regional park as an area of natural quality for nature oriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitat, conservation, swimming, boating, fishing, picnicking, hiking and trail uses. It may include active play areas, but generally 80 percent of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20 percent used for recreation development.

This plan, developed by the Eagle Creek Park Advisory Committee (a citizen volunteer organization, comprised of park users and residents), is intended to maintain the natural aspects of the park's resources, allow for increased park use, focus on environmental education and fitness programs, and provide the general guidelines for future direction.

HISTORY OF PARK and MASTER PLANS

Creation of the Reservoir

The Eagle Creek Reservoir and Park were created as a result of the need to control flooding of Eagle Creek, a tributary of the White River, in Marion County. An earthen dam was constructed, beginning in 1966 and completed in 1969, resulting in a reservoir with a permanent pool elevation of 790 feet above sea level and a maximum elevation of 811.5 feet. These elevations created a permanent pool of approximately 1,383 acres of surface water.

The Board of Park Commissioners of Marion County recognized the opportunity to create additional public park space to serve the growing population of Marion County. Land acquisition in the area that became Eagle Creek Park began in 1962. The bulk of the park acreage was purchased in 1966 from Purdue University (2286.24 acres at \$1399.77/acre for a total of \$3,200,217.16). The imminent purchase of this property caused the formation of the Metropolitan Board of Park Commissioners in January of 1963. This county-wide park district was to serve the entire county with the exception of the towns of Beech Grove, Lawrence and Speedway which had their own park systems. The increased bonding power of the new organization was used to create the park. A bond issue was also used to create the reservoir.

The reservoir, the creation of a large public park, planned sewers, and the completion of an interstate all formed to act as catalysts of growth on the private lands in the vicinity of the reservoir. The Board of Park Commissioners and the Metropolitan Planning Commission recognized the implications of the forces at work and recognized the need for a master plan. The master plan would assist in the orderly development of the Eagle Creek Reservoir area to protect and enhance these major public investments. This area was bounded by I-74 on the south, I-465 on the east, I-65 on the north, and the Marion County line on the west.

Planning Report, 1964

In 1964, the Board of Park Commissioners hired a planning consultant company for a report showing recreational demand, land feasibility, and recommendations for facility development for the proposed Eagle Creek Park and Reservoir. The report concluded the demand would be there for a park and that all of the land acquired be extensively used.

The report proposed the following facilities: Park Headquarters, three gate houses, sailboat marina, swimming pool complex with miniature golf, outdoor theater, conference center, 18 hole golf course, par 3 golf course, two driving ranges, winter sports area, fun land (Indian land, Frontier land, Museum land, Miniature Farm, and Botanical Gardens), picnic areas, playfields, archery range, model airplane field, camp sites, woodland, wildlife preserve, fishing areas, and plant nursery.

Original Master Plan, 1969

The original Master Plan was completed in 1969. This plan addressed the use of the reservoir and the recreational uses of the park. It was suggested that further public acquisition of land take place to protect the reservoir and complement the park. Transportation development standards were recommended for the area, which included; primary and secondary arteries, park roads, and pedestrian ways.

The proposed development within the park included such facilities as a nature center, lodge and cabins, winter sports area, boat launching, primitive camping, equestrian trails, swimming beach, marina, and Indian museum. Eagle Creek Park was to be self supporting, i.e. it would generate enough revenue from fees and charges to cover its operating expenses.

It was estimated that 2.4 million people would visit Eagle Creek each year.

Master Plan Update 1974

The 1974 update was initiated to re-establish and reinforce the original planning design concepts. This was necessary because of changes in public policy and the original plan being open to numerous interpretations. The "rules of the reservoir" were established and incorporated in the Master Plan. The plan "provided for 25,000 visitors at one time, and 50,000 / day... This capacity is within the maximum design standard of 10 people per acre for regional parks".

The park had the following facilities: Indian Museum (in place before park formed), marsh & bird sanctuary, tree nursery, beach (in planning stage), picnic areas and a few shelters.

Proposed development included a nature center, three gate houses (East, North, & West), in-park transportation system, covered bridge to connect the east and west sides, visitors center, two boat ramps (42nd and 46th streets), sail boat marina, crafts center, stables, winter sports area, restaurant, lodge, golf course, camping areas, fish hatcheries, archery trail, and model farm.

Master Plan Update, 1978

The 1978 Master Plan was updated to reflect changes in the park. Most changes simply identified the relocation of facilities that appeared on previous plans.

Facilities in place were two gate houses (South and North, previously South was referred to as the East gate), swimming beach, Indian museum, marina (north end), nature center, stables, retreat center (hideaway), sailing club, golf course (27 holes) and crafts center.

Proposed development included a marina (south end of reservoir), information center (visitors center), winter sports area, lodge and cabins, primitive camping area, model farm, and fitness course.

Master Plan Update, 1985

The 1985 Master Plan listed modifications made in the park since 1978. It proposed the upgrade and installation of facilities in anticipation of increased recreational demand.

Existing facilities were the Sailing Club Marina (Shoal Creek), boat ramp and slips (42nd St.), pistol range, swim beach, marina (north end), Lilly Lake pedal boat rental, amphitheater, arts & crafts center, fitness course, nature center, retreat centers (Eagle's Hideaway and Eagle's Crest), golf course (27 holes), radio controlled airplane flying field, beach boat facilities, stables, and cross country skiing.

Proposed development included a West Gate, lodge and cabins, picnic areas/hiking trails on west side, shelter/concession complex (42nd St.), group picnic area (Shoal Creek), neighborhood park (~8900 W. 46th St.), community park (~5600 Reed Road), golf course expansion, small boat launch (west side), and bicycle trail.

Master Plan Update 1997

The 1997 update reflects modifications that have occurred since 1985. This plan proposes changes, development needs, and alterations to meet the growing community recreational needs, while preserving the Park's unique natural environment.

PROCESS for DEVELOPING the PLAN

The development of this Master Plan represents the efforts of many people. The Eagle Creek Park Advisory Committee initiated this update in 1993, with many reviews and iterations before agreement was reached on the final plan. The opinions of many citizens, in addition to those serving on the Advisory Committee, have been sought, plus input was provided by Indianapolis Parks and Recreation staff. It is believed that this Plan has benefited from a much greater degree of citizen input than previous plans. The Committee reviewed the following areas before developing specific proposals for area and facility management.

- Consolidation of Authority,
- Capacities/Safety,
- Land Management,
- Influences on Eagle Creek Park, and
- Revenue Considerations

Consolidation of Authority

There are five governmental agencies that have direct authority over Eagle Creek Park and Reservoir. To avoid confusion, the following divisions of responsibility are recommended:

1. Indianapolis Parks and Recreation. IPR has the broadest authority in the park for general operations. The responsibility of IPR is to enforce rules and regulations through the Park Rangers, develop and maintain recreational facilities, oversee all private in-park enterprises, and participate in monitoring all sanctioned and/or organized events.
2. Department of Public Works. DPW's authority is directed to flood control and continuously working with the Indianapolis Water Company, and White River Environmental Partnership to allocate, maintain, and control water levels.
3. Marion County Sheriff. Since there is a Sheriff sub-station within park, the Sheriff is asked to assist the Park Rangers in emergencies and patrol.
4. Fire and Other Outside Law Agencies. Outside agencies are asked for assistance when needed; this need is determined by Rangers or Sheriffs.
5. Indiana Department of Natural Resources. IDNR works with IPR to maintain a viable fish population in reservoir and lake, and to handle non-game wildlife concerns, boating fishing, hunting, and other related issues. INDR will assist the Rangers as appropriate.

Capacities/Safety

Average attendance to the park over the last three years ('93-'96) has been nearly 500,000 people, with 350,000 using the main (East side of reservoir) portion of park. Attendance records show that 60% of the visitors attend on weekends (20% on Saturday, 40% on Sunday), with rest of week being very even in attendance (8% per day). The park has closed two times during this period, because of overcrowding, or reaching capacity. The maximum "capacity" figure is estimated to be ~2,000 vehicles, as determined by Park Rangers "to be unsafe for emergency equipment to have passage and access everywhere in the park".

To maintain appropriate park utilization, park administration adheres to all State of Indiana Fire Marshall standards, Life Guard Training Standards, National Park and Recreation Association recommendations, and other acceptable and recognizable national or state standards. Rangers and Sheriff coordinate "search and rescue" for land and water areas. Their plan covers the following areas: vehicular and foot traffic areas (roads, trails, and etc.), water areas (swimming, boating, fishing, and etc.), and includes aircraft accidents, loss of personal property, fire, and etc..

The challenge to park staff is to optimize park usage without overcrowding; allowing as many people as possible to use the park and still have a pleasant experience.

Land Management

In keeping with the regional park concept, Eagle Creek Park provides for recreational and educational opportunities within a natural environment. Space and budget considerations limit increasing the acreage of the park. Any modifications or new development that directly impact the "natural" aspects of the park need to be carefully monitored and an environmental impact study completed, before alterations occur. Inventories of some areas are included in the Appendixes of this plan. Updated inventories should be kept on all areas.

Wildlife habitat development, "specialty" plantings (like prairie, butterfly gardens, etc.), and other related plantings should be primarily with native plants and in accordance with modern knowledge of ecosystem maintenance. Biodiversity should be encouraged throughout the park.

Regulation of reservoir water levels must take into account water supply demands, dependent biological systems, and recreational needs. A long term erosion plan needs to be developed and implemented.

Influences on the Park

There are a significant number of factors that influence and impact the park. These include, but are not limited to:

- Commercial Enterprises
- Special Interest Groups
- External Developments Surrounding Park

Commercial Enterprises Generally commercial enterprises are operated by a private entity for profit (examples: restaurant, bait shop, contract management of food concessions, boat rentals, and buggy rides). It is very important that enterprises within the park are evaluated and monitored for their long term effect on the park. It is essential that any proposals for “new” enterprises follow the guidelines set in this plan.

Special Interest Groups The special interest groups are defined as those similar to the commercial enterprise, but run by, or for, a non profit entity (such as: sailing club, water sports center, runs, and triathlons). It is essential that these groups follow the same guidelines as established for commercial enterprises.

External Developments Surrounding the Park. While it is recognized that the Department does not have jurisdiction over the area surrounding the park, it is important to note activities surrounding the park will have an impact. Zoning, land use, development, and other related issues need to be evaluated for their probable influences on the park. It is necessary for the park to develop a working relationship with State, County, and local units of government.

Revenue Considerations

From the inception of the park, it was determined that the park would be self-sufficient, or generate the funds necessary to pay for its operation. The concept of self sufficiency was developed when the concept of the park usage was considerably different to the way the park has evolved. For this reason self sufficiency has proved much more difficult than anticipated. Even though the Park has never been able to reach this goal, efforts should continue in this direction. Eagle Creek Park Foundation, a not-for-profit volunteer organization, was established in the late 1970's to assist in this goal. The Foundation has raised funds and assisted the park in many programs and amenities. This master plan continues to focus on the Foundation as the primary source for the developmental funding.

Volunteers, increased public awareness, and grants are continually sought to assist in special projects and ongoing programs.

The park is monitoring its effectiveness in operating facilities and programs, and have “contracted out” some of its operations (boat rentals, swim beach, and concessions). New developments should be cost effective enough to pay for the ongoing cost and, at least, a portion of the development costs.

THE MASTER PLAN

Updated Inventory of Facilities-The following is a list of the facilities that exist in the park in 1997, and those that have been added or deleted since 1985.

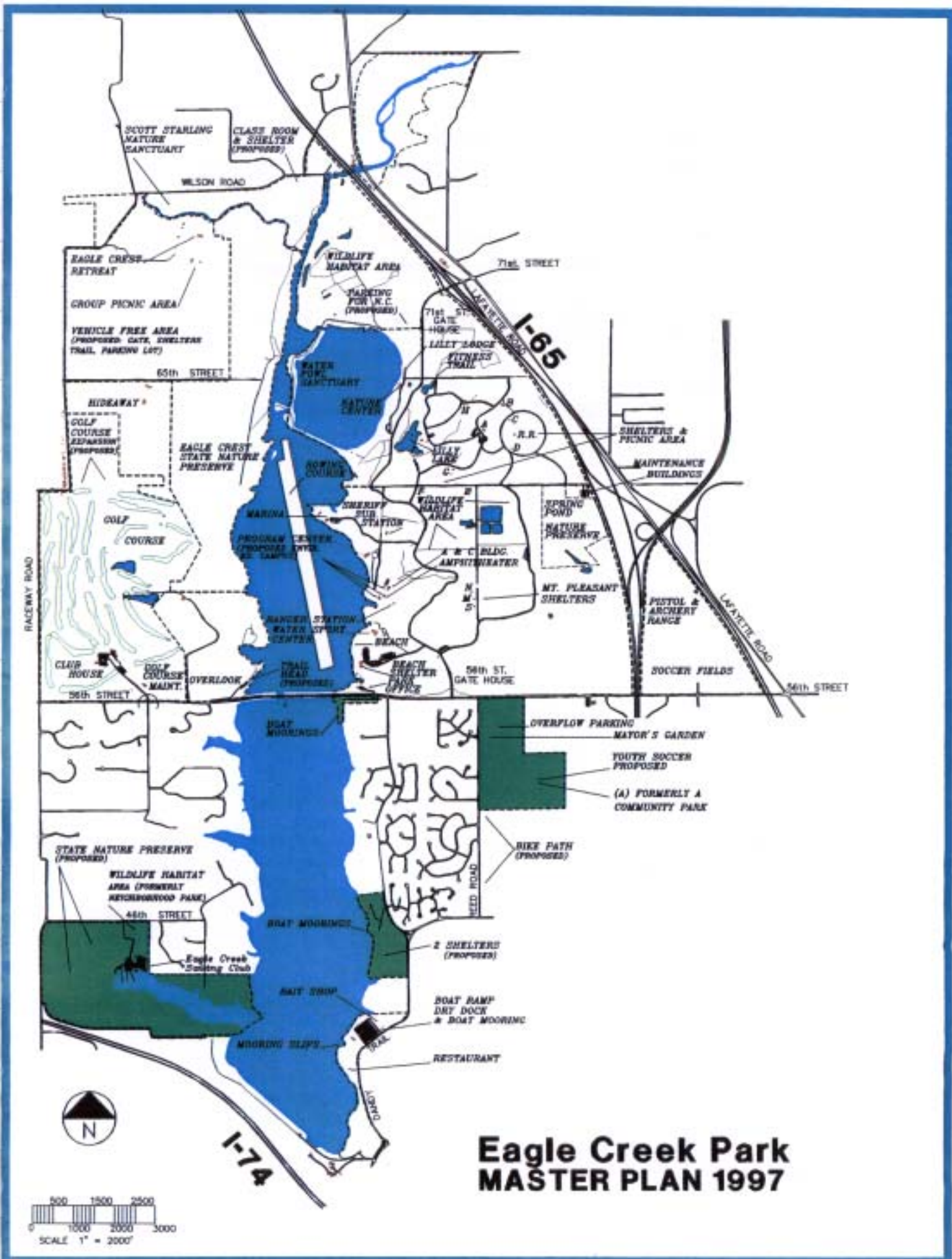
Existing in 1997:

- Amphitheater (East of Delong Rd. ~ 5900 N)
- Arts and Craft Center (old stable ~ 6000 Delong Rd)
- **Bait Shop (~4200 Dandy Tr.)**
- Bicycle trail circling park, only partially completed
- Boat Ramp/Concession/Moorings (~4200 Dandy Trail)
- **Eagle Beach, beach boat facility (~7800 W 56th St., S side)**
- Eagle's Crest (Retreat Center) and Picnic Shelter (~6900 N Raceway Rd)
- Eagle's Hideaway (Retreat Center) (~8900 W 65th St.)
- Feldman Nature Center (~6500 Eagle Creek Parkway)
- 56th St. Overlook (~8000 W. 56th St.)
- Fitness Course (~ 7500 W. 65th St.)
- Two Gate Houses (South @ W. 56th St., North @ W. 71st St.)
- Golf Course ,27 holes (8800 W 56th St.)
- Hobie Beach, beach boat facility (~4600 Dandy Tr.)
- 3 Houses, rentals (8800 W. 56th St., 8300 Wilson Rd., 7200 Dandy Tr.)
- Lilly Lake Pedal Boat Rentals (~6300 Lilly Lake Dr.)
- Lilly Lodge (~6600 Eagle Creek Parkway)
- Maintenance Barn (~6900 W. 62nd St.)
- Marina, boat rental (~7900 Walnut Point Rd.)
- Park Office (~7800 W. 56th St.)
- Pistol/Archery Range (~5900 N. High School Rd.)
- Three Playgrounds
- Public Garden Plots (~5500 Reed Rd)
- 13 Shelter Houses (east side of reservoir)
- Ranger Station (~5900 Delong Rd.)
- Rowing Course (in reservoir)
- Sailing Club (~8900 W. 46th St.)
- Sheriff's Station (~6100 Delong Rd.)
- **Soccer Fields (~5800 N. High School Road)**
- **Starling Nature Sanctuary (~8800 Wilson Road)**
- Two State Nature Preserves - Spring Pond (south of Maintenance) and Crest Woods (west bank of reservoir)
- Swim Beach (~7800 Eagle Beach Dr.)
- Visitor's Center, formerly the Indian Museum (~6000 Delong Rd.)
- **Water Sports Center/Finish Tower/Rowing Course (~7700 Eagle Beach Dr.)**

NOTE: Items in "Bold" are those that have been added since 1985

Deleted since 1985

- Dandy Trail Overlook (~4100 Dandy Tr.)
- Horse Stables (~8200 W. 56th St.)
- Radio Controlled Flying Field (~5600 Reed Rd.)



**Eagle Creek Park
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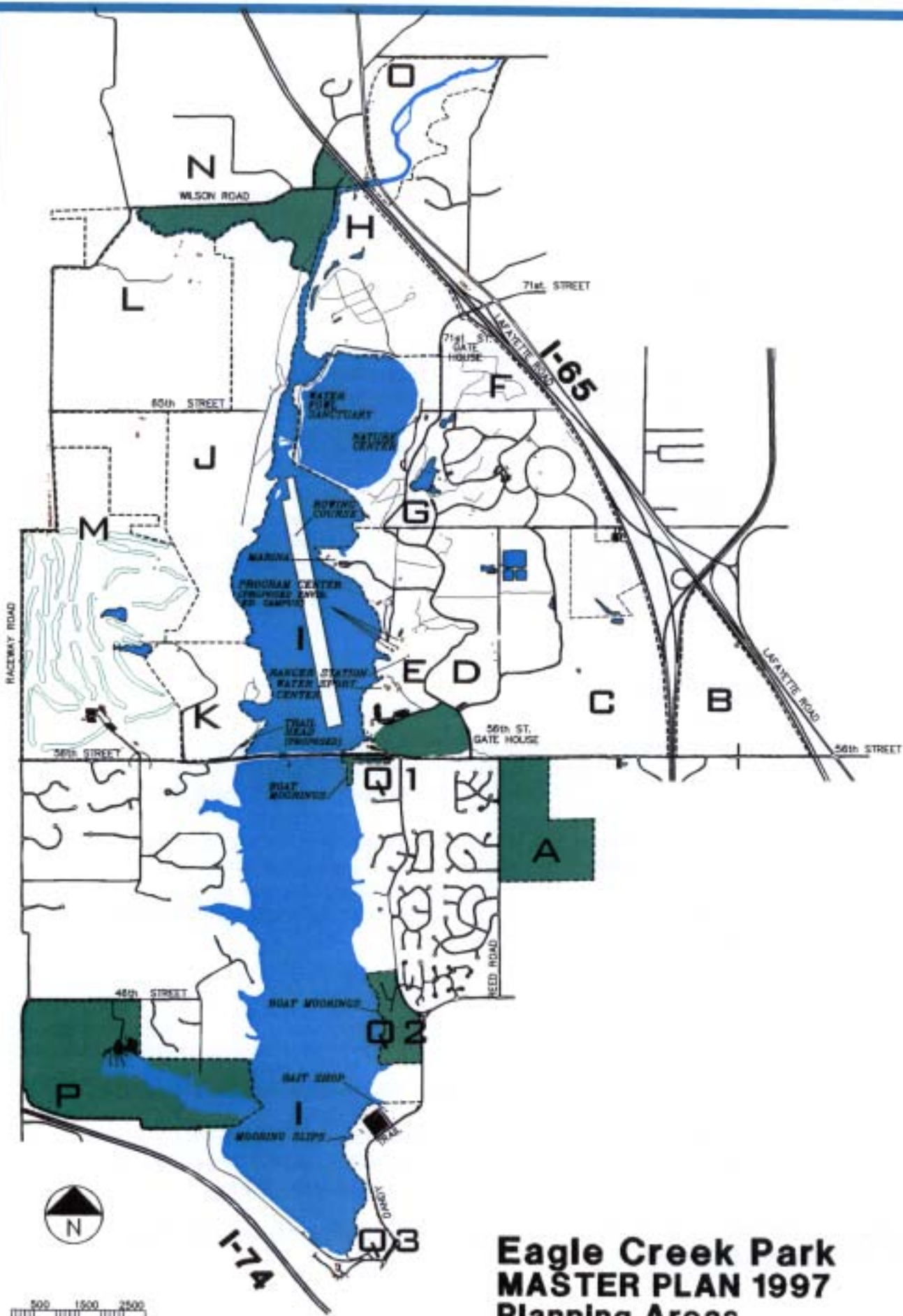
1997 Proposals for Area and Facility Management

In developing the following proposals it was agreed that three criteria must be met. These criteria are:

- protecting the park's natural resources and maintaining their uniqueness,
- not impacting negatively on the park's goal of self sufficiency,
- anticipating the impact of increased use demand on the park.

A general recommendation is that an environmental impact study be conducted in any area where land use may change.

For purposes of the master plan, Eagle Creek Park is separated into sub-areas which are based on similarity of geography and vegetation, continuity, current use, current levels of preservation, and known wildlife inhabitants.



**Eagle Creek Park
MASTER PLAN 1997
Planning Areas**

Area A

Boundaries: North - 56th Street
East - Indianapolis Colts practice facility/apartments
South - Coppermill at the Park
West - Reed Road

Current Use: Mayor's Public Garden, overflow parking for Park events, farm land.

Designated as a Community Park, it is separate from Eagle Creek Park.

Features, Aspects, and/or Values: No special wildlife advantage noted due to mowing, farming, and surrounding development. This parcel is strategically located in both proximity and potential for Eagle Creek Park.

Recommendations for Future: This area should be considered part of Eagle Creek Park and included in the Regional Park, rather than as a Community Park. The Mayor's Garden and overflow parking should remain, and possibly the garden area increased.

The farm fields should be used for activities such as youth soccer. A buffer area of two hundred (200) feet should be set aside between the soccer fields and east side of Reed Road. A one hundred fifty (150) feet buffer area should be set aside between the soccer fields and the north side of the Coppermill at the Park housing development. Within this buffer, room should be allowed for a bicycle trail that will go from 56th to 46th Streets. The bike trail should be 150 feet from Reed Road and 100 feet from Coppermill at the Park. The area between bike trail and Reed Road/Coppermill at the Park should be allowed to reforest.

Area B

Boundaries: A triangular area - East - I-65
South - 56th Street
West - I-465

Current Use: Forest, roadway, soccer fields, pistol/archery range, and firearms training building. (The pistol range and training building are shared areas with IPD and MCSD.)

Features, Aspects, and/or Values: The forest has an emerging wet hardwoods area.

Recommendations for the Future: The area should remain as is, with no encroachment into the wooded area. The existing range and soccer fields are acceptable long term uses. No further development should occur in this area. A species inventory of wooded area is recommended. As with any potential hazard, the range should be monitored periodically for lead and noise levels.

Area C

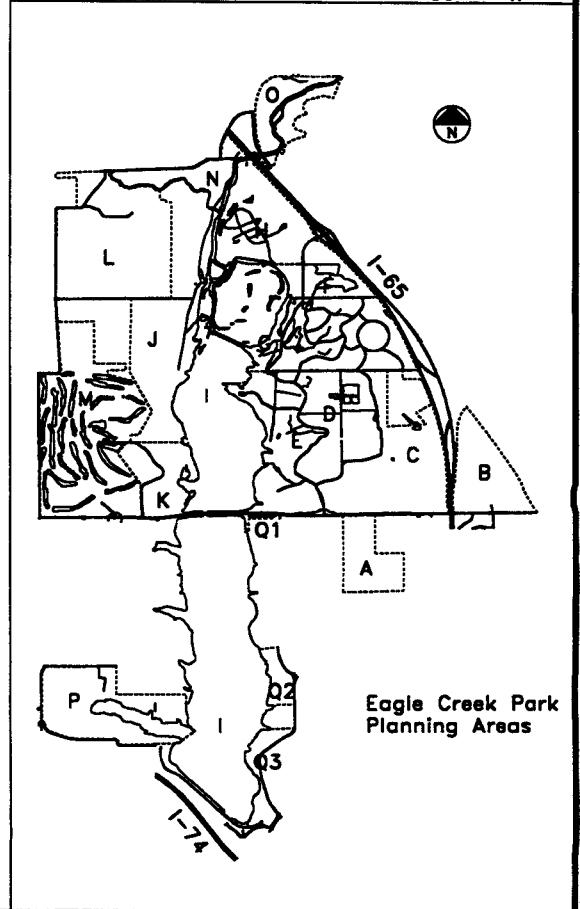
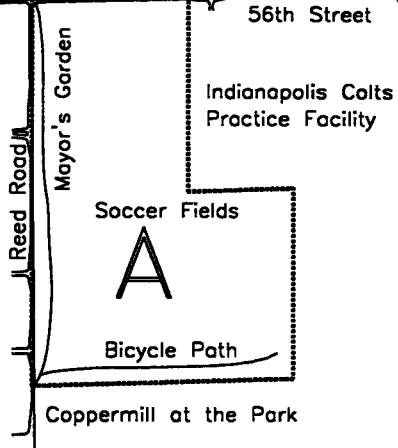
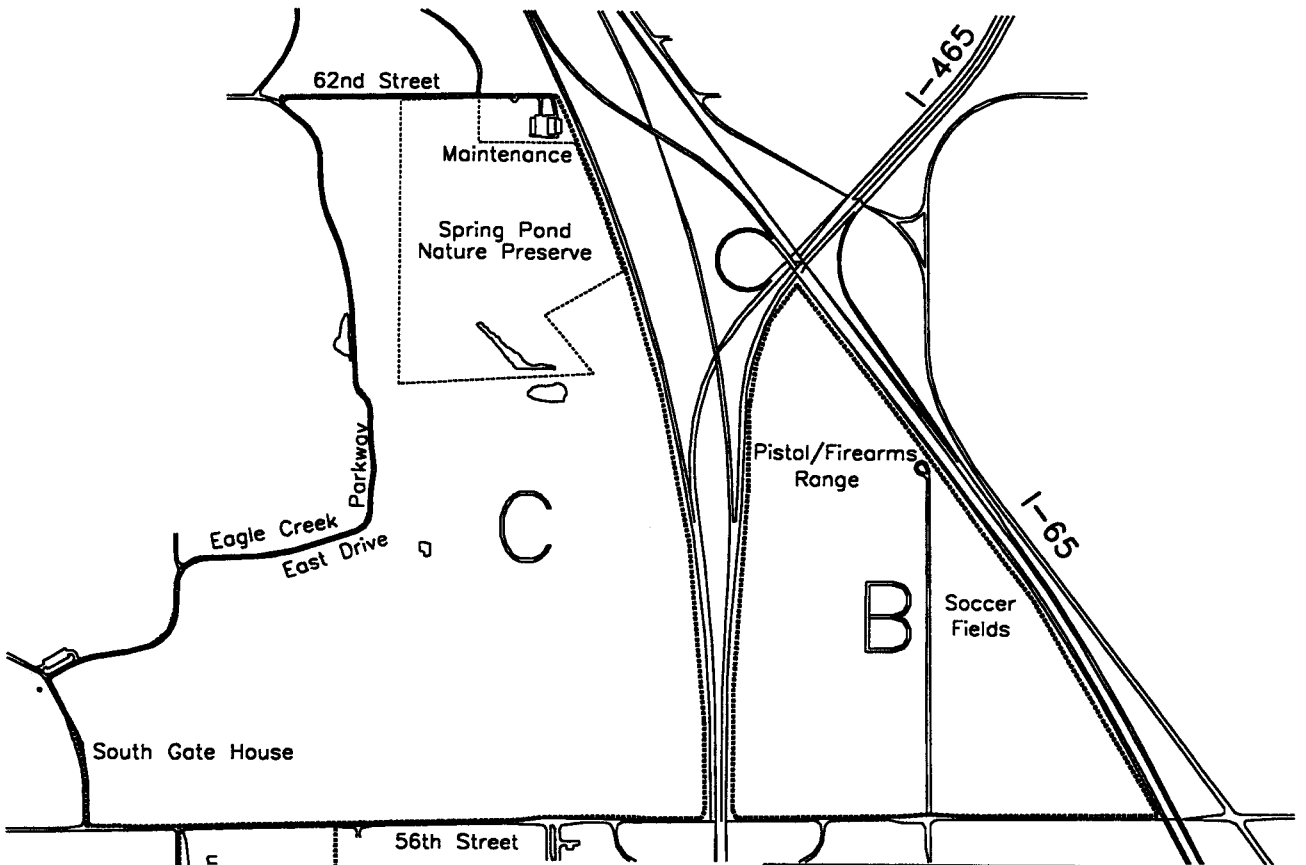
Boundaries: North - 62nd Street
East - I-465
South - 56th Street
West - Eagle Creek Parkway East Drive

Current Use: Spring Pond Nature Preserve, ski/hiking trails, maintenance buildings, and wildlife observation points.

Features, Aspects and/or Values: This area has a State designated Nature Preserve and includes woods, wetland, and old fields which create habitat for a variety of wildlife. The Kirtland's snake, an endangered species, has been introduced in this area.

Recommendations for the Future: The current uses for this area are appropriate and should continue, unchanged.

MAP 1



Area D

Boundaries: North - 62nd Street
East - Eagle Creek Parkway East Drive
South - Eagle Creek Parkway East Drive
West - Eagle Creek Parkway

Current Use: Picnic areas, playground, shelters, skating ponds, parking lots, open fields, mowed paths for skiing/jogging, restrooms, trails, and wildlife observation.

Features, Aspects and/or Values: The area has three ponds, mature hardwoods, and mowed paths through old fields that provide for diverse habitat and wildlife observation points.

Recommendations for the Future: This area should remain in its current use, with attention given to erosion problems, particularly where the trails cross streams.

Area E

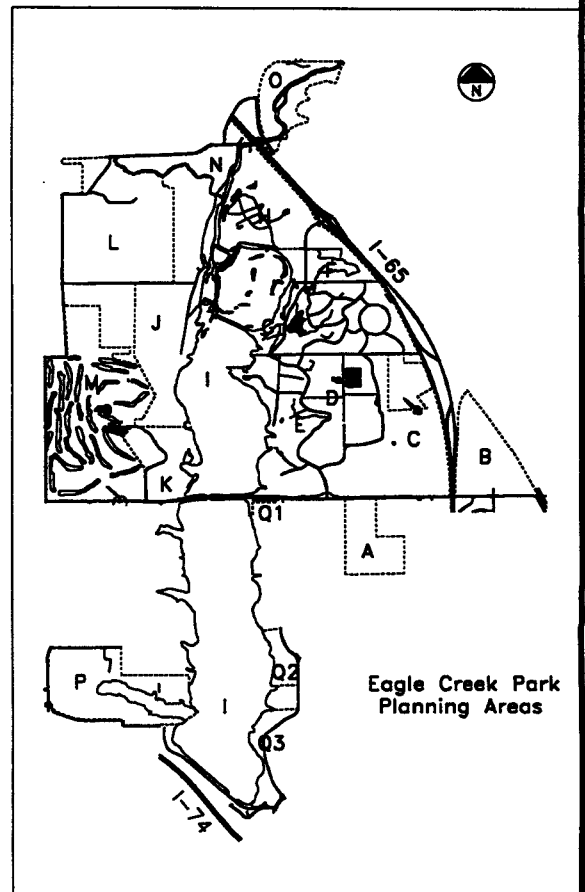
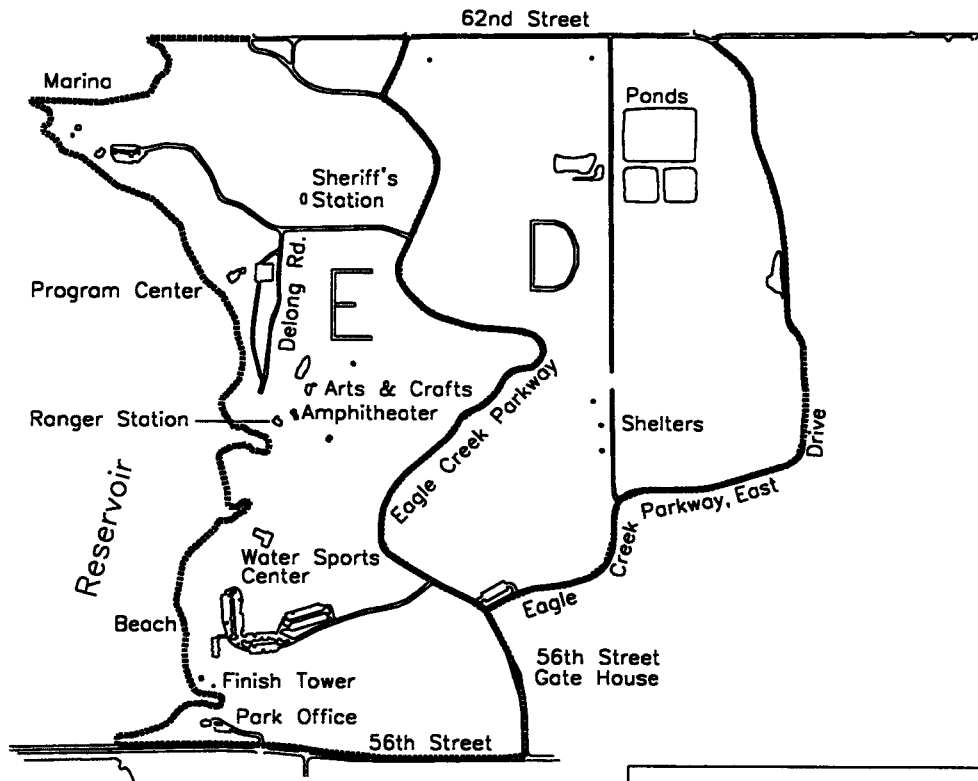
Boundaries: North - 62nd Street
East - Eagle Creek Parkway
South - 56th Street
West - Reservoir

Current Use: Park Office, Swimming Beach/concession/playground/shelter/beach house, Water Sports Center/boat storage/finish tower/launch ramps/boat racks, Ranger Station/garage, Amphitheater, Arts & Crafts Building (old stable), Program Center (formerly the Indian Museum), Sheriff Station, Marina/boat storage/docks/launching area. Picnic sites, boat ramp, South (56th St.) Gate House, trails, and log cabin.

Features, Aspects and/or Values: Mature woods, mowed fields, and moderate to rough terrain.

Recommendations for the Future: Marina, Sheriff Station, Water Sports Center, and related buildings should remain in current use. Beach swimming area could be expanded North. Park Office building, with direct access to 56th Street, could possibly house the Rangers or have other uses. It is recommended to stay in its current use, until more avenues are explored. The facilities along DeLong Road (Ranger Station, Program Center, Arts & Crafts Building, and Amphitheater) are to be considered/studied for expanding our **cultural and environmental education program areas into a "campus", with the focal point being a world class environmental education center.** The campus would cater to the interests of a wide spectrum of visitors and users, from the casual visitor to grade school students to university students doing research projects. With the diversity of habitats within Eagle Creek, it seems feasible to develop this concept. This central location appears to be ideal, and has the advantage of potentially suitable buildings in place. If new structures are needed, it is recommended the present building sites be used.

MAP 2



Area F

Boundaries: A triangular area - East - I-65
South - 62nd Street
West - Eagle Creek Parkway

Current Use: North (71st St.) Gate House, skiing trails, fitness course, picnic sites, shelters, playgrounds, restrooms, pedal boat rental and concession stand at Lilly Lake, horse drawn buggy rides, and walking trails.

Features, Aspects, and/or Values: Mature hardwoods, some mowed fields, birding area known as "Warbler Alley", and "ecology pond".

Recommendations for the Future: Current uses and management practices should continue, with no further development.

Area G

Boundaries: North - Access road just south of 71st Street
East - Eagle Creek Parkway
South - Coffer Dam shoreline
West - Coffer Dam Shoreline

Current Use: Nature Center, Lilly Lodge, Waterfowl Sanctuary, trails, and reflecting pond.

Features, Aspect, and/ or Values: High bluffs, old forest, significant trees, old gravel pit (Waterfowl Sanctuary), and "specialty" gardens.

Recommendations for Future: This area should remain as area for field study and fishing. Special attention should be given to bank stabilization of bluffs and dam. Buildings could be included in the environmental education and cultural "campus" (described in "area E"), or used for Ranger Station or Office.

Area H

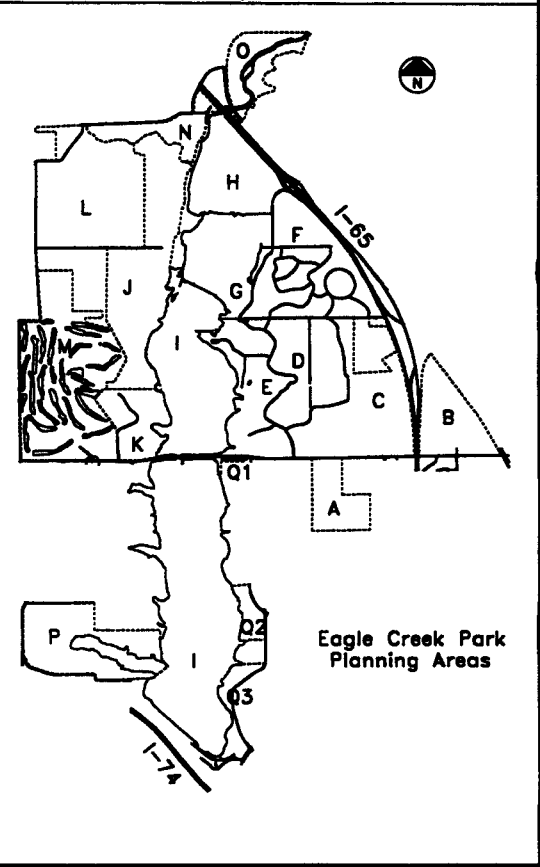
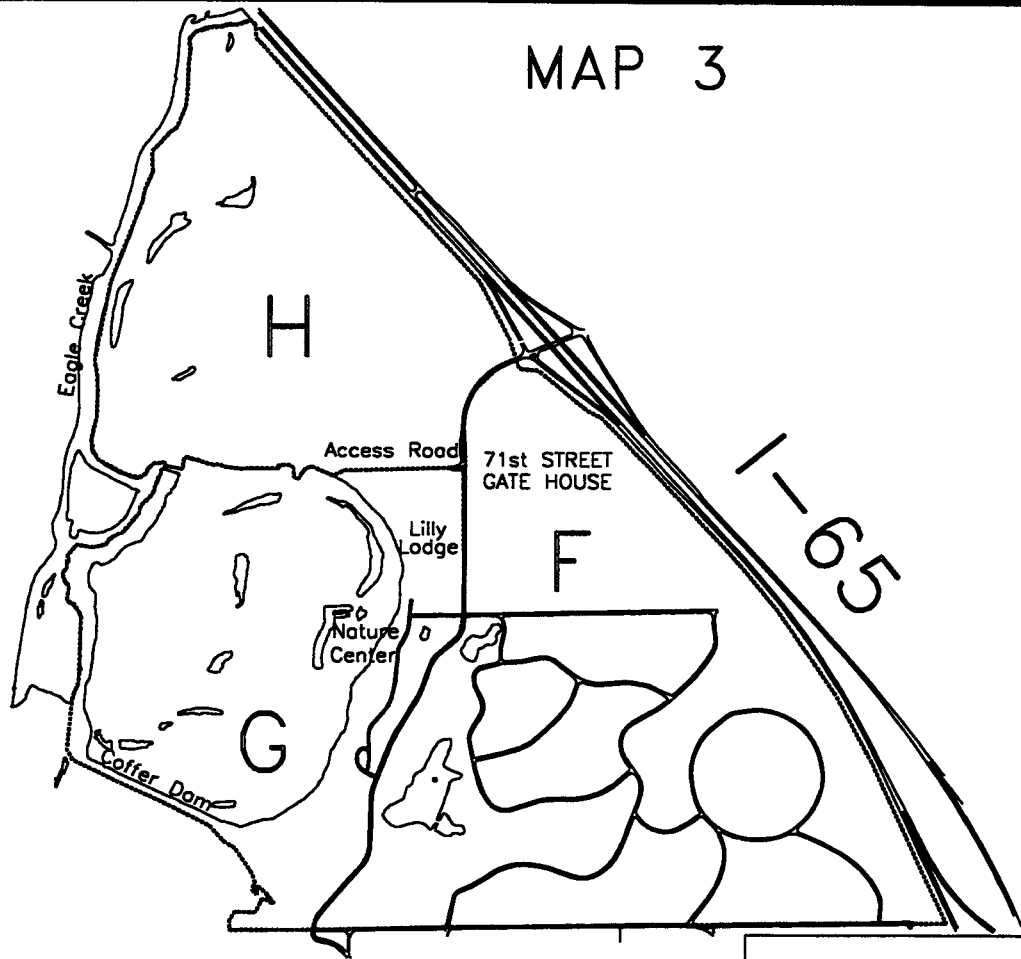
Boundaries: North - I-65
East - I-65
South - Access Road just south of 71st St. Gate
West - Reservoir

Current Use: Mowed fields, meadows, stream, marsh land, limited outside storage for gravel, sand, wood chips and etc., old tree nursery/log dump, and a storage building.

Features, Aspects, and/or Values: Largest mud flat in Central Indiana attracts large and diverse flocks of migrating shorebirds and other species. Area provides prime bird nesting sites.

Recommendation for the Future: The only development that should occur would be an enlarged parking lot, depending on needs for environmental education and cultural "campus" (described in "Areas E & G"). No other development should occur that may endanger the habitat diversity in this area. It is important to fluctuate water levels for shorebird migrations.

MAP 3



Area I

Boundaries: Reservoir Shoreline, Normal Pool is 790 feet above sea level
Flood Easement is 815 feet
Public Works (DPW) is responsible for land 790-795 '

Current Use: Primary purposes for reservoir is flood control and recreation with the secondary purpose of water supply. Recreational activities include: boating and sailing (10 hp and 8'-26' boat length limits), fishing, swimming, and wildlife observation. Facilities include: docks (both public and private), rowing course, buoys (mooring and racing), beach boat storage, swim beach, and launch ramps.

Features, Aspects, and/or Values: Habitat for fish, mammals, amphibians, and other wildlife. It is also a major attraction for migrating and nesting birds.

Recommendations for the Future: The management of the water levels are critical for recreation and wildlife. Bank erosion is a major concern and needs to be addressed. (see Appendix III) The present uses, and restrictions, should continue unchanged. (see Appendix VIII)

Area J

Boundaries: North - Fishback Creek
East - Reservoir
South - line running east to west from second cove north of 56th Street
West - Eagle Creek Golf Course, then south to north from
~8800 W to 62nd Street, then east along 62nd Street to
~ 8400 W, then north

Current Use: Crest Woods Nature Preserve, with roughed-out trails.

Features, Aspects and/or Values: Designated by the State as a Nature Preserve highlighted by an old forest, with deep ravines. (see Appendix II)

Recommendations for Future: A State Nature Preserve cannot be developed. With the growing population, it will be necessary to establish designated trails in this area, to ensure minimal impact on flora and fauna. The current use is the best for this area.

Area K

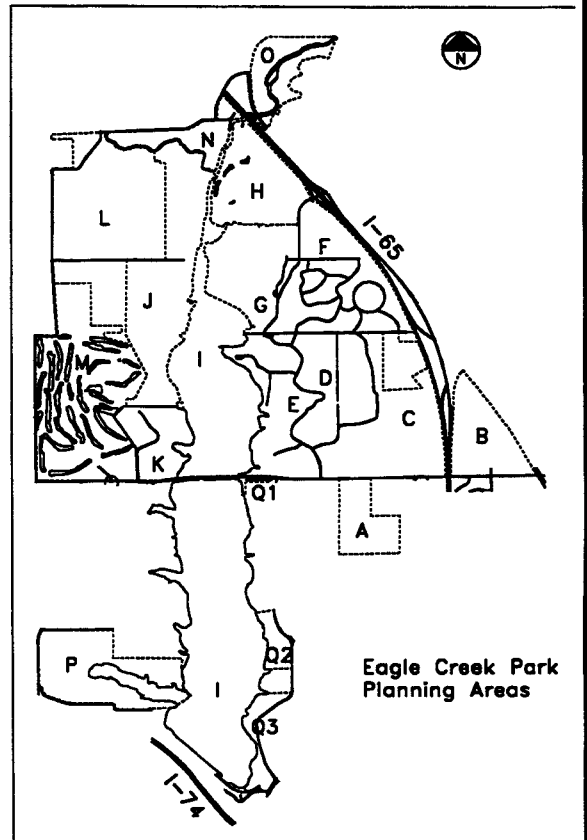
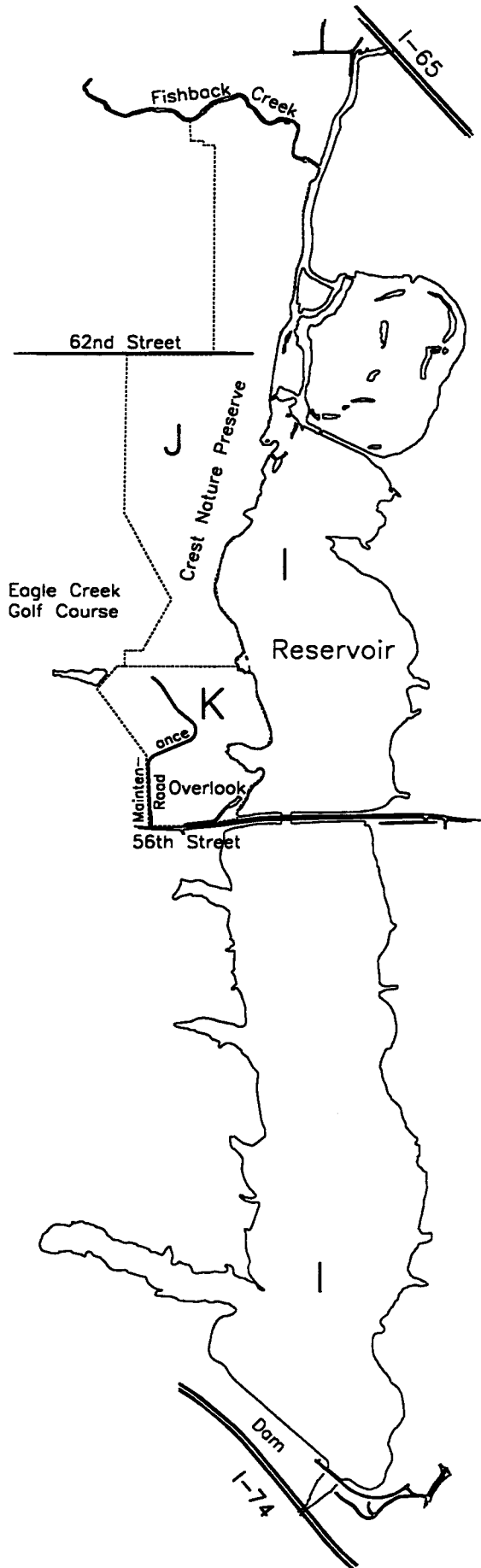
Boundaries: North - Crest Nature Preserve
East - Reservoir
South - 56th Street
West - Golf Course Maintenance road

Current Use: Overlook, picnic site, trails, Jones Cemetery, fishing, various winter activities, and parking lot.

Features, Aspects, and/or Values: High banks that allow for overlook, roughed-out trails, and mowed field.

Recommendations for Future: Establish a trail head and designated trails leading to Crest Nature Preserve. Establish foot traffic control to protect steep banks and protect from further erosion. Some means of establishing an entry fee collection system needs to be investigated and an implementation plan established.

MAP 4



Area L

Boundaries: North - Wilson Road and Starling Nature Sanctuary
East - Crest Nature Preserve
South - Golf Course and 62nd Street
West - Raceway Road

Current Use: Two retreat facilities (Eagle's Hideaway and Eagle's Crest), large group picnic area, stables, archery field (inactive), farm land, and soccer.

Features, Aspects, and/or Values: Old forest, mowed fields, and farm land.

Recommendations for the Future: The following recommendations are made with the intent of ensuring increased use will have a minimal impact on the natural features of the area.

Develop a detailed plan to make this area, with the exceptions of the retreats and group picnic area, "**vehicle free**" with access trails no wider than ten (10) feet. It is envisioned the plan will include a gate house, parking lot, designated trails, picnic area with shelters, and **utilize agricultural land only**.

It is necessary to maintain a buffer around the nature preserve by allowing only trails to be placed in a two hundred (200) foot "buffer".

Area M

Boundaries: North - Area L
East - Crest Nature Preserve and Area K
South - 56th Street
West - Raceway Road

Current Use: A 27-hole golf course, driving range, training facility, pro shop, maintenance barn, two houses, and cart storage building.

Features, Aspects, and/or Values: Mowed areas, irrigation ponds, managed wildlife habitats, and scattered woods.

Recommendations for the Future: The course could expand to the north, but should maintain a two hundred (200) feet buffer around the nature preserve. The New York Audubon Society has established guidelines for golf courses; it is recommended that these, and the Department's Land Stewardship Policy be used for guidelines in any expansion. The house at 8800 W 56th Street should be demolished.

Area N

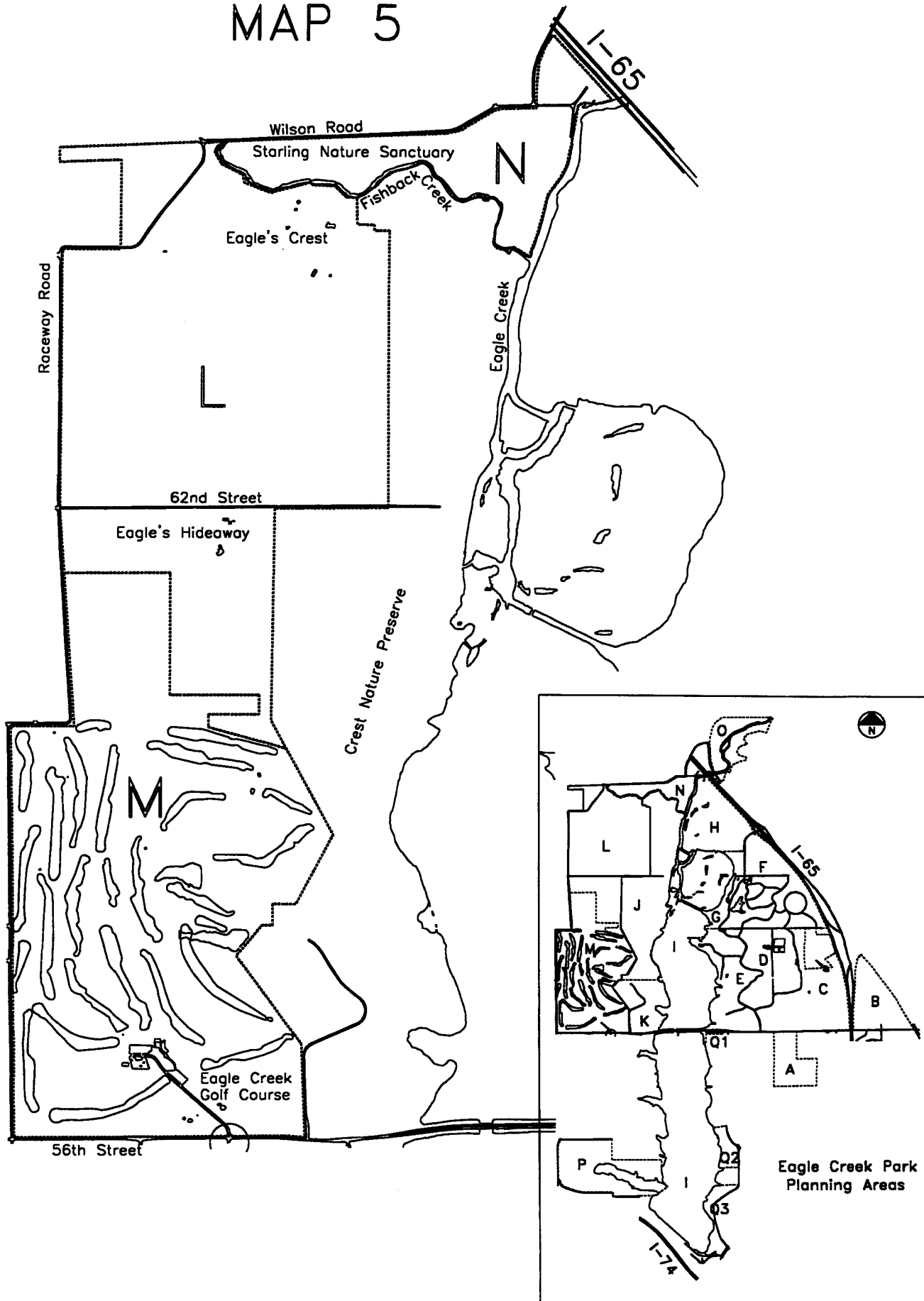
Boundaries: North - Wilson Road
East - Reservoir
South - Fishback Creek
West - Fishback Creek

Current Use: The area is designated as the Scott Starling Nature Sanctuary and is used for environmental education and managed wildlife habitats. There are trails, parking lot, and an observation deck.

Features, Aspects, and/or Values: Wet meadow, marshland, bluffs, and creek are the dominating features.

Recommendations for the Future: The current use should continue. A building for shelter and restroom needs to be added.

MAP 5



Area O

Boundaries: North - 79th Street
East - Elevation 815 feet
South - I-65
West - ~ Lafayette Road

Current Use: Hiking, fishing, and wildlife observation.

Features, Aspects, and/or Value: The bottom land along Big Eagle Creek which includes: mud flats, creek, and marshland.

Recommendations for the Future: This area should remain in its current use, with no further development.

Area P

Boundaries: North - 46th Street
East - Reservoir
South - 42nd Street
West - Raceway Road

Current Use: Eagle Creek Sailing Club, boat docks, parking lot, boat storage (on and off water), shelter house, year around boat and trailer storage, restroom, house trailer, and Neighborhood Park.

Features, Aspects, and/or Value: Old forest, mowed meadow, steep ravines, creek, inlet, and bluffs.

Recommendations for the Future: The Sailing Club and its amenities should remain in its current use.

The forested area at West end of this area should be designated as a state nature preserve.

The Neighborhood Park designation should be dropped from "meadow" along 46th Street and this area be incorporated into Eagle Creek Park. The meadow should be managed as wildlife habitat and for summer trailer parking for the Sailing Club, subject to neighborhood agreement.

Area Q (area is divided into 3 areas, Q1, Q2, & Q3)

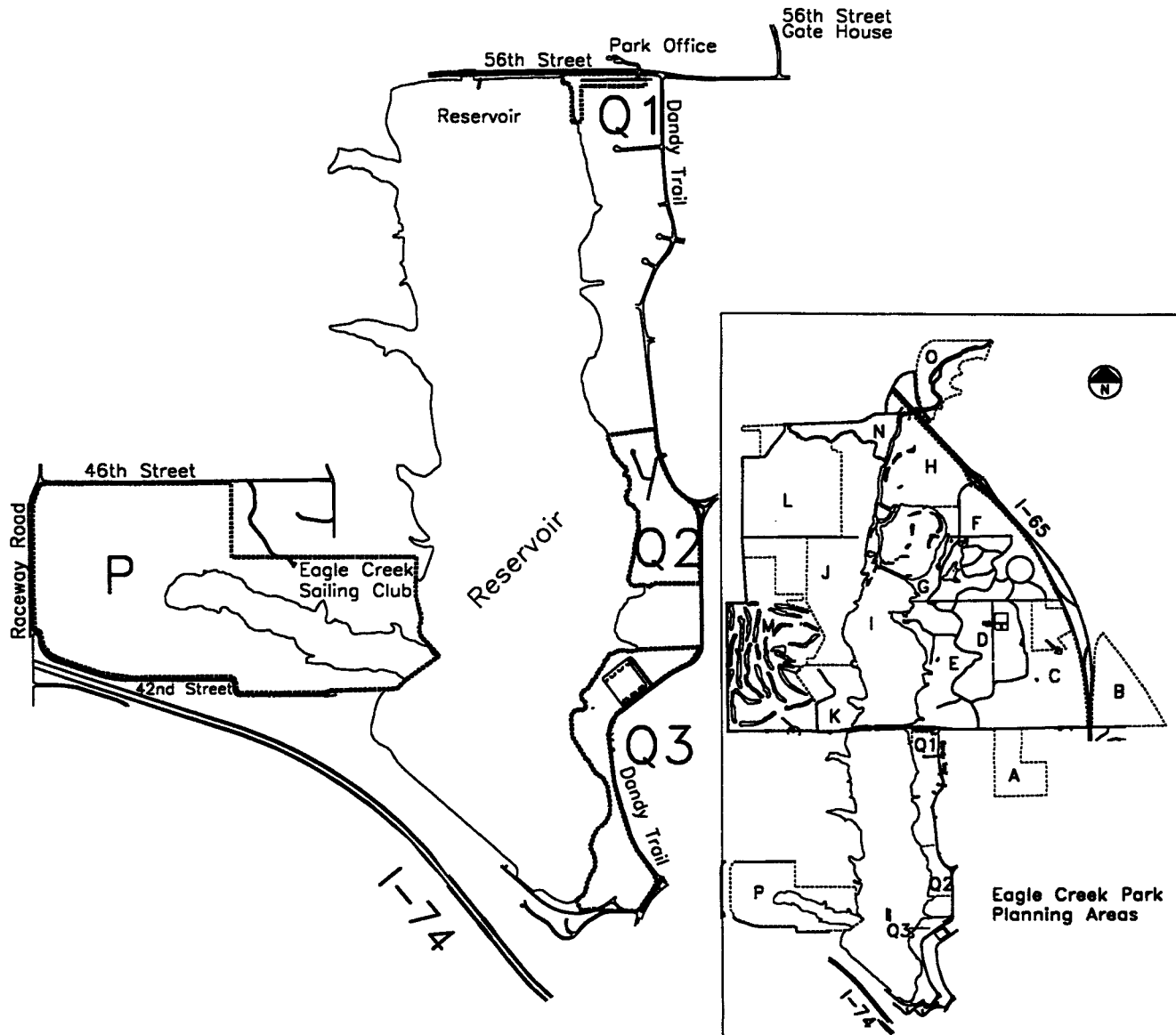
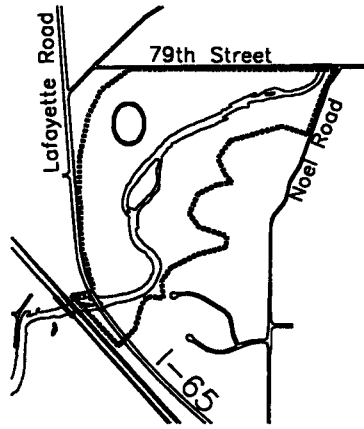
Boundaries:	Q1	Q2	Q3
	North - 56 th Street	North - ~ 4700 N	North - ~4300 N
	East - ~7800 W	East - Dandy Trail	East - Dandy Trail
	South - ~5400 N	South - ~4400 N	South - ~3900 N
	West - Reservoir	West - Reservoir	West - Reservoir

Current Use: Q1 and Q2 are used as beach boat and trailer storage facilities with parking lots, mowed areas, and temporary restrooms. Q3 includes: boat launching ramp, bait shop, boat and trailer storage facility, parking lots, shelter, concession building, wet slips and buoys for boats, restaurant, and restrooms.

Features, Aspects, and/or Value: Grasslands, bluffs, and beaches.

Recommendations for the Future: The current uses are to be continued. The only development recommended is the adding of shelters with native landscaping, parking, and restroom facilities to the meadow/grassland in the south section of Area Q2 (approximately 4500 Dandy Trail).

MAP 6



CONCLUSION

This master plan developed by the Eagle Creek Park Advisory Committee, has taken a few years to complete, and received input from over one hundred citizens before arriving at a final consensus. During this process the following guidelines for future management, use, and development of the Park were established. They are:

- ◆ protect and maintain the uniqueness of the Parks natural resources
- ◆ anticipate and respond to the growing number of park visitors
- ◆ develop new facilities/areas, only in areas that have been disturbed or previously built upon
- ◆ generate sufficient revenue to cover operational costs

The intent of this plan is to outline the areas for development and provide general guidelines. This allows for flexibility in design and developing of areas. The plan should be reviewed and updated every five to seven years.

Eagle Creek Park Master Plan - 1997

Board of Parks and Recreation

Diana Wilson Hall
C. Eugene Hendricks
R. Anthony Prather
Raymond Wallace

Indianapolis Parks and Recreation

Raymond Wallace, Director
Charles Beard, Regional Park Manager, Eagle Creek Park
Keith Holdsworth, Senior Park Planner

Eagle Creek Advisory Committee

Jack Bailey	John Pankhurst*
Sheri Dugan	Beth Riley
Mike Eckerle	John Storer*
Brad Johns*	Bill Thomas
Greg Larkin	Dick Van Frank*
Barb Lollar	Mike Warrick*
Ann Long	Carl Weber*
Jeff Miller*	Frank Weddle*
Karen Newman	Jim Weir

* denotes members of the Master Planning Sub-committee

Groups that have reviewed and approved this plan:

Eagle Creek Park Foundation
Feldman Nature Center Advisory Committee
Nature Center and Sanctuary, Inc.
Trees Neighborhood Association
Eagle Creek Woods Neighborhood Association
Neighbors west of the park

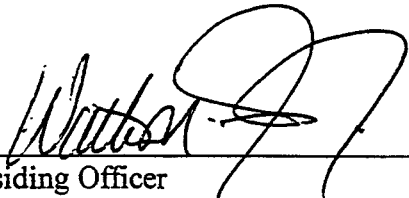
METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA
RESOLUTION NO. 97-CPS-R-005

RESOLUTION 97-CPS-R-005 amending a segment of the Comprehensive or Master Plan of Marion County, Indiana, Eagle Creek 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 Eagle Creek 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.

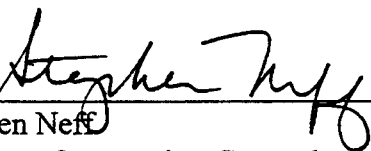
Be it further resolved that the Secretary of the Metropolitan Development Commission is directed to certify copies of this Resolution 97-CPS-R-005, Amending the Comprehensive or Master Plan of Marion County, Indiana, Eagle Creek Park Master Plan.

Be it further resolved that the Director of the Department of Metropolitan Development is directed to mail or deliver certified copies of this Resolution 97-CPS-R-005, to the legislative authorities of all incorporated cities and towns in Marion County, Indiana, the Mayor of the City of Indianapolis, the City-County Council of Indianapolis and Marion County, and the Board of Commissioners of Marion County, Indiana. The Director shall also file one (1) copy of the Resolution in the office of the Recorder of Marion County.



Presiding Officer
Metropolitan Development Commission

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM
AND ADEQUACY THIS 27
DAY OF AUGUST, 1997.



Stephen Neff
Assistant Corporation Counsel

GENERAL RESOLUTION NO. 111, 1997

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONSOLIDATED CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE
CONSOLIDATED CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS THAT:

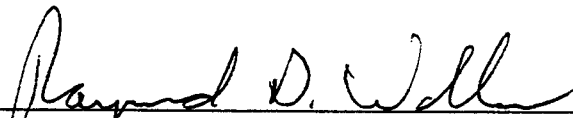
The agreement by and between the Department of Parks and Recreation of the City of
Indianapolis and **EAGLE CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE**


**EAGLE CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE REQUESTS APPROVAL TO
ADOPT THE EAGLE CREEK PARK MASTER PLAN.**

The form of which is to be approved by the Department Attorney, be and is hereby
APPROVED.

FURTHER, RESOLVED, that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation is
hereby authorized and directed to execute such agreement for and in behalf of the Department.

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONSOLIDATED CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

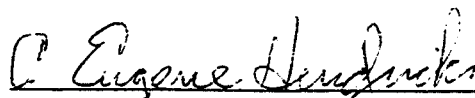

Raymond Wallace, Chairman


Diana Wilson Hall


Assistant Corporation Counsel

R. Anthony Prather


Annie Brown, Secretary


C. Eugene Hendricks

8/14/97
Date

Theodore D. Dickman