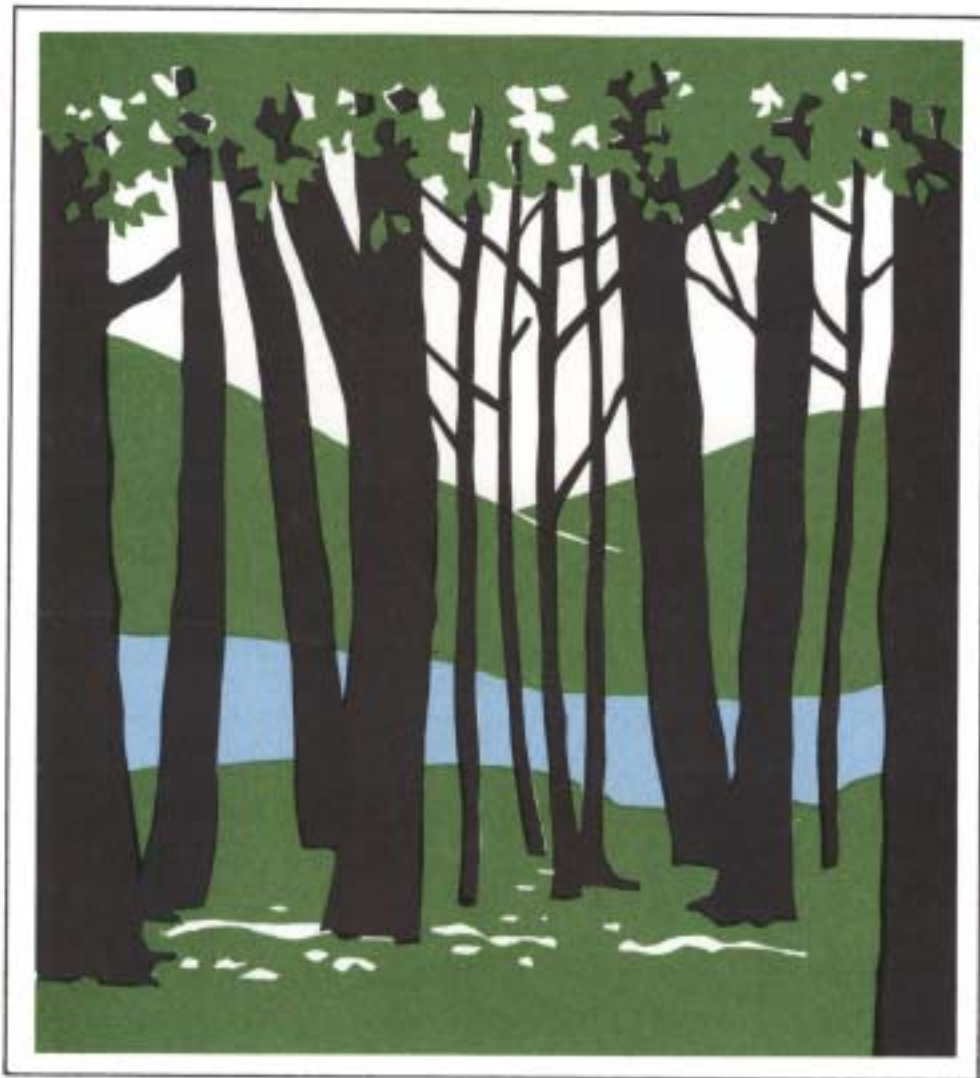




# Fall Creek Parkway - Woollens Garden - Skiles Test Nature Park Master Plan



DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT/DIVISION OF PLANNING

For: Department of Parks and Recreation

MASTER PLAN FOR  
FALL CREEK PARKWAY/WOOLLENS GARDEN/SKILES TEST NATURE PARK

1988

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## INTRODUCTION

Together Fall Creek Parkway, Woollens Garden and the Skiles Test property form an unique natural resource in Marion County. The areas are relatively undeveloped, with woodland and habitat for wildlife and birds. The three areas also have great recreation potential. The combination of woods and water is particularly conducive to passive recreation.

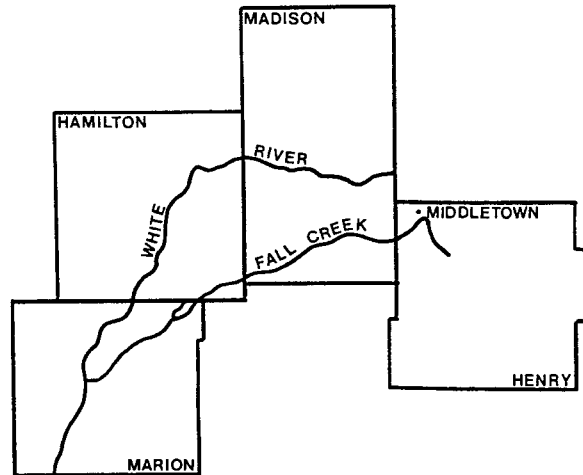
The three sites are located in the northeast quadrant of Indianapolis. The portion of the Fall Creek Parkway focused on in this plan is the segment from I-465 downstream to 30th Street, about a six and a quarter mile run. Woollens Garden is a roughly triangular, 44-acre tract south of Fall Creek at I-465. The 81-acre Skiles Test property is to the north of Woollens Garden and Fall Creek, and is bordered by Fall Creek Road, Johnson Road, 65th Street and I-465.

This Master Plan was prepared with the intention of providing guidance in the development of Fall Creek, Woollens Garden and Skiles Test. The process involved in the establishment of this plan included gathering and analyzing information about the physical nature of the site and the people and needs of the surrounding neighborhoods. Also a task force was formed to look at the problems and the opportunities associated with the sites and to provide direction in their development. The task force was comprised of representatives of the local neighborhood, other interested groups and government agencies concerned with the three areas. The findings of the task force were used to develop a preliminary design. The preliminary design was presented to the general public for comment. The final Master Plan was developed and adopted by the Metropolitan Development Commission and the Board of Parks and Recreation.

## HISTORY

Fall Creek's source is found south of Middletown in Henry County. It flows southwestwardly for 75 miles and empties into White River near downtown Indianapolis. It drains 315 square miles.

In the 1800's Fall Creek was a mill stream. A sawmill was established in 1824 near where Emerson Way now crosses Fall Creek. At one time or another, at least four other mills were operated in that vicinity and the area became known as Millersville. Millersville was served by a post office, a general store and several other businesses and had a population of 86. By the late 1880's the mills and Millersville were on the decline.



STREAM COURSE OF FALL CREEK

The idea of a parkway along Fall Creek originated in the early days of park planning in Indianapolis. The first plan for a park system was developed in the late 1890's by John C. Olmstead. The plan was updated about ten years later by George Kessler. In his 1909 "Report of Landscape Architect to the Board of Park Commissioners", Kessler called for a system of parks and parkways that "should bring within the easy reach of every portion of a community the pleasant enjoyment of open air spaces for rest and recreation, and form pleasant and attractive means of communication from one part of the community to another".

Parkways along the White River and the town's other major streams were a primary part of Kessler's plan. He described his concept of parkways to the commissioners as follows:

"Let me explain at the outset that parkways of this nature do not primarily form merely driveways from one portion of the city to another, although their continuity for this purpose is important, but, at variance with the popular idea of the boulevard, they do form a chain of parks or a continuous park which is by its nature brought to the doors of all sections of the community. By obtaining here and there open spaces of considerable extent in addition

to the space required for roadways and walks, you will provide a continuous series of small parks and playgrounds which will become very valuable and pleasurable to the neighborhoods in their immediate vicinity. Where such parkways, as they will in your case, follow the lines of picturesque streams, an additional interest is presented, both in preserving the picturesque nature of the scenery and in the use of the streams for boating and bathing purposes."

Kessler's report detailed each of the proposed parkways. He envisioned the Fall Creek Parkway as "capable of most picturesque treatment, but is also to a large extent a utilitarian feature. Here again it is contemplated to border each side with a driveway, but the meanderings of the stream are such as to leave many park spaces of very considerable extent, as well as the possibility of introducing here and there water surfaces that are directly in the stream or to one side of it of sufficient area to add largely to the attractiveness of the improvement".

At the time the City owned several parcels along Fall Creek between Northwestern Avenue and Central Avenue. Kessler proposed acquiring land downstream to the White River and upstream to 38th Street and beyond as the city grew. By 1911 the City had acquired the entire north bank of the creek from the canal upstream beyond the city limits at 38th Street. The City also owned the south bank from Indiana Avenue downstream to the White River and from Central Avenue downstream to 23rd Street. The City's holdings along Fall Creek at that time totaled 143.3 acres.

Some of the major institutions located on the Fall Creek corridor are the Indiana State Fairgrounds, Cathedral High School and Sutherland Park Cemetery. The State Fair moved to its present site in 1891. Many of the buildings presently standing on the fairgrounds were built in the 1920's and 1930's. The 238-acre site sees over a million visitors every year during the fair. Cathedral High School located at its current site in 1976. It moved into the 14 year old facilities of Ladywood-St. Agnes School, a private girls' high school. Sutherland Park Cemetery, on the southeast bank east of Keystone Avenue, was established prior to 1876 and is still in operation.

A 44-acre tract now known as Woollens Garden came into the Park Board's hands in late 1909. The land was offered to the City in a letter from William Watson Woollen. (Appendix C) The letter enthusiastically described the site, "It is an ideal place. No other such beautiful and desirable place can be found within the same distance from the center of this city". Woollen conveyed the property and his nature study library under several conditions, including:

"The place is to be known and designated . . . as Woollens Garden of Birds and Botany. It is to be maintained and used as a place for nature study.

The wildwood of it is to be maintained as near as can be in its present wild state.

The wildlife upon it . . . is not to be interfered with or destroyed; it is to be a home and refuge for the wild creatures which are found there or which may come to it".

At the time of the donation, a barn with a crib, a gardener's cottage and a 7-room double log cabin had been built on the site by Woollen. It was Woollen's hope that the log cabin be maintained as a type of pioneer museum. However, all the buildings on the site are now gone.

The Skiles Test property was bequeathed to the City upon the death of Skiles Test in March of 1964. (Appendix D) Skiles Test, his house and farm were locally infamous. For many years, stories circulated that Test was a recluse who lived in a glass house, and kept his dead wife in an open casket surrounded by blue lights. The house became known locally as the "House of Blue Lights". In reality, Test was indeed a unique man. Test inherited what is now the park property from his father, Charles Test, in 1910. Skiles Test became a successful businessman as president of Indianapolis Motor Inns and part-owner of the Test Building on Monument Circle. He also acquired a significant amount of real estate in the vicinity of his farm. He married for the first time in 1913. After twenty-three years the couple divorced. Test married twice more, but none of his wives rested in a blue-lit glass casket. All three outlived him.

However, the "House of Blue Lights" did deserve its name. Blue Christmas lights were strung throughout the trees surrounding the house. The house itself was unusual looking; being sided with opaque glass-tile. The grounds featured a pet cemetery and a 1-acre pen where as many as 150 cats were kept. There was also a pool with a brick and glass block diving tower and a three story bathhouse.

The unusual house and grounds and the even more unusual tales told about the property made it a magnet for teenage trespassers and thrill seekers. In his later years, Test was almost constantly troubled by trespassers. Yet when he died, he wanted his property used for the benefit of Indianapolis's young people. Ten years after his death, the estate was finally settled and 81 acres of the Test farm became park property. The house, pool and bathhouse had deteriorated and were demolished in 1978.

## FALL CREEK PARKWAY

### SITE ANALYSIS

Marion County is divided into 15 park planning districts. The study area for this plan lies within four separate districts: 3, 4, 5 and 7. Demographic data for the four districts are summarized in Appendix A.

Few recreation facilities in the four districts are located in proximity to the corridor. Also very few of the parks in the districts have the type of natural resource base that Fall Creek/Woollens Garden/Skiles Test have. The stream, hills and native woods are suitable for types of recreation not common in the districts such as canoeing, hiking, fishing and nature study (Appendix B).

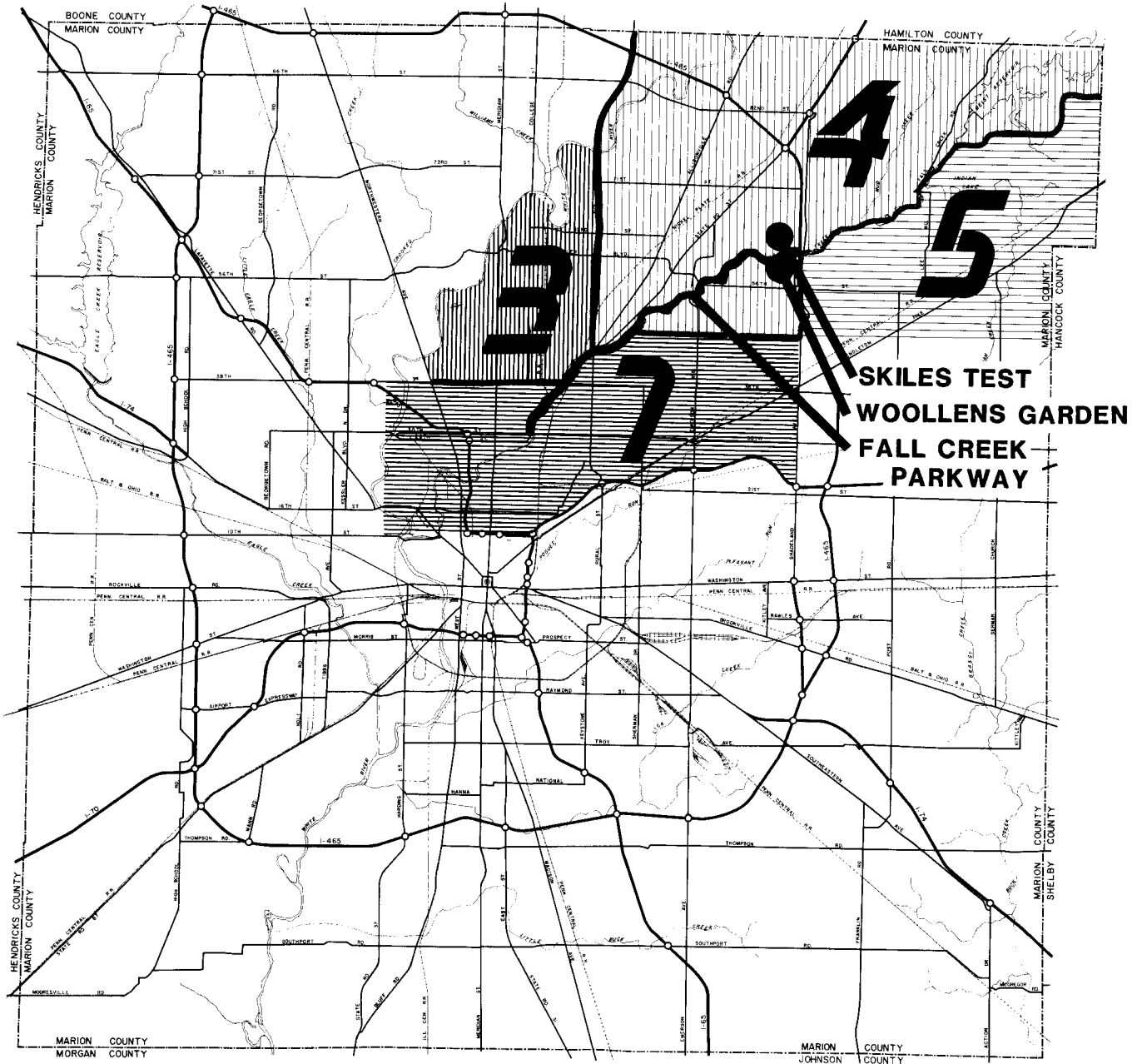
The Fall Creek Corridor is long and varied. To better focus on the different needs of the different sections of the corridor, the study area has been divided into three segments: 30th Street to Keystone Avenue, Keystone Avenue to 56th Street and 56th Street to I-465.

#### 30th Street to Keystone Avenue (Section Map 1)

Through this section the strip of parkland between the creek and Fall Creek Boulevard is isolated from the adjacent neighborhood. The chief culprit in isolating the area is Fall Creek Boulevard, a heavily traveled 5-lane thoroughfare. An average of 28,000 to 32,000 vehicles a day travel the boulevard along this segment. Also, the intersection of Fall Creek Boulevard and 30th Street was ranked as the City's twenty-first most dangerous intersection in 1985. Twenty-six accidents occurred there in that year for a rate of 2.81 accidents per million vehicles. Crossing the boulevard on foot is difficult; walking along it is uncomfortable.

The water quality of the creek through this segment is poor. Overflow sewage is the main contaminant. The stream is steep-banked throughout this section. Behind the bank the land is relatively level with a low berm for flood control paralleling the boulevard. A bulkhead lines the creek along much of the stretch. The creek is crossed by bridges at 30th Street, 38th Street, 39th Street and Keystone Avenue, by the Monon Railroad (now abandoned) about midway between 30th and 38th Streets, and by the Norfolk and Western Railroad between 39th and Keystone. Vegetation in the park-owned land is dense and brushy on the stream banks. The level areas are mowed as a lawn, with large mature trees. Dominant species in this segment, and throughout the stream corridor, are cottonwood, scummiar, and hackberry. Vegetation on non-park-owned land is all generally brushy.

DPR ownership is not continuous through this section. Only the northwest bank between 30th and 38th is City-owned, plus a small parcel on the southeast bank between Guilford and Winthrop.

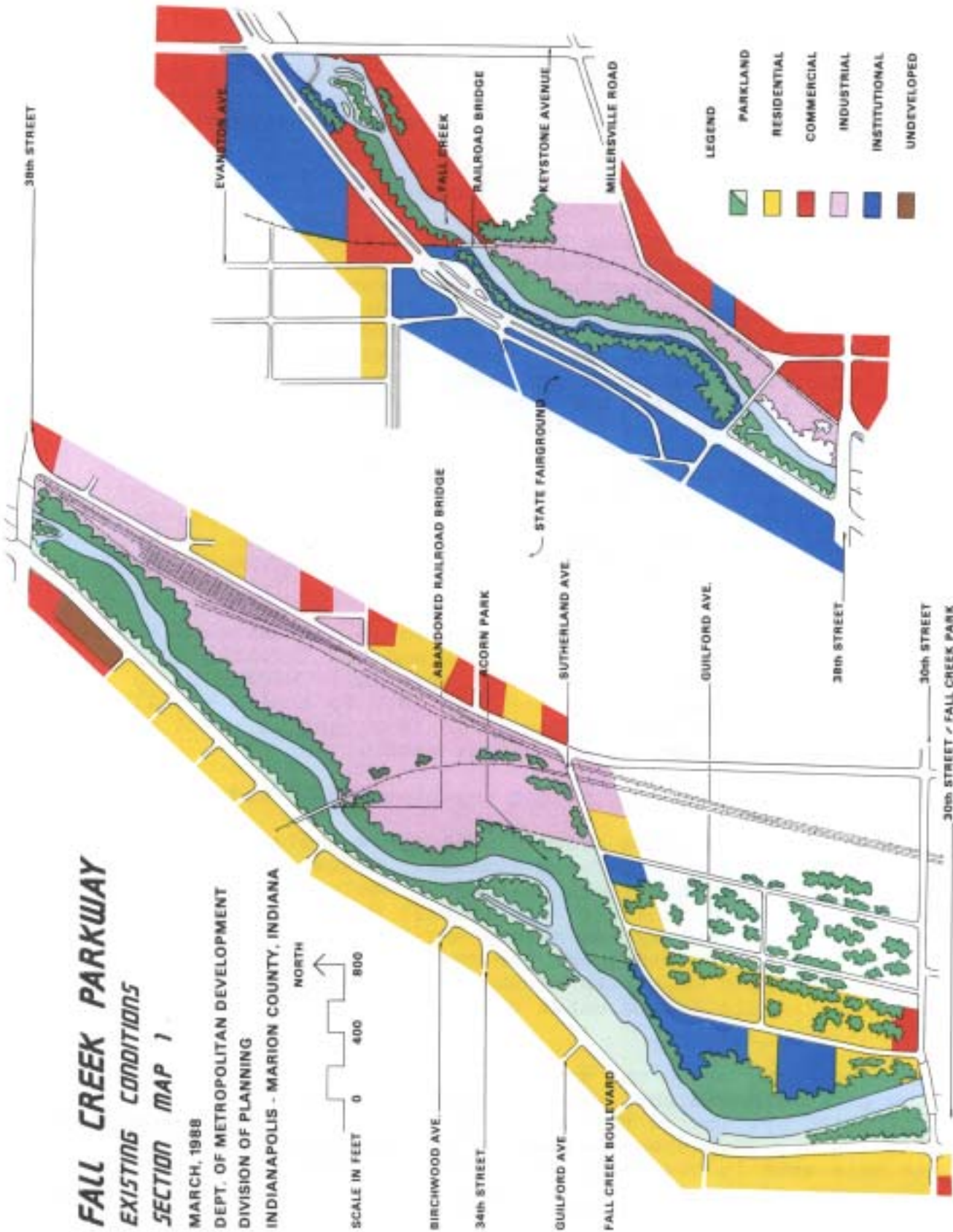


**LOCATIONS OF PARKS  
AND OF PLANNING DISTRICTS**



**FALL CREEK PARKWAY  
EXISTING CONDITIONS  
SECTION MAP 1**

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The area on the southeast bank is known as Acorn Park. It contains several pieces of playground equipment, but is only lightly used. Acorn Park is not accessible from the northwest side of the creek. The park area on the northwest bank has no developed recreation facilities. However, a neighborhood park -- 30th and Fall Creek Park -- is accessible from the plan area by walking under the 30th Street bridge. The park contains a playground, tennis courts and a basketball court.

The land uses surrounding the stream in this section are mostly residential and light industrial. In addition, on the northwest bank between 38th Street and Evanston Avenue, are the grounds of the Indiana State Fair. The main portion of the fairgrounds is on the north side of Fall Creek Boulevard. However, the Fair Board does own land directly on the creek between the 39th Street bridge and Norfolk and Western Railroad. A portion of this area is used as a horse corral. A pedestrian/equestrian tunnel links this area to the rest of the fairground. Another portion of the Fair Board's land was once leased out and developed as a gas station. The gas station has since been abandoned and redeveloped as a used car lot. In 1984 a Master Plan was developed for the fairgrounds. The area now used as the horse corral is proposed to be converted to an exhibitors campground. The site of the used car lot is shown on the plan as open space.

On the creek bank between the fairgrounds and Keystone Avenue are Fall Creek Bait and Tackle Shop and the Indianapolis Water Company intake. The water intake uses water backed up by Keystone Dam. The dam was built in 1837 to create a mill pond. The Water Company began using it in 1900, and it still supplies a significant amount of the City's water.

#### Keystone Avenue to 56th Street (Section Maps 2 and 3)

Just north of Keystone Avenue, Fall Creek Boulevard splits into State Road 37 and Fall Creek Parkway. Route 37 is a four-lane divided highway that links Fall Creek Boulevard with Interstate 69. Route 37 siphons off most of Fall Creek Boulevard's traffic so Fall Creek Parkway has a much smaller traffic volume. The average daily traffic count for the parkway is 2000-4000 vehicles, about one-tenth of the boulevard's traffic. The reduced traffic volume makes this segment more peaceful and relaxing.

Water quality above the Keystone dam is higher than that below the dam. The dam pool extends upstream to about 46th Street. The banks are low in this area, so the water is more accessible than in the downstream segment. The topography along the creek in this area is generally level and low, then rising quickly to the level of the street. The stream is crossed by three bridges in this segment: 46th Street, Emerson Way and 56th Street.

DPR owns the north bank in this segment except for the portion between Emerson Way and 56th Street, which is owned by the City



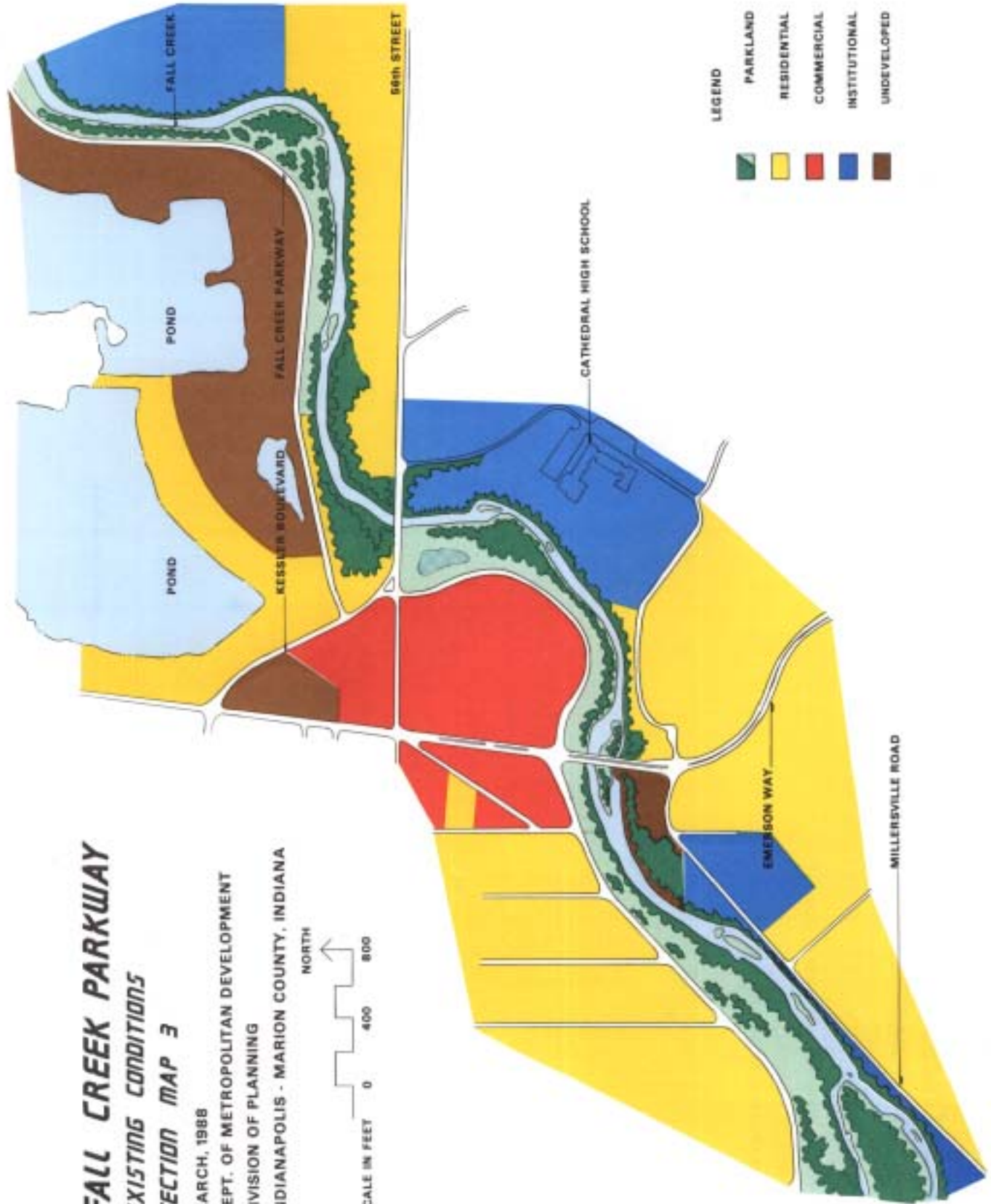
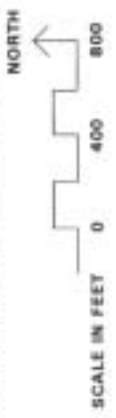
# FALL CREEK PARKWAY EXISTING CONDITIONS SECTION MAP 2

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**FALL CREEK PARKWAY  
EXISTING CONDITIONS  
SECTION MAP 3**

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Department of Transportation. Recreational development already established in this segment consists of a parking lot and canoe takeout site across from Sutherland Park Cemetery.

Land use across both the creek and Fall Creek Parkway from the parkland is mainly residential. Notable exceptions are Sutherland Park Cemetery, Devon Country Club on the southeast bank north of 46th Street, Cathedral High School on the southeast bank south of 56th Street, and a commercial area north of the Parkway between Dequincy Street and 56th Street.

The vegetation between Keystone and 46th Street is maintained turf and scattered large trees. Between 46th Street and 56th Street the vegetation is less maintained and more natural with wooded areas along the creek.

#### 56th Street to I-465 (Section Maps 3 and 4)

North of 56th Street, traffic volume again drops. Most traffic to the northeast takes Fall Creek Road rather than the longer and more winding Fall Creek Parkway. When I-465 was built, Fall Creek Parkway's route was cut off and reconnected with Fall Creek Road. That left a 1200 foot dead end. The isolation of the dead end has made it a popular area for off-road vehicle use and illegal dumping, however, it is also a good area for launching canoes.

Water quality on this segment is high enough to allow partial body contact activities such as wading and canoeing. Stream accessibility is variable through the segment, although banks are generally low and gently sloped. Topography behind the stream is level or gently sloped. The stream is bridged only at each end in this segment.

Vegetation maintenance throughout this section is lower, resulting in a more natural appearance and a greater variety of sizes and types of plants.

Land use across the stream in this section is residential with the exception of the Brendonwood Golf Course. Across the parkway the land is mostly undeveloped. A large portion of the undeveloped area is zoned residential and may be developed as such in the future.

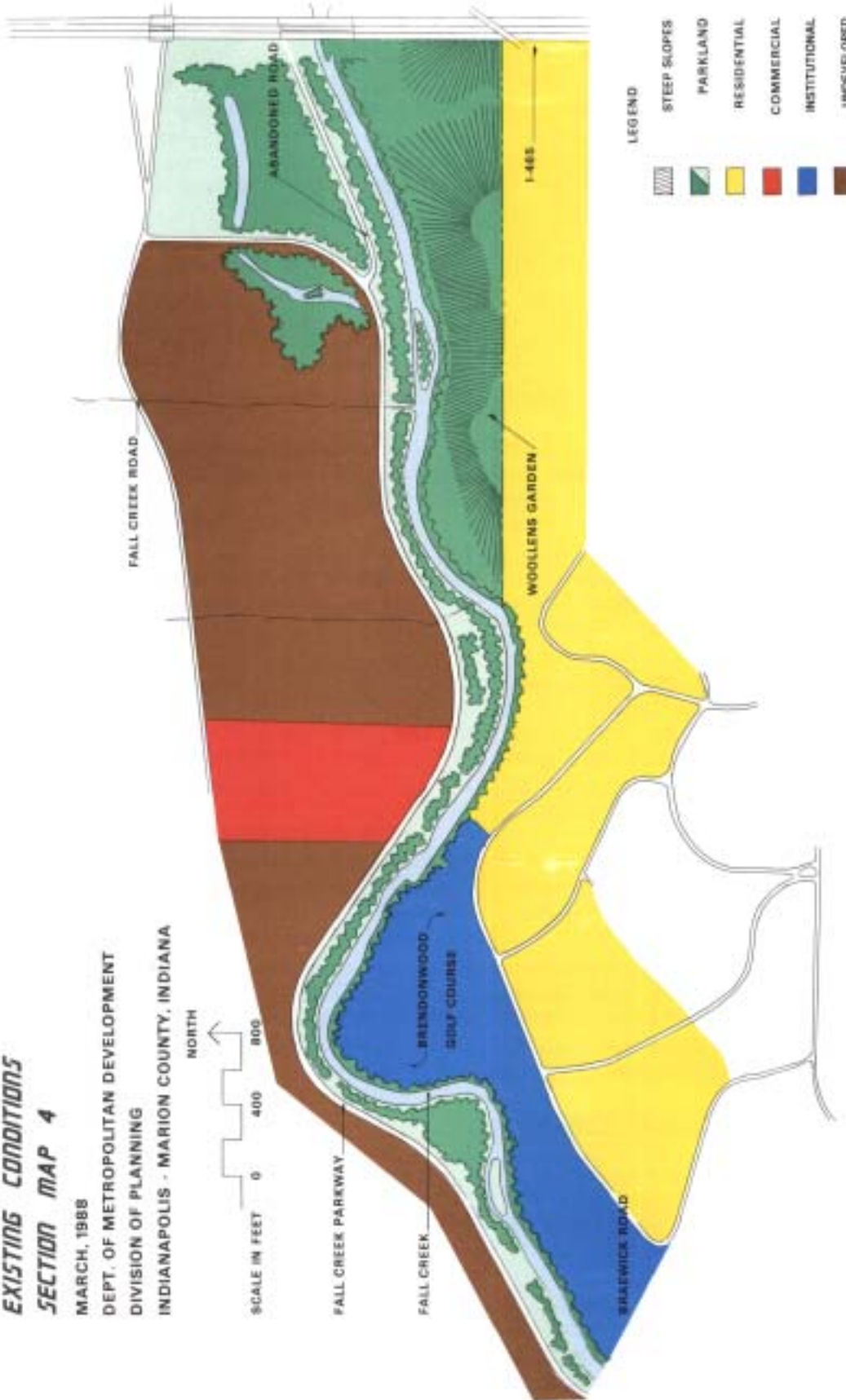
#### The Corridor as a Whole

The corridor, in general, is home to wildlife. Deer, waterfowl and many small animals inhabit the corridor. The stream itself is habitat for carp, shad, bluegill and catfish.

Several problems exist all along the corridor. Among these are dumping, off-road vehicle use, crime and flooding. Fall Creek Parkway is regularly patrolled, however it is still easy to slip in and quickly dump trash on the banks or in the creek. Off-road vehicle use is especially a problem in the upper parts of the

**FALL CREEK PARKWAY  
EXISTING CONDITIONS  
SECTION MAP 4**

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corridor. All terrain vehicles, pickup trucks and motorcycles tear up the land and vegetation causing erosion and disturbing both wildlife and the human uses of the site.

Crime may be more of a perceived problem rather than an actual problem along the corridor. Since a private security firm was hired by DPR to patrol the area, crime has dropped significantly.

Not surprisingly, flooding is a problem along the creek. All the land between the stream and the street is within the 100-year floodplain. The 100-year floodplain is the area likely to be flooded at least once every 100 years. Flooding is a great deal more frequent on much of parkland. This means facilities built in the park should be able to withstand flooding as well as not impede stream flow during a flood.

Maintenance along the corridor is a major task. As an alternative to frequent mowing, experimentation with wildflower plantings has been done. Four areas with an existing concentration of wildflowers were allowed to go unmown. In the unmown areas, wildflowers are able to establish themselves more easily.

## MASTER PLAN PROPOSALS

A final master plan was developed to satisfy the concerns of the park's neighbors and users, and also to respect the natural qualities of the site. Development of the master plan proposals involved public comment and review at each step. In the site analysis phase, two full task force meetings, a bus tour and a canoe trip were held. The full task force met to review the master plan in a preliminary state and again in the final draft phase. The final draft was then presented to those neighborhood organizations in the area who had requested presentations.

### Fall Creek -- 30th Street to Keystone Avenue

- Provide a sidewalk in the park from 30th Street to Keystone. A low levee lines the boulevard for most of its length in this segment. With the exception of several short sections, the sidewalk can run on the stream side of the levee. The levee will provide a sense of separation from the busy street. However, the levee is not so high that it will block views between the street and those using the sidewalk. These views will be important to the pedestrians for a sense of security. The sidewalk should run under the 30th Street bridge and link up to the park facilities located south of 30th Street in Fall Creek and 30th Park. Any changes to the 30th Street bridge should take the parkway into consideration.
- Construct a pedestrian overpass across Fall Creek Boulevard. Alternate sites for an overpass are Guilford Avenue, Birchwood Avenue, 34th Street, or reuse of the old Monon Railroad bridge.
- Provide picnic tables in the open space next to the 30th Street bridge and in proximity to the pedestrian overpass.
- Encourage other landowners along the creek to maintain their properties in an attractive manner.
- Encourage the State Fair Board to demolish the used car lot on their creekside property and use the site as open space.
- Develop a connection -- sidewalk or trail -- between the park property south of 38th Street and that east of Keystone Avenue. Although this area is not park property, provisions for a connection should be kept in mind when future development of the area occurs.



# FALL CREEK PARKWAY

## MASTER PLAN

### SECTION MAP 1

MARCH, 1988

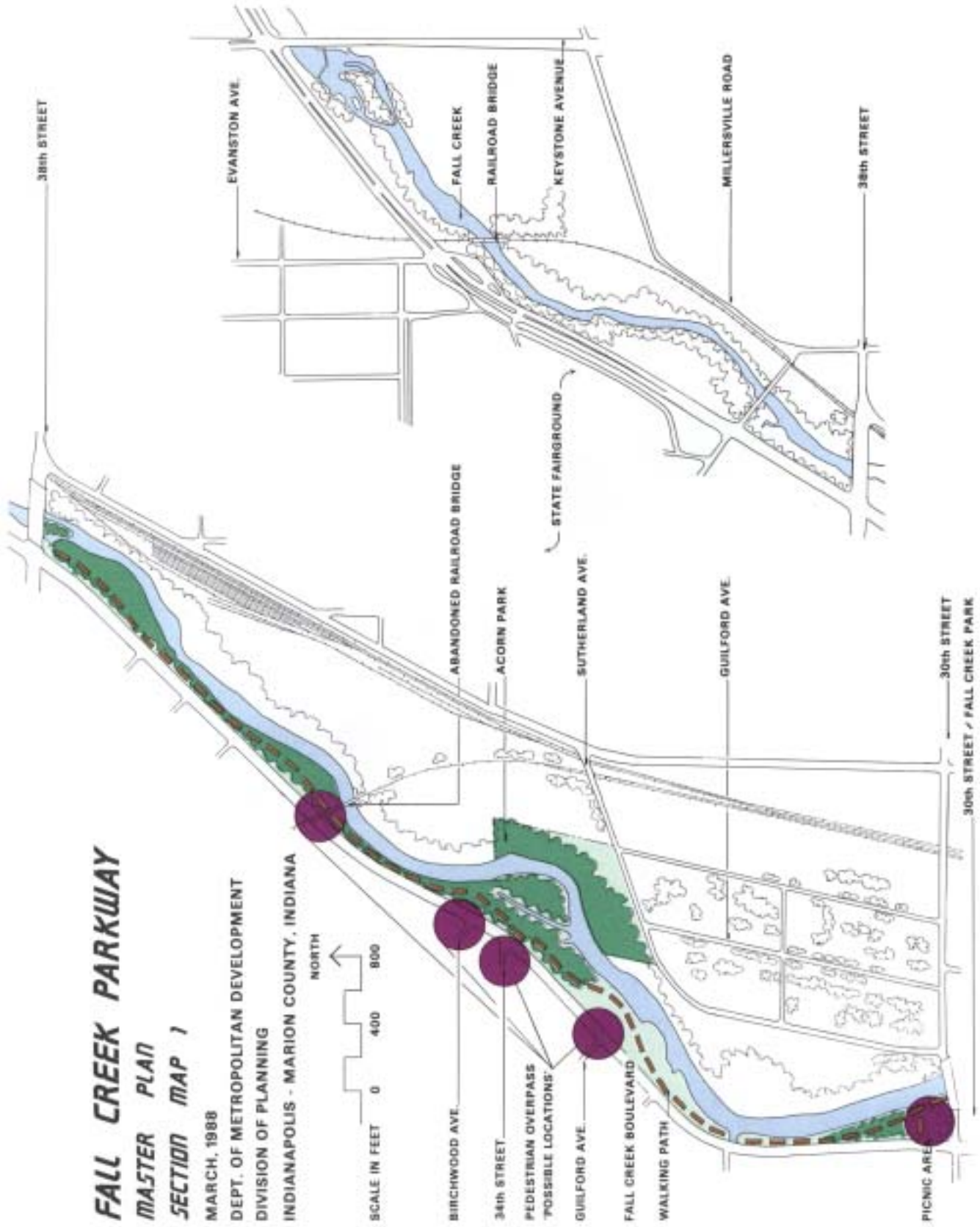
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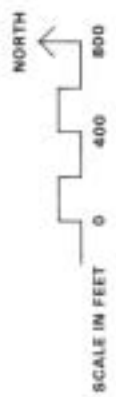
NORTH

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**FALL CREEK PARKWAY**  
**MASTER PLAN**  
**SECTION MAP 2**

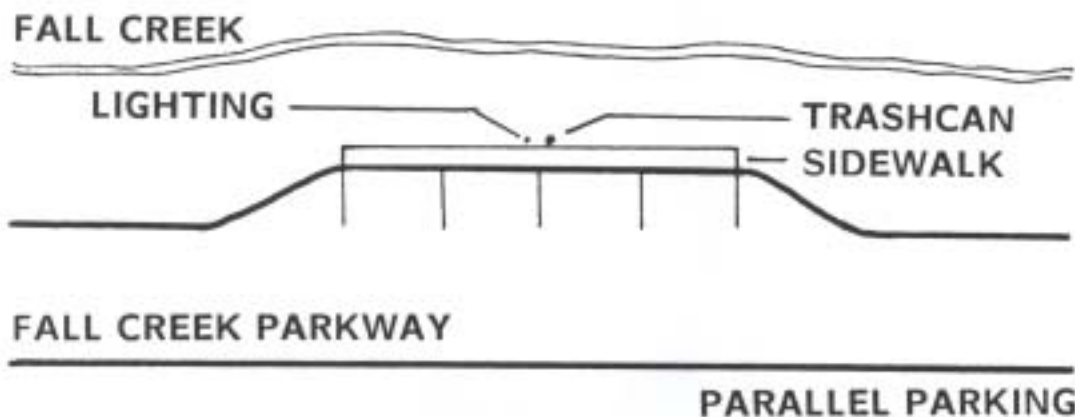
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NOTE:  
 PARKING AREAS INCLUDE  
 LIGHTING FIXTURES  
 TRASH CONTAINERS  
 PICNIC FACILITIES

### Fall Creek -- Keystone to 56th Street

- Pave parking lot across the creek from Sutherland Park Cemetery and retain existing canoe takeout point. Provide several picnic tables in this area.



- Install a parallel parking area just south of 46th Street.
- Install a parallel parking area just north of 46th Street. This area will also include picnic facilities, walking trails and a fishing pier.
- Construct a parallel parking area, and develop walking trails and picnic facilities across from Fallwood Drive.
- Construct a parallel parking area downstream of Emerson Way.
- Construct a parallel parking area near the pond south of 56th Street. This area is proposed to include provisions for ice skating during the winter months.
- Build an off-street bicycle trail beginning at the downstream parking lot and extending to the 56th Street bridge. The route will vary, sometimes following the stream, sometimes following the street. The path should be paved and have a four foot wide lane in each direction.

### Fall Creek -- 56th Street to Woollens Garden

- Provide parallel parking areas spread out along the corridor.

**FALL CREEK PARKWAY  
 MASTER PLAN  
 SECTION MAP 3**

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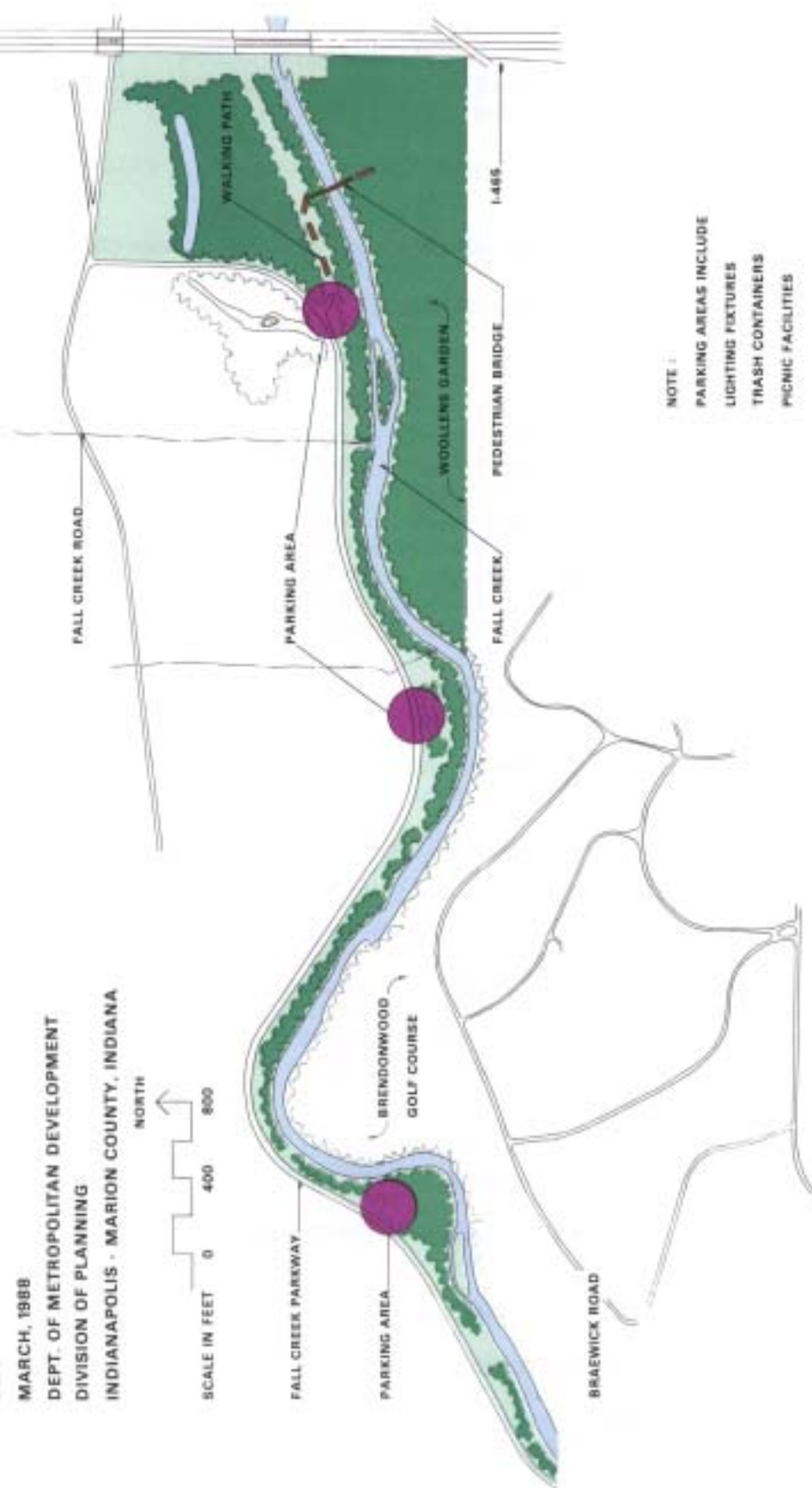


NOTE:  
 PARKING AREAS INCLUDE  
 LIGHTING FIXTURES  
 TRASH CONTAINERS  
 PICNIC FACILITIES



**FALL CREEK PARKWAY**  
**MASTER PLAN**  
**SECTION MAP 4**

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NOTE:  
 PARKING AREAS INCLUDE  
 LIGHTING FIXTURES  
 TRASH CONTAINERS  
 PICNIC FACILITIES

- Mark and sign the street for bicycling. If traffic were to increase significantly in this segment, a separate bicycle trail may need to be developed.
- Provide two canoe launches -- one near each end of this segment.
- Retain the natural character of the property.

#### Fall Creek -- Entire Corridor

- Maintain vegetation in a tiered manner. Along the creek's edge the vegetation will be allowed to grow in natural succession. This will control erosion and allow natural regeneration of the woods. Along the street the vegetation will be maintained like a lawn. Between these two types of vegetation a middle layer will be maintained. This layer in the tier will be wildflowers. The effect of the three layers will be a linear pattern, however, the layers will not be uniform in width. In some places the natural succession layer will extend nearly to the street. In other places the entire width of the parkland will be maintained lawn. The wildflower strip will widen and narrow and in some places disappear as dictated by use, aesthetics and land base.
- Prune existing trees and shrubs selectively to open views from the street and trails to the creek.
- Plant a no-maintenance ground cover on bridge embankments and steep slopes.
- Provide lighting and trash receptacles at each parking area. Individual parking spaces in the parallel parking areas should be extra wide so users will not have to open a car door into traffic. Parallel parking areas should not be located across from apartment complex, church or commercial area entrances where they may be confused for passing blisters.
- Install curbing or other control along Fall Creek Parkway to prevent vehicular access into the greenway.
- Post the corridor against dumping and off road vehicles; also post park hours.
- Continue private security patrols of the corridor.
- Monitor future development along the stream, so that inappropriate uses aren't allowed to occur. The area between 38th Street and Keystone Avenue should be of particular interest. Fortunately, the PK-2 zoning of the area provides for Metropolitan Development Commission approval of all new development.

- Monitor future development in the open areas across from the parkway between 56th Street and I-465. Tree preservation and limiting the number of access points onto the parkway are major concerns. This area does not have PK-2 zoning.
- All facilities should be accessible to handicapped persons.
- Picnic areas shall include scattered picnic tables and trash receptacles. Shelters will not be included.

## WOOLLENS GARDEN

### SITE ANALYSIS

The Woollens Garden study area includes land on both sides of Fall Creek immediately west of I-465. The area north of the creek is bounded by I-465, Fall Creek Road to the north and Fall Creek Parkway to the west. The northern portion of this area has been cultivated in the recent past and is a flat open space with no tree cover. The southern portion of this area is marshy and serves as a drainage channel. Its vegetation consists of mixed hardwoods such as Sycamore and Pin Oak blending into the dominant Beech-Maple forest to the south. The north bank of Fall Creek near the I-465 bridge slopes gently to the water's edge creating a natural beach area which is popular for wading and canoe launching. This area includes an abandoned section of Fall Creek Parkway which was built on the levee protecting the northern section from flooding. The abandoned road and secluded nature of this property serve to attract unwelcome activities such as trash dumping and late night parties. Securing the property has been very difficult. Barricades block the access from Fall Creek Parkway, but they are frequently pushed aside.

Just south of the creek lies the scenic property donated to the City by Mr. Woollen. The area is bounded to the north and west by Fall Creek, the east by I-465 and the south by Brendon Way Apartments and single family residences. In July of 1987 this property was formally designated as a state nature preserve which ensures its protection for future generations. This area possesses a very pleasant variety of mixed hardwoods of the Beech-Maple association. The site contains scenic rough terrain, steep hillsides, several major drainage channels and a system of unimproved nature trails. The abundance of wildlife testifies to the good balance of nature found in the area. The absence of a clear access point currently limits its use. Residents of the apartment complex may gain access through openings in the south boundary fence. The only other access is from the maintenance road from Shadeland Avenue to the area underneath the interstate bridge. Motorcyclists and illegal tree harvesters gain entrance to the property from this road. Accumulated trash can be found throughout the area and some trails are showing signs of erosion.

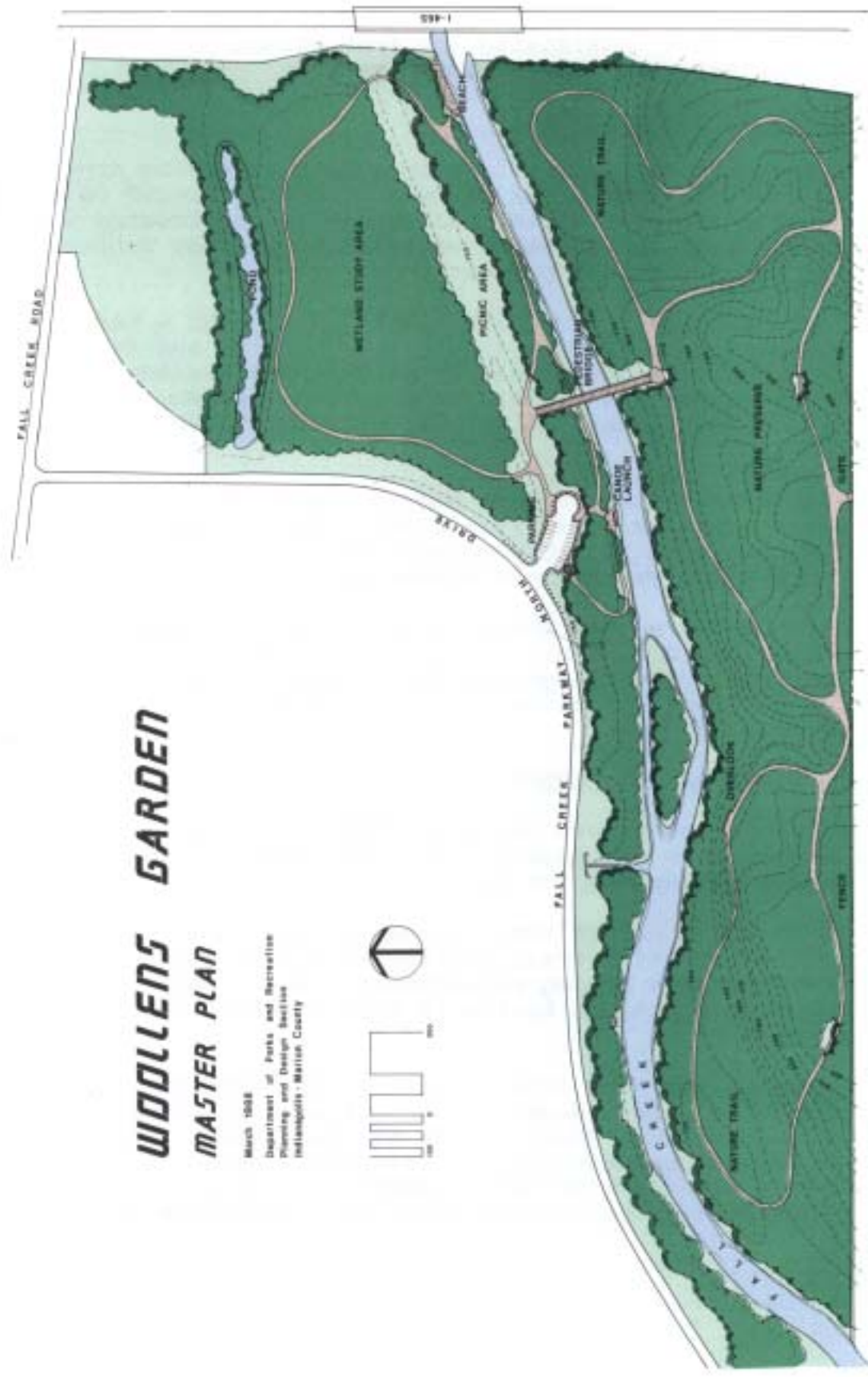
### MASTER PLAN PROPOSALS

The design concept, as illustrated on the master plan, was developed to accomplish the established goals of: 1) creating an easily accessible public entry to the nature preserve; 2) preserving and protecting the property from vandalism and other destructive activities; 3) creating a 'safe' environment for



# WOOLLENS GARDEN MASTER PLAN

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 Mississippi - Madison County



park users; and 4) maximizing the recreational potential of the area. Proposals for improvements include:

#### AREA NORTH OF FALL CREEK

- Remove the old roadway and construct a parking area adjacent to Fall Creek Parkway. Parking should be easily visible from the street and should be constructed with curbs, bollards or other barriers to prevent vehicular intrusion into the property.
- Install canoe launch/bank fishing area with a trail connecting it to the parking lot. Trails and facilities should all be accessible to handicapped visitors. Passive picnic facilities should be provided (tables, grills and trash receptacles) as well as walking trails to the east end.
- The northernmost segment should remain as undeveloped open space with the potential of utilizing the marshy area as a learning site in conjunction with the Skiles Test Nature Center (see Skiles Test Master Plan).
- Connect the nature preserve to the parking area with a pedestrian bridge over Fall Creek as the new public entrance. The bridge should be constructed according to DNR floodway guidelines with user safety and site security as priorities.

#### AREA SOUTH OF FALL CREEK

Because it has nature preserve status, very little development is proposed for Woollens Garden. Following are recommendations for the site:

- Establish a nature trail system including adequate signage and interpretive trail stations and overlooks in areas identified as having exceptional views. Care should be taken to construct trails in such a way as to minimize erosion.
- Securing the site from illegal entry. The perimeter fence should be placed along the entire east and south boundaries and in any area where access may be gained. To allow access to residents of the apartment complex it is proposed that a gate/lock system be employed. Access from the State Highway maintenance road under the interstate should be discouraged.

## SKILES TEST NATURE PARK

### SITE ANALYSIS

The boundaries of the Skiles Test property are 65th Street to the north, I-465 to the east, Fall Creek Road to the south and single family residences to the west. The primary land use surrounding the site is low density single family development, interstate highway and agricultural/open space.

Vehicular access to the area is currently from a gated drive at 65th Street. Pedestrians may enter the site from various openings on the north side and from a pathway entering from Fall Creek Road. The east boundary is fenced along the highway as are portions of the north and south boundaries.

Vegetation on the property is a mix of hardwood forest, cultivated fields and successional growth. Approximately 20 acres of the northern section of the property is leased to a local farmer and is cultivated annually. Near the central portion of the site is the former location of the house, garage and various buildings which made up the Test residence. This area is currently overgrown with annual and perennial weeds and grasses and early successional growth. This area also contains a stand of conifers which were planted near the house. The majority of the remaining site consists of a mixed hardwood forest exhibiting characteristics of the Beech-Maple association. This wooded area supports an abundance of wildlife species with the cultivated land and successional growth supplementing the food supply.

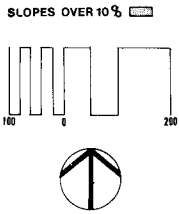
The site contains several major drainage channels, steep hillsides and a series of paved walkways through the wooded areas. The cultivated fields and parts of the central section are fairly flat and open with the main drainage patterns flowing towards the south and west.

Traffic noise from the interstate can be heard clearly in the open area and is somewhat muffled in the wooded areas. Trash and litter have accumulated in some spots representing the lack of security of the property. The area is used primarily by neighborhood residents who enjoy walking through the natural environment.

### MASTER PLAN PROPOSALS

The master plan design concept was developed after much discussion with the members of the Task Force Subcommittee and the residents of the Avalon Hills neighborhood. The primary

# SKILES TEST EXISTING CONDITIONS





concerns expressed include: 1) retaining a passive recreational use of the property; 2) preserving the natural characteristics of the property; 3) securing the property from uncontrolled access; and 4) removing the vehicular entrance from 65th Street and placing it along Fall Creek Road. The master plan addresses these concerns as follows:

- Entrance

Vehicular access shall be from Fall Creek Road at the south end of the property. The existing abandoned roadway should be examined to determine if it may be usable. Extreme care should be taken to minimize damage to the wooded area. Pedestrian access from 65th Street will be available on a gate/lock basis and it is suggested that the gate be relocated from its present location to discourage nighttime congregating.

- Nature Center

The major use for the property was determined to be an outdoor education facility serving school children, community groups and nature lovers on a programmed basis. The focal point of activity is the proposed nature/interpretive center which should include space for an indoor classroom, educational displays, kitchen and restroom facilities and community meeting room. The nature center is proposed to be located in the central portion of the property connected to the other activity areas by an improved trail system. Adequate parking for automobiles and school buses should be provided.

- Trails

The trail system connecting the activity areas should be accessible to handicapped participants and should include interpretive signage explaining the different areas and habitat characteristics. The existing trails through the wooded areas should be improved and expanded.

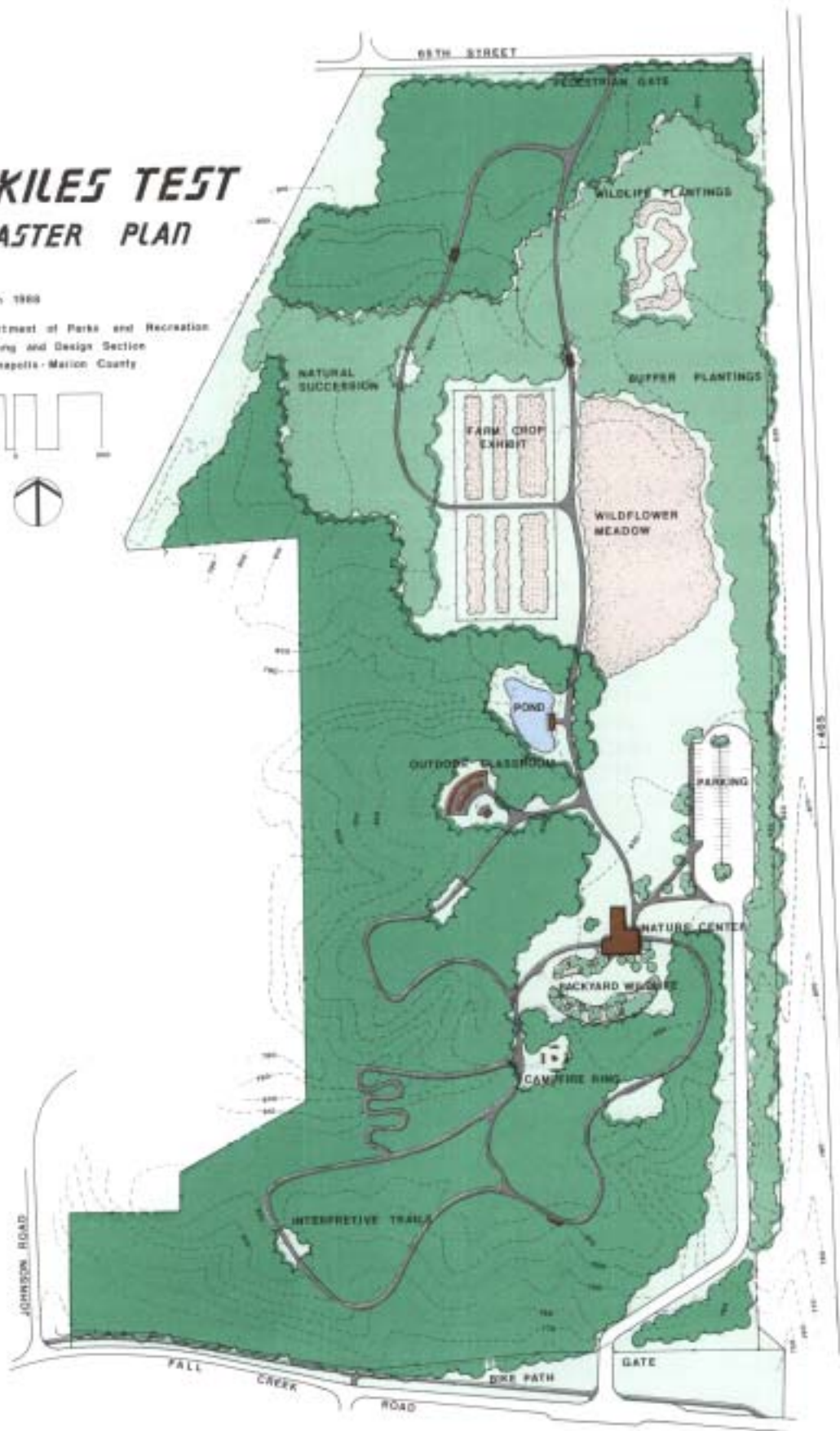
- Outdoor Education Areas

Outdoor education areas exploring a wide variety of natural systems are proposed for the large portion of the site which is currently being farmed. Examples of the types of areas proposed include: 1) a backyard wildlife planting area which would explain how different shrubs and trees can be used to attract wildlife; 2) a wildflower meadow with interpretive stations identifying the flower varieties found in the planting; 3) a farm crop demonstration area which would explain the agricultural process using typical Indiana farm crops; 4) a pond which could be used to exhibit aquatic life and could also serve as a constant water source for the wildlife in the area; 5) a natural succession area which could be maintained to show several

# SKILES TEST MASTER PLAN

March 1988

Department of Parks and Recreation  
Planning and Design Section  
Indianapolis - Marion County



stages of natural succession and 6) a wildlife planting area which would provide a food source for native wildlife and an opportunity to observe and identify types of animals found in the area.

- Outdoor Classroom

An outdoor classroom area with terraced or amphitheater style seating is proposed to provide a space where learning can be combined with entertainment in an outdoor setting.

- Buffer Plantings

Plant material and/or mounding should be installed along the east boundaries to minimize the traffic noise and block the views of the interstate highway.

- Fencing

Fencing installed around the entire perimeter of the property is proposed to secure the area after hours and to ensure that park users do not intrude upon the private property adjacent to the park.

## CONCLUSION

The process undertaken to develop this Master Plan involved a wide variety of people with a wide variety of interests and concerns. Their involvement in this process has helped to ensure that the recreational needs of the citizens of Indianapolis and Marion County are satisfied. This final Master Plan document is representative of their involvement. The resulting proposals will benefit the surrounding neighborhoods and the entire City of Indianapolis.

To ensure that Fall Creek Parkway, Woollens Garden and Skiles Test Nature Center continue to be responsive to the needs of their users, this Master Plan should be frequently reviewed and periodically updated.



APPENDICES

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## APPENDIX A

### DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

	Planning Areas				Overall	Marion County
	3	4	5	7		
<b>TOTAL POPULATION</b>	47,252	50,666	19,482	110,645	228,045	765,233
<b>AGE</b>						
Under 5	4,075 (9%)	3,162 (6%)	1,718 (9%)	11,096 (10%)	20,051 (9%)	67,973 (9%)
6-17	7,080 (15%)	9,474 (19%)	3,460 (18%)	25,366 (23%)	45,380 (20%)	148,430 (18%)
18-21	3,511 (7%)	2,563 (5%)	1,981 (10%)	8,193 (7%)	16,248 (7%)	56,388 (7%)
22-34	12,605 (27%)	11,859 (23%)	5,455 (28%)	22,458 (20%)	52,377 (23%)	180,899 (24%)
35-54	8,249 (18%)	12,345 (24%)	4,130 (21%)	21,717 (20%)	46,441 (20%)	159,198 (21%)
55+	11,465 (24%)	10,962 (22%)	3,022 (15%)	20,894 (19%)	46,343 (20%)	152,405 (20%)
<b>% In Family Households</b>	80%	86%	79%	85%	83%	85%
<b>HOUSEHOLD INCOME</b>						
0 - 15,000	3,115 (26%)	1,640 (11%)	1,585 (32%)	18,753 (57%)	25,093 (39%)	244,109 (32%)
15,000 - 30,000	5,404 (45%)	5,059 (35%)	2,280 (46%)	10,395 (32%)	23,138 (36%)	322,928 (42%)
30,000+	3,534 (29%)	7,702 (53%)	1,039 (21%)	2,664 (12%)	14,939 (23%)	198,195 (26%)

APPENDIX B

SCHOOL FACILITIES

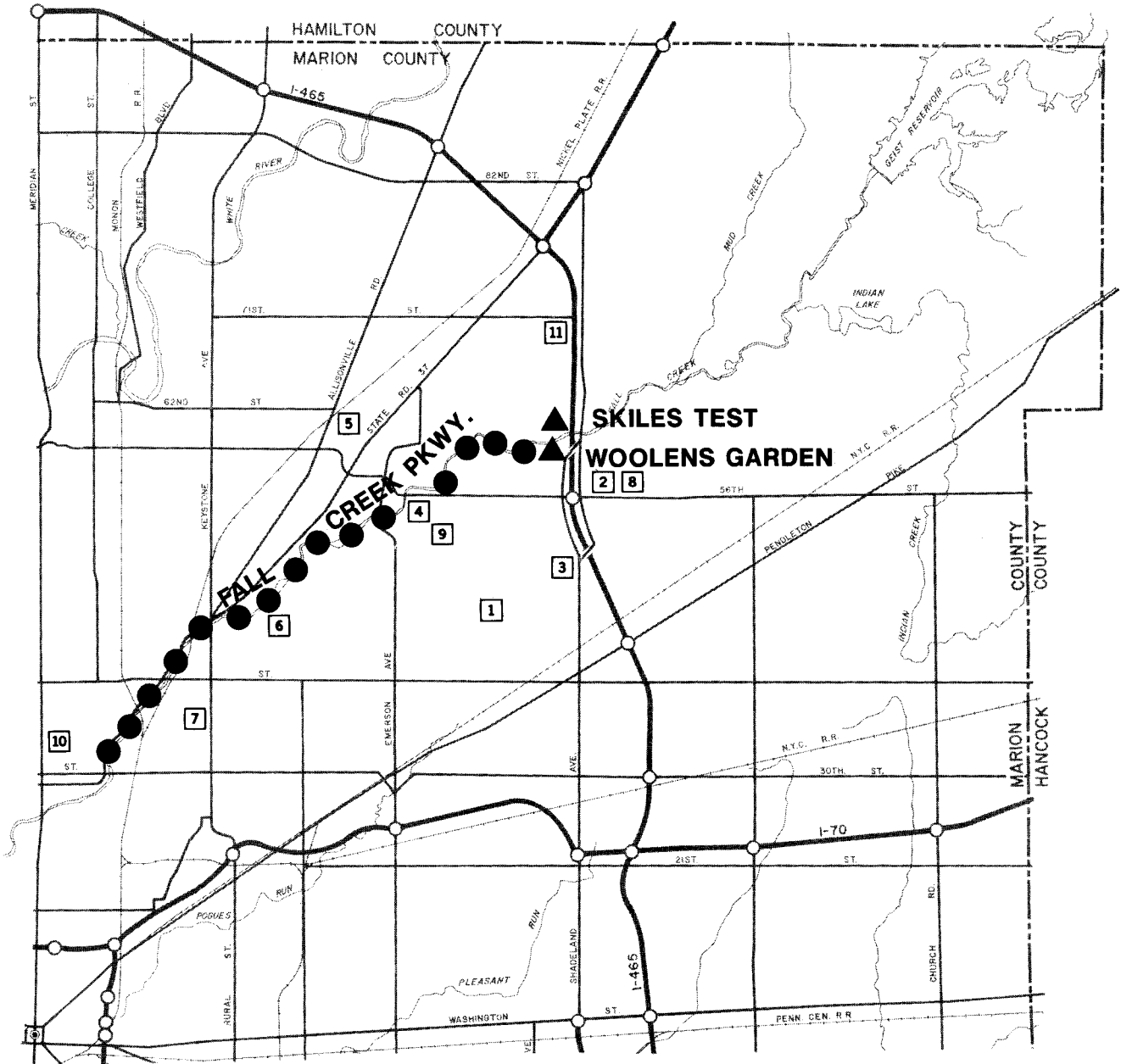
	MAP CODE	TYPE	BASKET- BALL	BALL DIAMONDS	TENNIS COURTS	PLAY- GROUND	PLAY FIELDS	SWIMMING POOL
Arlington	1	H		2	4	X	X	
Belzer	2	J	1	4			X	
Brook Park	3	E	1	2		X		
Cathedral	4	H		1			X	
Eastwood	5	J	2	4	6		X	
Edgar Evans	6	E	1			X	X	
Joyce Kilmer	7	E				X	X	
Lawrence Central	8	H		5	8		X	X
School #106	9	E	1	1				
Shortridge	10	J					X	
Skiles Test	11	E		4		X		

H = High School

J = Junior High School

E = Elementary School

X Denotes that at least one exists



**SCHOOL RECREATION FACILITIES**



## APPENDIX B

### PARK FACILITIES

DISTRICT	MAP		ACREAGE	BASKET-	BALL	TENNIS	PLAY-	PLAY	SWIMMING	PICNIC	TRAILS	NATURE
	CODE	TYPE		BALL	DIAMONDS	COURTS		GROUND				
-----												
DISTRICT 3												
Broad Ripple	1	C	60	0	1	6	X	5	0	0	0	0
Arsenal	2	N	13	1	2	3	X	1	Spray	0	0	0
Tarkington	3	N	10	2	3	8	X	0	0	0	0	0
Andrew Ramsey	4	S-N	2	1	1	0	X	0	0	0	0	0
Broadway	5	S-N	3	1	0	3	X	1	Spray	0	0	0
Canterberry	6	S-N	2	0	0	0	X	0.5	0	0	0	0
-----												
DISTRICT 4												
Sahm	7	R	240	1	0	10	X	5	1	2	0	0
Fall Creek Park	8	C	32	0	0	0	X	0	0	1	1	X
Hague & 71st	9	N	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-----												
DISTRICT 5												
Lawrence Community	10	C	102	1	8	0	X	1	0	1	0	0
Lee Road	11	C	28	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0
Charney	12	N	12	0	1	0	X	0	0	1	0	0
Fifty-Second & Richardt	13	S-N	5	2	0	0	X	X	Spray	0	0	0
-----												
DISTRICT 7												
Douglass	14	C	30	2	3	2	X	1	X	0	1.5	0
Washington/R-70	15	C	153	4	7	9	X	5	0	3	1.5	0
Wes Montgomery	16	C	37	2	3	4	X	5	X	1	1.5	0
Gardner	17	N	14	0	0	2	X	2	0	1	0	0
Roselawn	18	N	10	1	0	2	X	5	0	0	0	0
Beckwith	19	N	4.5	2	0	1	X	1	0	0	0	0
JTV Hill	20	N	8	2	2	0	X	1	0	0	0	0
M. L. King	21	N	12	1	1	2	X	2	X	1	0	0
Barton	22	N	9	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0
Irvington & 41st	23	S-N	2.5	1	1	0	X	1.5	0	0	0	0
Brightwood	24	S-N	0.5	0	0	0	X	0.4	0	0	0	0
Civic	25	S-N	0.2	1	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0
Watson Preserve	26	S-N	0.1	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0
Watson Road & 36th	27	S-N	3.4	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0
Tab	28	S-N	3	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0
Fall Creek & 30th	29	S-N	7	2	0	3	X	0	0	0	0	0
Broadway Community	30	S-N	0.7	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0
Talbot	31	S-N	1	1	0	0	X	0	0	1	0	0
New Jersey & 25th	32	S-N	0.1	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0

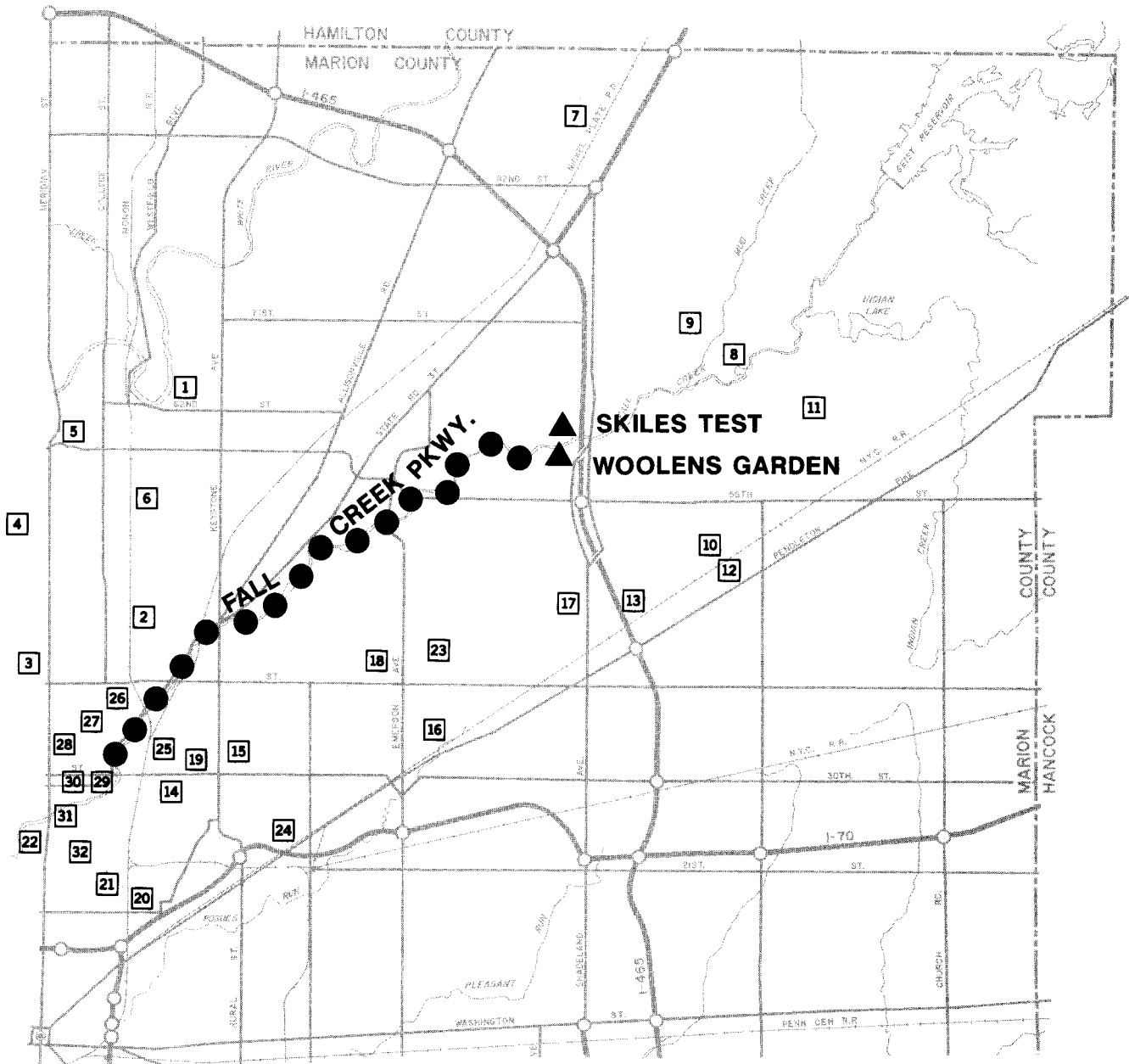
R= Regional

C= Community

N= Neighborhood

S-N= Sub-Neighborhood

X Denotes that at least one exists



**PARK FACILITIES**



Appendix C

Indianapolis, Ind. November 22, 1909.

"To the Mayor and  
Board of Park Commissioners  
of Indianapolis, Indiana.  
Gentlemen:

"I love Indianapolis better than any other place that I have ever seen. I was born here May 28, 1838. I have seen the place grow from a village of a few hundred to a city with a population of more than two hundred and twenty-five thousand. When I was about four years old my parents moved to a farm about eight miles northeast of the center of the city, where I remained, as a farmer's boy until I was nineteen years old. Ours was a pioneer life in a double log cabin in the midst of the forest in which there was an abundance of wild game. My parents were lovers of the wild life about them, from them I learned to love these wild things.

'Backward gazing through the shadows,  
As the evening fades away,  
I perceive the little footprints,  
Where the morning sunlight lay,  
Warm and mellow, on the pathway  
Leading to the open door  
Of the cabin in the clearing,  
Where my soul reclines once more.'

"Our opportunities for an education in these earlier days were very limited. Unlike the palatial educational structures which we now have, we then had log school houses with split logs on pegs for benches to sit upon and boards upon pegs driven into the walls for writing desks.

'Nestling within the outskirts of the wood  
A quaint old-fashioned school house stood.  
The morning sunbeams glimmered on the floor  
So pure and warm and bright, and through the door  
The happy songs of birds and bee  
Commingled with the brook's melody.'

"With such an education as I could get in one of these school houses, at nineteen, I returned to this city and entered the Northwestern Christian University, now Butler College, as a student, and graduated from it in its department of law. During all the years since I have retained my love for the outdoor life and the wild things which are to be found there. I have done much tramping since then in the country about this city and believe I know all of its byways and nooks. It was, when making one of these tramps down Fall Creek on Easter Sunday 1897, that I rediscovered what is now generally known as Buzzard's Roost.

"I entered the place just east of where the cabins now stand. Before me was a veritable wildwood. It was primitive. No stock had pastured in it. The buckeye and tulip trees were unfolding their beautiful foliage. The anemones, pepper and salt, blood root, spring beauties, celandine poppies, hepaticas, trilliums, and many other wild flowering plants garlanded the hills. The dense forest that I had entered was a bird paradise and resonant with bird song. I had known these hills when I was a boy. Then they were covered with great old poplars, oaks, walnuts, elms and other forest trees. Many of these had been cut down and a vigorous younger growth had taken their places. As I tramped over the place, I resolved that it should be mine and saved in its wildness for future generations and that it should be a law of the place that no living thing found upon it should be harmed, except as a last resort to prevent it from doing injury.

"In July 1897, I purchased the place, which is more particularly described as follows:

"The east half of the northeast quarter of section two (2), township sixteen (16) north of range four (4) east, containing forty-four (44) acres, lying south of Fall Creek in Marion County, Indiana.

"It is an ideal place. No other such beautiful and desirable place can be found within the same distance from the center of this city. On the north it is bounded by Fall Creek, and if your plan for a boulevard along that stream to the Army Post is carried out, a portion of it will be taken for that purpose and the whole of it would work into your park and boulevard scheme for this city most admirably.

"I have build upon it a rustic house of seven rooms, the upper part of log construction consisting of two cabins, the duplicates of those of my parents, and the lower part of cement blocks, a gardener's cottage of six rooms, and a cheap barn and crib. The cleared portion of it, consisting of about sixteen acres, has been planted in fruit and flowers. In connection with it, I have the beginning of a Nature Study Library which I have been accumulating for ten years.

"My thought and purpose, when I purchased this place, was to ultimately convey it to the city as a place for Nature Study and place its management and control under a board of trustees, composed of the Superintendent of the Schools of this city, the president of the Board of Directors of Butler College and the president of the Indiana Academy of Science. But at this time a different, and to my way of thinking, a better plan is suggested. The Acts of 1909, Chapter 89, Section 8, provide, among other things, that real and personal property may be conveyed to the City of Indianapolis for the establishment and maintenance of gardens for horticulture and floriculture and of museums, zoological gardens, collections of natural-history, observatories and libraries, and that such city is empowered to take and hold the same, upon such trust or conditions as may be



approved by the Board of Park Commissioners. A conveyance to the city under the provisions of this statute seems to me to be the better way.

"This property and its development, at great personal denial and sacrifice to myself, has been saved from my individual savings and economies and what I could make it earn, and this without it having interfered with my earning capacity for my family. The struggle to save it has been a fierce one and I think it is just to myself and family that it shall not continue any longer. I can sell the place for a large sum, but this I do not want to do. It is encumbered in the sum of twenty-six hundred dollars, due five years after June 28, 1909, with interest at six per cent per annum payable semiannually.

"I therefore submit to you for your consideration the following proposition:

"I will convey this real estate and library to the City of Indianapolis under the provisions of the statute quoted upon the following conditions:

1. "The place is to be known and designated by your Board as 'Woollen's Garden of Birds and Botany'.
2. "The cabins upon it are to be maintained and preserved to the memory of my parents, Milton and Sarah Woollen, and so that future generations may have some idea of how the pioneers lived in this State. The north cabin is to be the Woollen room and in it kept a visitors' register.
3. "It is to be maintained and used as a place for Nature Study, including horticulture and floriculture for the use of the schools of this city regardless of religious denomination, nationality or color, Butler College, the Indiana Academy of Science, the Nature Study Club of Indiana, and such other educational bodies or persons who may desire to pursue the study of the Natural Sciences.
4. "Upon its western hill to the south of the tulip and wild cherry grove, a building is to be erected, the outline of which shall be those of the old State Capitol at Corydon and adapted to a Nature Study library and museum, and rooms for instructors in the Natural Sciences. This condition is suggestive and not obligatory.
5. "The wildwood of it is to be maintained as near as can be in its present wild state.
6. "The wild life upon it, except when doing harm, is not to be interfered with or destroyed; it is to be a home and refuge for the wild creatures which are found there or which may come to it.

7. "It is to be taken by the city subject to the incumbrance which is upon it.

"A prompt acceptance or rejection of this offer is desired.

"Respectfully submitted,  
William Watson Woollen."

On motion, the Board accepted the offer made in this communication, and the Secretary was directed to convey to Mr. Woollen the Board's appreciation of his gift, and the attorney of the Board was directed to confer with Mr. Woollen in regard to taking the proper legal steps for the transfer of the property named in Mr. Woollen's offer to the Department of Public Parks. The vote on this motion was as follows:

Ayes: Commissioners Appel, Coffin and  
Mayer and President Jameson

Noes: None.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned.

## Appendix D

Following is a portion of Skiles Test's will which bequeaths the property to the City.

Section 6.7 Disposition of Park Property Upon Termination as Private Facility. Upon the occurrence of any termination event designated in Section 6.6 hereof, my Trustee of the Remaining Share Trust shall convey and transfer, or cause to be conveyed and transferred, the title to the Park Property in accordance with the following:

- (1) To the City of Indianapolis, Indiana, for use by its Park Department or other division, department or unit of the city charged with the maintenance and operation of parks, to be maintained and operated as a public park; but, if said City of Indianapolis is unwilling to accept the conveyance and transfer of the Park Property upon the conditions hereinafter stated, then
- (2) To the proper legal entity located in Marion County, Indiana, authorized to take and hold title to the Park Property for general charitable or eleemosynary purposes for and on behalf of, and for the benefit of, the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of America, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Young Women's Christian Association or the Indianapolis Camp Fire Girls; but, if no such transferee can be found which is willing to accept the conveyance and transfer of the Park Property upon the conditions hereinafter stated, then
- (3) To any corporation, foundation or charitable trust organized and existing solely for charitable purposes, with a preference being given to such an organization which is engaged primarily in service to the youths of Marion County, Indiana, and its environs, to be used in the discharge of the general charitable purposes of such organization.

The determination of the transferee of the Park Property at such time shall be made by my Advisers and shall be made only on the condition that such transferee will agree that if the Park Property is so conveyed to it, it will for a minimum period of twenty-five years after such conveyance is made to it, (1) preserve and operate the Park Property as a park or related facility, and (2) establish and maintain a name for the park which will include or contain my name or my surname.

## Appendix E

To assist the Department of Metropolitan Development and the Department of Parks and Recreation in developing this plan, a task force was formed. Members of the task force included members of the affected neighborhood organizations and representatives of other interested agencies and groups. The members of the task force are listed below. The task force was divided into four subcommittees. Each subcommittee looked at a different aspect of the plan and reported back to the entire task force. The subcommittees were Beautification, Recreation, Safety and Security, and Skiles Test/Woollens Garden. The members of each subcommittee and their report follow the list of task force members.

Dannie Smith  
Dept. of Transportation

Allen McFearin  
Dept. of Public Works

Pat Stevens  
Dept. of Public Works

Greg Oskay  
Marion Co. Soil & Water  
Conservation Service

Larry Rignle  
Avalon Hills Civic Assoc.

Keith Locke  
Brendenridge Res. Assoc., Inc.

Gladysmae Good  
Brendenshire Civic Assoc.

Benton W. O. Bryan  
Brendon Forest Assoc.

Ellen M. Bennett  
Brendonwood Common

Karen Grimes Cooper  
Devington Communities Assoc.

Rev. Sam Winger  
Meadows-Fall Creek Civic Assoc.

Al Polin  
Mapleton-Fall Creek Civic Assoc.

Edie Leet  
Devonshire II & IV Res. Assoc.

Ken Brooks  
Indiana State Fair Board

Robert Trivers  
Indianapolis Water Company

Daniel Alan Day  
Resident

Bernie Render  
Devington Community

Mrs. George L. Finch  
Resident

Michael D. McGinley  
Cathedral High School

John E. Merrill  
Third Christian Church

Mrs. Robert Alden, Parent Pres.  
John Strange Elementary

Ernest Cople, Principal  
John Strange Elementary

Mrs. John Keedy, Parent Pres.  
Eastwood Middle School

Gary Washburn, Principal  
Eastwood Middle School

Richard Vonnegut  
Mayor's Bicycle Task Force

Ken Finch  
Audubon Society

William F. Bane  
Resident

Tom Baker  
Hoosier Canoe Club

Matt Winters  
Indianapolis Public Schools

Buddy Clark, Principal  
School #11

Alice Appel, Principal  
School #70

Ruth Harris, Principal  
School #106

Ann Kiley  
Fish & Wildlife, DNR

Doug Kingsley  
Fish & Wildlife, DNR

Katie Harper  
Resident

Virginia Roberts  
Resident

Nancy Ruthenbeck  
Resident

Fall Creek Corridor  
Planning Task Force

Subcommittee Reports

I. Beautification

One half of the subject committee met on Saturday, January 10th and toured the corridor, despite the weather. The primary objective was to identify specific locations for 5 respective vegetative applications.

Turf  
Edge  
Wood  
Wildflower  
Grains and legumes

In the process the committee assessed the existing vegetative types and discussed whether these were suitable, needed to be enhanced, expanded, or changed. These recommendations were made with respect to the width of the corridor, existing use patterns, proximity to neighborhoods, etc. The committee also noted several good to excellent vistas and a couple of not so appealing views. Lastly, committee members were very enthusiastic and offered much about the project and the following recommendations.

1. The committee generally reaffirmed the 10 recommendations made at the December 3rd meeting.
2. The vegetation should essentially reflect a tiered effect, beginning at the edge of the road and ascending

to the creekbank. Typically, depending on the width of the corridor, anywhere from 40-60% could be a natural combination of wildflowers or grains and legumes in the second tier and then edge and wood in the more or less natural succession or third tier at the water's edge. While this tier approach will predominately reflect a linear course, it will also be sectionalized where appropriate (i.e., wide wooded areas currently existing 90% of the width of where bridge approaches and drainage swales transverse the corridor). At these points the third tier or wood/edge may come all the way to the headwall or, specifically, legumes should cover the bridge approach banks. There may be areas where the entire width should be turf; however, these should be minimized in light of the limited maintenance resources.

3. Parking lots (along the existing roadway) should be frequent but scaled down to fit the linear features of the corridor. Several specific locations were noted.
4. Vistas and/or Overlooks  
Vistas were of 3 types: 1) Passing views from vehicles, 2) Park and peer, if you will, and 3) Park and walk down to the creek itself. Specific areas were noted for thinning to enhance the views.
5. Not so nice views
  - a. The area between Keystone and 38th Streets tops the list with the vacant gas station, the chain link livestock storage maze, and the railroad bridge. Across the creek in this same section there is what appears to be a lot of dumping and grading. In the interest of achieving a linear path the entire length of the corridor, it was suggested the City consider buying this land so the viability of this potential green belt can be maintained. This section, which needs the natural beauty more than any other, has the least to work with, due to present use and development.
  - b. The view of a private golf course dumping area on the south side of the creek. It was suggested we meet with the course manager to achieve their cooperation and perhaps limit dumping and add screening with natural vegetation.
  - c. An apartment maintenance complex which has been screened is still very obvious and could use some more screening.
  - d. An apparently abandoned stairway from a residence to the creek. It is located on the southern bank toward the northern end of the project. It was

suggested this homeowner may be asked to remove it in that it appears very unsafe.

- e. The concrete tiles at I-465, although temporary, are still undesirable. It was agreed that a parking lot could exist there and the remainder of the road be taken out.
- f. The numerous "No Parking" signs could be at least substantially reduced when suitable parking and vehicle control is established.

6. Maintenance

It was suggested that trash pickup be provided as needed. With the addition of numerous parking inlets. Perhaps they should be so designed to accommodate a large motorized sweeper. The mowing frequency was discussed and the maintenance classification system explained. The committee felt the mowing frequency needs to be increased, but agreed the actual areas mowed could be reduced by selective types of vegetation as earlier described.

Mowing frequency ranges for 5 days in a class A park (the City has just 10 of these), 10-12 in B parks and once a month in C parks. While everyone would prefer weekly cutting, it was agreed that 2 weeks would be acceptable.

7. Other general recommendations to consider were:

- a. The drainage swales be piped and covered to the creek. Otherwise, allow succession to screen these.
- b. Additional trees should be planted on the embankment along the road. Trees can be introduced by natural succession or by planting 1 to 1 1/2 inch caliper trees.
- c. Mounding along the parkway would limit visibility. Concrete curb seemed to be preferred over bollards, although both may be needed in certain areas to control vehicle access. (Remember, mowing equipment will need access.)
- d. Siltation in the stream is a benefit to wildlife and even aesthetics in some cases; however, it is contributing to flooding which at times reaches across the road. Some dredging needs to occur to maintain the existing channel.
- e. Playground equipment, like shelters, should be very limited, if used at all. Perhaps only in high use picnic areas.

- f. It was agreed the Monon Bridge should be retained, if possible for a pedestrian bridge.

Thanks to all of you for your input.

Members:

Mr. Mark Shambaugh, DPR liaison  
Mr. Ken Brooks  
Ms. Sally Alden  
Ms. Virginia Roberts  
Ms. Katie Harper  
Ms. Karen Cooper  
Mr. Greg Oskay  
Ms. Virginia Finch  
Mr. Alan Day

## II. Recreation

Listed below are the minutes of the January 7, 1987 subcommittee meeting for the Fall Creek Corridor Project. As a result of the meeting the following input was offered.

The topics which prompted the most discussion are the following:

1. Improve the water quality and fishing habitat.
2. Keep area as natural as possible.
3. Addition of bike trails and/or jogging or walking trails.
4. A designated area adequate for handicapped accessibility.

Listed below are areas of concern and suggested improvements:

1. 30th Street to 38th Street
  - a. Provide a way to cross Fall Creek Parkway by the State Fairgrounds
  - b. Research the abandonment of Monon Railroad for possible use.
  - c. Develop a crossing at 34th Street and 38th Street and Keystone Avenue.
2. Keystone to 56th Street
  - a. Addition of biking/walking/jogging trails
  - b. Improve fishing habitat
  - c. Improve water quality
3. 56th Street to I-465
  - a. Improve existing parking lot areas.
  - b. Area from 56th Street to I-465 is an excellent area



- for biking due to low traffic flow.
- c. Parking lot at the end of this section to provide access for canoeing and Woollens Garden.

4. Keep areas as natural as possible.

The meeting proved to be very beneficial in narrowing down the priorities for improvements. The group was informed of a combined meeting sometime in February.

Members:

Ms. Kelly Snow, DPR liaison  
Mr. Keith Holdsworth, DMD liaison  
Mr. Tom Baker  
Ms. Ann Kiley  
Mr. Doug Kingsley  
Mr. Dave Lynch  
Mr. Steve Nielsen  
Mr. Greg Oskay  
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Scherschel  
Ms. Kathy Shannon  
Mr. Robert Trivers

### III. Safety/Security

On January 7, 1987 the Safety/Security subcommittee convened to continue discussion regarding the Fall Creek Corridor. A review was made by Joseph H. Finnell, Deputy Director, DPR, of the previous subcommittee's meeting agenda items.

As a result of the discussion, after the review of the previous meeting, the following input was offered.

1. Design will be a major factor in addressing Safety/Security concerns along the corridor.
  - a. It was suggested that openness be incorporated as a design feature.
  - b. Lighting be considered along the corridor and that DOT and IPL be consulted for their input. An adopt a light pole by residents was a concept introduced for consideration.
  - c. In regard to parking, it was suggested that in cases where parking lots are now considered an attractive nuisance, the planning design staff should look into relocation. Near the street parking also was suggested to allow law enforcement and neighbors a better opportunity to observe illicit activities.
  - d. There was another recommendation to remove the back trails close to the Fall Creek water body in order

to disallow vehicular traffic from driving to the more isolated parts of the properties. Mounding was suggested as another aesthetic means of prohibiting vehicular traffic from going beyond designated parking areas.

- e. Referring to maintenance, it was again suggested that signage with the proper language to inform people of City ordinances, which are flagrantly violated, be posted. This suggestion was also made as a gesture to help minimize pollution problems as well as aid law enforcement officers patrolling the area. Trash and dumping was a major concern of the residents.
- f. Crime watch representatives were present and urged the community to organize and support crime watch groups. It was also suggested that an effort be made to involve the apartment management people in the total development effort of the Fall Creek corridor.
- g. The group also expressed an interest in the Cooperative Community Project. Contacts were to be made with our Parks management Division and Mr. George Tiller was present to coordinate the analysis of this potential.

Members:

Dr. Joseph H. Finnell, DPR liaison  
Mr. William Bane  
Sgt. Dunbar  
Sgt. Charles Glesing  
Mr. Joe Halas  
Mr. Al Polin  
Rev. Sam Winger  
Mr. Matthew Winters

IV. Skiles Test/Woollens Garden

Skiles Test - Recommendation: Maintain the area as a natural and open space environment with limited development and passive activities.

The subcommittee felt that development of the area should be minimal and include such items as a bird sanctuary, paths and an outdoor education facility. The area should be secured and controlled by possible fencing, gates and on-site DPR staff. Discussion of the bird sanctuary included the possibility of involvement by the local chapter of the Audubon Society as development plans are made and implemented. The Nature Center would provide the support for an educational experience that would be

utilized by local school groups along with programs developed and administered for the public by DPR staff. Access to the site should be from 65th Street, on a limited basis with the possibility of pedestrian access from Fall Creek Parkway on the south. Parking should be controlled and located within the site and along Fall Creek Parkway on a limited basis.

In summary, the subcommittee felt the area should remain as natural as possible while providing an educational environment that could be controlled.

Woollens Garden - Recommendations: Designate the property as a State Nature Preserve.

It was the consensus of the subcommittee that the Woollens Garden property is a valuable asset which should remain natural. This natural environment could be protected through the state nature preserve program. It was recommended that the Department of Parks and Recreation pursue discussions with the Indiana State Department of Natural Resources in terms of requirements for a nature preserve which could result in Woollens Garden being developed and designated as a State Nature Preserve.

It was further recommended that the site be fenced and access limited to foot traffic via a pedestrian bridge located to the north and across Fall Creek. The existing vehicular access would remain, however, it would be closed to the public and used only as a service road by the Department.

Members:

F. Arthur Strong, DPR liaison  
Kathleen Bodell, DPR liaison  
Gary & Jay Alderman  
John & Nancy Beatt  
Evelyn Bolling  
Ken Finch  
Gladys Good  
Jery Jenn  
Edie Leet  
Keith Locke  
Michael McGinley  
John E. Merrill  
Pam O'Rourke  
Greg Oskay  
Larry Riggle  
Gary Washburn



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William H. Hudnut, III

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