

Chapel Hill Park Master Plan



www.indyparks.org

City of Indianapolis; Joseph Hogsett, Mayor
Linda Broadfoot, Director

2017 Chapel Hill Park Master Plan

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Jared Evans	22	William C. Oliver	9
Colleen Fanning	2	Vop Osili	11
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Metropolitan Development Commission:

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Project Coordination:

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Donna Prather, Regional Park Manager

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BACKGROUND AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

Chapel Hill Park is a 4.97 acre neighborhood park located at 900 N Girls School Road in Wayne Township, Marion County, Indiana. The property is owned by the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church and is leased by Indy Parks. Chapel Hill Park primarily serves the residential neighborhoods located to the east, south and west of the park. The Chapel Hill area was developed during the 1960's and 1970's and is typical of suburban development of that era. The closest intersection is 10th St. and Girls School Road and is a commercial hub of the neighborhood. The Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township and Ben Davis High School have an extensive collection of athletic facilities just north of Chapel Hill Park, north of the intersection of 10th Street and Girls School Road. The park is bordered on the west by Girls School Road, which is a heavily travelled thoroughfare and serves as a physical barrier to the neighborhoods to the west of the park. The park is bordered on the east by Farley Creek, a typically low flowing drainage way, which also serves as a physical barrier to pedestrian access. The flood plain of Farley Creek includes much of the east half of the park. Pedestrian access to the park is most easily obtained from the south via a walking path that connects to Castle Manor Drive.



Existing Shelter



Existing Playground structure

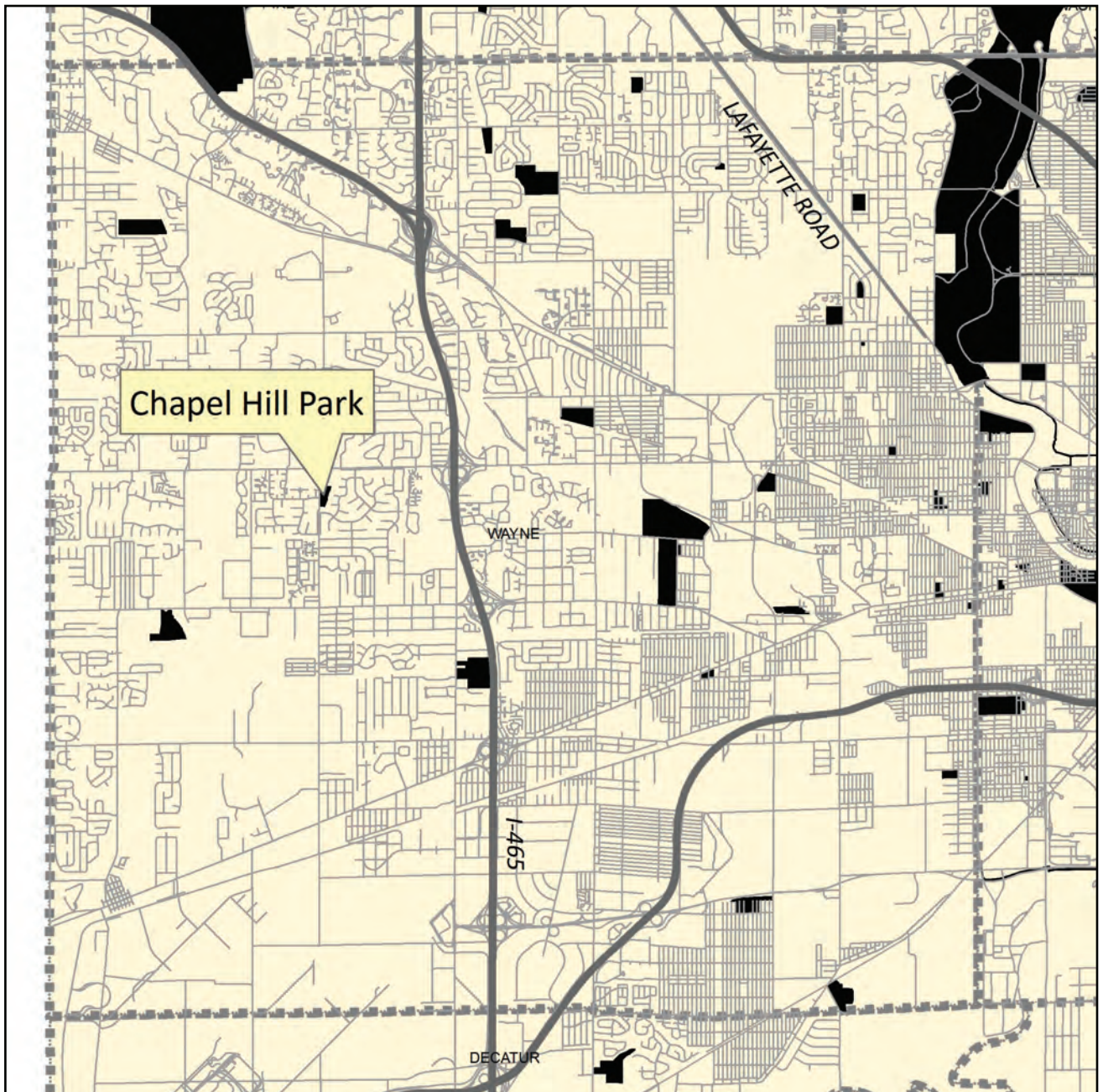


Existing Basketball Court

The park was originally developed during the late 1960's and early 1970's. Chapel Hill Park currently contains a small parking area, picnic shelter, open play field, 2 tennis courts, 2 basketball courts, a playground and a walking trail. It was last improved in the 1990's with new playground equipment, court surfacing and walking trail. The playground equipment is showing age and is located at the back of the park. The use of the playground is hampered by its location which contributes to troublesome activity occurring there. The play surface is often wet due to its location within the flood plain. The basketball court surface is worn, but is heavily used by area youth. The tennis court surface is also worn and does not see much activity. The open play field is used for recreational baseball and soccer games and the picnic shelter is in good condition and is enjoyed by the community.

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A neighborhood park is the basic unit of the Indy Parks system. Neighborhood parks are designed to be used by the residents within a ¼ - ½ mile radius of a park and typically will contain amenities that residents will walk to, such as playgrounds, sports courts, ball fields and picnic shelters. Chapel Hill Park is very representative of a neighborhood park. The Indy Parks 2017 Comprehensive Master Plan included a statistically valid needs assessment survey of residents in Marion County. The top five priorities for facilities for Marion County were 1) walking trails, 2) small neighborhood parks, 3) Indoor fitness, 4) picnic areas/shelters and 5) natural areas. When comparing results for those living in Wayne Township the results are similar, but slightly different. Wayne Township top five priorities for facilities were 1) walking trails, 2) picnic areas/shelters, 3) small neighborhood parks, 4) large regional parks and 5) indoor fitness.



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PARK MAP



Aerial photography depicting the context of the park to surrounding residential areas as well Girl School Road and Chapel Hill United Methodist Church.

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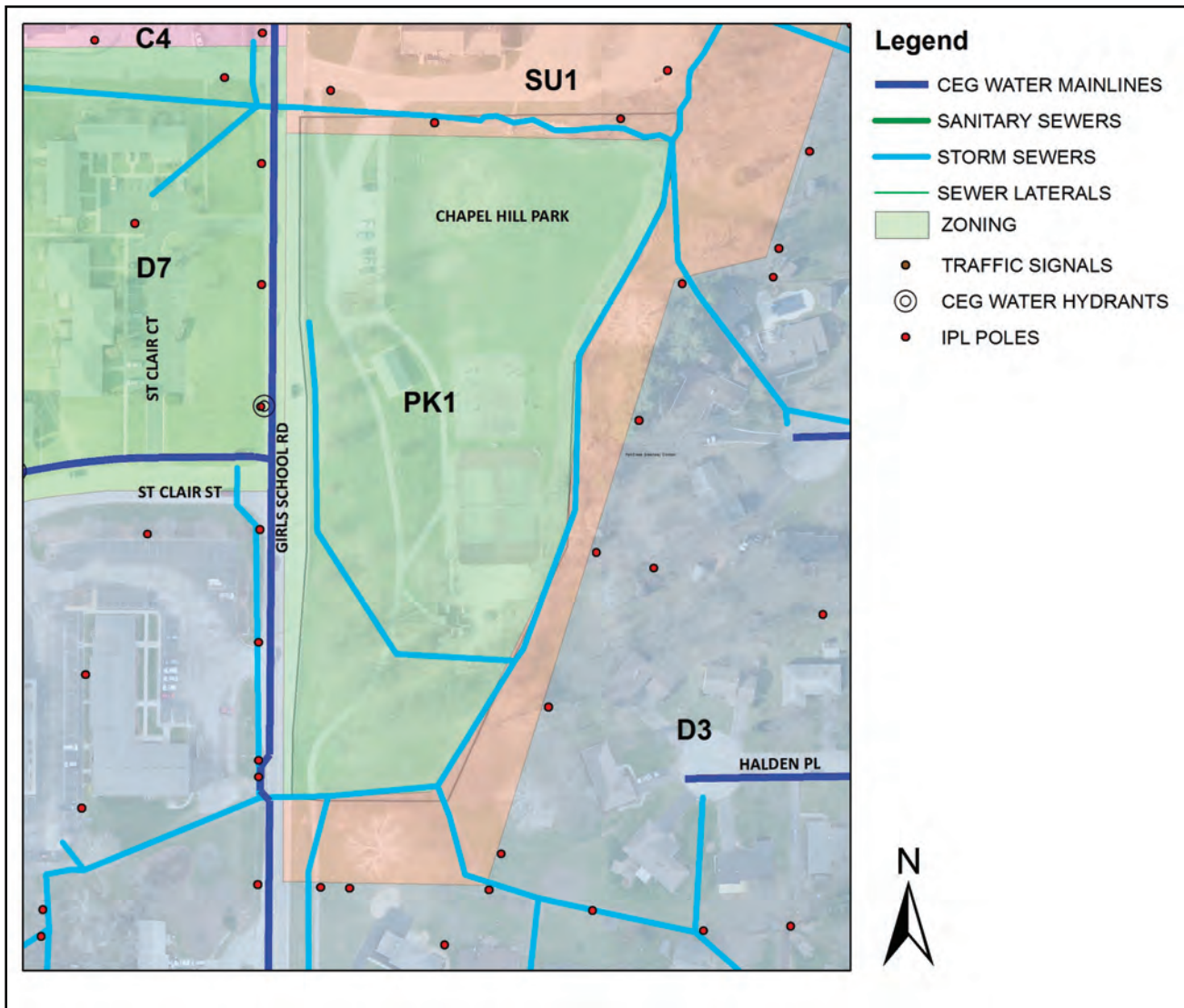
ACCESS MAP



Vehicular access to the park is off Girl School Road via the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church drive. Pedestrian access is via the sidewalk on Girl Shcool Road.

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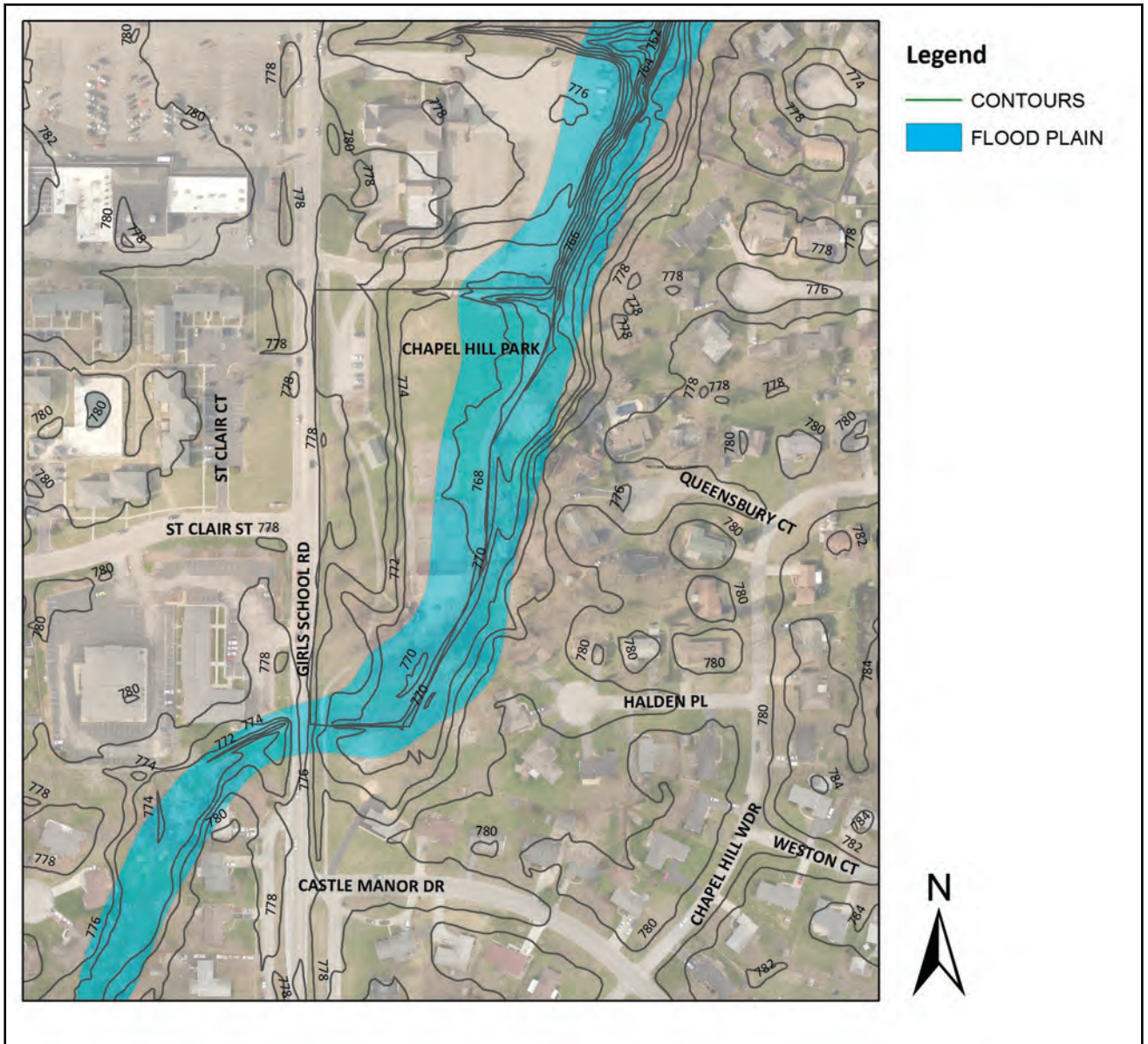
UTILITIES MAP



This map shows existing CEG water and sewer lines. Also, the park land is currently zoned PK-1, which is standard park zoning.

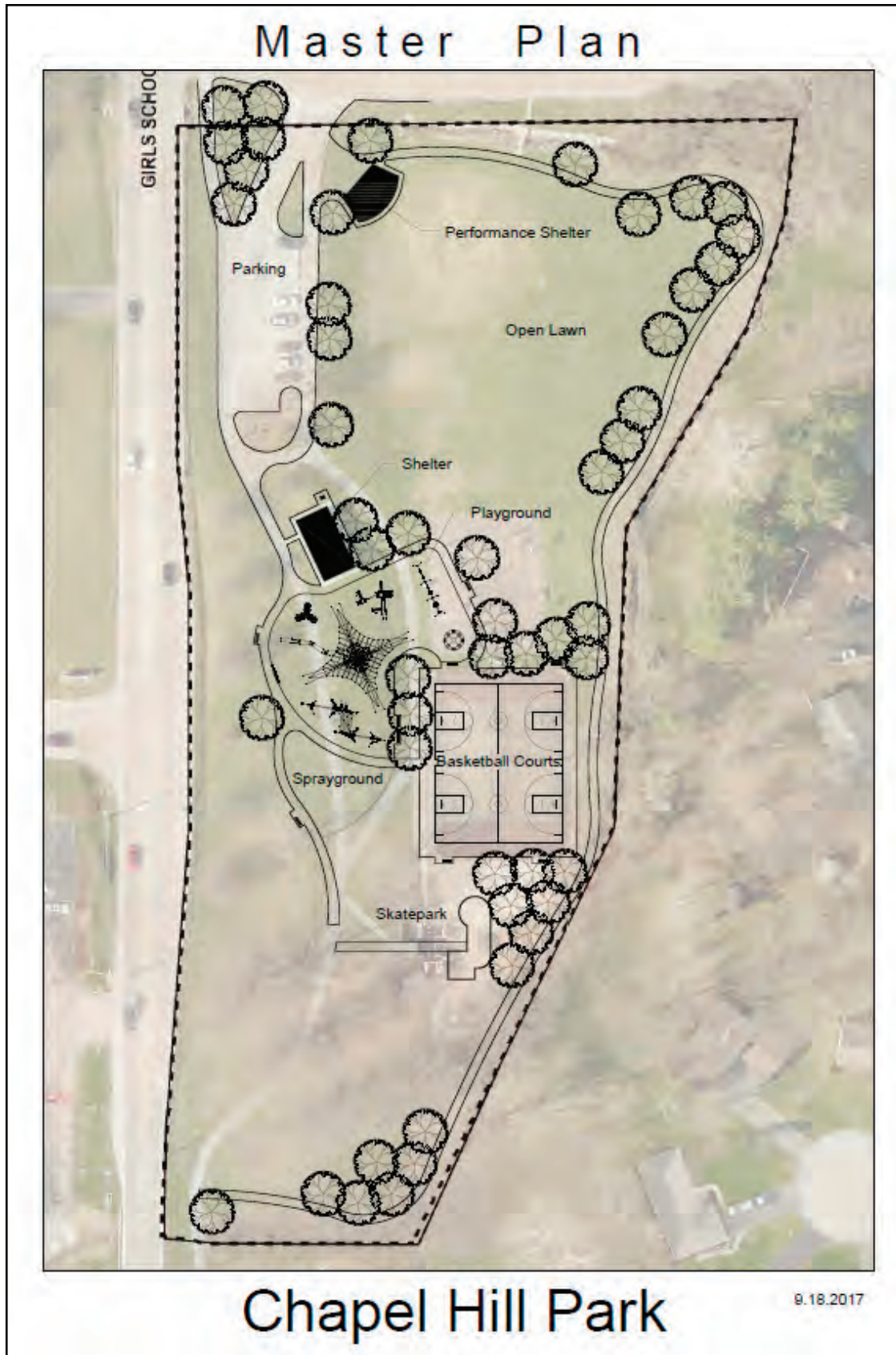
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FLOOD PLAIN MAP



This map shows existing site topography and the area within the flood plain.

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MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

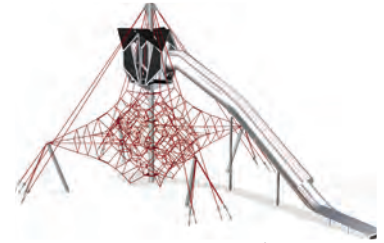
1. The focal point of the new master plan for Chapel Hill Park will be a new playground located on the upper level of the park near the shelter and parking lot. The new playground will be visible from Girls School Road and will be composed of a central tower/slide structure for the 5-12 year- old age group. This will be surrounded by swings and whirls as well as a climbing/sliding structure for the 2-5 year- old age group. New walkways and benches will be placed around the new playground.



Performance Shelter



Sprayground



Climbing Tower/ Slide



2-5 yr Playstructure



Play Cubes



5-12 yr Playstructure

2. A new spraypad with traditional spray features is proposed adjacent to the new playground. The spraypad will include a comfort station which is proposed to be a standard pre-cast concrete structure with service for both men and women.

3. A Performance Shelter is proposed near the northwest corner of the park to allow for programming outdoor concerts, movies or other cultural activities and can also serve as a reservable picnic shelter.

4. The existing basketball court surface will be removed to allow for the relocation of the playground. The existing tennis court surface will be refurbished into 2 new basketball courts and will include bench seating.

5. A small beginner skatepark is proposed to be located where the playground currently sits and would include manufactured skatepark features for children just learning to skate.

6. A new walking trail is proposed to begin near the parking lot and performance shelter and continue across the north end of the park and then along the east side of the park, following the edge of Farley Creek. The trail would then connect to the existing walking trail on the south side of the park.

7. It is recommended that a traffic study be conducted to determine where a crosswalk on Girls School Road might be located.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The first public meeting for this master plan was held on August 30, 2017 at the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church. The meeting was well attended with over 32 residents, not including Indy Parks staff. Julee Jacob introduced the attendees to the master planning process and its purposes as well as the general existing conditions of the amenities within the park. Attendees and Indy Parks staff discussed potential new amenities for the park as well as the park's usage and neighborhood concerns. Comment cards were distributed and 12 were returned with additional information.

Problems and issues discussed included:

- Need for safe street crossing from the west side of Girls School Road
- Security concerns and conflicts involving teens and children in playground
- Potential drug use in shelter area
- Basketball courts heavily used by area youth
- Farley Creek needs clean-up
- Lower areas remain wet after rain events
- Playground is isolated and not highly visible
- Request for sidewalks up along Girls School Road up to 10th Street and driveway improvements
- Graffiti on playground equipment
- Trees along west side of park need to be trimmed up to allow more visibility into the park
- Picnic tables are dragged from shelter to the basketball courts and creek
- Many tennis courts available at high school for public use

New or improved park amenities requested by attendees:

- Relocate playground to a more visible location and upgrade equipment. Include climbing features, little house features and provide equipment for all age groups. Use "rubber" play surfacing.
- Provide a performance shelter with electricity for community events and programming
- Construct new water sprayground
- Improve basketball court surface and provide seating and lighting
- Add section to walking trail along east border of park to create a loop trail
- Provide a comfort station
- Need an additional picnic shelter
- Add playground fencing
- Add climbing wall
- Improve tennis courts and provide a pickleball court
- Provide a Dog Park
- Provide an outdoor ping pong table
- Consider a better use of grassy field

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The second public meeting was held on September 20, 2017 also at the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church. The attendance at this meeting was lower at 22 attendees, not including park staff. At this meeting Indy Parks planning staff presented the proposed master plan. The overall consensus was positive, that most of the requested improvements and amenities were included and that no major changes to the proposed plan were requested.



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ACTION PLAN

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

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

IMPROVEMENT	EST. COST	1-3 YR	3-5 YR	5-10 YR
Playground	\$500,000	X		
Performance Shelter	\$40,000	X		
Site Work	\$50,000	X		
Basketball Courts	\$170,000	X		
Walking Trail	\$100,000		X	
Skate Park	\$125,000			X
Spraypad & Comfort Station	\$500,000			X
TOTAL ESTIMATE	\$1,485,000			

CONCLUSION

Once the Master Planning process is completed the community can begin to look forward to seeing specific park improvements being implemented. Indy Parks is committed to bringing these plans into reality, and fortunately there is local and national funding available for our parks and open spaces. The opportunities listed in the Appendix are just a few examples of resources available for park development.

The process undertaken to develop this master plan involved a variety of people with diverse interests and concerns. Indy Parks appreciates the time and energy many members of the community shared with us during the planning process and their input will insure that the recreational needs of this neighborhood are satisfied.

This master plan should be updated periodically so that Indy Parks can continue to be responsive to the community surrounding Chapel Hill Park.

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APPENDIX

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MDC Board Resolution	Appendix V

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MASTER PLAN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Park Advisory Councils - “Friends Of” groups

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

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

Granting Opportunities

Recent grants have funded the Summer Lunch Program and improvements to Talbott & 29th Street Park. DPR is happy to assist community members who wish to apply for a grant to benefit a park. There are a great number of grants available to make parks better places to recreate. If you have a project you wish to seek a grant for, or know of a grant that could benefit a particular park, call 327-7050 and ask for information about grants.

Indianapolis Parks Foundation

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

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful

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

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Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

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

UPARR Program

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

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MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item #6, 2018

TO: Board of Parks and Recreation, Consolidated City of Indianapolis

FROM: Don Colvin, Deputy Director of Resource Development

DATE: Feb 12, 2018

RE: Adoption of the Chapel Hill Park Master Plan

PROJECT: Don Colvin, Deputy Director
Julee Jacob, Senior Project Manager

RECOMMENDATION:

The Resource Development Division is recommending that the Board of Parks and Recreation approve the adoption of the Chapel Hill Park Master Plan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Chapel Hill Park Master Plan was developed through a public engagement process and proposes a 20 year vision for the 4.97 acre park, which is leased from the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, and is located at 900 N Girls School Road.

Board of Parks and Recreation, February 22, 2018



Charles Elliott, Board Secretary

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METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BOARD RESOLUTION

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