



# Franklin/Edgewood Park Master Plan



DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT/DIVISION OF PLANNING

For: Department of Parks and Recreation

FRANKLIN/EDGEWOOD PARK MASTER PLAN  
1991

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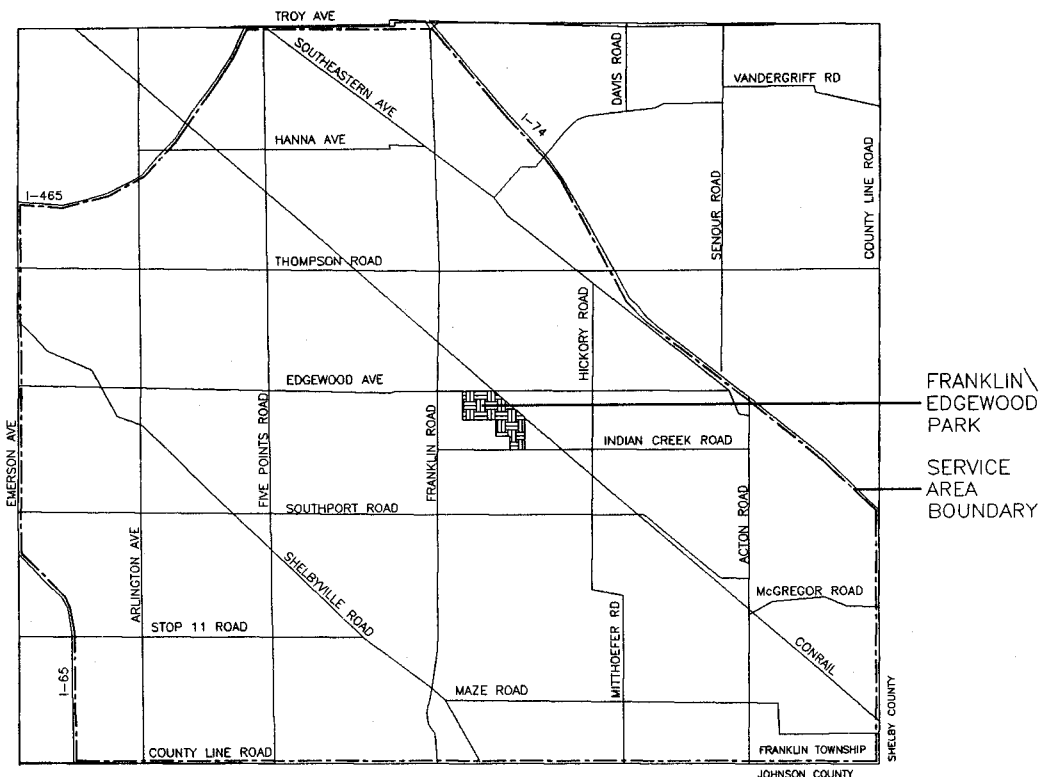
## INTRODUCTION

Franklin/Edgewood Park, 8800 East Edgewood Avenue, has been an undeveloped park site since its purchase by the City in 1970. The 96-acre property was master planned in 1977 by the firm of Landplus West, Inc. However, the plan was not implemented and the site remains a combination of woods and cropland.

The purpose of this master plan is to guide the development of the park. The plan is divided into two major parts. The first part analyzes the site and its neighborhood including the current conditions, problems and opportunities. The second part provides recommendations for future development.

Franklin/Edgewood Park is designated as a community park. The parks of Marion County are divided into four categories - regional, community, neighborhood and sub-neighborhood. Each category serves different populations and performs different functions. Community parks typically range in size from 25 to 100 acres and serve several neighborhoods. They ideally support intensive recreation use and organized programs while also providing open space. Community parks typically contain picnic facilities and shelters, playgrounds, play courts, playfields, trails, water recreation and often a recreation center.

Franklin/Edgewood Park is expected to draw most of its users from a service area bounded by I-65 and Emerson Avenue to the west, I-465 and Troy Avenue to the north, I-74 and the Shelby County line to the east, and Johnson County line to the south.



## COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

Land use in the general vicinity of Franklin/Edgewood Park is primarily agricultural, but this situation is changing. In 1988, 80% of the land in Franklin Township was undeveloped, yet the township's growth rate was one of the highest in the county. Population in 1990 was 21,458 persons, a 30% increase since 1980. When compared to the county as a whole, Franklin Township's population has higher education levels, income and household size. The large household size indicates a small proportion of single people living alone and a large proportion of people living as families. The township's housing stock is mostly single-family homes with few apartments. This indicates a need for recreation facilities that people cannot provide for themselves in their own backyards, such as playing fields, natural areas and spaces for large gatherings.

The immediate vicinity of Franklin/Edgewood Park has seen a mix of development. Directly to the west of the site are Franklin Township Middle School and Franklin Central High School. The middle school was built in the early 1960's as the high school. When the current high school was built in the mid 1970's, the old high school became the middle school. Both schools have recently been enlarged. The two schools have a combined enrollment of approximately 2,500.

Two subdivisions were developed near the park. Franklin Shire at the northeast corner of Franklin Road and Edgewood Avenue was built in the 1960's. Typically the homes in this subdivision are 2000-2500 square feet and sit on one-third acre lots. On the southwest corner of Franklin Road and Edgewood Avenue is the Franklin Park subdivision. Developed in the 1970's, its homes and lots are similar in character to, although slightly larger than, Franklin Shire.

Homes on small tracts have developed along Franklin Road and Indian Creek Road South. Some of this type of development is now occurring along Edgewood Avenue as well.

Conrail tracks border the park to the east. On the east side of the tracks is an Indianapolis Power and Light Company/Public Service Indiana substation; beyond that is farmland. Power lines on tall steel pylons parallel the eastern edge of the site. The substation and power lines are very visible from the park.

## SITE ANALYSIS

### Access

Access to the site can be gained from the north, south and west, although access from each direction has its own drawbacks. Northern access is from Edgewood Avenue. Edgewood Avenue carries 616 vehicles per day (1987 count). However, much of the park is cut off from Edgewood Avenue by Wildcat Brook. Southern access is from Indian Creek Road South, which carries 150-200 vehicles per day (1991 estimate). The slow drainage of the southern portion of the park hampers access from Indian Creek Road. Western access is from Franklin Road through Franklin Township School property. Franklin Road is one of the township's major arterials, carrying 3220 vehicles a day (1988 count). Access from Franklin Road would require cooperation with the school system.

### Topography, Drainage and Soils

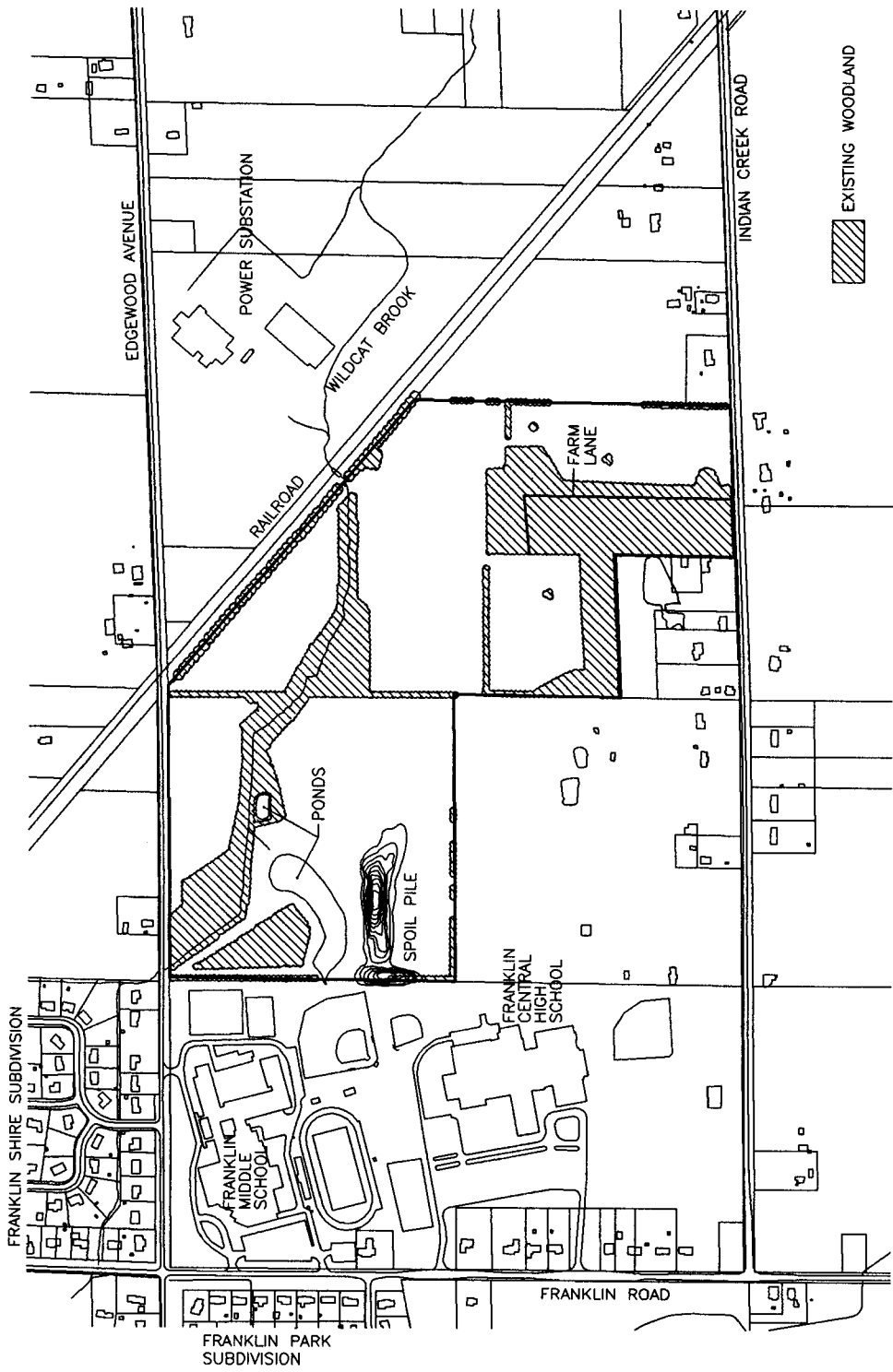
Drainage over the northern two-thirds of the site is into Wildcat Brook. The brook is generally about five feet wide and drops only eight feet in its 2600 feet length across the site. Its watershed is less than one square mile so its potential flood area does not appear on regulated flood plain maps. However, an estimated flood plain was calculated for this plan, so that flood-prone areas could be avoided.

Drainage over the southern one-third of the site is relatively undeveloped and slow. The Soil Conservation Service has identified a portion of the site as a wetland potentially under the regulation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps has permit powers over filling and dumping in wetlands over one acre in size. Water drains into the wetland from the south and west. Drainage from the wetland is to the east.

Two ponds have been excavated on the site. The larger, crescent-shaped pond near the west property line is a retention pond for the schools. The depth of the two and a half acre pond fluctuates and the area has been identified as a potentially regulated wetland. The smaller pond is next to the stream. Its original purpose is not readily apparent.

The soil excavated for each pond was spoil piled on site. The spoil for the smaller, older pond is in a low mound directly south of the pond. It has become covered with woodland vegetation. The spoil for the larger pond was piled slightly to the south of the pond. The soil in the mound is subsoil. It is not fertile and has little plant growth on it. The 20-foot high mound is visually dominant.

Except for the large spoil pile, the site's topography has a very gentle roll. The steepest natural slope on the site is 7% in the northeast corner. Typical slopes range from 1.5% to 2.5% on the northern two thirds and .3% to 2% on southern one-third.



Except for the cut and filled area surrounding the large retention pond, the site has three soil types: Brookston, Crosby and Miami. Brookston soil is generally found in depressions, on flats, and in narrow drainageways. It is classified as having severe limitations for recreation development due to wetness. Generally, Crosby soil is found on broad, slightly undulating plains. It is classified as having moderate limitations due to wetness. Miami soil is also typical of gently undulating plains; however, it has only slight limitations for recreation use.

### Vegetation

Although most of the site is farmland, the remaining natural areas have a variety of plant communities. Examples range from pioneer grasses and forbs colonizing the spoil pile to remnants of the original climax forest. Three plant communities are particularly noteworthy: fencerow, lowland/wetland woods and herbaceous wetland.

Fencerow vegetation is the beginnings of second-growth woodland. The trees are smaller, usually ranging up to no larger than 18 inches in diameter. Typical species are wild cherry, cottonwood, hackberry, elm, ash, black walnut, hawthorn, gray dogwood and rose. These trees and shrubs got their chance to grow where plows would not reach. The fence row vegetation divides the site into distinct areas very much like outdoor rooms. This can be important for buffering the site's uses from one another and for providing site definition.

Most of the wooded areas on the site would be classified as lowland or wetland woods. Tree sizes range from saplings up to mature trees 30 inches in diameter. Typical species include pin, red, bur, black, white and swamp white oaks, beech, basswood, cottonwood, ash, hickory, hornbeam, silver maple, hackberry, elm, crabapple and black cherry. Remnants of the original forest, oaks and beeches over 54 inches in diameter, exist in the southern portion of the site. This area consists mostly of the large, old trees and then smaller, young trees and brush. Middle-sized trees are missing due to the area having been pastured and mowed until the 1960's.

The herbaceous wetland is found around the retention pond. The most notable species in the area is cattail.

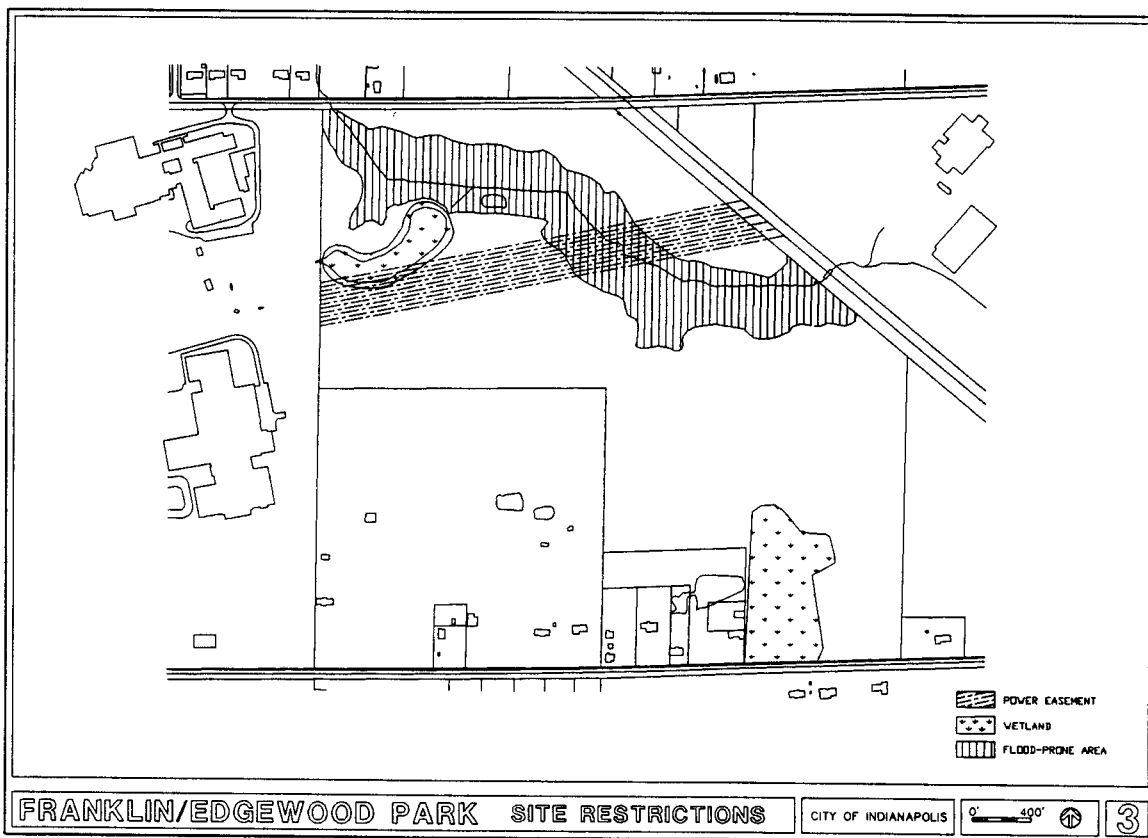
### Site Structures and Utilities

Few structures stand on Franklin/Edgewood Park. In the extreme northeast corner of the site is a radio relay tower. Old foundations and other remnants of an abandoned farm yard exist near the west end of Wildcat Brook. Remnants of another old farmyard can be found in the northern part of the large woods in the southern part of the park. The old farm lane provides a slightly raised, dry track through the woods.

Conrail's elevated tracks form a strong physical and visual edge on the east side of the park. Where they cross Wildcat Brook, the tracks are raised 14 feet above existing grade. Directly upstream from the railroad crossing is a low, concrete-slab bridge over the brook.

Indianapolis Power & Light Company and Public Service Indiana jointly hold a 200 foot wide easement that crosses the site from east to west. Although no power lines currently exist in the easement, they may be built in the future. No permanent structures may be built in the easement.

Sewer service for Franklin/Edgewood Park should be simple to accommodate by tying into the lines that serve Franklin Shire. However, connecting to water service will not be simple. The nearest existing water line is over a mile and half away.





## MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The master plan recommendations are the result of a planning process that included site analysis, and public participation. Public participation involved meetings with people from the immediate neighborhood and from the wider community.

### Access

The main entrance to the park will be from Edgewood Avenue on the north. The entry must be sited to provide adequate sight distance for traffic coming over the railroad tracks. The entry drive will split and one branch will extend west to a picnic area while the other branch will angle southeast into a picnic area and aquatics center.

A secondary park entrance is planned from Indian Creek Road to the south. It will serve a small picnic area and trailhead. A pedestrian access is planned from Indian Creek Road at the old farmstead driveway.

Three additional pedestrian entries are proposed. These will be on the west side of the park to serve the schools.

If the need arises, gates could be installed at certain points to stop or limit after hours access.

### Boundary with the Schools

A nature study area is proposed for the northwest corner of the site adjacent to Franklin Middle School. Development of the area would primarily be the responsibility of the school system. The nature study area would include a trail system, an outdoor classroom with bench seating and storage shed, interpretive and plant identification markers, butterfly garden, bird feeders and nesting boxes.

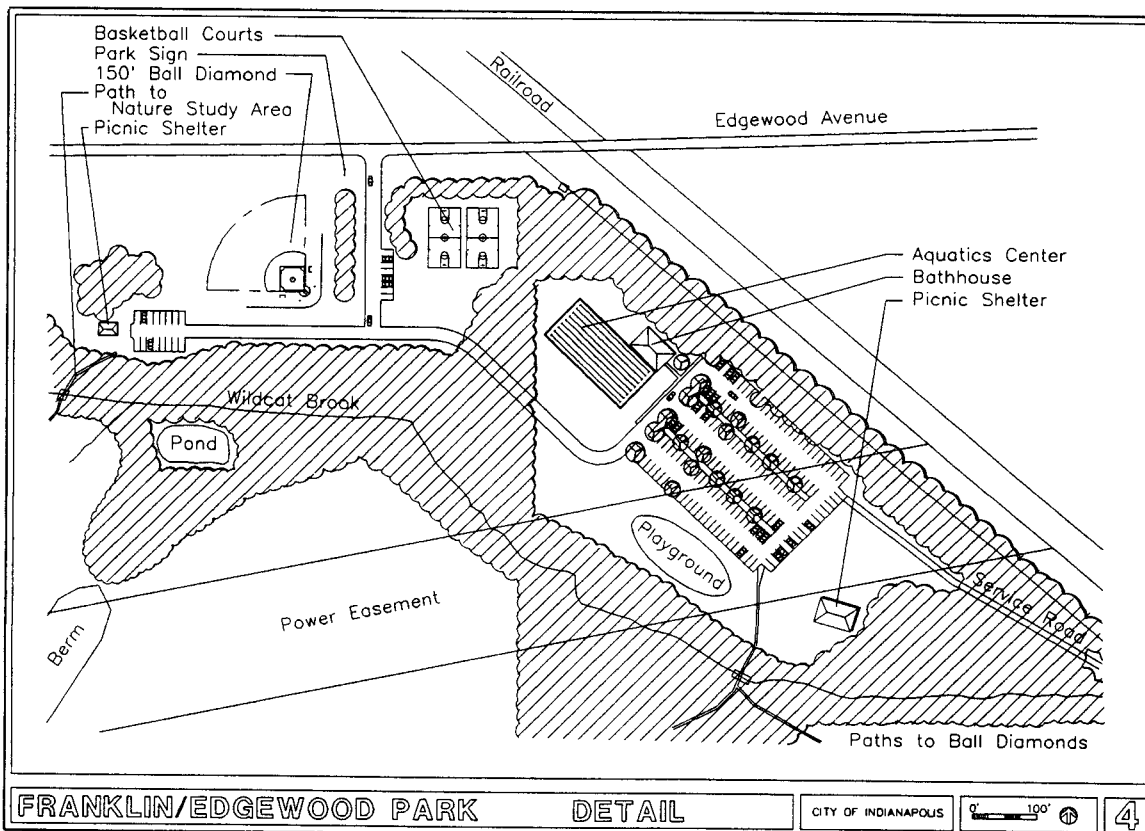
This corner of the site is conducive for nature study because it offers a variety of typical Indiana habitats: woodland, stream, pond, and grassland. The spoil pile should be lowered and reshaped to provide an unobtrusive buffer between the nature area and more active areas.

To the south of the spoil pile, two playfields for school use are proposed. A practice football field is planned immediately east of the school/park property line and a girls' softball diamond is proposed to the east of the football field. Although the schools would have first priority on these fields during their seasons, the facilities would be open to public at other times. A buffer planting is recommended between the fields and adjacent properties to the south.

## Picnic Areas and Aquatics Center

Two picnic areas are proposed north of Wildcat Brook, a small one to the west and a larger one to the east. The western picnic area is planned to have a medium sized picnic shelter, a 10 to 15 car parking lot, and a path and bridge to the nature study area. A small ball diamond is proposed that can serve for pickup games or for the youngest division of Little Leaguers. Two basketball courts are proposed for the east side of the entry drive. A small, 7 to 10 car parking lot is proposed to serve the basketball courts. For safety, this lot should be located at least 100 feet from the park entrance and 35 feet from the intersection in the park.

The east picnic area and aquatics center are located in the triangular field formed by Wildcat Brook, the railroad and a row of fenceline vegetation. The vegetation surrounding this area buffers it from neighboring properties and other areas within the park. The aquatics center will contain a pool and bathhouse. The bathhouse should contain restrooms that would be available for general use. The picnic area will include a large picnic shelter and a playground. Between the pool and the picnic shelter a 150-180 car parking lot is proposed. In addition to serving the picnic area and aquatic center, the lot also will serve the ball diamonds to the south. The impact of a parking lot of this size should be mitigated with interior landscaping.





# FRANKLIN/EDGEWOOD PARK MASTER PLAN

CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS  
 DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT



## Playfields

In the broad band of open ground south of Wildcat Brook a series of playfields are proposed. Moving west to east, first are the practice football field and girls' softball diamond previously mentioned. Next is a 325' foot Little League diamond. East of a row of fenceline vegetation four 225' Little League diamonds, a concession stand and paths to the parking lot are proposed.

The diamonds will be open to general use when not being used by the Little League. The concession building should contain space for storage and restrooms.

In the field south of the diamonds, a multi-use playfield is proposed. It could be used for soccer, rugby or similar types of games.

## Southeast Section

The southeast portion of the site is recommended for trails, picnicking and the preservation and enhancement of its natural communities. The existing woods contain wetlands and trees over 54 inches in diameter. These habitats should be saved and then improved by removing the remnants of the old farmstead. One feature of the farmyard should remain. The old driveway should continue to be used as a trail and as pedestrian access to the park.

The wide, low drainage that crosses the open area should be recreated as a wetland. It should improve the site's natural habitat and provide an opportunity for nature interpretation. It also will increase water storage on site. This should improve upstream drainage while not adversely affecting downstream drainage.

The area south of the recreated wetland is proposed as a small picnic grounds and trailhead. A small parking lot and short access drive will serve the area.

## General Recommendations

A community or recreation center is not proposed for the park. The adjacent schools should perform these functions.

Existing vegetation should remain except where access is required through the fencerows. Substantial tree plantings should occur in all three picnic areas. Also a fifty-foot wide strip should be planted along the eastern boundary to buffer the views of the power substation and power lines.

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA

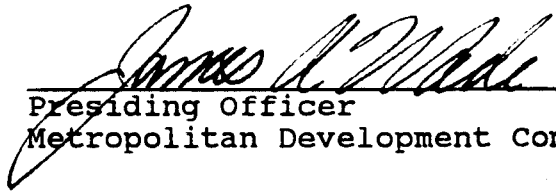
DOCKET NO. 91-CPS-R-6


RESOLUTION 91-CPS-R-6, AMENDING A SEGMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE OR MASTER PLAN OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, FRANKLIN/EDGEWOOD PARK MASTER PLAN.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Metropolitan Development Commission of Marion County, Indiana, 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 FRANKLIN/EDGEWOOD PARK MASTER PLAN, which is attached hereto, incorporated herein by same as an AMENDMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE OR MASTER PLAN OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Metropolitan Development Commission certify copies of this RESOLUTION 91-CPS-R-6, AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE OR MASTER PLAN OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, FRANKLIN/EDGEWOOD 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 the RESOLUTION 91-CPS-R-6, upon final adoption, as an AMENDMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE OR MASTER PLAN OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, 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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary  
Metropolitan Development Commission

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM  
AND ADEQUACY THIS 10<sup>th</sup>  
DAY OF JULY, 1991

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Neff  
Chief Counsel Economic Development

GENERAL RESOLUTION NO. 67, 1991

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

DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT

in the amount of N/A

calling for MASTER PLAN - FRANKLIN/EDGEWOOD PARK

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

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7/11/91  
Date



FRANKLIN/EDGEWOOD PARK MASTER PLAN

1991

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