

JANUARY 1996

Board of Parks and Recreation

Diana Wilson Hall Charles Kendall Sally Lanham Tony Prather Ray Wallace

Department of Parks and Recreation

Ray Wallace, Director Joe Wynns, Assistant Director Keith Holdsworth, Senior Parks Planner Donald Miller, Stewardship Coordinator Lane Young, Park Ambassador

Crooked Creek Community Council, Inc.

Kerry Michael Manders, Executive Director

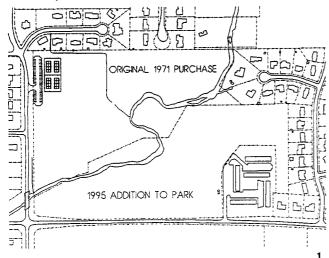
Planning Committee:

Carla Allen
Dr. Frank Green
Chuck Kiphart
Patricia Mack
Ann Miller
David Miller
Janie Stantley

Crooked Creek Community/Juan Solomon Park, located at the northeast corner of Grandview Drive and Fox Hill Road, is a neighborhood park serving the Crooked Creek community. Neighborhood parks are typically designed to provide the types of recreation that one would expect to walk to rather than be required to drive to. Facilities usually include play equipment, basketball and tennis courts, ball diamonds or play fields and small picnic areas. Juan Solomon Park is unusual for a neighborhood park in that it also provides a natural area for hiking and nature study.

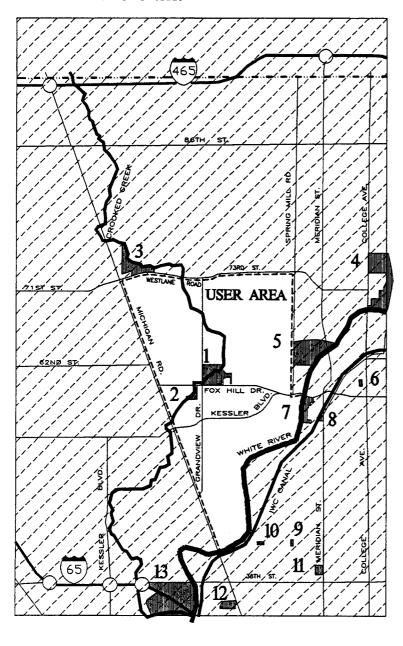
The city acquired the original 24 acre portion of the park in 1971. The acquisition of this site had been accomplished with the involvement of the Crooked Creek Community Council (C4). It was C4's first major project. The park was dedicated on September 28, 1975. Twenty years later, in September of 1995, an additional 22 acres were acquired to the south of the original park. This acquisition also happened primarily through widespread citizen efforts led by the C4. C4 purchased the property from its previous owner and donated it to the City. The donation carries with it thirteen conditions that affect the way the new parkland can be developed and used (see Appendix A). Chief among these conditions is one that states that the park addition "shall be developed as a nature preserve and shall after Closing remain substantially unchanged from its present wooded and/or undeveloped condition and shall remain free of any and all buildings, roadways, driveways, playgrounds, or playground equipment, provided that in no event shall this restriction be interpreted to preclude development of nature trails, scenic overlooks . . . "

The park is named for Juan C. Solomon, a long-time resident of the Crooked Creek neighborhood and member of the Board of Parks and Recreation from 1969 to 1971. He was an employee of Eli Lilly and Company, starting in 1941 and rising through the corporate ranks for 32 years. In 1968, the company loaned Mr. Solomon to the City to organize the Mayor's Task Force on Employment. Over a three year period, Mayor Lugar's Task Force evolved into the Metropolitan Manpower Commission. Through five principle programs and two related organizations, Mr Solomon's leadership is credited with training and placing over 4000 men and women in good jobs with a decent wage. Mr. Solomon was involved in the Governor's Commission for the Handicapped, the Community Service Council, the Indianapolis Urban League, the Marion County Association for Retarded Children, Public Action in Correctional Efforts, the NAACP, the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce and Witherspoon United Presbyterian Church.

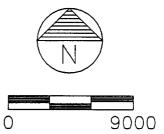


SERVICE AREA

Most users of Juan Solomon Park are likely to live in the area bounded by Michigan Road, Westlane Road, Spring Mill Road and White River. This area has a population of approximately 17,000 persons. The service area population tends to follow the population trends of the whole county in terms of age and race. However it significantly exceeds the county in terms of median household income. The service area also tends to have a higher percentage of homeowners than the county in general. This is significant to the park because a 1987 survey of county recreation users showed that persons with higher incomes were more likely to use parks than lower income persons and that homeowners tended to use parks more than home renters.



- 1 CROOKED CREEK COMMUNITY/
 JUAN SOLOMON PARK
- 2 FOX HILL MANOR PARK
- 3 WISH PARK
- 4 MAROTT PARK
- 5 HOLLIDAY PARK
- 6 61st & BROADWAY PARK
- 7 FRIEDMAN PARK
- 8 ALICE CARTER PLACE
- 9 ANDREW RAMSEY PARK
- 10 TURNER PARK
- 11 TARKINGTON PARK
- 12 BERTHA ROSS PARK
- 13 RIVERSIDE PARK



Service Area Demographics				
	Service Area	Marion County		
17 years and under	24%	25%		
18 - 64	61%	63%		
65 years and older	15%	12%		
White	73%	76%		
Non-White	27%	24%		
Median Household Income	\$35,650	\$29,152		
Below poverty level	8%	12%		
Owner occupied households	57%	52%		
Renter occupied households	37%	39%		

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) suggests standards for numbers of recreation facilities based on population. These standards are recommendations that should be modified to accommodate the conditions of each city and area within the city. For the service area population of 17,000 persons, the following facilities are suggested by the NRPA:

- 3 Basketball courts
- 3 Picnic shelters
- 8 Tennis courts
- 7 Playgrounds
- 3 Volleyball courts
- 2 Soccer fields
- 3 Ball diamonds
- 2 1/4 miles of Trail

Because the service area of Juan Solomon Park overlaps the service areas of Fox Hill Manor Park, Holliday Park and WISH Park, Juan Solomon Park does not have to provide all the recreation needs of its service area. The area is also served by the facilities of schools, churches and apartment complexes. However a large percentage of the service area's population relies on Juan Solomon Park for a significant portion of their recreation demand.

Current Public Recreation Supply						
Facility	Juan Solomon	Fox Hill Manor Hollida		WISH	Total	
Basketball courts					0	
Tennis courts	4				4	
Volleyball courts					0	
Ball diamonds					0	
Picnic Shelters	1		2	1*	4	
Playgrounds	1	1	1	1*	4	
Soccer fields	1				1	
Trail	.5 (undeveloped)		1 mile	.67*	2.17	
* Planned for Summer 1996						

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Physical conditions

Tennis Courts. The four tennis courts in the park were recoated in 1992. However the courts have begun to develop cracks that may require resurfacing or total renovation in the near future. The courts are presently unlit for nighttime play.

Soccer Field. A soccer field has been built directly to the east of the tennis courts. The field is oriented north-south, so that one goal abuts neighboring homes. A backstop has been built to prevent balls from flying into the neighbors' yards. This backstop is in poor condition.

Playground. The playground consists of six wood structures with metal pipe fittings. Some of the pieces are in poor condition or do not meet current standards for play safety. Several pieces should be removed while others may be able to be modified to meet safety standards. The fall zones around some of the pieces do not meet current safety standards and should be enlarged.

Shelter. The existing shelter was built by volunteer labor in the mid-1970's. The eight-sided wood structure is a poor state of repair. It needs new roof and decking and all new support posts. Only the floor is in excellent condition.

Parking lot Grandview Drive frontage. The parking lot is entered from, and parallels, Grandview Drive. The lot is paved but unstriped.

Trails. Currently the site has only about a half mile of trail. The trail is not a formally established one, but has come into being by years of passing footsteps. The hard dirt path generally parallels Crooked Creek with a branch up leading up to the edge of the woods near the playground area.

Vegetation. Although a vegetation study of Juan Solomon Park is in the planning stages, even casual observation shows the park to be very interesting in its diversity of plants, particularly in typical floodplain species. The site is particularly known for its large sycamore trees. A potential problem in the wooded areas is the invasion of exotic plant species. These plants can quickly overrun the native plant species and degrade the overall quality of the woods. Garlic mustard, amur honeysuckle, and myrtle have all gotten a start in the park but are still controllable.

The developed part of the park is mostly turf grass. A grassy area between the soccer field and the picnic shelter contains a grove of large trees. A wide passage of mowed lawn leads from the picnic shelter back to a pedestrian entrance at the end of Wood Knoll Lane. The passage continues east and gradually diminishes in width until it disappears entirely into the woods.

Crooked Creek. In 1993 a study titled Crooked Creek: Problems and Solutions was completed by Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs. The study, done at the request of C4, states that despite some "degradation from pollutants like oil and grease and nutrients, Crooked Creek does meet the water quality standards of the Federal Clean Water Act and the State of Indiana." In 1991, 13 of the 42 major outfalls within Crooked Creek's 20 square mile watershed were tested for pH, chlorine, copper, phenol, and detergents. Three of the outfalls recorded extreme values for one of the tested items. All three of these outfalls are upstream from Juan Solomon Park. One outfall had a high pH level that the study surmised was due to natural causes such as the presence of limestone. Another outfall had a high chlorine level and the third had a high level of phenols.

In a 1994 study of aquatic ecosystems in metropolitan Indianapolis, Crooked Creek rated high for quality of stream habitat, although it was rated as fair for the actual fish population.

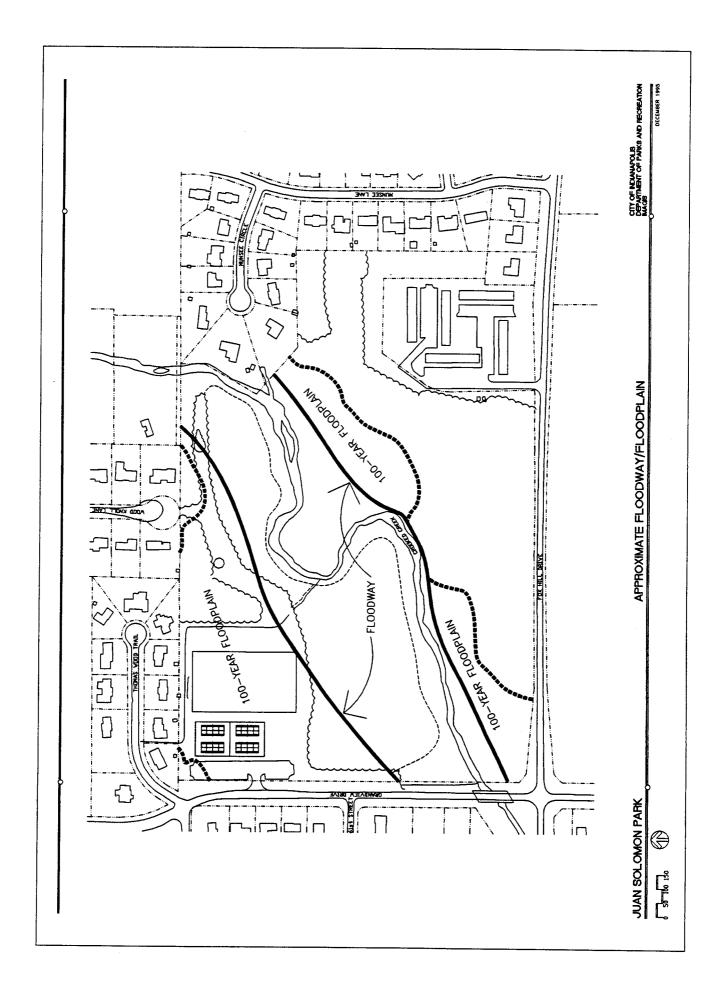
A significant portion of Juan Solomon Park is in the floodplain of Crooked Creek. The floodplain is that area that would be affected by a 100-year flood, a flood of such a magnitude that it its probability of occurring is once in 100 years. Crooked Creek has not had a 100 year flood since records have been kept; however, the 100 year flood does have implications for development in the park.

Community concerns

Public comment on the future of Juan Solomon Park was gathered in two ways: through a written survey and at a public meeting. The written survey was distributed to over 3000 persons through the Crooked Creek Community Council prior to the acquisition of the southern 22 acres. Eighty-two responses from throughout the user area were received. The respondents' most liked aspects of the park were its convenience and location (50%), beauty and natural qualities (23%) and the tennis courts (16%). The least liked aspect of the park was its small size (13%). The two most frequently mentioned improvements to the park were the addition of nature or walking trails and new playground equipment.

The public meeting was held on July 27, 1995. This, too, was prior to the acquisition of the additional property. Notice of the meeting was given through the Crooked Creek Community Council newsletter and individual letters were sent to all households within two blocks of the park. Approximately 45 persons attended the meeting. Preliminary plans developed by C4 for the park were presented and discussed. Attendees were asked to rank 19 proposed improvements to the park by high, medium, or low priorities. The highest ranking priorities were trails, water fountains, a new picnic shelter and keeping the existing picnic shelter. The lowest ranking proposals were a sand volleyball court, garden plots, and expansion of the tennis courts (See Appendix B).

Neighbors of the park who live along Thomas Wood Trail have been bothered by park users crossing onto private property. These neighbors would like some type of barrier put in place. Neighbors of the park who live along Wood Knoll Lane have been bothered by persons parking in front of their homes, walking into the park, using the picnic shelter and making noise after hours.



MASTER PLAN

The master plan is a guide for future actions that affect the physical conditions of the park and the ways that people use the park. Indy Parks and the Crooked Creek Community Council worked together to develop a list of objectives for the master plan's proposals. The objectives for any physical change in the park are that it:

provides education opportunities,
provides a variety of volunteer activities,
provides opportunities to donate and dedicate items to the park,
is low maintenance,
does not encourage vandalism,
does not encourage dumping,
does not encourage crime,
is not hazardous,
respects the park's current uses,
respects the natural resources (stream, woods, native species, steep slopes),
respects the floodplain,
minimizes negative impacts to immediate neighbors,
and meets state and federal statutes.

Master Plan Components

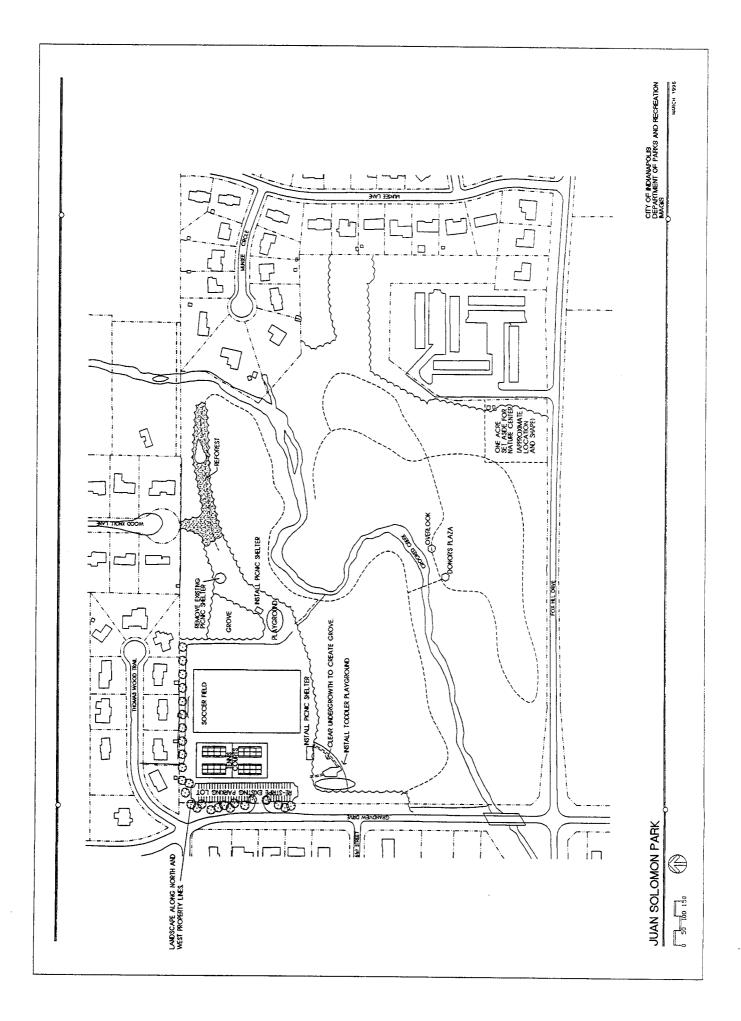
Tennis Courts. At the appropriate time the tennis court should be renovated. Addition courts should not be built, nor should the present 2 on 2 configuration of the courts be changed. Increasing the number of courts or changing their configuration would impose on the other uses of the park. The courts should remain unlit so that they do not negatively impact the surrounding homes.

Soccer Field. The soccer field should remain in its present location and orientation. No other location in the park is large enough and level enough to accommodate this field.

Playgrounds. The existing pieces of equipment that are in poor condition or do not meet safety standards should be removed. The existing playground should be expanded with equipment geared toward children aged 5 to 12 years.

Equipment oriented to younger children should be located in a clearing in the woods near the parking lot. These pieces of play equipment are smaller so they will have a lesser impact on the woods. This arrangement also places the children who need the most supervision in the part of the park where there is the most activity.

Shelters. The existing shelter should be removed. A new shelter should be built closer to the existing playground. This location makes it more visible to the front part of the park and distances it from the back entrance. A new picnic shelter is also proposed for the north edge of the woodland, south of the tennis courts. The shelter should be sited to avoid the drainage ditch located in the same area. The new shelter should be within easy walking distance of the parking lot and in proximity to the new toddler play area. It should not interfere with the



existing soccer field. One of the two shelters should be sized for small gatherings such as a small family picnic. The other shelter should be sized to accommodate larger gatherings such as a moderately sized family reunion. A very large shelter, such as one for a large company picnic is not recommended. A shelter of this size would be out of character for the park and would interfere with the park's other uses.

Parking lot\Grandview Drive frontage. The parking lot should be striped in order to more efficiently park cars. Striping should allow 65 cars to use the lot. This is an exceptionally high number for a park of the size and nature of Juan Solomon Park. However, if the lot should prove to be insufficient on a regular basis, there is room to expand to the south by about eight spaces. Additional expansion is not recommended as being too intense for the character of the park. Extensive tree planting is recommended for the frontage between Grandview Drive and the parking lot. The trees would provide shade for the parking lot and will beautify the Grandview Drive streetscape. Planting should not hide the parking lot or prevent its surveillance from the street. The new tree planting is an excellent opportunity for volunteers to provide labor and for donors to provide the trees.

Trails. The existing trail on the northwest bank of Crooked Creek is proposed to be upgraded to a 6 foot wide, compacted gravel path. Exact routing of the path should minimize potential erosion and impact on the woodland trees and shrubs. The trail will continue to be about half a mile in length.

A new, 6 foot wide, compacted gravel trail is proposed on the southeast side of Crooked Creek. The new trail is proposed as a pair of loops. One loop would run along the top of the steep slope and into the woods along Fox Hill Drive. When the property south of Fox Hill Drive is developed, a connecting trail may be developed to provide access to the main trail from the new development. The other loop will lead through the woods above the steep slope and then descend and run along the toe of the slope. A spur will lead down to a point on the stream. Interpretive signs explaining the site's history, geology, and plant and animal life are proposed along the trail. At the top of the slope, an overlook of the stream is proposed. The new trail will be approximately two-thirds of a mile long.

The two trails should be linked by a footbridge. The type of bridge and its exact location will be dependent on the stability of the steam banks and the impact on the woods and steam. At the southeastern end of the bridge, a Donor's Plaza is proposed. This plaza will honor those persons and organizations who helped bring about the recent addition to the park, as well as allow space to honor those who may provide substantial contributions in the future. The plaza area should be rustic in character to complement its natural setting.

Trail maintenance may be a good opportunity for volunteer efforts. The overlook and benches, and other trail amenities could be good opportunities for persons wishing to make donations to the park.

Vegetation. The exotic species such as garlic mustard, amur honeysuckle and myrtle should be removed. Replanting with native species is recommended. One area of myrtle, between Grandview Drive and the proposed toddler playground, is proposed to remain. The myrtle

in this area effectively hides mounds of broken up pavement that was dumped there long-ago. Removal of the mounds would seriously damage the trees that have grown up through them.

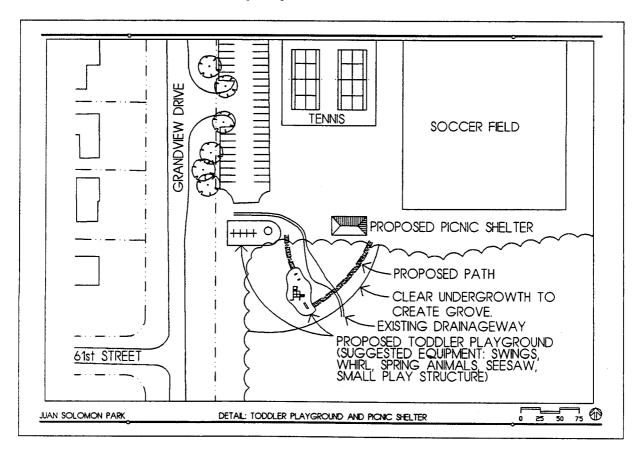
The grassy passage that leads east from the existing picnic shelter site is recommended for reforestation. The reforestation process should be carefully managed so that the area does not become overrun with invasive, exotic species. The removal of exotic species and the reforestation are both potential projects for volunteers.

Crooked Creek. Volunteer projects that could benefit Crooked Creek include water quality monitoring, improving fish habitat, reintroducing fish species, and natural erosion control.

Other than the bridge, no permanent structures are proposed for the floodway. Structures outside the floodway but within the floodplain, such as picnic shelters, should be built to withstand standing water and not impede the flow of floodwater.

Other. A nature center in the southeast corner of the park is allowed for in the donation of the recent addition. The area of development around the nature center is limited to one acre. This plan does not recommend construction of a nature center at this time.

Screening of the portion of the north property line that abuts the Thomas Wood Trail homes is recommended to deter park users from entering private property. A combination of a low fence, shrubs and shade trees is recommended. This arrangement provides a physical barrier without blocking the view of the park. Maintaining the park view is important for both aesthetics and security. The entrance from Wood Knoll Lane should be narrowed down to a few feet to provide for pedestrian entry only.



Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding regarding the purchase of additional land and future use of Crooked Creek Community Juan Solomon Park is entered into by and between the City of Indianapolis, Department of Parks and Recreation (hereinafter referred to as "Indy Parks") and the Crooked Creek Community Council, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "C4").

WHEREAS, Indy Parks is the governmental entity responsible for the ownership and management of public parks throughout Indianapolis and Marion County, and;

WHEREAS, C4 is the community group which has been largely responsible for improvements throughout the Crooked Creek area of Indianapolis, and;

WHEREAS, the parties have worked together and through their collective unselfish efforts have accomplished the sale of this 21 acre parcel for use as a public park, greenway and nature preserve addition to Juan Solomon Park, (a legal description of which is attached hereto), and;

WHEREAS, through this Memorandum of Understanding, the parties wish to recognize the vital part each has played in accomplishing this property transfer and to outline the future role that each party will undertake in the transition and future use of this public park.

IN RECOGNITION of the foregoing, the parties hereby agree as follows:

1. The Property shall be developed as a nature preserve and shall after Closing remain substantially unchanged from its present wooded and/or undeveloped condition and shall remain free of any and all buildings, roadways, driveways, playgrounds, or playground equipment, provided that in no event shall this restriction be interpreted to preclude development of nature trails, scenic overlooks or development of a portion of the Property consisting of approximately one (1) acre located at the Property and located adjacent to the west property line of certain real estate along Fox Hill Road which abuts the Property and which has located thereupon certain apartment improvements known as the Fox Hill Apartments (said Fox Hill Apartments real estate referred to hereinafter as the "Fox Hill Apartments Parcel" and more particularly described and identified in Exhibit "B" attached hereto). This said

approximately one (1) acre area may in the future be developed as a nature house in keeping with the use of the Property as a nature preserve. The parties hereto acknowledge that the development, use and operation of the aforementioned one (1) acre as a nature house may have a direct impact on the use, value and desirability of the Fox Hill Apartments Parcel, the apartment improvements located thereupon, and the apartment tenants residing therein.

- 2. Any and all motor vehicle, motorcycle or bicycle parking at the Property associated with the aforementioned nature house shall be located west of said nature house; and
- 3. If and when as a result of the use and/or operation of the aforementioned nature house, the Seller or its successors, assigns or grantees, experiences acts of vandalism, burglary, public intoxication or indecency, or other criminal activity which threatens or impairs the peace, quiet enjoyment, or safety of any of the residents of the Fox Hill Apartments, then Indy Parks or its successor, assign or grantee, upon written demand by Seller or the then owner or owners of the Fox Hill Apartments Parcel, or any part thereof adjacent to the Property, shall erect a fence no shorter than eight (8) feet in height along or in close proximity to the west, northwest and north property lines of the Fox Hill Apartments Parcel and also extending continuously from the northeast corner of the Fox Hill Apartments Parcel directly east to the easternmost property line of the Property. Notwithstanding the language immediately heretofore, Seller or the then owner or owners of the Fox Hill Apartments Property may agree to a shorter fence line. The aforementioned written demand required to be provided Indy Park or its successor, assign, or grantee shall set forth specifically identify the acts or occurrences relating to the use or operation of the aforementioned nature house which warrant and justify the demand for erection of the fence outlined herein.
- 4. In the event of erection of the aforedescribed fence, Indy Park or the then owner of the Property shall make every reasonable effort to make the said fence as inconspicuous in appearance as possible including, but not limited to, blending said fence in and within any existing tree-line, shrubbery, landscaping or other line of vegetation on the Property. The natural tree-line on the property located in close proximity to the west property line of the Fox Hill Apartments Property is located approximately eight (8) feet west of said property line. For these reasons, nothing contained herein should be construed to require the aforedescribed fence to be located on and along the property line of the Property or the Fox Hill Apartments Parcel. Notwithstanding any language heretofore, the aforedescribed fence shall not be located or erected on, upon or within the Fox Hill Apartments Parcel.

- 5. The parties agree that C4 will be allowed to have input into the location and construction of the aforementioned nature house, fence and other buildings and improvements which may be undertaken in the future.
- 6. The parties agree that the existing and the newly expanded Parks property will be known as "Crooked Creek Community Juan Solomon Park."
- 7. The parties agree that the Park hours will be from dawn to dusk unless lights are added to the tennis courts at some time in the future.
- 8. The parties agree to recognize C4's instrumental role in providing the impetus, securing the funding and bringing together the entities necessary to accomplish the expansion of this park, and to reflect this recognition on any future buildings, trails, plazas, etc. which may be constructed within the Park.
- 9. The parties agree that C4 is the recognized neighborhood community group through which future park development will be accomplished, and further agrees to grant C4 a decision-making role in such future development.
- 10. Indy Parks agrees to commit resources to undertake future programming in the Park, and agrees to provide assistance in developing volunteer programs and securing funding for future improvements.
- 11. Indy Parks agrees to provide all Parks signage, a sign designating major Park benefactors, and to provide mowing and maintenance services within the Park.
- 12. Indy Parks agrees to support partnerships and alliances established by C4 with recreational organizations using Juan Solomon Park, and agrees to assist with use permit time preferences and reduced or waived fees in exchange for volunteer involvement in C4 sponsored Park projects.
- 13. C4 agrees to conduct beautification days and other special projects with the assistance of the community and Indy Parks.

Am Do Wille	Date:	91/3/95
Raymond D. Wallace Director, Indy Parks		
Leur Michael Monde	Date: _	9/13/95
Kerry Michael Manders Executive Director, C4		

This document prepared by:

Douglas

Assistant Corporation Counsel Office of Corporation Counsel

200 East Washington Street, Suite 1601 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3372

(317 327-4061

Memo-Un.DJD/sr

GENERAL RESOLUTION NO. 53, 1996

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 CROOKED CREEK COMMUNITY

calling for

APPROVAL OF MASTER PLAN

TO APPROVE THE MASTER PLAN FOR JUAN SOLOMON PARK. THE PLAN WAS DEVELOPED WITH THE CROOKED CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL AND INCLUDES THE RECENTLY ACQUIRED ADDITION TO THE PARK, ADDITIONAL TRAILS, PLAYGROUND, AND PICNIC SHELTER.

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

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

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONSOLIDATED CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

Raymond Wallace, Chairman

Sally E. Lanham

R. Anthony Prather

Nekole Hulitt, Secretary

Diana Wilson Hall

Charles Kendall

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA DOCKET NO. 96-CPS-R-002

RESOLUTION 96-CPS-R-002, AMENDING A SEGMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE OR MASTER PLAN OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, JUAN SOLOMON PARK MASTER PLAN.

BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to I.C. 36-7-4, the Metropolitan Development Commission of Marion County, Indiana, hereby amends the COMPREHENSIVE OR MASTER PLAN FOR MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, by the adoption of the JUAN SOLOMON PARK MASTER PLAN, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as an AMENDMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE OR MASTER PLAN OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Metropolitan Development Commission is directed to certify copies of this RESOLUTION 96-CPS-R-002, AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE OR MASTER PLAN OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, JUAN SOLOMON PARK MASTER PLAN.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of the Department of Metropolitan Development is directed to mail or deliver certified copies of this RESOLUTION 96-CPS-R-002, 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 / MAY 0 1 1996

Metropolitan Development Commission

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM AND ADEQUACY THIS 9th DAY OF APRIL, 1996

Stephen Weff

Assistant Corporation Counsel