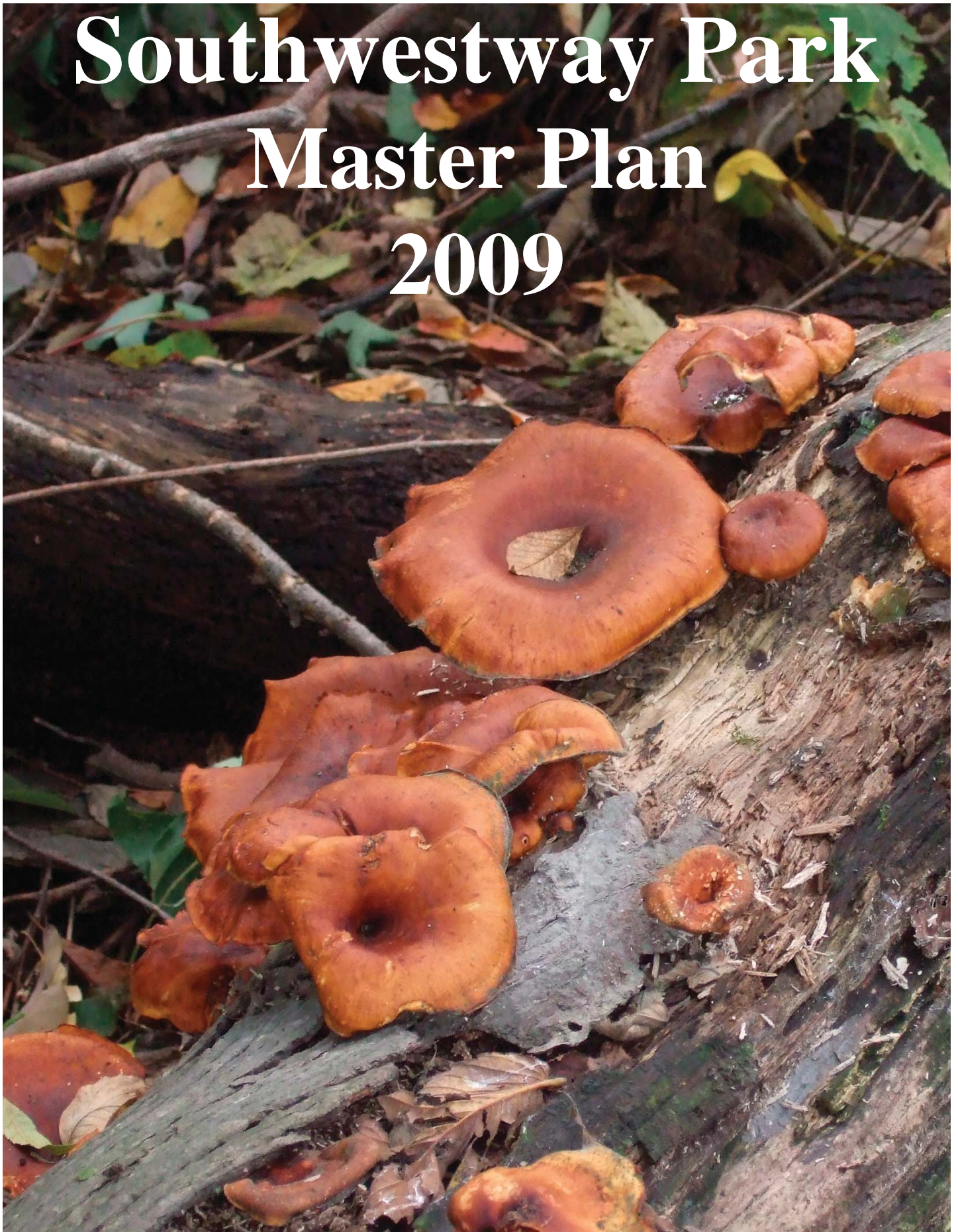


Southwestway Park Master Plan 2009



City of Indianapolis; Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor

2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan

Administration:

Mayor Gregory A. Ballard, City of Indianapolis

City-County Council and Districts:

Paul C. Bateman Jr.	15	Barbara Malone	AL
Vernon Brown	18	Angela Mansfield	2
Virginia J. Alig Cain	5	Janice McHenry	6
Jeffery L. Cardwell	23	Michael J. McQuillen	12
Bob Cockrum	22	Doris Minton-McNeill	15
Ed Coleman	AL	Mary Moriarty Adams	17
N. Susie Day	20	Jackie Nytes	9
Jose M. Evans	1	William C. Oliver	10
Monroe Gray, Jr.	8	Marilyn Pfisterer	14
Benjamin Hunter	21	Lincoln Plowman	25
Maggie A. Lewis	7	Joanne Sanders	AL
Robert B. Lutz	13	Christine Scales	4
Brian Mahern	16	Kent B. Smith	AL
Dane Mahern	19	Mike Speedy	24
		Ryan Vaughn	3

City-County Council Parks Committee:

N. Susie Day, Chair

Vernon Brown

Benjamin Hunter

William C. Oliver

Monroe Gray

Janice McHenry

Mike Speedy

Metropolitan Development Commission:

Randy Snyder, President

James J. Curtis, Sr. Secretary

Diana Hamilton

J. Scott Keller

Jason Gaines

Dorothy J. Jones, Vice-President

Tom Morales, Vice-Secretary

Lisa Kobe

Tim Ping

Board of Parks and Recreation:

Stewart Lowry, Chair

Dr. Jacqueline S. Greenwood

Joseph E. Mayes

Diana M. Hall

Michael R. Twyman

Department of Parks and Recreation:

Stewart Lowry, Director

Project Coordination:

Donald A. Colvin Jr., Administrator, Resource Development

Andre Denman, Principal Park Planner

Benjamin Jackson, Senior Park Planner

Christina Jones, Park Planner

2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The History of Southwestway Park	4
Location and Service Area	9
Demographics	10
Existing Conditions	11
Decatur Township Pool Study	15
Public Participation	19
Master Plan Recommendations	22
Action Plan	28
Funding Opportunities	Appendix I

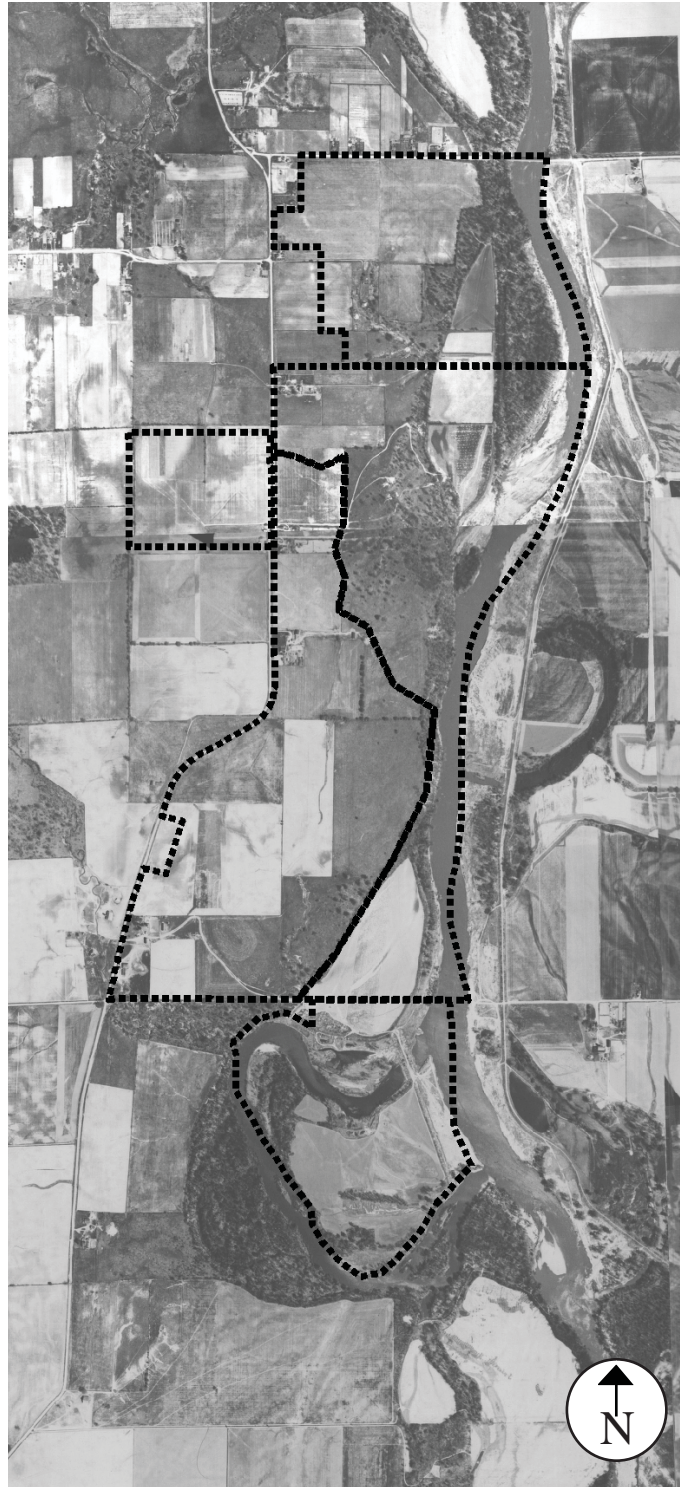
2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan

History of Southwestway Park

The land now known as Southwestway Park contains natural features dating to the Wisconsin Glacial Age, the last glacial period, approximately 70,000 years ago. As a result of this glacial drift, the park's defining character contains both natural and cultural features that are unique in Marion County.

According to the Center for Earth and Environmental Science (CEES) at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, "Southwestway Park contains some of the most outstanding geological features in Central Indiana."¹ The area of southwestern Marion County that extends from west of the park to east of the White River is part of a delta complex formed by the movement, melting and rock deposition of the glacier. The most significant feature to be shaped by that activity was the formation of what is now known as Mann Hill. Mann Hill is described as a kame, which is a hill or mound of outwash deposited onto the ground during the melting of stagnant glacial ice. The materials are stratified, or layered, by the flowing action of the melting ice. Camp (1999) references the kames in this area of Indiana as being 'as large and impressive as any kames anywhere.' Some of these other kames have been developed whereas Mann Hill has not been."²

Mann Hill is the second highest elevation in Marion County. Indianapolis GIS resources show the top of Mann Hill at 828 feet and a point in Crown Hill Cemetery being 838 feet above sea level.



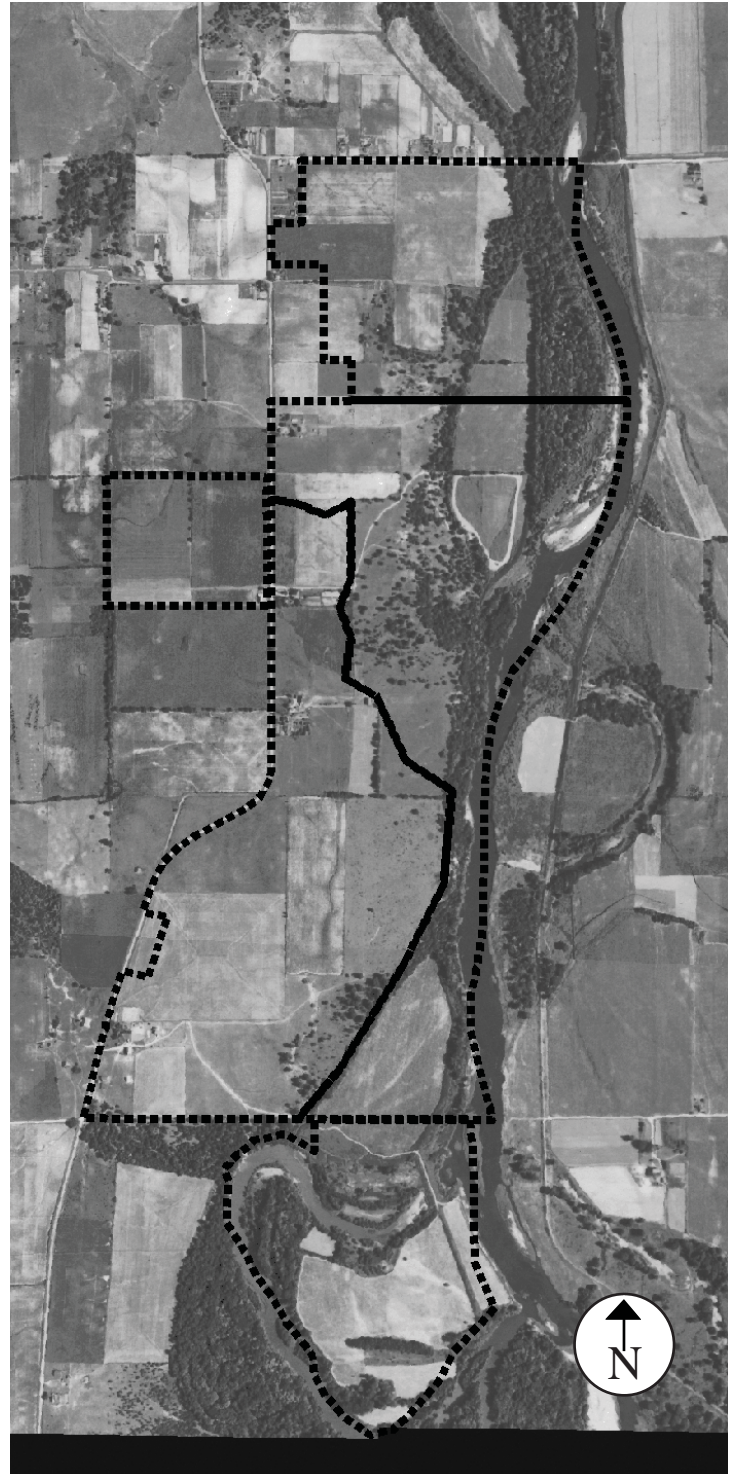
Site of the Future Southwestway Park, circa 1937

¹ <http://www.cees.iupui.edu/Research/Restoration/Southwestway/Data>

² <http://www.cees.iupui.edu/Research/Restoration/Southwestway/Data>

2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan

The natural features of the park area, including Mann Hill and the nearness of the White River were conducive to human habitation in some pre-historic (12,000 to 400 B.P.) and historic (400 B.P. to present) time periods. Mandated archeological investigations on 60 acres of the property south of Southport Road, in 2003, revealed at least three sites that were to be completely avoided “by any proposed construction activities” (earth moving activities) due to “the variety and number of artifacts collected” because they “have the potential to provide data that will enhance our understanding of the prehistory of the area.”³ That report also indicated that a professional archeological survey conducted in 1995 for the expansion of Winding River Golf Course identified at least one site that was potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.⁴ In addition, the physiography of the area “is highly suitable” to contain archeological resources, at least 40 other previously recorded archeological sites were located within two miles of the golf course, it had been reported that an Indian burial ground was reported to exist within the proposed project area, and, according to Jack Householder, an historic Delaware Camp may be located here..⁵ Other known archaeological surveys occurred in 1938 and 1975, although neither was comprehensive to include the entire park area. Preeminent archeologist John Householder conducted the 1938 survey and W. S. Mann owned the property he surveyed.



Southwestway Park, circa 1941

³ A Phase Ia Archaeological Survey for the Indy parks and Recreation Department Mann Property Project, 2003

⁴ A Phase Ia Archaeological Survey for the Indy parks and Recreation Department Mann Property Project, 2003, page 20

⁵ Letter dated August 3, 1993 from INDNR to DPR

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goRECENT HISTORY:

According to the Encyclopedia of Indianapolis;

In 1819, three years before Decatur Township was organized and named for Stephen Decatur, a hero of the War of 1812, settlers had cleared dense hardwood forests and established farms along the White River or near the district's numerous springs. Many early residents were Quakers who moved to the area from the Carolinas. In 1827, they established the first Sanders Creek Meeting of Friends.

Small settlements sprang up along key roads or near rail lines. Northport was platted in 1839, though the name was changed to Fremont in 1856 and later to Valley Mills. The town prospered as a stop on the Indianapolis and Vincennes Railroad, constructed in 1867.

Farther south, Newton (later changed to West Newton) was laid out by Christopher Furnas in 1851. During the Civil War, the Mooresville Road was built through the community. Another settlement, Spring Valley, platted in 1848, survived only a brief time, though its rivals, West Newton and Valley Mills, boasted shops, schools, churches, and small businesses in the 1880s.”⁶

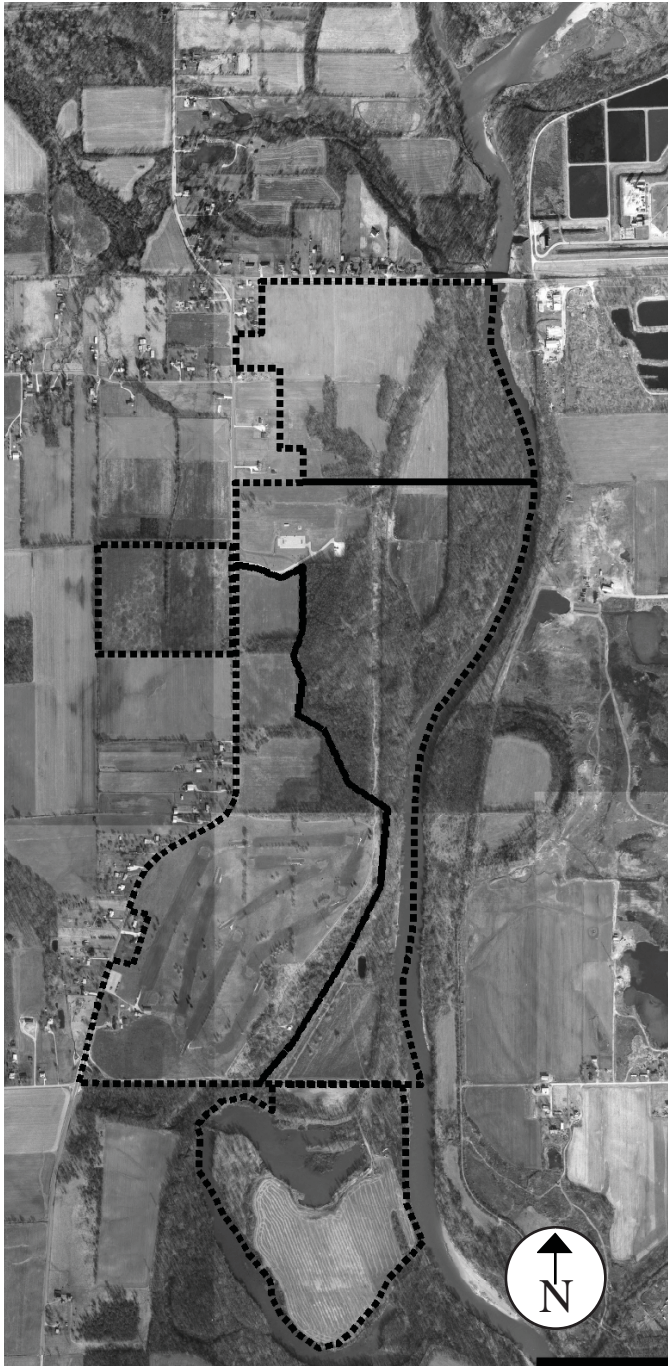
Spring Valley Hill later became known as Mann Hill. At one time Spring Valley contained five businesses, a post office, a school, and a number of residences. However, by 1884, Spring Valley was abandoned. West Newton is located approximately one and one-half miles due west of the current (2007) Southwestway Park.



Southwestway Park, circa 1956

6 Encyclopedia of Indianapolis, pg. 495

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Southwestway Park, 1993

For many decades the land that was to become Southwestway Park was farmed and pastured. Then in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the focus of the Metropolitan Department of Parks and Recreation changed from urban parks to the establishment of a large, regional park in each quadrant of the county. To create a regional park in the southwest part of the county, 150 acres between Mann Road and White River were acquired in 1961. In 1968 most of the property was developed into a 9-hole golf course.

In 1972, an additional 167 acres to the north of the park were acquired. Much of this area, including Mann Hill, had been leased for several years to a motorcycling group. At the time of purchase by the Department of Parks and Recreation, the area east of Mann Road was proposed to remain a motorcycling area while the land west of Mann Road was proposed to become a community park. Due to environmental considerations, the motorcycling area was not developed. The site was fenced and recreational use since has been minimal. The area west of Mann Road had been leased out for farming until 2005.

Forty more acres were added to the park in late 1984. The additional acreage was located between Mann Road and the White River immediately north of the existing park property. Total acreage of the park in 1987 was 357.⁷

According to the 1977 Indianapolis-Marion County Parks and Recreation Action Plan, Southwestway Park (50.1 acres) contained a

⁷ Southwestway Park Master Plan, pg 1-2, June, 1987

2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan

shelter, a playground and open space, and was considered primarily undeveloped. The remaining 100 acres of the original park were developed as Southwestway Golf Course; currently known as Winding River Golf Course⁸

In 1981, the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Action Plan (UPARR), indicates that Southwestway Park contained 317 acres, that included: five maintenance buildings, improved and unimproved parking for 113 cars, river fishing, two baseball diamonds, three acres of child's play areas, one acre for picnics, one shelter, 25 acres of open space, 80 acres of woods, 2,700 lineal feet of water line, one food concession, one port-o-let, one 9-hole golf course in 100 acres, a driving range, and was identified as having high potential for 18 years and younger populations and as a winter sports area.⁹

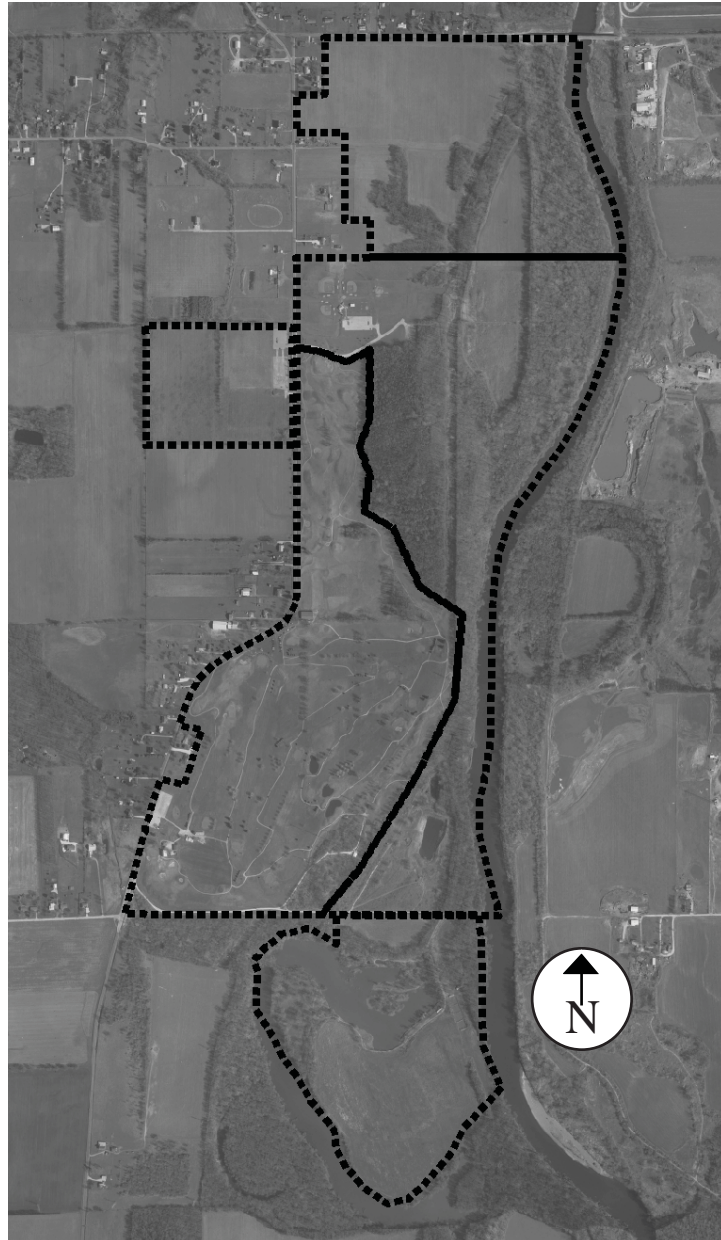
In 1992, the Indianapolis-Marion County Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan indicated that Southwestway Park contained 317 acres, of which 65 acres were a golf course and 252 acres were parkland. Facilities at the park in 1991 included one playground, a picnic area, one shelter, and four maintenance buildings.¹⁰

In 2004, the Indianapolis-Marion County Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan indicated that Southwestway Park contained 210.7 acres and an additional 175.8 acres in Winding River Golf Course as an 18 hole, par-72 course with driving range. Facilities included one picnic shelter, one playground, two parking lots, 7.1 miles of unpaved trail, one unlit and three lighted baseball fields,

⁸ 1977 Indianapolis-Marion County Parks and Recreation Action Plan, page A62

⁹ UPARR Action Plan, 1981, page 15

¹⁰ Indianapolis-Marion County Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, 1992, page 13



Southwestway Park, 1999

In April 2002 a small group of Decatur Township residents met with Cindy Porteous, Executive Director, Indy Parks Foundation, to discuss the need to raise \$400,000 to assist Indy Parks to meet the purchase price of \$1million for 101-acre parcel of land located north and adjacent to Southwestway Park and along the West Bank of White River. A few years earlier the citizens of Decatur Township had successfully remonstrated against a proposed housing development in this area and were pleased for the opportunity to turn this same area into a recreational site.

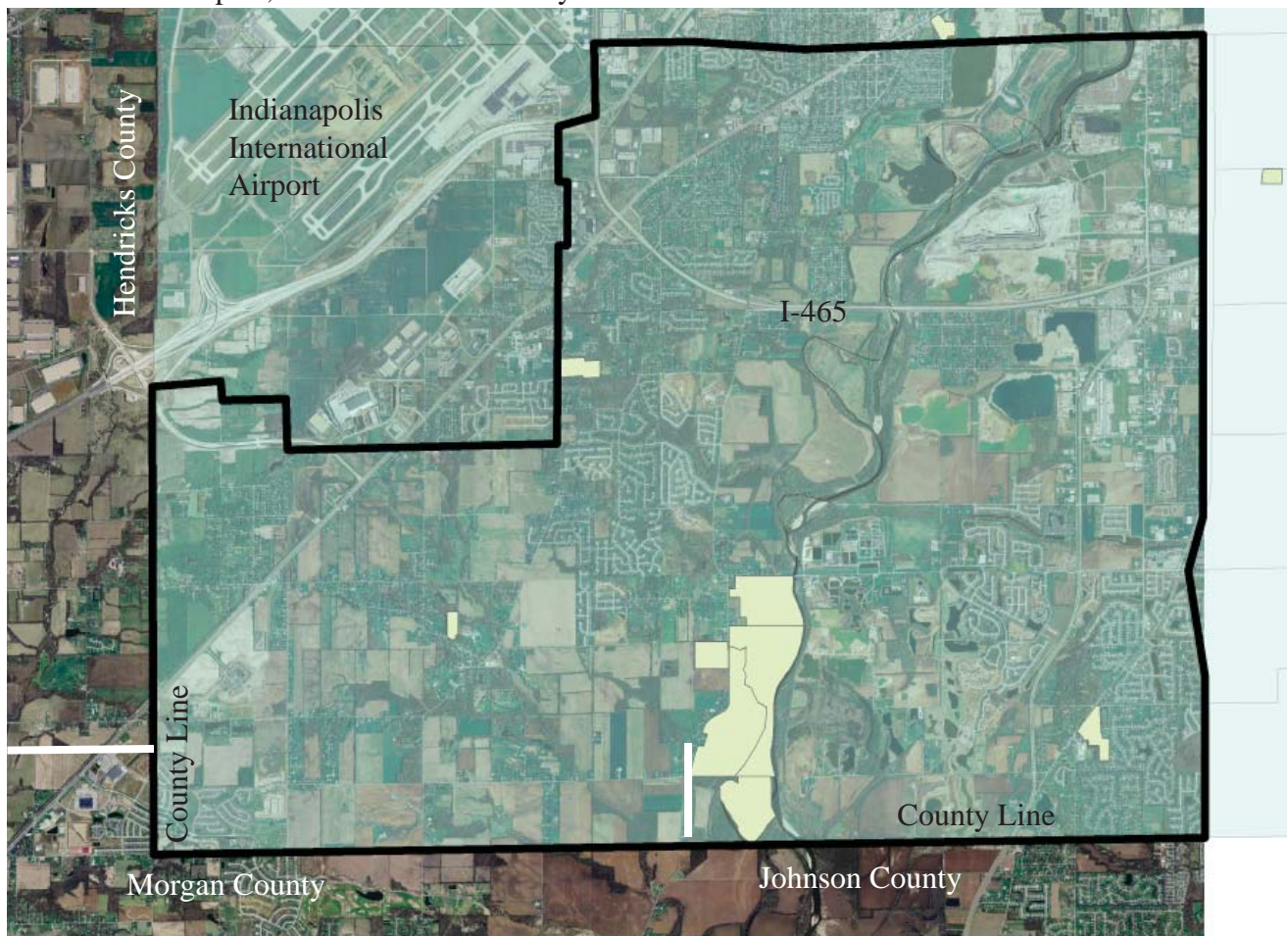
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LOCATION and SERVICE AREA

Southwestway Park, located in southwestern Marion County, is one of the county's seven recreational areas classified as a regional park. Regional parks are established as recreational facilities that supplement the neighborhood and community parks. These facilities also typically serve the largest geographic area of all the park types. Additionally, Southwestway park is considered a 'nature park', thus it is oriented toward passive recreation activities.

According to the 2009 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the service areas of regional parks is defined as 'including several adjacent communities in addition to all of Marion County. The normal drive time is one hour or less. Depending on the amenities offered, regional parks draw from all of Central Indiana with a focus on Boone, Hamilton, Hendricks, Hancock, Morgan, Johnson, and Shelby Counties.'

Southwestway Park provides sports fields, trails, golf, playgrounds and other features which draw visitors not only from Marion County but from Johnson, Hendricks, and Morgan Counties as well. We know this from the Master plan meeting attendees and from citizen input. Therefore, it is difficult to graphically define this park's service area, and the public draw to this park is likely much larger than depicted. This map, however, shows Southwestway's location relative to I-465, the Indianapolis International Airport, and the Marion County Line.



Southwestway Park Demographic Service Area

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DEMOGRAPHICS

Southeastway Park's service area is best described by Census Tracts 3902 and 3903. These tracts include the area described on page 9 as the Park's Service Area. The population of these tracts is compared to Decatur Township and Marion County statistics.

Statistics of note are a much higher percentage of white residents, and a conversely lower percentage of minority residents than the county averages. Age distribution within the resident population are similar to the township and county figures. The percentage of occupied houses and owner occupied housing units are both much higher than the township and county statistics.

Please note, that this information should be reanalyzed after 2010 when new census data is available to ensure accuracy as the elements of this master plan are developed in the future.

2000 Census Data		Service Area	Decatur Township	Marion County	Service Area	Decatur Township	Marion County
Race	Total	28,232	24,726	860,454	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
	One Race	27,966	24,446	846,335	99.06%	98.87%	98.36%
	Two Race	266	280	14,119	0.94%	1.13%	1.64%
	White	27,245	23,813	606,502	96.50%	96.31%	70.49%
	Black	286	304	207,964	1.01%	1.23%	24.17%
	Hispanic	482	419	33,290	1.71%	1.69%	3.87%
	Alaskan	52	64	2,181	0.18%	0.26%	0.25%
	Asian	175	102	12,325	0.62%	0.41%	1.43%
	Hawaiian	10	3	365	0.04%	0.01%	0.04%
Age	Total	28,232	24,726	860,454	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
	Under Age 5	2,220	2,021	63,640	7.17%	8.17%	7.40%
	Age 5-19	6,797	6,040	181,069	17.34%	24.43%	21.04%
	Age 20-59	15,682	13,612	490,785	59.58%	55.05%	57.04%
	Age 60-84	3,350	2,894	113,447	14.34%	11.70%	13.18%
	Age 85 and above	183	159	11,513	1.56%	0.64%	1.34%
Housing Units	Total	10,867	9,581	387,183	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
	Occupied	10,279	9,024	352,164	94.59%	94.19%	90.96%
	Vacant	588	557	35,019	5.41%	5.81%	9.04%
	Owner Occupied	8,203	7,062	208,957	79.80%	78.26%	59.34%
	Renter Occupied	2,076	1,962	143,207	20.20%	21.74%	40.66%
Gender	Total	28,232	24,726	860,454	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
	Males	13,856	12,124	415,998	49.08%	49.03%	48.35%
	Females	14,376	12,602	444,456	50.92%	50.97%	51.65%

2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Southwestway Park contains a very diverse ecological cross-section of the midwest. It has open lawn areas, wooded stretches, transitional prairie, stream and wetland areas, and Eagle Creek running through the eastern side, a riverfront riparian zone. Incorporated into this are walking trails, soccer and softball fields, a shelter, pasture land, and the Winding River golf course.



The main park entrance off Mann Road



2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan

Southwestway Park contains approximately 293 acres of wooded area. This area ranges from deciduous hardwoods bordering the golf course and stretching north into the Mann property down to riparian wetlands along the lower White River and wetlands in the Cotton Wood Lakes section of the park. These wooded areas are honeycombed with trails both fall line and sustainable. Many of these trails are already in excellent locations for public use, however, some are extraneous and a few are in locations which contribute to erosion and are not maintainable. Currently, most of the trails are rustic in nature and unpaved. The goal of Indy Parks is to maintain the active trails with a gravel paving treatment, and block off the undesirable trails and return them to a reforested condition.



Trail along the levy in the Mann Road Property section of the park.

2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan



The open areas of the park are currently populated by ball fields, a shelter, open lawn, prairie restoration, parking, and a playground area designed for 5 to 12 year old children.



Playground structure in the new playground built in 2006.



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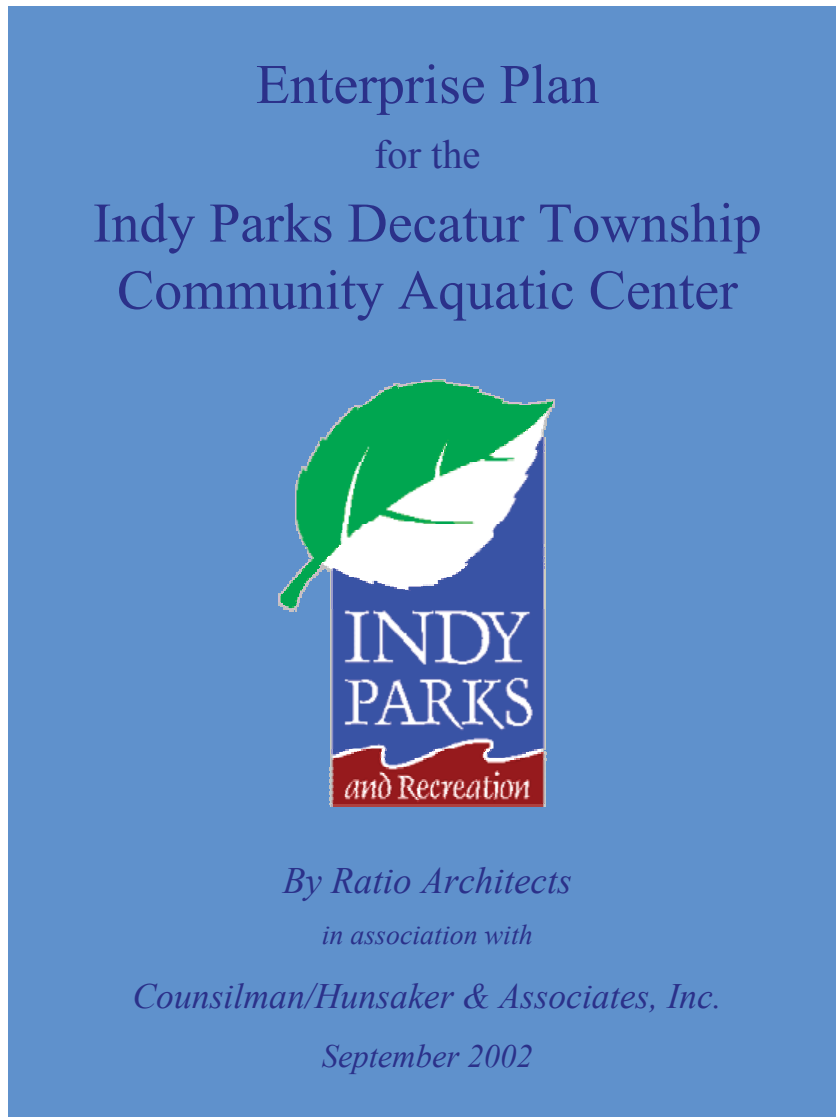


The Trail running north along the tree line from the playground north to Southport Road has been paved with gravel. 6 benches with concrete pads, and two groves with three picnic tables were then added. The full run of this trail is ADA accessible. In the spring of 2007, 80 deciduous trees were planted west of the trail to screen the park from the adjoining private property.

New benches and picnic tables installed in 2006.



2002 Decatur Township Pool Study



In September 2002 Ratio Architects presented to Indy Parks the findings of a study commissioned to identify the best locations and assign cost feasibility for the development of a public pool in Decatur township. This study identified three options. Two locations in Southwestway Park and one at Decatur Central High School property. This is a very comprehensive study which takes into account existing Indy Parks aquatic facilities, demographics, land availability, projected attendance, and potential water features as well as construction and maintenance costs, and staffing requirements. The preferred option is to locate an aquatic facility on the northern end of Southwestway Park, and with the acquisition of the property adjacent to Mann Road, this will be the recommended location in this master plan.

The Following is the executive summary excerpted from the 2002 study.

This document is available from Resource Development upon request.

2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

Indy Parks and Recreation retained Ratio Architects in association with Counsilman/Hunsaker & Associates to study the feasibility of developing a new aquatic center in Decatur Township. This aquatic center would support recreational and some competitive swimming needs, primarily for Decatur Township residents.

Ratio Architects in association with Counsilman/Hunsaker & Associates developed three aquatic center concepts, each with varying degrees of emphasis on aquatic competition, training, and recreation programming components. Based on the analysis of each option, estimates for Project Cost, Attendance (recreation general admission and organized user groups), Operating Cost, and Operating Revenue were calculated and are conveyed in this Enterprise Plan. Please note that, for the purpose of this Enterprise Plan, some financial data for Option 3 has been taken into consideration from two possible sites: one on Decatur Central High School property and another at Southwest Way Park. Options 1 and 2, due to their size, will only fit on the sites at Southwest Way Park. Also please note: there are two possible locations for the proposed aquatic center within Southwest Way Park. In the interest of cohesion, both sites will be referred to as the Southwest Way Park site because of their being so close to one another.

Option 1

The aquatic center concept in this option consists of a six-lane, 25-yard lap lane pool and a separate leisure pool, which offers amenities for children and adults alike. A zero beach entry, participatory play feature, raindrop waterfall feature, bubbler action, and frog slide are some of the amenities in this option. Also, Option 1 offers two waterslides, one of which is an open flume; the other is closed. A water vortex, spray tunnel, and lily pad walk are also in Option 1, which includes a snack bar, high tension shade structure and all of the necessary support and administrative spaces.



Project Cost: \$5,910,000

First Year Estimated Recreation Attendance:
46,117

*Recreation attendance, in this case, is defined as any non-programmed use of the facility, including self-directed exercise, training and therapy programs.

2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan

Table 1
Opinion of Financial Performance
Option 1

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Revenue	\$208,024	\$209,992	\$211,960	\$213,927	\$215,895
Expense	\$244,726	\$252,068	\$259,630	\$267,419	\$275,441
Operating Cashflow	(36,702)	(42,076)	(47,670)	(53,491)	(59,546)
Recapture Rate	85.0%	83.3%	81.6%	80.0%	78.4%

In this table and in subsequent references throughout this report, “recapture rate” is a phrase used to define the percentage of operating expenses recuperated or recaptured by operating revenue. Judging facility performance in these terms is common in the parks and recreation industry.

Option 2

Option 2 consists of a leisure pool and a separate six-lane 25-yard lap lane pool. Features of the leisure pool include zero beach entry, a rainfall water feature, participatory play feature, elephant fountain and frog slide. An underwater bench, spray tunnel and downspouts are in this option. In addition to a water vortex, this option also consists of a current channel. Two waterslides (one open flume, one closed flume) are also present in Option 2. This option, as in all three options, includes a snack bar, high tension permanent shade structure and all of the necessary support and administrative spaces.



Project Cost: \$5,480,000

First Year Estimated Recreation Attendance:
43,618

Table 2
Opinion of Financial Performance
Option 2

Revenue	\$194,827	\$196,718	\$198,609	\$200,499	\$202,390
Expense	\$228,139	\$234,983	\$242,033	\$249,294	\$256,772
Operating Cashflow	(33,312)	(38,265)	(43,424)	(48,794)	(54,382)
Recapture Rate	85.4%	83.7%	82.1%	80.4%	78.8%

2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan

Option 3

In Option 3, the six-lane, 25-yard competition pool is attached to the leisure pool. The aquatic leisure amenities in this option include a water vortex, participatory play feature, rain drop waterfall feature, frog slide, zero beach entry and two waterslides (one closed flume, one open flume). Also, this facility offers a high tension permanent shade structure. Additionally, this aquatic center option offers a snack bar, and all of the necessary support and administrative spaces. The water playground in Option 3 sets it apart from the other options.



Project Cost: \$4,230,000

First Year Estimated Recreation Attendance:
31,515 (Decatur Central High School)
33,090 (Southwest Way Park)

Table 3
Opinion of Financial Performance
Option 3
Both Sites

Southwest Way Park

Revenue	\$146,538	\$148,106	\$149,673	\$151,241	\$152,809
Expense	\$185,640	\$191,210	\$196,946	\$202,854	\$208,940
Operating Cashflow	(39,102)	(43,104)	(47,272)	(51,613)	(56,131)
Recapture Rate	78.9%	77.5%	76.0%	74.6%	73.1%

Decatur Central High School Site

Revenue	\$140,299	\$141,028	\$141,758	\$142,488	\$143,218
Expense	\$185,451	\$191,015	\$196,745	\$202,648	\$208,727
Operating Cashflow	(45,153)	(49,986)	(54,987)	(60,159)	(65,509)
Recapture Rate	75.7%	73.8%	72.1%	70.3%	68.6%

2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The design of the neighborhoods and communities that make up Indianapolis wouldn't be successful without good communication. An integral part of the park master planning process is the public meetings held with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) staff, neighbors, neighborhood organization leaders, and special interest groups. Without this critical external communication, Indy Parks would not be successful in serving park users.

You're Invited

Wednesday

March 3, 2004

7:00pm

**Decatur High School -
Cafeteria**

5251 Kentucky Ave

Indy Parks will be holding a public meeting to discuss the future development of Southwestway Park located on Mann Road. You are invited to see the ideas that are being developed and to offer your thoughts and ideas to our process.


We hope you will be able to attend and look forward to your comments and your valued input.

Questions? Please contact Tim Shaw ~ Senior Parks Planner ~ Indy Parks
(317) 327-5718 or at tashaw@indygov.org

On March 3rd, 2004 the first of two public meetings was held to get public input on the project. The meeting was held at the Decatur High School in the Cafeteria. Timothy Shaw, Parks Planner from Indy Parks was on hand to give the public an introduction to the Master Planning Process. The participants were then asked to provide input as to what they liked about Southwestway Park and what they would like to see changed or improved in the park.




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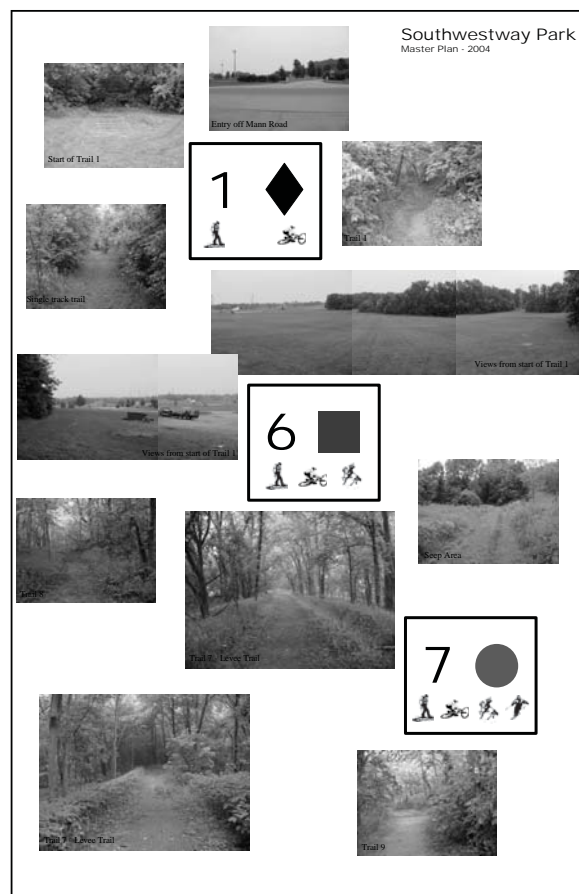
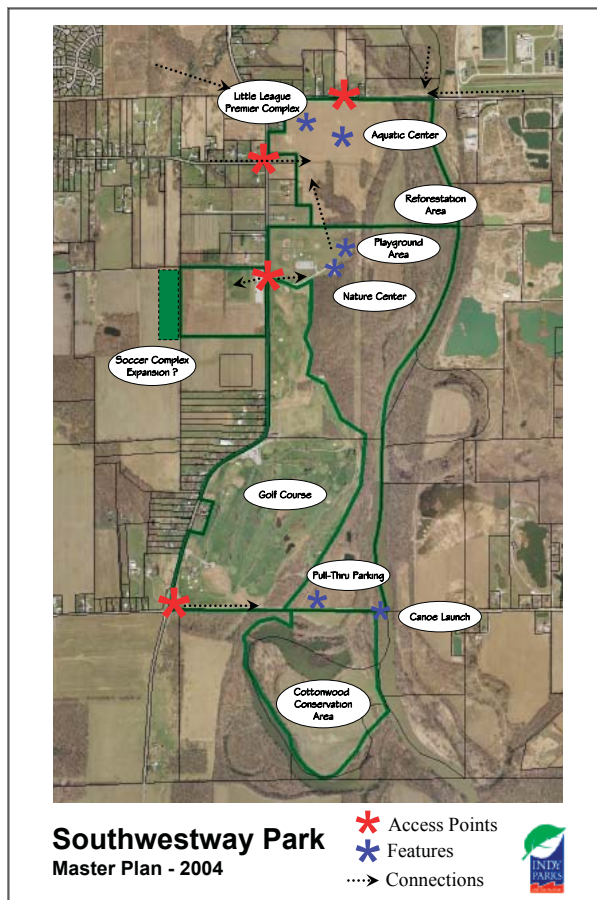
You're Invited
June 10, 2004
7:00pm
Buffer Park Golf Course
3825 Foltz Street
Indianapolis, IN 46221

You're invited to the second Master Plan Meeting for Southwestway Park. We will be presenting some of the ideas that were brought up at the initial meeting and exploring them further.

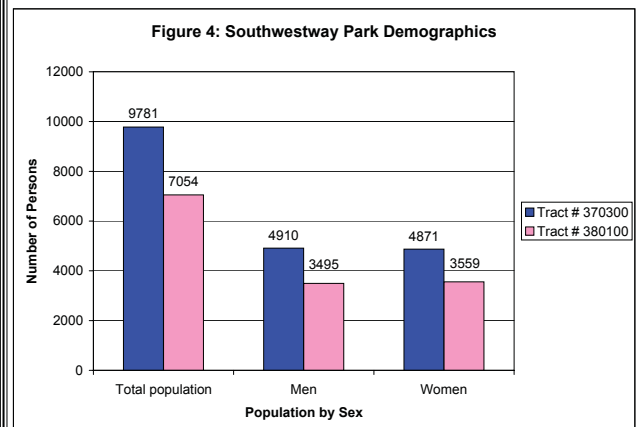
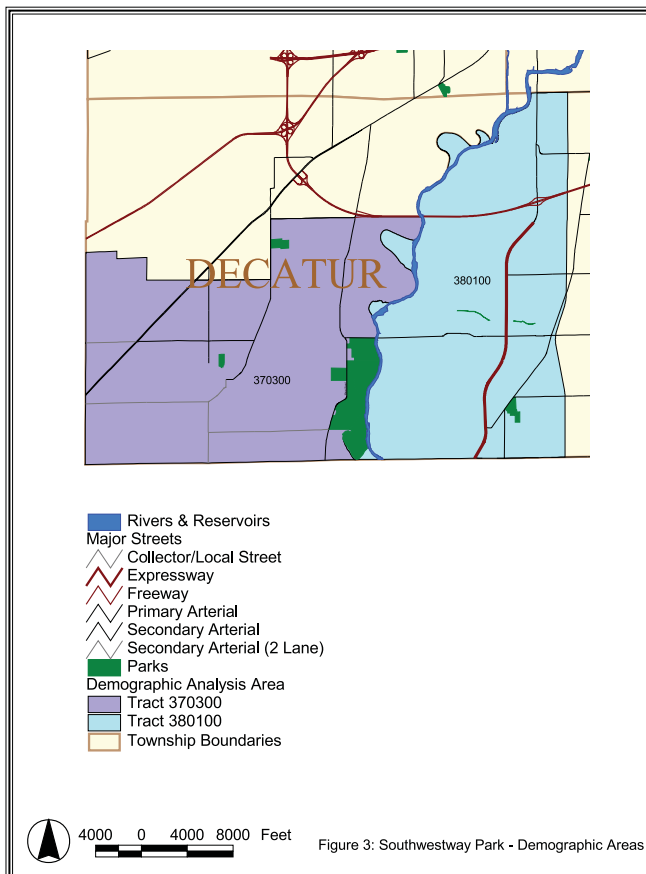
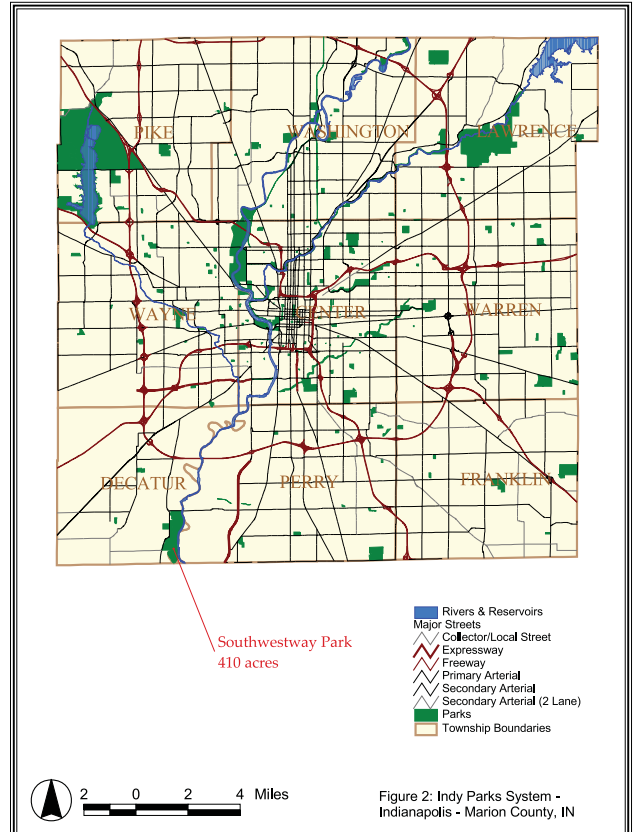
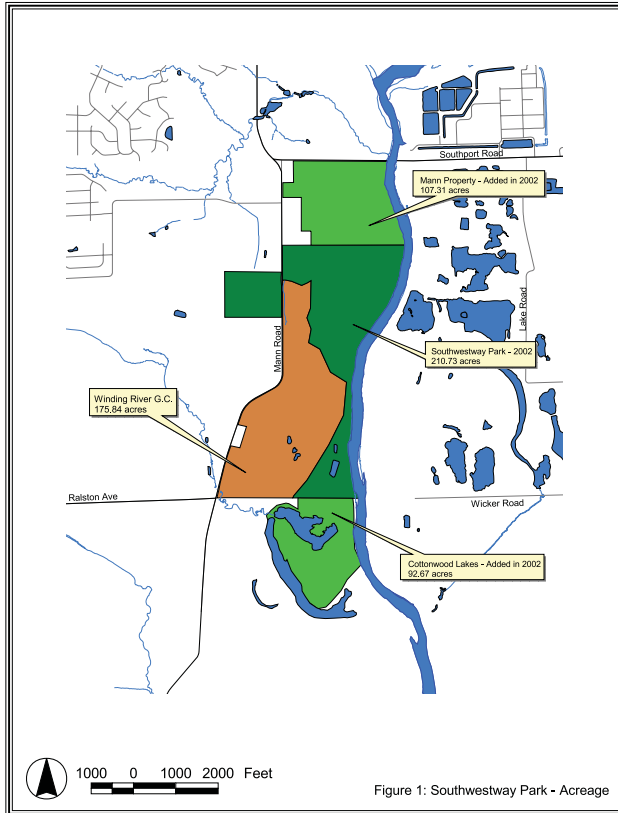
We invite you to come share your thoughts and concerns, as we go through this process. Your opinion is important and we hope that you can come and take part in the exciting plans for Southwestway Park.



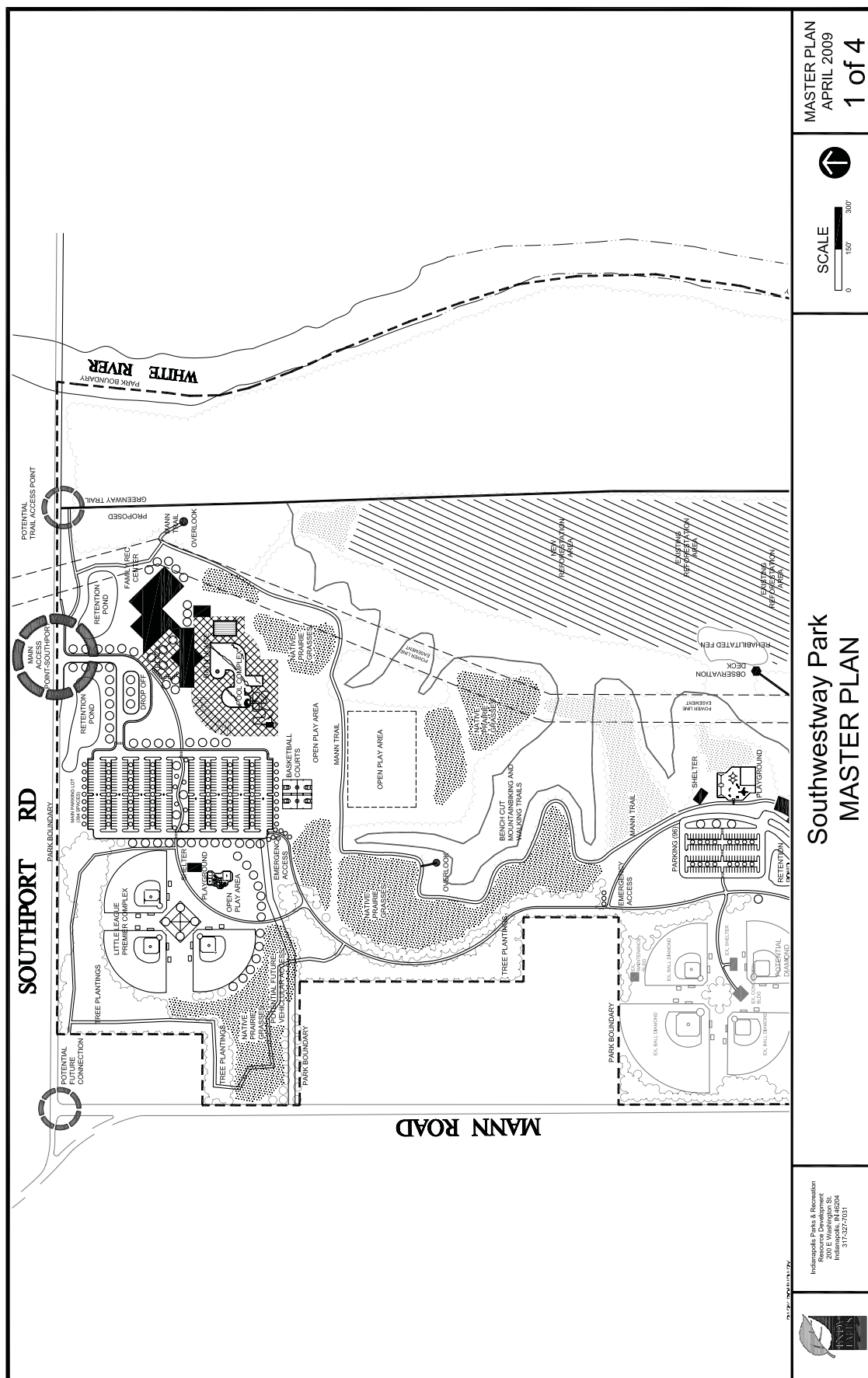
The Second public meeting took place on June 10th, 2004. Again, Indy Parks Planning Staff brought the public up to date and then presented the new Park Concept plan. Timothy Shaw and Michael Krosschell of Indy Parks Planning presented the plan compiled from the different ideas gathered at the last meeting. The following boards were presented to the public and will act to show here the process of developing this plan and the issues discussed.



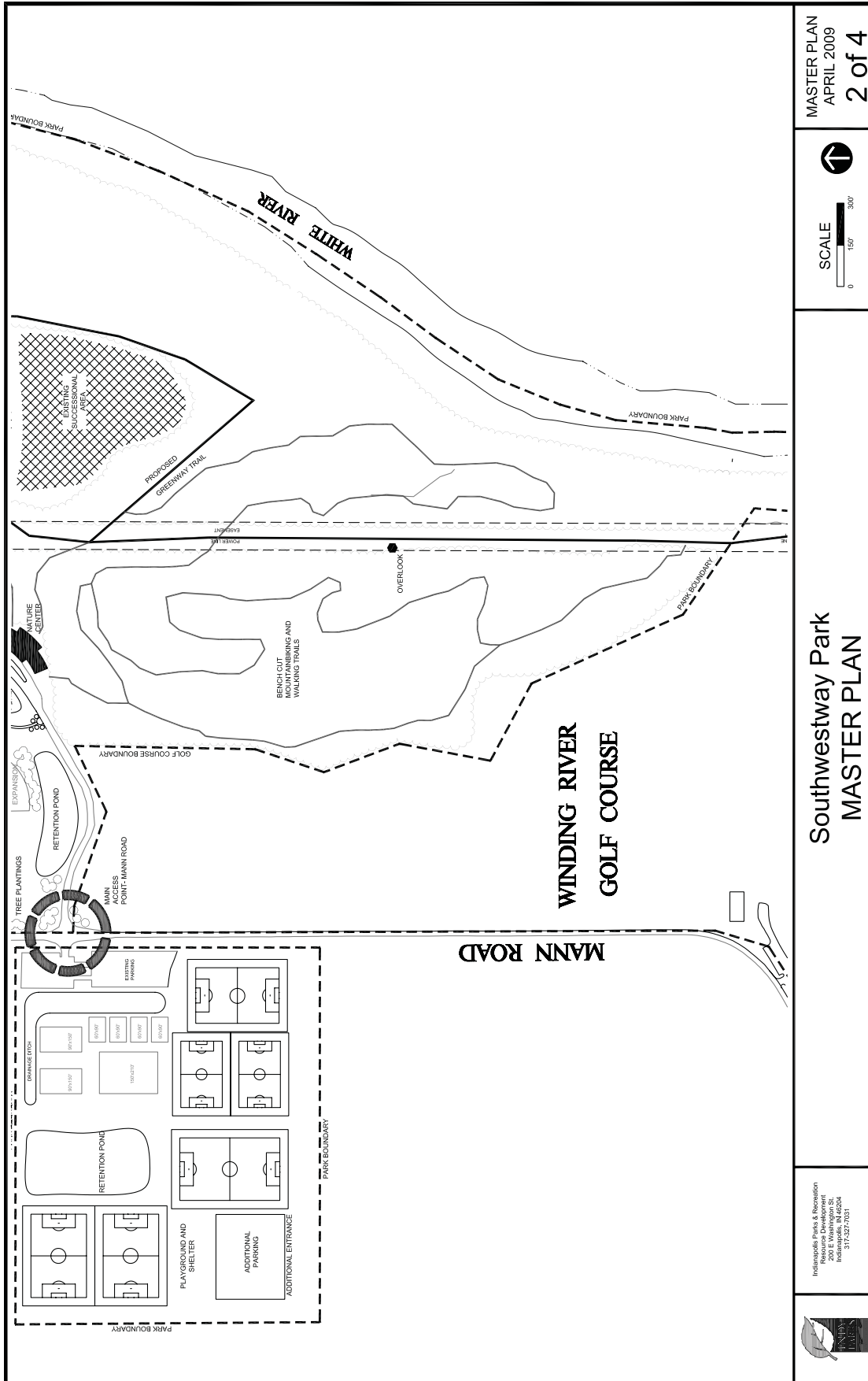
2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan



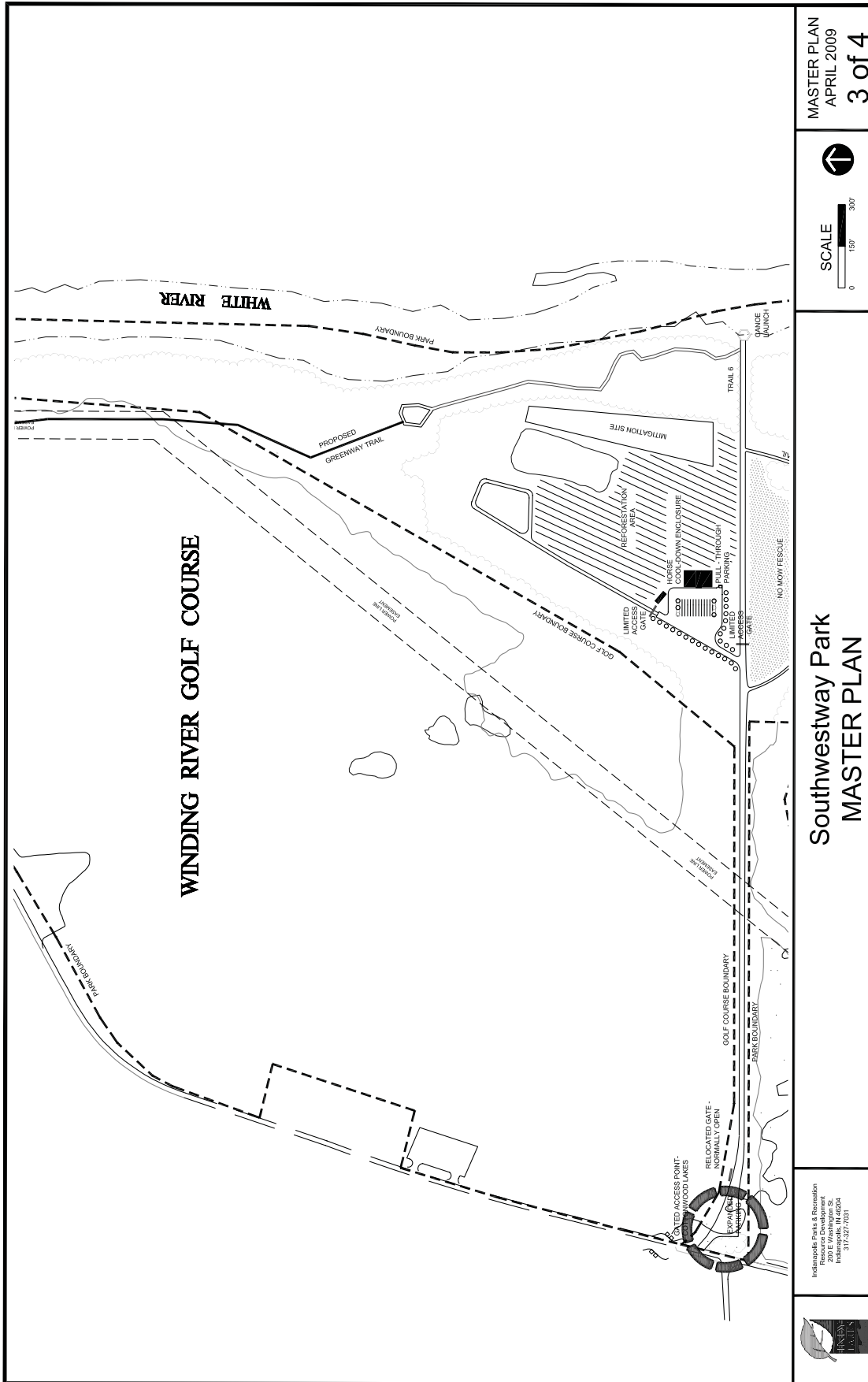
2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan



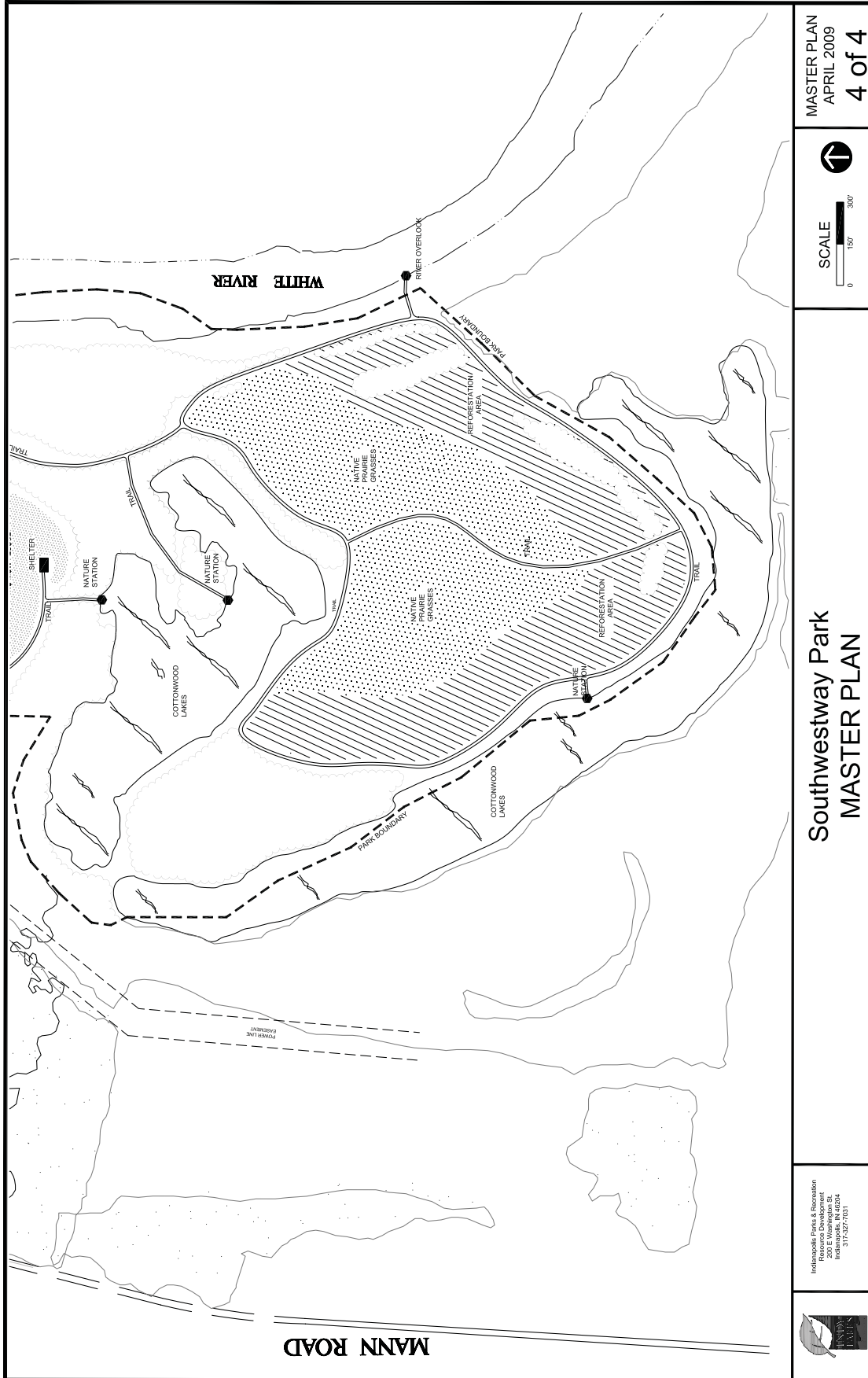
2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan



2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan



2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan



MASTER PLAN
APRIL 2009
4 of 4



SCALE
0 150' 300'

Southwestway Park MASTER PLAN

Indianapolis Parks & Recreation
Resource Development
317/327-7031
Indianapolis, IN 46204



2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for Southwestway Park in this masterplan will focus primarily on capital improvements. Capital improvements are projects which would be scheduled for the near future (1-10 years) and would be funded using a mix of grants, Parks Foundation funds, and the yearly Capital Improvements Budget. Long term management and programming will fall under the purview of Land Stewardship and Facilities Programming. Land Stewardship has created a document outlining best practices and long term goals for the management of this Park. Programming and park usage changes describe the effects of current events held at the park, whether or not they should continue, and what new programs may be introduced. Long term management involves practices to implement and insure that Southwestway Park remains a quality facility for future generations to enjoy. Indy Park's Land Stewardship Department has outlined in detail the best management practices to be used at Southeastway Park in a document called 'Management Plan for the Natural Areas of Southwestway Park' which is referenced in this document and is available from Land Stewardship upon request.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

A. New Environmental Education (EE) Center

This master plan recommends the creation of a new facility based on our current model of an Environmental Education Facility which provides employee offices, classroom areas, a library/ internet access room and a 50 person community meeting room. The new facility should be outfitted for high speed broadband internet and telecommunications, as well as provide a dedicated kitchenette area, ample storage, and proper facilities for the care of live animal specimens.

B. Aquatic Center/ Recreation Center.

The Decatur Township Aquatic Center Study calls for the development of a public pool for the local residents. This facility also should provide a spray park similar to ones at Garfield or Centennial and Groff Parks and a Recreation Center. An excellent model for this facility would be the Garfield Park Center.

C. Additional Parking

New parking should be designated not only for the Aquatic/Recreation Center and the Environmental Education Center specifically, but also for the existing shelters, sports fields, and playground areas. This would increase overall site parking that will be needed once elements of the master plan are developed.

D. No Mow Areas

Take areas out of mowing circulation and restore them as naturalized prairies.

The maintenance division of Indy Parks has been looking for several locations to take out of the weekly mowing rotations. Southwestway Park has several excellent locations to create new prairie areas and extend existing prairies.

2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan

E. Additional Paved Trails

Park users are always desiring new walking trails. Delineating new trails and re-alining trails from areas of overuse is an ongoing process in all of our Natural resource parks. Also, the removal of 'Fall-Line' trails, should also be addressed. HMBA will begin creating two loops of new bench cut and switchback trails in the wooded areas of the Park in the spring of 2009. As a tentative measure, Resource Development is looking at allowing horseback riding in the Cottonwood lakes area trails and utilize the rest of the park trails for multiple user groups. If in the future conflict arises, Resource Development will consider whether this mix is appropriate or even if certain user types should be restricted from the park.

F. Additional Playground

In addition to the playground constructed in 2006. This plan also calls for equipment to be constructed on the northern end of the park when development of the family center occurs there.

G. Create Screening

The likelihood of housing developments occurring to the east and west of the park in the near future is high due to recent development progressing toward the county boundaries. To retain the natural setting and beauty of the park, this plan proposes heavy screening on the eastern edge of the park.

H. New Interpretive Signage

This project would occur throughout the park, and manifest as both a standardised way finding and nature interpretation signage package which is graphically and textually compatible with a City-Wide Indy Parks signage package. This is a project that Indy Parks Planning is currently developing.

I. Additional Sports Fields.

Both Soccer and Softball fields built for a variety of age groups. Also basketball courts.

J. Additional Shelters

Three more shelters located throughout the park for the sports fields as well as for rentals as family gathering locations.

K. Vehicular Access

Additional vehicular drives connecting the facilities and sports fields as well as a new formalized entrance off of Southport Road on the north end of the park.

L. Horse Riding facilities at Cottonwood Lakes.

Cottonwood Lakes is a very unspoiled natural area that could serve perfectly for a low impact, passive recreation use such as horse riding. This would be a good location for Indy parks to develop a shelter as well as wash-off facilities for people who wish to bring horses to ride trails.

M. Other Standard Improvements

All the other standard improvements made to our park facilities, such as benches, picnic tables, trash cans, drinking fountains, etc.

2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan

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. It must also prove feasible in terms of site constraints and availability of funds. For this reason, the proposed timeline and estimated cost of each action plan element is subject to change.

IMPROVEMENT	ESTIMATED COST	1st-4th Year	5th-10th Year
New Environmental Education Center	\$ 2,000,000		
Swimming pool/ Aquatic center	\$ 5,000,000		
Additional Parking	\$ 100,000		
Additional Playground equipment	\$ 120,000		
Additional Soccer Fields with Goals	\$ 250,000		
Build concession stand for soccer area	\$ 275,000		
Paved walking trails around soccer fields & bridge	\$ 100,000		
Reseed existing soccer fields	\$ 30,000		
T-ball/ softball field	\$ 70,000		
Additional baseball field	\$ 12,000		
Landscaping around baseball concession stand	\$ 5,000		
Basketball courts & expand parking	\$ 130,000		
Open pavilion/ garden	\$ 60,000		
Southport road tree plantings	\$ 20,000		
Additional Shelters	\$ 70,000		
Picnic tables	\$ 9,000		
Benches	\$ 10,000		
steel grills	\$ 2,000		
Drinking fountains	\$ 20,000		
Port-o-let	\$ 3,000		
Bicycle racks	\$ 3,000		
Improvements of hiking and horse trails	\$ 200,000		
Horse tie up rails	\$ 500		
Split rail fencing	\$ 6,000		
Interpretive Signage	\$ 14,000		
Naturalized Plantings	\$ 5,000		
Paved Walking Paths	\$ 12,000		

2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan

CONCLUSION

As the Master Planning process is completed, the community begins to look ahead to implementing specific park improvements spelled out in the plan. Indy Parks and Recreation 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. It is important to remember to coordinate all requests to the groups listed on the following pages with Indy Parks Planning, Partnership & Grant staff members. Any parks question should be addressed to 327-PARK.



Cottonwood Lakes

The processes undertaken to develop this master plan involved a variety of people with diverse interests and concerns. Their involvement in the process has helped to insure that the recreational needs of the neighboring community are satisfied.

This master plan should be frequently reviewed and periodically updated, so that Indy Parks can continue to be responsive to the community surrounding Southwestway Park.

APPENDIX

Funding Opportunities

Appendix I

2008 Southwestway Park Master Plan

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

DPR in 2000 assigned a staff person as Grants Coordinator for the Department. These duties include identifying, researching, applying for and administering grants for capitol improvements and programs in Indianapolis Parks. 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

2008 Southwestway Park Master Plan

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.

2008 Southwestway Park Master Plan

INDIANAPOLIS PARKS BOARD RESOLUTION

General Resolution No. 12, 2009

Board of Parks and Recreation
Consolidated City of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, Indiana
and

Be It Resolved That The Board Hereby Approves:

Approval from the Parks Board of the 2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan

calling for:

approval from the Parks Board for the 2009 Southwestway Park Master Plan drafted with substantial public involvement and input, and incorporates sound planning principles and staff expertise. Making recommendations for new nature, family, and aquatic centers, additional parking, expansion of native planting areas, additional walking, equestrian, and mountain-biking trails, picnic shelters, new playground, and recreational sports fields. The plan also speaks to the need for partnership and fundraising assistance from interested neighborhood organizations as an essential part of implementing these plans.

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 to execute such agreement for and in behalf of the Department.

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION CONSOLIDATED CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

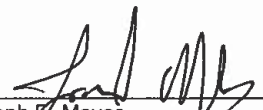

Assistant Corporation Counsel

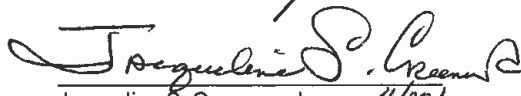

Stuart M. Lowry

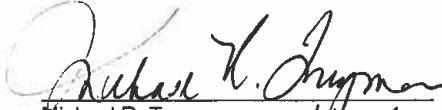

Louvenia Holstein, Board Secretary


Diana M. Hall


Date


Joseph E. Mayes


Jacqueline S. Greenwood 4/23/09


Michael R. Twyman 4/23/09

2008 Southwestway Park Master Plan

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BOARD RESOLUTION