



RATIO

MEETING SUMMARY

Architecture
Preservation
Interior Design
Landscape Architecture
Urban Planning & Design
Graphic Design

Project: RIVERSIDE REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN
RATIO Project No.: 17003.000
Date/Time: June 8, 2017, 10:00 am, Riverside Park Family Center
Purpose: Technical Steering Committee Meeting 6
Participants:

Indy Parks:

Julee Jacob, Sr Project Manager
Andre Denman, Principal Planner
Don Colvin, Deputy Director
Ellery Manuel, Regional Manager
Kent Knorr, Golf Manager

Consultant Team:

Mary Jane Glaspy - Engaging Solutions
Ja'Neane Minor – Engaging Solutions
Phyllis Boyd – Groundwork Indy
Keri VanVlymen – RATIO
John Jackson – RATIO

Indianapolis Department of Public Works:

Mark Taylor
Gretchen Zortman
Mark Zwoyer

Indianapolis Public Safety:

Brent Kintner

Indiana Department of Natural Resources:

Bob Bronson

Marion Co. Public Health Dept.

Stephanie Thornberry

Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development:

Keith Holdsworth
Brad Beaubien

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- I. Welcome & Re-Introductions
- II. Project Milestones & Schedule Review
- A. 6th of 9 Steering Committee Meetings
 - B. 2 of 3 Public Open Houses completed
 - C. Upcoming Engagement Events:
 - 1. Health Fair at Municipal Gardens – June 10, 9am-1pm
 - 2. Riverside Reunion – June 17, 12pm-5pm
 - 3. Day Trip to Millennium Park, Chicago – July 10, 7am-7pm
- III. Bob Bronson – Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program
- A. The Land & Water Conservation Fund is a 53-year-old program administered by the National Parks Service. Its purpose is to safeguard natural areas, water resources and cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans. The program 'encumbers' an area of land placed under 6(f)(3) protection (based upon Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act), that limits the use of the land to public outdoor recreation in perpetuity. There are 467 local park projects throughout the state of Indiana, with a budget of \$1.8 million for 2017. State and local governments must apply for grant funds on a matching basis for the acquisition of land and the development of facilities.

- B. Within Riverside Regional Park, the areas that are currently under 6(f)(3) protection are Riverside Park proper and the Indy Cycloplex/Lake Sullivan Sports Complex areas. **No other areas within Riverside Regional Park are currently subject to the usage restrictions that apply to the LWCF areas.** Indy Parks would need to apply for a separate grant to encumber any additional areas of Riverside Regional Park with Section 6(f)(3) protections.
- C. The LWCF Act does provide for conversions of protected areas to other uses, but discourages the casual “discard” of park and recreation facilities by requiring that the site be replaced with land of reasonably equivalent fair market value, usefulness, and location. The replacement is not based upon acreage – appraisals of both properties must be done to determine value equivalency. In our community, replacement properties may be located anywhere within Marion County, but the preference is to add to existing park land.
- D. Situations that **do not** require a conversion would include the construction of public facilities that would provide a gain or increased benefit to the public outdoor recreational opportunities. These may include public recreation or nature centers, aquatic facilities, restrooms, concessions, etc. These types of proposals must be reviewed by the National Parks Service as a “public facility request.” Some examples of uses which would NOT ordinarily be approved include professional sports facilities, commercial facilities that require memberships or are not accessible to the general public, office or residential facilities, fire stations, or a community recreation center that takes up all or most of a small park site.
- E. A private entity **may not acquire or develop** any part of a protected site without a conversion approval. However, protected areas or facilities **may** be leased to a private organization or individual, and concession agreements are allowed, as long as these agreements provide or add to the public outdoor recreational opportunities of the site. The area must be identified as publicly owned and operated as a public outdoor recreation facility in all signage, literature, and advertising, to eliminate the perception that the area is private. There are no limitations on the amount of revenue that may be generated on an encumbered property. The State is responsible for assuring compliance with this objective. If an agreement should compromise the public usage of the leased or concessioned area, the State is obligated to provide suitable replacement property.
- F. The procedures and requirements as written are somewhat “gray” on whether a private organization that is leasing/managing a facility on a protected site may use the facility for its own purposes for any significant percentage of time. The “spirit of the law” is to preserve the PUBLIC outdoor recreational usage of the site, and to maintain the perception that the area is for public use.
- G. Indy Parks does not run leagues, but does have partnership use agreements with privately run leagues who use the athletic facilities. This is another “gray area” in terms of percentages of use time. The general perception must be that the facilities are primarily open for public use.
- H. If public-private partnerships to aid in the management and maintenance of these facilities are welcomed, perhaps some additional clarity in the procedures and requirements is warranted.

IV. Park Programming

A. Survey Responses

1. The survey remains available through the project website, and hard copies will be made available for people to fill out at the Riverside Reunion pop-up workshop.
2. The planning team is endeavoring to be intentional about collecting responses from a wide variety of demographic groups. To date, just over half of the responses have been from people who are age 50 and over. In an effort to engage younger respondents, we have reached out to the parents of elementary school students at IPS Schools 42 & 44, as well as to residents of The Tyler Apartments and Stadium Lofts (primarily IUPUI students are residents.)
3. To date, 16% of respondents have indicated that better access to the river is desired, and 30% and 28% (respectively) indicated that outdoor adventure and nature education programs were among the top 5 most important programs to members of their households. Indy Parks would like the planning team to continue to emphasize that engagement with the river is a unique opportunity within Riverside Park. In keeping with Indy Parks Comprehensive Plan and Indy Greenways Full Circle Plan, “blueways” (water paths developed with

launch points and points of interest for canoeists and kayakers) should continue to be explored and established as part of the master plan for Riverside Park.

V. Conceptual Design Diagram Review

A. Access & Mobility within Riverside Park

1. The scale of the park is so large that in considering where to place programming items, vehicular and pedestrian circulation throughout the park must be considered early in the process.
2. Concerns have been voiced throughout the public engagement process about the lack of access to the park (both vehicular and pedestrian), and safety concerns about cars driving through unpaved areas to access athletic fields.
3. The diagrams presented highlighted existing and proposed routes of bike/ped and vehicular circulation for access to the different “neighborhoods” within the park, as well as proposed locations for additional parking.
4. Keith Holdsworth asked whether an additional vehicular bridge across the White River is being considered as well as a pedestrian bridge. The planning team agrees that connections across the river are important to the public’s perception of the identity of the entire site as Riverside Regional Park. A concept diagram was presented in which White River Parkway Drive south of Burdsal Parkway might be closed to vehicular traffic, and Keith commented that although the park isn’t “for commuting,” many who do commute on that route consider the drive through the park the “last moment of calm” before reaching the downtown bustle.
5. Brent Kintner and Julee Jacob expressed concerns about extending adjacent neighborhood streets into the park and creating loop roads within the park, citing the need to calm traffic both within the park and on adjacent streets.


B. Potential Locations for Programming Items

1. Brad Beaubien commented that the perception of river access programming may be that swimming and other “full-body contact” water activities in the White River are not safe or desirable at this time.
2. The conceptual diagram presented at the meeting proposed that South Grove Golf Course be entirely converted to public park uses, and that 9 holes each of Coffin and Riverside Golf Courses would be connected across 30th Street to create a single 18-hole course with a single new club house and maintenance facility. Committee members questioned this, citing that South Grove is the only profitable course at this time. The rationale for this proposed concept takes into consideration the history of all three courses, increased connectivity between the park and the adjacent neighborhoods, areas of the existing courses that regularly flood and create expensive maintenance issues, and other land uses that have the potential to generate more revenue within the same area.
3. Phyllis Boyd suggested that there should be a bike/ped connection to the rest of the park from Municipal Gardens.

VI. Adjourn

Any additions or corrections to these Minutes should be submitted in writing to RATIO Architects, Inc., within ten (10) days of receipt. Otherwise, these Minutes stand as correct.

Respectfully submitted,


John D. Jackson, PLA, LEED AP
Principal

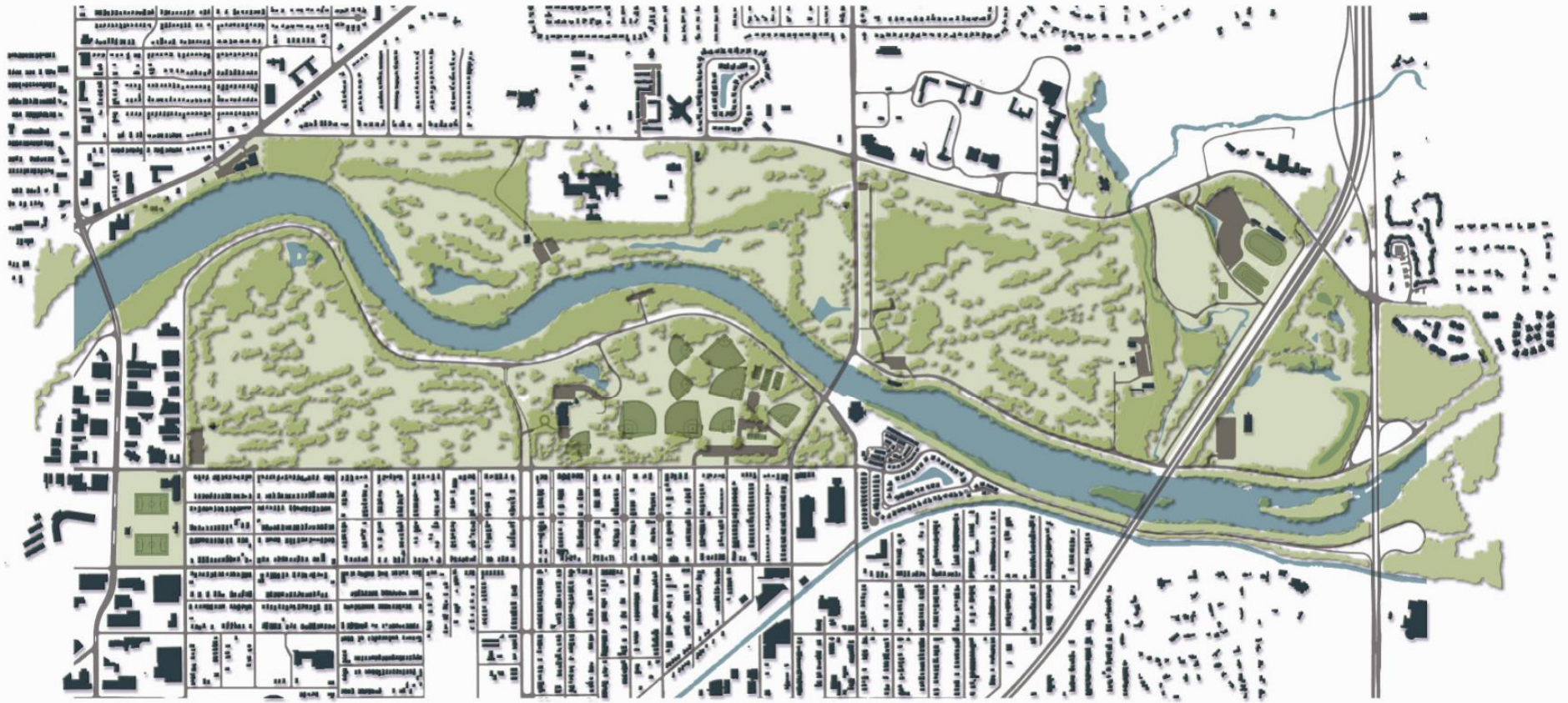
cc: Participants
 Consultant team leaders
 RATIO internal team
 Lori Hazlett – President, Indianapolis Parks Foundation

Preferences: Facilities & Amenities

Walking Trails	52.73%
Picnic areas/Shelters	46.67%
Playground Equipment	36.97%
Indoor Fitness & Exercise Facilities	33.33%
Natural Areas	32.73%
Outdoor Swimming Pools/Water Parks	25.45%
Nature Centers	24.24%
Indoor Swimming Pools/ Leisure Pools	24.24%
Off-leash Dog Park	22.42%
Outdoor Adventure Parks	21.82%
Mountain Bike Trails	20.00%
Indoor Running/Walking Track	19.39%
Youth Baseball and Softball Fields	18.79%
Outdoor Tennis Courts	16.36%
Indoor Basketball/Volleyball Courts	13.33%
Soccer Fields	12.12%
Multipurpose Fields (Cricket, Lacrosse, Football)	12.12%
Adult Baseball/Softball Fields	12.12%
Outdoor Water Spray Parks	12.12%
Outdoor Fishing Areas	10.30%
Golf Courses	10.30%
Skateboarding Park	9.70%
Indoor Sports Complex (Baseball, Soccer, Etc.)	7.88%
Pickleball Courts	4.24%

Preferences: Programs

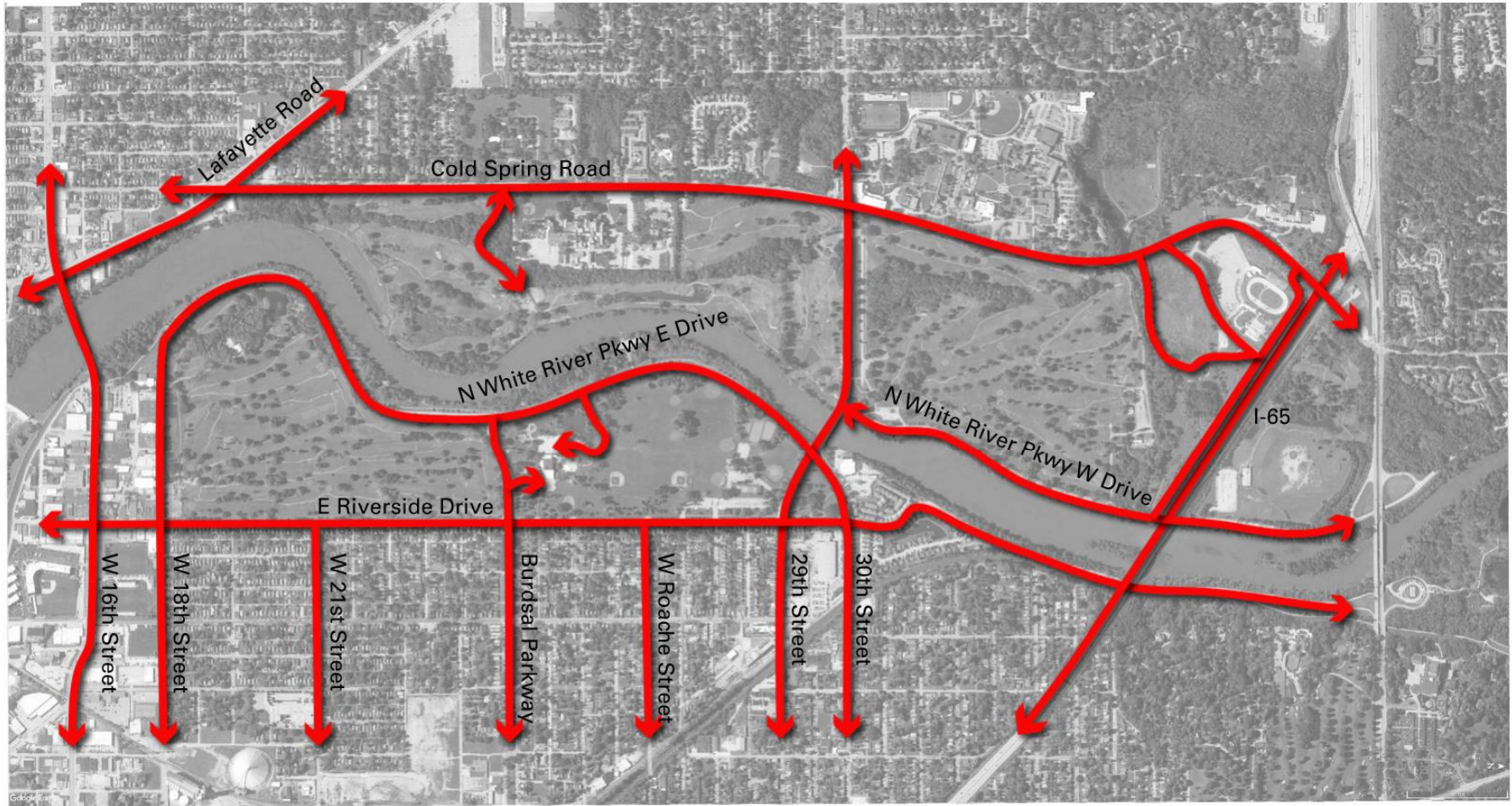
Senior Programs	38.18%
Adult Sports	35.76%
Youth Learn to swim	34.55%
Youth/Teen Fitness and Wellness	33.94%
After School Programs	33.33%
Large Special Events	31.52%
Outdoor Adventure Programs	29.70%
Nature Education Programs	28.48%
Youth Sports	27.88%
Water Fitness Programs	25.45%
Youth Summer Camp	24.85%
Youth Art, Dance, Performing Arts	24.24%
Trips (Day Trips and Extended Trips)	22.42%
Life Skill Classes	22.42%
Martial Arts or Self-defense	18.79%
Golf	14.55%
Childcare Programs	12.73%
Pre-school Programs	11.52%
Adaptive (Special Population) Programs	7.88%



Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions



Vehicular Circulation - Existing



Vehicular Circulation - Proposed



Vehicular Circulation - Proposed



Pedestrian Circulation - Existing



Pedestrian Circulation - Proposed



Land Use - Potential Programming Locations



RIVERSIDE REGIONAL PARK | LUMINARY WALK



RIVERSIDE REGIONAL PARK | WETLAND