

## Update of the Indianapolis-Marion County Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan

### Public Meeting Summary

In early March 2015, eleven (11) public meetings were completed in each of the nine (9) townships with three (3) conducted in Center Township. Many methods for publicizing these workshops were utilized including press releases, email blasts, radio advertising, note cards, multiple social media outreach methods, many mentions on local news media outlets besides word of mouth.

All public meetings followed a consistent format of: educating the community and soliciting public input and their vision for the future. This included information on the planning process and demographic shifts in the Township and nation-wide trends. The crowd-sourcing project website ([www.planindyparks.com](http://www.planindyparks.com)) was revealed to the audience, who were encouraged to visit and participate in the online survey and follow the plan's progression through posted technical reports and meeting times/locations.

Residents were also asked to identify system-wide strengths, opportunities and single highest priority outcome of the Master Plan through spoken comments. Further public input was solicited through an open house format and discussion where residents identified their top 5 program, facility and marketing and communications priorities from a list provided on planning boards.

The following summarizes and highlights the results of each public meeting.

### Wayne Township (March 3, 2015)

**Location:** Krannert Park Family Center; 605 S. High School Rd.

**Attendance:** 26.

#### Key Discussion Points from the Workshop

- Strengths:
  - The trail system is off to a good start and continuous sidewalks was mentioned as a strength for connectivity.
  - Residents expressed their support for current programming, specifically for families, kids and the concerts.
  - Eagle Creek Park, Garfield Park and other signature parks are supported by the community
  - The City's bike lane initiative is supported by residents.



- Volunteer support in the City through partnerships with businesses is a strength, as well as the coordination of the many partners.
- Residents enjoy the recreation centers as they provide opportunities for all ages.
- Opportunities:
  - Increased access to parks and facilities was expressed.
  - Opportunities for park system expansion is desired by residents.
  - Enhancement of environmental outdoor education programming.
  - Connectivity through an expanded trail system is desired, specifically, for the B&O Trail to connect downtown, Eagle Creek Park, and Speedway.
  - Additionally, residents desire an increase in mileage of the trail system and access points to parks, businesses, schools and neighborhoods.
  - Enhancement to the maintenance quality and keeping up with capital improvements was also expressed.
  - Broader age segment appeal for park amenities and program is also desired.
  - Additional opportunities for skateboarding was expressed.
  - Expand upon reoccurring volunteer support through volunteer management and cultivation.
- Top Priority:
  - Additional trails and increased connectivity.
  - Natural surface trails.
  - Maintenance and improvement of existing facilities through a balance of care between new and existing.
  - Diversify funding sources and opportunities for revenue generation.
  - Encourage participation and use of the parks system as it leads to greater safety.
  - Increase partnership to increase funding and recreation experiences.



### Top 5 Priorities from the Open House

The top five priorities for programs, facilities and marketing and communications from meeting attendees is described below:

- Programs:
  - Adult fitness & wellness programs (7)
  - Outdoor adventure programs (i.e. canoeing, kayaking, etc.) (6)
  - Youth / teen sports programs (6)
  - Before & after school programs (5)
  - Preschool programs (5)
  - Senior programs (5)
  - Other: trail programs / geocaching (16)
- Facilities
  - Paved walking & biking trails (23)
  - Mountain bike trails (16)
  - Playground equipment & play areas (10)
  - Nature trails (8)
  - Community gardens (6)
- Marketing & Communications
  - Email Blast (13)
  - Facebook (9)
  - A printed/ hard copy program guide (5)
  - Website (via desktop or laptop) (4)
  - Radio ads (AM/FM) (4)
  - Other: Signage along trails (10) & Text alerts (6)



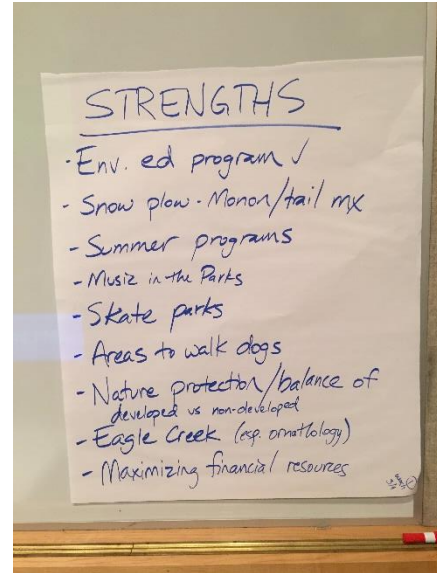
## Washington Township (March 4, 2015)

**Location:** Holliday Park Nature Center (6439 Spring Mill Rd.)

**Attendance:** Attendance for this meeting totaled 27.

### Key Discussion Points

- Strengths:
  - Environmental education programs.
  - Maintenance of the Monon Greenway, especially as it relates to snow removal.
  - Summer programs for youth.
  - Skate parks are supported by residents.
  - The many opportunities to walk dogs.
  - Nature protection and the balance of developed versus non-developed land.
  - The Department's ability to maximize its financial resources.
  - Proximity of parks to residents.
  - Residents appreciate that they feel safe in parks and on trails.
  - Cleanliness of facilities and parks is a strength of the Department.
  - The Department does a great job on using Friends Groups in partnerships of signature parks.
  - The Department's communication with residents.
  - The City's uniqueness in natural resources.
- Opportunities:
  - Additional natural areas are desired.
  - Extended hours of the Monon Greenway and in parks, especially during the evening.
  - Engaging with Reconnecting our Waterways to ensure residents have opportunity to recreate on this natural resource.
  - Engaging with neighborhoods to sustain and care for facilities through partnerships.
  - Connect and organize more with community partnerships regarding programs.
  - Interpretive elements in the park system can be stronger, especially as it relates to park namesakes from a historical standpoint.
  - Additional youth programs and engagement, especially for pre-teens, is desired. Possibly with natural area management.
  - A youth jobs initiative is desired.
  - Additional pocket parks along trails, especially for youth, is desired.
  - Enhanced security presence by park rangers is desired.
  - Ensure that underserved areas of the City have equitable parkland.
  - Better access through public transport to parks is desired.
  - Conversion of vacant space is an opportunity for the City.
  - Additional dog parks for residents.
  - Community gardens and butterfly gardens are an opportunity for the City to expand.

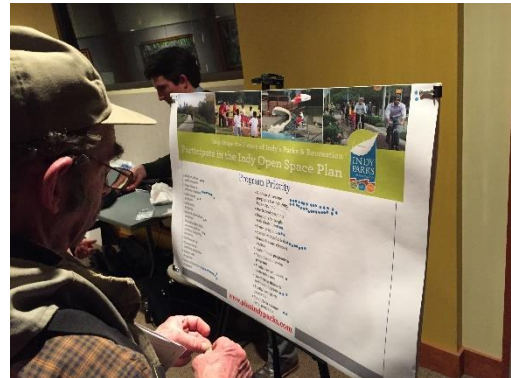


- Address the high fees at Eagle Creek Park to ensure these are equitable.
- Enhance marketing efforts to increase awareness of parks and promote the benefits of the City's natural areas.
- Find sustainable funding resources for the Department.
- Integrate and fully implement the Full Circle Greenways Master Plan.
- Highest Priority:
  - Engage our youth more effectively.
  - Funding for maintenance, safety and cleanliness.
  - Natural area protection.
  - Additional natural surface trails.
  - More Skate Parks.

**Top 5 Priorities from the Open House**

The top five priorities for programs, facilities and marketing and communications from meeting attendees is described below:

- Programs:
  - Outdoor adventure programs (i.e. canoeing, kayaking, etc.) (43)
  - Nature education programs (23)
  - Adult fitness & wellness programs (10)
  - Special events/festivals (8)
  - Youth/ teen fitness wellness programs (5)
  - Youth/ teen sports programs (5)
- Facilities:
  - Mountain bike trails (35)
  - Skateboard park (27)
  - Nature trails (15)
  - Paved walking & biking trails (9)
  - Community gardens (6)
  - Park shelters & picnic areas (6)
- Marketing & Communications:
  - Facebook (17)
  - Email Blast (15)
  - E-newsletters (15)
  - Website (via desktop or laptop) (11)
  - Instagram (7)



## Franklin Township (March 4, 2015)

**Location:** Southeastway Park Nature Center (5624 S Carroll Rd).

**Attendance:** Attendance for this meeting totaled 12.

### Key Discussion Points

- Strengths:
  - Variety of parks and services.
  - Department’s signature parks (e.g. Eagle Creek, Garfield).
  - Staff is great and helpful.
  - Great programs.
  - Website is easy to navigate.
  - Marketing and awareness.
  - Safe/security in parks.
  - Cultural trail is great.
- Opportunities:
  - Connectivity of trail network to neighborhoods.
  - Add mountain bike trails.
  - Build a skate/bike park combo.
  - Build a dog park with an agility course.
  - Build an outdoor family aquatic center with zero depth entry.
  - Work more with non-profits/volunteer groups.
  - More multi-purpose trails.
  - Foot golf (soccer golf)
  - Additional parking need at special events in parks (e.g. White River, Bug Festival).
  - More awareness of Department’s program offerings.
- Highest Priority:
  - Combine art, music, skateboards.
  - Repurpose empty, unused site into indoor skate park.
  - More community involvement with Department and offerings.
  - Connectivity of trail system.
  - More mountain bike trails.
  - Skate dots (skate elements at existing sites).
  - Develop and activate Acton Road Park.
  - Utility vehicle at Southeastway Park
  - Improve and better maintenance of hiking and biking trails.
  - Better publicity and community from the Department to residents.



### Top 5 Priorities from the Open House

The top five priorities for programs, facilities and marketing and communications from meeting attendees is described below:

- Programs:
  - Outdoor adventure programs (i.e. canoeing, kayaking, etc.) (20)

- Special events & festivals (7)
- Education / life skills programs such as cooking, budgeting, carpentry (5)
- Nature education programs (5)
- Youth/ teen summer camp programs (4)
- Facilities:
  - Mountain bike trails (19)
  - Skateboard park (10)
  - Nature trails (5)
  - Outdoor swimming pool & spraygrounds (5)
  - Paved walking & biking trails (4)
- Marketing & Communications:
  - Twitter (19)
  - Instagram (8)
  - Website (via mobile device) (7)
  - Over the phone customer service 327-PARK (5)
  - E-newsletters (5)



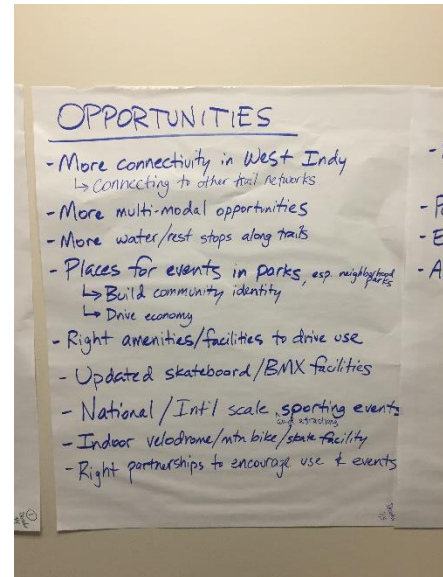
## Decatur Township (March 5, 2015)

**Location:** MSD of Decatur Township Administrative Office Board Room (5275 Kentucky Ave.)

**Attendance:** Attendance for this meeting totaled 14.

### Key Discussion Points

- Strengths:
  - The Department is in tune with trends for the next generation.
  - The City has a lot of open space and the potential to gain additional.
  - Connectivity is a priority of the Department.
  - The Department does a good job communicating with community organizations and partners.
  - Signage and wayfinding.
  - Variety of facilities/parks such as the signature parks (e.g. Eagle Creek, Garfield).
  - The City offers many places to recreate passively to escape.
- Opportunities:
  - More connectivity in West Indy by connecting to existing trail networks.
  - Opportunities for water/rest stops along trail networks.
  - Places for special events in parks, especially in larger community parks, to build community identity and drive the local economy.
  - Create destination amenities/facilities to drive use.
  - An updated skateboard/bmx facility as the current one is crowded and in need of maintenance.
  - National/international scale attractions and sporting events.
  - Indoor velodrome/mountain bike/skate facility.
  - Create partnerships to encourage use by residents.
  - Recreation opportunities for residents to balance the City's efforts for tourism attractions.
  - Partnerships to acquire additional park land.
  - Enhancements to restrooms and family parks.
  - Additional aquatic facilities.
- Highest Priority:
  - Updated Skate Park.
  - Connectivity.
  - Additional parks and green space.
  - Expansion of mountain bike trails.
  - Enhanced communication / marketing by the Department, especially in social media.
  - Partnership communications.



### Top 5 Priorities from the Open House

The top five priorities for programs, facilities and marketing and communications from meeting attendees is described below:

- Programs:
  - Outdoor adventure programs (i.e. canoeing, kayaking, etc.) (20)
  - Adult fitness & wellness programs (5)
  - Special events/festivals (4)
  - Before & after school programs (3)
  - Nature education programs (3)
- Facilities:
  - Mountain bike trails (16)
  - Nature trails (7)
  - Paved walking & biking trails (4)
  - Off-leash dog park (3)
  - Skateboard park (3)
- Marketing & Communications:
  - Website (via tablet) (8)
  - Facebook (7)
  - Website (via desktop or laptop) (6)
  - E-newsletters (6)
  - Parks staff (4)



## Warren Township (March 9, 2015)

**Location:** World Sports Park (1313 S. Post Road)

**Attendance:** Attendance for this meeting totaled 32.

### Key Discussion Points

- Strengths:
  - Pennsy Trail is a great asset and enjoy being out in the country.
  - Community rooms and centers and the ability to use for rentals.
  - Splash parks are outstanding and economical from an operational standpoint.
  - Dog parks provide gathering places and areas for dogs to run.
  - Signature Parks provide many great opportunities for special events.
  - Multi-use trails and their ability to be used for mountain biking, horseback rides, and hiking.
  - Partnerships with community organizations and the school districts.
  - Holliday Park’s nature trails, nature center and river access.
  - Accessibility to community centers.
- Opportunities:
  - Increase walkability through trails and sidewalks.
  - Aquatic programming expansion of opportunities and extend hours.
  - Extend park hours beyond “dawn to dusk.”
  - Add more mountain bike trails and adventure bike parks.
  - Update Ellenberger Park with a new community center that is multi-generational. This could also include a water mark.
  - Expand pickle ball programming at underperforming tennis courts and convert some courts to permanent pickle ball courts. Opportunities for tournaments. Expand Sahn Park pickleball courts.
  - Increase promotion and marketing efforts of the Department.
  - Enhance maintenance of pools and dog parks.
  - Complete the Pennsy Trail to Cumberland.
  - Add shelter and running water at the dog parks, as well as enhance maintenance through gravel or straw.
  - Need for a regional park in the southeast portion of the City.
- Highest Priority:
  - Water at dog park.
  - Multi-generational community center at Ellenberger Park.
  - Permanent conversion of tennis courts to pickleball courts.
  - Expand and complete Pennsy Trail.
  - Continue to expand connectivity throughout the City.



- Enhance maintenance at Paul Ruster Park.
- Multi-use trails for hiking and biking.
- Better communication and engagement of stakeholders and the community by the Department.
- Mountain bike trails at Eagle Creek Park.
- Add a family center and more aquatic opportunities at Grassy Creek Regional Park. .
- Creative use of open space that is multi-use.
- Additional greenways.
- Utilize internal resources of the Department and the City.
- Equity of access and recreational offerings throughout the City.

**Top 5 Priorities from the Open House**

The top five priorities for programs, facilities and marketing and communications from meeting attendees is described below:

- Programs:
  - Pickleball (16)
  - Outdoor adventure programs (i.e. canoeing, kayaking, etc.) (12)
  - Adult fitness & wellness programs (8)
  - Special events/festivals (6)
  - Senior programs (5)
- Facilities:
  - Pickleball courts (15)
  - Off-leash dog park (13)
  - Mountain bike trails (9)
  - Community or recreation center (8)
  - Paved walking & biking trails (5)
- Marketing & Communications:
  - Facebook (8)
  - Print ads (7)
  - TV (cable or off air) (7)
  - Website (via desktop or laptop) (6)
  - Website (via mobile device) (5)



## Lawrence Township (March 9, 2015)

**Location:** Sterrett Center (8950 Otis Ave.)

**Attendance:** Attendance for this meeting totaled 18.

### Key Discussion Points

- Strengths:
  - Connected and adjacent parks to Lawrence Township.
  - Open space to protect or develop.
  - Pickleball facilities and waterpark at Sahm Park.
  - Recycling in parks.
  - Safety.
  - Well-kept and clean.
  - Existing water bodies (lakes and streams).
  - Fall Creek greenway.
  - Existing volunteers and partnerships.
  - Response to EAB's (emerald ash borers).
- Opportunities:
  - Additional parkland in more neighborhoods (partner or acquire).
  - Partnership with YMCA and other organizations with City of Lawrence.
  - Increase connectivity and access to Fall Creek Pkwy and other trails.
  - Develop park at 38<sup>th</sup> and Franklin.
  - More pickleball courts that support tourneys, evening play, and that could be indoor and outdoor.
  - Additional senior programs.
  - Sustainability for existing parks.
  - Biking opportunities for all ages (additional facilities adjacent to trails).
  - Additional dog parks.
  - More beautification in parks.
  - Additional basketball court at Sahm Park.
  - Improve restrooms to encourage park use (restrooms should be accessible, clean, and up-to-date).
  - 42<sup>nd</sup> and Post need additional greenspace.
  - Increase access in far NE (north of Lawrence) and additional parks.
  - Utilize rivers and waterways.
- Highest Priority:
  - Involve City of Lawrence in planning.
  - Additional pickleball courts (expand facility).
  - Maintenance of existing trails.
  - Additional access and connectivity of trails.
  - Integrate sidewalk plan/ use of sidewalks for connections to trails.
  - Veterans Park (City of Lawrence) partner with City for additional programs.
  - Additional mountain bike trails.



- Better communication with community.
- Higher priority for funding for Parks and Recreation.

**Top 5 Priorities from the Open House**

The top five priorities for programs, facilities and marketing and communications from meeting attendees is described below:

- Programs:
  - Outdoor adventure programs (i.e. canoeing, kayaking, etc.) (19)
  - Pickleball (5)
  - Education / life skills programs such as cooking, budgeting, carpentry (5)
  - Adult art, dance, performing arts (3)
  - Special events/festivals (3)
  - Youth/ teen fitness wellness programs (3)
  - Bike Safety (3)
- Facilities:
  - Pickleball courts (16)
  - Paved walking & biking trails (11)
  - Mountain bike trails (10)
  - Community gardens (3)
  - Nature trails (3)
  - Off-leash dog park (3)
  - Park shelters & picnic areas (3)
- Marketing & Communications:
  - Website (via desktop or laptop) (11)
  - Website (via mobile device) (6)
  - Facebook (3)
  - An electronic program guide (3)
  - Email Blast (3)
  - E-newsletters (3)



## Perry Township (March 10, 2015)

**Location:** Perry Meridian High School (401 W. Meridian School Rd.)

**Attendance:** Attendance for this meeting totaled 22.

### Key Discussion Points

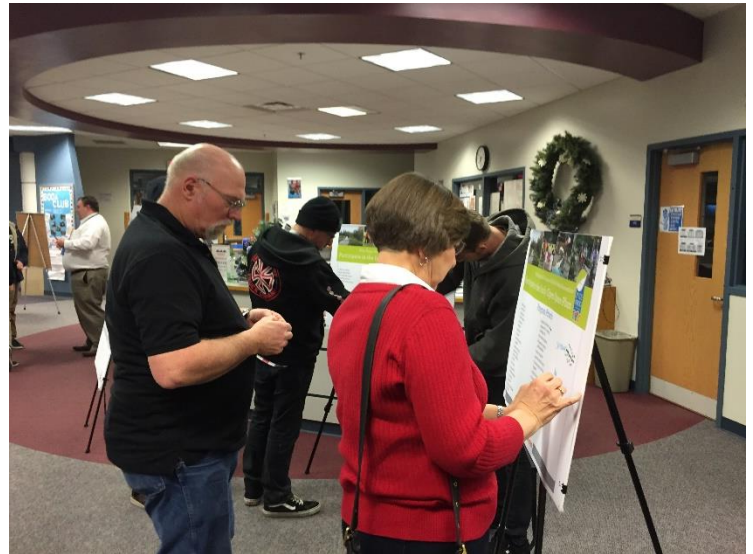
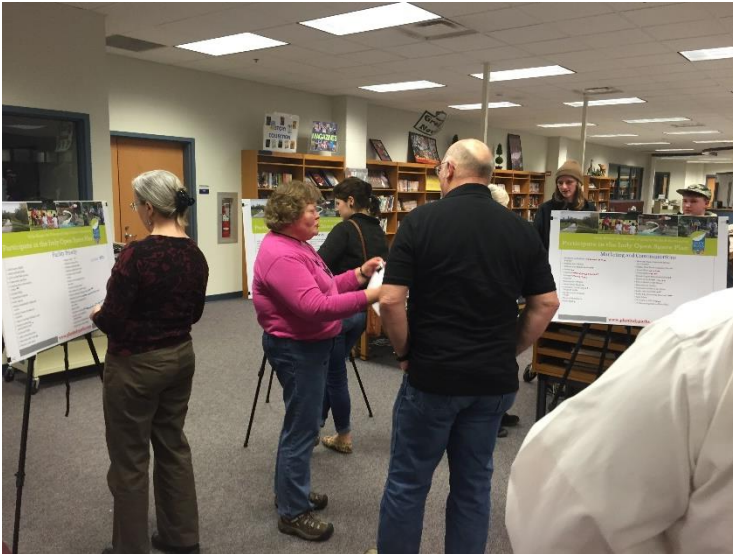
- Strengths:
  - Residents enjoy the paved trails for walking and are excited about the plans for the interurban trail.
  - Enjoy the hockey opportunities for youth at Perry Park as there is not any other ice opportunities on the south side of the City.
  - Enjoy the limited amount of parks Perry Township does have.
  - Great partnerships with the school district and the parks department.
- Opportunities:
  - Additional neighborhood parks are needed in the community.
  - Perry Township needs an anchor/signature park that offers many different experiences.
  - Connectivity to Southport and downtown is needed, as well as to parks.
  - A small, functional skate park is needed in Perry Township and residents believe that skateboarders can assist in taking care of and designing through a partnership with the City.
  - Possibility of using the library that is closing for indoor programming space.
  - Pickleball courts are an opportunity throughout the City, both indoor and outdoor.
  - Year round ice at Perry Park.
  - A multi-generational center is needed on the south-side of the City.
  - Addition of loop trails to existing parks.
- Priorities:
  - Creation of a friends group at Perry Parks.
  - Addition of a skate park in Perry Township.
  - Indoor pool in Perry Township.
  - Bring Perry Township up to other townships in the City as it relates to parkland.
  - Pickleball courts that are standalone, both indoor and outdoor.
  - Indoor program space that is multi-functional.
  - Additional year-round hockey opportunities on the south side of the City.
  - Create fundraising opportunities for parks.
  - Increase funding from City Council for parks.



### Top 5 Priorities from the Open House

The top five priorities for programs, facilities and marketing and communications from meeting attendees is described below:

- Programs:
  - Skateboard (28)
  - Outdoor adventure programs (i.e. canoeing, kayaking, etc.) (7)
  - Pickleball (7)
  - Adult fitness & wellness programs (5)
  - Nature education programs (5)
  - Senior programs (5)
- Facilities:
  - Skateboard park (32)
  - Pickleball courts (20)
  - Ice skating / hockey (indoor or outdoor) (10)
  - Paved walking & biking trails (8)
  - Nature trails (6)
- Marketing & Communications:
  - Facebook (17)
  - Website (via desktop or laptop) (11)
  - Instagram (8)
  - Email Blast (6)
  - Flyers in facility (4)



## Pike Township (March 10, 2015)

**Location:** Pike Township Small Claims (5665 Lafayette Rd.)

**Attendance:** Attendance for this meeting totaled 31.

### Key Discussion Points

- Strengths:
  - Trail system.
  - The abundance of environmental education (especially programs offered at Eagle Creek).
  - The closeness/proximity of recreation opportunities to residents.
  - Staff and volunteers at Eagle Creek Park.
  - The exposure and abundance of nature within Indianapolis.
  - Cleanliness of Parks.
  - Dog parks.
  - Appreciation of volunteers that help maintain amenities and facilities in parks.
  - Indianapolis' waterways.
  - The Park Foundation.
  - Eagle Creek Park.
- Opportunities:
  - Residents and City officials need to value Indy Parks (parks, amenities, facilities, etc.).
  - Re-purpose/re-develop vacant homes and brownfield sites.
  - Re-purpose/re-develop Lafayette Square mall.
  - Create and build new partnerships
  - Additional volunteers are needed to help Indy Parks maintain parks and facilities.
  - Continue to connect existing trails
  - Look for re-development/conversion opportunities (such as Lafayette Square mall into community gardens/famer market locations, skate park).
  - Keep improving Eagle Creek Park (additional opportunities to expand programs, add amenities, and improve maintenance).
  - Look for partnerships with the arts (especially at Eagle Creek Park).
  - Streetscapes are underdeveloped.
  - Have environmental, self-sustainable be a part of the Plan.
- Priorities:
  - Additional mountain bike trails.
  - Add additional natural surface tails.
  - The connectivity of trails.
  - Upgrade neighborhoods parks (usability).
  - Green technology lighting implemented into the park system.
  - Eagle Creek Park improvements.



- Maintenance and maintain existing facilities and amenities.
- Underserved areas.
- Build a dedicated park for handicap and disabilities individuals.
- Conservation of natural habitats.
- Build upon and look for new partnerships.

**Top 5 Priorities from the Open House**

The top five priorities for programs, facilities and marketing and communications from meeting attendees is described below:

- Programs:
  - Outdoor adventure programs (i.e. canoeing, kayaking, etc.) (19)
  - Adult fitness & wellness programs (11)
  - Nature education programs (11)
  - Youth/ teen fitness wellness programs (10)
  - Education / life skills programs such as cooking, budgeting, carpentry (7)
  - Programs for people with disabilities (7)
- Facilities:
  - Nature Trails (31)
  - Mountain Bike Trails (28)
  - Park shelters & picnic areas (7)
  - Nature centers (5)
  - Paved walking & biking trails (5)
- Marketing & Communications:
  - E-newsletters (11)
  - Park staff (8)
  - Website (via desktop or laptop) (7)
  - Website (via mobile device) (7)
  - An electronic program guide (7)



## Center Township (March 11, 2015)

**Location:** Old Town Hall (202 N. Alabama)

**Attendance:** Attendance for this meeting totaled 39.

### Key Discussion Points

- Strengths:
  - Diversity of experiences
  - Parks bring community together
  - Number of parks
  - Interaction with nature for city dwellers
  - Performing arts in parks
  - Amenities available at water parks
  - Interactive, caring, engaged community
  - Development of greenways / improved connectivity
  - Opportunities for learning / environmental education
  - Committed, professional parks staff
  - After school programs
  - Community support for parks and nature
  - Updated playground equipment
  - Plenty of room for growth
- Opportunities:
  - Convert concrete into useful spaces (i.e., community gardens)
  - Use parks to make City more attractive and encourage economic development
  - Reach out and connect with special interest groups / inclusion of all user groups
  - Increase partnerships with library (i.e., small libraries in parks)
  - Internet access in parks
  - Parks as information hubs / community resource centers
  - Rehabilitate and revitalize historic parks
  - Increase community pride and ownership of parks
- Priorities:
  - More parks / facilities in outlying areas of the county
  - Upkeep / improvement of existing inventory
  - Lengthen hours of operation and season for pools
  - Keep arts alive in the City through parks
  - Keep community engaged / involved
  - Affordable public access to parks / facilities
  - Preservation of parkland
  - More parks staff / additional funding for staff
  - Find alternative / non-traditional revenue sources
  - Improve accessibility of parks / facilities
  - Enhance security
  - Provide programs that give youth an outlet
  - Park features that increase community ownership



- Bold / innovative design
- Programs for youth volunteers / jobs for kids in the parks

**Top 5 Priorities from the Open House**

The top five priorities for programs, facilities and marketing and communications from meeting attendees is described below:

- Programs:
  - Outdoor adventure programs (i.e. canoeing, kayaking, etc.) (20)
  - Nature education programs (12)
  - Before & after school programs (11)
  - Youth/ teen sports programs (10)
  - Education / life skills programs such as cooking, budgeting, carpentry (9)
  - Special events/festivals (9)
- Facilities:
  - Skateboard park (19)
  - Paved walking & biking trails (14)
  - Mountain bike trails (12)
  - Nature trails (10)
  - Nature center (9)
  - Outdoor amphitheaters (9)
- Marketing & Communications:
  - Website (via mobile device) (13)
  - E-newsletters (12)
  - Website (via desktop or laptop) (9)
  - Marketing through schools (9)
  - Parks staff (7)



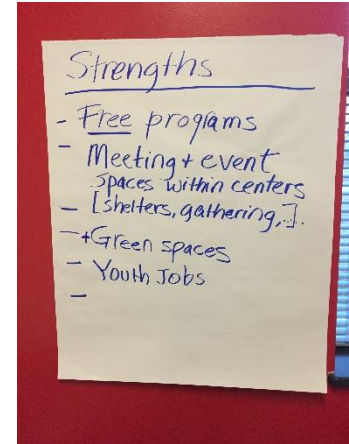
## Center Township (March 11, 2015)

**Location:** Washington Park Family Center (3130 E. 30<sup>th</sup> Street)

**Attendance:** Attendance for this meeting totaled 15.

### Key Discussion Points

- **Strengths:**
  - Free and inexpensive programming that is well done.
  - Meeting and event rental opportunities at the centers and shelters that allow for gathering space.
  - The City offers many opportunities to enjoy green space.
  - Provides job opportunities for youth.
- **Opportunities:**
  - Enhance maintenance to make parks cleaner, safer and more hospitable, especially in Center Township.
  - Deferred maintenance is needed at many facilities and amenities in the parks. Need to take care of what we already have.
  - Continue to enhance partnerships with IPS and Parks so that they are equitable partnerships.
  - Continue to work with the corporate community in partnerships.
  - Need to add pools back in the parks, especially in Center Township parks, as many have been removed. It is a necessity to teach children how to swim.
  - Enhanced access to green spaces throughout the City is needed, especially along the fall creek corridor.
  - There is an opportunity to enhance mentorship programming at family centers throughout the City.
- **Priorities:**
  - Security and safety at our parks is a necessity.
  - Enhance youth programming.
  - Improve amenities and maintenance at Washington Park.
  - Maintenance throughout the system is in need of improvement.
  - Allow park staff to have more authority at each center.
  - Extended hours at parks.
  - Accessibility to green space.



**Top 5 Priorities from the Open House**

The top five priorities for programs, facilities and marketing and communications from meeting attendees is described below:

- Programs:
  - Youth/ teen fitness wellness programs (6)
  - Before & after school programs (4)
  - Youth learn to swim programs (4)
  - Adult art, dance, performing arts (3)
  - Senior programs (3)
- Facilities:
  - Community or recreation center (4)
  - Nature trails (4)
  - Outdoor swimming & spray grounds (3)
  - Adult softball fields (2)
  - Community gardens (2)
- Marketing & Communications:
  - Facebook (4)
  - Parks staff (4)
  - Over the phone customer service (327-PARK) (4)
  - Email Blast (4)
  - Flyers in facility (4)



## Center Township (March 11, 2015)

**Location:** Garfield Park Burello Family Center (2345 Pagoda Drive)

**Attendance:** Attendance for this meeting totaled 26.

### Key Discussion Points

- Strengths:
  - Greenways.
  - The art center in Garfield Park.
  - Supportive staff.
  - Great park design/layout throughout Indy.
  - Abundant park space.
  - Fields of Garfield Park.
  - Volunteer programs.
  - Food service programs.
  - Existing pickleball courts and programs.
  - Art in the parks (music/plays).
  - Aquatic facilities and programs
  - Newly upgrade fountains and fountain lights
  - Garfield Park.
- Opportunities:
  - Additional swim lesson programs.
  - Maintenance of trails.
  - Communication of special events in neighborhood parks.
  - Addition and better displays of signage throughout parks and facilities.
  - Skate parks.
  - Dedicated playgrounds for handicap children.
  - Additional mountain bike trails.
  - Connectivity of trails to parks.
  - Indoor/outdoor pickball courts that could hold tournament play.
  - Frisbee/disc golf.
  - Safety of roadways in Garfield Park.
  - Safety in parks and facilities throughout Indy.
  - Better signage on existing centers.
  - Connect park trails to City destination spots.
  - Signage on trails.
  - Additional entrance points into Garfield park.



- Improved marketing and communication efforts.
- Maintain existing facilities and amenities in Garfield park.
- Additional passive areas/parks.
- Job training for high school students for the parks and recreation field.
- Maintenance of parkways.
- **Priorities:**
  - Pickleball courts and programs.
  - Additional funding for system.
  - Safety in parks.
  - Additional staffing to help care for parks, amenities, and facilities.
  - Additional park space/acres.
  - Welcoming, signage/visibility in signature parks.
  - Maintenance and cleanliness of waterways.

**Top 5 Priorities from the Open House**

The top five priorities for programs, facilities and marketing and communications from meeting attendees is described below:

- **Programs:**
  - Outdoor adventure programs (i.e. canoeing, kayaking, etc.) (18)
  - Education / life skills programs such as cooking, budgeting, carpentry (12)
  - Pickleball (10)
  - Nature education programs (9)
  - Special events/festivals (6)
  - Before & after school programs (6)
- **Facilities:**
  - Mountain bike trails (18)
  - Pickleball courts (16)
  - Skateboard park (12)
  - Paved walking & biking trails (9)
  - Community gardens (9)
- **Marketing & Communications:**
  - Parks staff (11)
  - TV (cable or off air) (10)
  - Website (via desktop or laptop) (9)
  - Facebook (8)
  - E-newsletters (7)





## Summary of Priority by Category Programs

Program Priority	Total	Wayne Township	Franklin Township	Washington Township	Decatur Township	Warren Township	Lawrence Township	Pike Township	Perry Township	Center Township (Old City Hall)	Center Township (Garfield Park)	Center Township (Washington Park)
Outdoor adventure programs (i.e. canoeing, kayaking, etc.)	186	6	20	43	20	12	19	19	7	20	18	2
Nature education programs	72	1	5	23	3	2	1	11	5	12	9	0
Adult fitness & wellness programs	55	7	0	10	5	8	2	11	5	1	4	2
Special events/festivals	51	0	7	8	4	6	3	5	2	9	6	1
Education / life skills programs such as cooking, budgeting, carpentry	50	4	5	2	1	3	5	7	1	9	12	1
Youth/ teen fitness wellness programs	45	4	3	5	0	3	3	10	2	4	5	6
Senior programs	44	5	3	3	2	5	2	5	5	6	5	3
Before & after school programs	41	5	2	4	3	1	0	5	0	11	6	4
Pickleball	38	0	0	0	0	16	5	0	7	0	10	0
Adult art, dance, performing arts	31	3	3	3	0	3	3	2	1	5	5	3
Youth/ teen sports programs	29	6	3	5	0	0	0	0	1	10	2	2
Skateboard	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	0	0
Youth/ teen summer camp programs	27	4	4	4	0	0	0	2	0	7	4	2
Programs for people with disabilities	23	1	0	3	2	2	2	7	0	1	4	1
Youth learn to swim programs	20	4	3	0	0	0	2	4	2	1	0	4
Youth/ teen art, dance, performing arts	16	1	3	1	0	3	0	3	0	4	0	1
Trail programs/geocaching	16	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adult swim programs	14	4	0	0	0	4	0	1	1	2	2	0
Water fitness programs	14	3	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	4	0
Adult sports programs	10	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	1
Pre-school programs	10	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0
Tennis lessons, clinics & leagues	8	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	1
Gymnastics & tumbling programs	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	2
Golf lessons	5	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Martial arts programs	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0
Non-traditional sports such as archery, fencing, etc.	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Bike safety	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Youth training for future employment/jobs in park and recreation industry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



## Facilities

Facility Priority	Total	Wayne Township	Franklin Township	Washington Township	Decatur Township	Warren Township	Lawrence Township	Pike Township	Perry Township	Center Township (Old City Hall)	Center Township (Garfield Park)	Center Township (Washington Park)
Mountain bike trails	165	16	19	35	16	9	10	28	2	12	18	0
Skateboard park	109	5	10	27	3	0	0	1	32	19	12	0
Nature trails	99	8	5	15	7	4	3	31	6	10	6	4
Paved walking & biking trails	94	23	4	9	4	5	11	5	8	14	9	2
Pickleball courts	71	1	0	2	0	15	16	0	20	0	16	1
Off-leash dog park	42	3	2	4	3	13	3	5	1	1	7	0
Community gardens	37	6	2	6	0	1	3	2	0	6	9	2
Community or recreation center	37	3	2	1	1	8	2	3	3	7	3	4
Nature centers	37	2	3	4	1	2	0	5	4	9	7	0
Park shelters & picnic areas	29	1	2	6	0	2	3	7	2	3	2	1
Outdoor swimming & spray grounds	28	3	5	1	0	3	1	4	0	5	3	3
Outdoor amphitheaters	24	0	3	1	1	3	0	4	0	9	2	1
Playground equipment & play areas	23	10	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	5	1	2
Indoor fitness & exercise facilities	18	5	1	1	1	3	0	3	1	1	1	1
Indoor running/ walking track	15	4	3	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	1
Indoor swimming pools/ leisure pool	13	2	2	0	0	2	1	4	2	0	0	0
Ice skating / hockey (indoor or outdoor)	12	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
Adult soccer fields	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	2	0	1
Adult softball fields	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2
Equestrian trails	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0
Golf courses	5	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake swimming areas	5	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0
Outdoor tennis courts	5	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
ATV or dirt bike course	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Youth/ teen baseball & softball fields	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Open green space	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Outdoor basketball courts	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Rugby fields	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Youth/ teen football fields	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Youth/ teen soccer fields	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Comfort station (restroom and water)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Public art	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Cricket fields	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Outdoor sand volleyball courts	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Bicycle parking	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frisbee golf	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Flexible use of outdoor spaces	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Lacrosse fields	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Natural surface trails	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indoor basketball/ volleyball courts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



### Marketing & Communications

Marketing & Communication Priority	Total	Wayne Township	Franklin Township	Washington Township	Decatur Township	Warren Township	Lawrence Township	Pike Township	Perry Township	Center Township (Old City Hall)	Center Township (Garfield Park)	Center Township (Washington Park)
Facebook	102	9	19	17	7	8	3	5	17	5	8	4
Website (via desktop or laptop)	79	4	4	11	6	6	11	7	11	9	9	1
E-newsletters	71	2	5	15	6	5	3	11	4	12	7	1
Email Blast	55	13	0	15	0	3	3	5	6	4	2	4
Website (via mobile device)	53	1	7	5	3	5	6	7	2	13	4	0
Parks staff	45	1	5	2	4	1	1	8	1	7	11	4
Instagram	39	1	8	7	3	5	0	0	8	6	1	0
TV (cable or off air)	36	3	2	3	1	7	1	2	3	3	10	1
Flyers in facility	27	1	1	3	0	0	1	4	6	2	5	4
Radio ads (AM/FM)	25	4	2	0	0	3	0	3	3	1	5	4
A printed/ hard copy program guide	24	5	1	2	1	2	1	3	2	6	1	0
Website (via tablet)	23	1	1	0	8	2	0	4	0	2	4	1
An electronic program guide	22	1	2	3	0	1	3	7	0	3	2	0
Word of mouth	20	1	0	2	0	2	0	4	2	2	5	2
Twitter	18	2	1	4	3	1	0	3	2	2	0	0
Print ads	18	0	1	3	0	7	1	2	1	0	3	0
Over the phone customer service (327-PARK)	15	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	3	2	4
Signage along trails	15	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
Marketing through schools	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0
Radio ads (streaming internet)	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	1
Search engine recommendation	6	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	0
Non-traditional community engagement	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
Flyers mailed to my house	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
Postcards mailed to my house	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
TV (streaming such as Hulu Plus)	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
Text alerts	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Outreach (meetings, door to door)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pinterest	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Other social media	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Postcards in facility	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Digital chat room customer service	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maps (print)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
On-Site Banners	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Foursquare/ Swarm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0