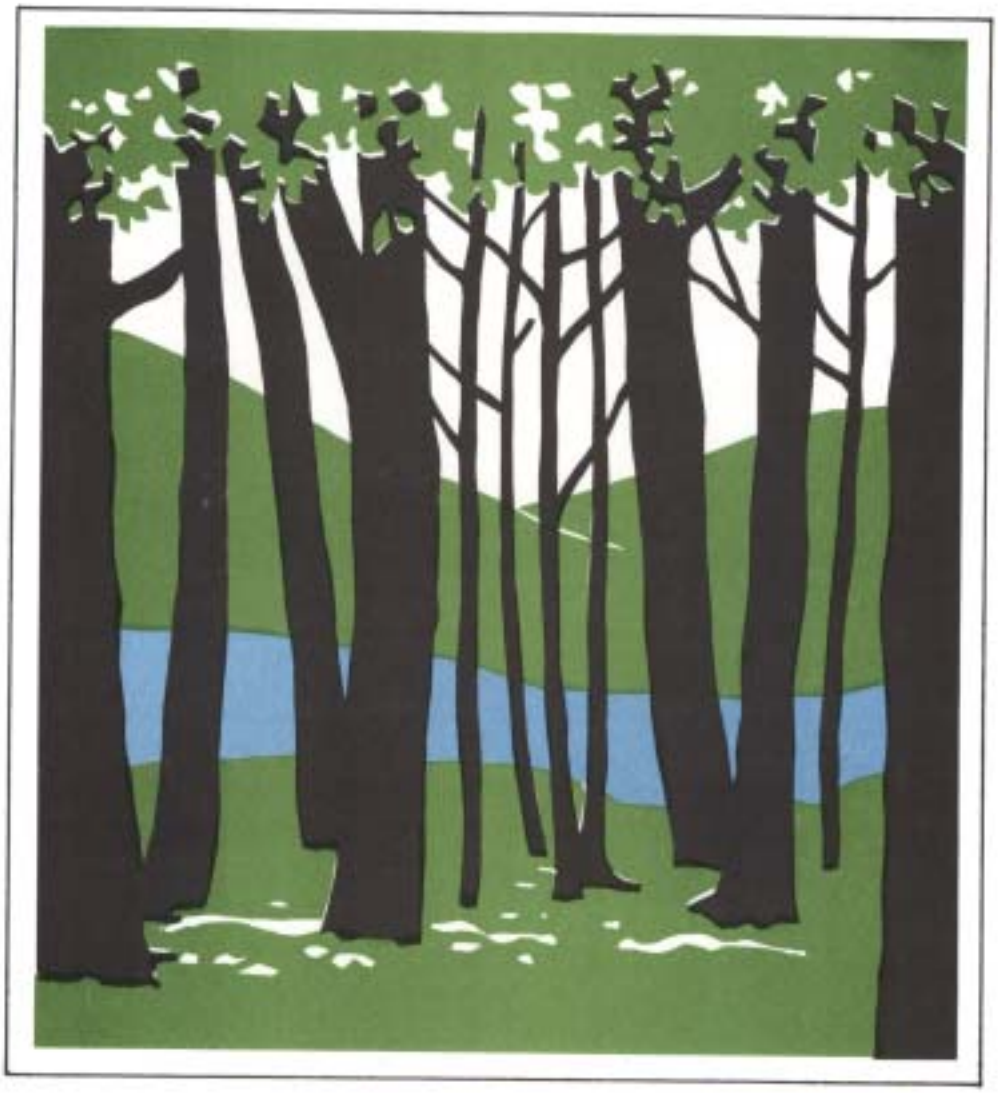
Eagle Highlands Park Master Plan



DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT/DIVISION OF PLANNING

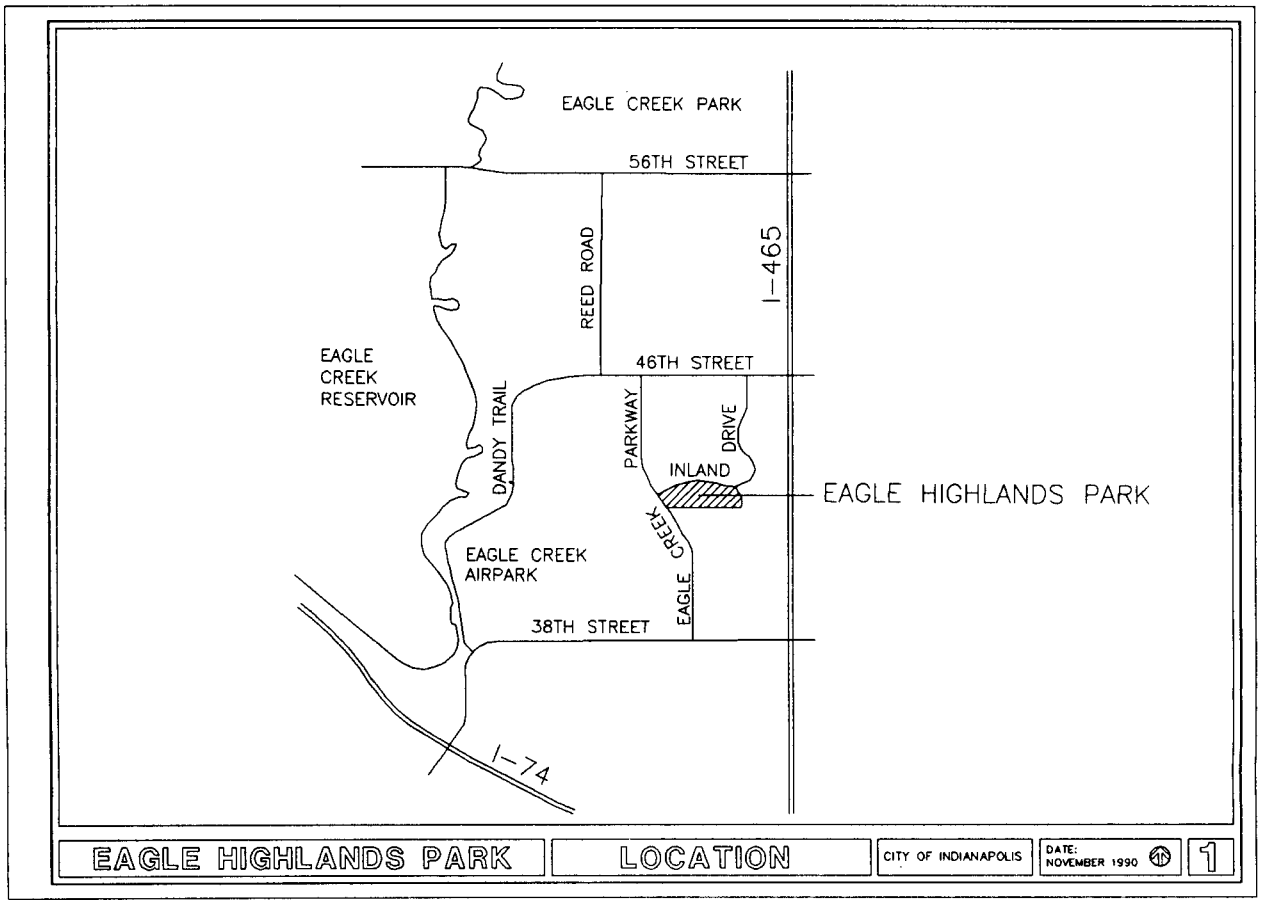
For: Department of Parks and Recreation

Eagle Highlands Park

Eagle Highlands Park, Inland Drive at Eagle Creek Parkway, is a new park, given to the City of Indianapolis in 1988 by the German company Eckes Vermogens Verwaltungs GMBH. The 13.06 acre park is heavily wooded and acts as a buffer between a small commercial center to the south and a residential neighborhood to the north.

The parks of Marion County are divided into four categories - regional, community, neighborhood, and sub-neighborhood parks - each serving different populations and performing different functions. Eagle Highlands Park is a neighborhood park. Neighborhood parks generally serve those people within walking and bicycling distance.

This plan is divided into two major parts. The first part will be an analysis of the site and the neighborhood including current conditions, and specific problems and opportunities. The second part will be recommendations for further development of the site.



ANALYSIS

Neighborhood Conditions

For the purpose of this plan, the boundaries of the area served by Eagle Highlands Park are West 46th Street on the north, I-465 on the east, West 38th Street on the south, and Dandy Trail on the west.

The area surrounding Eagle Highlands Park is newly developed. At the time of the 1980 census there was no housing in the immediate area of the Park and neither Inland Drive nor Eagle Creek Parkway existed. Since that time the Eagle Highlands, Sunset at Eagle Creek, and Eagle Cove subdivisions have been built. The small commercial center south of the park was constructed in the early 1980's and the local elementary school was built in 1985.

Opportunities for active recreation in the neighborhood exist at Eagle Creek Elementary School. The school, located at 6905 West 46th Street, has a gymnasium, 2 ball diamonds, five outdoor half-court basketball courts, a soccer field, and a playground.

Eagle Creek Park is less than two miles away and offers a variety of activities. However, the park is not easily accessible by foot or bicycle to the residents of the Eagle Highlands neighborhood because of the lack of sidewalks and the narrowness of Reed Road.

Eagle Creek Parkway, where it passes the park, is an undivided two lane street. Long range plans for Eagle Creek Parkway include widening it to a four lane undivided street. Inland Drive is a low-traffic local street. There are no long-range plans for widening Inland Drive. Neither Eagle Creek Parkway nor Inland Drive have sidewalks.

Soils and Vegetation

There are three soil types on the Eagle Highlands site: Crosby, Brookston, and Miami. The Crosby soil has moderate limitations for recreation due to wetness. The Brookston soil has severe limitations due to wetness. The Miami soils vary from slight to moderate to severe limitations for recreation according to the degree of slope. Some fill has occurred in the northeast section of the site. Drainage of the site is partially accomplished by Mud Run, a small creek which runs west to east across the site.

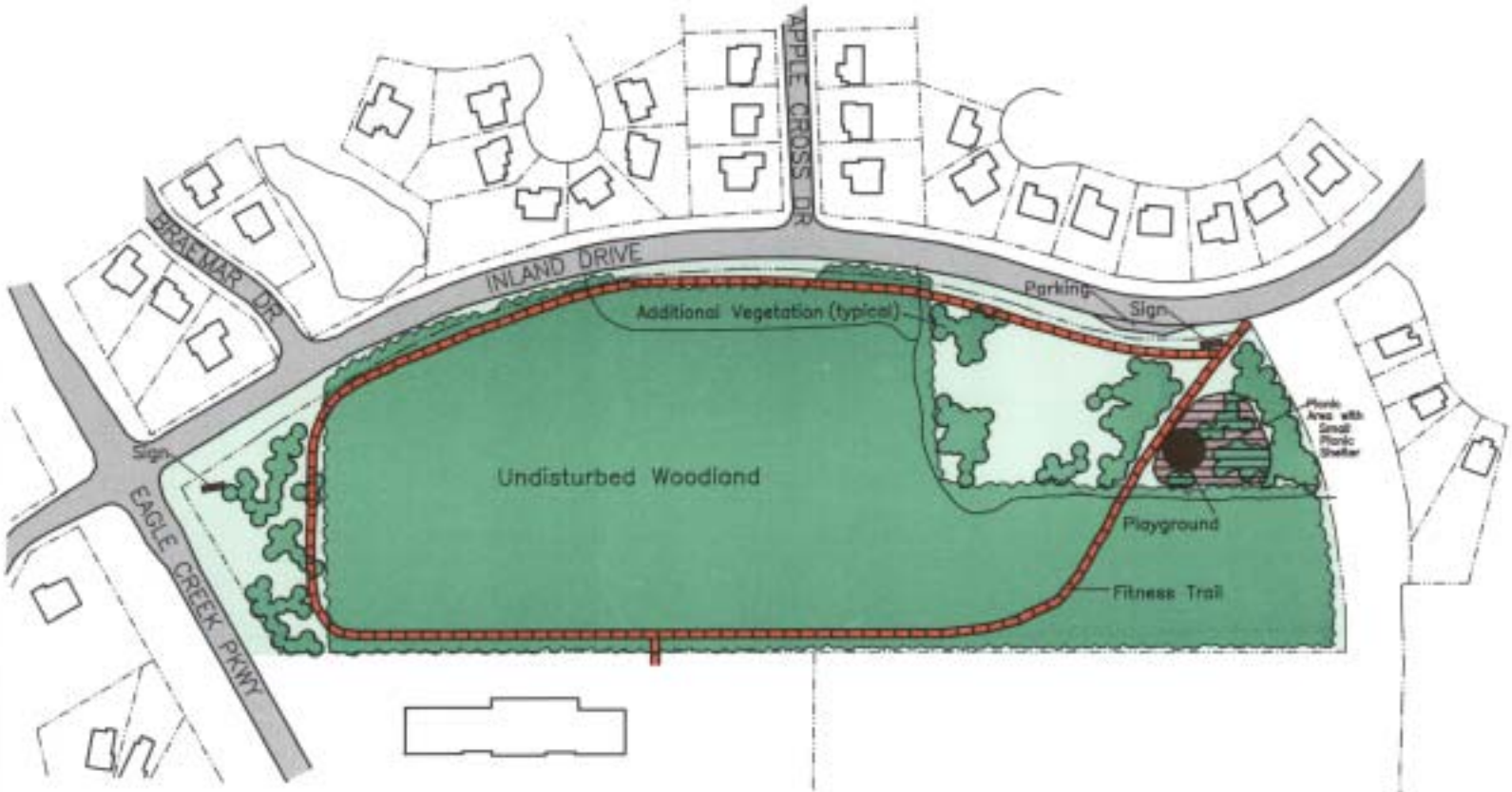
A large area of the site is wooded. Tree species include apple, honeylocust (with thorns), maple, hackberry, ash, wild cherry, beech, sycamore, hawthorn and oak.

Air Easement

In 1980 an air easement was granted to the Indianapolis Airport Authority due to the area's proximity to Eagle Creek Airport. As a consequence, there are limitations on use of the air space, particularly height limitations.

Neighborhood Needs

The planning process included two public meetings where citizen input was gathered. The meeting participants emphasized the value of the park as a natural site in an area that is being developed rapidly. They felt that it was important to have only low impact activities in the park and to preserve the wooded area rather than to develop the park as an active recreation area with athletic courts and fields.



EAGLE HIGHLANDS | MASTER PLAN | CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS | DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION OF PLANNING • PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION | NOVEMBER 1990 | 2

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the analysis phase of the master planning process, recommendations for the future of Eagle Highlands Park have been developed. The recommendations include the basic framework for the development of the site and general ideas regarding the character of the park.

Fitness Trail

A fitness trail is recommended for Eagle Highlands Park. The trail will go through both the wooded and open areas of the site. In the wooded area, the trail will be located for the least amount of impact on the vegetation. It will encircle the park and, consequently, will give a way to walk parallel to Inland Drive or to Eagle Creek Parkway without walking along the streets. Fitness stations should be placed at appropriate locations along the path.

The trail should blend into the site, but be durable enough for jogging. The actual choice of material for the trail will be dependent on the wet soil conditions. Small footbridges will be required to cross Mud Run.

Picnic Area/Playground

A picnic area with an adjoining playground is proposed for the open area in the northeast corner of the site. The picnic area will have a small shelter for two to four tables. Additional tables will be scattered throughout the picnic area.

The playground should have equipment for children from pre-school age through elementary school plus benches for the parents. Due to the natural character of the park, it is important that any playground equipment blend into the area. Bright colors would be inappropriate.

The Department of Parks and Recreation should work with the Department of Transportation on installing signs along Inland Drive posting the speed limit and indicating the presence of children in the area.

The existence of the fitness trail and the playground focuses attention on the need for a water fountain. A water fountain should adjoin the trail in an area near the playground and the picnic area.

Bicycle racks are proposed for bicycles ridden to the park. Bicycle riding should not occur in the wooded area.

Trees and Landscaping

Additional trees and shrubs should be added to the open areas of the site. Trees are particularly necessary in the picnic and playground areas in order to provide the necessary shade for a pleasant environment. Trees and shrubs should be added in sufficient quantity to the east side of the picnic area to screen the picnic area from the homeowners in Sunset.

Trees should also be incorporated into the edge of the wooded area. Currently there is an abrupt change from dense woods to open area. Scattered groupings of trees integrated into that edge would soften the abruptness.

Parking

Parking for two to three cars should be provided along Inland Drive. This will serve people who may not be able to walk or bike to the park.

Signs

Two identification signs are recommended for the park. The first one should be located along Eagle Creek Parkway. The second one whould be in the northeast corner of the site near the beginning of the fitness trail.

Overall Recommendations

Eagle Highlands Park should remain natural in character. The woodland area should be preserved and any play equipment and picnic tables should blend into the park.

Drainage of the site must be monitored. Some fill has occurred in the open northeast area of the park. Underground drainage may need to be installed.

The Department of Transportation should be encouraged to add a bicycle lane on Reed Road whenever work is done there. This would allow easier and safer access from Eagle Highlands Park to Eagle Creek Park.

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA

DOCKET NO. 91-CPS-R-4

RESOLUTION 91-CPS-R-4, AMENDING A SEGMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE OR MASTER PLAN OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, EAGLE HIGHLANDS PARK MASTER PLAN.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Metropolitan Development Commission certify copies of this RESOLUTION 91-CPS-R-4, AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE OR MASTER PLAN OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, EAGLE HIGHLANDS PARK MASTER PLAN.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of the Department of Metropolitan Development is directed to mail or deliver certified copies of this RESOLUTION 91-CPS-R-4, upon final adoption, as an AMENDMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE OR MASTER PLAN OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, to the legislative authorities of all incorporated cities and towns in Marion County, Indiana, the Mayor of the City of Indianapolis, the City-Council Council of Indianapolis and Marion County, and the Board of Commissioners of Marion County, Indiana. The Director shall also file one (1) copy of the Resolution in the office of the Recorder of Marion County.

Presiding Officer
Metropolitan Development Commission

Secretary
Metropolitan Development Commission

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM
AND ADEQUACY THIS 1
DAY OF MARCH, 1991

Chief Counsel

GENERAL RESOLUTION NO. 21, 1991

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

CONSOLIDATED CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE CONSOLIDATED CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS THAT:

The agreement by and between the Department of Parks and Recreation of the City of Indianapolis and

DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT

in the amount of N/A

calling for MASTER PLAN - EAGLE HIGHLANDS PARK

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

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

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONSOLIDATED CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

Franz A. Strong, Chairman

Charles Kendall

Richard Lahr

Archie Mabon

Milton Booth

Assistant Corporation Counsel

Deborah S. Hamilton, Secretary

3/18/91
Date

EXHIBIT "O"

EAGLE HIGHLANDS PARK MASTER PLAN 1991

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