

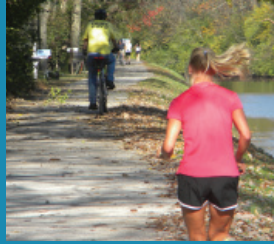


Monon Trail

chapter seven

CONCLUSION





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Users enjoying the fall season along the Monon Trail.



CHAPTER 7

conclusion

World-class cities have world-class greenways. From the earliest Kessler and Sheridan Plans to the previous Greenways Plans completed in 1994 and 2002, there has been a recognition by city leaders and residents alike of the importance of having strong linear connections in the community--of providing the types of spaces that truly improve upon the quality of life in Indianapolis. For the past 25 years, Indy Greenways has helped transform the way our community connects and interacts. The greenways that have been constructed provide more options for residents to travel, exercise and build stronger communities. They have provided opportunities for recreation and fitness, alternative transportation and commuting, and connections between where residents live and where they want to go. They have also protected vital environmental areas, promoted environmental stewardship of the city's open spaces and have demonstrated the economic value that greenways bring to neighborhoods and community centers along their routes.

FULL CIRCLE PLAN: THE NEXT BIG THING IN INDIANAPOLIS

Indianapolis has never shied from crafting big, bold visions. In each of the previous planning efforts, bold visions were established and each of these planning efforts left a lasting legacy on the city. Most recently, the development of the Cultural Trail and the construction of nearly 75 miles of bike lanes are just the latest examples of Indianapolis' progressive attitude for creating world-class pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Indy Greenways has shown how trails and greenways increase the quality of life in our city, and they continue to be one of the factors that draw new residents to our neighborhoods. They have been recognized by numerous local, state, national, and even international organizations for their

contributions to our community. Indianapolis has been recognized as a "Bicycle-Friendly Community" by the League of American Bicyclists. Indy Greenways plays a big part of that designation.

The Full Circle Plan is the next evolution of the vision for the system, identifying new trail development, targeting maintenance needs of the existing facilities, defining connections to the regional bike and pedestrian systems, identifying connections to the new on-street bicycle facilities, and prioritizing the system's development. This plan also has a greater focus on the economic development potential near the greenways and seeks to identify how the trails can have a positive and appropriate impact on new development in the city.

Specifically, the Full Circle Plan:

- Establishes a vision of over 250 miles of greenways throughout the City of Indianapolis.
- Outlines an expansion of the greenways system into the ring townships that have been underserved by greenway development.
- Identifies improvements, access, and new connections along the existing greenways in the system.
- Establishes nine new greenway corridors.
- Provides new greenway routes from the outer townships to the downtown area, much like the Monon Trail provides from the north.
- Provides east-west and north-south connectivity in the ring townships, creating more localized connections within each township.
- Provides a 64-mile circle around the city connecting Fort Harrison State Park, Eagle Creek Park, Southeastway Park, and Southwestway Park.
- Provides greenway connections to over 70 Indy Parks facilities.
- Provides regional connections to eleven trail systems beyond Marion County.
- Provides administrative and policy recommendations for future operations of the greenways.
- Establishes design standards for the overall system that address safety, accessibility, and funding eligibility requirements.
- Provides an overall network that is integrated into the other major transportation components of the city--such as the Indianapolis Bikeways and future Indy Connect rapid transit lines.



The Next Big Thing?
 After celebrating the opening of the Cultural Trail in May 2013, the Indianapolis Star asked "What is the next big thing in Indianapolis?"
 The Full Circle Plan outlines a vision that answers that question.



Indianapolis has never been shy of dreaming big - the Full Circle Plan is the next bold vision for Indianapolis and will have a lasting impact on the community when it is implemented.

World-class cities have world-class greenways, and this plan is part of the evolving vision for a well-connected, world-class Indianapolis.

#1
TOP ISSUE.
 The number one issue identified by all participants in the planning process was **CONNECTIVITY!**

2,400
PARTICIPANTS.
 In total, over 2,400 people engaged in some fashion throughout the course of the greenway planning process.

64
MILE CIRCLE.
 Among the physical design, engineering and policy update recommendations, this plan includes a 64-mile circle around the city.



grow.

GREENWAYS MAKE OUR CITY MORE SUSTAINABLE!
 Greenways stimulate economic investments, promote green infrastructure and celebrate the environmental and cultural diversity within our city.



link.

GREENWAYS LINK OUR NEIGHBORHOODS!
 The Full Circle Plan identifies over 180 miles of new greenways and trail routes within Marion County, with many focused on the underserved southern townships.



circle city

FULL CIRCLE PLAN EXPANDS UPON THE HISTORIC WORK OF GEORGE KESSLER TO CIRCLE THE CIRCLE CITY.

The Indy Greenways Full Circle plan highlights over 250 miles of greenways throughout the city. These greenways offer multi-modal connections (bikers, walkers, and other users) between the four flagship parks in the corners of the city---Eagle Creek Park, Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park, Southeastway Park and Southwestway Park. These connections would provide a 64 mile shared-use path that circles the city and provides connections to several local and regional trails in the adjoining counties.



connect.

GREENWAYS CONNECT OUR PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM!
 With this plan, the greenway system would connect to nearly 70 different park properties and 11 regional trail systems beyond Marion County.



travel.

GREENWAYS PROVIDE MOBILITY OPTIONS!
 This plan substantially increases the greenways' reach, providing access to multi-modal trail facilities for a greater number of residents while linking into the larger transportation network of the city.

THANKS!

To those who share a passion for Indy Greenways, thank you for participating in this process.



APPENDIX:

An Appendix is available that contains additional information from the greenways planning process, including copies of the public meeting presentations.

MORE INFO:

Information regarding the Indy Greenways can be found at: www.indy.gov





Final Thought.

The focus on the Indy Greenways as a key city amenity builds upon the bold vision initiated by George Kessler in 1909. This early planning effort has left a lasting legacy on the city. The Full Circle Plan is the next bold vision for Indianapolis, and will have a lasting impact on the community when it is implemented.





