

## **BUCK CREEK GREENWAY**

### **OVERVIEW**

The Buck Creek corridor is over 11.55 miles long. Flowing through both Warren and Franklin townships, Buck Creek enters Marion County from Hancock County near Cumberland and exits into Johnson County. South Of U.S. 52, Buck Creek is joined by Grassy Creek. Of all the potential greenway corridors, the Buck Creek corridor is the most rural in character, particularly in Franklin Township. Land uses found in the area are agriculture, vacant or undeveloped land, and low-density residential. Both Southeastway Park and Paul Ruster Park are located along this corridor. Access to the Buck Creek corridor is available at bridge crossings on major thoroughfares such as U.S. 52, Troy Avenue, and Thompson Road.

No activity has occurred within this greenway corridor since the inception of the Greenway Master Plan. During the public input process of the Greenways Master Plan Update, public interest was expressed for safe accessible routes to parks, schools, the library and various neighborhoods in Franklin Township. Trails within Southeastway and Paul Ruster Parks were also suggested. Private landowner concerns will be a major issue in developing trails along the Buck Creek Corridor, but as development of this primarily rural area increases, the difficulty in developing greenway corridors also will increase.

### **MASTER PLAN UPDATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **2001 to 2006**

1. Assist in preparation and implementation of a community access plan to identify bike routes and alternative means of access from neighborhoods to community facilities and greenways.
2. Work with Indy Parks Planning to develop multi-use trails within Southeastway and Paul Ruster Parks.
3. Work with developers of new neighborhoods to acquire easements along the Buck Creek Corridor and to provide access points to the greenway.

#### **2007-2012**

1. Begin identifying property ownership within the Buck Creek corridor and prepare a comprehensive project report for greenway development. Implement phases as feasible.

### **Public Vision Statements**

The Buck Creek corridor team visualized that the corridor be carefully developed with trails linking existing facilities and that significant areas be designated for conservation.

Areas south of I-74 will be dedicated to land conservation.

The Buck Creek corridor should provide linkage to local schools and several public parks. The trail should provide access to the creek for canoeing at access points such as Paul Ruster Park and the Brookville, Thompson, and Marlin Road overpasses. The biking and hiking trail should connect Paul Ruster Park, Southeastway Park, and Franklin-Edgewood Park. Facilities at these parks should be improved by incorporating the Buck Creek trail with trails within the parks. A horse trail should be established in Southeastway park and archery ranges should be carefully sited with Paul Ruster Park and south of I-74. A link from Southeastway to the proposed school at the intersection of Thompson and Senour Roads is highly recommended to facilitate a safe alternative path for use by students.

A major problem that inhibits the development of the corridor is the lift station at Troy Avenue. This station, and the CSOs north of Troy, presents significant environmental constraints to corridor development.

Environmental issues are addressed by recommending that individual property owners establish conservation easements north of Prospect Street, south of McGregor Road, and along most of the west bank of the creek. Wildlife observation areas and environmental laboratories should be planted at the lake south of Troy Avenue. A vegetative buffer should be planted between gravel mining operations and the corridor. The buffer could incorporate the biking and hiking trail.