

GRASSY CREEK GREENWAY

OVERVIEW

The Grassy Creek corridor lies entirely in Warren Township, beginning north of I-70, flowing 7.5 miles to the south, and emptying into Buck Creek south of U.S. 52.

This corridor lies in one of the more rapidly developing areas in Marion County. New subdivisions, the updated Washington Square Mall and three recently developed golf courses are examples of new growth in the area. However, significant portions of the corridor are still surrounded by farm uses or are undeveloped.

Schools, parks and other community facilities already exist along the corridor, creating opportunities for linkage, trails and recreation. Given the existing community facilities, Grassy Creek is highly accessible. Primary potential access points occur at 30th & German Church Park and at Whispering Hills Golf Course.

Greenway development has not yet occurred within this proposed greenway corridor. During the public input phase of the Greenways Master Plan Update some community support was expressed for connections to community facilities on the east side. Private landowner concerns will be a major issue in developing this greenway corridor.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE RECOMMENDATIONS

2001 to 2006

1. Assist in the 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 developers of new neighborhoods to acquire easements along the Grassy Creek corridor and to provide access to the greenway.

2007 to 2012

1. Prepare a comprehensive project report for greenway development in this area.

Public Vision Statements

The vision for this corridor focuses on the development of trails for biking and hiking. By developing this trail system, Grassy Creek will become an important secondary transportation system for eastern Warren Township. The trails will provide safe paths for students attending Heather Hills and Sunny Heights Schools, as well as John Marshall High School. Also, within this portion of the trail, access connections to neighborhoods, parks, and other public use facilities should be developed.

The development of an extensive trail system would require the cooperation of local organizations. The Indianapolis Greenways Plan should be incorporated into the Warren Township Comprehensive Plan to ensure cooperation with the Departments of Metropolitan Development, Public Works, and Capital Asset Management. The Greenways Plan should be reviewed annually by the public and appropriate city representatives.

The trails would begin in the northern portion of the corridor at the rail crossing and travel south to I-70. The trail should be located on the east side of the creek south to 10th Street and continue southward to Washington Street. A number of excellent possible access points exist along this corridor. These locations include Washington Street and the Grassy Creek Elementary School.

Incentives should be provided to encourage participation in the process and to prevent inappropriate development in and along waterways. Implementation of these steps would create a more favorable environment for the development of the greenway trails, access points, and necessary infrastructure improvements.