

SECTION 4

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- **Continue to develop individual corridor plans.** The most successful completed greenway projects have all begun with a thorough and detailed comprehensive planning and project development process. Issues involving the design and construction of a trail can be resolved early and the development process can proceed with few interruptions when a thorough planning process occurs first . These plans are also extremely helpful in the fundraising and grant application process. Public participation should be an important phase of each corridor planning process. Each greenway corridor should have a comprehensive development plan prepared prior to major construction activity occurring.
- **Evaluate the installed trail system.** Installed trails should be evaluated and additional amenities such as site furniture, parking, drinking fountains, call boxes, bike racks, landscaping and signage should be installed as needed. Street crossings should be monitored for safety and improvements made when warranted.
- **Begin evaluation of potential new greenway corridors.** Additional greenway corridors are needed particularly in the southern portion of Marion County, east west corridors in the northern portion of Marion County and in areas where dense residential and commercial development have given rise to public demand for non-motorized alternative transportation routes. Areas to be considered may include former rail corridors, utility corridors, tributaries of major streams, R.O.W adjacent to existing roadways, large public works spaces and within newly planned communities. Planning for new corridors should be completed in time to include recommendations in the next Greenway Plan update in five years.
- **Work to ensure all greenways are well maintained.** As more greenways are developed and added to the trail system it is critical that the maintenance crews continue to provide good service and funding is provided for adequate staffing and equipment.
- **Work with city planning staff to identify safe neighborhood connections to the Greenways.** While greenway trails provide safe routes to many parks and community facilities a need exists to create safe routes to access the greenways from the neighborhoods which surround them. Indy Parks Greenways should participate in updating the bike route system and in the creation of the Living Links Plans that DMD /DPR planners are preparing for each township.

- **Continue to identify funding sources.** Over \$...million of private or non-local tax supported funding has been invested in greenway development so far. It is crucial to the continued success of the program to identify funding sources other than those allocated through the city budget. Transportation Enhancement Funds, which are federal funds administered by the Indiana Department of Transportation, have been used in the development of the Monon Rail Trail and the Fall Creek Greenway. Private endowment funds have also been instrumental in the development of the greenway system. These sources should continue to be asked to contribute and new sources should be identified and secured.
- **Support the Greenway Development Committee.** This citizen led advisory board has been an invaluable asset as the greenway system has evolved. They should continue to be well informed of greenway activities and actively involved in policy decisions.
- **Continue involvement with the Greenway Foundation, Inc.** This not-for-profit organization is an important resource in fund raising, marketing, volunteerism and partnering activities.
- **Continue to identify partnership opportunities.** Partnerships with neighborhood groups, private individuals and local businesses can provide the means to acquire various amenities that may not otherwise be available due to budget or manpower restrictions. Partnering also develops strong advocates within the community and strengthens the ties with the neighborhoods along the greenway corridors.
- **Increase opportunities for education.** Educational opportunities exist on each greenway corridor. Indy Greenways should continue to work with the Indy Parks Environmental Education staff and with local schools, universities and advocacy groups to provide a cultural and natural science self-directed interpretive program and to create sites along the Greenways for educational activities to occur.
- **Provide safe environments for public use.** Safety of users on the greenway trails will continue to be a major issue in the development of new trails. Park Rangers, Indianapolis Police Department, Marion County Sheriff's Department should all be involved in the safety of trail users within the greenway system.
- **Advocate Protection of Natural Resources.** Through acquisition of open space and natural areas, land stewardship activities and preservation of environmental resources within the greenway system, Indy Greenways can provide an important advocacy role within the community.
- **Protect water quality.** Many areas within the Greenway system-White River and Fall Creek, for example- continue to be affected by the effects of the Combined Sewer Overflow problem which results in raw sewage entering these

streams during storm events. Greenways should continue to work with the DPW and DCAM staff to develop solutions to this problem.

- **Schedule public events.** Special events coordinated with greenway activities have proven to be successful in getting the public involved, interested and supportive of greenways.
- **Continue trail user education.** Trail user conflicts generally are the result of trail users failing to follow the established Trail Rules. Once trail users become familiar with the rules the conflicts generally subside. Public education on trail rules and courtesy should be addressed and enforcement of trail rules may need to be strengthened in some areas.