

**Irvington Neighborhood Plan  
Parks and Open Space Discussion  
March 18, 2004**

**Facilitator:** Kent Knorr; Ellenberger Park Manager

**Attendance:** Pat Brown, Lucy Newton and Jennifer Richardson

**Discussion:**

1. Information from the draft Indianapolis-Marion County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan was distributed. This information included a description of parks facilities and programs offered in the Irvington neighborhood. In addition information comparing the amount of park land in Warren Township to other Marion County townships and comparing Indianapolis to other similar sized cities was provided.
2. Ellenberger Park discussion:
  - Ellenberger Park has a natural area.
  - There is a need for a horticultural program at Ellenberger Park
  - The Garden Club will have a nature program in the park.
  - Swim programs at the park are well received by the community.
  - If a family recreation center was to be built in the park, the only place for it would be the present site of the ice rink.
  - Public skating at the rink increases in cold weather.
  - A new picnic shelter, similar to the old one, will be erected in the park. Someone stated that it would be better if the new shelter was similar to the old summer house that was on the Butler University campus when the university was in Irvington. A photo of this building is shown on the Irvington Garden Club web site at <http://groups.msn.com/irvingtongardenclub/preservation1.msnw>.
3. Properties that should be added to the list of parks and open space in Irvington are:
  - Laura's Community Garden at 156 South Downey Avenue
  - The pocket park at 28 South Webster Avenue
  - The Kile Oak on Beechwood Avenue
4. Properties that might be considered for new pocket parks:
  - Large park-like property to the west of Kitley Avenue businesses and the east of houses in the 400 block of south Kenmore Road
  - Large vacant parcels adjacent to the south edge of the Pennsy right-of-way between Good Avenue and Arlington Avenue and between Arlington and Sheridan avenues
5. Pocket parks have been successful in other neighborhoods. Stacy Park in the Fountain Square area at 1503 East Hoyt Avenue is an example. It was developed through the cooperation of the community, the Department of Parks and Recreation and a law firm. A maintenance fund was established when the park was created to make sure that the park is well maintained.

Visit <http://www.historicirvington.org/> for more information regarding the plan.

6. It was suggested that the Ellenberger Park Master Plan and the Kessler Plan should be consulted as a part of the preparation of parks and open space recommendations for the neighborhood. Information regarding the Kessler plan can be found at [http://www.storrowkinsella.com/master.htm?http://www.storrowkinsella.com/projectwebs/0106\\_kessler/significance.html](http://www.storrowkinsella.com/master.htm?http://www.storrowkinsella.com/projectwebs/0106_kessler/significance.html).
7. One Parks and Open Space Committee member, who was unable to attend the March 18, would like for the minutes to reflect that the community feels that Irvington parks and open spaces such as Ellenberger Park, Pleasant Run Parkway, Ellenberger Parkway, Irving Circle, Hilton U. Brown Triangle, Kin Hubbard Memorial, and the proposed Pennsy Trail are all very important elements of the community. They should be well preserved and maintained.

**Next Meeting:**

**The next meeting of the Irvington Neighborhood Plan Parks and Open Space Committee will be Thursday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m. at Irvington United Methodist Church.**

Notes taken by Bob Wilch, Department of Metropolitan Development, City of Indianapolis