

**Irvington Neighborhood Plan  
Parks and Open Space Discussion  
May 20, 2004**

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

**Attendance:** Pat Brown, Doug Hvidston, Lucy Newton, Jennifer Richardson, Jennifer Ruby, Phyllis Zimmerman

**Handouts:**

April meeting notes

Draft Framework for the Committee Report

**Discussion:**

1. Pleasant Run is polluted, especially during heavy rains. During dry weather, it smells bad. The water needs to be cleaned so that is more attractive, healthier and smells better.
2. Part of the pollution problem may relate to the fact that there are old septic systems at houses northeast of Pleasant Run Golf Course.
3. Natural cleaning techniques, such as the use of wetlands, should be investigated.
4. Low portions of Pleasant Run Golf Course near Pleasant Run could be used in this manner.
5. A new system has been installed on Pleasant Run in Ellenberger Park that retains excess storm water during heavy rains so that it can be released later when water levels are lower.
6. The banks of Pleasant Run in Ellenberger Park are being restored with the help of an IPL grant. The honeysuckle has been removed and native plants have been planted.
7. Ellenberger Park will probably never have a waterpark type pool complex similar to that developed in other parks. A new pool with a zero depth shallow end and some spray features is more likely.
8. Shading elements will be added to the pool deck soon.
9. More indoor community gathering places, such as community rooms at the ice rink building, are needed in the park.
10. If improvements are made to the rink building, community rooms will be a high priority.
11. It is desirable to have an amphitheater in Ellenberger Park.
12. The volleyball area has been installed at Ellenberger Park, so it can be removed from the plan recommendations.
13. There is a concern for the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists crossing streets to enter Ellenberger Park. Cars don't seem to slow at existing crosswalks.
14. There are playground signs on all streets surrounding Ellenberger Park.
15. The speed limits near the park may need to be lowered.
16. One way of slowing cars is to allow parallel parking on streets.
17. All way stop signs are preferred at the northeast, northwest and southwest corners of Ellenberger Park. These are the intersections of St. Clair and Ellenberger Parkway West Drive, St. Clair and Ritter Avenue, and Michigan Street.

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

18. There is already a study underway to determine what traffic changes need to be made at St. Clair and Ritter Avenue.
19. The area around the Irvington sign on the northwest corner of Elizabeth and Washington streets needs to be made more of an inviting entry to the community. It needs to be landscaped and small signs for the various Irvington organizations could be added to the sign.
20. Portions of the cloverleaf at Shadeland Avenue and Washington Street should be planted in prairie grasses.
21. The right-of-way of Arlington Avenue needs to be improved to be more attractive and pedestrian friendly. A landscaped median would be a big improvement.
22. There needs to be an Irvington gateway feature on Arlington near Brookville Road.
23. Ritter and Washington should be examined for the possibility of adding gateway features. There should be a gateway element at the Pleasant Run bridge on Washington Street as the Washington Streetscape Project proposes.
24. There needs to be more protection for pedestrians and bicyclists on using the Pleasant Run Trail where it crosses Pleasant Run Parkway South Drive. A median, like the one on the Monon Trail at Broad Ripple Avenue, might be helpful.
25. There are presently garden plots at Ellenberger Park that are unused.
26. Adding public art, such as sculpture, to both Hilton Brown Corner and the Kin Hubbard Memorial is desirable.
27. More benches and trees are needed on Washington Street.
28. Moveable seating and bike racks would be nice, also.
29. New development in Irvington's commercial areas needs to be pedestrian oriented.
30. Adding banners to existing light poles on major streets such as Washington might be one way of announcing entry to the neighborhood. In addition, they could feature events such as the Halloween Festival.
31. Some Irvington streets should have bike lanes.
32. The City has a consultant preparing a pedestrian/bicycle plan for Marion County. They are preparing the plan for Center Township first. When the plan is done for Warren Township, Irvington residents' desire for more bicycle and pedestrian activity and safety can be taken into account. To learn more about this planning effort, check out the web site, <http://www6.indygov.org/indympo/>.
33. The parking lot for the Mission Apartments is never completely used. Is there a way a portion of it can be used for hard surface play in conjunction with Laura's Community Garden?
34. Police bike and horse patrols are desirable in the neighborhood.
35. Irvington sidewalks need to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards.
36. One way of getting major corporations involved in the neighborhood, such as Galyan's or Dick's Sporting Goods, is to seek their sponsorship of Irvington youth athletic teams.
37. The sidewalk tiles with street names need to be reintroduced into the neighborhood. People could sponsor the purchase and placement of the tiles.
38. There need to be trash receptacles in Irving Circle.
39. It may be time for maintenance to be done at the Kile Oak again, such as removing small trees from the drip line.

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

40. It was suggested that a Friends of Kin Hubbard Triangle organization be established to take care of the memorial as the Friends of Irving Circle maintain Irving Circle.

**Next Steps:**

**Division of Planning staff will develop a draft Parks and Open Space Committee report based on the work of the committee. This draft report will be mailed to all committee members for review, revision and approval.**

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