ELLENBERGER PARK
MASTER PLAN
1989

Prepared by:
DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF PLANNING

Prepared for:
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Approved by:
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
GENERAL RESOLUTION NO. 106, 1989

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 89-CPS-R-3
GENERAL RESOLUTION NO. 106, 1989

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

CONSOLIDATED CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE CONSOLIDATED

CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS THAT:

The agreement by and between the Department of Parks and Recreation of the

City of Indianapolis and ____________________________ DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT

in the amount of N/A

calling for ____________________________ MASTER PLAN FOR ELLENBERGER PARK

The form of which is to be approved by the Department Attorney, be and is

hereby APPROVED.

FURTHER, RESOLVED, that the Director of the Department of Parks and

Recreation is hereby authorized and directed to execute such agreement for and

in behalf of the Department.

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONSOLIDATED CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

By: _______ F. Arthur Strong, Chairman
           Richard Laht
           Archie Mahon
           Milton Booth
           Charles Kendall

Margaret A. Dunn
Assistant Corporation Counsel
Deborah S. Hamilton, Secretary
10/5/89 Date
COUNTY, INDIANA, EXTENSION PARK MASTER PLAN.

COUNTY, INDIANA, AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE OR MASTER PLAN OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, BY THE ADOPTION OF THE EXTENSION PARK MASTER PLAN, AS SAME IS ATTACHED HERETO, INTO WHICH SAME IS INCORPORATED THEREBY AS PART THEREOF. THE EXTENSION PARK MASTER PLAN OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, IS A DRAFT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA.


APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM
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INTRODUCTION

Ellenberger Park, 5301 E. St. Clair, is comprised of 42 acres of gently rolling landscape and mature trees. A section of the park is also intensively developed for recreational purposes, including an ice skating rink, swimming pool, tennis courts, ball diamonds, playfields, and playgrounds. Because of its size and facilities, Ellenberger Park is categorized by the Department of Parks and Recreation as a community park. The other categories for City parks are Regional, Neighborhood, and Subneighborhood.

This city park originated in 1909 when the City purchased Ellenberger Woods (31.7 acres) from John Ellenberger, a city pioneer who settled in the Irvington area in 1853. The purchase price was $500 per acre. Additional land was purchased in 1911 and 1915 bringing the total number of park acres to 42 -- its current size.

The original development of the park included two tennis courts, two baseball diamonds, football facilities, walks, swings, benches, and drinking fountains. These facilities are very similar to those existing today.

In 1925 the name of Ellenberger Park was changed to Jameson Park in honor of Dr. Henry Jameson who had served a long tenure as a member of the Indianapolis Park Board. The name was changed back to Ellenberger Park in 1926 because the community could not become accustomed to the new name.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONDITIONS

A community park is designed to serve several neighborhoods. Furthermore, users should be able to easily access the park by foot, bicycle, or car without major obstacles. Using these criteria, the service area of Ellenberger Park was defined for the master planning process as that area bordered by Linwood Avenue on the west, 16th street on the north, Kitley Avenue on the east, and the Baltimore and Ohio railroad tracks on the south (See facing page).

The most recent demographic information available for this planning process is found in the 1980 Census of Population and Housing. To create a context and to identify possible trends, this information was compared to the 1970 Census.

The service area is generally characterized by an overall decrease in population from 1970 - 1980, with a proportionally greater decrease of the school age population. In the north and east sections of the service area, there has been an actual increase in the 60-64 age group. There has been a decrease in the number of married couples with an
ELLENBERGER PARK
EXISTING CONDITIONS

ELLENBERGER PARK MASTER PLAN
increase in the number of single men and women living in the area. Although the population is aging, it can be predicted that at some point younger people will start replacing older residents, thus perpetuating a demographic cycle.

This neighborhood has a very stable renter/owner ratio as compared to the county as a whole. While there have been land use changes (variances and rezonings) in the defined service area, land uses within a two block radius of the park have remained almost unchanged from the original time of development. Because of the stability of land use in the service area (primarily owner occupied residential) and the cyclical nature of age related demographics, overall changes in the focus of Ellenberger Park are not warranted.

SITE CONDITIONS AND MASTER PLAN PROPOSALS

Before specific discussion of site conditions and master plan proposals, it will be helpful to discuss the nature of the use areas which compose Ellenberger Park. The park can basically be divided into three use areas: the active recreation area covering roughly the east half of the park starting north of Pleasant Run; the passive recreation or natural area in the west section of the park; and the undeveloped area south of Pleasant Run, which has elements of the passive recreation area, but because of its juxtaposition with Pleasant Run Parkway can never have the same tranquility.

Through the master planning process, and with the support of the community, it was determined that the basic boundaries of the use areas should be maintained. The percentage of Ellenberger Park devoted to active recreation facilities and other accessory uses is high compared to other parks. This high density development, combined with the community’s strong identification with the wooded area of the park (the park property was once known as Ellenberger Woods) resulted in a plan which restricted active recreation only to areas where it currently exists.

Please refer to Figures 1 and 2 for current conditions and master plan proposals.

Pleasant Run

Pleasant Run, with its densely vegetated banks, is the dominant feature in the southern portion of the park. During the winter, because the deciduous plants have lost their leaves, the creek is visually well integrated into the park. This seasonal openness allows park patrons to enjoy the pleasant sights and sounds of the flowing water. In the summer dense plant growth returns to isolate Pleasant Run from the rest of the park. It is therefore recommended that some form of very selective clearing (understory only)
The Southwest corner of Ellinenger Park contains a continuous intersection which is an entrance for the Elizabeth Pepper Run Parkway which is an improvement. The area provides an opportunity to improve the appearance of the park's edges.

The local community also supports the maintenance of the west section of the park as a natural area for passive recreation such as walking and picnicking. Therefore, all wooded elements so important to the beauty of the park should also be protected and maintained.

Another important aspect of the park is the pedestrian access provided by the park. Pedestrian and bicycle access to the park from the south and west of Ellinenger Park is also important. The pedestrian access is a critical component in the development of the park. A safe and comfortable pedestrian access is essential. The pedestrian access is also important in maintaining the aesthetic appeal of the park.

The pedestrian access is also important to the accessibility of the park. Another important aspect of the park is the pedestrian access provided by the park. The pedestrian access is a critical component in the development of the park. A safe and comfortable pedestrian access is essential. The pedestrian access is also important to the accessibility of the park.

In conclusion, the pedestrian access is a critical component in the development of the park. A safe and comfortable pedestrian access is essential. The pedestrian access is also important to the accessibility of the park. Another important aspect of the park is the pedestrian access provided by the park. The pedestrian access is a critical component in the development of the park. A safe and comfortable pedestrian access is essential. The pedestrian access is also important to the accessibility of the park.
(see figure 4). These changes will not only reduce the potential for accidents in this area, but will allow the reversion of approximately 1/4 of an acre of land back to park use.

Swimming Pool

The area immediately adjacent to the swimming pool at Ellenberger Park is currently composed only of concrete surfaces for sunbathing. To provide pool users with an alternative to the concrete areas, it is proposed that a landscaped area be developed along the southwestern edge of the current pool use area. The bath house and office area borders the west edge of the pool area while the parking lot wraps around the north and east edges. The southeast edge is steep and contains a paved path leading to the facilities in other areas of the park. Therefore, the area along the southwest edge is the only appropriate location for the landscaped area.

To increase the number of activities available to current users, a slide of appropriate scale and design will be added to the pool to create an additional activity for pool users. Neither the landscaped area nor the slide will increase the capacity of the pool area.

Ice Skating Rink

Ice skating has been a feature of Ellenberger Park for many years. As one of only two city-owned ice rinks, it serves a larger portion of the county than a typical community park facility. Because of this wider service area, the following proposals for the ice rink were prepared prior to and independently of the Ellenberger Park master planning process.

Phase One
- Enclosure of rink

Phase Two
- Improvement of rink including spectator seating

Phase Three
- Construction of public support facilities including a community room, concessions/pro shop, ticket/skate shop, lobby, and restrooms
- Modifications of mechanical systems

Phase Four
- Modification of bathhouse
At the commencement of the park master planning process the ice rink was not enclosed. Since that time, however, phase one of the proposed ice rink improvements has been completed.

**Sledding Hill**

The sledding hill in the East section of the park is very important to the neighborhood; therefore, development should not occur on the hill or near its base.

**Football Field**

The football field is currently oriented east and west. Play fields and courts should be oriented perpendicular (north and south) to the sun’s course so that the sun does not get in the eyes of the players. The master plan therefore calls for the football field to be re-oriented north and south. In addition, because the end zone will now abut the base of the sledding hill, goal posts should be portable, so that they can be removed in the winter.

**Baseball and Softball Diamonds**

Currently, there is one baseball and one softball diamond at Ellenberger Park. Both of these diamonds are used by the Howe High School baseball and softball teams.

In conjunction with the re-orientation of the football field, the ball diamonds will be moved so that the line between the pitcher’s mound and home plate is oriented north and south. Furthermore, because the new location will abut the base of the sledding hill, it is important that the orientation of the diamonds place the outfield toward the hill to maintain this open space area.

**Tennis Courts**

The tennis courts at Ellenberger Park are used by several different groups including area residents, the National Junior Tennis League, and the Howe High School tennis teams. Currently only four of the eight tennis courts are lighted. Because of the heavy use that the courts receive, the remaining four should also be lighted.

As proposed in the master plan, the tennis courts will remain in their current location, although the deciduous trees overhanging the west edge should be trimmed to prevent surface damage caused by tree litter.

The drinking fountain currently located just west of the tennis courts is proposed to be moved to a location on the east side of the courts. This location will better serve other park facilities. In addition to the drinking fountain, a seating area will be provided for park users waiting to use the courts.
should be removed. The greater area above the west edge of the park should be

scars.

visually unattractive appearance both from the street and from the adjacent residential

houses. Cleaning a potential traffic hazard. Second, this type of parking creates a

parking pressure into adjacent properties. Third, mobile homes must back onto the street.

parking pressure to an adjacent house. The one on the west, the

damage are centered along the north and west edges of the park. This type of

parking areas. Two and four

Park

Play area will be familiar with the adjacent picnic areas.

area. It includes the primary user group of this

to the southwest corner of the park. Furthermore, there is no

intersection located just west of the park. Furthermore, there is no

smallest area of the park. This play area does not appear to be heavily used. It has been

other areas of the park. This play area does not appear to be heavily used. It has been

play area is located in the southeast corner of the park and includes a

sunny side. Both shaded and sunny areas should be created in the play area. Shade should be

next to the playground.

proposed parking area just west of the ice rink. No on-street parking should be allowed.

street from the park. A diagonal is proposed

parking area is located in the southeast corner of the park and includes a

the entire playground. However, is not in keeping with the overall

make trees all contribute to the increase use of this facility.

location of the two play areas is located in the northwest section of the park. These

Ellenberger Park Master Plan

Ellenberger Park Master Plan
redesigned (so that there are limited exit and entrance points) and expanded by approximately 50%. This new parking area should be paved and should be buffered from the residential area by a landscape strip of trees and shrubs.

The third parking area is paved and is located adjacent to the swimming pool/ice skating rink complex. This 110 space parking area also serves the playground, tennis courts, ball diamonds, and playfields. The most significant problem associated with this parking lot is the large expanse of asphalt which is unscreened from bordering residential areas. To counter this, it is proposed that a combination of trees and low shrubs be used along St. Clair Street to serve as a buffer between the parking and residential areas. It should be emphasized, however, that the opportunity for surveillance from the street should be maintained.

A parking lot with approximately 28 spaces is proposed for the area immediately west of the ice skating rink. In addition to serving the ice skating rink and pool facilities, this lot will serve the picnic sites in the northwest corner of the park. This lot will also be well landscaped to reduce its impact on the park and adjacent residential areas.
SUMMARY OF MASTER PLAN PROPOSALS

Pleasant Run
- Visually integrate creek into park by selective understory clearing
- Discourage physical access
- Retain existing footbridges

Picnic/Natural Areas
- Plant more trees
- Correct erosion problems
- Enhance opportunities for passive recreation by creating a walking path along perimeter of park

Michigan Street/Ellenberger Parkway Intersection
- Change current configuration of intersection to create a simple "T"
- Remove bus turnaround and replace with a pull off lane to be located parallel to Pleasant Run Parkway North Drive

Swimming Pool
- Develop landscaped area for pool users along southwestern edge of pool
- Add a water slide of appropriate scale and design
- Make modifications to bath house

Ice Skating Rink
- Enclose rink
- Construct spectator seating
Play Areas

Tennis Court

Baseball and Softball Diamonds

Football Field

Sliding Hill and Rest Rooms

Create a partial buffer between play and residential areas by

Create additional experiences in a central piece of equipment

Install new equipment that has a neutral color and provides

Remove old equipment

PLAY AREA LOCATED IN NORTHEAST SECTION OF PARK

Play Areas

Tennis Court

Baseball and Softball Diamonds

Football Field

Sliding Hill

and Rest Rooms

Create new buffer between play and residential areas by

Create additional experiences in a central piece of equipment

Install new equipment that has a neutral color and provides

Remove old equipment

Play Areas

Tennis Court

Baseball and Softball Diamonds

Football Field

Sliding Hill

and Rest Rooms

Create new buffer between play and residential areas by

Create additional experiences in a central piece of equipment

Install new equipment that has a neutral color and provides

Remove old equipment
PLAY AREA IN SOUTHWEST SECTION OF PARK

- Remove sandbox and slide
- Construct a sand volleyball court

Parking

- Remove gravel parking along north edge of park
- Redesign, pave, and enlarge parking along west edge of park
- Add parking area along west side of ice rink
- Use landscape strip composed of trees and shrubs to make all parking areas visually unobtrusive.
ADJACENT PARKWAYS

In conjunction with the Ellenberger Park Master Plan, recommendations have also been made for Ellenberger Parkway and two sections of Pleasant Run Parkway. Please refer to figures 5, 6, and 7 for master plan proposals.

Pleasant Run Parkway

As originally planned by George Kessler in the early part of this century, Pleasant Run Parkway is a major visual asset to the City’s southeastside. The focus of this parkway is a tree-lined stream approximately eleven miles long. Interspersed with the wooded areas, are large grassy open spaces. This mix of landscape types provides visual interest and recreation opportunities.

As compared to other parkways in the City, Pleasant Run Parkway has relatively low amounts of traffic. This low traffic volume combined with the pleasant scenery creates an ideal route for bicycling. The Mayor’s Bicycle Task Force (a group of public and private sector volunteers which was formed to promote safe bicycling within Marion County) has recognized this by erecting signs along Pleasant Run Parkway that designate it as a bicycle route.

The two sections of Pleasant Run Parkway that were studied as part of the Ellenberger Park master plan are: the section which extends from Ritter Avenue to Arlington Avenue and the section which extends from the south border of Ellenberger Park to Washington Street. This second section includes the Kin Hubbard Memorial Triangle.
The second proposal is to improve the curvatures of the visual domes of these buildings. It is proposed that they be replaced with new domes and that the area be landscaped to improve the pedestrian flow. The character of the pathways through the grassy areas of the parkways appears to be rather intact in nature. The pathways, in fact, are one of the few features that have not been altered or removed.

The character of the pathways is much different than that of Pleasant Run.

Elmhurst Parkway

The Elmhurst Memorial Bridge is located at the intersection of Pleasant Run Avenue and Washington Street. The bridge is a major collector of traffic and serves as a connection between the two communities. The bridge should be replaced to accommodate the increased traffic and provide a safer crossing for pedestrians and cyclists.

Immediate west of this area

The second section of Pleasant Run is too low for pedestrians to use under the bridge. The bridge between Elmhurst Avenue and Pleasant Run Avenue is proposed for a pedestrian crossing, which would be a major addition to the area. The bridge would provide a safe crossing for pedestrians and cyclists, and improve the character of the pathways.

Elmhurst Park Master Plan

The section of Pleasant Run which extends from Elmhurst Avenue to Washington Street needs to be improved. The area is a major collector of traffic and serves as a connection between the communities. The bridge should be replaced to accommodate the increased traffic and provide a safer crossing for pedestrians and cyclists.

The second section of Pleasant Run is too low for pedestrians to use under the bridge. The bridge between Elmhurst Avenue and Pleasant Run Avenue is proposed for a pedestrian crossing, which would be a major addition to the area. The bridge would provide a safe crossing for pedestrians and cyclists, and improve the character of the pathways.
quality of paths that cross the Parkway by installing a bark mulch surface where the dirt paths currently exist.
Figure 6

PLEASANT RUN PARKWAY

ETERNAL PARK MAJOR PARKWAY PLAN
SOIL PROFILE OF ELLENBERGER PARK

RECREATION DEVELOPMENT

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<th>Playgrounds</th>
<th>Paths and Trails</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ug</td>
<td>Moderate: floods</td>
<td>Severe: floods</td>
<td>Moderate: floods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UmB</td>
<td>Slight</td>
<td>Moderate: slope</td>
<td>Slight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UmC</td>
<td>Moderate: slope</td>
<td>Severe: slope</td>
<td>Slight</td>
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</table>
Information obtained from the Soil Survey of Marion County, Indiana.

There are no major woodland management concerns for any of the three soil types.

**SOIL TYPE**
- Very Poor
- Poor
- Good

**WOODLAND MANAGEMENT**
- Lime
- Limb
- Lf

**WILDLIFE HABITAT POTENTIALS**

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<tr>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>Wildlife Habitat Potentials</th>
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<tr>
<td>Severe: Poor strength</td>
<td>Severe: Slope</td>
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<td>Severe: Low strength</td>
<td>Moderate: Shrink-swell, Lf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Severe: Roads</td>
<td>Small Commercial Bids, Local Roads and Streets</td>
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**BUILDING SITE DEVELOPMENT**
MASTER PLANNING PROCESS:
PUBLIC MEETINGS

December 2, 1987  Workshop was conducted to identify issues important to the community.

February 23, 1988  Preliminary plans were presented.

May 4, 1988  Adjusted preliminary plans were presented

August 31, 1988  Final plans were presented to and approved by the community members in attendance.