

# white RIVER

## VISION PLAN

### One River, One Vision

The White River is Central Indiana's next frontier—unifying and diverse, productive and protected, timeless and contemporary.

The River sets us apart as communities that can work together to realize big dreams. Its healing power guides us toward a resilient future, supports healthy neighborhoods and economies, honors the past, and improves the lives of Hoosiers for generations to come.



HAMILTON COUNTY

STRAWTOWN

Hamilton County is the fastest growing county in the state

70 varieties of mussels once existed in the river; 37 varieties remain today

NOBLESVILLE

ALLISONVILLE STRETCH

CONNER PRAIRIE

FISHERS

CARMEL

Since 1895, annual precipitation has increased by five inches\*

OLIVER'S CROSSING

28.6 million tourists visit the area annually

BROAD RIPPLE

Much of our nation's capitol is built of Indiana-sourced limestone, from quarries up and down the White River

INDIANAPOLIS ART CENTER

BUTLER UNIV.

NEWFIELDS

MARIAN UNIV.

16 TECH

DOWNTOWN INDIANAPOLIS

IUPUI

WHITE RIVER STATE PARK

WATERSIDE

INDIANA CONV. CENTER

In 1909, George Kessler's Indianapolis Park and Boulevard System plan laid the foundation for the city's urban patterns


The plan identifies opportunities to better connect and make whole the quilt of communities that currently have varying relationships with this incredibly underutilized asset

In 2013, DigIndy began, initiating a multi-year effort to clean the White River

INDIANAPOLIS / MARION COUNTY

HAMILTON CO. to INDIANAPOLIS

\*estimate based on Purdue research

Places marked  are defined as focus areas by the White River Vision Plan. They are places with significant environmental value, untapped activation potential, and diverse and culturally rich communities surrounding them. These areas are also pilots for other similar places up and down the river.



# WHAT IS THE VISION PLAN?

**THE WHITE RIVER, A MAJOR TRIBUTARY OF THE WABASH RIVER, FLOWS THROUGH** Indianapolis, Noblesville, Carmel, and Fishers as it meanders from east to west across Indiana. The White River Vision Plan is a community-driven plan in Hamilton County and Indianapolis to develop a holistic plan that explores the enormous potential of our river to enhance regional vibrancy, ecological integrity, livability and economic vitality.

In recent years, Hamilton County and Marion County have experienced a renaissance. Downtown development is accelerating, cultural institutions are expanding, major infrastructure projects

are tackling water quality challenges, and park improvements are leading to a flourishing quality of life for the community. Long invisible, the river too is awakening from a period of underutilization and ecological degradation. The vision plan ran from Spring 2018 to Summer 2019. Over this period, over 13,000 ideas were gathered from the community at local events, special meetings, and online.

**THE WHITE RIVER VISION PLAN IS A JOINT EFFORT** between the City of Indianapolis and Hamilton County Tourism, Inc. in partnership with Visit Indy's philanthropic arm, Tourism Tomorrow, Inc. The Vision Plan would not be possible without the concerted efforts of our shareholder partners, the White River Alliance, Friends of the White River, and Reconnecting To Our Waterways, and our funding partner the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust.



## Guiding Principles

- 1 Restore the river's environment and ecology to enhance its natural function, steward its diverse community of life, and adapt to a climate resilient future.
- 2 Enhance community stewardship of the river's health by increasing opportunities for meaningful, lasting connections and experiences that add value to the quality of life of residents.
- 3 Increase year-round activities that attract people to the river for arts and entertainment, recreation, gathering, and learning.
- 4 Draw people to, along, into, and across the White River's publicly accessible spaces to create vibrant experiences that bring people together.
- 5 Respect and build on the river's unique historic identity to invite people in and enable them to understand and appreciate the river's stories.
- 6 Expand the river's role in our everyday lives to build regional economic strength and community identity.
- 7 Partner across boundaries to collaboratively manage the White River system and create efficient operations and sustainable governance.
- 8 Celebrate the diversity of the region's communities on the river to preserve places for everyone for generations to come.
- 9 Balance community sentiments with long-term aspirations that honor ownership and use-patterns along the river.



### PARK

**11,000**  
ACRES IN  
THE RIVER CORRIDOR

*compares to*

**15,065**

ACRES  
IN INDIANA DUNES  
NATIONAL PARK



### WATERWAY

**1,900**  
ACRES OF  
CONTINUOUS WATERWAY  
OVER 58 MILES

*is nearly*

**1,890**

ACRES OF  
THE CHICAGO RIVER



### DESTINATION

**2,800**  
ACRES OF  
PROGRAMMABLE SPACES

*is equivalent to*

**68**

LUCAS OIL STADIUMS



### NATURE

**6,500**  
ACRES OF  
FLOODPLAINS, NATURAL  
AREAS, OPEN SPACES

*is more than twice*

**2,760**

ACRES IN  
TIPPECANOE RIVER  
STATE PARK

#### PARTNERS / STAKEHOLDERS

Capital Improvements Board of Marion County  
Carmel Clay Parks Parks & Recreation  
Central Indiana Community Foundation  
Central Indiana Corporate Partnership  
Citizens Energy Group  
City of Carmel  
City of Fishers  
City of Indianapolis  
City of Noblesville  
City of Westfield  
Concerned Clergy of Indianapolis

Conner Prairie  
Indiana Department of  
Natural Resources  
Eli Lilly & Co  
Eskanazi Health  
Fishers Parks Department  
Friends of Hamilton County Parks  
Greater Indianapolis  
Progress Committee  
Groundwork Indy  
Hamilton County Board  
of Commissioners

Hamilton County  
Community Foundation  
Hamilton County  
Parks Department  
Hamilton County  
Planning Commission  
Hamilton County Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
Hamilton County  
Surveyor's Office  
Indiana State House  
of Representatives

Indiana State Senate  
Hoosier Environmental Council  
Indiana Department of  
Environmental Management  
Indiana State Museum  
Indiana Humanities  
Indianapolis City-County  
Council  
Indianapolis Parks Foundation  
Indianapolis Urban League  
Indianapolis Zoo  
IndyParks

IUPUI  
Keep Indianapolis Beautiful  
Marion University  
Marion County  
Health Department  
MIBOR  
Newfields  
Noblesville Parks Department  
River Bend Campground  
The Nature Conservancy  
White River Canoe Company  
White River State Park

**white  
RIVER  
PLAN**

HAMILTON CO. 10 INDIANAPOLIS

Residents, neighborhoods, businesses,  
and organizations who engaged in creating the plan  
are all integral to its long-term success.