



Tasks Four/Six: Destinations and Programming

In these tasks, the team developed an understanding for destinations, events, programming, and gathering places along the White River. The team evaluated existing and potential destinations in both Hamilton and Marion Counties, and recommended new catalyst sites and destinations along the River.

The following pages detail our process and understanding of important destinations for enhanced or new protection, preservation, programming and activation for the river.

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VISIT INDY
RECONNECTING TO OUR WATERWAYS

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TASK FOUR/SIX: DESTINATIONS AND PROGRAMMING

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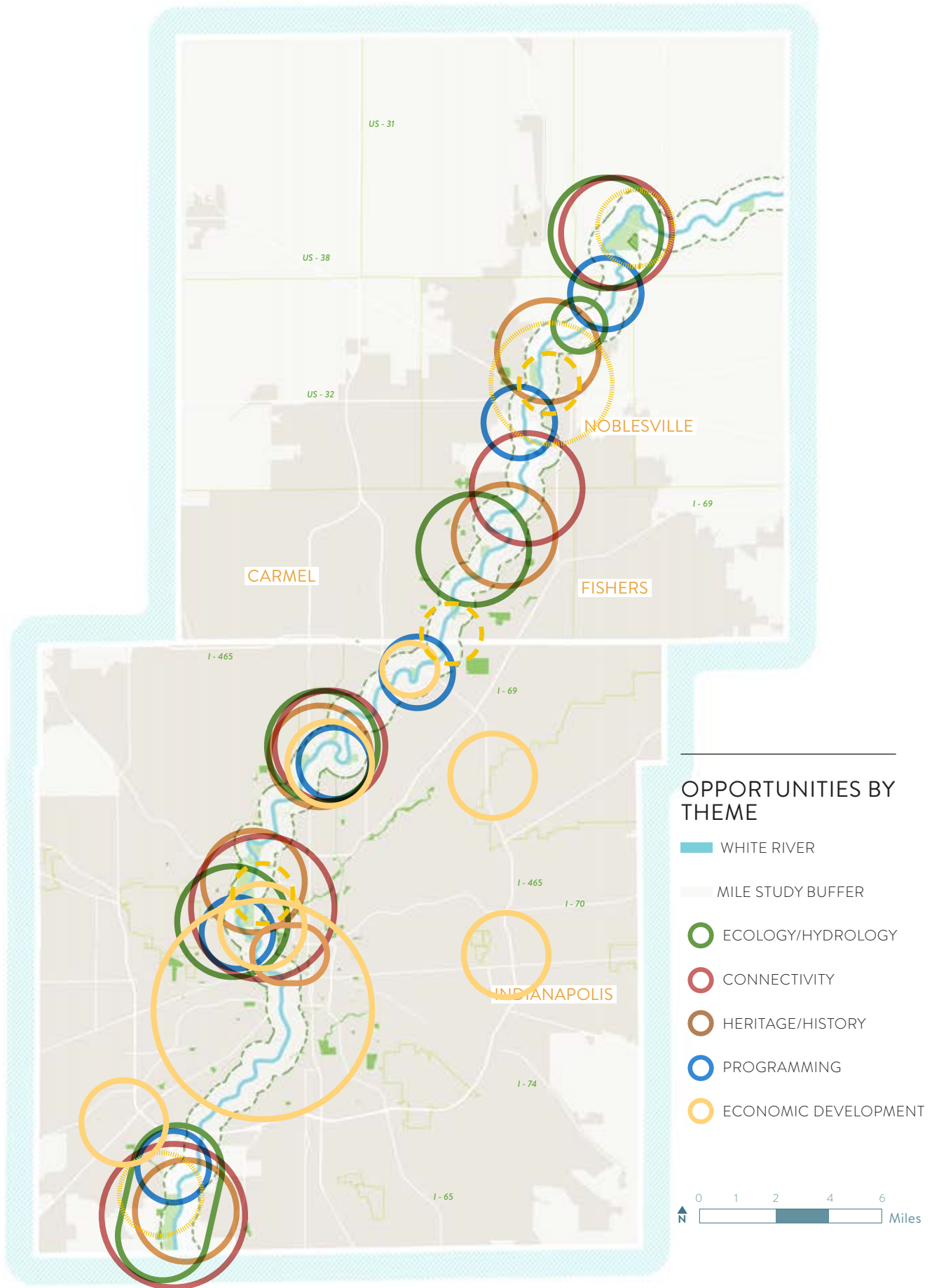
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Destinations

Opportunities to invest in catalytic projects exist all along the 58-mile stretch of the White River. Working together with the client team and the public, the vision plan identified twenty-seven opportunity sites for preservation, activation, enhancements, or protection. The sites identified on the map at right include existing catalysts, places that exist but could be enhanced, and opportunities for future catalysts. All of these are places along the river where a variety of experiences can be created or expanded.

This long list of destinations or opportunity sites is organized by the five discovery themes. Certain locations showed clear overlap among multiple themes and enabled the plan to filter through the long list to identify seven final sites to explore as plan ‘focus areas’ or ‘anchors’. Paired with results from public meetings in October in which participants were asked to identify places to preserve, enhance or expand, the plan was able to compile a comprehensive understanding of conditions along the river and preferences for future uses.

Destinations are described in more detail by discovery theme on the following pages.



Experience Nature

Priority Opportunities

STRAWTOWN KOTEEWI PARK

- Free flowing stretch of river upstream of pool from Riverwood Power Dam (Duke)
- Open space/public land
- Large floodplain, agriculture
- Extensive grasslands and lowland forests—more protected grassland here than anywhere along the river

RIVERWOOD DAM

- Free flowing stretch of river (below dam)
- Open space/public land
- Large floodplain, low development, agriculture
- Natural area – Interesting lowland forest and savanna-like communities with uncommon plants, becoming overgrown with brush (Burr Oak Nature Preserve)

CONNER PRAIRIE SOUTH

- Free flowing stretch of river unaffected by downstream dam pool
- Open space/private and public
- Large floodplain, developed
- Wetlands and high quality habitat

BROAD RIPPLE VILLAGE

- Marott Park includes intact mature forest; natural, unchannelized creek. State Nature Preserve, the only one along the river;

low-head dam on the cut-off channel is, according to residents, too low, starving the mainstem of the White River of water during low water periods—if raised and retrofitted as a rapids, water quality in this channel could improve, giving people using Marrot Park Woods a nice stretch of water

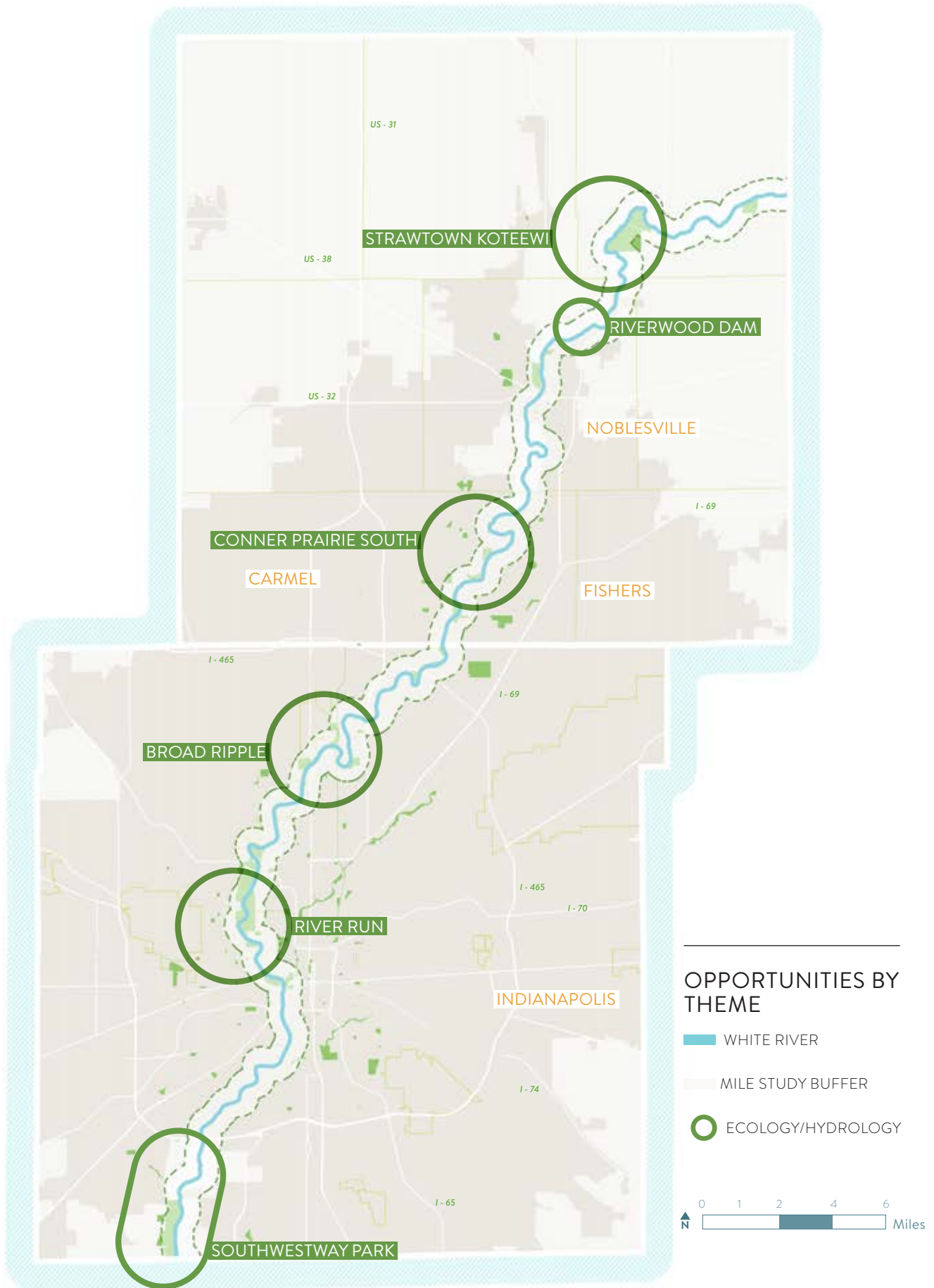
- Holliday Park – Intact, mature forest—connected to Marott Park by White River

DOWNTOWN RIVER RUN

- Dam retrofit opportunity (16th Street) for passage; need to maintain pool for water supply purposes
- Limited floodplain – levee both sides
- Fall Creek confluence
- Native plant communities; IUPUI ecology restoration site; marsh restoration potential; excellent wildlife area

SOUTHWESTWAY PARK/MANN HILL

- Free flowing stretch of river below Harding Street Dam – great fishing
- Open space/public land
- Large floodplain, low development, agriculture
- Natural area – intact forest system, diverse plant communities from wet meadow to lowland forest to oak-hickory forest, uncommon forest birds
- Mann Hill – Hilly topography, remoteness: Indianapolis' true wilderness experience



Connect Communities

Priority Opportunities

STRAWTOWN-KOTEEWI PARK

Serving as the northern “bookend” to the WRVP study area, Koteewi Park is currently accessible via the east/west 234th & 236th Street corridor and offers direct connection to the White River. It is classified as a primary arterial due to current traffic volume. The existing right of way width is sufficient for a multi-use trail, which is identified in the North Hamilton Co. Trail Master Plan to connect Koteewi Park and White River to Cumberland Drive, the main north/south road just west of Koteewi and the Towns of Cicero, Arcadia and Atlanta to the north and west.

Heading east, 234th becomes Strawtown Avenue and winds parallel with the river. At State Road 13 it becomes West 8th Street Road and continues as it winds east and in close proximity of the river all the way to downtown Anderson creating significant connectivity potential.

146TH STREET & UNDEVELOPED AREA NORTH BETWEEN RIVER ROAD AND WHITE RIVER

Offering a blank but challenging canvas, physically and environmentally, this area spans between and contiguous to 146th Street north to the entrance to the White River Canoe Company approximately at 170th between River Road and the White River. 146th Street is a significant east/west primary arterial in

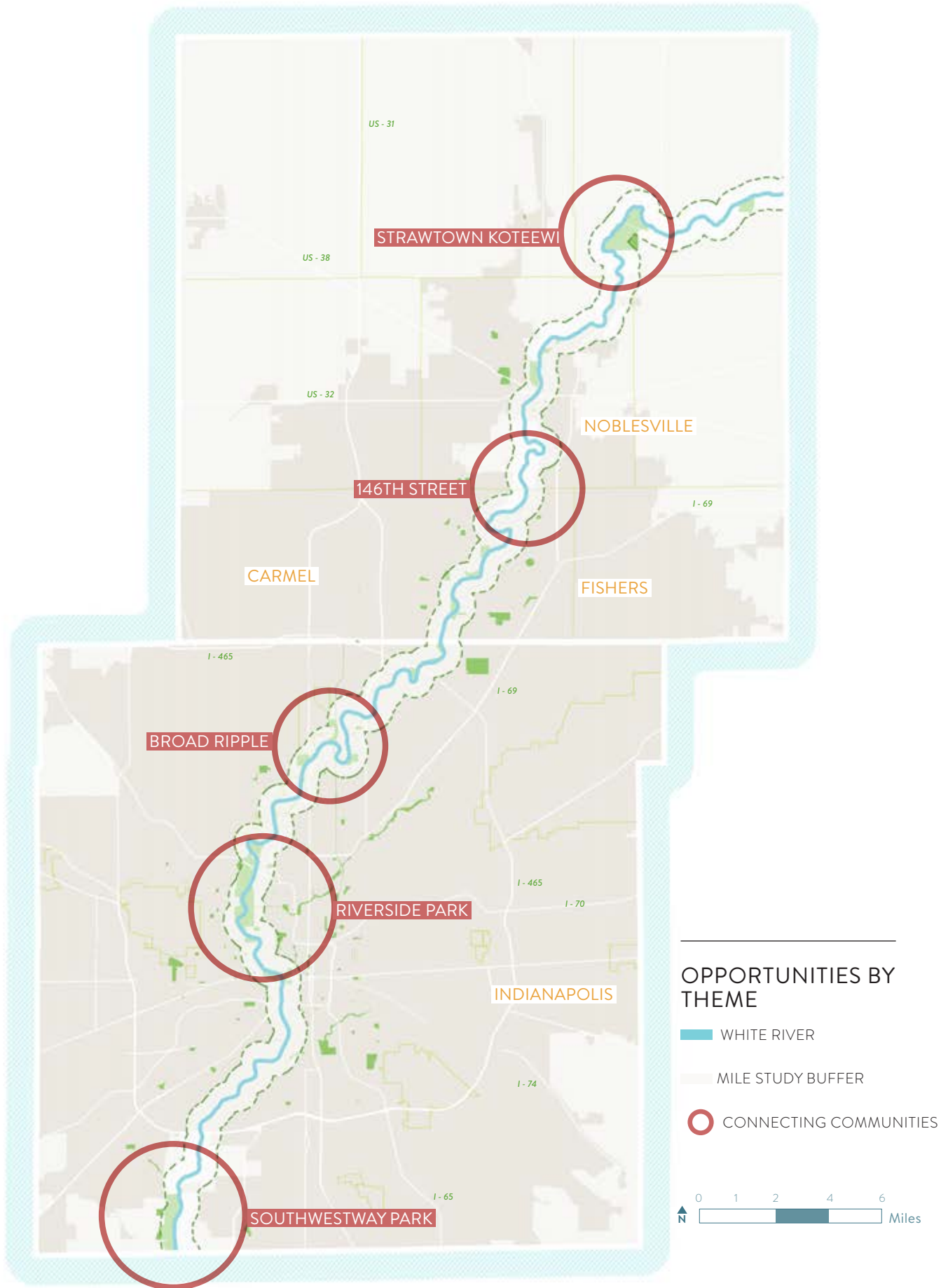
Hamilton County and extends between the far eastern end of Noblesville past I-69, Hamilton Town Center retail and commercial district and west through the City of Carmel to the Boone County and Hamilton County line. At that juncture it becomes County Road East 300 South and terminates at I-65 North a span of over 36 miles.

Within the WRVP study area 146th Street currently has separated multi-use trails on both sides. The pedestrian ways would need to be widened and improved but offer significant opportunities to provide dual, multi-use trails, wide central median, an iconic bridge structure, other smaller open recreation areas, public art, interpretive rest areas and direct access to the river.

The 146th Street corridor is located halfway between the cities of Noblesville and Fishers. Any improvements associated with the roadway could be shared since there are contiguous parcels in each jurisdiction.

BROAD RIPPLE VILLAGE DISTRICT

A major hub of commercial activity on the north side of Indianapolis is Broad Ripple Village. The White River, while somewhat hidden from view, meanders through the vicinity just east of the area. Broad Ripple is surrounded by a unique mix of housing types including the grand, older homes of the Meridian Street corridor, the larger, historic Meridian Kessler neighborhood, the Town of Arden older homes mixed with mid-century modern homes and smaller cottage style homes from the early 40's to modern new homes.



The commercial/retail district in Broad Ripple consists of a main commercial corridor, Broad Ripple Avenue extending east and west between Keystone Avenue and College Avenue with a mix of smaller-scaled, local, commercial and retail establishments.

Broad Ripple is identified as a focus area due to the need to expand and improve visibility and multi-modal connectivity from the east and west to the river, given the extensive number of parks and river access within a 2 mile radius of the district center. Parks and public access areas include Broad Ripple Park, the Art Center, the Monon Trail, Arden, Marrott Park, and Holliday Park right on the edge. White River is considerably under-utilized in this vicinity.

The major vehicular connection to Broad Ripple from the east is 62nd Street which extends from Binford Boulevard and becomes Broad Ripple Avenue at Keystone Avenue. Due to limited ROW width there is only a small section of separated multi-use trail between Allisonville Road and Glendale Shopping Center and sections of on-street bikeways. From that location west is a combination of separated walks and on-street bikeways leading into Broad Ripple. Connectivity from the areas due west is a significant issue. East/west corridors tying directly to Broad Ripple from the west are very limited. The closest two are Kessler Boulevard approximately one mile south and 71st Street approximately 1.5 miles north.

The Monon, Indianapolis' major multi-use trail is a critical and successful means of pedestrian and bicycle connection between downtown Indianapolis to the northern edge of Westfield over 26 miles north.

RIVERSIDE PARK

Riverside Park is an existing historic park located near downtown Indianapolis, with White River serving as its western border, north to south. The primary vehicular network surrounding Taggart Riverside Park consists of 29th Street to the north and 16th Street on the south. Both are east/west corridors and primary arterials. Cold Spring Road to the west and East Riverside Drive are the major north/south collector streets.

This area is proposed a primary focus area, due to the slated improvements planned for the park and its significance to the existing neighborhoods surrounding. Currently the parks available to the residents in this area are extremely limited and in serious need of improvements and program offerings. The leadership of Indianapolis has approved the Master Plan and is committed to its implementation.

The primary arterial in the vicinity of Riverside north of 29th Street is the 38th Street corridor which serves as a major vehicular connection between the far west and east side of Indianapolis, second only to Washington Street, US 40 to the south. 38th Street is home to Newfields and the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Neighborhood connectivity is planned as part of the park implementation along with improvements to the existing White River Greenway Trail in this area. The 38th Street improvements between the fairgrounds and Newfields completed approximately 20 years ago are beginning to deteriorate. Separated sidewalks, seating, a wide center median with raised planters, pedestrian lighting, decorative cross walks and street trees will require

replacement in the next few years. If so, an opportunity would exist to provide a separated trail on one side and would serve to connect the Fall Creek Trail, the Monon Trail with the White River Trail south of 38th Street.

SOUTHWESTWAY PARK

Serving as the southern “bookend” to the WRVP study area, Southwestway Park is currently accessible via Southport Road corridor and offers direct connection to the White River. An older and established park, it serves a vast area. Limited programming and recreational opportunities exist given the size of the park but access to the river is key.

Southport Road ROW and/or County Line Road will be widened to accommodate a separated trail, and is necessary to offer connectivity to the park from the east and west. Vehicular access is adequate but would need to be addressed as the park is improved and programs expand.

The under developed area between Southwestway and downtown Indianapolis resembles the character of Focus Area 2 above, except much larger in scale and extends from Southport Road north, past I-465 up to Raymond Street. At present the river can be accessed in only a very few areas as much of it consists of a variety of industrial uses and “No Trespassing” signage.

Reveal History

Priority Opportunities

- Establish more state historical markers across the corridor.

POTTER'S BRIDGE PARK

- Interpretation could be improved through explanation of the challenge of making early crossings and floods that swept other bridges away elsewhere in the two counties.

CONNER PRAIRIE

- Encourage Conner Prairie, parks and public lands in the Meadow Reach, and Oliver's Crossing (when developed) to interpret natural characteristics of the White River in general and how these specific sites exhibit these characteristics. Restoration of native vegetation characteristic of the river before pioneer settlement wherever possible would reinforce this interpretation.

BROAD RIPPLE

- The area would benefit from local lectures and walking tours that build local understanding of the historic and architectural importance of this area and environmental topics and reinforce the strong local sense of community. The interpretive plan should identify places to emphasize that identity through permanent arts, interpretive, and play installations.

RIVERSIDE PARK

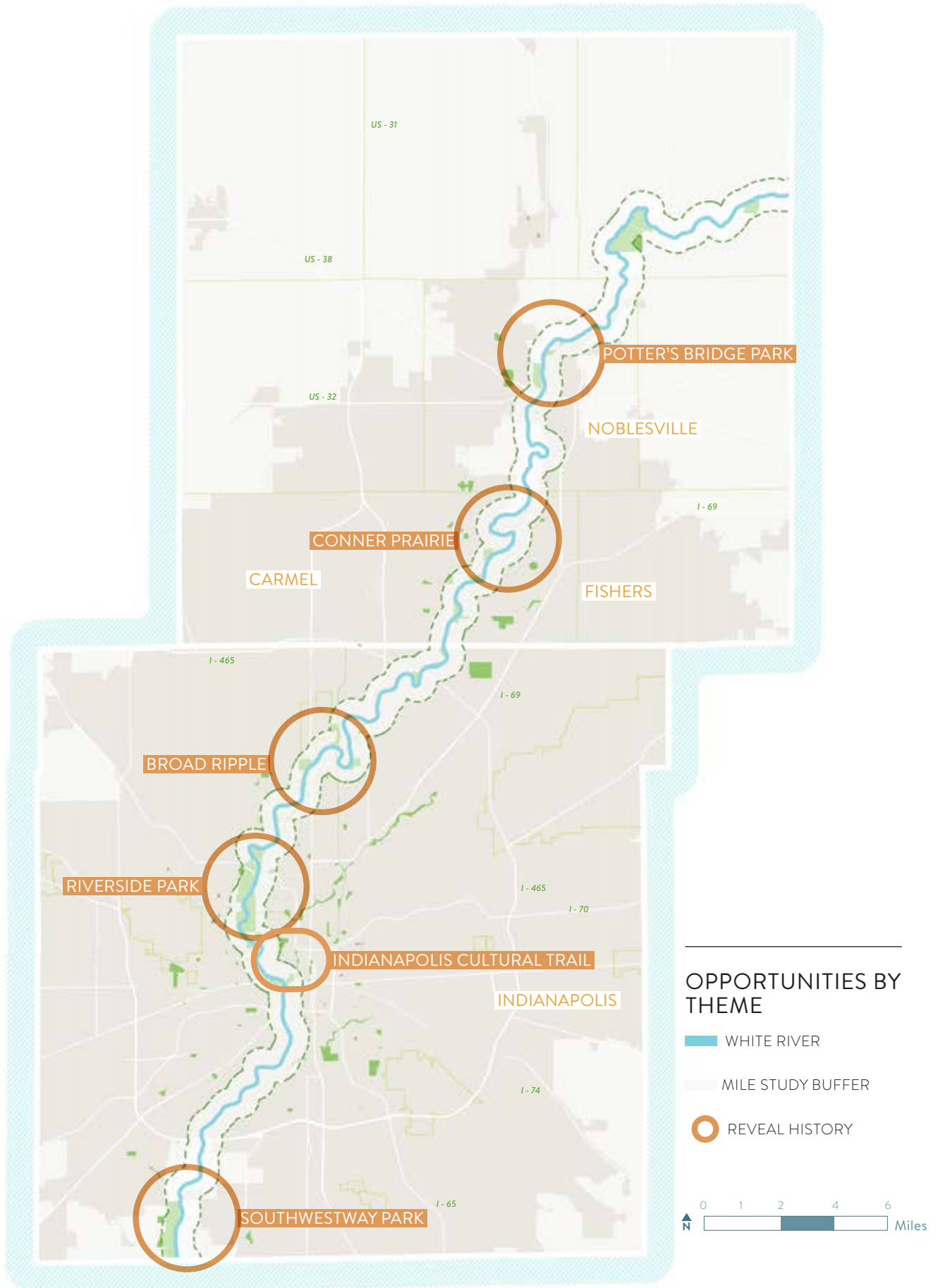
- At the north end of the park, originate a walkable interpretive loop north on the west side of the river, from the Heslar Naval Armory past the Wheeler-Stokely Mansion and the Allison Mansion by combining the White River Trail with local roads. Similarly, Crown Hill Cemetery (national and local) would be an outstanding resource to access on foot from the White River Trail.

INDIANAPOLIS CULTURAL TRAIL

- Extend from the downtown all the way to Riverside Park & Dam (the "Protected Reach") – in phases or area-by-area "small bites" as needed. Interesting resource(s) for focus: Illinois Central Railroad Truss Bridge (interpretation of infrastructure can be problematic because of security requirements but outdoor interpretation placed at some distance away should be feasible) ; Riverside Pumping Station; Madam C.J. Walker Building (NHL); Lockefield Gardens Apartments.

SOUTHWESTWAY PARK

- There are important archeological sites that, while they probably should not be revealed to the public, could be generally interpreted, along with the important ice-age geological formation of Mann Hill (a kame). Ranger-led talks offered seasonally would educate park users, an important audience for building a constituency for park improvement and protection (and perhaps expansion).



Get Outdoors

Priority Opportunities

206TH STREET TO 216TH STREET

- Private land ownership creates north/south connectivity gaps along the riverfront.
- Potential program opportunities include trails north to south, a river promenade that cantilevers out into the river and/or a pedestrian bridge crossing.

NOBLESVILLE LANDFILL

- The Noblesville Landfill, just south of Downtown Noblesville, is a significant land opportunity for reclaiming land for public access and programming -- filling a programming gap amongst an area that is largely privately owned. Opportunities for the following programs:
 - Reclaimed Landscape Interpretation
 - Hiking and Bike Trails
 - Wildlife Habitat and Observation
 - Outdoor Recreation
 - Flood Mitigation
 - North/South Connectivity
 - River Access

86TH STREET AND I-465

- Popular retail and residential destination at nexus of I-465 and I-69, yet little-to-no relationship (neither visual or physical) with River. This car-centric dominated destination has great potential to connect residents and visitors with with access to retail and recreation along the River. Opportunities to connect with outdoor lifestyle brands and invest in riverfront entertainment or programming

CHEVY DAM

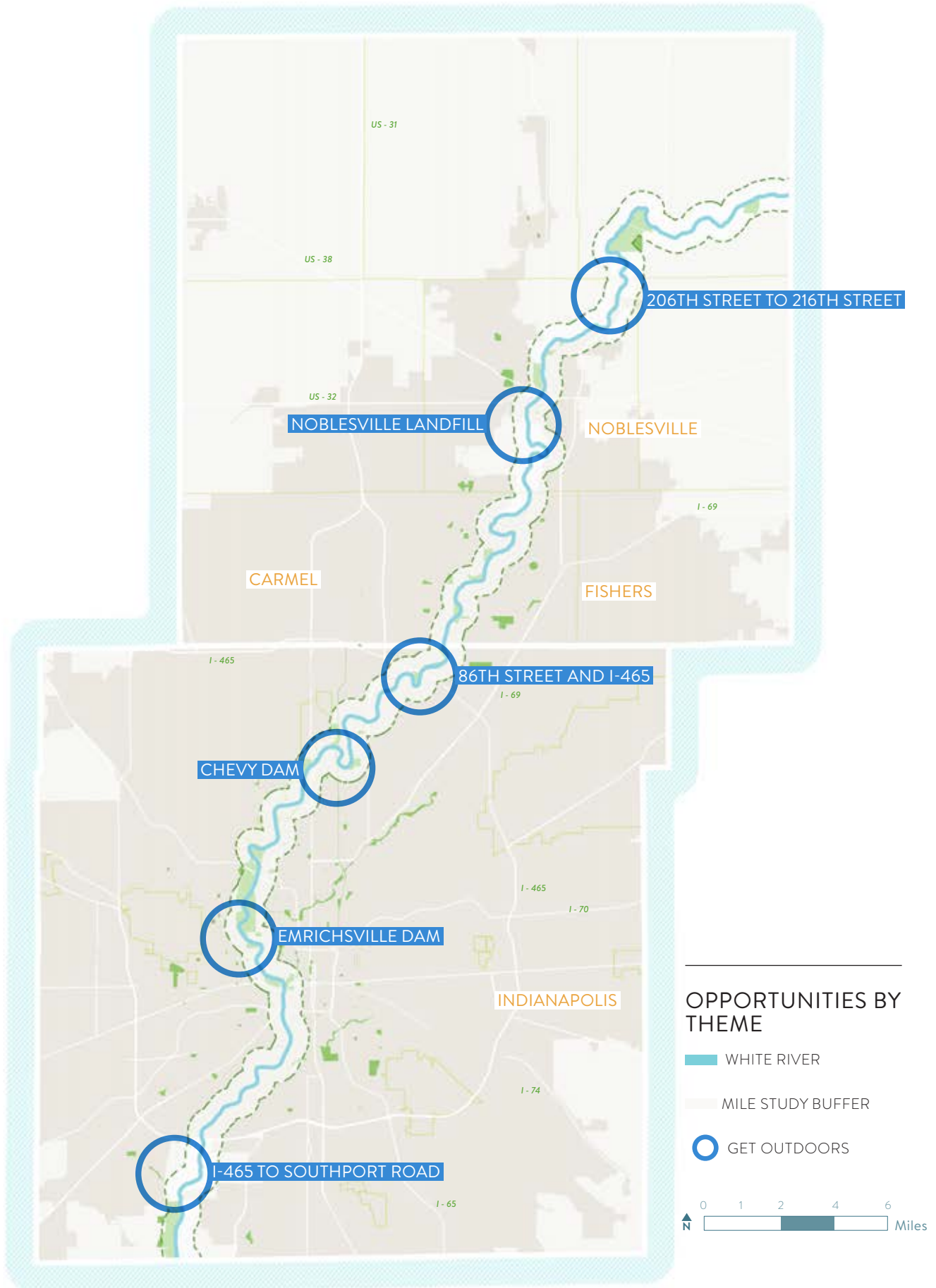
- Scenic opportunity at the crossroads of the River to encourage fishing and more connections down to the riverfront.
- Monon Trail, and Broad Ripple Village.

EMRICHSVILLE DAM

- Scenic Waterfall and Historic Infrastructure - a unique, yet hidden, asset to Downtown Indianapolis
- Could be reimagined dam supporting a confluence of infrastructure (dam), ecology (habitat creation and education) and recreation (fishing pier).

I-465 TO SOUTHPORT ROAD

- The southern intersection of the River and I-465 is characterized by industrial landscapes: the Hardy Street Quarry and Southport Plant (Citizens Energy Group). Along this section of the White River there are interesting sediment deposit features (aits). Opportunity to tie-in themes of water use; extraction of resources; conveyance of water and sediment.



Express Identity

As interest in the White River builds - the plan should maintain flexibility to change as communities evolve. The priorities for *Express Identity* focus on protecting what is special about the White River today, while ensuring growth and change can support places for everyone.

Priority Opportunities

VACANT LAND

- Parcels of vacant privately owned land and vacant public land are located adjacent to the river and are typically narrow and underutilized because of their proximity to major infrastructure including highway overpasses and utility easements.
- There is one large undeveloped tract at 96th Street and White River with the potential for new green space, river access, ecological restoration, and purposeful development that benefits the surrounding neighborhoods.

DEVELOPMENT

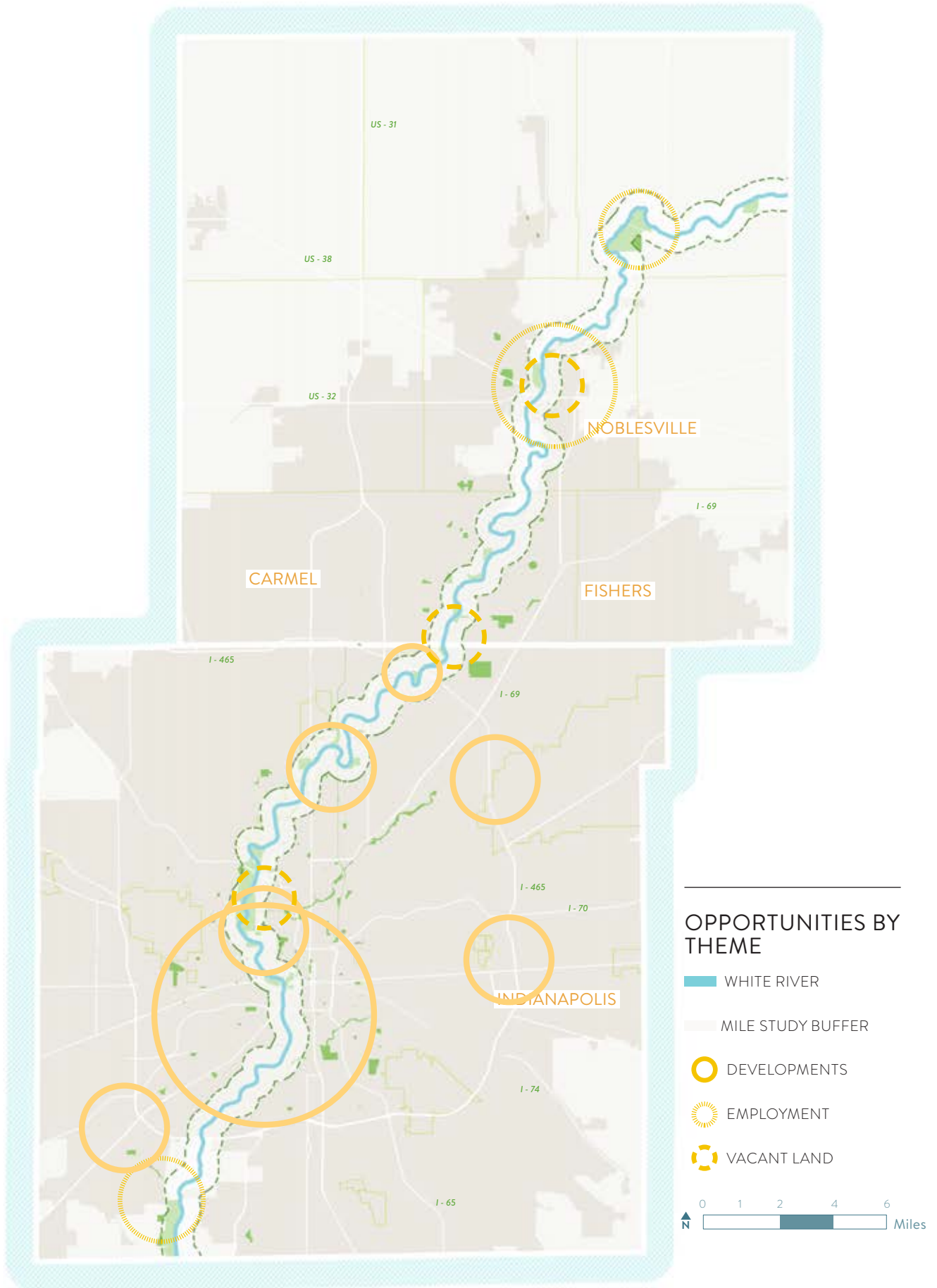
- Major development project concentrations are primarily located downtown, but also are located along nearby interstates.

EMPLOYMENT

- Employment is primarily concentrated in downtown Indy, with other employers closer to Hamilton County and I-465

SUMMARY

- Together, these areas overlap to illustrate places that may have potential for near-term investment.



Programming

The White River has varied moments of human engagement and ecological significance along its edges. In Marion and Hamilton Counties, the planning team identified forty-plus destinations in the Task One Report. The inventory in that report is a detailed account of the destinations' varying size, amenities offered, access to the water's edge, access to seasonal programming, and ownership status.

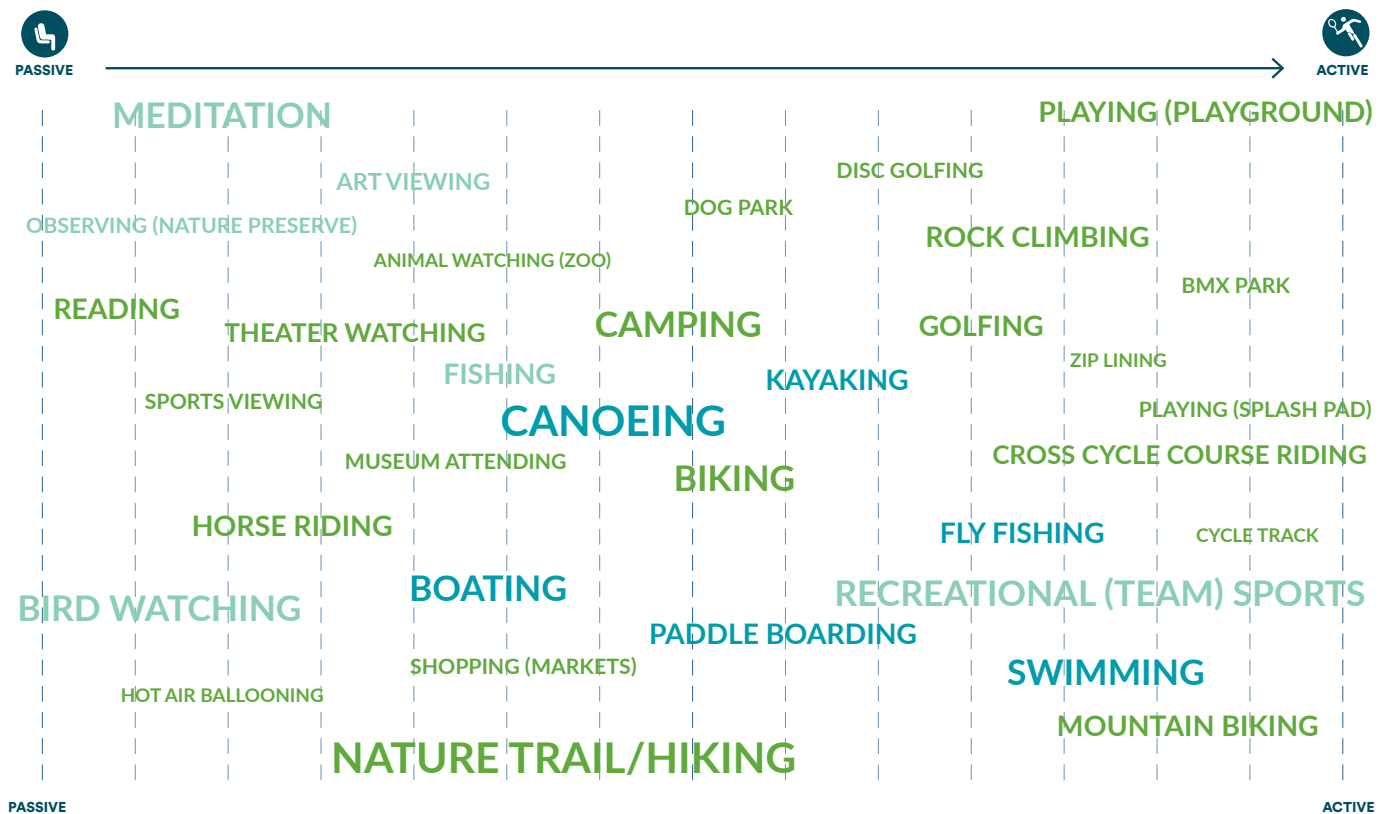
Through the lens of programming, the team identified opportunities and barriers to realizing increased activation, revenue, and engagement with the river's edge. Significant opportunities exist for the community to have increased engagement with the White River. These opportunities will also result in national competitiveness; increased level of attractions; enhanced education and stewardship; all-seasons programming; linked multimodal experiences; enhancement of existing anchors; and strengthened health and wellness. At the same time, important challenges must be recognized and overcome to make these ideas a reality. The White River Vision Plan (WRVP) has begun to lay the groundwork for this process. Potential barriers to be aware of include: defining and maintaining a centralized vision; collective stewardship; challenging access; mobility perceptions; and seasonal perceptions.

Project Anchors

The consultant, client, and stakeholder team identified seven project anchors to test new programming ideas. These anchors are representative of the spectrum of site typologies up and down the White River, and span a dichotomy of characteristics: developed to natural; private to public ownership; urban to rural; residential to industrial. In selecting sites, geographic location was considered in order to ensure that the majority of the study areas were included. Lastly, while site specific opportunities and barriers were identified, the focus areas were intentionally selected to serve as representative case studies with solutions that are able to be implemented across other places on the destinations list. This task report conveys a summary of why the seven anchors were selected and what opportunities they exemplify.

These anchors are: Strawtown Koteewi, Downtown Noblesville, Allisonville, Oliver's Crossing, Broad Ripple, Downtown Indianapolis, and Southwestway Park.

Program Use



- Program Occurs on Land
- Program Occurs in Water
- Program can Occur in Land or Water

River Events

Existing events along the river are identified and described below.

	EVENT	DESTINATION
ARTS AND CULTURES	Family Halloween Party	Federal Hill Commons
	Wine Down with Art	Federal Hill Commons
	Food Truck Friday's	Federal Hill Commons
	Native American Village Tours	Strawtown Kowteewi
	Winter Solstice	Taylor Center of Natural History
	Let's Talk Turkey	Taylor Center of Natural History
	Potter's Bridge Festival	Potter's Bridge
	Butterfly Kaleidoscope	White River Gardens
	Zoo Boo	Indianapolis Zoo
	Christmas at the Zoo	Indianapolis Zoo
	Winterlights	Newfields
	Connor Prairie by Candlelight	Connor Prairie
	Chinese New Year Lantern Launch	Riverside Park
	Summer Wonderland Beer Garden	White River Gardens
	Zoolapalooza	Indianapolis Zoo
	Pet Pride	Riverside Park
	Summer Nights Film Series	Newfields
	Penrod Art Festival	Newfields
	White River Festival	White River State Park
	Taste of Broad Ripple	Broad Ripple
SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT	Concerts at the Commons	Federal Hills Commons
	Flashback Friday's	Federal Hills Commons
	Indy Eleven Soccer Season	Indy Eleven
	Indianapolis Colts Football Season	Lucas Oil Stadium
	Major Taylor Cross Cup	Marion University
	Concerts on the Lawn	White River State Park
	Big Ten Football Championship	Lucas Oil Stadium
	Symphony on the Prairie	Connor Prairie
PARKS AND REC	Snowtubing	Kowteewi Park
	Nature Play Days	Various
	Yoga in Holliday Park	Holliday Park



Strawtown Koteewi

Strawtown Koteewi has experienced increasing recent success as a regional destination for environmental programming and outdoor recreation. Located at the northern reach of Hamilton County, the site is characterized as a natural site that boasts extraordinary access to nature and is generally surrounded by large-scale private residential properties, agricultural lands, and privately owned spaces. At 750 acres, the park hosts hiking, archery, equestrian trails, a zipline and ropes course,

and unique cultural programs at the natural history and archaeological research centers. Inner-tube rafting rentals and a winter sledding hill have become popular attractions that draw an influx of visitors. The park also has a recently developed master plan that lays out future improvements on site.

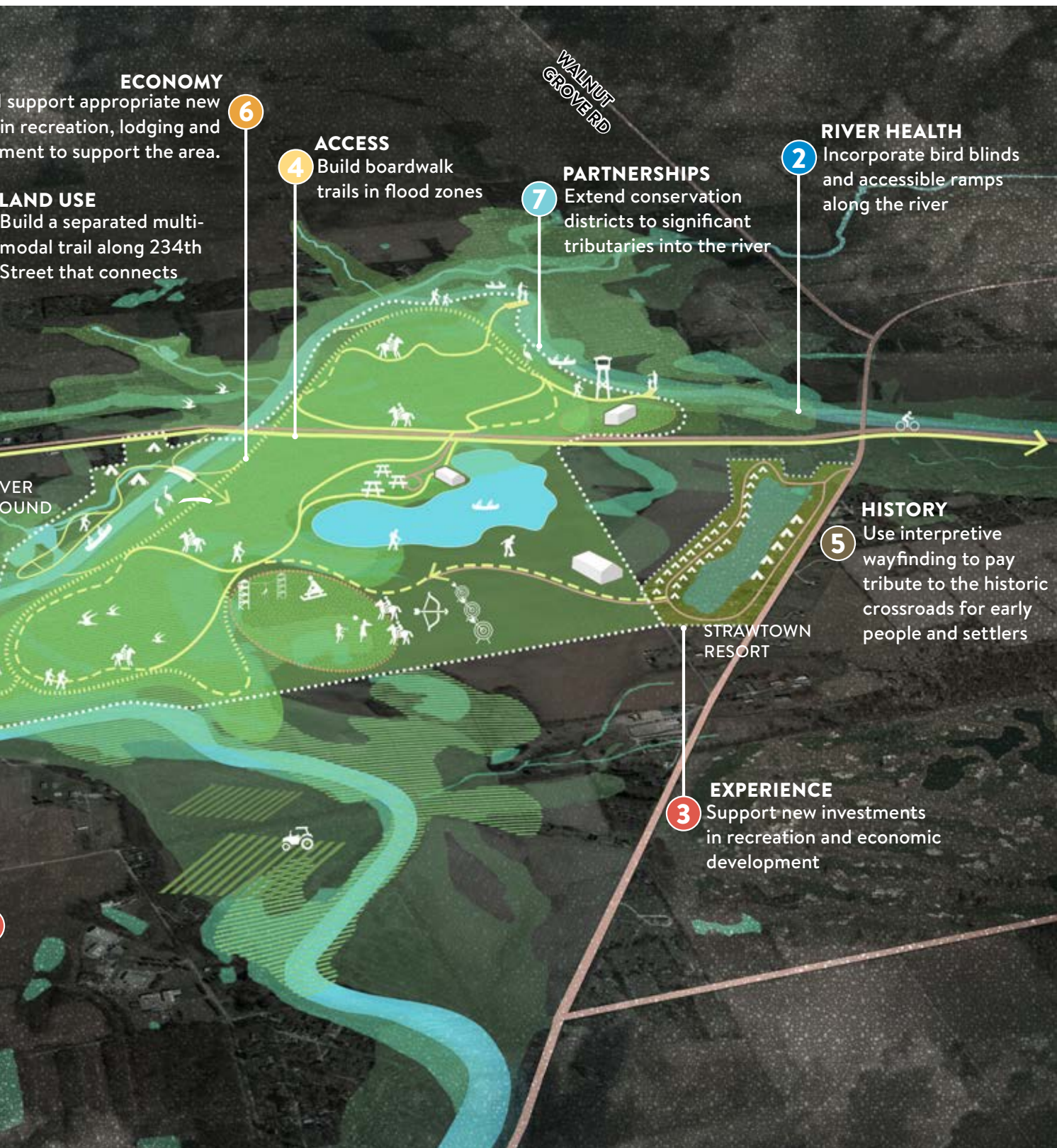
Ideas within the WRVP for the site build on its existing strengths as well as promote the ideas within the current master plan. The plan also identifies additional opportunities that align with goals to expand seasonal programming and add unique attractions. Strawtown Koteewi's environmental and



archaeological centers are already strong examples of the ability to use education to foster stewardship in the region and beyond. This ethos can be expanded to the broader landscape, as well. The variety of ecosystems along the river's edge, forests, and meadows can be celebrated with interpretive signage and wayfinding that pays tribute to natural resources and early people and settlers. Bird blinds, boardwalks, and river access will add to people's experience of the place while remaining ecologically sensitive. New campgrounds, recreation, and lodging also support Strawtown Koteewi's success as a

destination while generating greater local economic development in the area.

The combination of diverse programming and unique natural settings have contributed to Strawtown Koteewi Park's success as a regional destination, helping to round out Hamilton County's competitive quality of life to attract visitors and local residents. Coupled with the extensive size of the property, there remains ample physical capacity to add programming within the existing property limits – all without impinging on sensitive ecological areas.



ECONOMY

support appropriate new
in recreation, lodging and
ment to support the area.

6

LAND USE

Build a separated multi-
modal trail along 234th
Street that connects

ACCESS

Build boardwalk
trails in flood zones

4

PARTNERSHIPS

Extend conservation
districts to significant
tributaries into the river

7

RIVER HEALTH

Incorporate bird blinds
and accessible ramps
along the river

2

HISTORY

Use interpretive
wayfinding to pay
tribute to the historic
crossroads for early
people and settlers

5

STRAWTOWN
RESORT

EXPERIENCE

Support new investments
in recreation and economic
development

3



Downtown Noblesville

Downtown Noblesville has strategically invested in riverfront development; it is one of the few communities in the study area to have been so deliberate about reconnecting its Downtown with the riverfront. Historically viewed as a main-street community, Downtown Noblesville's adjacency to the riverfront uniquely positions the community's ability to reinvent the city's core as a vibrant urban riverfront district experience.

A consistent urban grid, steady economy, strong housing stock, and lively downtown streets all add to Noblesville's appeal as a charming community. The White River Vision Plan imagines that new green infrastructure can manage stormwater runoff and be used to enhance safe, beautiful pedestrian streets. Likewise, extended walking trails, riverwalk enhancement, and bicycle trails will increase regional multimodal connectivity. Coupled with interpretive graphics, trails can be utilized to interpret history that connects stories and places.



The plan also envisions that new riverfront development will expand downtown economic opportunities and enhance the riverfront experience through urban design that embraces the river overtly. New flood-resilient, mixed-use development will increase the downtown residential population, which will help to support new food and beverage and neighborhood service-oriented businesses. Activated ground floors that open onto the river and new public realm will host food and beverage uses that further enhance the city's already vibrant restaurant environment.

One key opportunity in Noblesville is to better leverage the success of Federal Hill Commons to directly connect to the White River. Building on the potential street closure and direct river link, seasonal park programming can be expanded through the colder winter months. Park expansion will provide safe pedestrian connections along the river's edge, and has the potential to include access to watercraft, ranging from personal kayaks to privately operated dining canal boats, that will open up a new type of park programming and support vision plan goals.

ANCHOR: NOBLESVILLE

Site-Specific Recommendations

- Upgrade existing boat launches at Forest Park, west of the river and south of the planned Pleasant St. bridge connection.
- Support planned Pleasant Street extension and old rail bridge conversion to a pedestrian bridge that will connect the existing Riverwalk to West Noblesville while remaining sensitive to the historic neighborhood fabric. Use the project to connect to regional trails like Midland Trace and Nickel Plate.
- Incentivize development designed to reduce carbon footprint and elevate new development above anticipated water levels. Focus retail and any utilities to key areas outside of the floodplain.
- Pilot a green street projects as part of ongoing road infrastructure improvements in a visible location Downtown. Continue to support best stormwater management practices.
- Strategically purchase land south of Downtown to extend the Noblesville Riverwalk and connect the Riverwalk south along the river.
- Study the feasibility of removing State Route 19 between Federal Hill Commons Park and the river.
- Study the relocation of public utility facilities away from the riverfront floodplain and create more places for the public to experience the riverfront
- Support ongoing planning efforts for the Nickel Plate Trail.
- Provide shade and amenities along commercial streets; Provide space for pedestrians and consider linkages across streets that connect between local businesses and the riverfront.
- Terrace riverbanks to curb erosion and create 'high points' for long views of the river.





NOBLESVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL

PARTNERSHIPS

Partner with small
businesses create walkable
connected streets

ENVIRONMENT

Green streets +
stormwater treatment
train to capture and clean
runoff

CONNER ST

MAPLE AVE

CHERRY ST

FEDERAL HILL
COMMONS

Riverwalk

NICKEL PLATE
ARTS

ECONOMY

Catalyze sustainable and flood
resilient riverfront development in
flood prone areas

SOUTHSIDE
PARK

8TH ST

9TH ST

10TH ST

HISTORY

Plan interpretive trails that
connect stories and places

ACCESS

Extend and link Riverwalk
into larger trail and park
system (Midland Trace and
Nickel Plate)

LAND USE

Extend the Nickel Plate Trail



Allisonville Stretch

The Allisonville Stretch focus area is located just south of Downtown Noblesville and is largely characterized by industrial quarries, suburban-style residential neighborhood developments, private agricultural uses, and the presence of the Connor Prairie living history museum. The Allisonville area includes two major thoroughfares: Allisonville Road (north-south) and 146th Street (east-west) that serve as key vehicular connections to several communities in Marion and Hamilton Counties.

The Allisonville Stretch's pattern of industrial quarry land uses provides specific opportunities for future programming related to recreation, resiliency, and cultural identity. Several quarry operations exist in the area and have, for a long time, largely defined significant land area in this community. As these activities begin to cease or change operations, it is important to have a proactive approach to productive use of these large land areas. Significant opportunities exist to redefine their future uses and ensure that they add identity and function to the community.

Characterized by large, man-made depressions in the landscape, the quarries have the



potential to add identity to a region that is topographically homogenous and flat. Future programming that will be explored will take advantage of this topography and land area. Imagine rock climbers ascending the rock face and zip-liners descending into the quarry depths – both are unique recreational opportunities as a quarry's second life. Seasonal programming can activate quarries throughout the year with summer beaches and swimming pools, winter ice-skating, spring fishing-holes, and fall concert series. Importantly, quarries adjacent to the riverfront may be utilized for flood storage and stormwater detention.

Separate from the quarries, the Conner Prairie interactive history park is a tremendous riverfront asset with its own master plan vision that is also under implementation. Environmental stewardship, improved river health, and passive recreational opportunities can be supported through ongoing partnerships between the public sector and this institutional anchor. Beyond its boundaries, the addition of safer pedestrian, bicycle, and river connections to reach Conner Prairie will support plans for implementing the museum's expansion and mutually beneficial programming.

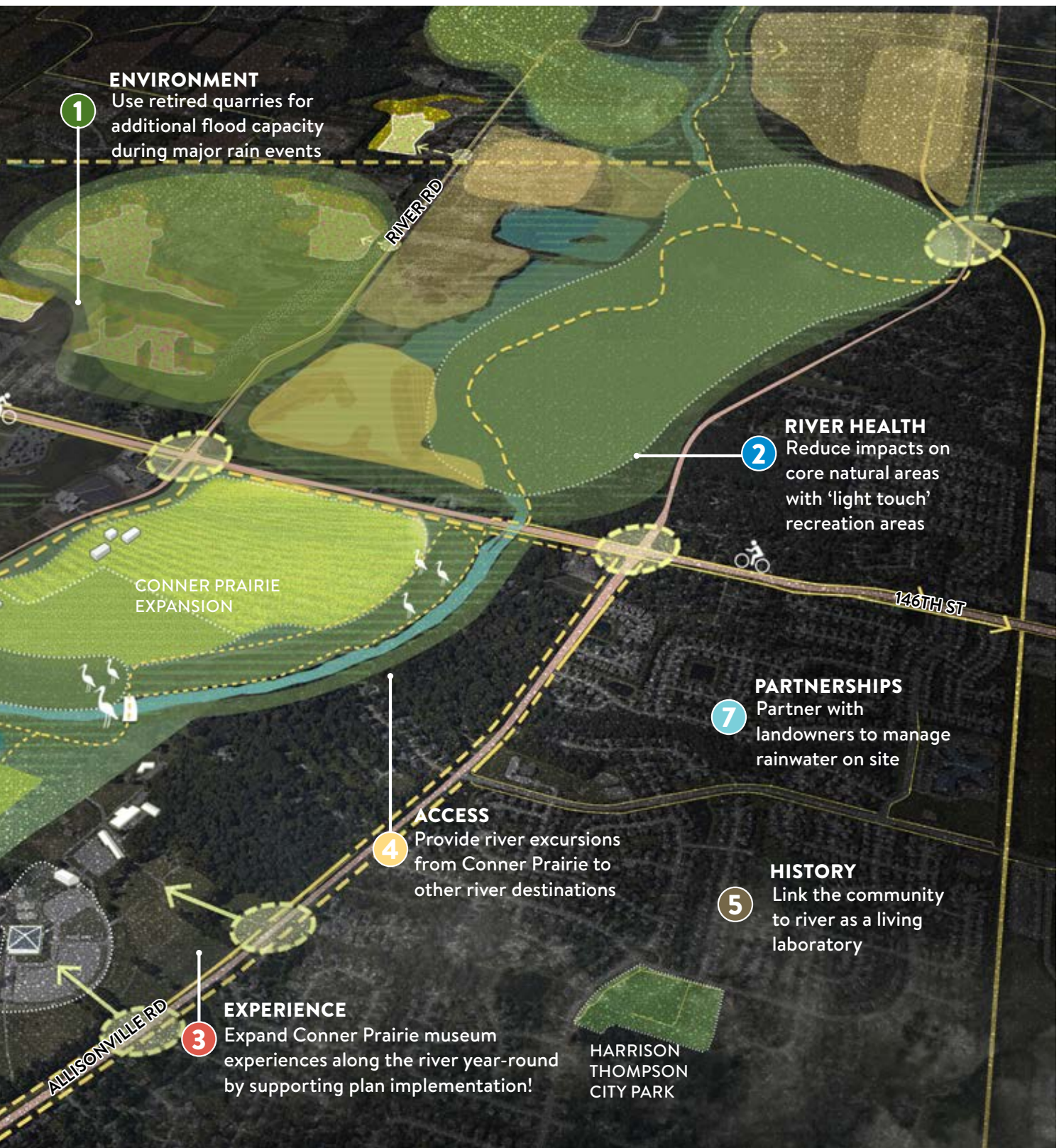
ANCHOR: CONNER PRAIRIE (ALLISONVILLE)

Site-specific

Recommendations

- Consider purchasing the Noblesville landfill site for open space and connect Nickel Plate across river through landfill site (including bridge construction).
- Work with the City of Fishers, Carmel and Noblesville to improve pedestrian crossings, especially at roundabouts. Consider incorporation of art, pattern and color to street crossing surfaces.
- Remove invasive woody and herbaceous plants, plant native trees and shrubs, install native seed, manage and monitor along the river's edge.
- Engage Central Indiana Land Trust and Indy Land Stewardship to protect natural areas and connections to public lands along the river north of 96th Street
- Identify natural area/transition locations and write natural area conservation plan to manage recreational use at the edges of significant natural resource areas.
- Work with Conner Prairie to identify opportunities for partnerships that increase river awareness of the river and support implementation of the Museum's Master Plan, including public partnerships with the City of Fishers and the City of Carmel (Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Department) to support a new river ecology education center.
- Implement soil and water quality recommendations from the Indiana Agriculture Strategic Plan 2027.
- Incentivize private investment in rain gardens, green roofs, permeable pavements, and rain barrels to capture and manage stormwater and reduce the impact on the river
- Determine capacity and design mechanism to route/ discharge flood water during major flood rain events.
- Strategically acquire riverfront properties available for voluntary acquisition that support the vision and guiding principles of the plan including large continuous parcels, retired quarries and other industrial sites
- Establish a means of on-going communication for reporting back to the public, the stakeholders and steering committee the status of the plan and implementation progress.







Oliver's Crossing

Oliver's Crossing is a vibrant crossroads at the river that is also a regional retail destination. Characterized by suburban-style development, the area is comprised of a series of distinct corporate, residential, and retail campuses accompanied by large parking lots and multi-lane streets. Located at the boundary between Hamilton and Marion Counties, and connected by several major thoroughfares (including interstate highway I-465), thousands of vehicles converge in this area.

Despite the popularity of the area as a major corridor and destination, Oliver's Crossing's development patterns have all grown without acknowledgement, integration with, or access to the adjacent White River. Anecdotally, it is said that thousands of people cross over the White River every day in this area, and yet no one realizes it. This alone is a tremendous opportunity for change, both physically and in awareness.

In such a successful regional commerce destination and corridor, collaboration with the private sector is essential. Commercial and retail campus owners should be encouraged



and collaborated with to leverage their river-facing developments into active, outdoor river-retail experiences. Placemaking, especially on riverfronts and in commercial areas, is a powerful resource that can drive value for the retail and commercial bottom line and help differentiate their products from competition elsewhere in the region.

Beyond river access, the area will also benefit from a more unified and connected urban design strategy. A robust strategy is needed to connect disparate campuses to each other, and link multiple modes across high traffic corridors. New pedestrian, bicycle, and

water-oriented means of transportation will relieve parking and traffic demands. New trails and access to water recreation will support connectivity to the series of existing nearby parks that currently feel like archipelagos or disconnected islands. Linking these disparate assets will help to create a sense of district identity for the area. The nearby outdoor goods retailers already in the area (The North Face, the Bicycle Garage of Indianapolis, and REI, among others) are also potential partners for a symbiotic relationship between retail and recreation that will stimulate economic strength and regional identity.

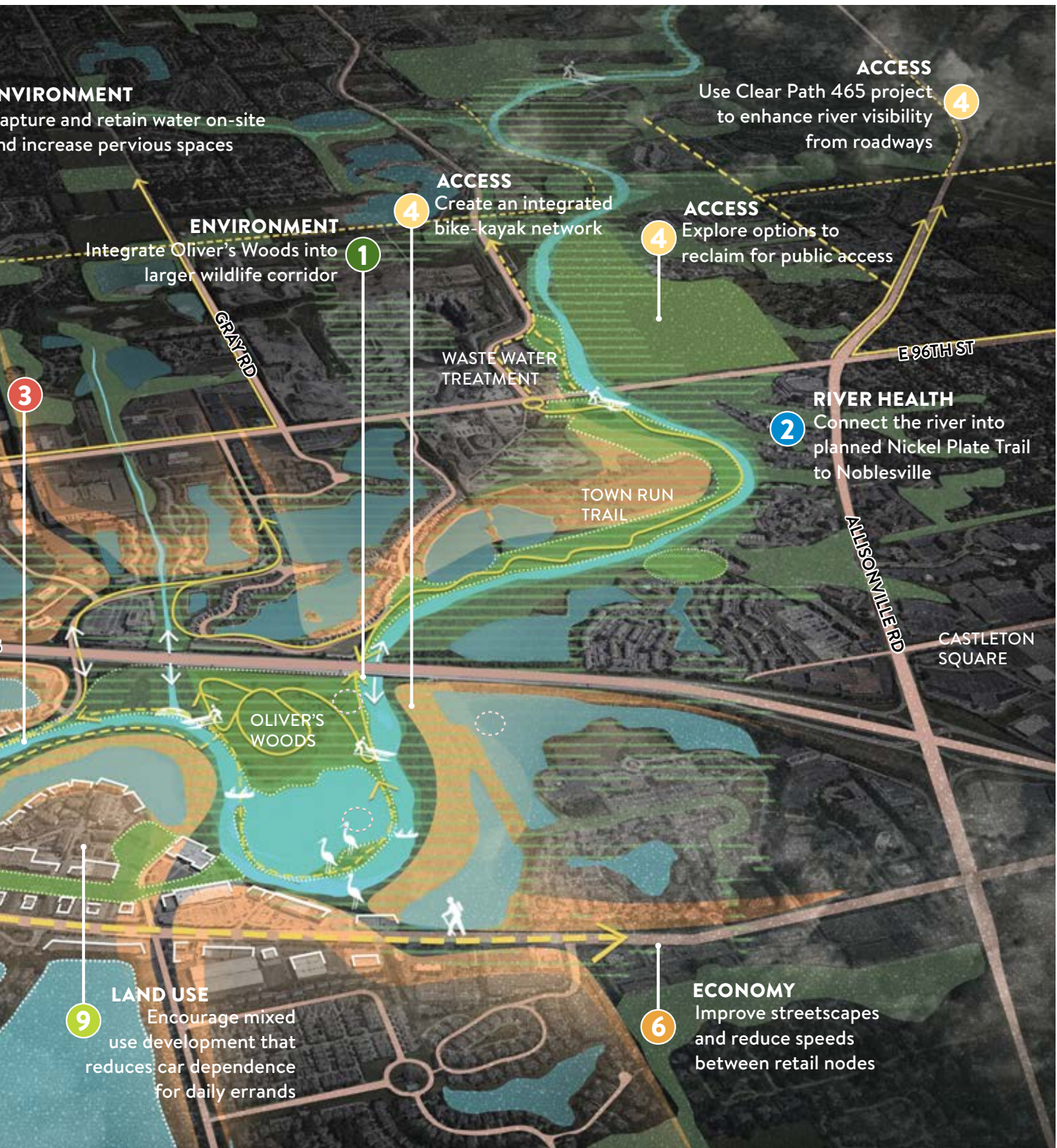
ANCHOR: OLIVER'S CROSSING

Site-specific

Recommendations

- Connect the river into the planned Nickel Plate Trail to Noblesville via the planned trail along 82nd/86th Street.
- Explore options to reclaim vacant and underutilized riverfront lands within floodplain for public access.
- Work with INDOT and the Clear Path 465 project to enhance river visibility from roadways by thinning vegetation close to the river and incorporating alternative noise barriers which could include dense vegetative screens and use of more transparent materials.
- Incorporation of public art as part of screen wall systems through painted panels, murals or relief elements using customized form liners
- Design bridges to provide clear visibility of the existing, natural surroundings
- Collaborate with developers to achieve flood resilience in buildings and landscapes.
- Use incentives and best practices in resiliency for riverfront residential in appropriate sites.
- Improve streetscapes with outdoor furnishings and pedestrian scaled lighting to balance traffic and reduce speeds between retail nodes.
- Integrate green infrastructure stormwater management practices to treat and capture runoff from impervious areas.
- Create a series of "campus quad districts" that groups disparate developments together around a set of amenities that capitalize on the river and quality of life infrastructure.





ENVIRONMENT

Capture and retain water on-site
and increase pervious spaces

ENVIRONMENT

Integrate Oliver's Woods into
larger wildlife corridor

ACCESS

Use Clear Path 465 project
to enhance river visibility
from roadways

ACCESS

Create an integrated
bike-kayak network

ACCESS

Explore options to
reclaim for public access

RIVER HEALTH

Connect the river into
planned Nickel Plate Trail
to Noblesville

LAND USE

Encourage mixed
use development that
reduces car dependence
for daily errands

ECONOMY

Improve streetscapes
and reduce speeds
between retail nodes

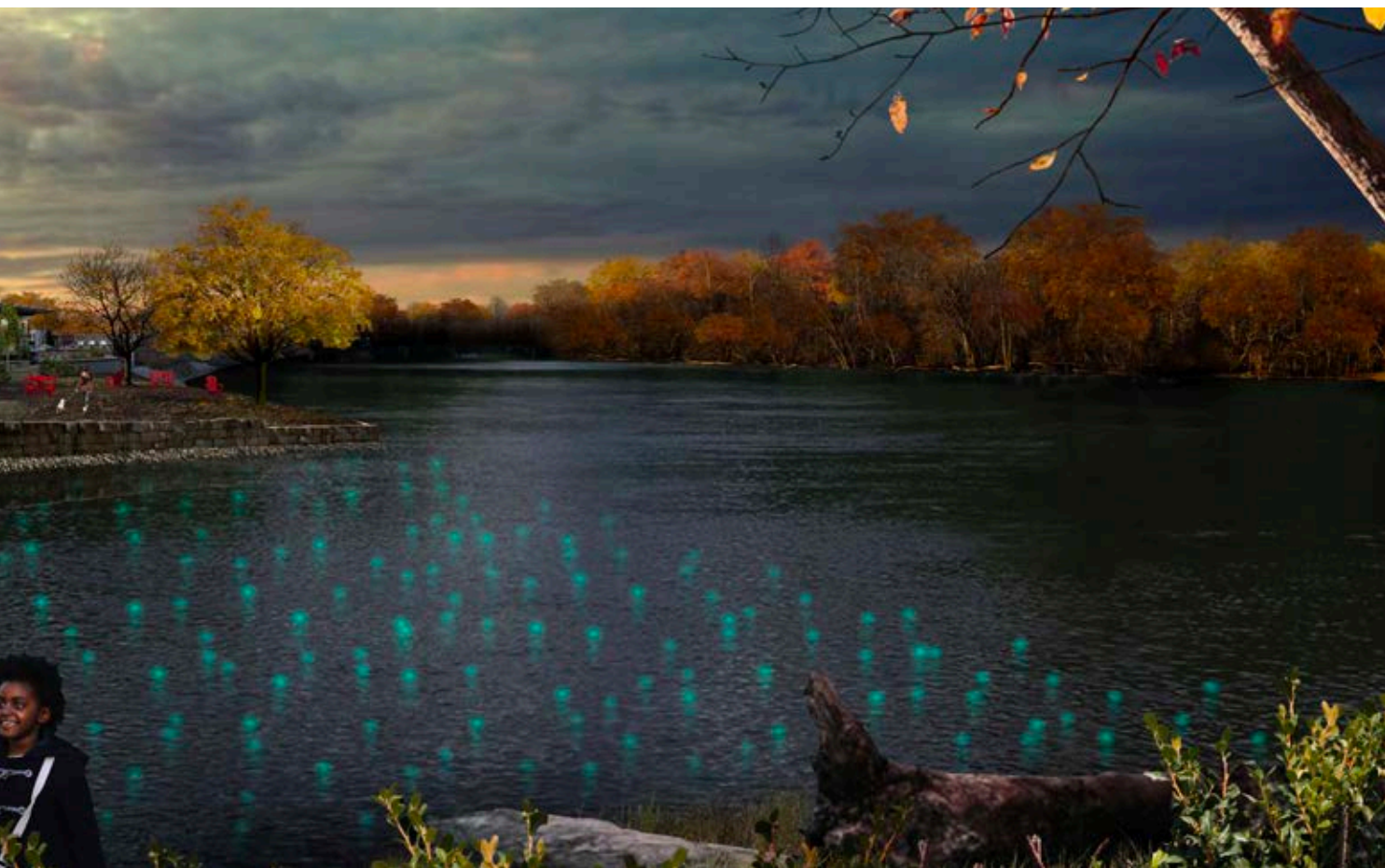


Broad Ripple Village

Broad Ripple is a popular neighborhood in Indianapolis' Midtown Neighborhood. Its charming "village" feel is characterized by low-rise retail with a creative, artsy vibe. Neighborhood dining establishments and an active nightclub scene make this a popular destination. The commercial core, around a walkable main street and the beloved Central Canal, are surrounded by a stable, single-family

residential neighborhood that contributes to a mixed-use neighborhood that is popular with young families as well as visitors and long-time residents. The Monon Trail supports an active, bicycle-friendly environment.

Central to Broad Ripple's image is its adjacency to the Indiana Central Canal. Several dining establishments take advantage of their adjacency to the canal, which adds to the neighborhood's charming characteristic. Long known for its canal, Broad Ripple has just begun to take advantage of proximity to the White River – a larger waterway that also shares adjacency to the neighborhood.



While the White River is often lined with a levee in this area, there is still an opportunity to redefine Broad Ripple as being a riverfront neighborhood. Programming to accomplish this will build on existing land use patterns, drawing them closer to the river for waterfront enjoyment.

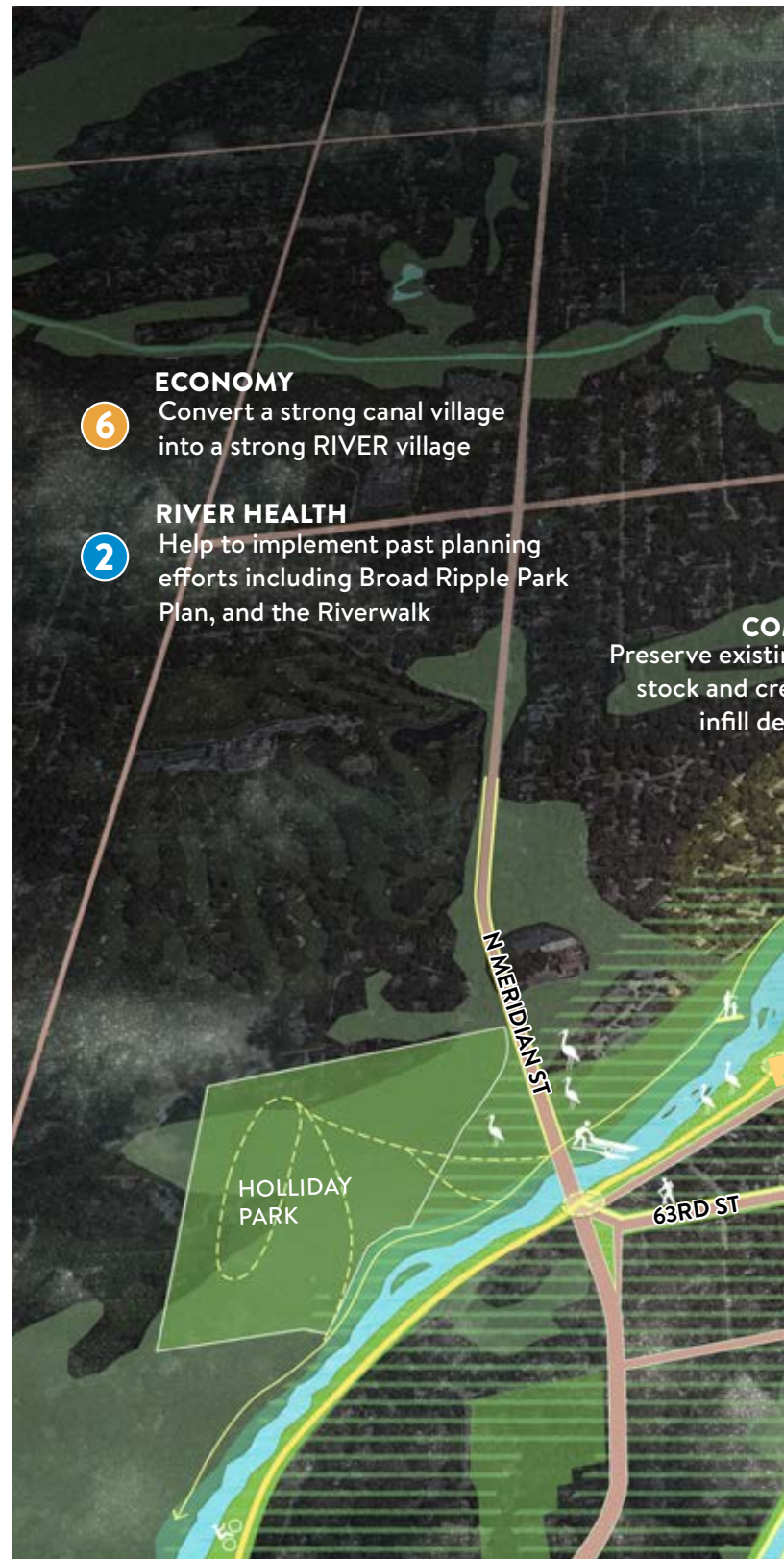
Strategic infill that is sensitive to the charm of the village will leverage the existing success of the neighborhood. This will also fill gaps and add greater diversity to housing options, supporting a range of incomes and aging-in-place residents. New developments, particularly denser riverfront multifamily

communities, should be incentivized to support the larger neighborhood needs and desires. Parking should be relocated away from existing canal-adjacent areas in order to open up important waterfront space for creating vibrant public spaces.

ANCHOR: BROAD RIPPLE

Site-specific Recommendations

- Connect over the levee at 64th Street to Holliday Park and between the Monon Trail/Westfield Boulevard and public utility property
- Create policies or programs to promote reinvestment in existing residential sites.
- Explore tools to promote more affordable unit types and a variety of offerings.
- Remove invasive woody and herbaceous plants, plant native trees, shrubs, and seed; and create a program to manage and monitor progress
- Renovate the dam to balance water health and recreation.
- Modify the current stepped installation with fish ladders and to maintain the upstream pool.
- Relocate parking and redevelop waterside sites. Explore shared parking opportunities to coordinate future development.
- Work with an experienced historian to submit a nomination to recognize the commercial core under the National Register of Historic Places.
- Complete a survey to identify eligible historic sites.
- Study design needs for compatible higher density infill sites.
- Work with Citizen's Energy to provide public access over the levee to the river.
- Implement projects such as boat access and launch, riverbank restoration, riverwalk, and terraced river's edge.
- Implement North Midtown Riverwalk and explore connecting 64th Street to Holliday Park.
- Work with artists and the Indianapolis Art Center to create temporary or permanent art installations along the river and canal.





ENVIRONMENT

1 Retrofit dam to create better wildlife habitat in Marott Nature Preserve

ACCESS

4 Create paths and carve views/ overlooks over and along the levees

COMMUNITY
ing building
eate gentle
velopment

8

PARTNERSHIPS

7 Partner to create meaningful places alongside necessary infrastructure

BROAD RIPPLE PARK

OXBOW

BROAD RIPPLE AVE

HISTORY

5 Establish the commercial core as a national register historic district

EXPERIENCE

3 Move parking away from canal and create vibrant spaces close to river's edge

LAND USE

9 Incentivize development that supports community needs and desires

CORNELL AVE

MONON TRAIL

WESTFIELD BLVD

N COLLEGE AVE

N COLLEGE AVE



Downtown Indianapolis

Downtown Indianapolis represents the most urban condition of the focus areas; yet, it is by no means monolithic. As the state's capital, and largest city, it serves as a cultural, governmental, and visitor destination. In recent years Downtown Indianapolis has seen significant growth in full-time residents with

the addition of thousands of new residential units that have come to the market. New and reinvested neighborhoods have sprung up as increased demand for urban living has spurred a development boom. A competitive cost of living, steady job market, and strategic investments in sports, entertainment, and cultural attractions have combined to create new gravity for downtown living.

A large cluster of destinations already exists in Downtown Indianapolis including museums, stadiums, parks, strong neighborhoods,



and economic centers. The area also has a national reputation for destination-driven trails, like the Cultural Trail. Building on this, improved networks will further strengthen these destinations with ease for multimodal connectivity along and across the river, particularly focusing on spanning from the east to west Indianapolis. Improvements along the river should be leveraged to simultaneously invest in adjacent neighborhoods while being sensitive to the community's needs and desires.

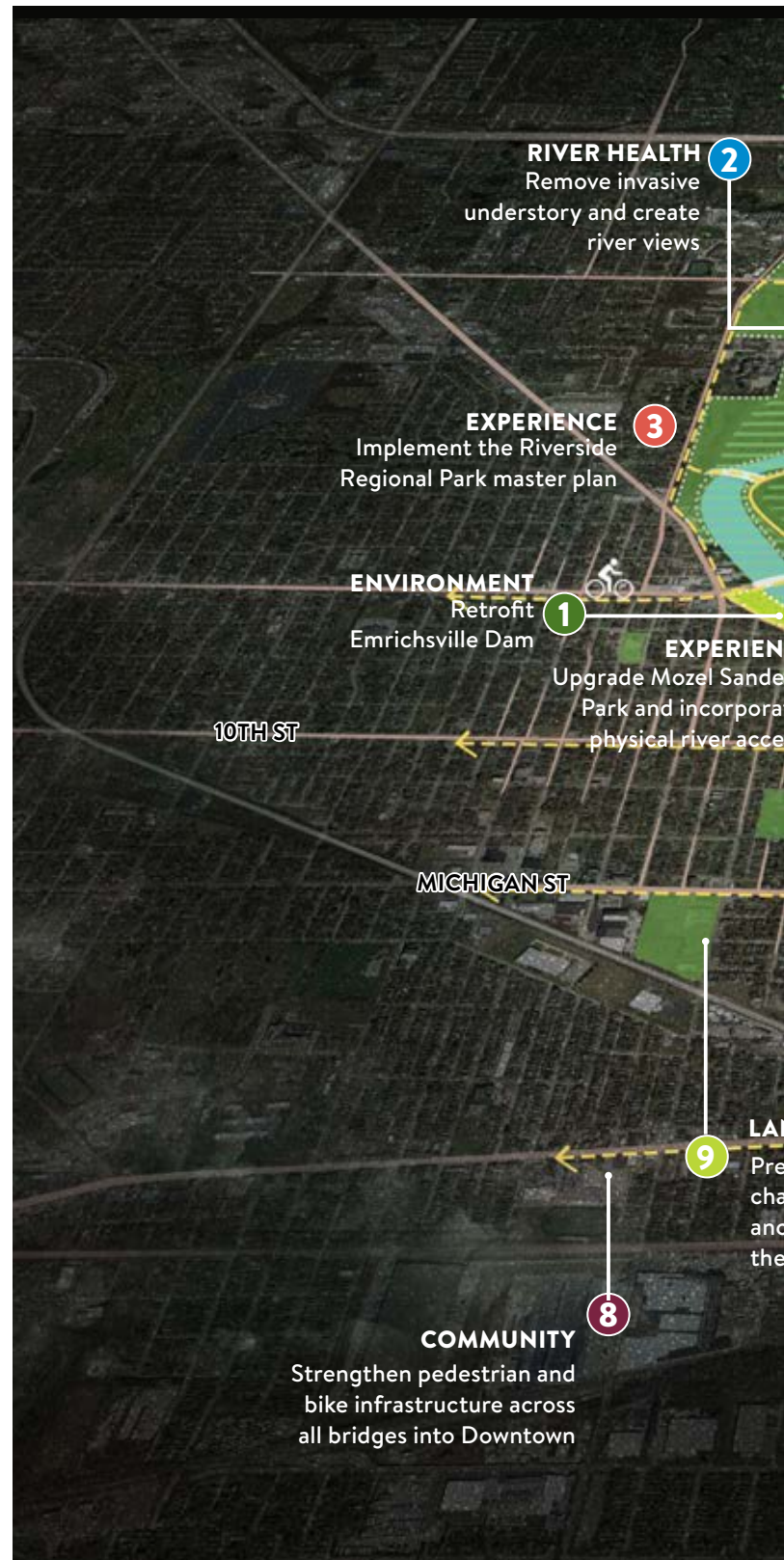
Existing infrastructure can be utilized to enhance views, expand recreational opportunities, improve public access to the riverfront and key locations, foster stewardship for the environment, and educate the public about river-related systems. The aging infrastructure, in many cases, is in need of major maintenance. As funding is allocated, these maintenance projects should consider incorporating adaptive techniques that can preserve their inherent functionality while enhancing opportunities for human-engaged spaces and river health.

ANCHOR: DOWNTOWN INDIANAPOLIS

Site-specific

Recommendations

- Formalize the river access point at White River Parkway Drive and extend the White River Trail across the old railroad truss bridge connecting Near West neighborhoods to 16 Tech and the Riverside neighborhood.
- Incorporate separated bike and pedestrian infrastructure into all future bridge renovation or reconstruction projects.
- Seek projects that connect bike and pedestrian trails into regional river trails and to job centers.
- Address connections between southside of downtown and Southwestway Park. There is significant potential for P-3 projects and collaboration with existing industries in this stretch.
- Build a riverfront beach and viewing platform below the Emrichsville Dam to provide community water access, viewing space of spectacles on the river and views of downtown from different heights
- Modified check dams allow for human engagement through perched cantilevered constructs over the river, or shallow cascades allowing kayakers and riparian species to pass. New vertical connections can safely convey visitors between the river and up its embankment.
- Introduce interpretive graphics/art and signage to educate visitors about river systems, riparian species and local heritage.
- Remove invasive woody and herbaceous plants, plant native trees and shrubs, install native seed, manage and monitor plantings.
- Include fish ladders and rock arch rapids to create recreational river runs for boaters and restore an important wildlife corridor.
- Enhance Reverend Mozel Sanders Park to emphasize connectivity to the river and city and focus on its important role as a trailhead for numerous connecting trails.
- Pilot a green street program on Belmont Street that includes sidewalk investments to either side of the street, adds shade trees, demarcates safe crossings to the Park and riverfront investments and captures and stores stormwater.
- Work with IndyParks to implement catalytic riverfront projects at Riverside Park that provides equitable access between surrounding neighborhoods and the river.
- Work with neighborhoods to come up with an art/interpretive installation to tell the story of each neighborhood at key river connection locations.







Southwestway

Southwestway Park is the southern extent of the study area, just south of Downtown Indianapolis and bounding the county line. The park is characterized as a “natural” environment in the midst of a mix of agricultural, industrial, and suburban developments.

New park entrances and enhanced connections to the river will provide programming opportunities to “touch” the river. Ranger-led programs about ecology will foster stewardship and history of the park and its natural and manmade environs. Restorative planting programs and archaeological projects can engage and educate the public of ecological health, river systems, and historic significance of this area.



The relatively large size of the park offers unique regional experiences, programs, and access to nature. Events, camping, and concerts will be a regional draw. This section of free-flowing river can be leveraged for kayaking, tubing, and other water recreation and can be used to engage partnerships with communities downstream.

ANCHOR: SOUTHWESTWAY PARK

Site-specific Recommendations

- Complete a natural areas inventory; identify habitat core and transition areas.
- Complete a natural resource management plan and coordinate the implementing organizations.
- Secure a ten-year long restoration and management program.
- Create a new entrance and boat access near Southport Road.
- Enhance environmental education activities.
- Create educational spaces, such as a ranger “outpost” building and small “nature center.”
- Add ranger-led talks and interpretive signage about the ecology and geologic history of the park.
- Seek grants for an archeologist-educator.
- Partner to purchase adjacent farmland and mining areas for conservation.





ACCESS

4 Create a park entrance off Southport Road

PARTNERSHIPS

7 Work with utilities to better connect trails and create new river access points

CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS
WASTEWATER
TREATMENT

SOUTHPORT RD

RIVER HEALTH

2 Use the free flowing river to create places for tubing, kayaking

ACCESS

4 Create many places to "touch" the river

LAND USE

9 Long-term connections to quarries post industrial use

PARTNERSHIPS

7 Engage with communities down river of the park

EXPERIENCE

3 Provide ranger-led talks about the ecology and history of the park

SOUTHWESTWAY
PARK

WICKER RD

Historic Review

The qualities of any “place” (or landscape) always emerge from an evolving combination of historical and environmental factors. To enable our audiences to discover and appreciate both at the same time should be our goal.

For a general example, we can admire the structure of a historic bridge, but we should also be aware of the historical and geographic reasons it came to be, and how it has been sited and engineered to respect environmental imperatives. For a specific example, Conner Prairie, which may be among the best sites already at emphasizing interpretive themes, could benefit from more explanation of how its site formed geologically and ecologically.

By using this combined approach, we reinforce and bring to light the historic identity of a place. The matrix on the following pages identifies all historic places along the river and identifies opportunities to reinforce their role in historical interpretation of the river and places that have significance on the river. The matrix also pulls from the three historical themes that emerged within Task 1, and described in more detail below:

Reveal History Themes

Theme 1

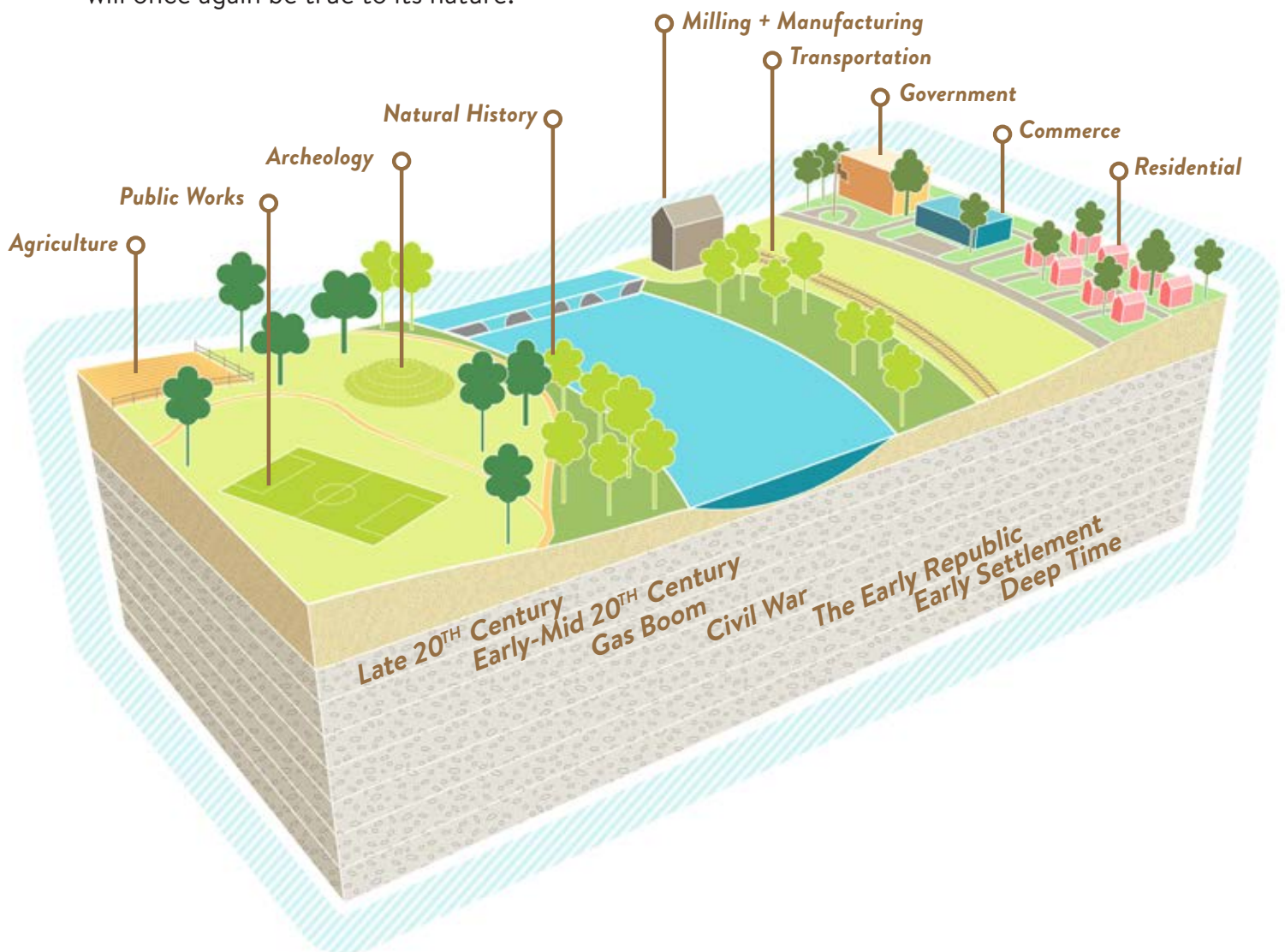
The White River has drawn humans to its banks for thousands of years. From prehistoric settlements to improvements based on the principles of the City Beautiful Movement, evidence of human preferences for living along a river can be found almost anywhere along the White River.

Theme 2

Water means power. Free-flowing or moving through canals, water can move people and goods. Captured through dams, it can power mills that create a wide variety of products. Water sweeps away human structures through the natural power of flooding. The White River has seen a series of efforts by humans to enlist its power, or capture its power, or evade its power. Evidence of these efforts to harness the White River can still be seen throughout this landscape today.

Theme 3

The White River is named for its sparkling sandy bottom, seen through the clear waters observed by early Europeans and created over geological time since the glaciers weighed down this landscape. Throughout its recent history, the White River's watershed has seen many changes that make its name more goal than reality. Pollution has been a threat for well over a century. Today, it is possible to find evidence of hope that the White River's name will once again be true to its nature.



INDIANA STATE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEO. RESEARCH DATABASE (SHAARD)	REF #	SITE/ DISTRICT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION/STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	DEEP TIME	EARLY SETTLEMENT	THE EARLY REPUBLIC	CIVIL WAR-1890	GAS BOOM
SHAARD User Guide - IN.gov	1-UH-2	Strawtown- Kooteewi Park	Large park with a walking trail along the river and river access point; exhibits on prairie and archeology. County parks master plan: "This 800+ acre site is an archaeological gem.... Several seasons of scientific digs....home to the Taylor Center for Natural History, over 6 miles of multi-use trails and a canoe launch. This site is popular with equestrians, as it provides several miles of riding trails and parking lot for horse trailers."	x				
IHSSI 057-541- 00047	1-UH-3	Strawtown Tavern	Considered "outstanding" in the county survey: "Greek Revival-style frame building, one of the county's earliest commercial buildings, served as inn/tavern. Few alterations." Quite close to the river (Route 37 crossing), located on a significant early travel route across Indiana, the Lafayette Trace. The trace and the trail to Ft. Wayne crossed at Strawtown and was an important Native American village site (interpreted at Kooteewi Park [from the county parks plan, they spell it with two e's and one i]) and a resting place for early pioneers. A skirmish was fought here between Indiana Rangers and Native Americans during the War of 1812. (David Heighway)		x			
NR-1247	1-UH-4	Potter's Covered Bridge	Covered bridge maintained in a small Hamilton County park. The builder constructed the first section of the Noblesville Milling Company Mill for his bridge-building company.				x	
NR-1046	1-UH-5	Holliday Hydroelectric House/Dam	An outstanding example of the state-of-the-art in engineering for the electric power industry at the time it was built in the 1920's. It is the only known example of this type of generating facility still in existence in central Indiana. Second, the Holliday plant played an important role in the electrification of rural Indiana. It also stands as a milestone in the history of the evolution of the electric power industry, from a patchwork of unconnected small locally controlled companies to a nation-wide network of interconnected mega-companies. (NR nomination)					

EARLY-MID 20TH CENTURY	LATE 20TH CENTURY	INTERPRETIVE THEME 1?	INTERPRETIVE THEME 2?	INTERPRETIVE THEME 3?	EXISTING INTERPRETATION; OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADDING INTERPRETATION	DATE (IF KNOWN)	THREATS	NOTES/WEB LINK(S)
		x		x	"Outstanding archeological ""concept"" exhibit. Morris Family Homestead adjacent to the park has recently been acquired providing opportunities for additional programming and parkland."		None	https://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Strawtown-Koteewi-Park-11
		x			No existing interpretation; a historic marker should be considered for either this building or Strawtown itself.	c. 1835	None known	Survey location note: S. side of Rd. 2nd building W. of Strawtown Ave. and Route 37 intersection.
		x	x	x	Minor interpretation; some is so old it's historic; great opportunity for more. Modern interpretation should explain the builder, bridge-building technology, significance of the crossing.	1871	None	https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=8165 ; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potter%27s_Covered_Bridge
x			x		None - this is a great opportunity for interpretation made available to river users who must portage this site.	1922	Although a volunteer group is working to preserve the building, restoring it and providing access and interpretation will require major outlay of funds	Auto access is problematic

INDIANA STATE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEO. RESEARCH DATABASE (SHAARD)	REF #	SITE/ DISTRICT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION/STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	DEEP TIME	EARLY SETTLEMENT	THE EARLY REPUBLIC	CIVIL WAR-1890	GAS BOOM
NR-0136	2-NO-4	Hamilton County Courthouse Square	A good example of the public squares that were common in rural Indiana county seats. In addition to its architectural merit, the complex derives its significance from a trial that had important political ramifications, marking the beginning of the end of the power of the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana in the early 20th century. the Hamilton County Complex is a reminder of an era when counties strove to surpass their neighbors in the elegance of public buildings. The Hamilton County Courthouse Square is significant for its representation of the Second Empire Style of architecture in public structures. The courthouse has been called, "One of the most lucid expressions of the Classical French Renaissance made to have been constructed in the Midwest during the nineteenth century. (NR nomination)				x	
NR-1045	2-NO-5	Noblesville Commercial Historic District	A large number of the buildings in the Noblesville Commercial Historic District can be considered architecturally significant because of their excellent state of preservation and their high degree of integrity. Among the 54 buildings that contribute to the historic character of the area, there are outstanding representatives of architectural styles from the 1870s through the 1930s. (NR nomination)				x	x
NR-1439	2-NO-6	Conner Street Historic District	A residential district located along two major east/west streets in Noblesville. Comprising a wide range of styles, materials, shapes and sizes, it depicts both affluent and middle-class families in Noblesville's history. The area's development began with the original Noblesville plat and contains additions dating back to 1851. There are several architecturally significant homes as well as many structures that contribute to the integrity of the residential district. This area reflects the commercial development of Noblesville in that many citizens who were active in Noblesville's business, political and civic development lived along Conner and Logan Streets. As they prospered, the construction of new homes and the additions to existing ones increased. (NR nomination)			x	x	x

EARLY-MID 20TH CENTURY	LATE 20TH CENTURY	INTERPRETIVE THEME 1?	INTERPRETIVE THEME 2?	INTERPRETIVE THEME 3?	EXISTING INTERPRETATION; OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADDING INTERPRETATION	DATE (IF KNOWN)	THREATS	NOTES/WEB LINK(S)
		x			The jail on the corner of the square is occupied by a town museum; surprisingly, there is no historic marker or outdoor interpretation registered in the Historical Marker Database.	1875-1879	The county has moved its offices and courts from this complex and the main building has not been reused. Though beautifully restored in the late 20th century, its lack of a use is a basic threat.	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamilton_County_Courthouse_(Indiana)
		x			Noblesville is beautifully marked with small interpretive markers for many buildings in its four historic districts; there is also a walking tour and an active historic preservation society. (This note applies to all four historic districts)		None known	https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=37887
		x					None known	https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=240 ; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conner_Street_Historic_District

INDIANA STATE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEO. RESEARCH DATABASE (SHAARD)	REF #	SITE/ DISTRICT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION/STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	DEEP TIME	EARLY SETTLEMENT	THE EARLY REPUBLIC	CIVIL WAR-1890	GAS BOOM
NR-1587	2-NO-7	South 9th Street Historic District	The South 9th Street Historic District is a primarily residential area south of the square comprising portions of two north/south streets, 9th and 10th and portions of four east/west streets. This section of Noblesville includes lots in the original Noblesville plat as well as F.W. Emmons' addition to Noblesville in 1838. At the time, 9th Street was known as Catherine Street and 10th as Anderson Street. The area began developing early in Noblesville's history with several extant buildings from the 1860s and 1870s. The growth continued steadily through the 1930s. The area includes one church and a fraternal hall. The area has a high degree of integrity with only five structures that are non-contributing. In addition to the intactness, the historic feel of the area is retained by mature trees in some areas and by sections of brick sidewalks and low retaining walls. These elements make the district itself a contributing site. This district developed gradually over a long period of time, visually evidenced by the numerous architectural styles found here. (NR nomination)			x	x	x

EARLY-MID 20TH CENTURY	LATE 20TH CENTURY	INTERPRETIVE THEME 1?	INTERPRETIVE THEME 2?	INTERPRETIVE THEME 3?	EXISTING INTERPRETATION; OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADDING INTERPRETATION	DATE (IF KNOWN)	THREATS	NOTES/WEB LINK(S)
	x						None known	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_9th_Street_Historic_District

INDIANA STATE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEO. RESEARCH DATABASE (SHAARD)	REF #	SITE/ DISTRICT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION/STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	DEEP TIME	EARLY SETTLEMENT	THE EARLY REPUBLIC	CIVIL WAR-1890	GAS BOOM
NR-1588	2-NO-8	Catherine Street Historic District	This district is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Noblesville's history. Although platted with the original Noblesville plat in 1823, it took sixty to seventy years for this area to fully develop. Neither Noblesville's incorporation nor the railroad had a significant impact on this neighborhood. By 1870, a wide variety of businesses in Noblesville were supported by a population of 1,435. Despite this growth, only a few lots in this district were improved before the 1880s. It was not until natural gas was discovered in 1888, that this quiet, under-developed area was quickly transformed by the rapid growth. Thirteen of the existing 27 homes in this district were built during the 1880s and 1890s, with ten of those during the 1890s. This district includes a variety of architectural styles including Italianate, Craftsman, American Foursquare, Victorian and Queen Anne, but because of the major construction period of the 1880s and 1890s, the predominant styles are Victorian and Queen Anne. (NR nomination)				x	x
NR-0154	3-LH-1	Conner, William, House	One of the earliest homes in Hamilton County (and believed to be among the first brick homes in central Indiana), it is now a featured historic site (in its original location) at Conner Prairie.		x	x		
NA	4-QR-1	River Road Park	This 63-acre park along the White River with trails, including riverside bike trails; softball, soccer, and rugby fields; a canoe launch; and restroom facility. There is an archaeological theme to this site, with a unique play area, an enclosed interpretive exhibit designed to give visitors a peek at a typical day in the life of Native Americans thousands of years ago. (County parks master plan)	x				

EARLY-MID 20TH CENTURY	LATE 20TH CENTURY	INTERPRETIVE THEME 1?	INTERPRETIVE THEME 2?	INTERPRETIVE THEME 3?	EXISTING INTERPRETATION; OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADDING INTERPRETATION	DATE (IF KNOWN)	THREATS	NOTES/WEB LINK(S)
		x				1823	None known	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catherine_Street_Historic_District
		x			Conner Prairie, a critical destination along the White River, maintains and interprets this structure.		None known	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conner_Prairie
		x	x		Archeology exhibit based on scientific findings at this site. The park would like to install more interpretive signs.			FIND AT: 12575 River Rd, Carmel, IN 46033

INDIANA STATE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEO. RESEARCH DATABASE (SHAARD)	REF #	SITE/ DISTRICT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION/STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	DEEP TIME	EARLY SETTLEMENT	THE EARLY REPUBLIC	CIVIL WAR-1890	GAS BOOM
NR-1438, NR-0797	4-QR-2	West-Harris House (Ambassador House)	The West-Harris House is significant for its connection with Addison C. and India Crago Harris. The Harrises were prominent citizens in Indianapolis around the turn of the century. Mr. Harris served as minister to Austria-Hungary under President William McKinley and was a respected lawyer in Indiana. Mrs. Harris was active in the arts and social circles in Indianapolis. They purchased the farm in 1880 and used it as their summer home. The West-Harris home is the only extant Harris residence, as their primary residence on Meridian Street was torn down around 1940. The original portion of the home was built in 1826 by Thomas and Sarah West, early settlers in Hamilton County. This early section, made of rough-hewn logs, is at least partially intact beneath the existing siding. (NR nomination) The property was moved to public land, now developed as Heritage Park, and later listed in the NR.		x			x
NR-1867	4-QR-3	Marion County Bridge 0501F	Parker steel through-truss bridge carries 82nd/86th Street over the White River.					
NR-2201	5-BR-2	Broad Ripple Firehouse	Small Tudor Revival structure in its original use.					
NR-1831	5-BR-4	Foster Hall	Josiah K. Lilly, Sr. (1861-1948) built this Tudor Revival style structure in 1927, designed by Robert Frost Daggett, to house a pipe organ, first calling it Melodeon Hall. Later he used it also to house his collection of Stephen Foster materials (now with the University of Pittsburgh but still known as the Foster Hall Collection).					

EARLY-MID 20TH CENTURY	LATE 20TH CENTURY	INTERPRETIVE THEME 1?	INTERPRETIVE THEME 2?	INTERPRETIVE THEME 3?	EXISTING INTERPRETATION; OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADDING INTERPRETATION	DATE (IF KNOWN)	THREATS	NOTES/WEB LINK(S)
x		x			None (needs investigation - serves as a community and event facility)	c. 1895 (but a log portion dates to 1826)	None known	AKA "Mansion House" in labeling provided from Indiana SHPO. https:// en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ West-Harris_House
x		x	x		None known (needs investigation)	1942	None known	https://commons. wikimedia.org/wiki/ File:Marion_County_ Bridge_0501F.jpg
x		x			None known (needs investigation)		None known	
x		x			None known (needs investigation; now a reception, concert, and meeting facility on the campus of Park Tudor School)	1927	None known	https://en.wikipedia. org/wiki/Foster_Hall_ (Indianapolis,_Indiana)

INDIANA STATE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEO. RESEARCH DATABASE (SHAARD)	REF #	SITE/ DISTRICT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION/STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	DEEP TIME	EARLY SETTLEMENT	THE EARLY REPUBLIC	CIVIL WAR-1890	GAS BOOM
NR-0821	6-INN-1	North Meridian Street Historic District	The North Meridian Street Historic District is architecturally significant because it exhibits a high concentration of outstanding buildings in a variety of high-style designs. Residences in the French eclectic mode, Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Neo-Classical, and Prairie styles characterize the architecture of the district. The finest craftsmanship and materials were used in the construction of these luxurious homes in Indianapolis's most prestigious residential area. Notable Indianapolis architects produced designs in the district. (NR nomination)					
NR-1493 (Nat'l); NR-2032 (Victorian)	6-INN-2	Crown Hill Cemetery	Spectacular Gothic gate, extensive HABS/ HALS photos, likely one of the more important midwestern cemeteries in the Victorian Romantic style; includes a national cemetery; between the designers of the cemetery and contributing structures and memorials to notables, visiting this cemetery should be a treat for many visitors.				x	
NR-1526	6-INN-4	Oldfields Estate (IMA/ Newfields)	A 26-acre historic estate and house museum on the grounds of the Indianapolis Museum of Art and now known as Lilly House. The estate, an example of the American country house movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, is a National Historic Landmark. Oldfields was built between 1909 and 1913 by architect Lewis Ketcham Davis for the family of Hugh McKennan Landon, who occupied the home from 1913 until 1932 when it was sold to Josiah K. Lilly Jr. Lilly, the late Indianapolis businessman, collector, and philanthropist, renovated and expanded the estate throughout the 1930s and 1940s, updating interiors as well as adding a number of new buildings to the grounds. The 22-room mansion and the surrounding grounds (considered an important cultural landscape) have undergone historic restoration and are now open to the public. (adapted from Wikipedia)					

EARLY-MID 20TH CENTURY	LATE 20TH CENTURY	INTERPRETIVE THEME 1?	INTERPRETIVE THEME 2?	INTERPRETIVE THEME 3?	EXISTING INTERPRETATION; OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADDING INTERPRETATION	DATE (IF KNOWN)	THREATS	NOTES/WEB LINK(S)
x		x			None known (needs investigation). Because of extensive public access along a major street, perhaps the best location to interpret the many important (and beautiful) early- 20th-century neighborhoods in northwestern Indianapolis (see those listed among the "non- destinations" analyzed for WRVP).		The district is not what it once was, in part owing to heavy traffic on this main north-south route.	https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/indianapolis/northmeridianstreet.htm ; includes bridge HB-2198, built 1917, judged "outstanding" by the Historic Bridges survey
		x			Other than inclusion in the highly important NPS Travel Itinerary focused on Indianapolis, none known (needs investigation).	1864	None known	https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/indianapolis/crownhill.html ; https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=81439
x		x			Fully interpreted	1913; landscape 1925	None	https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/indianapolis/oldfields.htm ; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oldfields

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NR-0650	6-INN-8	Butler (Hinkle) Fieldhouse	Butler Fieldhouse is a prime example of an early 20th century sports arena, one of only a small number of its kind left in the nation. Through the years, championship games and special events have enhanced the fieldhouse's reputation as a historic venue. Few places in Indiana embody the state's passion for basketball more than Butler Fieldhouse. The interior of the fieldhouse figures prominently in the classic movie Hoosiers, where the actual title game depicted in the movie was held. (NPS Travel Itinerary)					
contributing property, Park & Boulevard System	6-INN-10	Heslar Naval Armory	Large, white Art Moderne four-story armory building "has the look of a ship on land, with curved corners, smooth surfaces, and parallel lines that create a streamlined look suggesting speed and movement." (Indiana Landmarks) Built by the Depression-era Works Progress Administration to house Navy and Marine Corps reserve units. Recently restored and adapted as a charter high school, the site complements the splendid 30th Street (actually W 29th Street) limestone-clad bridge over the White River – both are contributing structures in the Indianapolis Parks and Boulevard Historic District.					
NA	6-INN-13	Irwin Library, Butler University	Irwin Library is an important Mid-century Modern structure by one of the leading American architects of the 20th century.					
NR-2068	6-INN-15	Allison, James, Mansion	The Allison Mansion, with its outstanding craftsmanship, scale, and landscape architecture, is a prime example of an Art & Crafts Country Era estate. The estate was home to James Allison, one of Indy's most important automobile entrepreneurs of the early 20th century. (NPS Travel Itinerary) Allison was a co-founder of the Indianapolis 500.					

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x		x			Visitors to this splendid National Historic Landmark - and monument to Indiana basketball - should be encouraged to explore three other structures on the Butler University campus, Arthur Jordan Memorial Hall, Atherton Hall, and Irwin Library,			https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/indianapolis/butlerfieldhouse.htm
		x			None known (needs investigation). Major interpretive opportunity in this general area given the conjunction of this building, the 30th Street Bridge, Riverside Park, and the White River Trail.	1938	None	https://www.indianalandmarks.org/about/special-projects/naval-armory/ ; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heslar_Naval_Armory
x		x			None known (needs investigation). Should be listed in the National Register, at minimum, and added to the NPS Travel Itinerary.	1963	None known	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irwin_Library
x		x			Other than inclusion in the highly important NPS Travel Itinerary focused on Indianapolis, none known (needs investigation).		None known	https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/indianapolis/allisonmansion.htm

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NR-1789	6-INN-16	Wheeler-Stokely Mansion	Also a prime example of an Arts & Crafts Country Era estate and, along with the Allison Mansion, a part of "Millionaires Row" along Cold Spring Road - now part of the Marian University campus and quite close to the White River Trail, although divided from the river by the Riverside Golf Course. Allison and Wheeler were among the co-founders of the Indy 500.					
	7-INC	Indianapolis Central						
HB-1068	7-INC-1	Illinois Central Railroad Truss Bridge	3-span Pratt RR truss 1886 - rare and deemed NR eligible, original to the Indiana Central Railroad and still in use.				x	
NR-0330	7-INC-2	McCormick Cabin Site	Site of the cabin John Wesley McCormick (1754-1837) built in 1820. It was at the cabin that commissioners appointed by the Indiana legislature met in June 1820 to select the site for the permanent seat of state government at Indianapolis. The site is commemorated by a granite boulder in White River State Park with plaque erected in 1924. (Wikipedia)		x			
NA	7-INC-3	Central Canal	Today a modern pedestrian route and delightful water feature in the heart of Indianapolis that provides a platform for public events and family outings, the Central Canal's history is also interesting commentary on the failure of the White River to provide significant transportation after Indianapolis was established there as the state capital. The canal, intended to provide long-distance freight hauling through Indiana using the waters of the White River, was stymied by the Panic of 1837, when multiple states defaulted on loans they had taken out to create such infrastructure. The canal was completed through Indianapolis and into Hamilton County, where remains are occasionally noted by historical markers.			x		

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x		x			None known (needs investigation). Mentioned along with the Allison Mansion in the NPS Travel Itinerary as a place to see. A pedestrian loop trail may be possible from the Allison Mansion to the Wheeler-Stokely Mansion to Heslar Naval Amory and back to Allison by combining the White River Trail with local roads.	1915 (to 1954)	None known. Nomination includes a large designed cultural landscape that could require proper attention.	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wheeler%E2%80%93Stokely_Mansion
		x	x		None. Visible from the White River Trail on the river's east side and a prime location to discuss railroads in Indianapolis in addition to the particulars of this bridge's technology and location.	1886	Should be listed in the National Register just to be sure that the owner understands its importance	
		x			Monument (fully interpreted)	1820		https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCormick_Cabin_Site ; https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=81863
		x	x		Fully interpreted, although more can always be provided.	c 1840		Central Canal (as rebuilt/reinterpreted landscape) and Military Park together make a really pleasant experience in Indianapolis Central; https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=4619 ; https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=95231

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NR-0065	7-INC-7	Indiana State Capitol, the Statehouse	The Indiana State Capitol, the Statehouse, has been the seat of Indiana's government since 1887 and is perhaps the grandest 19th-century Neo-Classical Revival building in Indiana. Alexander Ralston balanced his plan for the city with two symmetrically placed sites on Market Street east and west of the circle. The west parcel, a terminal point of Market, is the site he chose for a state capitol building. In 1878, a committee selected Indianapolis architect Edwin May to design the new capitol building after an earlier one on the site was demolished. His winning concept was an extended Greek cross plan with formal entrance pavilions on each face, capped by an Italian Renaissance style dome. May died in 1880, when only the cornerstone had been laid. The building was completed by his assistant, Adolph Scherrer, a Swiss born architect trained in Vienna before coming to Indianapolis. Scherrer changed many façade details and supervised construction. The General Assembly began meeting in the new Statehouse in 1887, one year before its formal completion. (NPS Travel Itinerary)				x	
NR-1339	7-INC-8	Washington Street - Monument Circle Historic District	Roughly between Washington, Delaware, Wabash, and Capitol Streets. Eighteen of the contributing buildings are individually listed in the National Register.				x	x

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		x			Fully interpreted	1888	None	https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=95384; https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/indianapolis/indianastatehouse.htm
x		x			Opportunity for side trail from the river; interpretation already exists through the Indinapolis Cultural Trail (https://indyculturaltrail.org/			https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/indianapolis/soldiersandsailors.htm; https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/indianapolis/indianastatehouse.htm;

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NR-1236	7-INC-9	Indiana State Library and Historical Building	The only other historic building on the state capitol campus, this is one of the most significant works of Pierre & Wright, an important architectural firm in Indianapolis during the second quarter of the 20th century. Its distinctive architecture combines Neo-Classical features with Art Deco detailing. This style of architecture, termed Stripped Classical Modernism, was popular for government building projects of the 1930s. The General Assembly established a State Library in 1825 to aid legislators in researching various topics. Eventually, room was made for the library and staff in the Statehouse. By the 1920s, the need for a separate building was so great that materials were being stored in hallways of the capitol. In 1929, the Assembly raised a special tax to fund construction. The project became one of few underway in the city during the dark early years of the Great Depression, when construction began in 1932. (NPS Travel Itinerary)					
NR-0153	7-INC-12	Madam C.J. Walker Building (NHL)	Probably the best-known historic building associated with African Americans in Indianapolis, the Madame C. J. Walker Building is nationally significant as home to one of the earliest, and for years the most successful, black business empire in the United States. The Walker Building illustrates Madame Walker's commitment to the employment of black women and her promotion of arts in the black community. Its terra cotta architectural detailing is rare for its use of African art motifs and imagery. The building is located in the vibrant Indiana Avenue corridor, which was the home of businesses, jazz clubs, and churches of the black community. (NPS Travel Itinerary)					

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x		x			Other than NPS Itinerary, unknown (needs investigation)	1934		https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/indianapolis/indianastatelibrary.htm
x		x			Fully interpreted	1927	Currently closed for a much-needed restoration	https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/indianapolis/walkerbuilding.html

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NR-0173	7-INC-13	Indiana Theatre	Indiana Theatre is the largest and most ornamented historic movie palace left in Indianapolis, a fine example of the great movie palaces of the flamboyant 1920s. The building also has one of the finest glazed terra cotta facades, and certainly the most ornamental, in town. (NPS Travel Itinerary)					
NR-0564	7-INC-17	Lockefield Gardens Apartments	Lockefield Gardens Apartments was one of the first group of peace time projects initiated, funded, and supervised by the Federal Government as part of the recovery programs of the New Deal. Completed in 1937, the apartments are innovative in design, based on European prototypes of housing and urban design of the 1920s and the principles of the International style. This complex was the nation's first experiment in high rise public housing. It also has very significant associations with the black community. (NPS Travel Itinerary)					
NA	8-LM-2	Southwestway Park archeological sites	There are over seven prehistoric sites inside the park according to archaeological field reports. Several sites produced diagnostic artifacts from the Archaic period. Brown (1882) notes two Delaware Indian villages in Marion County upon the arrival of the first White Settlers. The largest was located on a high bluff west of White River at the Marion/Johnson County line. The Madison Rangers destroyed this village, the home of the Delaware chief Big Fire, during the War of 1812. The Rangers, seeking revenge for the killing of 24 settlers in the Scott County Pigeon Roost Massacre, mistakenly attacked the Delaware village and massacred the inhabitants. (https://cees.iupui.edu/restoration/southwestway-park)	x				

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		x			Fully interpreted			https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/indianapolis/indianatheatre.htm
x		x			None; investigate establishing at least outdoor interpretation if not a memorial of some kind involving the African-American community. This site is at some distance from the river and the statehouse district, but could be included in a walking tour link to the river either directly or through the statehouse district.	1937	None known. Most buildings were torn down to establish modern housing; those that remain were saved through an MOU with the SHPO.	https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/indianapolis/lockefieldgardens.htm
		x	x		None known; some sensitivity to interpreting archeological sites may be part of any lack of vigorous interpretation (needs investigation)		None known	https://cees.iupui.edu/restoration/southwestway-park

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NR-1711	9-OTH-1	Indianapolis Park and Boulevard System Historic District	At the turn of the century, the US was changing from a rural agriculture-based country to an industrial world power. This transition brought several challenges, one of which was the articulation of a national identity that would distinguish the US as a world-class country. Civic leaders in Indianapolis were part of the national movement seeking ways to beautify their city and raise the standard of living. Challenges included improving the health and welfare of the growing urban populations of unskilled workers and immigrants moving to the cities for jobs in factories; and the growing concern for the conservation of the country's natural resources, whose limits were beginning to be realized. Indianapolis as the state capital, the largest city in the state, and a growing urban center located on the east-west and north-south crossroads of America, led the state in addressing these challenges. The Kessler-designed plan of the early 20th century transformed open space, vegetation, water, and roadways into multifunctional resources designed to improve the quality of life of its citizens. The plan merges art and engineering into a comprehensive plan that is still being used today. (National Register nomination) ALSO Includes the 30th Street Bridge over the White River, HB-2183, built 1905, clad in limestone, judged "outstanding" in the Historic Bridges survey. Important pedestrian crossing for the White River Trail, which crosses from west to east on this bridge (moving south). ALSO - Historic district may also include the Oliver Avenue Bridge (below the zoo), built 1925, HB-2621, also judged "outstanding" in the Historic Bridges survey. Riverside Park is also an important element of this historic district. (NR nomination)					

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x		x		x	A critical location for interpretation of this sprawling historic district is the 30th Street Bridge (actually West 29th according to Google Maps), linking the east and west sides of the river and used as a pedestrian crossing for the White River Trail. It is located across from Heslar Naval Amoroy, and above Taggart Riverside Park.	1905	Check condition of the 30th Street Bridge - architectural integrity may be threatened (I thought I spotted missing some stone cladding, insensitive repair, need to revisit), although presumably is sound for traffic use.	

Opportunities for Improvements

Opportunities to improve upon in historical interpretation today include:

- Improve the three “historical” interpretive themes identified in the Technical Report with messages that support environmental education and reinforce the arts and placemaking.
- Create a long-range multi-disciplinary, multi-sensory interpretive plan that makes use not only of educational messages and information but also planning for placemaking and incorporation of the arts. (This is not difficult – in the designs they create through community guidance and participation, it is quite common for public artists to incorporate elements of local history. Artists and historians are both story-tellers.) Enlist the public and stakeholders in the planning process.
- Create a corridor-wide, end-to-end plan for nodes and place-based experiences that fulfill the goals and objectives of the interpretive plan for enhancing the river’s unique historic identity. Identify these locations through community and stakeholder needs assessment.
- Enlist a unified graphic identity in service to the interpretive plan. Create variety through messages and stories and selection of media; create linkages, unity, and branding through a single graphic approach.



WALDEN POND TRAIL MARKERS WITH INTERPRETATION CONTENT.



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INTERPRETIVE ELEMENTS ALLOW CHILDREN TO ENGAGE IN ECOLOGY AND HISTORY EDUCATION.