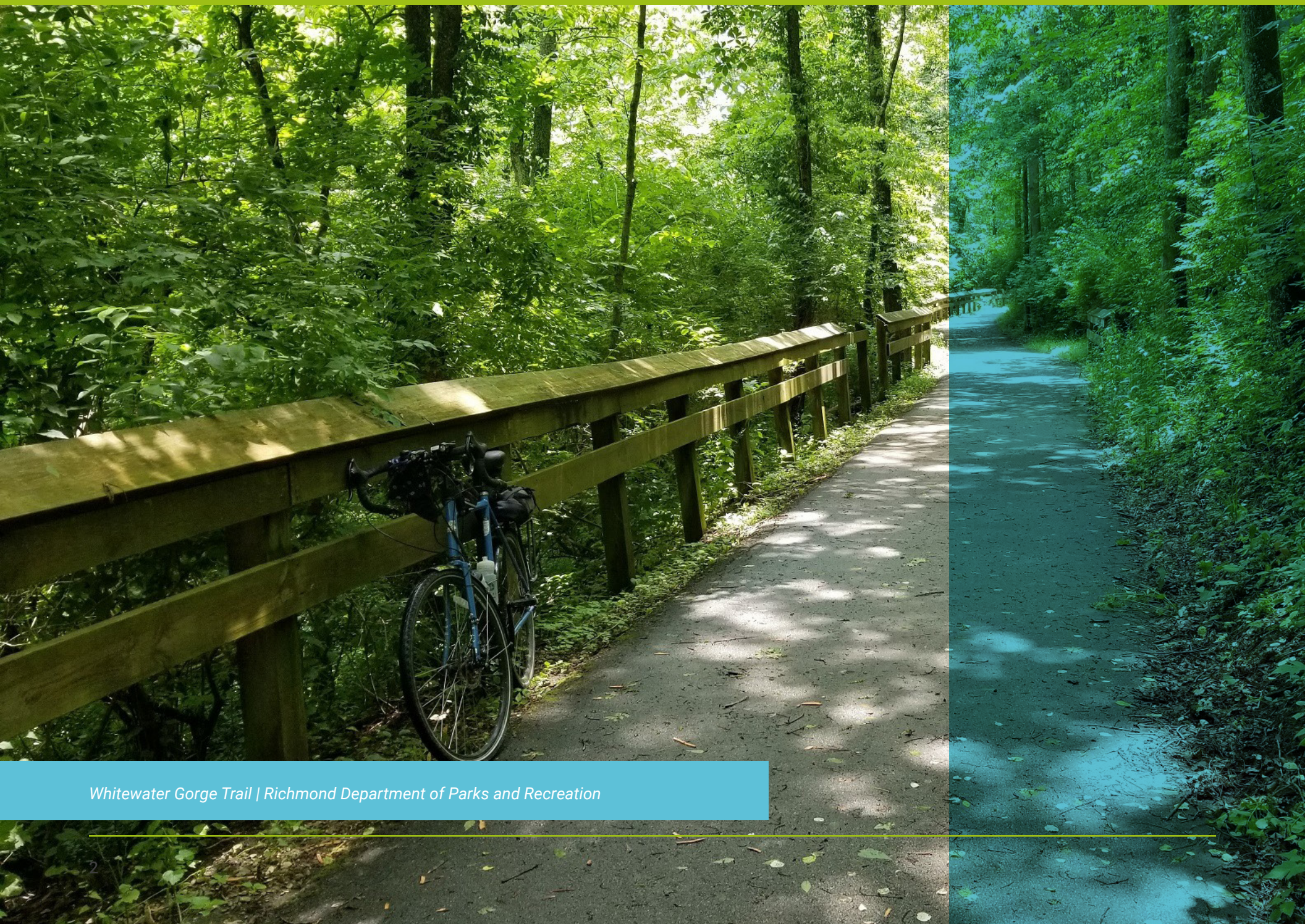




Activate

Whitewater Gorge Activation Plan
March 29, 2023



Whitewater Gorge Trail | Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation

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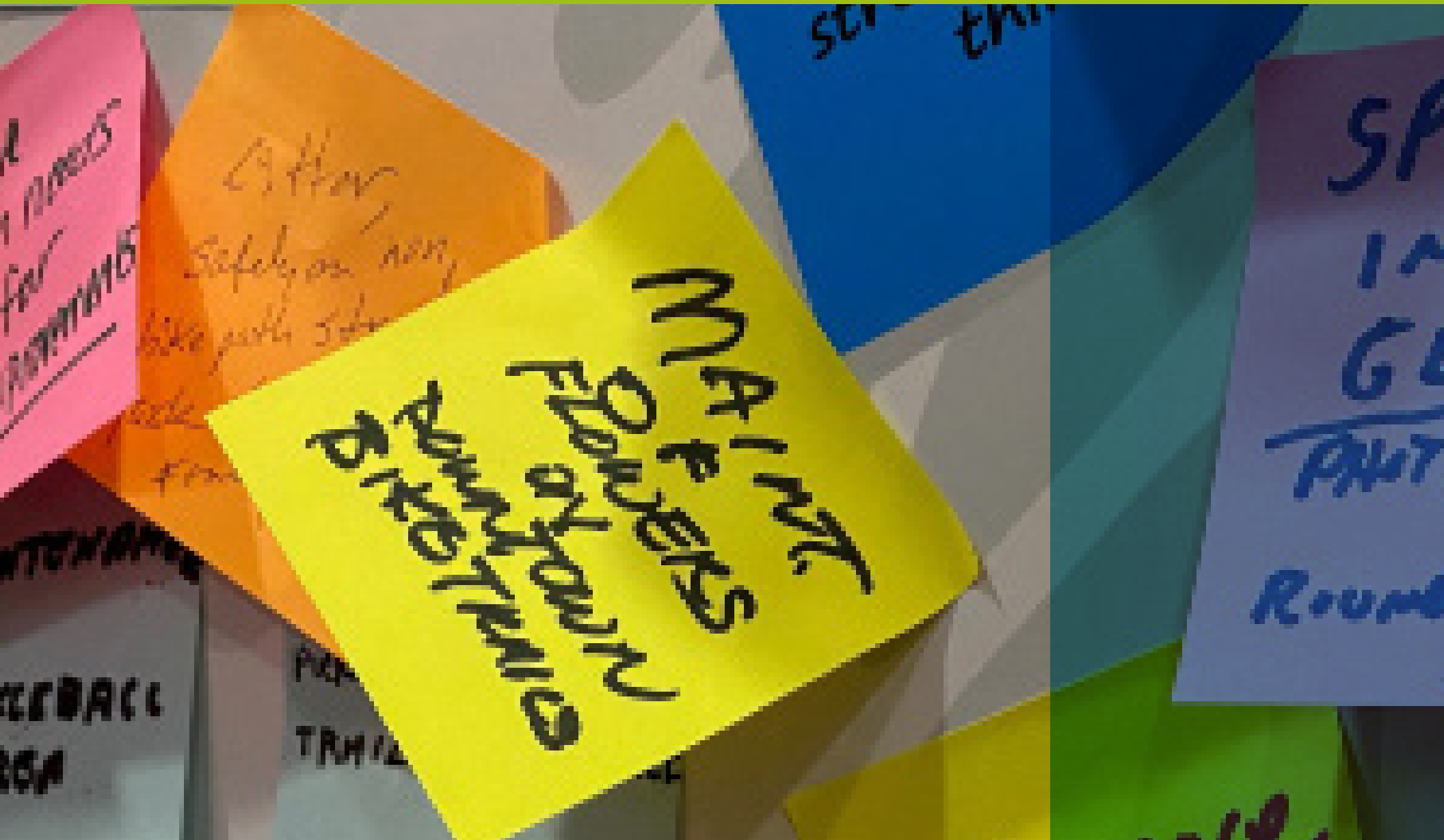
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01

Introduction



Richmond Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan effort | TSWDG

Plan Purpose

The evolution of the master plan process.

Beginning in 2018, Richmond leaders began a collaborative process to update the City's comprehensive plan. Over the course of 12 months, the Richmond Rising movement was used to gather the input, ideas, concerns, and suggestions of hundreds of Richmond residents, business owners, and stakeholders. The final *Richmond Rising: A Community Action Plan* resulted in 12 priority action steps that ranged from marketing efforts to long-range planning and development projects. One of these strategic action steps included the creation of a management plan for the Whitewater River and Whitewater Gorge Park to support the protection of the City's natural assets and resources.

Throughout the Richmond Rising process, the City's parks, open spaces, and recreational program, including this Whitewater Gorge, were identified as assets to quality of life and overall economic prosperity. During the planning process for the follow-up *2020 Richmond Comprehensive Parks Master Plan*, a community-wide survey was used to gather input on the City's parks and recreation system. Out of 1,748 survey respondents, nearly 90% stated that parks, open spaces, and recreational services were important to the quality of life in Richmond.

The documented value of parks and open spaces has allowed City leaders and staff, to focus on determining how parks and recreation can continue to be an asset growing and connecting the City's built environment, while also protecting and celebrating the region's destinations and unique natural resources. While the common themes of city-wide growth, connectivity, preservation, and celebration have been explored through a variety of design and development efforts, the specific ways in which the Department of Parks and Recreation could support and expand the parks system had not been updated since 2009. In 2020 a six-month, four-phased planning process was used to identify the current strengths, challenges, and opportunities of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Using input from varied community engagement opportunities and detailed system analysis, the *Comprehensive Parks Master Plan* provided recommendations that supported five park P.R.I.D.E. goals. Each goal focuses on a specific topic that was developed in direct response to the challenges, opportunities, and trends that were identified. To carry the ideas and concepts forward, this Activation Plan provides detailed recommendations on how park properties, specifically the Whitewater Gorge can be enhanced to become a resilient and sustainable site that features active public spaces, inclusive amenities, and diverse programming opportunities.

Planning Goals

Building on a foundation of P.R.I.D.E.

Within the last decade years, the Department of Parks and Recreation has successfully maintained the City's parks and open spaces, expanded the trail system, added new amenities and facilities, and continued to develop a series of successful community-oriented programs. The community, Department staff, and park system stakeholders have indicated the need for a more focused strategic plan for the future.

To advance the findings and recommendations on the 2020 *Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, the Department prioritized the development of a management and activation plan for the Whitewater Gorge Park. As one of the City's largest park properties, the opportunities to incorporate themes and recommendations from the city-wide planning effort in a specific and site specific way were numerous.

At the onset of the planning process, it became clear that the management plan for the Whitewater Gorge area needed to be more than a development master plan. Instead, the plan needed to provide concepts, recommendations, and an action plan that would identify how the Department could protect, improve and activate the 150-acre park. Specifically, the Department wished to identify how improvements at the regional destination could meet the following benchmarks outlined within the park P.R.I.D.E. goal statements.



P. Promote our offerings.

Planning Goal:

Determine how to promote our offerings so that we can provide more recreational options across the city.



R. Respond to our community's needs

Planning Goal:

Identify what facilities and amenities need to be improved and enhanced to meet the needs of our changing community.



I. Invite activity into our spaces.

Planning Goal:

Determine what improvements should be made to provide an increase in activity along our trails and waterways.



D. Diversify and optimize our resources.

Planning Goal:

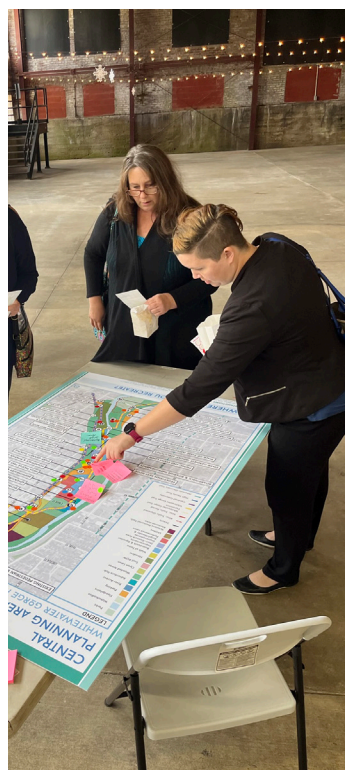
Identify how public and private partners can support the diversification of project funds and department revenue.



E. Enhance our parks and open space system.

Planning Goal:

Provide a strategic action plan to further the implementation of park improvements.



Planning Process

Exploring ideas and activation strategies.

While the vast majority of the planning effort relied on the input gathered during the 2020 parks master plan process, specific and strategic efforts were used over the course of a six-month period to further inform the development of the *Whitewater Gorge Activation Plan*.

As the primary users of the City's parks, open space, and recreation system, the input, ideas, and perceptions of Richmond residents were critical to the development of the final activation recommendations. On Thursday, April 28th, 2022, the project consulting team held a public open house to gather input regarding the *Whitewater Gorge Activation Plan*. During the meeting, participants were invited to provide feedback about the Whitewater Gorge and how they would like to see it activated in the future. The workshop consisted of a series of hands-on exercises which allowed participants to learn about the park and share their experiences and ideas for the future.

The Gorge planning effort also took advantage of the previous community survey efforts which inventoried general perceptions on the parks system, amenity needs, and future priorities. In total, 1,748 people participated and over 1,200 individual comments were received throughout the process.

The community input was used to generate initial development concepts for the entire Whitewater Gorge Park. The concepts were reviewed by Department staff to determine overall alignment with the goals of the City and Department. The final recommendations were then developed into the recommendations contained in Chapter 3.



02

Existing Conditions



The National Recreation and Park Association published a hierarchy of typical park classifications as a “systems” approach to parks and recreation planning.

Regional parks are the largest type of park classification used by the NRPA. Regional parks often serve multiple communities within a particular region due to their size, recreational amenities, and overall characteristics.



Context

The impact of the Whitewater Gorge

The Richmond parks system is very diverse, consisting of 22 parks totaling over 1,100 acres, and five multi-use trails spanning over 15 miles. The City has established several key park properties that serve as the backbone of the entire parks and recreation system. Places like Glen Miller Park, Middlefork Reservoir, Highland Golf Course, and the Richmond Senior Recreation Center not only offer diverse programs and amenities but have also created ways for community members to stay connected with one another and to the City's history.

As the county seat of Wayne County, and the only urban center in East Central Indiana, Richmond is the primary service provider for the larger region and provides community services, including parks and recreation amenities and programs to the County's nearly 66,000 residents.

The Whitewater Gorge Park, one of the City's largest park properties, is 146-acre regional park located between Test Road and Waterfall Road. The gorge area features several natural and man-made destinations along the way, including numerous quarries, vertical cliffs, Thistlethwaite Falls, the National Road Bridge, Starr Piano Company, Gennett Recording Studio, and the Test Woolen Mill site. Today, the park connects many different small recreational areas and neighborhoods to the Whitewater River and the regional Cardinal Greenway. It also serves as a backdrop to regional tourism attractions including the Starr Gennett Walk of Fame, the Whitewater Gorge Trail, the Whitewater Valley Fossil Hunt, and Thistlethwaite Falls.



Whitewater Gorge Park, Richmond, IN | Image courtesy of Starr-Gennett Foundation



History

Contributions to development, industry and culture.

As the last Ice Age drew to a close, at the convergence of the three branches of the Whitewater River, glacial ice cut a narrow channel through the ancient bedrock. Today that channel, which runs 2.5 miles through the city ranging from 200-300 feet wide and 50-80 feet deep, is known as the Whitewater River Gorge.

Over the course of thousands of years, the Gorge was partially refilled with sand, gravel, and clay washed into it by the river. These deposits have created the current ebbs and flows of the river corridor and contributed to the area's unique geologic and environmental characteristics.

The Gorge's fertile soil, abundant timber, building stone, and flowing springs, served as an asset and attraction for settlers to the Richmond area in the early 1800s. While providing resources to pioneers, the Gorge and Whitewater River corridor also served as a physical obstacle that contributed to the eastward expansion pattern of the Richmond community.

As the Richmond community grew, the Whitewater River provided power to industries including the Richmond Roller Mills. The growth prompted the completion of the National Road Bridge, a magnificent span resting on stone piers thirty feet above the water. Increased connectivity ultimately allowed the greater river corridor became home to industry giants including the Starr Gennett Piano Company and the Gennett Recording Studio. Today these historical assets can still be seen in the ruins located throughout the Gorge.

Conditions

Existing features, attractions and destinations

While the park itself provides a limited number of recreational activities and amenities, the broader area is well-known for many of the area's features and historical ruins.

Starr-Gennett Area

The Starr-Gennett complex is located in the middle of Whitewater Gorge Park at 101 S 1st Street. It features the remains of the Starr Piano Company factory, which was established in the mid-1800s. The company was one of the largest in the world devoted to the production of pianos. Phonographs and phonograph records were added to the product line in 1916, and the Starr recording business changed its label to Gennett. Starr-Gennett cultivated a broad audience for obscure and affordable talents for music such as jazz, blues, country and gospel, leading to its reputation as “the cradle of recorded jazz.” The market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression led to the downfall of Star-Gennett. The surviving Starr Piano Company building, now called the Starr-Gennett Pavilion, lives on as a multi-purpose activity center.

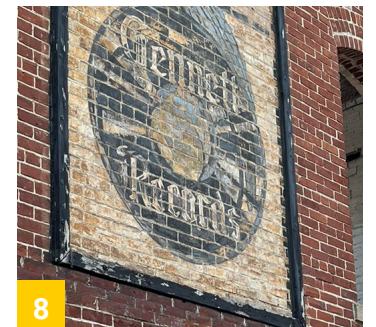
The Starr-Gennett Walk of Fame was established in 2007 to celebrate the musical legacy of the Starr Piano Company and Gennett Records. The Walk, which runs parallel to the park access drive, consists of large ceramic and bronze medallions that resemble 78 rpm records and feature the images of honored artists. The accompanying bronze plaques summarize the artists' musical achievements.

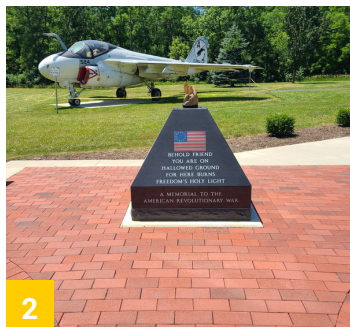
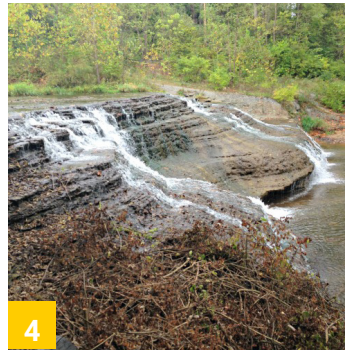
Whitewater Gorge Trail

The Whitewater Gorge Trail is a 3.5-mile paved trail located in Whitewater Gorge Park from the Test Road Trailhead to the D Street Trailhead. The trail runs through mostly wooded parkland along the Whitewater River and provides unique insights into Richmond's local history. It features several natural and man-made destinations along the way, including numerous quarries and vertical cliffs. Existing trailheads are located at Test Road, Richmond High School, and D Street, where the Whitewater Gorge Trail connects to the Wayne County Veteran's Memorial Park and the Cardinal Greenway.

Character Image Captions and Sources:

1. *Whitewater Gorge Trail near Test Road Trailhead* | TSWDG
2. *Whitewater Gorge Trail pedestrian bridge* | TSWDG
3. *Whitewater Gorge Trail near Wayne County Veteran's Memorial Park* | TSWDG
4. *Starr-Gennett structure* | TSWDG
5. *Starr-Gennett structure* | TSWDG
6. *Starr-Gennett structure and walkway* | TSWDG
7. *Starr-Gennett Walk of Fame medallion* | TSWDG
8. *Starr-Gennett structure artwork* | TSWDG





Wayne County Veteran's Memorial Park

Veteran's Memorial Park is a 15-acre park located in Whitewater Gorge Park just north of the Starr-Gennett Area. The park honors veterans for their service to the country. It features memorials from the Civil War, WWI, WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Women's Memorial, the Purple Heart Memorial, and others, as well as two M3A3 Stuart tanks that once sat on the Wayne County Courthouse property.

Cardinal Greenway

The Cardinal Greenway is the longest rail trail in Indiana and spans 62 miles from Marion through Muncie to Richmond in East Central Indiana. The trail terminates at the D Street Trailhead. The trail corridor is owned, managed, and maintained by Cardinal Greenways, a non-for-profit organization. Additional trail connectivity to the South is provided by the existing, and recently expanded, Whitewater Gorge Trail which is owned and managed by the City of Richmond.

Character Image Captions and Sources:

1. *Wayne County Veteran's Memorial Park | TSWDG*
2. *Wayne County Veteran's Memorial Park | TSWDG*
3. *Whitewater Gorge Trail | City of Richmond*
4. *Thistlethwaite Falls | Visit Richmond*
5. *Whitewater Gorge Trail overlook | City of Richmond*
6. *Bicentennial Park Fossil Exploration Area | City of Richmond*
7. *Thistlethwaite Falls | TSWDG*
8. *C&O Depot | TSWDG*

The C&O Depot and Rail Corridor

The C&O Depot is located adjacent to the D Street Trailhead. The city purchased the building and the 13-acre site it sits on from the CSX Railroad Corporation in 2015 with the intention of revitalizing the structure. Along with the Depot facility, the city also obtained control of the nearby supporting garage building and rail corridor that extends from Richmond Avenue to S G Street.

Bicentennial Park

Bicentennial Park is a 4-acre park located in Whitewater Gorge Park at 30 Bridge Avenue. The park provides opportunities for passive recreation and includes amenities such as grills, an open lawn area, and access to the Whitewater River. A single-story maintenance structure and small garage are located on the south side of the site.

Bicentennial Park is home to a "fossil park" comprised of two informational signs overlooking fossiliferous rock walls that are part of the Whitewater Limestone Formation.

Thistlethwaite Falls

Thistlethwaite Falls is a natural preserve located on the north end of Whitewater Gorge Park just south of Springwood Park at 65 Waterfall Road. The falls are a man-made waterfall, created in 1854 when Timothy Thistlethwaite blasted a new channel in the West Fork of the Whitewater River to provide waterpower for his nearby sawmill. A trail to the falls takes visitors on a journey through the historic Gorge area.



03

Plan Recommendations



Proposed Whitewater Gorge Adventure Playground | TSWDG

Methodology

Activation Guiding Principles

During the activation planning process, the project team, in coordination with Department staff and resident stakeholders established a long-term vision to guide the future development of the 146-acre park site. The vision applied the park P.R.I.D.E. goals and objectives outlined in the *2020 Richmond Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan* to specific elements in Whitewater Gorge Park, adjacent properties, and the broader redevelopment goals of the City of Richmond.

To ensure this planning effort achieves its vision, four guiding principles were developed to serve as evaluation criteria for proposed elements of the final *Plan*. Each guiding principle focuses on a separate and distinct topic and provides opportunities for both short and long-term improvements and actions. Together, these guiding principles represent the City's expectations and commitments for Whitewater Gorge Park and provide defensible and measurable objectives for evaluating master plan design alternatives.





Proposed Whitewater Gorge Depot Park and Plaza | TSWDG

Community Vision for the Whitewater Gorge Park

Through strategic recreation improvements and thoughtful community programming, Whitewater Gorge Park will become a signature recreation destination, providing unique experiences that tie visitors to the local community, the region's history, and the natural environment.

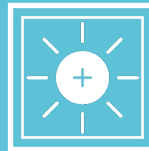


Guiding Principles



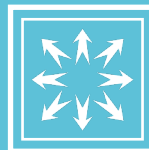
Maintain

We will maintain and improve the park property and its infrastructure, amenities, and facilities.



Enhance

We will execute transformative enhancements that provide new recreation opportunities for local residents.



Broaden

We will leverage our local investment, and relationships to provide a specialty regional recreational destination.



Program

We will develop and implement programs and activities that take advantage of the site's unique history and features.



Maintain

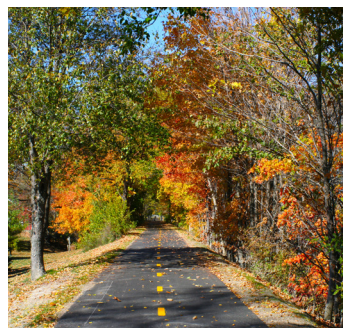
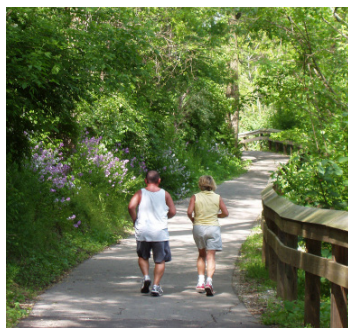
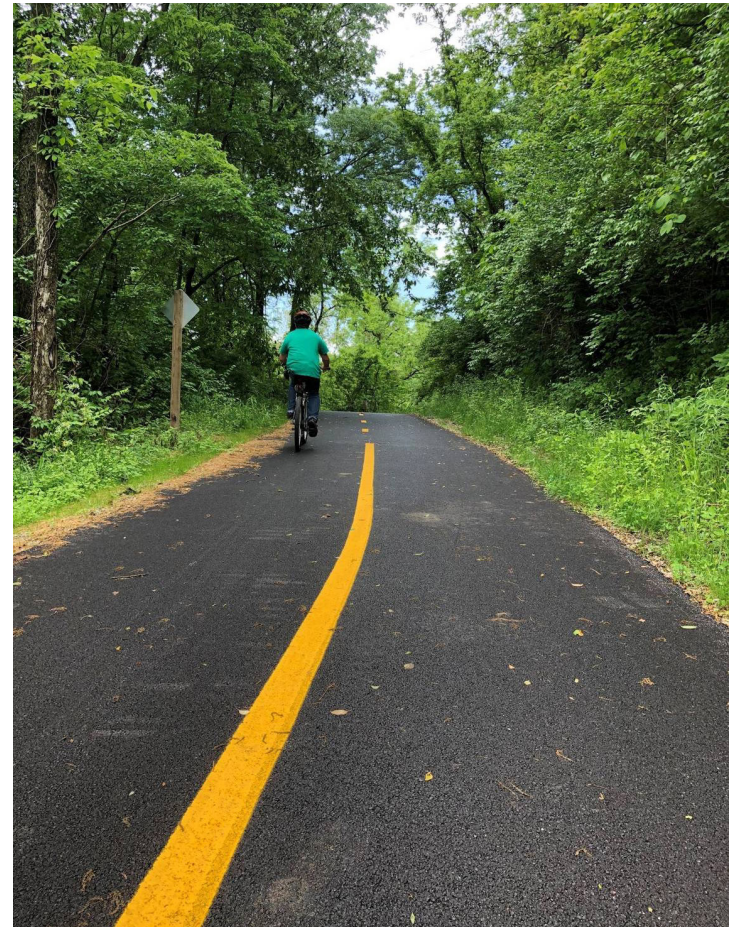
Understanding our goals.

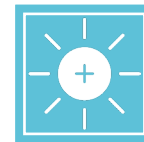
Our commitment.

We will maintain and improve the park property and its infrastructure, amenities, and facilities.

Why it is important.

- *Maintenance and upkeep of park properties, facilities and amenities.*
- *Safe and useable recreation amenities to all City residents.*
- *Beautification of natural areas within the City.*
- *Preservation of our City's natural areas, features and habitats.*





Enhance

Understanding our goals.

Our commitment.

We will execute transformative enhancements that provide new recreation opportunities for local residents.

Why it is important.

- *Attracts new residents to locate and live in Wayne County and more specifically Richmond, IN.*
- *Provides new locations and features for established parks programming and events.*
- *Provides for new and unique recreation opportunities.*
- *Connects local neighborhoods to the park through new pedestrian and bicycle facilities.*



Broaden

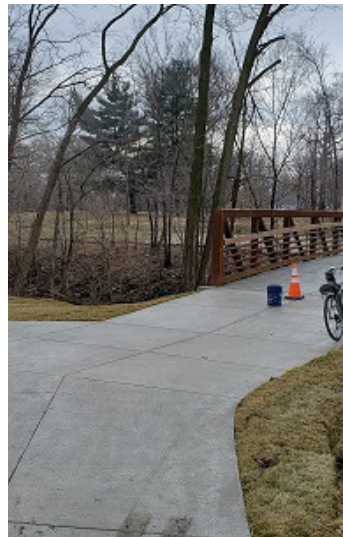
Understanding our goals.

Our commitment.

We will leverage our local investment and grow our implementation partnerships to provide East Central Indiana with a specialty regional recreational destination.

Why it is important.

- *Provides regional attractions and entertainment options within the City.*
- *Establishes East Central Indiana as a leader in adventure recreation.*
- *Creates new revenue streams for the Department.*
- *Strengthens and builds new relationships with community and regional stakeholders.*





Program

Understanding our goals.

Our commitment.

We will develop and implement daily programs and activities that take advantage of the site's unique history and environmental features.

Why it is important.

- *Creates opportunities for program expansion.*
- *Provides equitable opportunities for all members of the community.*
- *Provides education and enrichment opportunities for community residents.*
- *Provides the community with a strong link to natural features, habitats and ecological systems.*



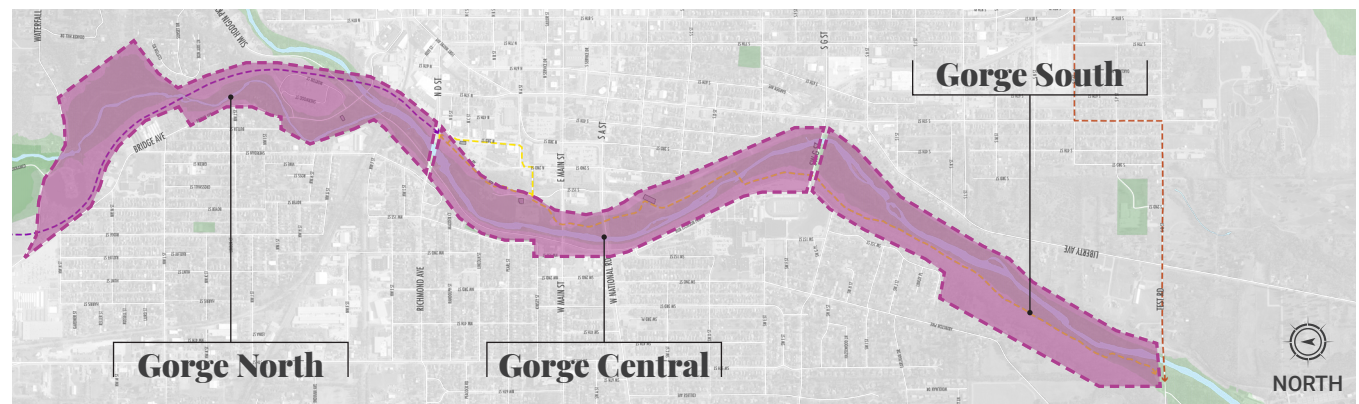
Concepts

Short, mid and long-term recommendations.

Using historical site context, existing site conditions, and department input, a conceptual activation master plan was developed for the entire property. This plan identified a variety of short and long-term improvements to meet the four key guiding principles of **Maintain, Enhance, Program, and Broaden**.

The initial concept was presented at a public open house on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at the Starr-Gennett Facility at Whitewater Gorge Park. Using the input provided by residents and Department stakeholders, a series of refinements were made to the plan in an effort to provide activities and enhancements for park users of all ages and abilities.

As the recommendations were refined, it became clear that improvements to the vast 146-acre property needed to be organized in such a way that aligned future improvements, uses, and programmatic opportunities to the site's historic and current conditions. To this end, the *Whitewater Gorge Activation Plan* is comprised of three distinct character and geographic districts, each with its own mix of recreational areas, programmatic opportunities, and tourism destinations. These districts are illustrated and labeled below with an enlarged plan and description of each on the following pages. While each area is unique and provides its own distinct set of improvements, the visionary concepts and site-specific strategies for each area align with the four guiding principles outlined earlier in this Plan.



(TO BE REMOVED)

Gorge North District

A Place to Escape and Experience Nature



Imagine spending a leisurely Saturday afternoon splashing in Thistlethwaite Falls before you grab your bicycle and ride the extended Whitewater Gorge Trail south to Bicentennial Park. At the Park, you stop and lay out your picnic lunch before loading into the kayak you reserved earlier that week. After launching your boat into the Whitewater River, you see the unique murals painted on nearby buildings and observe families fishing off the nearby pier. Throughout your visit, whether on foot, by bicycle, or by boat, you have the opportunity to sit back, relax and take in the natural beauty of the Gorge.



Gorge North

District Overview and Intent

Improvements to the nearly 27-acre Whitewater Gorge North will protect the natural beauty of the surrounding environment while improving specific site elements to allow for interaction with the unique geological and environmental features of the area. Whitewater Gorge North is designed to be primarily passive in nature, leaving the existing vegetation, natural habitats, and rock formations intact. Visitors will experience the area through a series of trails and overlooks with opportunities to enter the waterway at two strategic points.

- Upgrades to the existing parking area and access trail at Thistlethwaite Falls, including an ADA-accessible asphalt parking lot, trailhead, and pedestrian rest node, will allow visitors to experience the falls in a safe way.
- Improvements to the fossil discovery zone at Bicentennial Park will allow children and adults to learn more about the layers of rock and the native animals that called the Gorge home.
- Two new canoe and kayak launch points along the upper Whitewater River watershed will provide opportunities for visitors to experience the river in a new way.
- Improvements to Whitewater Gorge Trail between Waterfall Road and D Street will build a strong foundation for destination activities by maintaining and repairing existing amenities and implementing new features for the community and regional visitors.





Proposed Whitewater River overlook and fishing pier | TSWDG

Gorge North

MAINTAIN: Projects and improvements

Short-term maintenance improvements include the following:

Thistlethwaite Falls Parking and Rest Node

By transforming the gravel parking area off of Waterfall Road into an ADA-accessible, asphalt parking lot with a trailhead, seating, and wayfinding signage, visitors will be welcomed to the site and have a comfortable area to park, exit their cars and gather before walking to the Falls.

An improved asphalt trail and staircase leading from the parking area will allow visitors to safely navigate the topography change down to the base of the Falls.

A pedestrian rest node with seating, bicycle parking, and interpretive signage will provide visitors a place to rest while exploring the Fall's history and its contribution to the industries of Richmond.

Fossil Discovery Zone at Bicentennial Park

Bicentennial Park is home to a "fossil park" overlooking fossiliferous rock walls that are part of the Whitewater Limestone Formation, where recognizable fossils of plants and animals may be found. To enhance the visitor experience, the existing fossil area will be improved to include an expanded dig area with seating and interpretive signage.

A new picnic lawn will feature picnic tables, grills, and interpretive signage surrounded by native annual and perennial plantings for pollinators. The existing garage will be improved to provide storage and a mural, and the parking lot will be paved and expanded to accommodate additional vehicles, a drop-off, and canoe/kayak trailer parking.

Footpath Clearing and Marking

While the Whitewater Gorge Trail traverses the entirety of Whitewater Gorge Park, in many cases the trail is located a considerable distance from the river. In several areas along the river, there are existing unpaved trails. Additionally, these paths could also be used in future improvement phases to meet construction and emergency access requirements.

Plantings and Invasive Removal

Invasive species removal will continue throughout Whitewater Gorge North per the guidelines established in the Whitewater Gorge Invasive Species Management Plan. Revegetation efforts will be used to help restore each of the ecosystems in the area, including forests and riparian wetlands, where invasive species have been eliminated or minimized, to enable the conservation of natural resources.



1

Character Image Captions and Sources:

1. Proposed Fossil Discovery Zone at Bicentennial Park | TSWDG
2. Community mural as public art | South Norfolk, VA, Chip Wilkinson
3. Fossil bed example | Poricy Park, Middletown New Jersey, Jersey's Best



2



3

Gorge North

ENHANCE: Projects and Improvements

Short-term maintenance improvements include the following:

Canoe and Kayak Launch Points

Two new public access sites will be provided to give park visitors the opportunity to explore the Whitewater River by canoe or kayak. These sites will provide visitors with launching and paddling opportunities within the upper watershed of the Whitewater Gorge and will serve as a take-out point for visitors who entered the river to the north. With access to free passenger vehicle and trailer parking space in the enhanced parking areas at Bicentennial Park and north of N D Street, visitors will have a convenient way to access and enjoy the Whitewater River and other Gorge amenities.

Fishing Pier

The Weir Dam, used to divert cooling water to a city-owned electric power plant that occupied the flat flood plain north of the Main Street bridge, was removed to promote increased functionality, safety, and water quality. With the dam removed, Whitewater River access will be of interest to local residents and regional visitors. To accommodate fishing and interpretive opportunities along the Whitewater River, a new, multi-deck fishing pier will be located adjacent to the former Wier Dam. The fishing pier will include built-in seating and interpretive signage for visitors, with plenty of space for people of all ages to sit back and enjoy their surroundings.





Character Image Captions and Sources:

1. Canoe and kayak launch point near the former Weir dam site | TSWDG
2. Fishing pier and overlook near the former Weir dam site | TSWDG

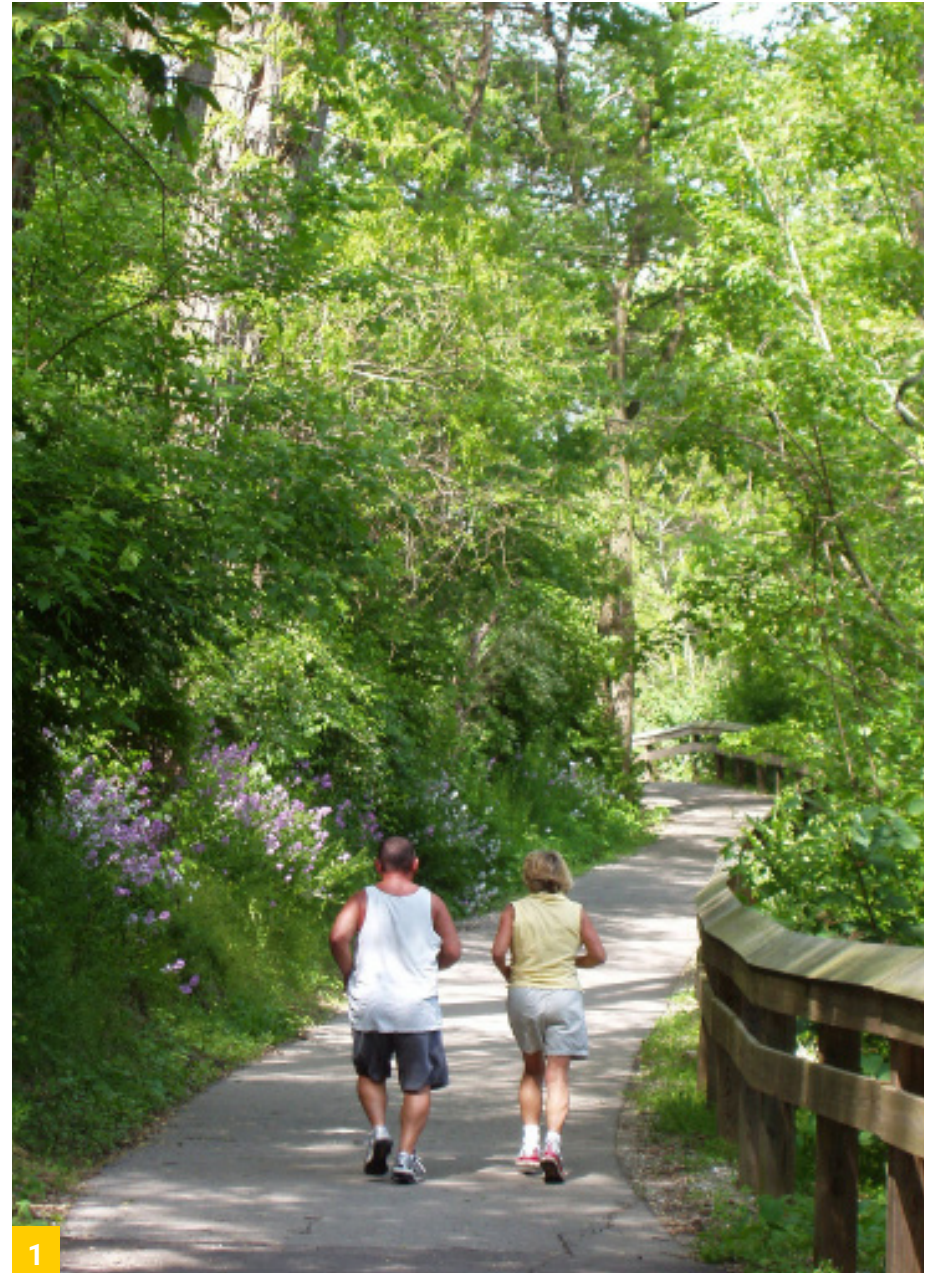
Gorge North

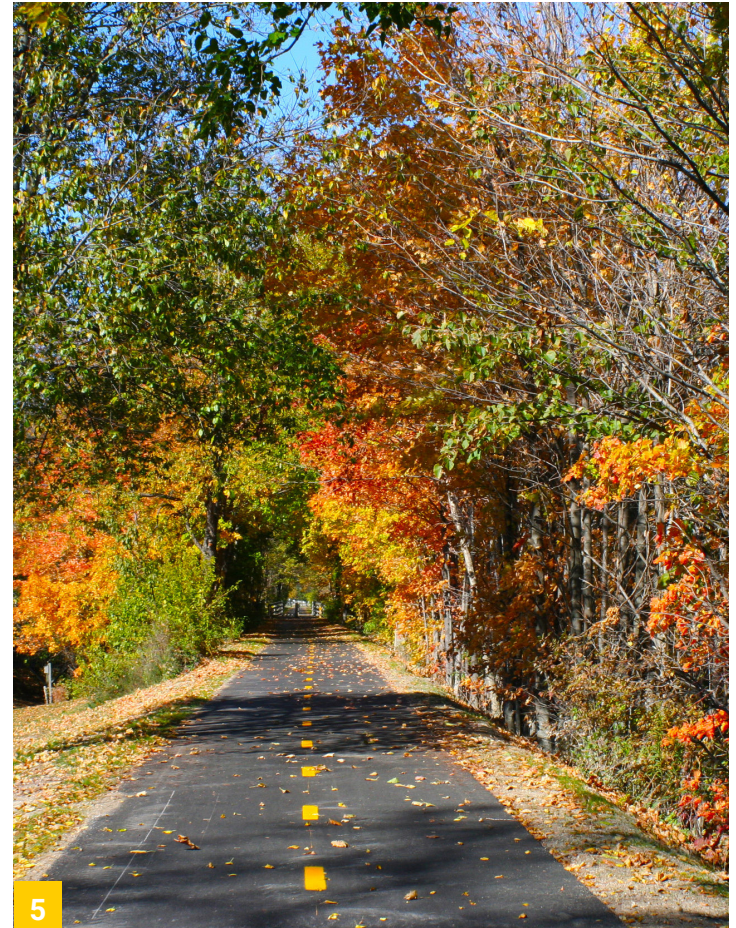
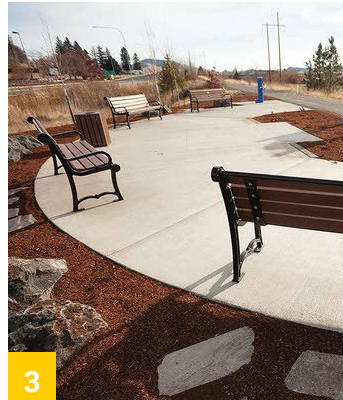
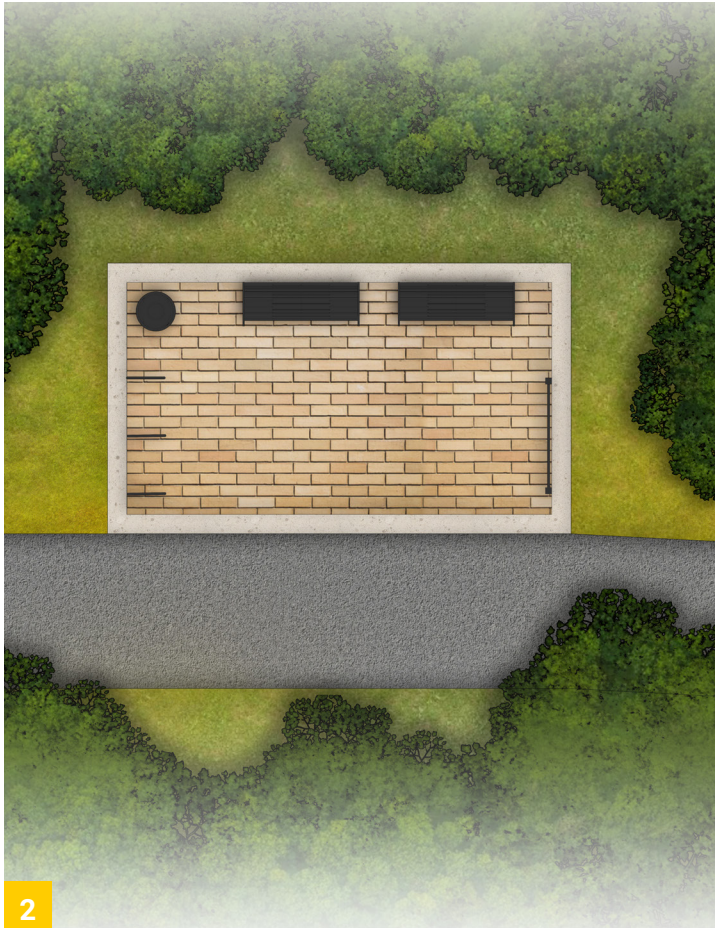
BROADEN: Projects and Improvements

Mid to long-term broaden improvements include the following:

Whitewater Gorge Trail Expansion

To parallel the Cardinal Greenway and provide new trail access to Thistlethwaite Falls, the Whitewater Gorge Trail will be expanded to the north of the C&O Depot. While likely improved in phases, comprehensive trail signage including mile markers, trailhead information kiosks, and standard rules and regulations signage will be placed along the pathway. Further, pedestrian rest nodes with specialty paving will be located along the Whitewater Gorge Trail to provide seating, litter receptacles, bicycle racks, and interpretive signage for trail users.





Character Image Captions and Sources:

1. Whitewater Gorge Trail, Richmond, IN | Richmond Parks and Recreation
2. Proposed pedestrian node along Whitewater Gorge Trail | TSWDG
3. Rest node example | Latah Trail, Moscow, Idaho; Moscow Parks and Recreation
4. Wayfinding signage example | Traverse City, Michigan; Up North Trails
5. Seasonal trail character | North Coast Inland Trail; Lorraine County Metro Parks
6. Trail materials and crossings | Pleasant Run Trail, Indianapolis, IN; TSWDG

Gorge North

PROGRAM: Active recreation, festivals, events

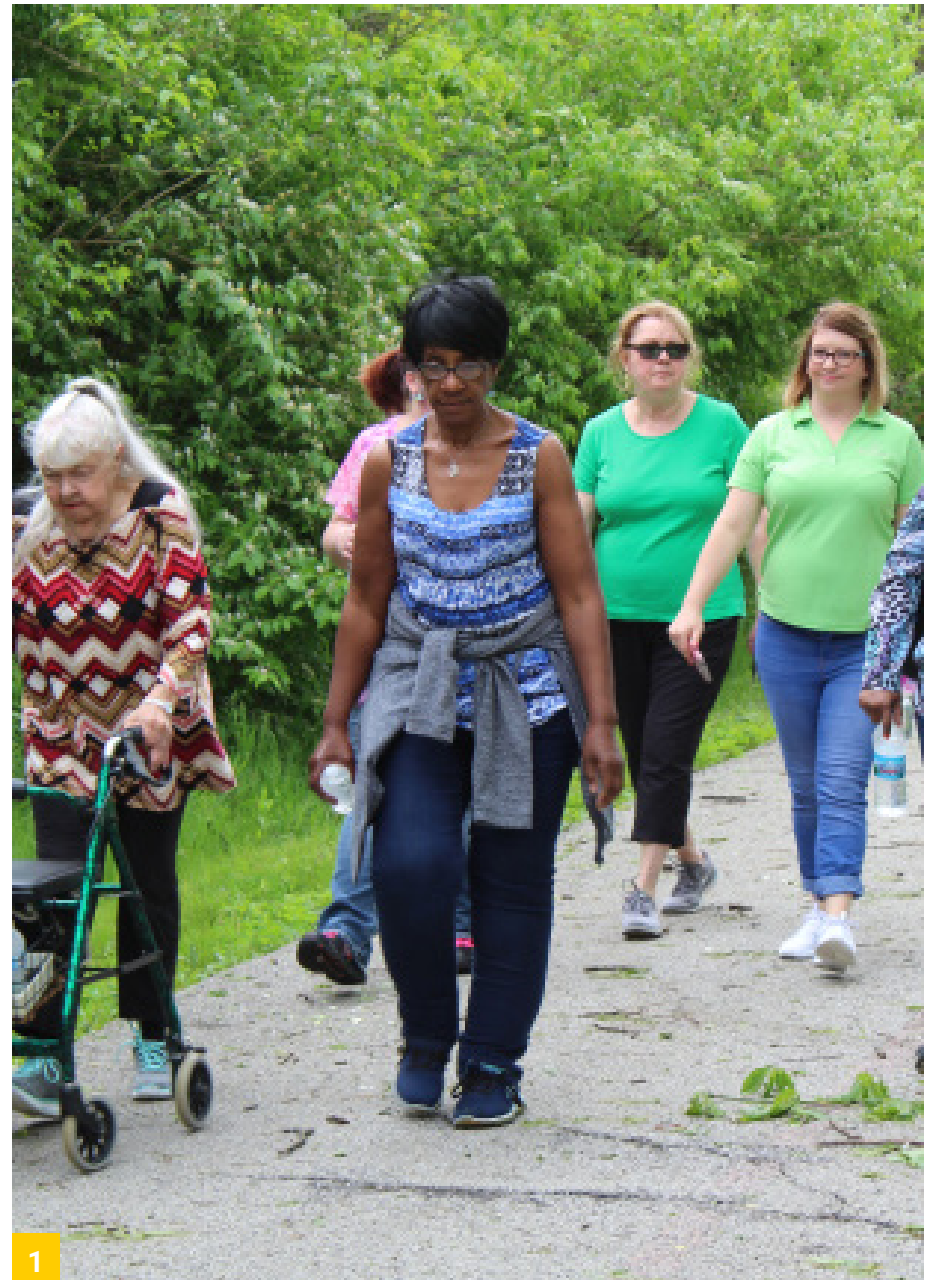
Short, mid and long-term programming improvements include the following:

Public Art

Within Whitewater Gorge North, public art in the form of murals can be incorporated on the exterior walls of the existing garage structure at Bicentennial Park. Additional sculpture installations may also be considered at the proposed trailheads and along the expanded Whitewater Gorge Trail.

Events, Educational Classes, and Camps

Within Whitewater Gorge North, there are a variety of opportunities to host and expand community events and programs at multiple scales using the natural vegetation and trail access as a foundation for programmatic development and expansion. The following existing and proposed activities could be hosted out of Whitewater Gorge North facilities.



1



2



3



4

Gorge North

Activity and Event Opportunities

Fitness and Sports

Walking Club

Walk with a Doc

CICOA Health Walk

5K Walks/ Runs

Cycling Clubs

IYAK Indiana Kayakers Club

Hoosier Canoe and Kayak Club

Youth Programs

Whitewater Valley Fossil Hunt

Family Programs

Family Bike Rides and Trail Walks

Special Events

White River Paddle Days

Environmental

Invasive Classes

Native Trees, Shrubs & Flower Walks

Proper Pruning Techniques

Bird watching

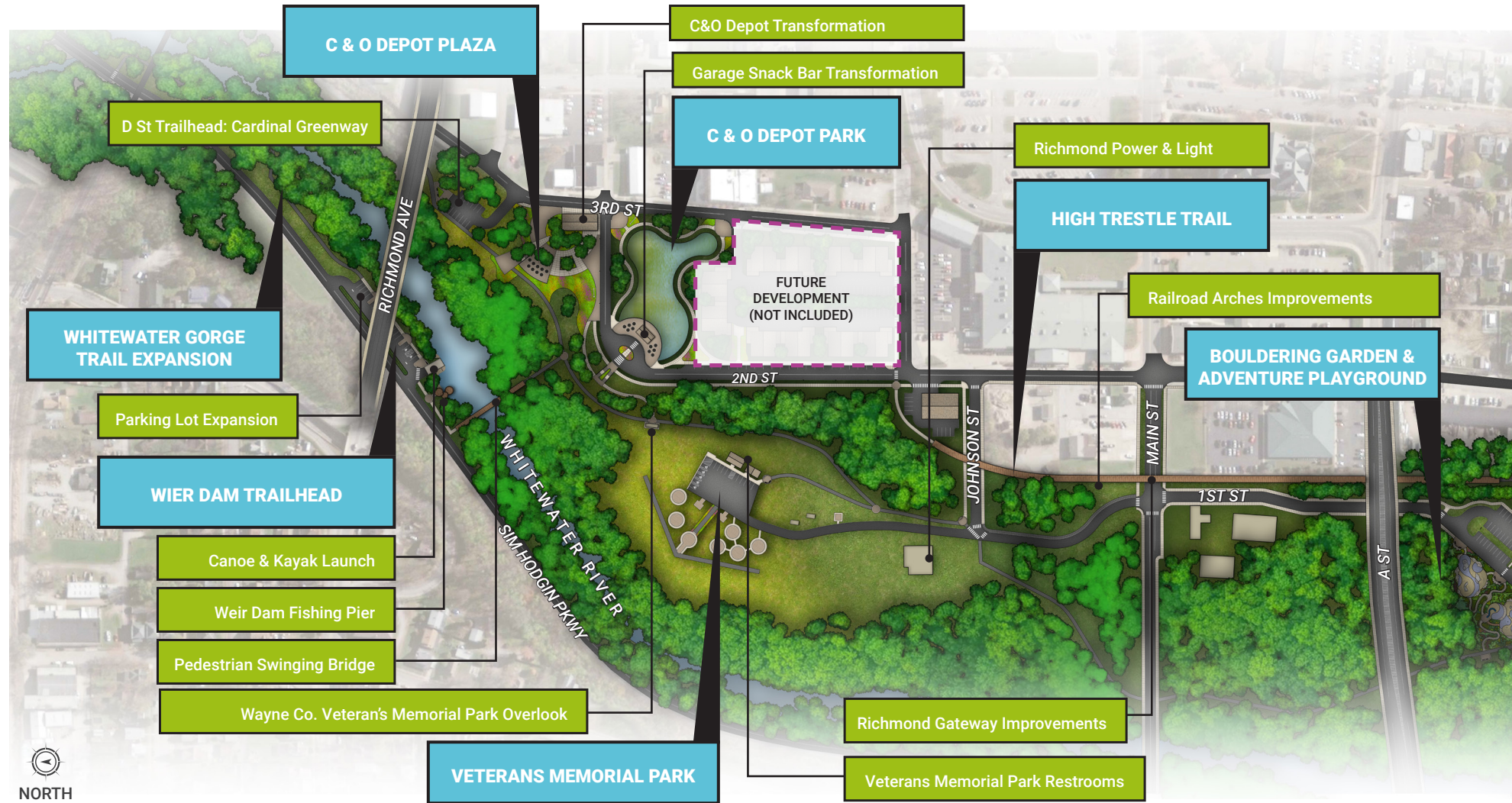
Plant identification classes/ walks

Character Image Captions and Sources:

1. CICOA Health Walk | Indy Greenways; TSWDG
2. Floral Division plant classes | Richmond, IN; Department Parks and Recreation
3. Bicycle tour of trails | Indy Greenways; TSWDG
4. Indiana Kayakers Club outing | Indianapolis, IN; Indiana Kayakers Club

Gorge Central District

The Heart of the Whitewater Gorge



Imagine taking a short evening walk along the downtown Loop to the newly-opened High Trestle Trail that runs along the eastern edge of the Whitewater Gorge. Hearing music in the distance, you walk south. Peeking over the Starr Gennett facility are the footprints of the park's former buildings and beyond those structures, you see that the Summer Concert Series at the new amphitheater has kicked off for the season. As you travel along the trail you see people snapping a selfie, enjoying a picnic dinner, and walking along the boardwalk. You see families taking their children to the new adventure playground and laughing while they dance in the open field. For you on the trail, and for those in the park, there is a strong sense of gathering and community.



Gorge Central

District Overview and Intent

Improvements to the nearly 69-acre Whitewater Gorge Central will enhance the notably historic site of the former Starr-Gennett Company and transform it into an area for daily recreation, seasonal events, and year-round education. Whitewater Gorge Central is intended to be the primary location for future recreation activities.

- Improvements to existing amenities such as the repair and expansion of the existing Walk of Fame medallions, and structural repairs and maintenance at the Starr-Gennett Facility and C&O Depot are intended to capitalize on the site's contributions to Richmond's economy and industries.
- Proposed development in Whitewater Gorge Park Central includes enhancements and amenities such as picnic tables, a boardwalk, large and small treehouses, and an adventure area with a nature-inspired playground and a bouldering garden. Improvements to the existing Starr-Gennett Facility, including entryway improvements, will provide additional opportunities for year-round programming.
- Improvements to Whitewater Gorge Trail between SW G Street and N D Street will build a strong foundation for destination activities by maintaining and repairing existing amenities and implementing new features for the community and regional visitors.





Proposed Starr Gennett event lawn and boardwalk | TSWDG

Gorge Central

MAINTAIN: Projects and Improvements

Short-term maintenance improvements include the following:

Richmond Gateway, Pedestrian Bridge, and Gorge Signage Improvements

Visitors to the City are often routed along Main Street which provides access to Downtown Richmond and the County courthouse and serves as the primary vehicular access point for Whitewater Gorge Park Central. To create a prominent front door to the city, county, and park, improvements will be made to the existing City of Richmond gateway signage and railroad bridge near Main Street and S First Street. New signage features, including updated lighting, will improve the City's primary gateway, while a new mural along the railroad bridge abutment will create a more pronounced entry into the park itself.

Railroad Arches Improvements

The historic railroad arches, located at the entrance to Wayne County Veteran's Memorial Park, provide Instagram-worthy opportunities for artistic photos. In the future, the railroad arches have the opportunity to be a popular backdrop and photoshoot spot for graduating seniors in Richmond. The arches look timeless and majestic in senior photos and help commemorate your achievements. To capitalize on the railroad arches, overgrown vegetation should be cleared to increase visibility and provide photographic opportunities.

Walk of Fame Improvements

The Starr-Gennett Walk of Fame Improvements will include the removal, relocation, repair, and replacement of the existing 29 medallions. The reconstruction will include elevating the medallions using angled, concrete platforms and protecting each medallion with a plexiglass covering. The medallions will be placed along the Whitewater Gorge Trail leading to the Starr-Gennett Facility to educate visitors on the artists' musical achievements. In addition to improvements to existing medallions, accommodations will be made to allow for the expansion of the Walk of Fame in future years.

Weir Dam Pedestrian Bridge Improvements

The Weir Dam, used to divert cooling water to a city-owned electric power plant that occupied the flat flood plain north of the Main Street bridge, was removed to promote increased functionality, safety, and water quality. To accommodate increased visitors to the area, and to promote cross-river access, improvements will be made to the existing pedestrian bridge that spans the river. The natural character of the pedestrian bridge will remain to stay true to the site's location and natural scale.



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Character Image Captions and Sources:

1. Swinging bridge needing improvements | Richmond, IN; TSWDG
2. Historic railroad arches, near Wayne County Veteran's Memorial Park | TSWDG
3. Starr Gennett Walk of Fame medallion | Richmond, IN; Richmond Music Festival and Gennett Walk of Fame
4. Proposed view of Walk of Fame reconstruction | TSWDG
5. Richmond gateway signage improvements | Richmond, IN; Pal item



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C&O Depot Improvements

In 2015 the city purchased the building and the 13-acre site it sits on from the CSX Railroad Corporation. Today the building is in need of improvements to the existing mechanical, electrical, plumbing and life safety/ fire protection systems. In addition to the internal utility systems, the structure will require improvements to the exterior limestone and brick veneer, the interior wall surfacing and minor structural systems including the stairs. Following these improvements, the building can be made available for meetings and events.

Whitewater Gorge Trail Improvements

Whitewater Gorge Trail improvements will include pavement maintenance and replacement as needed, drainage and railing improvements. Comprehensive trail signage including mile markers, trailhead information kiosks, and standard rules and regulations signage will be placed along the pathway. Further, pedestrian rest nodes with specialty paving will be located along the Whitewater Gorge Trail to provide seating, litter receptacles, bicycle racks, and interpretive signage for trail users.

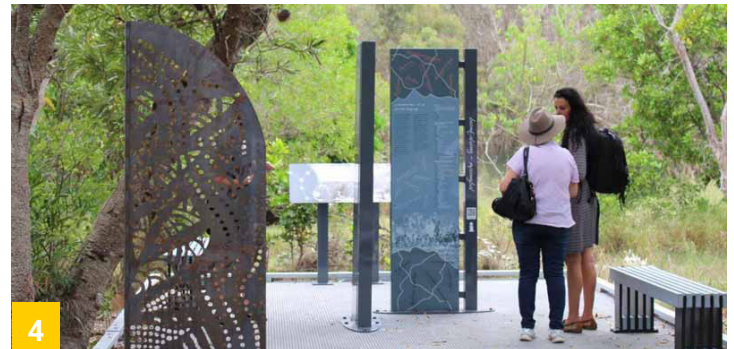
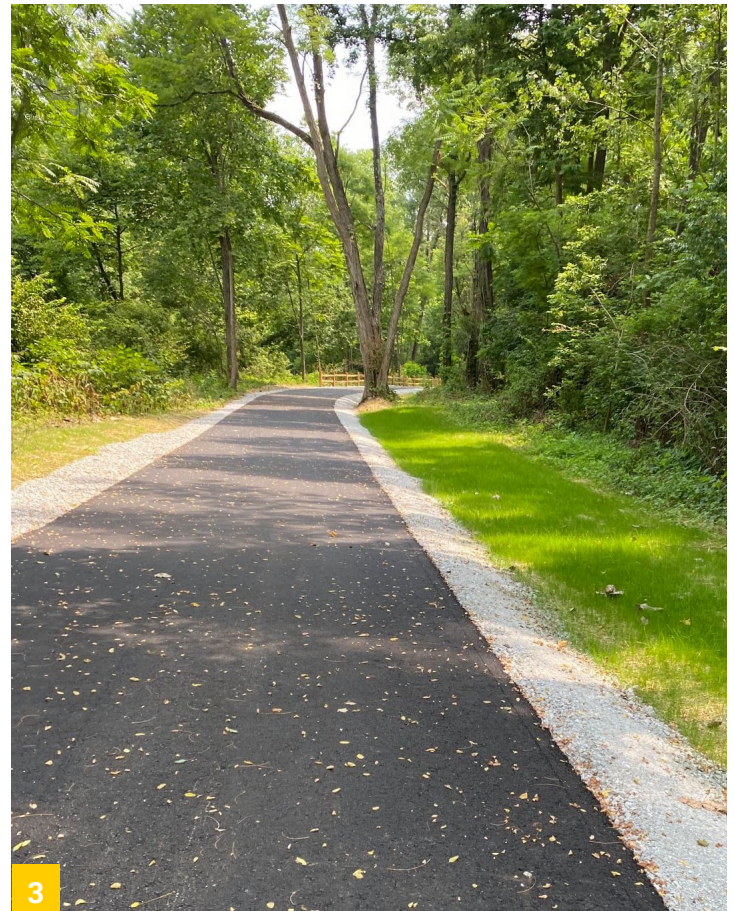
Footpath Clearing and Marking

While the Whitewater Gorge Trail traverses the entirety of Whitewater Gorge Park, in many cases the trail is located a considerable distance from the river. In several areas along the river, there are existing unpaved trails. Additionally, these paths could also be used in future improvement phases to meet construction and emergency access requirements.

Plantings and Invasive Removal

Invasive species removal will continue throughout Whitewater Gorge North per the guidelines established in the Whitewater Gorge Invasive Species Management Plan. Revegetation efforts will be used to help restore each of the ecosystems in the area, including forests and riparian wetlands, where invasive species have been eliminated or minimized, to enable the conservation of natural resources.





Character Image Captions and Sources:

1. Current C&O Depot condition and character | TSWDG
2. Proposed C&O Depot facility use | TSWDG
3. General trail characteristics | Richmond, IN; Department of Parks and Recreation
4. Trail wayfinding signage example | Ballina Cultural Ways, South Wales, Australia

Gorge Central

ENHANCE: Projects and Improvements

Short to mid-term recreational enhancements include the following:

Boardwalk and Riparian Improvements

Along the eastern edge of the Whitewater River, overgrown vegetation will be cleared to create open views of the waterway. To allow visitors the opportunity to interact with the water, a new boardwalk will be developed that spans existing habitats and wetlands along the riparian corridor. Interpretive signage will be added to educate visitors on the unique ecology and hydrology present on-site. Where appropriate, native plantings will be introduced to enhance the existing riverbank and protect it from erosion and disturbance.

Native Meadow

The existing lawn area adjacent to the Whitewater Gorge Trail pedestrian bridge will be revegetated with native grasses and annual and perennial wildflowers to create a pollinator meadow. This meadow will provide critical habitat for declining bee and butterfly populations that help increase the overall health and productivity of an ecosystem. In addition to providing habitat for bees and butterflies, the meadow will also provide habitat for native mammals, reptiles and amphibians, prevent sediment erosion, and protect the surrounding landscape. The area will serve as a colorful, visual backdrop to the existing trees, trail, and event lawn and minimize maintenance requirements along the Whitewater River corridor.





Character Image Captions and Sources:

1. *Proposed Whitewater Gorge boardwalk | TSWDG*
2. *Proposed Whitewater Gorge boardwalk | TSWDG*
3. *Floral Team Meadow character | Glacial Lakes State Park; Minnesota Trails*

Starr-Gennett Facility Improvements and Event Lawn

The existing Starr-Gennett Facility will receive minor upgrades to provide for a more enhanced entryway to the building, and a more efficient drop-off and loading area for events. Additionally, the building's heating system will be improved to provide opportunities for year-round events, both inside and out. To enhance the Starr-Gennett venue, south of the facility, the Whitewater Gorge Trail will lead visitors to an enhanced event lawn. The wide open space, which largely exists today, will be improved to include seating and space for open play and programmed events.

Bouldering Garden and Adventure Playground

To tie the site's history and natural beauty together, an adventure play area will be added with features that are designed for children, youth, and adults. The children and youth area will feature nature-inspired play structures including tree stumps, animal sculptures, play nets, small rocks, and a large slide. The bouldering garden, designed for older children and adults, will feature small to large rocks and boulders meant for climbing.

C&O Depot and Garage Snack Bar Transformation

With structural and system improvements being provided in earlier phases, future improvements to the C&O Depot structure will allow for the building to be used as a cultural event center with ties to Downtown Richmond and the Depot District. The building will be fitted with amenities to better serve ongoing events and meetings, as well as interpretive signage outlining the site's history, past uses, and current features. Along with the improvements to the primary structure, the smaller outbuilding will also be improved to serve as a snack shop utilizing a third-party vendor for services and offerings.





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Character Image Captions and Sources:

1. Proposed adventure playground at Starr Gennett | TSWDG
2. Proposed bouldering garden at Starr Gennett | TSWDG
3. Proposed activities at new C&O Depot | TSWDG
4. Wedding at improved Starr Gennett event lawn | TSWDG

Gorge Central

BROADEN: Projects and Improvements

Mid to long-term broaden improvements include the following:

Amphitheater and Performance Lawn

The Star-Gennett Amphitheater and performance lawn will be the site for regional concerts and events, drawing visitors from across the Midwest. With a stage pavilion, located south of the Starr-Gennett Facility, the outdoor atmosphere, and scenic park views will provide for a perfect setting for seasonal concert experiences. The site will include infrastructure that supports live music performances, food trucks, and vendors. While the facilities will be targeted to regional events, the city will benefit from the venue and will have the opportunity to expand community festivals, concerts, and recreation events.

Starr-Gennett Ghost Structures

To celebrate the history of the Starr-Gennett Company, the former structures will be memorialized through minimalistic, structural steel frames erected to suggest the outlines of the factory buildings. The primary factory building will flank the east side of the Whitewater River. Interpretive signage with digital QR codes will be included in the reconstruction work to link visitors to historic photos, videos, and 3D imagery of the site. The ghost structures will be available to rent for special events in conjunction with the Starr-Gennett Facility.

High Trestle Trail with improved neighborhood access

The corridor, which runs from the C&O Depot to G Street, provides a continuous corridor with opportunities for connections to the Whitewater Gorge Park, the Cardinal Greenway, and downtown Richmond. The elevated portions of the corridor will be reinforced to stabilize the existing masonry columns and overhead structures and new pedestrian infrastructures, such as decking and guardrails, will be added. The portions of the corridor that are at-grade will be paved to include a wide, multi-use trail. Trailheads will be added near C Street, D Street, E Street, and 5th Street. Trailheads will provide connectivity to local city streets and trails and will include interpretive and informational signage, specialty paving, benches, litter receptacles, and bicycle racks for trail users. A new trailhead parking lot near 5th Street will accommodate visiting trail users.



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Character Image Captions and Sources:

1. Proposed Starr Gennett Amphitheater | TSWDG
2. Proposed ghost structures to illustrate former buildings | TSWDG
3. Amphitheater character | Jamie Hurd Amphitheater
4. Ghost structure character | Davidsonville Historic Park
5. High trestle trail character | Trail bridge over highway near Disgby, NS; Algonquin Bridge



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Gorge Central

PROGRAM: Active recreation, festivals and events

Short, mid and long-term programming improvements include the following:

Public Art

Within Whitewater Gorge Central, public art in the form of murals or decorative lighting can be incorporated under the railroad arches near Main Street. Additional sculpture installations may also be considered at the proposed trailheads and along the Whitewater Gorge Trail.

Events, Educational Classes, and Camps

Within Whitewater Gorge Central, there are a variety of opportunities to host and expand community events and programs at multiple scales using the natural vegetation, trail access, and adventure-themed amenities as a foundation for programmatic development and expansion. The following existing and proposed activities could be hosted out of Whitewater Gorge Central facilities.





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Character Image Captions and Sources:

1. Star Gennett wedding set up | Picture Perfect Photo Booth
2. Winter Farmers Market vendor exhibit | TSWDG
3. Winter Farmers Market vendor exhibit | RFM Advisory Team
4. Public art along trail and sidewalk pavement | Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation
5. Annual Easter Egg Hun | Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation

Gorge Central

Activity and Event Opportunities

Fitness and Sports

- Walking Club
- Walk with a Doc
- CICOA Health Walk
- 5K Walks/ Runs
- Cycling Clubs

Youth Programs

- JUKO
- Little JUKO
- JUKO ROCKS!
- Summer Sports Camp

Family Programs

- Get Moving Monday
- Picnic-Me-Up Wednesdays
- Seasonal Trail Clean-Up Days
- Outdoor Movie Series
- Family Bike Rides
- Family Trail Walks

Special Events

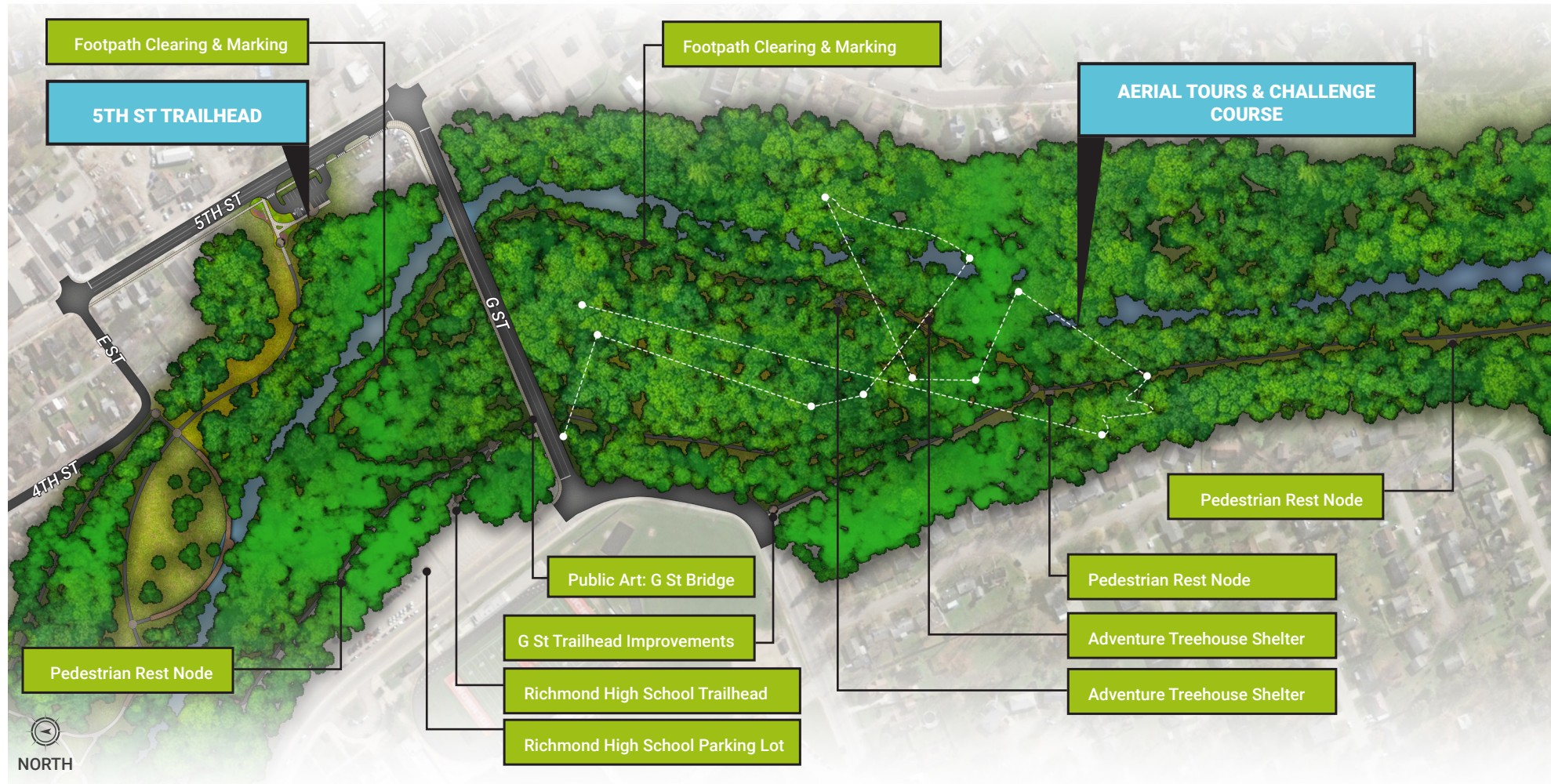
- Celebration of Lights
- Aerial Adventures
- Team Building Activities
- Trail and Waterway Photo Contests
- Shakespeare in the Park
- Winter Farmers Market

Environmental

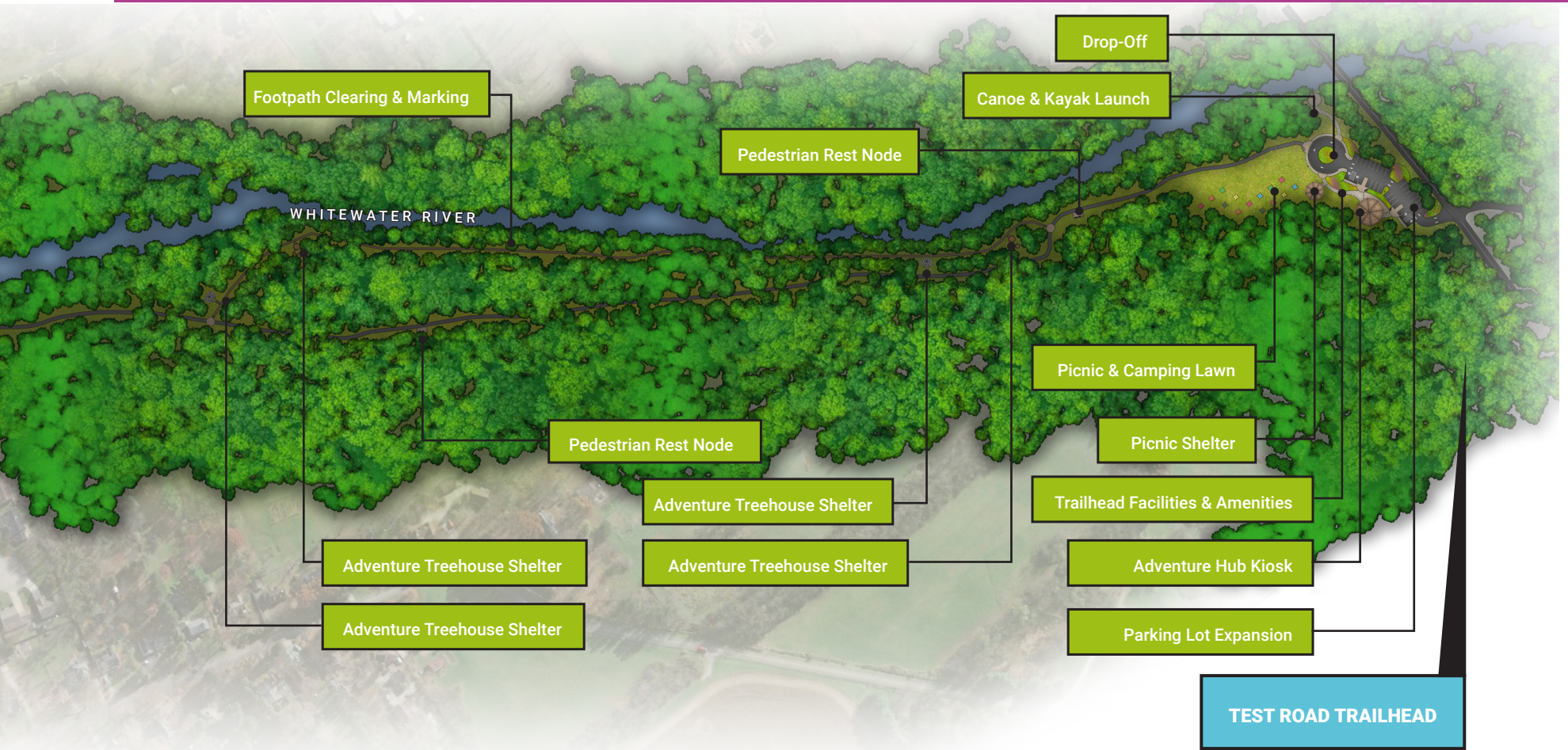
- Invasive Classes
- Native Trees, Shrubs & Flower Walks
- Proper Pruning Techniques
- Plant identification classes/ walks

Gorge South District

A Destination Amongst the Trees



Imagine turning into the Test Road Trailhead in the early evening to pick up your child after a fun-filled day of camp. As you park and exit your car you see small groups of people pulling their canoes and kayaks out of the water so they can return them to the nearby rental hub. You see picnic areas with blankets stretched out, and groups of kids playing frisbee. Above your head you see people whizzing by on the aerial zipline tour. As you keep moving down the path you find a treehouse overlooking the water, where you meet your friends for a picnic. You quickly realize that it only took a five-minute walk to escape the sounds of the neighborhood.



Gorge South

District Overview and Intent

Improvements to the nearly 50-acre Whitewater Gorge South will preserve and protect the Gorge by creating a destination atmosphere that encourages visitors to explore the historical, geological, and natural assets of the Gorge.

- Improvements to existing amenities including an enhanced parking lot and entryway, trail resurfacing, enhanced split-rail fencing, pedestrian rest nodes, and interpretive trail signage are intended to create a renewed interest in the area by welcoming visitors into the space in a safe and inviting way.
- New recreational amenities are intended to capitalize on river views and transform the area into an “Adventure Hub” with the addition of nature-inspired amenities to encourage outdoor recreation and exploration.
- Proposed development in the Whitewater Gorge includes parkwide enhancements and amenities such as picnic tables and shelters, multi-use trails, large and small treehouses, zip lines, canopy tours, aerial challenge courses, kayak/canoe launches, public art and comprehensive park and trail signage.
- Improvements to the Whitewater Gorge between Test Road and the Starr-Gennett Area will build a strong foundation for destination activities by maintaining and repairing existing amenities and implementing new features for the community and regional visitors.





Proposed Starr Gennett event lawn and boardwalk | TSWDG

Gorge South

MAINTAIN: Projects and Improvements

Short-term maintenance improvements include the following:

Parking Lot Expansion

Parking lot improvements include milling and overlaying the existing asphalt surface of the east parking lot and providing a new parking lot and drop-off area that will incorporate handicap parking and accommodate future “Adventure Hub” activities, including shuttles and kayak/canoe trailers.

Test Road Trailhead Improvements

Test Road Trailhead improvements will include a parking lot expansion, trailhead facilities and amenities, and native shade tree and perennial plantings.

Trailhead Facilities and Amenities

Trailhead facilities and amenities will include ADA-compliant concrete walks, specialty paving areas at the drop-off area, additional fencing to match existing split-rail fencing, pedestrian lighting, picnic tables, a flag pole, and signage including a trailhead gateway sign, a trailhead information kiosk, and standard rules and regulation signage.

Whitewater Gorge Trail Improvements

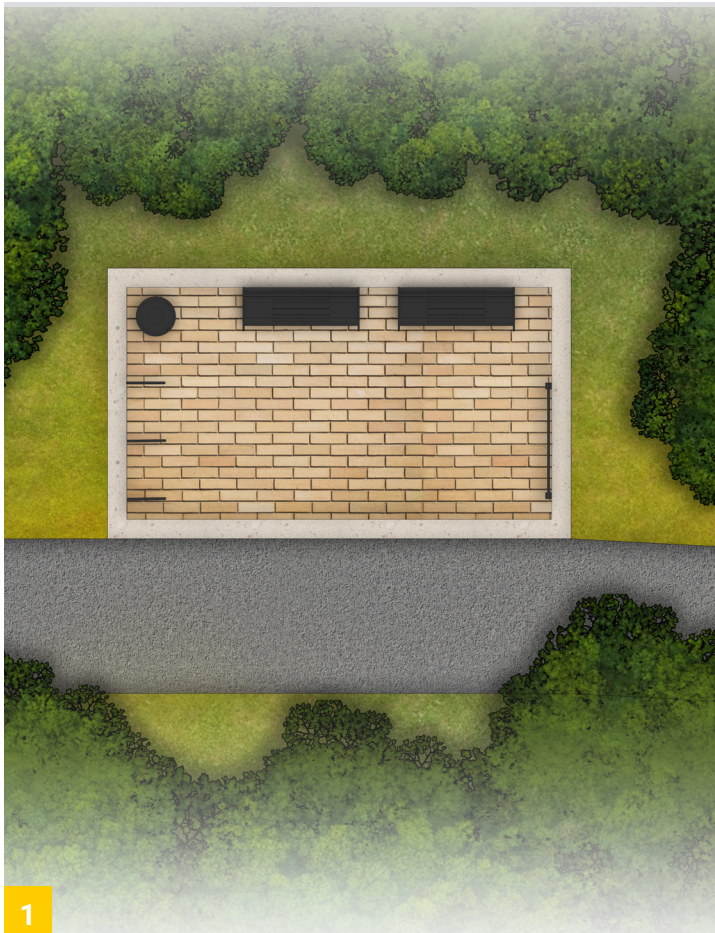
Whitewater Gorge Trail improvements will include pavement maintenance and replacement as needed, drainage improvements, and split-rail fencing upgrades. Comprehensive trail signage including mile markers, trailhead information kiosks, and standard rules and regulations signage will be placed along the pathway. Further, pedestrian rest nodes with specialty paving will be located along the Trail to provide seating, litter receptacles, bicycle racks, and interpretive signage for trail users.

Footpath Clearing and Marking

While the Whitewater Gorge Trail traverses the entirety of Whitewater Gorge Park, in many cases the trail is located a considerable distance from the river. In several areas along the river, there are existing unpaved trails. Additionally, these paths could also be used in future improvement phases to meet construction and emergency access requirements.

Plantings and Invasive Removal

Invasive species removal will continue throughout Whitewater Gorge North per the guidelines established in the Whitewater Gorge Invasive Species Management Plan. Revegetation efforts will be used to help restore each of the ecosystems in the area, including forests and riparian wetlands, where invasive species have been eliminated or minimized, to enable the conservation of natural resources.



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Character Image Captions and Sources:

1. Proposed pedestrian node along Whitewater Gorge Trail | TSWDG
2. Rest node example | Latah Trail, Moscow, Idaho; Moscow Parks and Recreation
3. Wayfinding signage example | Traverse City, Michigan; Up North Trails
4. Seasonal trail character | North Coast Inland Trail; Lorraine County Metro Parks
5. Trail materials and crossings | Pleasant Run Trail, Indianapolis, IN; TSWDG



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Gorge South

ENHANCE: Projects and Improvements

Short to mid-term recreational enhancements include the following:

Picnic and Primitive Camping Lawn

North of the Test Road trailhead, the Whitewater Gorge Trail will lead visitors to an enhanced picnic and primitive camping lawn. The wide-open space, which largely exists today, will be improved to include a large picnic shelter with picnic tables that can accommodate both small and large groups. Wide open lawns, surrounded by mature trees will provide a cozy space for open play and programmed primitive camping events.

Canoe and Kayak Launch

Building on the Test Road trailhead, a new public access site will be provided to give park visitors the opportunity to explore the Whitewater River by canoe or kayak. This site will provide visitors with launching and paddling opportunities within the upper watershed of the Whitewater Gorge and will serve as a take-out point for visitors who entered the river to the north. With access to free passenger vehicle and trailer parking spaces in at the Whitewater Gorge Trailhead, visitors will have a convenient way to access and enjoy the Whitewater River and Gorge amenities.





Character Image Captions and Sources:

1. Proposed kayak and canoe launch at Test Road | TSWDG
2. Picnic shelter example | Richmond, IN; Richmond Parks and Recreation
3. Waco River Kayak launch | Waco Tribune
4. Primitive camping event | Red River Gorge Geologic Area; thedyrt
5. Village Hall Park | Waterford, Racine County; Fabulous Fox Water Trail Access Sites

Adventure Treehouse Shelters

Nestled among the trees along the Whitewater Gorge Trail and its footpaths, a series of accessible, adventure treehouse shelters will spark interest from visitors young and old. Two large treehouses will be designed to provide unique views of the river, surrounding habitats, and fall foliage. Smaller treehouses will be scattered along the trail to provide opportunities for shelter, small events, and imaginative play.

Whitewater Gorge Trail Expansion and Trailhead Improvements

At the G Street Trailhead, which connects the Richmond High School campus to Whitewater Gorge Park, additional trail and site enhancements will include stairway and grading improvements to ensure that this segment of the trail is safe and accessible to all trail users. At the trailhead, interpretive and informational signage will be provided along with standard rules and regulations signage. Additional amenities including specialty paving, benches, litter receptacles, and bicycle racks for trail users will be provided so that the trailhead is an amenity for the high school campus and Whitewater Gorge Trail users.





Character Image Captions and Sources:

1. *Proposed treehouse shelter and look out point | TSWDG*
2. *Proposed treehouse shelter and look out point | TSWDG*

Gorge South

BROADEN: Projects and Improvements

Mid to long-term broaden improvements include the following:

Adventure Hub Kiosk

Using the Test Road Trailhead parking lot as a foundation, an Adventure Hub building will be developed as an anchor structure. The Adventure Hub will serve as a welcome center, providing check-in and ticketing facilities for aerial tours, educational opportunities, public restrooms, changing facilities, rental opportunities, general storage, and vending machines.

Aerial Zipline Tours and Challenge Course

Exciting parklands and miles of trailways are well-suited for expansion into seasonal aerial adventures. Utilizing a third-party vendor, a primary operational season would be implemented on the weekends in May and run daily from June 1st – October 15th. Operating the aerial adventure activities alongside the summer activities such as the farmers market is proposed to maximize course use and throughput numbers. Additional operations could be explored to take more advantage of Spring and Fall seasons. In total, the area can accommodate a course that includes 7 ziplines and 2 sky bridges. When complete, the aerial adventure course will provide a 1.5-2 hour experience to local and regional visitors.



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Character Image Captions and Sources:

1. Proposed adventure hub kiosk at Test Road park entrance | TSWDG
2. Example yurt structure | Smiling Woods Yurts
3. Example nature center display space | Harriet Alexander Nature Center, Roseville, MN
4. Example zipline activity in conjunction with aerial adventure course

Gorge South

PROGRAM: Active recreation, festivals and events

Short, mid and long-term programming improvements include the following:

Public Art

Within Whitewater Gorge South, public art in the form of murals or decorative lighting can be incorporated under the G Street Bridge. Additional sculpture installations may also be considered at the proposed trailheads and along the Whitewater Gorge Trail.

Events, Educational Classes, and Camps

Within Whitewater Gorge South, there are a variety of opportunities to host and expand community events and programs at multiple scales using the natural vegetation, trail access, and adventure themed amenities as a foundation for programmatic development and expansion. The existing and proposed activities listed on page 67 could be hosted out of Whitewater Gorge South facilities.



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Character Image Captions and Sources:

1. Frostbite 5K event | Richmond, IN; Department of Parks and Recreation
2. Outdoor Explorers Camp | Carmel Parks and Recreation
3. JUKO youth camp | Richmond, IN; Department of Parks and Recreation
4. Bear Creek Lake Park Haunted Trail | City of Lakewood, CO

Gorge South

Activity and Event Opportunities

Fitness and Sports

Walking Club

Walk with a Doc

CICOA Health Walk

5K Walks/ Runs

Cycling Clubs

IYAK Indiana Kayakers Club

Hoosier Canoe and Kayak Club

Youth Programs

JUKO

Little JUKO

JUKO Rocks

Summer Sports Camp

Family Programs

Picnic-Me-Up Wednesdays

Primitive Camping and Scout Campouts

Seasonal Trail Clean-Up Days

Family Bike Rides

Family Trail Walks

Special Events

Whitewater River Paddling Days

Halloween Howl

Celebration of Lights

Haunted Trail

Aerial Adventures

Team Building Activities

Environmental

Invasive Classes

Native Trees, Shrubs & Flower Walks

Proper Pruning Techniques

Plant identification classes/ walks



04

Implementation



Implementation

Phased Capital Improvements

Change with the Whitewater Gorge will require an incremental process of capital improvements subject to the annual budgeting process of the City and Parks Board as well as associated funding and fundraising efforts held in support of the priority projects. The Whitewater Gorge Activation Plan identifies individual projects that can be designed and built reasonably independent of one another. To provide an organization and general hierarchy of phased work, each proposed project has been assigned to one of four categories:



Groundwork

Administrative items that are needed to research and finalize partnerships and processes ahead of physical construction.



Maintain and Repair

Projects that aim to improve or repair existing facilities, spaces and/ or amenities within or adjacent to the Whitewater Gorge Park. These are projects with short timelines and will require few partners and small to moderate financial needs.



Expand and Educate

Projects that add new locally-oriented recreational components to the Whitewater Gorge Park. These are projects with mid to long timelines and will require multiple partners and moderate financial resources



Activate and Explore

Projects that add new regionally-oriented recreational components to the Whitewater Gorge Park. These are projects with long timelines and will require multiple partners and large financial resources.

Project and Phase Summary

The four project categories align with the priorities shared by Department staff, stakeholders, and general residents. In addition to the community engagement efforts hosted for the *Whitewater Gorge Activation Plan*, the Richmond community had the opportunity to weigh in on priorities during the development of the *2020 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan*. In total, over 1,000 public responses were collected in addition to those responses captured during the in-person public workshops. The results indicated that the maintenance of existing parks and facilities should be viewed as a priority. As secondary focus areas, the community prioritizes the enhancement of park amenities such as playgrounds, trails, and site amenities as well as the enhancement of park facilities including existing buildings.

These future priorities were discussed during the early phases of the activation planning process. It became clear that the community showcases a deep appreciation for the City's existing parks, open spaces, trails, and recreational programs. By first maintaining the areas and amenities that exist, efforts can then be invested into expanding amenities to meet the needs of the community. Once complete, the parks, facilities, and amenities within the Whitewater Gorge can become the stepping stones for regional recreation in the future.

The projects within each category are not sequentially ordered, recognizing that funding will determine which mix of projects may be pursued during any one timeframe.

Many of the identified projects occur within the 100-year floodplain of the Whitewater Gorge and will require early consultation with various City, State, and potentially Federal agencies. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources will require preliminary coordination to help guide the development of any concepts that interact with the flow of the river and the capacity of floodplain areas.

The Activation Plan provides an initial master plan level of detail, identifying the magnitude of estimated costs for budgetary purposes. The numbers shown are a present-day (2022) combination of both hard and soft project costs. Hard costs are those designated for construction and exclude costs of land acquisition, significant demolition or stabilization, and escalation of construction costs due to phasing. Soft costs include design and engineering fees and contingencies associated with pre-construction and post-construction activities.

Project and Phase Summary

MAINTAIN AND REPAIR

Whitewater Gorge Trail Improvements	\$767,060
Test Road Trailhead Improvements	\$842,2564
Starr-Gennett Facility Improvements	\$1,493,424
Bicentennial Park Fossil Exploration	\$1,990,512
C&O Depot Repair and Renovation	\$299,088
Thistlethwaite Falls	\$278,640

EXPAND AND EDUCATE

Whitewater Gorge Trail Treehouses	\$1,511,400
Adventure Playground and Bouldering Garden	\$1,639,152
Boardwalk and Riparian Improvements	\$1,932,192
Wier Dam Boat Launch	\$566,640
Meadow Trail and 5th Street Trailhead	\$2,875,968
Depot Plaza	\$2,651,040

ACTIVATE AND EXPLORE

Whitewater Gorge Trail Expansion	\$2,063,808
Test Road Trailhead Aerial Adventure Hub	\$1,308,672
High Trestle Trail	\$5,322,672
Starr-Gennett Amphitheater and Performance Lawn	\$5,654,736
Starr-Gennett Ghost Structures	\$2,510,700
Depot Park	\$2,139,840

Groundwork projects are expected to be low cost, research focused efforts and are not included within the summary table.



Navigable Waterways Approval

According to the Indiana Navigable Waterways Roster, no waterway in Wayne County, including the East Fork Whitewater River, has been declared navigable or non-navigable. While in many cases, the land on both sides of the river in Whitewater Gorge Park is owned by the City of Richmond, private landowners bordering the waterway may own the riverbed to the center of the river, as well as the shoreline above the high watermark. In these areas, you are allowed to ride on the water, but getting out of your boat, canoe, or kayak to portage or rest in shallow water (unless it is an emergency) may be considered trespassing.

In order to ensure that water recreation on the East Fork Whitewater River is safe and accessible for all, the city should consider a petition to the Indiana Natural Resources Commission to declare the river as navigable along the entire length of the East Fork from the northern reaches of Brookville Lake to the Middle Fork Reservoir.

Ownership and public recreational and commercial usage of the surface of a river often depends on whether the waterway has been deemed navigable. According to the traditional law of navigability in Indiana, “A river is navigable if it could have been employed for commercial boat traffic when Indiana became a state in 1816,” (Indiana Natural Resources Commission).

At the state level, legislative declarations by the Indiana Natural Resources Commission may declare specific waters as navigable. In accordance with IC 14-29, “The board of county commissioners of each county may declare any stream or watercourse in the county navigable on the petition of at least twenty-four (24) freeholders of the county residing in the vicinity of the stream.” Upon the filing of the petition, “The board of county commissioners shall have an examination of the stream or watercourse made by a suitable person to ascertain and report to the board of county commissioners: (1) the length of the stream or watercourse; and (2) how much of the stream or watercourse is capable of being declared navigable,” (IC 14-29). If the board is satisfied with the report, the board shall declare the stream navigable as a public utility (IC 14-29).

Other legal foundations may authorize public usage, such as prescriptive easements and declaration of the waterway as a “recreational stream,” (Indiana Natural Resources Commission).



Third-Party Vendor Research and Agreements

Public/private partnerships are already being used by the Department to plan for and implement new projects and programs. Currently, the Department partners with individuals and both for-profit and non-profit community organizations to hold events, maintain existing amenities and develop new amenities and programs of interest. Oftentimes these partnerships are mutually beneficial and allow the Department to activate park spaces without spending capital resources. In the future, the Department could establish new partnerships to help improve the City's parks and program options while also maintaining existing partnerships.

A specific example, applicable to the Whitewater Gorge, is the use of Outfitters. Outfitters can offer specialized recreation opportunities including ziplining, aerial ropes courses, kayak rentals, and other adventure themes sports as a component of their for-profit business model. The Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation can work with identified Outfitters and applicable community organizations, such as the Wayne County Convention and Tourism Board, to form a public-private partnership with the primary goal of activating the Whitewater Gorge. Outfitters will require access to restrooms and other amenities, as well as adequate storage space for boats, life jackets, and paddles. Staffing needs will be determined by the number of people needed to accomplish tasks such as reservations and trip planning, guest services and equipment rental, shuttle drivers, and equipment maintenance.

In order to ensure that recreation opportunities advance within the Whitewater Gorge, the Department should research a variety of adventure outfitters and create an investment plan that includes both city and private investment opportunities and revenue sharing.

Case Study: Blackstone River Expeditions

The Blackstone Valley Tourism Council (BVTC), located in Central Falls, Rhode Island, is responsible for transforming Rhode Island's Blackstone Valley into a vibrant destination. Through partnerships with local communities, state and federal governments, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses, the Council has increased the number of visitors and enhanced their experiences. The rental program, otherwise known as Blackstone River Expeditions, is a project of the BVTC that allows canoes and kayaks to be rented at a rate of \$20 to \$50 depending on the size of the watercraft. Proceeds from the rentals go to fund a free youth canoe and kayak rental program, which aims to introduce youth to watersports and educate them on the Blackstone River.

Case Study: Whimsies Paddle Adventures

In May 2022, the Wallaceburg City Council approved a lease agreement with the Downtown Wallaceburg BIA for a new kayak rental kiosk in downtown Wallaceburg, which will operate annually from May to October in the heart of downtown. The initiative was funded by a \$3,000 grant the BIA received in 2021 from the Chatham-Kent "Spark" Program, aimed at developing new tourism ideas.



Whitewater Gorge Trail Improvements



Project Summary:

The project includes asphalt surface maintenance, split-rail fencing repairs, drainage improvements, segmental retaining wall repairs at the Richmond High School Trailhead, and existing signage repairs.

Project Features:

- Asphalt repair and replacement
- Split rail fence repair and replacement
- Drainage and retaining wall improvements
- New and/or repaired wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Informational kiosks
- Rest nodes
- Pedestrian/ Bicycle amenities



Potential Resources & Partners:

- Indiana Department of Natural Resources & Land and Water Conservation Funds
- City Council / City Redevelopment Commission
- Richmond Maintenance Division (Labor and materials)
- Richmond Floral Team (Vegetation removal and plantings)
- Individual Donations (Benches, Trash Receptacles, Bicycle Racks)



WHITEWATER GORGE TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

1	TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS	\$62,000
2	WHITEWATER GORGE TRAIL SIGNAGE	\$7,000
3	MINOR TRAILHEAD: VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK ENTRANCE	\$9,500
4	MAJOR TRAILHEADS (NO PARKING) SIGNAGE	\$31,500
5	PEDESTRIAN REST NODES	\$160,600
4	STARR-GENNETT WALK OF FAME	167,500
5	SITE WORK	109,800

PROJECT SUBTOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY \$657,480

DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND PERMITTING SERVICES \$109,580

PROJECT TOTAL \$767,060

No project prerequisites exist.



Test Road Trailhead Improvements



Project Summary:

The project includes an ADA-compliant asphalt parking lot expansion that will incorporate handicap parking and accommodate future "Adventure Hub" activities, including shuttles and kayak/canoe trailers.

Project Features:

- Improved parking lot with trailer parking
- Trailhead gateway signage
- Decorative split rail fencing
- Pedestrian lighting
- Enhanced sidewalks
- Picnic shelter
- Picnic tables



Potential Resources & Partners:

- Indiana Department of Natural Resources & Land and Water Conservation Funds
- City Council \ City Redevelopment Commission
- Richmond Maintenance Division (Labor and materials)
- Richmond Floral Team (Vegetation removal and plantings)
- Individual Donations (Benches, Trash Receptacles, Bicycle Racks)



TEST ROAD TRAILHEAD IMPROVEMENTS

1	PAVEMENTS & CURBING	\$235,000
2	WALLS	\$4,900
3	FURNISHINGS	\$69,700
4	SPECIALTY STRUCTURES	\$90,800
5	SIGNAGE	\$35,500
4	LANDSCAPING	\$32,000
5	SITE WORK	\$117,000

PROJECT SUBTOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY \$701,880

DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND PERMITTING SERVICES \$140,376

PROJECT TOTAL \$842,256

No project prerequisites exist.



Starr-Gennett Facility Improvements



Project Summary:

The project includes improvements to the existing entryway which will remove the existing plastic dividers. Additional improvements to both the mechanical and electrical systems will create opportunities for more efficient heating, lighting, and vendor-focused events.

Project Features:

- Enhanced entryway
- Improved winterization
- Energy-efficient heating and cooling
- Energy-efficient lighting
- Increased electrical service for events



Potential Resources & Partners:

- Starr-Gennett Foundation
- City Council / City Redevelopment Commission
- Richmond Maintenance Division (Labor and materials)
- Richmond Floral Team (Vegetation removal and plantings)
- Individual Donations and Capital Campaign
- Richmond Farmers Market Advisory Team



STARR-GENNETT FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

1	BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS	\$829,600
2	SITE WORK	\$207,500

PROJECT SUBTOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY	\$1,244,520
DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND PERMITTING SERVICES	\$248,904
PROJECT TOTAL	\$1,493,424

No project prerequisites exist.



Bicentennial Park Fossil Exploration



Project Summary:

The project includes an ADA-compliant asphalt parking lot expansion that will accommodate handicap parking and larger vehicles including shuttles and kayak/canoe trailers as well as improvements to the Fossil Exploration area.

Project Features:

- Improved parking lot with trailer parking
- Trailhead gateway signage
- Site wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Decorative split rail fencing
- Pedestrian nodes with decorative pavement and amenities
- Pedestrian lighting and enhanced sidewalks
- Picnic shelter and picnic tables
- Renovated fossil exploration area



Potential Resources & Partners:

- Indiana Department of Natural Resources & Land and Water Conservation Funds
- City Council \ City Redevelopment Commission
- Richmond Maintenance Division (Labor and materials)
- Richmond Floral Team (Vegetation removal and plantings)
- Individual Donations (Benches, Trash Receptacles, Bicycle Racks)



BICENTENNIAL PARK FOSSIL EXPLORATION

1	PAVEMENTS AND CURBING	\$464,900
2	WALLS	\$83,800
3	FURNISHINGS	\$65,700
4	SIGNAGE	\$47,100
5	SPECIALTY STRUCTURES	\$350,000
6	LANDSCAPING	\$94,300
7	SITE WORK	\$276,500

PROJECT SUBTOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY	\$1,658,760
DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND PERMITTING SERVICES	\$331,752
PROJECT TOTAL	\$1,990,512

No project prerequisites exist.



C&O Depot Repair and Renovation



Project Summary:

The project includes the repair and renovation of the existing C&O Depot building to ensure that it is up to all applicable state and industry codes. Additional improvements will be made to ensure that the building is well served by utilities, weather tight and structurally sound.

Project Features:

- Improved grading and drainage on site
- Tuckpointing of limestone and brick veneer and refinishing of exterior wood
- New doors and windows
- Lead-based paint and asbestos testing and mitigation (if applicable)
- New washroom fixtures
- Stair replacement
- New furnace and AC systems
- Restoring of all applicable site utilities (electricity, gas, water, and wastewater)
- Replacement of light fixtures (interior and exterior)
- New water heater



Potential Resources & Partners:

- City Council \ City Redevelopment Commission



C&O DEPOT REPAIR AND RENOVATION

1	DEPOT RENOVATIONS	\$207,700
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PROJECT SUBTOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY	\$249,240
DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND PERMITTING SERVICES	\$49,848
PROJECT TOTAL	\$299,088

No project prerequisites exist.

Thistlethwaite Falls



Project Summary:

The project includes the expansion of the existing off-street parking area including concrete curbs and asphalt pavement. Improved sidewalks and concrete stairs will be constructed to provide safe access to the falls.

Project Features:

- Paved parking area
- Improved sidewalks
- Improved concrete stairs
- Site wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Decorative split rail fencing
- Pedestrian nodes with decorative pavement
- Pedestrian/ Bicycle amenities



Potential Resources & Partners:

- Indiana Department of Natural Resources & Land and Water Conservation Funds
- City Council
- City Redevelopment Commission
- Richmond Maintenance Division (Labor and materials)
- Richmond Floral Team (Vegetation removal and plantings)
- Individual Donations or Capital Campaign



WHITewater GORGE TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

1	PAVEMENTS AND CURBING	\$88,700
2	WALLS	\$1,800
3	FURNISHINGS	\$6,400
4	SIGNAGE	\$9,500
5	REST NODE	\$26,900
6	SITE WORK	\$60,200

PROJECT SUBTOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY	\$232,200
DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND PERMITTING SERVICES	\$46,440
PROJECT TOTAL	\$278,640

No project prerequisites exist.



Whitewater Gorge Trail Treehouses



Project Summary:

The project includes the construction of three large treehouse shelters, and additional small-scaled treehouse play areas. The tree houses will be located along the Whitewater Gorge Trail and be accessible to trail users in the area.

Project Features:

- Three large treehouse structures
- 2-3 small scaled treehouse structures
- Lookout or observation decks with railings
- Accessible walkways to treehouses
- Site wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Pedestrian/Bicycle amenities



Potential Resources & Partners:

- City Council \ City Redevelopment Commission
- Richmond Maintenance Division (Labor and materials)
- Richmond Floral Team (Vegetation removal and plantings)
- Individual Donations or Capital Campaign
- Third Party Vendor (Investment partner)
- Visit Richmond



WHITewater GORGE TRAIL TREEHOUSES

1	ARCHITECTURE	\$916,000
2	SITE WORK	\$229,000

PROJECT SUBTOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY	\$1,374,000
DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND PERMITTING SERVICES	\$137,400
PROJECT TOTAL	\$1,511,400

Costs assume that the following previous projects are complete: Whitewater Gorge Trail Improvements and Third Party Vendor Research and Agreements.



Adventure Playground and Bouldering Garden



Project Summary:

This project includes the development of a natural play area with play equipment and features geared towards both the 2-5 and 5-12 age groups. Adjacent to the natural play area will be a bouldering garden that includes large-scale, man-made climbing boulders intended for those 12 or older.

Project Features:

- Concrete sidewalks
- Nature themed play equipment and safety surfacing
- Bouldering features (multiple scales)
- Decorative limestone and boulders
- Native plants
- Site wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Pedestrian/Bicycle amenities



Potential Resources & Partners:

- City Council
- City Redevelopment Commission
- Richmond Maintenance Division (Labor and materials)
- Richmond Floral Team (Vegetation removal and plantings)
- Individual Donations or Capital Campaign



ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND AND BOULDERING GARDEN

1	PAVEMENTS AND CURBING	\$155,700
2	BOULDERING FEATURES	\$256,300
3	PLAY BRIDGE	\$31,400
4	NATURAL PLAY FEATURES	\$121,300
5	LIMESTONE OUTCROPPINGS	\$271,500
6	FURNISHINGS	\$9,600
7	SIGNAGE	\$14,600
8	LANDSCAPING	\$202,800
9	SITE WORK	\$227,800

PROJECT SUBTOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY \$657,480

DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND PERMITTING SERVICES \$109,580

PROJECT TOTAL \$767,060

Costs assume that the following previous projects are complete: Starr-Gennett Facility Improvements.



Boardwalk and Riparian Improvements



Project Summary:

This project includes the construction of a boardwalk along the bank of the Whitewater Gorge River. Connections will be provided from the boardwalk to the adjacent Whitewater Gorge Trail.

Project Features:

- Concrete sidewalks
- Boardwalk deck and railings
- Invasive clearing and removal
- Native plants
- Site wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Pedestrian/Bicycle amenities



Potential Resources & Partners:

- Starr-Gennett Foundation
- City Council \ City Redevelopment Commission
- Richmond Maintenance Division (Labor and materials)
- Richmond Floral Team (Vegetation removal and plantings)
- Individual Donations or Capital Campaign



BOARDWALK AND RIPARIAN IMPROVEMENTS

1	PAVEMENTS	\$22,200
2	BOARDWALK	\$881,800
3	RIPARIAN IMPROVEMENTS	\$169,300
4	SITE WORK	\$268,500

PROJECT SUBTOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY	\$1,610,160
DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND PERMITTING SERVICES	\$322,032
PROJECT TOTAL	\$1,932,192

Costs assume that the following previous projects are complete: Starr-Gennett Facility Improvements.

Weir Dam Boat Launch



Project Summary:

The project includes an ADA-compliant asphalt parking lot expansion that will incorporate handicap parking and accommodate future shuttles and kayak/canoe trailers. A new overlook and boat launch will replace the existing concrete pad and will incorporate safety railings where needed.

Project Features:

- Improved parking lot with trailer parking
- Trailhead gateway signage
- Decorative split rail fencing
- Pedestrian lighting and enhanced sidewalks
- Boat/ kayak launch
- Site wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Pedestrian/Bicycle amenities



Potential Resources & Partners:

- Indiana Department of Natural Resources & Land and Water Conservation Funds
- City Council \ City Redevelopment Commission
- Richmond Maintenance Division (Labor and materials)
- Richmond Floral Team (Vegetation removal and plantings)
- Individual Donations or Capital Campaign



WEIR DAM BOAT LAUNCH

1	PAVEMENTS AND CURBING	\$157,200
2	WEIR DAM OVERLOOK	\$113,400
3	WALLS	\$21,400
4	FURNISHINGS	\$6,400
5	SIGNAGE	\$16,300
6	SITE WORK	\$78,800

PROJECT SUBTOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY \$472,200

DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND PERMITTING SERVICES \$94,440

PROJECT TOTAL \$566,640

*Costs assume that the following previous projects are complete:
Navigable Waterways Approval.*



Meadow Trail and 5th Street Trailhead



Project Summary:

The project includes the creation of a new trail segment with trailhead access at 5th Street. A multi-use pathway will extend from 5th Street into the Gorge Park and connect with the boardwalk extending along the Whitewater Gorge River.

Project Features:

- New asphalt trail
- Pedestrian bridges with appropriate safety railings
- Pedestrian rest node
- Native plants
- Trailhead signage
- Site wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Pedestrian/Bicycle amenities



Potential Resources & Partners:

- Indiana Department of Natural Resources & Land and Next Level Trails
- City Council \ City Redevelopment Commission
- Richmond Maintenance Division (Labor and materials)
- Richmond Floral Team (Vegetation removal and plantings)
- Individual Donations or Capital Campaign
- East Central Indiana Regional Partnership (ECIRP)



MEADOW TRAIL AND 5TH STREET TRAILHEAD

1	PAVEMENTS AND CURBING	\$150,500
2	BRIDGE CONNECTOR	\$98,300
3	WALLS	\$20,600
4	BOARDWALK	\$1,133,500
5	FURNISHINGS	\$8,800
6	SIGNAGE	\$35,500
7	PEDESTRIAN REST NODE	\$26,900
8	LANDSCAPING	\$123,600
9	SITE WORK	\$399,500

PROJECT SUBTOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY \$2,396,640

DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND PERMITTING SERVICES \$479,328

PROJECT TOTAL \$2,875,968

No project prerequisites exist.

Depot Plaza



Project Summary:

The project will include the enhancement of the site surrounding the C & O Depot building and a new trail connection to the Whitewater Gorge Trail. Additional work will be done to transform the existing maintenance outbuilding into a “snack shack” which will be useable by site visitors.

Project Features:

- New concrete and curbing
- New decorative pavement
- New site walls
- Plaza gateway/ entrance signage
- Site wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Pedestrian/Bicycle amenities
- Snack shack (small structure)



Potential Resources & Partners:

- City Council \ City Redevelopment Commission
- Richmond Maintenance Division (Labor and materials)
- Richmond Floral Team (Vegetation removal and plantings)
- Individual Donations or Capital Campaign
- Visit Richmond
- Third Party Vendor (Investment partner)



DEPOT PLAZA

1	PAVEMENTS AND CURBING	\$733,800
2	WALLS	\$306,600
3	ARCHITECTURE	\$278,800
4	FURNISHINGS	\$154,100
5	LANDSCAPING	\$253,200
6	SITE WORK	\$368,300

PROJECT SUBTOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY	\$2,396,640
DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND PERMITTING SERVICES	\$479,328
PROJECT TOTAL	\$2,875,968

Costs assume that the following previous projects are complete: C&O Depot Repair and Renovation and Third Part Vendor Research and agreements.



Whitewater Gorge Trail Expansion



Project Summary:

The project includes the expansion of the Whitewater Gorge Trail, north of the C & O Depot to Thistlethwaite Falls. Rest Nodes trail signage will be located along the Whitewater Gorge Trail.

Project Features:

- New asphalt and gravel shoulders
- Split rail fence where needed
- Drainage improvements
- Retaining walls where needed
- New wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Informational kiosks
- Rest nodes
- Pedestrian/ Bicycle amenities



Potential Resources & Partners:

- Indiana Department of Natural Resources & Land and Next Level Trails
- City Council \ City Redevelopment Commission
- Richmond Maintenance Division (Labor and materials)
- Richmond Floral Team (Vegetation removal and plantings)
- Individual Donations or Capital Campaign
- East Central Indiana Regional Partnership (ECIRP)



WHITewater GORGE TRAIL EXPANSION

1	TRAIL EXPANSION	\$337,600
2	TRAIL BRIDGES	\$651,000
3	CONNECTOR NODES	\$83,700
4	MINOR TRAILHEADS	\$12,700
5	MAJOR TRAILHEADS	\$61,400
6	SITE WORK	\$286,800

PROJECT SUBTOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY	\$657,480
DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND PERMITTING SERVICES	\$109,580
PROJECT TOTAL	\$767,060

Costs assume that the following previous projects are complete: Wier Dam Boat Launch and C&O Depot Repair and Renovation.



Test Road Trailhead Aerial Adventure Hub



Project Summary:

The project includes trailhead improvements and additions to allow for a full-service Aerial Adventure business to operate within the Whitewater Gorge including 7 ziplines and 2 sky bridges will be implemented allowing for multiple canopy tour programs.

Project Features:

- Adventure Hub ticketing and restroom kiosk
- Canoe and Kayak launch facilities and improvements
- Decorative pavers and kiosk entry
- Additional parking spaces
- Kiosk gateway/ entrance signage, site wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Ziplines, Skybridges and Whitewater Gorge crossings (aerial)



Potential Resources & Partners:

- Indiana Department of Natural Resources & Land and Water Conservation Funds
- City Council \ City Redevelopment Commission
- Richmond Maintenance Division (Labor and materials)
- Richmond Floral Team (Vegetation removal and plantings)
- Individual Donations or Capital Campaign
- Visit Richmond



TEST ROAD TRAILHEAD AERIAL ADVENTURE HUB

1	PAVEMENTS AND CURBING	\$129,900
2	WALLS	\$44,000
3	FURNISHINGS	\$8,700
4	SPECIALTY STRUCTURES	\$493,400
5	LANDSCAPING	\$51,000
6	SITE WORK	\$181,800

PROJECT SUBTOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY	\$1,090,560
DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND PERMITTING SERVICES	\$218,112
PROJECT TOTAL	\$1,308,672

Costs assume that the following previous projects are complete: Whitewater Gorge Trail Improvements, Test Road Trailhead Improvements, Navigable Waterways Approval and Third Part Vendor Research and Agreements.



High Trestle Trail



Project Summary:

The project includes the creation of a new trail corridor using the high trestle, former railroad right of way that runs parallel to the Whitewater River. Included within the project is a 10' wide shared use path, and trailhead nodes at D Street, S E Street, S D Street, and S C street.

Project Features:

- New asphalt and gravel shoulders
- Split rail fence where needed
- Drainage improvements
- Retaining walls where needed
- New wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Informational kiosks
- Rest nodes with pedestrian/ Bicycle amenities



Potential Resources & Partners:

- Indiana Department of Natural Resources & Land and Next Level Trails
- City Council \ City Redevelopment Commission
- Richmond Maintenance Division (Labor and materials)
- Richmond Floral Team (Vegetation removal and plantings)
- Individual Donations or Capital Campaign
- East Central Indiana Regional Partnership (ECIRP)



HIGH TRESTLE TRAIL

1	PAVEMENT	\$133,700
2	D STREET TRAILHEAD TUNNEL	\$118,000
3	D STREE TRAILHEAD BRIDGE	\$240,900
4	HIGH TRESTLE BRIDGE	\$2,255,600
5	CONNECTOR NODES	\$35,900
6	MINOR TRAILHEADS	\$22,200
7	MAJOR TRAILHEADS	\$31,000
8	TRAIL OVERLOOK	\$119,700
8	SITE WORK	\$739,300

PROJECT SUBTOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY **\$4,435,560**

DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND PERMITTING SERVICES **\$887,112**

PROJECT TOTAL **\$5,322,672**

No project prerequisites exist.

Starr-Gennett Amphitheater and Performance Lawn



Project Summary:

The project includes the creation of an event lawn with a performance amphitheater complete with utilities to provide a high-quality sound and light experience. Additional trail nodes and connections will be made to connect the broader Richmond trail network to the event lawn and amphitheater space.

Project Features:

- Amphitheater
- Sound and light equipment
- Performance Lawn
- Concrete sidewalks and seatwalls
- Pedestrian nodes with amenities
- Trail connections to adjacent trail corridors
- Pedestrian lighting



Potential Resources & Partners:

- Starr-Gennett Foundation
- City Council \ City Redevelopment Commission
- Richmond Maintenance Division (Labor and materials)
- Richmond Floral Team (Vegetation removal and plantings)
- Individual Donations or Capital Campaign
- East Central Indiana Regional Partnership (ECIRP)



STARR-GENNETT AMPHITHEATER AND PERFORMANCE LAWN

1	PAVEMENTS AND CURBING	\$280,100
2	ARCHITECTURE	\$2,689,700
3	WALLS	\$14,400
4	FURNISHINGS	\$89,800
5	LANDSCAPING	\$67,400
6	SITE WORK	\$785,500

PROJECT SUBTOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY	\$4,712,280
DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND PERMITTING SERVICES	\$942,456
PROJECT TOTAL	\$5,654,736

Costs assume that the following previous projects are complete: Starr-Gennett Facility Improvements.



Starr-Gennett Ghost Structures



Project Summary:

The project includes the construction of a structural frame to mimic the historic factories and outbuildings previously found on the Starr Gennett campus. Digital QR codes and interpretive signage will be available to visually narrate the site's development and history.

Project Features:

- Structural framing marking building footprints
- Decorative lighting
- Interpretive signage
- Informational kiosks
- Rest nodes
- Pedestrian/ Bicycle amenities
- Digital QR codes



Potential Resources & Partners:

- Starr-Gennett Foundation
- City Council
- City Redevelopment Commission
- Richmond Maintenance Division (Labor and materials)
- Richmond Floral Team (Vegetation removal and plantings)
- Individual Donations or Capital Campaign
- Visit Richmond



STARR-GENNETT GHOST STRUCTURES

1	PAVEMENTS	\$340,400
2	GHOST STRUCTURES	\$343,700
3	WALLS	\$730,000
4	FURNISHINGS	\$96,400
5	SIGNAGE	\$29,000
6	LANDSCAPING	\$134,200
7	SITE WORK	\$418,500

PROJECT SUBTOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY \$2,092,200

DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND PERMITTING SERVICES \$418,500

PROJECT TOTAL \$2,510,700

Costs assume that the following previous projects are complete: Starr-Gennett Facility Improvements.

Depot Park



Project Summary:

The project includes the development and construction of a recreational park space adjacent to the C & O Depot at the intersection of 3rd Street and 2nd Street.

Project Features:

- New concrete and curbing
- New decorative pavement
- New site walls
- Plaza gateway/ entrance signage
- Site wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Pedestrian/Bicycle amenities



Potential Resources & Partners:

- City Council \ City Redevelopment Commission
- Richmond Maintenance Division (Labor and materials)
- Richmond Floral Team (Vegetation removal and plantings)
- Individual Donations or Capital Campaign
- Visit Richmond



DEPOT PARK

1	PAVEMENTS AND CURBING	\$385,600
2	WALLS	\$104,000
3	FURNISHINGS	\$127,800
4	SIGNAGE	\$25,000
5	RETENTION POND	\$187,300
6	LANDSCAPING	\$80,200
7	SITE WORK	\$297,300

PROJECT SUBTOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY \$1,783,200

DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND PERMITTING SERVICES \$356,640

PROJECT TOTAL \$2,139,840

Costs assume that the following previous projects are complete: C&O Depot Repair and Renovation and Depot Plaza.

