



INDY GREENWAYS

The Indy Greenways patch is a local patch program that teaches central Indiana Girl Scouts about the Indy Greenways system. The intent of the program is to raise awareness and educate young kids on the design, function, and proper use of the Indy Greenways and to demonstrate the important role that the greenways play in connecting local communities. It is also intended to instill a level of ownership, responsibility, and stewardship for the greenway system. The patch program aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Raise awareness of the Indy Greenways system, what it is, and how it is used.
- Provide a basic understanding of Indy Greenways and how to use the trails.
- Provide a basic understand of how trails and greenways benefit communities.
- Instill a responsibility for the ongoing stewardship of the greenways system.
- Instill a general interest on how the greenways can be a part of Girl Scouts' everyday lives.



Getting Started

This program has been developed to accommodate multiple age levels of girl scout troops, with specific focus on the following grade levels:

- Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies and Juniors - grades K-5.
- Girl Scout Cadettes- grades 6-8.

Troop leaders should modify the program as needed to accommodate specific troop age and grade levels.

Program Overview

The program includes three basic elements that must be completed in order to achieve the Indy Greenways patch:



Learn Indy Greenways (Educational Component) - a troop-facilitated educational session that introduces Indy Greenways, its purpose, and other important facts about the greenways and their use. The educational component includes research and discussion that can be led by volunteer troop leaders and can be completed within an one-hour working session (troop meeting).



Explore Indy Greenways Walk (Greenway Hike) - a troop-facilitated walk on one of Indianapolis' greenways to see how the basic elements researched in the educational component are conveyed in the physical design of the trail. The intent of the walk is to provide an on-site experience that helps make the educational component take on a real form.



Indy Greenways Stewardship (Community Service) - a troop facilitated community service project along one of the Indy Greenways to demonstrate community ownership and stewardship as well as the principles of the Girl Scouts' *Leave No Trace Ethic*.

As such, the program provides a dual patch earning opportunity. First, Girl Scouts successfully completing the educational component earn a unique Indy Greenways patch. A secondary patch, the Indy Greenways Stewardship Patch, provides a patch which indicates the greenway where the community service component was completed. For instance, if the community service portion of the program was completed on the Monon Trail, Girl Scouts would receive a Monon Trail designation patch to accompany the Indy Greenways patch.

Additional resources

Additional online resources and links to reference materials are available to assist in the facilitation of this program. Additional links and resources are listed on the last page of this program.



PART 1: Learn Indy Greenways

Introduction

Indy Greenways is a system of multi-use trails within the City of Indianapolis. These trails, called greenways, provide places for recreational activities such as walking, jogging, and bicycling as well as provide access to natural areas. These greenways connect many different areas of the city, and many people use the greenways as a transportation option for traveling from place to place without using a car. In many ways, the greenways serve as linear parks, creating safe places for people to get outside and enjoy nature.

Suggested learning times:

Grades K-5: 60 Mins.

Grades 6-8: 60 Mins.

The History of Indy Greenways

The idea of creating the greenways was first introduced in the city by renowned landscape architect George Kessler. In 1909, he authored the Indianapolis Parkways and Boulevards Plan (also called the “Kessler Plan”) which first planned creating pleasure walks along Indianapolis waterways to connect parks and provide space for people to walk. This was the beginning of the Indy Greenways system. In 1938, another famous landscape architect, Lawrence Sheridan helped expand these ideas to other areas within the City. These plans were the historic beginnings of the idea of the greenway system.

In the early 1990s, Indianapolis created its first Greenways Master Plan and since then has made several updates to the plan. Today, there are over 70 miles of greenways and trails in place. The most recent greenways master plan outlines where over 125 additional miles will be built in the future.

The Indy Greenways system is made up of ten (10) different trails in different parts of the city with eleven (11) new trail systems planned for the future. When the whole system is built, Indy Greenways will include 22 individual greenways and over 250 miles of trails. The oldest trail is the Fall Creek Greenway, a trail that runs along Fall Creek across the city’s near north side. One of the City’s most famous trails is the Monon Trail, a former railroad corridor that begins downtown and runs north to Sheridan.

Understanding Indy Greenways

Trail systems such as Indy greenways are often called different things. Below are some of the different terms you may hear to describe the different types of trails in the Indy Greenways system:

- **Greenways** - This term usually refers to a trail system that is built within a natural area such as along a stream, river, or in a park-like setting. The term “greenway” comes from the trail’s location within a green, natural, park-like area. There are several trails in the Indy Greenways system that occur in these types of settings: Fall Creek Greenway, White River Greenway, Central Canal Towpath, Pogues Run Greenway, and Pleasant Run Greenway.
- **Rail-Trail** - This term refers to trails that are built on old, abandoned rail corridors. These old train routes provided direct connections between cities, and once the trains stopped using these routes, they are often turned into linear parks, an ideal setting for trails. Most of the time, these old train routes

were wide enough to accommodate a trail and still have room for plantings and other trail uses such as benches and trailheads within their width. Indy Greenways currently has two rail trails: The Monon Rail-Trail and the Pennsy Rail-Trail. Two additional rail-trails are planned in the future: The B&O Rail Trail and the Vandalia Rail-Trail.

- **Trails** - The term “trail” simply refers to the actual trail or walking/riding surface in a greenway. All of Indianapolis’ designated greenways include a trail. Most of the trails in the Indy Greenways system are paved with Asphalt and are a minimum width of 8-12’ to accommodate both walkers and people on bicycles. Some trails, such as the Central Canal Towpath, have stone surfaces. All trails in the Indy Greenways system must be accessible and accommodate users of all abilities. Other terms you may hear that are similar and mean the same thing are “shared-use paths,” “multi-use trails,” or “pathways.” All three of these terms mean the same thing as a “trail” in the Indy Greenways system.
- **Sidepaths** - This term refers to a trail that is located along a street, similar to a sidewalk. It is called a sidepath because its width makes it more similar to a trail than a sidewalk. There are some greenways that include sidepaths in the current system, but this type of greenway will be developed more in the future.

How do people use the Greenways? What are the benefits of Greenways?

People use the greenways in many different ways so there are many different benefits that come from the trails. For some, the greenways and trails are a place to go for exercise and recreation. Greenways provide a great place to walk, jog, or ride a bicycle for exercise. Greenways provide a place for people to get outside and have fun, which promotes health and fitness.

Many people use the greenways for transportation---as a way to travel to work, grocery stores, bus stops or other places in their neighborhoods without using a car. Walking and biking are considered alternative transportation and many people use them to walk or bike to work everyday.

Greenways provide connections between neighborhoods, schools, local destinations or other places people want to go and provide a safe place to walk or bike. Greenways make it easier to safely walk or bike to places people like to go.

People also use greenways as a place to visit nature, a place where they can be outdoors in nature and see and learn more about the natural environment. The greenways promote educational and interpretive opportunities for users to learn about the unique environments along the greenways.

Because the greenways are so popular, they bring an economic value to the community, raising home and property values near the trail, providing opportunities for businesses along the trail, and providing awesome spots for ice cream shops!

Getting around on the Greenways

There are many things designed into the greenways to help you get to the greenways, find direction, measure your exercise, and improve your overall experience.

Trailheads provide places to park your car when you arrive at a greenway. They provide an access point for the start of your experience on the greenways. **Signage** is used to help provide information about where you are on a greenway. Signage along a greenway may tell you which greenway system you are on, may include a map, may tell you distances to certain places, or tell you the background or history of certain trails. **Emergency locator signs** provide your location in case of an emergency. **Milemarkers** help you keep track of the distance and direction you have traveled on a certain trail.

Other things you might find along different greenways include **benches, water fountains, public art, or local businesses.**

Trail “etiquette” and rules

There are trail etiquette guidelines or rules for using the trails. Users should make themselves familiar with these rules before they go out on the greenways.

1. Trail hours: Trails are open 24 hours a day.
2. Keep to the right; communicate before passing. Let other trail users know when you are approaching from behind. Signal by saying “passing on your left” and give others time to respond accordingly.
3. Maintain control and safe speed. Adjust your speed to accommodate for other users, traffic and trail conditions.
4. Pedestrians have the right-of-way on the Greenways. Bicycle riders and in-line skaters must yield to all other trail users. Parents: please keep children from wandering into oncoming trail lane to avoid accidents.
5. Share the trail and be courteous. Indy Greenways are multi-use recreational trails appropriate for walkers, joggers, in-line skaters and bicycle riders. Please respect others, regardless of their mode of travel.
6. Do not trespass or cut through adjacent properties or yards to access a Greenway.
7. Stop for cross traffic and obey all signage.
8. Respect the trail environment. Do not disturb the wildlife or the many native plants and wildflowers that grow along the Greenway.
9. Pick up litter and place in trash bins. Please remove all pet waste.
10. Keep pets on short leashes (4-6 feet max.) If using a retractable leash, please keep pets near you.

By following these simple rules, you can make sure that your experience on the greenways is fun and safe!

Taking care of our greenways

The City of Indianapolis’ Department of Parks and Recreation and Department of Public Works oversee the design, construction, and maintenance of Indy Greenways. But the greenways belong to all of us and we have the responsibility to be good stewards of the greenway system. You can help by picking up trash, reporting problems you see along the trails, and helping to make the greenways a fun and safe place to be!



Study and Review Questions

Now that you learned more about Indy Greenways, test your knowledge with the questions below. Individually or together, read the questions and see if you know the answers:

1. What is Indy Greenways? _____
2. Name three (3) ways that people use Indy Greenways. _____

3. What was the name of the landscape architect who wrote the Indianapolis Parks and Boulevard Plan which became the first step of developing the Indy Greenways system? _____
4. How many different trail segments are there in Indy Greenways today? _____
5. How many miles of trail are built in the Indy Greenways system? _____
6. What is the oldest greenway? _____
7. What is the meaning of the word "greenway?" _____

8. What are four different terms often used to describe trails in the city? _____

9. What do you call a trail built on an old, abandoned railroad path? _____
10. What do you call a trail built along the side of a street? _____
11. Name five (5) benefits of greenways. _____

12. What do you call an access point to a trail? _____
13. What feature along a greenway helps you measure your direction and distance? _____
14. What feature along a greenway can help you find direction, learn more about a specific area, or provide a map of the trail? _____
15. What can you do to help take care of the Indy Greenways? _____
16. What type of activities can you do on the greenways that promote your health and fitness? _____
17. How can using the greenways save you money? _____



Mapping Exercises

The Indy Greenways map provided in this packet shows all of Indy Greenways including both existing greenways (solid lines) and future greenways (dashed lines) laid over a map of the city. For this exercise, take a few minutes and explore the map. See how many different greenways you can find and see how they connect to different parts of the city. Once you have had a chance to review the map, see if you can complete the following exercise questions using the map:

Map exercises for grades K-5:

- Name 5 places you can go using the trails instead of driving a car.
- Where can you go on Indy Greenways?
- Identify up to 8 different areas you can visit in Indianapolis using the Indy Greenways.

Map exercises for grades 6-8:

- Identify five (5) different greenways on the map.
- Name 5 places you can go using the trails instead of driving a car.
- On the map, highlight how you can use the trail system to travel from Broad Ripple to downtown without leaving a trail.
- On the map, highlight how you can use the trail system to travel from Fort Benjamin Harrison to the Indianapolis Zoo without leaving a trail.
- Which greenway can you use to see art?
- Which greenway can you use to go downtown?
- Which greenway can you use to go to Eagle Creek Park?

Get ready to explore Indy Greenways!

Now that you've learned more about Indy Greenways, it is time to go and explore one of its trails. Before leaving the troop meeting, select a greenway you want to explore and assign one troop member to do online research about that greenway between now and your visit to the greenway. Be prepared to share your research at the beginning of your visit to the greenway. Set a time and meeting location.

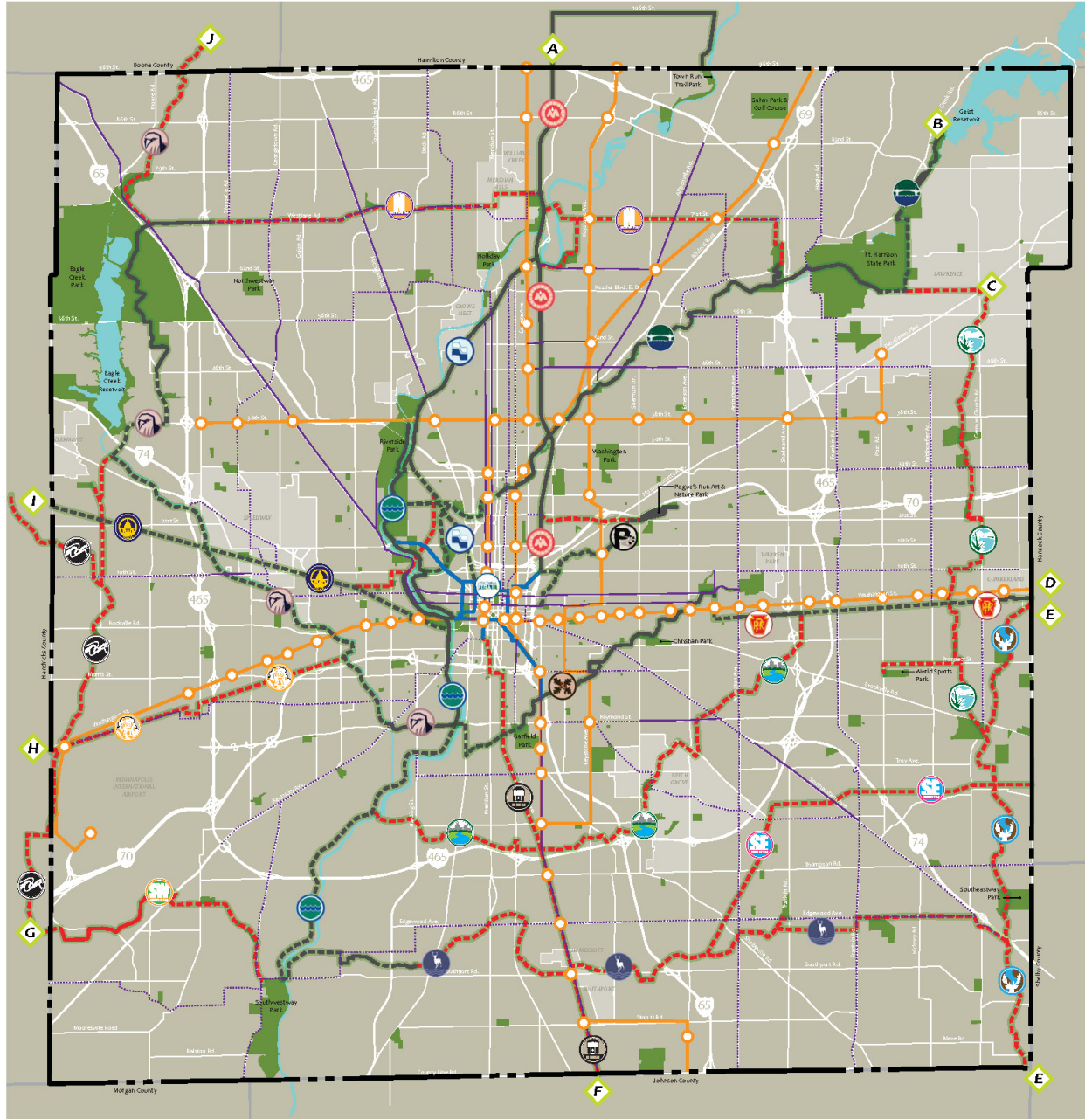
Greenway selected to explore: _____

Assigned research: _____

Date of greenway visit: _____

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2013-2023 MASTER PLAN



Legend

- NEWLY PROPOSED GREENWAY SEGMENTS
- PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED GREENWAY SEGMENTS (BUILT)
- - - PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED GREENWAY SEGMENTS (PROPOSED)
- INDIANAPOLIS CULTURAL TRAIL / H TREN TRAIL
- EXISTING BIKEWAYS
- - - PLANNED BIKEWAYS
- PLANNED TRANSIT CORRIDOR
- PLANNED TRANSIT STATION
- PARKS
- OTHER INCORPORATED AREAS

previously identified greenways

- MONON RAIL TRAIL
- CENTRAL CANAL TOWPATH
- WHITE RIVER GREENWAY
- FALL CREEK GREENWAY
- B & O RAILROAD TRAIL
- EAGLE CREEK GREENWAY
- POGUES RUN GREENWAY
- PLEASANT RUN TRAIL
- PENNY'S TRAIL
- LITTLE LICK CREEK TRAIL
- INDIANAPOLIS CULTURAL TRAIL

newly proposed greenways

- BUCK CREEK GREENWAY
- GRASSY CREEK GREENWAY
- INTERURBAN TRAIL
- LICK CREEK GREENWAY
- NORTHTOWN TRAIL
- SOUTHEAST TRAIL
- SOUTHWEST TRAIL
- VANDALIA TRAIL
- WHITE LICK CREEK GREENWAY

regional connections

- A MONON TRAIL
- B GEIST PERIMETER TRAIL
- C MADISON COUNTY INTERURBAN TRAIL
- D PENNY'S TRAIL
- E BUCK CREEK GREENWAY
- F GREENWOOD GREENWAYS
- G RONALD REAGAN PARKWAY / PLAINFIELD TRAIL SYSTEM
- H VANDALIA / NATIONAL ROAD HERITAGE TRAIL
- I B & O TRAIL BROWNSBURG
- J ZIONSVILLE RAIL TRAIL (FARM HERITAGE TRAIL)





Suggested Hike times:

Grades K-5: 30 Mins.

Grades 6-8: 30-45 Mins.

PART 2: Explore Indy Greenways

Now that you have learned about the Indy Greenways, its time to take a walk and see one of the greenways firsthand. Set a time and place along your selected greenway to meet. Items you will need:

- Appropriate clothes for the weather
- Comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots
- Notebook and pencil for drawing, taking notes, or doing rubbings
- Camera for taking pictures
- Water bottle
- Greenways map or a map of the greenway segment you are visiting.
- Gloves (for the community service portions of the trip)
- Trashbags (for the community service portion of the trip)
- Small broom and dust pan (for the community service portion of the trip)

Start your exploration

Begin by having a quick discussion about the online research completed about the trail before the visit.

Next, take a walk on the trail and discuss what you notice. Discuss the following with your friends:

- What type of trail is this?
- What is unique about this trail?
- Who do you see using the trail? How are they using it?
- What are the different ways somebody could use the trail?
- How do people get to the trail?
- Does the trail connect to other trails?

During the walk, complete the following assignments:

- Draw a picture of the trail and the areas on each side of the trail. What do you see?
- Take photos that you think show what is unique or special about the trail.
- Look around---how are people using the trail? List some of the ways you see people using this trail in your notebook.
- Make a list of some of the things you could do on this trail?
- Find a sign along the greenway. What is the purpose of that sign? How is the sign trying to help the user?
- Find a milemarker. Discuss what the numbers mean and how trail users use the milemarker to help them get around on the greenways.



Suggested Community

Service Times:

Grades K-5: 30 Mins.

Grades 6-8: 60-120 Mins.

PART 3: Stewardship

Indy Greenways belong to all of us and we have the responsibility to be good stewards of the greenway system. The term “stewardship” refers to managing, taking care of, or being responsible for something that is important. As users of Indy Greenways, we have a responsibility to help make sure the trails are taken care of. Today, as part of your exploration of the greenway you selected, you can demonstrate your stewardship of Indy Greenways and earn an additional Stewardship patch to accompany your Indy Greenways patch. This stewardship provides a community service to Indy Parks, the City of Indianapolis and the community as a whole. Complete the following:

- As a group, collect trash along the trails. Remember to wear gloves at all time during your trash collection. If you come across glass or other dangerous items, DO NOT PICK IT UP and notify your troop leader for instructions.
- Make a list of any damaged or problem areas (broken signs, downed trees, significant brush piles, damaged trails) that need to be reported to the city. After your service project, compile the list and report it to the Indy Greenways Manager at Andre.Denman@indy.gov or (317) 327-5725.
- Take pictures of your troop in action!
- At the end of your service project, remove all collected trash to a designated blue trash can along the trail.
- As a follow up, write a letter to the Mayor of Indianapolis and the Indy Greenways Manager and share information about your experience on the greenways. Send photos and share your impressions about your experience.

Thank you for helping to make the Indy Greenways a safe and clean environment for all of Indy Greenways’ users!

Congratulations!

Congratulations! You have earned the Indy Greenways patch and an accompanying “stewardship patch” for your selected greenway. You have demonstrated an understanding of the greenway system, how greenways can be used, and the benefits greenways bring to a city. You have also demonstrated a commitment to taking care of the greenways through your community service and stewardship project. As a follow up, troops are encouraged to select a different greenway and complete parts 2-3 of this program to earn additional stewardship patches.



Online Resources:

The following resources can help with program development for this patch program:

Map of Indy Greenways:

<https://i2.wp.com/greenwayspartnership.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/full-circle-master-plan-11x17-high.jpg?ssl=1>

The Indy Greenway website:

<http://indy.gov/eGov/City/DPW/SustainIndy/Pages/Indy-Greenways.aspx>

The Indy Greenways Full Circle Master Plan is the current master plan for greenway development in the city. The master plan includes overall information, maps, and information about each specific trail segment. The link is:

<https://indygreenwaysmasterplan.wordpress.com/full-circle-master-plan-2/>

The Rails to Trails Conservancy website:

<https://www.railstotrails.org/>

The Indiana Greenways Foundation website:

<http://www.greenwaysfoundation.org/>

Indianapolis Parks Foundation website:

<https://www.indyparksfoundation.org/>

Available stewardship patches:

- Central Canal Towpath
- Eagle Creek Greenway
- Fall Creek Greenway
- Little Buck Creek Greenway
- Monon Rail-Trail
- Pennsy Rail Trail
- Pleasant Run Greenway
- Pagues Run Greenway
- White River Greenway

Prepared by:



In collaboration with:



A CICF Partner

