



Winter 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

Midwest Climate Summit

Indianapolis is hosting the **Midwest Climate Summit** on April 3, 4, and 5 at the IU Indianapolis Campus Center! Hundreds of individuals representing organizations and backgrounds from 12 different states will be meeting to find regional alignment on climate action.

Activist and founder of Intersectional Environmentalist, [Leah Thomas](#), will be providing the keynote address.

[The Summit is still seeking sponsors, learn more here. Registration is open now; early bird pricing ends on February 16.](#) There are options for students and virtual attendance.

The Midwest Climate Summit welcomes Leah Thomas as the 2024 keynote speaker!

Published in March 2022, Leah's book serves as an introduction to the intersection between environmentalism, racism, and privilege, and as an acknowledgment of the fundamental truth that we cannot save the planet without protecting all of its people.

Leah Thomas, Founder of Intersectional Environmentalist & Author of *The Intersectional Environmentalist: How to Dismantle Systems of Oppression to Protect People + Planet*

Interested? Join us April 3-5, 2024 Indianapolis, IN

MIDWEST CLIMATE SUMMIT

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Indiana Sustainability & Resilience Conference

FEBRUARY 17, 2023
IUPUI CAMPUS CENTER



Indiana Sustainability & Resilience Conference

Join more than 350 sustainability professionals, scholars, and climate advocates on **Friday, February 9 at the IU Indianapolis Campus Center** for a day of knowledge-sharing and networking to advance climate resilience in the Hoosier State

Hosted annually by Indiana University's Environmental Resilience Institute with support from the Indianapolis Airport Authority and the McKinney Family Foundation, [ISRC registration is open now.](#)

PROJECT UPDATES

Make a Plan for Your Trash

The holidays can be a very wasteful time of year - people accumulate lots of trash and stuff they want to get rid of quickly. Make a PLAN for all your TRASH ahead of time.

This especially goes for the drop-off recycling sites located around the county. Recyclable materials are listed to the right. Everything else is considered trash and should be placed in your trash cart or brought to the [Citizens Transfer Station](#).

[Learn more at indy.gov/recycle.](https://indy.gov/recycle)



Eleventh Achieved Thrive Action Item

After this year's Indy EV Showcase in October, we marked the achievement of the eleventh action item outlined in Thrive Indianapolis, the sustainability and resilience action plan that charts a course to citywide carbon neutrality by 2050.

The goal, "host six in-person educational opportunities for Marion County residents to increase awareness of benefits of EV ownership" was considered complete after a variety of EV educational opportunities hosted over the past three years - all supported by our "[Highly EVolved](#)" informational campaign.

At the end of 2022, there were 2,666 EVs registered in Marion County; up from 760 in 2017.

Indy Named to CDP A-List for Sixth Year

Indianapolis has been recognized by CDP as one of 119 cities and counties across the globe taking bold leadership on environmental action and transparency; just 13% of scored cities received an A.

Indianapolis has disclosed environmental impact data through CDP since 2015; this is the sixth time it has received an A rating.

To score an A, among other action, a city must have a citywide emissions inventory, have published a climate action plan, and complete a climate vulnerability assessment.



Indianapolis



Introducing the Thriving Neighbors Series

Thanks to a community engagement grant, our office is thrilled to be partnering with Indy Parks in the new year to bring community members a series of educational opportunities to build resilience and solidarity around elements of climate change and sustainability!

Indy's Thriving Neighbors Series will consist of around eight different, but related, workshops led by local experts on topics ranging from **how to start composting** to **ways to cope with climate-anxiety**. All events will be free, family-friendly, inclusive, and accessible at Indy Parks family centers with virtual options and recordings.

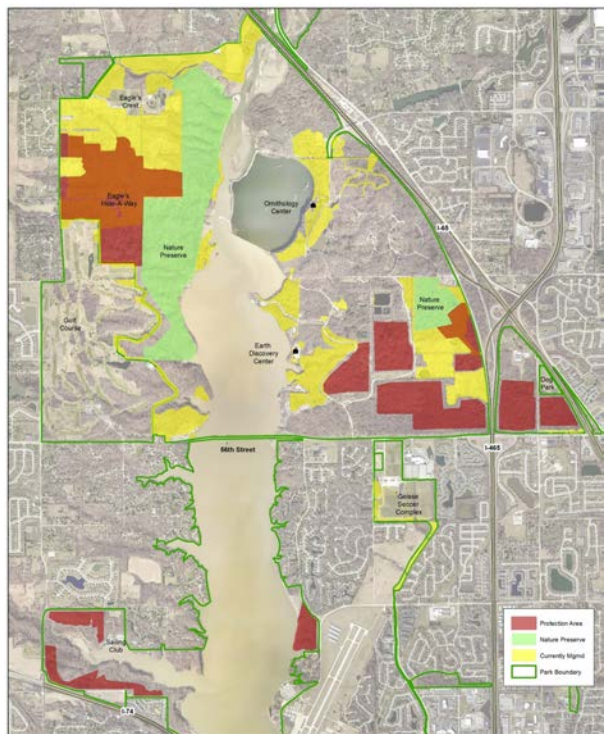
Stay tuned for more!

Update on Carbon Credit Program

While City leaders work to identify creative funding sources for Indy Parks to continue growing and maintaining public forest resources, work to establish a Carbon Credit Program agreement for 100 acres of Eagle Creek Park has been underway.

A resolution was passed this week to partner with nonprofit City Forest Credits, allowing Indianapolis to find the carbon credit value of the areas of the park highlighted in red.

Establishing those values would then potentially allow those credits to be sold on the carbon market, and that money would go towards protecting and improving those areas via native plantings and dead tree removal.



Indy Circular Economy Initiative Update

The City's current solid waste contracts expire in 2025 - this includes collection, processing, and disposal contracts for household trash, recycling, leaves, heavy trash, hazardous waste, and more. We are working to realize our goals of making recycling and composting in Indianapolis more accessible and equitable for all, regardless of income level, come 2026.

The RFPs for the processing and disposal contracts for solid waste, recycling, and organics will be released in mid-January. [They are currently available for public comment here.](#)

Federal Grant Applications

We are often asked if the City is taking advantage of funds made available to cities in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act / Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. The answer is yes, of course!

This year our office has submitted or supported federal grant applications totaling **more than \$42 million** to support carbon reduction and climate mitigation and resiliency efforts throughout Marion County and Central Indiana. This includes grant opportunities from the EPA, DOE, DOT, and FHA.



IN THE NEWS

WTHR

October 20, 2023

"Pacers Bikeshare program expanding with new e-bikes"

[Read the Story](#)

WFYI

November 30, 2023

"Improvements underway for Riverside Adventure Park"

[Read the Story](#)

WRTV

October 24, 2023

"Construction on Marion County's portion of new Nickel Plate Trail to begin"

[Read the Story](#)

Indianapolis Business Journal

December 15, 2023

"City ramps up climate staff amid weather concerns"

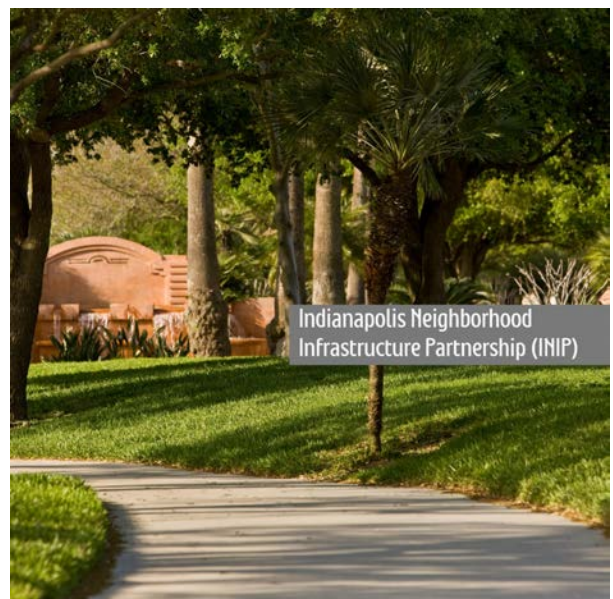
[Read the Story](#)

BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION



Styrofoam Recycling in Indy

As of December 8, there is finally a place



Neighborhood Infrastructure Partnership

The City's annual INIP opportunity is back for

Indianapolis community members can take their Styrofoam (polystyrene) to be recycled!

Local social enterprise RecycleForce announced that their new headquarters at 816 N Sherman Drive is accepting, in addition to electronics, polystyrene at their drive up, drop-off door for recycling.

[Watch the reel on Instagram here.](#)

the sixth year in a row: empower your community by taking advantage of a 50/50 cost-share program to fund permanent public infrastructure projects. Eligible projects include road resurfacing, sidewalks, bridges, and multi-use paths.

[CBOs have until February 16 to submit proposals.](#)

eco-justice & wellness expo

Saturday, January 20 | 1:00pm-4:30pm
Friedens UCC, Indianapolis, IN

Eco-Justice & Wellness Expo

A variety of local organizations will be present at this first expo in Indianapolis focused on the intersection of environmental and personal sustainability through water, food, land, racial justice, and mental health.

Build solidarity with other justice-minded folks and help develop our local network for environmental organization. The event is free for all ages, with an optional lunch meal ticket available for purchase. [Community members can register here.](#)



Great Indy Cleanup Requests Open 1/17

Start thinking ahead to neighborhood cleanups for 2024. Keep Indianapolis Beautiful helps equip neighbors with the tools they need to organize successful community cleanups - make sure you get your requests on their list **starting Jan. 17 at noon!**

Between April and October, there are 5 dumpsters available each weekend and 1-2 packer trucks every Saturday. They are available on a first-come, first-served basis so [prepare your application soon!](#)

DECEMBER 25 - JANUARY 31
Real Christmas Tree Mulching

Ellenberger Park | Garfield Park
Northwestway Park | Perry Park
Riverside Park | Sahm Park
Riverwood Park

REMOVE ALL LIGHTS, ORNAMENTS, STANDS, DECOR, ETC. PRIOR TO DROP OFF. MARION COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY.

[City's Christmas Tree Disposal Service](#)

Marion County residents are encouraged to dispose of real Christmas trees for the 2023-2024 season at one of the designated drop off locations between **Monday, December 25 and Wednesday, January 31 from dawn until dusk** to give the trees new life as mulch.

Tree stands and all ornaments, tinsel, lights,

INTRO TO TRAFFIC CALMING & TACTICAL URBANISM

JAN 30 2024

VIRTUAL INFO SESSION WITH Q&A
TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024 6-7:30PM

- LEARN ABOUT LOW-COST COMMUNITY-LED INTERVENTIONS TO MAKE PUBLIC SPACES SAFER
- DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TACTICAL URBANISM POLICIES AND PERMITS
- CREATING PEDESTRIAN-SAFE SPACES

REGISTER NOW

LED BY

INRC
INDIANAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE CENTER

Create Pedestrian-Safe Spaces

Join the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center for their first virtual info session of the 2024, in partnership with the Community Heights Neighborhood Association, to discuss how to utilize the City's traffic calming and tactical urbanism strategies to prevent accidents and increase pedestrian safety in your community.

and decorations MUST BE REMOVED prior to drop off. Leaving a tree at a park not listed is illegal dumping and punishable by fines up to \$3,000. For Marion County residents ONLY.

Learn more about these policies, the permitting process, and available grants to fund these projects. [Register here.](#)



SESSION DATES:
FEB - MAY



INDY.GOV/
ACTIVITY/MOIP

Your Input is Wanted!

The Central Indiana RDA is developing the Central Indiana Environmental Action Plan and wants **your input between January 1 and January 14** through a short online form.

This survey is to determine priorities to include in a regional plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants, thanks to a \$1 million EPA grant. Once the plan is completed, CIRDA can begin submitting funding proposals for aligned projects.

There will also be **public meetings on January 8 at 1pm and January 9 at 6pm** for feedback.

Mayor's Office Internship Program

The Indianapolis Mayor's Office Internship Program is now accepting applications for the Spring 2024 semester. This paid, part-time opportunity helps college students learn about and contribute to city government, meet local leaders, and experience the day-to-day operations of Indianapolis. Interns develop foundational knowledge, communication skills, and a strong network of public service professionals.

Apply today - internships will take place from February 5 to May 3.



Sustain.Indy.Gov

Thrive

Knozone

Highly EVolved

Have something you'd like included in our newsletter? Drop us a line at SustainIndy@Indy.Gov.

This email was sent to: mo.mcreeynolds@indy.gov

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