



INDIANAPOLIS
PARKS FOUNDATION

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: March 12, 2009

Contact, Indianapolis Parks Foundation: Cindy Porteous, (317) 860-3251 desk, (317) 370-3627 mobile

Contact, Corie Communications: Corie Farnsley, (317) 745-6873 desk, (317) 946-6640 mobile

Businesses, individuals donate \$140,000 for parks

Indianapolis Parks Foundation announces park projects to benefit from IPL Mayor's Lunch for Parks

Businesses and individuals rallied in support of the Indianapolis Parks Foundation and Indy Parks, donating nearly \$140,000 at last week's IPL Mayor's Lunch for Parks. Four hundred twenty-five people attended the event, held at the Westin in downtown Indianapolis on Thursday, March 5. The Indianapolis Power & Light Company was the presenting sponsor for the seventh annual event.

At the event, Mayor Gregory A. Ballard stressed the importance of private funding in keeping the city's park system well maintained and its programs for children, youth, adults and families plentiful. He also spoke of the role parks play in bettering Indianapolis neighborhoods by educating children and improving public safety.

Indianapolis Parks Foundation (IPF) Executive Director Cindy Porteous announced the projects that luncheon attendees and additional donors would be helping support. In addition to ongoing focus areas for IPF, proceeds from the event will be used to help support three priority projects:

- **Connecting neighborhoods through greenway construction.** Indy Parks plans to expand its system of greenways and trails, which currently includes 59 miles of trails along seven greenways. In particular, IPF will work to raise the additional \$8.2 million needed to support the completion of the 6.2-mile Pennsy Rail-Trail on the city's east side (stretching from German Church Road to Ritter Avenue).
- **Refurbishing and replacing outdoor play structures.** While all of Indy Parks' 126 playgrounds meet safety requirements of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, some do not yet meet ADA requirements for individuals with disabilities, and others need surface improvements. In addition, many of the play structures are more than 10 years old and in need of repair or replacement. IPF will secure \$10 million in private funding to replace 45 outdoor play structures in the next three years.
- **Program support, with a focus on family and school programs.** The Indianapolis Parks Foundation historically has supported a variety of Indy Parks programs each year, but it will place a higher priority on programs that involve families, and school-aged children and youth in 2009.

The Indianapolis Parks Foundation seeks financial support from community partners to help purchase land, develop new parks, maintain existing parks, upgrade park facilities and provide support to programs benefiting children, families and seniors throughout Marion County. For more information about the Indianapolis Parks Foundation, visit www.IndyParksFoundation.org or call (317) 860-3250. For more about Indy Parks and Recreation, visit www.IndyParks.org or call (317) 327-PARK.

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