

TURN TO THE RIVER

*A plan to
re-connect downtown
Terre Haute with the Wabash River
through public art and design*





**National
Endowment
for the Arts**
arts.gov

wabash valley



spaces

outdoor sculpture collection



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A plan to reconnect downtown Terre Haute with the Wabash River through public art and design

Commissioned by Art Spaces - Wabash Valley Outdoor Sculpture Collection, Inc.

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j3 concepts

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS

Front cover image: The sun reflecting on the Wabash River - Jason Saavedra

Left image: Bird's-eye view of downtown, the Government Campus, and the Wabash River - Brendan Kearns

Project Team

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Acknowledgments

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Additional support was provided by the Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment, Indiana State University, a City of Terre Haute Arts Grant, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Our Green Valley Alliance for Sustainability, and Ivy Tech Community College.

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Bird's-eye view of Fairbanks Park and the Wabash River
Image: Brendan Kearns



Stakeholders

Public and stakeholder input gathered by the *Turn to the River* Project Team describes a vision for re-connecting Terre Haute's downtown district with the Wabash River, focusing on Fairbanks Park, the Government Campus, and adjacent areas. The identified stakeholders listed below participated in one-on-one or small group discussions:

Art Spaces, Inc. Board of Directors

Christopher Pfaff, Chair
Cynthia Z. Cox, Past Chair

Arts Illiana

Jon Robeson, Executive Director

C.A.N.D.L.E.S. Holocaust Museum

Kiel Majewski, Executive Director

City of Terre Haute

Mayor's Office

Duke Bennett, Mayor

Department of Redevelopment

Cliff Lambert, Executive Director
Phil Kesner, Grants / Planning
Administrator

Engineering Department

Charles Ennis, City Engineer
Patrick Martin, Chief Planner
Larry Robbins, Assistant City Engineer
Marc Maurer, Staff Engineer

Human Relations

Jeff Lorick, Director

Parks & Recreation Department

Eddie Bird, Superintendent

Downtown Terre Haute, Inc

Ariane Detamore, former Operations
Coordinator

Design Committee

Wieke van der Wiejden Benjamin
Janice Board
Jan Emsweller

Tommy Kleckner
Todd Nation
Ben Orman

Girl Scouts of Central Indiana

Becky Buse, Director of Advocacy / Regional Director

Indiana Landmarks

Tommy Kleckner, Director – Western Regional Office

Indiana State University

Administration

Daniel Bradley, President
Jack Maynard, Former Provost
Diann McKee, Vice President for Business Affairs
& Finance
Kevin Runion, Associate Vice-President for
Facilities Management and University
Architect

Art Department

Lloyd Benjamin, Former President and Former
Chair – Department of Art and Design

International & Global Programs

Chris McGrew, Director – Office of International
Programs and Services
Zachariah Mathew, Associate Director - Center
for Global Engagement
Alex Dresen, Area Director – Maehling Terrace
University Apartments

Our Green Valley Alliance for Sustainability

Lorrie Heber, President

Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods

Sister Denise Wilkinson, General Superior

Sister Dawn Tomaszewski
Sister Dorothy Rasche
Sister Jenny Howard
Sister Mary Beth Klingel
Dave Cox, former Media Relations Manager

Swope Art Museum

Marianne Richter, Executive Director

Terre Haute Children's Museum

Lynn Hughes, Executive Director

Terre Haute Economic Development Corporation

Steve Witt, President

Claudia Tanoos, Vice-President

Lisa Johnson, Manager – Marketing, Communications

Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra

Tiffani Schmidt, Executive Director

Terre Haute Young Leaders

Stephanie Miller, Past President

The Tribune-Star

Mark Bennett, Columnist

Jim Avelis, Photographer

Vigo County

County Commissioners

Judy Anderson

County Council

Mark Bird

Richard Burger

Bill Thomas

Parks & Recreation Department

Kara Kish, Superintendent

Vigo County Historical Society

Marylee Hagan, Executive Director

The WILL Center

Peter Ciancone, Executive Director

Community Residents

Community residents listed below participated in public input meetings:

Jim Avelis
Thomas Bean
Mark Bennett
Christina Blust
Jacquie Bradfield
Rod Bradfield
Cheri Bradley
Daniel Bradley
LeKisha Bradley
Bill Brett
Judy Brett
Mary Jo Brown
Becky Buse
Sheldon Buskirk
Jacob Butler
Cindy Cox
Judy Cox
Bev Cristee
Sherry Dailey

Sheryle Dell
Sarah Dillon
Dorothy Drummond
Brian Dyer
Christy Elkins
Jason Scott Embry
Kira Enriquez
David Erickson
Kay Farmer
Chuck Fisher
Kathy Hackleman
Becky Hale
Bill Hale
Dot Lewis Hamann
Brady Hansel
Bob Heaton
Becky Hochhalter
Brendan Kearns
John Kesler II

Kara Kish
Shelley Klingerman
Steve Letsinger
John Maraldo
Mary Jo Maraldo
Jeffrey Marks
Betty Martin
Harriet McNeal
Sarah Mihich
Heather Miklozek
Jane Morse
Fred Nation
Nancy Nation
Todd Nation
Petra Nyendick
Ben Orman
Ron Prettyman
Eileen Prose
Jana Pyle

Sister Dorothy Rasche
Marianne Richter
Nancy Rogers
Ricardo Romero
Tim Skinner
Kim Smith
Paul Stanley
Robert Thompson
Lisa Trigg
Barbara Weber
Chris Weber
Dan Weber
Charlie Williams
Donna Williams
Bill Wolfe
John Wright
Julie Wright



People enjoying the view of the river from the pier and benches in Fairbanks Park
Image: Brendan Kearns

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The history and development of Terre Haute are deeply tied to the Wabash River. A renewed interest in reconnecting with this remarkable Midwest waterway has spurred efforts to bring residential, commercial, recreational, and institutional development to the largely abandoned riverfront that lies just blocks away from a newly revitalized downtown.

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Fairbanks Park in the early Fall
Image: Jason Saavedra

Study Area

The study area of the plan includes **Fairbanks Park** (which borders the river), the **Government Campus*** (one block from the river), the **Wabash River**, and any adjacent spaces which connect the downtown with the river.



Situated directly between the river and the downtown district is the Government Campus, the nucleus of county and municipal governance, encompassing an area with a potential to serve as a lively center of civic activity. *Turn to the River* emphasizes strategies for public art and design to enliven this area by transforming it into a livable, sustainable community gathering place.

The plan employs a strong focus on citizen engagement and acts as a collective voice of the Terre Haute community, presenting a compelling case for increased investment and a creative approach in redevelopment of the study area. The central guiding principle of the plan is that public art and design are essential components of aesthetically meaningful places that people will use, care for, take pride in, and enjoy. *Turn to the River* offers a vision with recommended

* The block bounded by Cherry, Ohio, First, and Third Streets, where the Terre Haute City Hall, Vigo County Courthouse, and Vigo County Security Center are located

approaches for integrating public art and design as central tools to initiate sustainable revitalization of community places, which will result in increased economic development and a more livable city.

An extensive outreach effort engaged professional artists; community organizations; private landowners; business owners; educational, cultural, and arts institutions; individual members of the public; and city and county government officials. Their collective contributions were combined with a detailed planning analysis of the study area to form the final set of recommendations.

The plan offers a unique and valuable resource for government officials and community leaders. In order to facilitate communications and collaboration, *Turn to the River* inventories other plans and initiatives (completed, imminent, and in progress) that are relevant to the study area or the recommendations within this plan. Insights gained from *Turn to the River* will also serve to direct and inform future public art projects for Art Spaces or other entities.

Turn to the River articulates exciting, creative concepts by professional artists and members of the public and presents them as practical and achievable recommendations. The plan offers inspiration for community leaders and others by highlighting the significant potential for transforming the study area into a vibrant district that is approachable, accessible, pedestrian friendly, culturally rich and diverse, as well as re-connected to the downtown that originally grew up around it.

Origins of *Turn to the River*

Art Spaces was initiated in 2003 through the efforts of community and arts leaders and dedicated volunteers in Terre Haute, Indiana, with a mission to establish a collection of public outdoor sculpture that would positively impact the economic and cultural vitality of Terre Haute and the surrounding region of the Wabash Valley of West Central Indiana. In 2005 Art Spaces was incorporated and became a 501(c)(3) corporation and since that time has developed a collection that includes thirteen unique sculptures in public places. The organization is led by an all-volunteer Board of Directors representing the arts, business, education, technology, and city government.

In 2007 Art Spaces was approached by the Terre Haute city administration to evaluate the space between the Vigo County Courthouse and Terre Haute City Hall as a potential site for public sculpture to replace a deteriorating fountain. Once the area was examined more closely, it became clear that a larger portion of the Government Campus needed rehabilitation. Art Spaces assembled a small team which drafted an initial site re-design. A short time later, city leadership changed and the new administration agreed to continue the conversation.

In 2011, Art Spaces partnered with two other local organizations – Arts Illiana and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology Permanent Art Collections – to spearhead a community-wide collaborative project, *2013 Year of the River*. This initiative brought approximately 100 entities together to present



A view of City Hall plaza, including the deteriorating fountain
Image: flickr - WFIU Public Radio

more than 300 arts, educational, environmental, and recreational events focused on the Wabash River throughout the year. *Turn to the River* was strategically commissioned within the timeframe of *2013 Year of the River* to build awareness of the river and engage residents in reconceiving their relationship with it.

In 2012, Art Spaces applied to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for funding through the Our Town program for *Turn to the River*. The City of Terre Haute endorsed the comprehensive approach proposed by Art Spaces that would include a strong focus on community engagement while employing public art and design at the heart of the project. The NEA grant was awarded in the summer of the same year and the planning process began that fall. The City of Terre Haute serves as Art Spaces' governmental partner on this project and J3 Concepts, a local planning and development consulting firm, was retained to initiate and gather public and stakeholder input, analyze the data received, and develop the plan.

Purpose

The purpose of *Turn to the River* is to engage the community in a creative placemaking project that will strongly affect the future of Terre Haute and its relationship with the Wabash River, which runs along the city's western edge. In commissioning the plan, Art Spaces is providing a framework for connecting the riverfront and the downtown district through public art and design which will positively impact the revitalization of both areas.

The **plan** and the creative **placemaking** process:

- + Bring community leaders & residents together to **build a vision**
- + **Engage artists** with expertise in projects that incorporate art, the environment, and infrastructure
- + Act as a catalyst for riverfront **revitalization**
- + Encourage **collaboration** among parallel initiatives that focus on downtown and the river
- + Build **excitement** and **support** for community development

" In creative placemaking, public, private, not-for-profit, and community sectors partner to strategically shape the physical and social character of a neighborhood, town, tribe, city, or region around arts and cultural activities. "

- National Endowment for the Arts¹

" Placemaking is both a process and a philosophy. It takes root when a community expresses needs and desires about places in their lives, even if there is not yet a clearly defined plan of action. "

- Project for Public Spaces²

1. National Endowment for the Arts, "Defining Creative Placemaking."
<http://arts.gov/NEARTS/2012v3-arts-and-culture-core/defining-creative-placemaking>

2. Project for Public Spaces, "What is Placemaking?"
http://www.pps.org/reference/what_is_placemaking/

Creative placemaking incorporates a wide range of concepts such as:

- + beautification, enhancement, and activation of distinctive areas through unique and well-located public art
- + addition of design elements that attract people and make them feel comfortable (seating and lighting near centers of activity)
- + installation of a coordinated and visually appealing wayfinding system (signage or pathway design)
- + incorporation of art that educates about the environment (mapping out waterways through public art)
- + integration of art and design with infrastructure (storm water control systems)

More information about placemaking is available on the following websites:

http://www.pps.org/reference/what_is_placemaking/

<http://arts.gov/art-works/cat/creative-placemaking>

Approach

Focus: Public Art and Design

Turn to the River infuses public art and design within each recommendation. As a pivotal part of the planning process, three nationally-known professional artists provided education, expertise, design suggestions, and innovative concepts for reconnecting the downtown to the river and enlivening adjacent spaces in keeping with the mission and practice of Art Spaces.

Focus: Placemaking and Community Engagement

Creative placemaking is a process which enables citizens to improve their collective quality of life by shaping public spaces. Placemaking activities treat citizens (who currently use or could potentially use a space) as the experts and engage as many members of the community as possible. *Turn to the River* created a strong dialogue among participants, encouraged an attitude of ownership and stewardship, and increased community support to translate the plan into a reality.

Timeline

2012	2013				2014	
Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS	STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS ARTIST VISIT 1	SURVEY PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS	PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS SURVEY ANALYSIS ARTIST VISIT 2	PLAN DRAFT ARTIST VISIT 3	PLAN DRAFT INPUT FINAL PLAN INPUT	PLAN DRAFT REVISIONS FINAL PRESENTATIONS

The Planning Process

The Project Team offered a wide array of opportunities for public and stakeholder involvement throughout the 18-month process of research, planning, and writing, and placed public art and design at the forefront of the planning process.

Artist Visits

Three professional artists who live in the United States and work both nationally and internationally, traveled to Terre Haute to provide professional expertise in the placemaking process and engage the public. Stacy Levy, Buster Simpson, and Betsy Damon, each spent between three and six days in Terre Haute meeting with stakeholders, visiting college classes, offering public talks, holding small group and one-on-one meetings, and studying the plan area. The Project Team also met separately with each artist to discuss their unique perceptions and approaches. Each artist submitted a written statement including their insights and recommendations which can be found in the Plan Input section.

Community Engagement

Stakeholder Meetings

The Project Team collected information and ideas from local stakeholders through 60-90-minute focus group discussions. Stakeholders, identified by the Project Team, included leaders of organizations, businesses, or groups that have a physical presence in the study area; leaders of local arts and cultural organizations; and leaders of organizations that have a vested interest in the area through the work that they do elsewhere. A full list of the stakeholders is provided in the “Stakeholders” section at the beginning of this document. For consistency, all of the participants were asked the same questions.

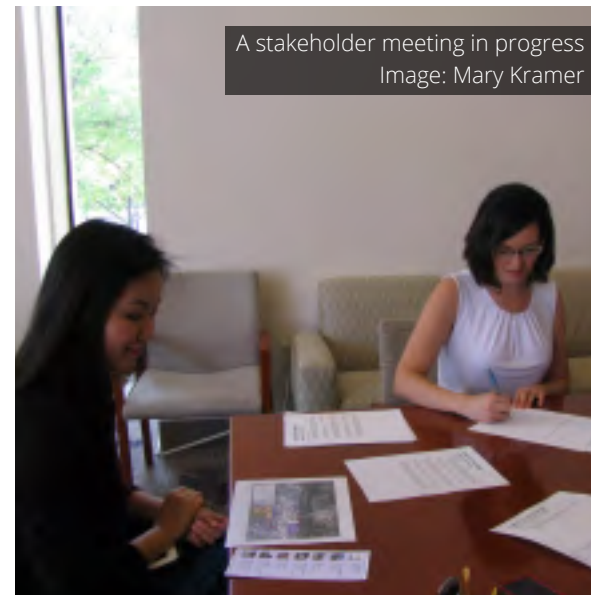
Participants were encouraged to express any ideas and concerns that they believed to be relevant to the purpose of the plan. These meetings were successful in eliciting insights regarding existing conditions as well as unique and bright ideas for the future. Stakeholders also brought to light a number of existing plans that were relevant to the study area.

Public Survey

A public survey was developed in order to gather input from as many community members as possible. A link to the online version was placed on the Art Spaces website and Facebook page; on the *2013 Year of the River* website and Facebook page; and on the Downtown Terre Haute, Inc. website. Each of these entities also announced it in one or more newsletters. It was also



Buster Simpson meets with local artists and planners
Image: Mary Kramer



A stakeholder meeting in progress
Image: Mary Kramer

distributed to City of Terre Haute employees, offered at public events and festivals related to downtown and/or the river and was promoted in local and regional newspapers. The survey was available to the public for approximately four months.

Public Input Meetings

Four public input meetings were conducted in order to offer the opportunity for direct involvement to any member of the community. Each of these meetings was promoted through a press release issued to local media outlets and through social media, electronic newsletters, websites, regional published calendars, constituent e-mail lists, and flyers posted in the downtown and adjacent areas. To help orient participants to the planning process, the meetings were structured with chronological themes – discussions focused first on the history (past), then the present (existing conditions and issues), and finally the future (concepts for future development), followed by a final public open house to solicit input on the draft of the plan.

The first two meetings, both held on May 21, 2013, at the Girl Scout Program Center in Fairbanks Park, focused on the past and present conditions. In an attempt to maximize participation, two identical meetings were held – one during and one after business hours. An open house was held between the two meetings.

Participants of the May 21 meetings were briefed on the history of the area, the purpose of the plan, and the inherent potential of the creative placemaking process to impact their city. They were guided through a brainstorming exercise to identify barriers within the study area. Participants assembled at one of three tables, each of which was assigned a focus area: the Wabash River, Fairbanks Park, or the Government Campus. Open discussion was encouraged regarding existing conditions and barriers within each section. Participants were then asked to sketch and/or write their feedback on large-scale maps of the study area provided at each table. Attendees rotated through each table and repeated the process for each focus area. At each table, a designated scribe recorded the group's input in detail for use in later analysis. Finally, attendees were given a brief opportunity to express some thoughts about the future by writing their ideas on sticky notes and placing them on an "idea wall" in order of priority. These priorities were recorded by the Project Team.

The third meeting, held on August 27, 2013, at the Hilton Garden Inn in the downtown district, focused on participants' ideas for the future. The public was invited to attend an informal pre-meeting walking survey beginning at the site of *Max Ehrmann at the Crossroads* (a well-known Art Spaces public sculpture centrally located in downtown) and continuing to the Wabash River. This allowed participants to experience challenges and opportunities for accessing the river from a pedestrian perspective. Walking survey participants later shared their experiences with the larger group.

For inspiration at the meeting, participants were shown a broad range of examples of public art projects in other communities that had helped to transform the areas in which they were implemented.



Public meeting participants share ideas for the future
Image: Jason Saavedra



Walking survey participants cross Third Street
Image: Courtesy Tribune Star/Jim Avelis

Attendees first contemplated creative ideas for the future on an individual basis before bringing them to a group table where a facilitator recorded everyone's input on a large-scale map. After a full hour of engaging discussion, a representative from each table presented their group's strongest ideas for future projects to the larger group. The Project Team recorded recurring themes among the ideas presented on a flipchart and confirmed them with the group.

A final open house was held at the Art Spaces office on April 29, 2014, in order to receive input on a complete draft of the plan. Slideshows summarizing the Past, Present, and Future chapters of the plan played on a continuous loop as attendees discussed its components with Project Team members and others at the meeting. Printed copies of the plan were available for viewing at the event and had also been provided for advance review at Vigo County Public Library and through an interactive website, Mindmixer (see the following section for more information). A printed questionnaire for commentary was available at the meeting and visitors were encouraged to leave feedback electronically on the Mindmixer site as well.

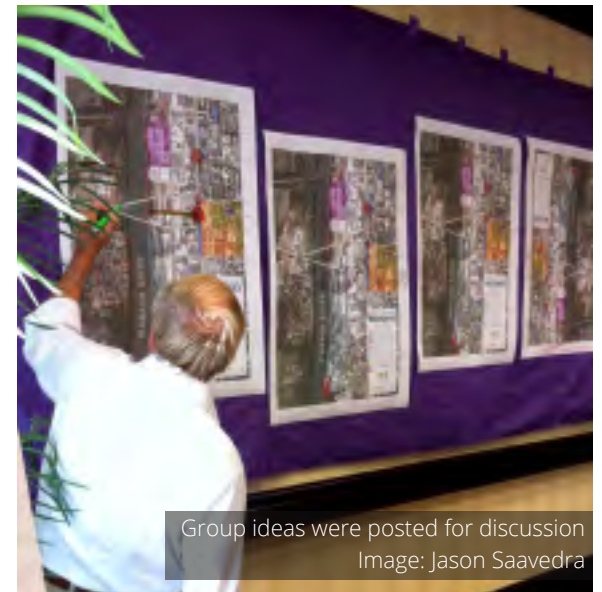
Additional Stakeholder Engagement

In order to ensure that all residents, land owners, and business owners in the study area had the opportunity to provide input, a letter was sent to each address within the study area inviting participation in both the survey and the public meetings, as well as encouraging direct contact with members of the Project Team. A paper copy of the survey was included with each letter.

To engage the community as widely as possible, a website was created for *Turn to the River* on MindMixer, an on-line community engagement application. Multiple interactive discussion topics were posted to the site to gather directed input on the plan draft. Approximately 350 people visited the site and 30 ideas were contributed.

Data Analysis

All input received from stakeholder meetings, public input sessions, and the survey was compiled into databases. Feedback from each participant in the meetings was recorded to the most detailed extent possible, and each survey respondent's comments were included. This qualitative information was tabulated in order to facilitate quantitative analysis. Each individual response was tagged with a series of theme-based labels, enabling calculation of frequency as an approximation of importance and/or priority. These results, along with the recurring themes recorded during the third meeting, combined with professional artist input, steered the development of the plan recommendations.




Group ideas were posted for discussion
Image: Jason Saavedra



City Councilman Todd Nation and State Senator Tim Skinner engage in discussion during the open house
Image: Mary Kramer



In this view looking across the Wabash River from the west side, one can see the foundation of the old U.S. Highway 40 bridge. The location figures into the *Turn to the River* recommendations.
Image: Courtesy Tribune Star/Jim Avelis



In keeping with the arts and community engagement focus of placemaking, input was solicited from professional artists, stakeholders, and the public to direct and inform the recommendations provided in this plan. This chapter summarizes their contributions.

PLAN INPUT

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During a meeting with Sisters of Providence of Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods, Betsy Damon applies her experience to improve the movement of water through a flow form located in their contemplative garden.
Image: Mary Kramer

Professional Artist Input

Artists are skillful problem solvers and integral to the creative placemaking process as initiators and innovators. Art Spaces commissioned three professional artists to offer imaginative, unique, and transformative concepts for *Turn to the River*. Citizens engaged with them to learn about possible solutions to be achieved by integrating public art and design within the urban and natural environments unique to Terre Haute.

Contemporary artists often take steps to mitigate critical urban environmental issues, working closely with engineers, architects, and planners. In this way they also inspire better stewardship of the environment. Stacy Levy, Buster Simpson, and Betsy Damon offered vision, experience, fresh concepts, and feasible solutions to redefine uses of the study areas. Their recommendations recapture meaning within civic spaces, add beauty to draw activity to now-neglected areas, and re-energize the collective community experience.

All three of the artists conducted public lectures, small group discussions, classes, formal public conversations, slide shows, walks to the river, and class visits with students and faculty from three major universities and colleges.

While each artist brought unique ideas and perspectives to the plan, there were recurring themes among their recommendations. These included:

- + Opening up the closed section of Wabash Avenue as a designed walking promenade to the river
- + Creating a meaningful public place at the end of Wabash Avenue on the city-owned property adjacent to the river
- + Adding wayfinding and river signifiers throughout the downtown
- + Addressing the need for safe pedestrian crossing of Third and First Streets

The artists' approaches of integrating aesthetics, meaning, and function offer new possibilities for connecting downtown and the river in sustainable, accessible ways that will exponentially increase the pride people feel in their city and the care they take of it.

"As populations swell, diverse cultures come together, and urban cores increase in density, humanity's well-being increasingly depends on successful social and cultural development. ... Artists working at the avant garde - the front edge--of our culture are poised to help. Like the shamans of contemporary society, they sense what is needed to improve the health of life on our planet. Art experiences that help us grow emotionally and intellectually play vital roles."

- Jack Becker¹

1. Jack Becker, "Why Public Art Matters," *Public Art Review*, 50(Spring/Summer 2014); 13.

STACY LEVY



Stacy Levy, *Ridge and Valley*
Image: Fred Weber

Stacy Levy | www.stacylevy.com

Stacy Levy reveals the presence of urban nature and clarifies the patterns of natural processes at work. She often works with water, from acid mine drainage to urban streams and rivers to rainwater. Her art provides a vehicle for translating the natural world to a language of human understanding and makes unseen aspects more visible. This includes revealing invisible aspects of microorganisms, the spiraling hydrological patterns of a stream, prevailing winds and their effects on vegetation, the flow of water through living systems, and integrating natural patterns and processes into the built environment.

Dates of visit

March 19-22, 2013

Observations and Recommendations

I cannot find that wide liquid band of the Wabash River on the west side of town. It is not in my view as I walk the streets of Terre Haute, it is not on my map called "Walking Wabash." Why is it that this famous river cannot get on the map? This lack of presence on paper may be a reflection of the river's lack of presence in people's lives. It is a wonderful time to connect the river to its city. Let's put the Wabash River on the map of our sense of the downtown Terre Haute.

In our modern world, the road based transportation takes precedence. Terre Haute is astute in celebrating the importance of the Cross Roads of America, where US Highway 40 intersects with US Highway 41. Few cities have such a deep understanding of the important roles that these long grey roads have played in the development of the city. But before road, waterways created the interconnectivity of place. The Wabash was an important mode of transport and livelihood for the Miami Indians. Then the French Traders used its waters to connect to the Gulf of Mexico via the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. In one hundred years steamships churned the waters carrying agricultural products to distant markets. This connectivity was increased with the building of the Wabash and Erie Canal, the internet of its day, where you could send a bushel of Indiana corn to New York City or Toronto.

But as the ships carried the agricultural products to distant markets, the soils loosened by the same cultivation flowed into the river's bed and made the Wabash muddy and too shallow for boat hulls.

As the river filled in with eroded soil, the roads and the rails took over as the way to connect this city to the rest of America.

The road culture has been well celebrated in Terre Haute and made its mark of a layer in the city's history. It is time to bring the earlier form of transport into view by focusing on the river's interconnectivity to the rest of the continent. These lines of concrete roads, steel rails and river



Stacy Levy surveys the Wabash riverfront
Image: Mary Kramer

water can be orchestrated so that people can sense the overlay of connectivity that roads and rivers give to this site. To deepen the sense of the human and historical geography, combine the road with the river: both are important to Terre Haute, both play roles in how the city grew.

"Water is always on the way somewhere"

—Theodore Schwenk, Sensitive Chaos

The historical threads of the river are compelling but the everyday flows of the site should be addressed too. Everything flows to the river. All the water that drops on Terre Haute's streets and sidewalks will become part of the river. All the materials which end up in the tributaries of the Wabash will alter the river. This everyday interconnectivity is invisible to most people. Focusing on the many flows into and around the river could bring many disparate elements together, from history to urban planning to ecology.

The first most important act of celebrating this flow is getting people to the banks of the river. Art can make a space where the river once again comes in to our view and our minds, creating places that embrace the views of the river and make apparent the flows to the river. There are sites where the art could address the passage of rain and even help to infiltrate stormwater and make the connection between rain and river.

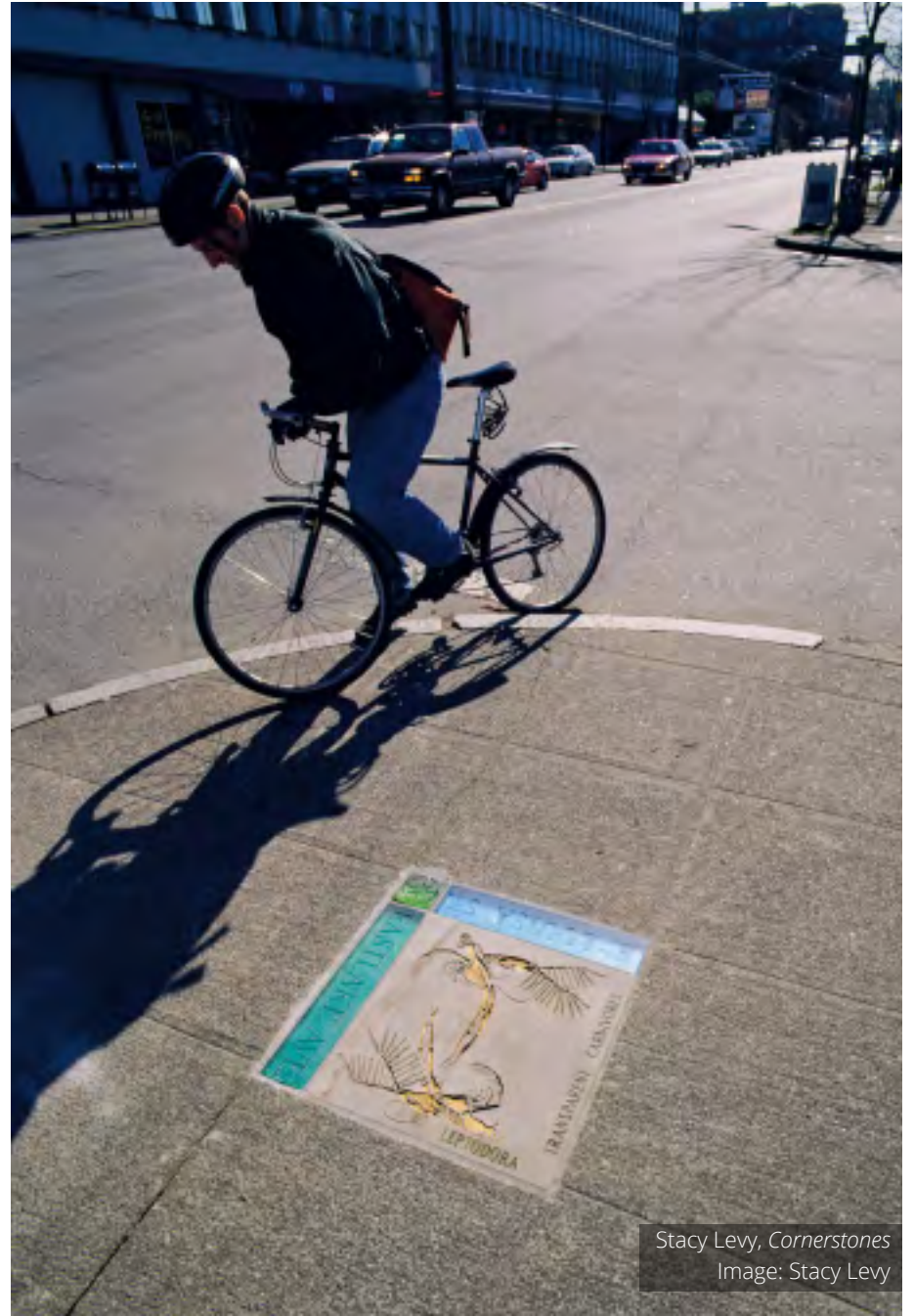
A significant site that calls for the creation of a project overlooking the river is the old bridge abutment at the end of Wabash Avenue. The street passes from the courthouse to the river, and could become a pedestrian-friendly flow to the river. The art could help activate the connection from street to river. There could be a focus on creating expansive spaces rather than moments of artful interpretation. Creating place rather than thing could help integrate the river with the people. Interconnecting series of pedestrian points would enable people to walk to the river and then, along its banks, create a pattern for lunchtime destinations. The next layer might be to work along the trails that are planned for the river's edge. Artists, historians, writers and engineers could all work across their disciplines to make spaces that sew the city to its own river's edge.

Elements of restoration and conservation could be part of artworks, working out ways to create safe passage for migrating turtles, ducks and shore birds. Yet another flow, the seasonal movement of fauna is impactful but invisible. It reflects the different commutes of the land-based cars and seasonal commute of water-based fauna.





Stacy Levy, *Lotic Meander*
Image: Stacy Levy



Stacy Levy, *Cornerstones*
Image: Stacy Levy

BUSTER SIMPSON



Buster Simpson, *Incidence*
Image: Buster Simpson

Buster Simpson | www.bustersimpson.net

Buster Simpson has been working in the public realm since the late 70's and is viewed as a pioneer in an approach to public art which manifests human concerns, provides creative solutions for infrastructure and systems we rely upon, allows us to experience our own environment in fresh ways, and adds poetry to our daily experience. He works with a broad range of entities including cities, universities, transportation and planning departments, and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Dates of Visit

September 30 - October 4, 2013

Observations and Recommendations

RETURNING

Returning to the Wabash River provides an armature on which to re-focus and redefine Terre Haute based on its history and potential. My observations are centered on the downtown core with a focus on the axis with the Wabash River. These observations are in support of the mission "Turn to the River," and are based on two visits to Terre Haute over the past two years.

The Wabash River's "high banks" prompted the location for the settlement of Terre Haute and in those early years the river was the focus and the lifeblood of the city. Then came the completion of the National Road in 1834, later followed by a canal and US Highway 41, the prime north south national road which gave the city its nickname, "Crossroads of America." In more recent history, downtown Terre Haute turned its back on the river and, suburban sprawl and the interstate system turned its back on Terre Haute. Today the undervalued yet somewhat intact downtown core presents an opportunity for renewal. Its assets are its diversity of land uses, fine-grained scale, its density, compact and sustainable infrastructure and its potential for becoming a pedestrian-orientated business core adjacent to the Indiana State University Campus.

I believe a successful catalyst for a comprehensive "Turn to the River," could be initiated along the prime Terre Haute axis, Wabash Avenue, and culminate at the Wabash River by introducing an episodic journey to lure pedestrians and the City to(re)turn to the river.

RETURNING TO A 'THERE, THERE'

Wabash Avenue is interrupted and abandoned in many places as the right of way alignment approaches the Wabash River. Fortunately there are no structures blocking the Wabash alignment, but a pedestrian's journey is interrupted by a city and county parking lot, various landscape interventions in the right of way, and an undefined and undervalued street-ending at



Buster Simpson tours the ISU Recycle Center
Image: John Gardner

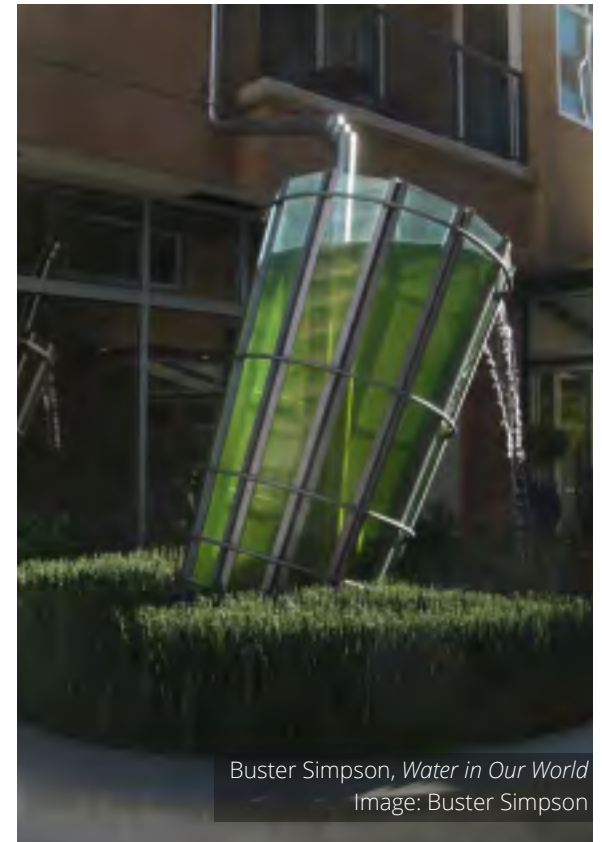
the foot of Wabash Avenue and the Wabash River. It was here that a historic covered bridge first spanned the river, and later another bridge was built to allow the first National Highway to cross over the Wabash River.

The first step toward defining and reuniting the Wabash Avenue right of way is an incremental task of creating “early win incidents” that incorporate temporary “bread crumbs” to entice a pedestrian’s sense of adventure, surprise and discovery as the form and forum for “wayfinding.” This episodic redefining of the Wabash Avenue right of way can serve to connect areas of poorly defined passage with temporary installations and interventions facilitated by the local creative culture. The edge between public and private should be regulated to assure that compromises to pedestrian connectivity by non-pedestrian-oriented activities and commercial interests doesn’t occur. Architecturally significant buildings, both historical and contemporary, should be preserved to maintain the urban character and density and to support a pedestrian-oriented economy.

The return to the river journey could be reinforced where its alignment passes through the city and county parking lot with the planting of a colonnade of street trees across the existing parking as a first phase of the re-establishing of Wabash Avenue. Just to the west of the parking area, along South First Street (Penn Central Railroad Street), an opportunity exists to repurpose the railroad tracks to create a transportation corridor with a trolley to connect the University and Downtown with points north and south. Perhaps a section of the railroad rails could support a sculptural element such as a tribute to Terre Haute’s Railroad history.

Expressions of art could be proactive, such as “pop-up” businesses in vacant storefronts. Such measures to encourage incubator non-franchise retail businesses in the urban core would provide an enlivened alternative to the mall experience. Engage property owners of underutilized historic buildings presently falling into disrepair to join in the effort of revitalizing the urban core. Create an authentic streetscape and evolve a unique local context rather than going the route of picking and choosing a pre-packaged streetscape design. Site-specific amenities, theatrical lighting, sustainable practices, social engagement, live/work retail and mixed-use communities are some elements to consider that could involve and attract creative entrepreneurial businesses to the downtown core. Civic works of art could reinforce the Wabash Avenue corridor at the city/county government center. Here an antiquated fountain can be provisioned to celebrate the river and its urban watershed.

Indiana State University, located one block to the north of Wabash Avenue, is a pedestrian-based population ready for engagement with Wabash Avenue. I found encouraging signs during my two visits: some interesting gems of small innovative businesses, civic and cultural assets, and a somewhat intact building inventory. These are good bones to build upon, to encourage a pedestrian culture and create a fresh momentum to “Turn to the River.”



Buster Simpson, *Water in Our World*
Image: Buster Simpson

RETURNING JOURNEY

As the Wabash Streetscape Axis evolves and connects to the river, the “early win incidences” and urban anomalies evolve into prototypes and ultimately become cherished streetscape landmarks, amenities, and expressions of place and art. This approach is a time based interactive process of consensus that makes cities interesting and dynamic and any successful urban “master plan” needs to accommodate this process of thoughtful substantive accretion, dissolution and change.

The historic “Crossroads of America,” the junction of two National Highways at Wabash Avenue and 7th Street, the original US 40 and US 41, serves as a metaphor for the crossroads facing contemporary American cities as they evolve with populations trending back toward urban living, bringing a renewed sense of environmentalism and community connection. What metaphor does this crossroads intersection offer? Do we connect it as a couplet to “Turn to the River” as another historic conveyance of people and goods? Creating this connection is about the journey as much as it is the destination: what awaits the episodic pedestrian journey along Wabash Avenue from the “Crossroads” to the River’s edge? The city may want to consider identifying 7th Street (old highway 41) as an historic alternative route directing those interested in the ‘there, there’ to travel the byway loop.

TURN TO THE RIVER LANDING

Wabash River Landing, gateway to the Wabash River, provides an ‘early win’ street-end park. Creating a view from the historic bridge abutment and providing an inviting environment would be a positive first step. Eventually the Wabash Avenue right of way should reestablish the aesthetic of its historic street standards, with curbs and brick pavement that eventually reconnect the alignment through the city and county parking lots and back onto existing Wabash Ave, east of the County Courthouse.

Reintroducing and referencing the locally manufactured street brick pavement of the National Highway is one option to consider. Another, is to reference the Macadam pavement, an earlier historic paving type from the 1830’s and to mimic the roadway aesthetic of the time. What were the street trees of choice at that time and could they now take root at the Wabash Landing? What historic street trees could be replanted along the new infill streetscape? Plant with the future in mind and a vision of grand trees with civic stature.

Is the sidewalk Indiana limestone or concrete? Where do we take liberties with history and technology? What time periods are considered when thinking historically? Is it the time of the first covered bridge or the bridge that came after, now destroyed and replaced? Is rezoning an option and/or should lands adjacent to the Wabash right of way be purchased? How is the restored alignment programmed? How does the adjacent private property respond to add a meaningful experience to the journey? What civic assets and engagements could reinforce the City Hall and



Buster Simpson, *Whole Flow*
Image: Buster Simpson

County Courthouse services, considering most of the restored street right of way is on public property?

WABASH RIVER PYLON

Standing on Wabash Avenue at the threshold of the old bridge, now a relic waiting to be repurposed anew, a pylon vector strategically rises in anticipation of a new bridge.

I propose a navigational pylon of sculptural proportions at Terre Haute's first crossroad, the Wabash River. The pylon suggests utility and eventually could serve as the main support for an innovative cable-stayed bridge over the Wabash. As pedestrians turn to the river and cross over it, they experience a gossamer passage, a floating bridge overflowing waters.

The pylon aligns to both the Wabash River and Wabash Avenue, reinforcing a pedestrian desire line between downtown and the river, culminating with a journey over the river and to what awaits beyond. The lattice of stainless steel cabling would create an aerial structure and provide a surface for evening illumination and a vector to enhance the Wabash Avenue alignment.

The Pylon's placement in the river would be determined by an engineering strategy that would eventually support a cable-stayed bridge. The new bridge would be tethered to the two existing bridges as part of its structural strategy to serve to arrest some of the lateral wind loading forces and reduce the structural requirements of the Pylon bridge and deck work.

The bridge would be designed to carry pedestrians and bicycles, connecting the east bank to the west and providing access to wetland park resources, river trails, and local communities. Presently there is no safe passage for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross on the existing bridges.

I have had conversations with the City and the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology regarding feasibility and partnering opportunities in an effort to study the engineering feasibility for this approach to bridge design and its integration into the Wabash Avenue Corridor.

OFFERING CITY WATERSHED TO THE WABASH RIVER

The Wabash Avenue is one of many roads that end at the Wabash River and this project serves as a model for other 'turn to the river' street end opportunities. One in particular is the Sycamore Street, which is positioned to be the primary corridor connecting Indiana State University with the River. Sycamore is the University symbol, and the campus is noted as a tree campus. Sycamore Street can take the notion of "green" to the next step by creating a water retention and mitigating bio swale as part of a campus based 'Sycamore Allee' espousing a pedagogical mission consistent the University's teachings about environmental stewardship.

Turn to the river, turn to the city, turn to the interconnectedness of it all.





Buster Simpson, *Tempe Light Rail Transit Bridge*
Image: TYLin International Group and Valley Metro
Public Art Program

BETSY DAMON



Betsy Damon, *Nautilus*, detail from *Living Water Garden*
Image: Betsy Damon

Betsy Damon | www.keepersofthewaters.org

Betsy Damon works toward creating community-based models of water stewardship, directing people to consider creative solutions for the urgent threats to water as a fragile and integral source of life. She founded Keepers of the Waters in 1991 to inspire and promote projects that combine art, science, and community involvement to restore, preserve, and remediate water sources. Through sculpture, teaching, lectures, and workshops, she urges immediate consideration of water use and quality as a paramount global concern.

Dates of Visit

October 27 - November 2, 2013

Observations and Recommendations

Terre Haute is at a turning point. It has an opportunity to implement numerous integrated sustainable solutions that will define the future of the city. These practical solutions not only need to contribute to the environment and our urban ecology, but also to engage the public and create interaction with and awareness of ecosystems. This is an opportunity to make the invisible workings of our environment visible. Terre Haute needs to take the bold step of creating a more dynamic relationship with the river, fully embracing the interdependence of the river and the city.

Green Street Network

Terre Haute's landscape of open spaces, including broad sidewalks and parking lots, is an opportunity for green streets. Imagine an interconnected web of greenery around the city, including trees, rain gardens and bioswales. Tree planting, creating an urban forest, would provide shade, cooling, water absorption, and a generous atmosphere. The local colleges can continue the reforestation of their campuses. Bioswales and rain gardens can be integrated into the broad sidewalks downtown at 6th Street and Wabash Avenue. This network of plants and water collection will create a place where people will want to be and spend time.

Poetry In Bioswales / Making the Invisible Visible

Let's design whole streets for water collection and absorption. These interventions need not be straightforward. Design inherently contains poetry, sculpture and metaphor. Green solutions are an opportunity to display the beauty and complexity of our natural resources. To understand these complexities, to have a more rounded consciousness of how our environment works, will lead to a more sustainable future. The community should be involved in the design process, creating aesthetic, dynamic, ecological contributions to the city. They need to be making the art and making it their own.



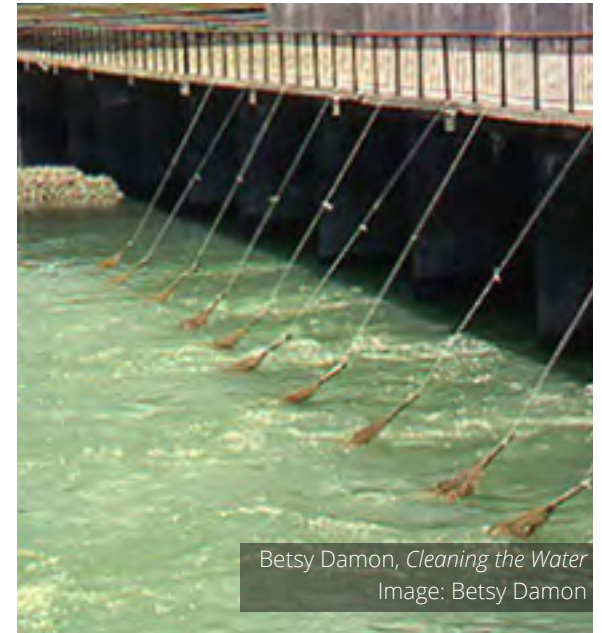
Betsy Damon tours the White Violet Center for Ecojustice
Image: Mary Kramer

The River: Transformation, Connection

Life in Terre Haute is inextricably connected to the Wabash River and yet there is little to indicate the presence of the river. The edge of the river is where transformation can begin. This is not easy on the Wabash River. It can be cleaned, and given a more flexible footprint by creating seasonal wetlands along the edge. If we can bring more people to the river, so that they can see and experience it, this will lead to an expectation of better stewardship. We can bring more people to the river with paths, trails, signs, events, and art. Picture pedestrian/bicycle bridges and paths that flow from the downtown to the water's edge. This bridge could have the structure of a flow system, with several paths that converge, lifting people over the street and to the river. These paths could continue through the nature reserve, bringing people in contact with these ecosystems.

Return the Storm Water

The health of the Wabash River depends on the storm water flow, which brings urban toxins from the streets and can cause sewage overflow. We can eliminate the hazards of storm water runoff by directing it to natural cleaning systems, and encouraging its absorption in the ground with bioswales and rain gardens. Rainwater is readily available fresh water and, the collection and reuse of it is essential to the future. We need to see our cities as protectors and harbors, sustained by circular systems of use and reuse.



Betsy Damon, *Cleaning the Water*
Image: Betsy Damon



Betsy Damon, *Sounds of Water*
Image: Betsy Damon



Betsy Damon, *Sounds of Water*
Image: Betsy Damon



Betsy Damon, *Living Water Garden*, Chengdu, China
Image: Betsy Damon

Stakeholder Meetings

Input from stakeholders was gathered through focus group meetings. Participants were provided with a series of guiding questions in advance of the meeting and each group was presented with the same questions for consistency. Responses were recorded and catalogued and are summarized below.

Present: Existing Barriers

Stakeholders were asked to describe their experiences and observations regarding existing barriers to the study area. Common concerns included access, aesthetics, and safety.

Access

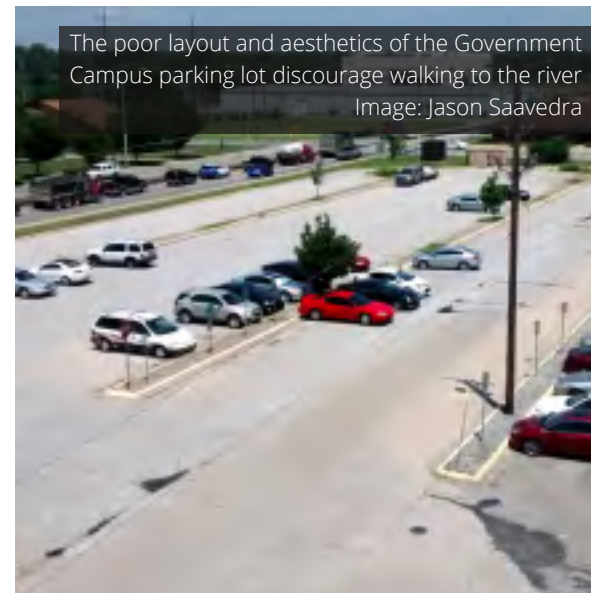
The most commonly expressed barrier was the issue of Third, First, and Ohio Streets as physical impediments to pedestrian and bicycle access. Participants felt that the number of traffic lanes, lane widths, excessive speed of vehicles, high volume of automobile traffic, lack of pedestrian accommodation, limited duration of walk signals, and the train tracks along First Street were physical obstacles that create an unsafe situation and discourage people from visiting the river. Other access-related concerns included:

- + Parking (poor layout of Government Campus lot, lack of sufficient parking in Fairbanks Park during large events)
- + Lack of adequate lighting
- + Lack of river access / visibility / signage

Aesthetics

Participants in the meetings were also concerned about the poor image created by a lack of attention to aesthetics throughout the study area. Most comments regarding aesthetics focused on the parking lot, county security center ("jail"), communications tower, and grounds of the Government Campus. Other aesthetic concerns included:

- + Former county jail at 30 Ohio Street as an eyesore
- + Disfunctional fountain/sculpture in Fairbanks Park as an eyesore
- + Haphazard layout of Fairbanks Park amenities
- + Dirty/ugly appearance of the river



Safety

A number of responses were related to perceptions about safety issues at various locations in the study area. Examples included:

- + Concern for safety when crossing Third, First, Ohio, and Cherry Streets
- + Perception of threats to personal safety in Fairbanks Park
- + Perception of the river as dangerous to be near or to navigate

Future: Ideas for Improvement

Stakeholders were asked what ideas they had for improving the study area through public art and design. The primary focus of their thoughts was on adding attractions as well as elements that would support those attractions.

Attractions

Most participants recommended adding components that would attract people to the river and many were focused on recreation and entertainment. Examples include:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| + Public art | + Community events center |
| + Bike/boat/canoe rentals | + Ice skating rink |
| + Splash pad/pool/aquatics center | + Boat docks |
| + Informational & educational signage/walking tours | + Exercise stations |
| + International / cultural festivals | + Yoga in the park |
| + Nature center / eco-center | + Movies in the park |
| + Playground improvements | + Outdoor summer theater |

Infrastructure to Support Attractions

Feedback focused on adding infrastructure or other accommodations that make attractions more accessible and appealing. For example:

- + Improve universal access to/within spaces (facilitate pedestrian accommodations, improve bus schedule)
- + Improve overall aesthetics
- + Improve parking at Government Campus and Fairbanks Park
- + Improve amenities (comprehensive calendar for public events and space rental, benches / places to sit, access to electricity for events)

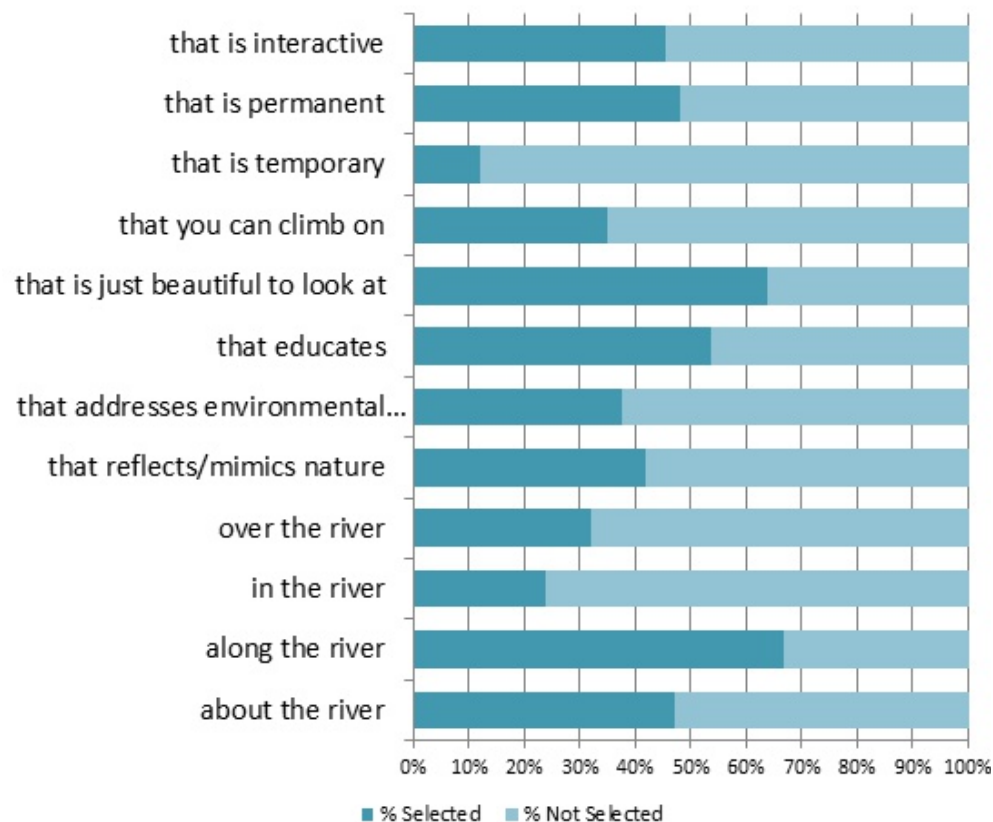
Public Survey

Survey participants were asked to provide three words or short phrases to describe each of the plan focus areas. Each response was combined into a database and sorted by frequency of repetition. This provided a snapshot of the most prevalent perceptions as well the broad range of opinion about these focus areas. The images on the facing page, known as "word clouds" or "wordles", represent these results in a dynamic format.

In addition, respondents were asked to indicate which types of public art they would like to see within the study area. Figure 1 below offers a glimpse at these results. Additional survey results were also tabulated. See Appendix B for these details.

Figure 1: Types of art requested by survey respondents

I would like to see art...



Public Input Meetings

Citizens provided input through public meetings regarding existing barriers and ideas for the future. Tables 1 and 2 summarize some of this input. For further details see Appendix D.

Present: Existing Barriers

Table 1: Existing barriers expressed in public meetings by sub-area and in order of frequency

Wabash River	Fairbanks Park	Government Campus
stigma / poor reputation	lack of attractions	aesthetics/upkeep
access	stigma / poor reputation	unsafe pedestrian access
aesthetics/upkeep	access	parking
visibility	visibility	lack of people
pollution	lack of trail connectivity	spatial arrangement
lack of attractions	aesthetics/upkeep	stigma / poor reputation
lack of people	parking	lack of attractions
	spatial arrangement	visibility
		safety

Future: Ideas for Improvement

Table 2: Most frequently-mentioned ideas for the future from public meetings by focus area and in order of frequency

Wabash River	Fairbanks Park	Government Campus	Downtown Links
Remove Jersey barriers to increase river visibility	Restaurants / food trucks	Relocate jail	Provide safe pedestrian crossings for Third Street
More opportunities for boat rides	Boat rental	Rehabilitate City Hall	Signage / wayfinding indicating proximity to river
Trail connectivity / connect to Wabashiki	Splash park	Farmer's market in parking lot	Allude to river with public art and water features along Wabash Avenue
Develop overlook at west end of Wabash Ave. for public use	Beautify First Street	Multi-use buildings along periphery	
Condos/apartments near the river	Pedestrian bridge over river	Feature the river	



Residents enjoying Fairbanks Park during an event
Image: Brendan Kearns

This chapter summarizes elements of recorded history relevant to the nature of the relationship between Terre Haute's downtown and the Wabash River and does not attempt to provide a comprehensive history of the city.

PAST

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Wabash Avenue, the backbone of the downtown, once continued all the way to the river
Postcard image: Courtesy of Ray Thomas

A History of the Study Area

There is evidence of human settlement along the Wabash River in the area of Terre Haute as early as 8,000 B.C. Many native tribes such as the Quapaw, Miami, Mascouten, Kickapoo, Fox, Sauk, and Illinois depended upon the river and its tributaries for survival.

Throughout the 18th Century, Native American, Spanish, French, and British populations were attracted to the *high land* of Terre Haute and other areas that offered strategic access to the transportation route provided by the combined waters of the Maumee, Wabash, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers.

As a prelude to the War of 1812, Fort Harrison was erected in 1811 by U.S. forces just north of present-day Terre Haute, along the river's banks. Multiple battles and skirmishes between U.S. settlers and Native Americans took place at this location before, during, and for several years after the war as the U.S. government was increasingly occupying and controlling native lands. The last official act at Fort Harrison was in 1819 when Colonel Benjamin Parke, acting as an official United States agent, convinced Kickapoo chiefs to sign a treaty that relinquished their lands to the U.S. government.

Terre Haute was platted out in 1816, directly flanking the Wabash River and with a

courthouse square at its center. The river brought industry from both the north and south, and the town quickly grew in population and size in the ensuing decades.

During this time, the National Road – the nation's first major interstate highway – was being constructed in neighboring states to the east. Construction of the National Road through Indiana took place from 1829 to 1839. While the project was abandoned by the federal government before its completion, it still brought numerous east-west travelers through the city as well as interest and investment from outside the community. Wabash Avenue became the main thoroughfare in Terre Haute because of the National Road, then called the Cumberland Road.

Even more interest was drawn to Terre Haute when the Wabash and Erie Canal, the longest canal ever built in North America, was routed through town. Terre Haute had been chosen as the site of the Wabash and Erie Canal Convention in 1845, and was later established as the canal's headquarters due to its central location and proximity to the National Road. The canal linked the Great Lakes to the Ohio River and connected traders from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico.

In 1846 the first bridge over the Wabash River along the National Road was constructed, only to collapse just one year later. A privately-owned drawbridge was built in 1865 and served as a toll bridge for about 10 years until it was sold to Vigo County.

The Indiana State Normal School, later renamed Indiana State University, opened its doors for the first time in 1870 in a building constructed adjacent to the downtown district. The school grew significantly over the years, increasingly forming a strong presence in the downtown.

At the turn of the 20th Century, Terre Haute was a city in full force, equipped with the finest amenities of the time. The city gained a reputation for its arts and entertainment offerings. A system of streetcars and electric trolleys carried Terre Hauteans throughout the city and railroads connected them to the outside world. Trains made over 200 passenger stops per day in Terre Haute, and there were three main railroad depots in the city.

The health of the economy was highly dependent on the railroad and steel industries, distilleries, breweries, glass bottle production, and coal mining. The sale of several prominent rail lines in the early 1900s resulted in a loss of thousands of jobs. Prohibition terminated operations at almost all of Terre Haute's distillery and brewing

facilities in the 1920s. The local coal mining industry also dissipated over several decades as the decline of railroads decreased the demand for coal and the depletion of coal in mines reduced the resources available.

In mid-century America, communities across the nation, including Terre Haute, were refashioning urban areas to accommodate the abundant number of automobiles that had quickly become the dominant mode of transportation. During the 1970s Interstate 70 was built approximately five miles south of downtown to facilitate faster interstate travel through bypassing local congestion.

Third Street was transformed into a high-traffic road with multiple traffic lanes when it was designated as U.S. 41, effectively severing the downtown district from its civic, recreational, and environmental assets to the west. These include the Government Campus, Fairbanks Park, and the Wabash River, which collectively make up the study area of *Turn to the River*.

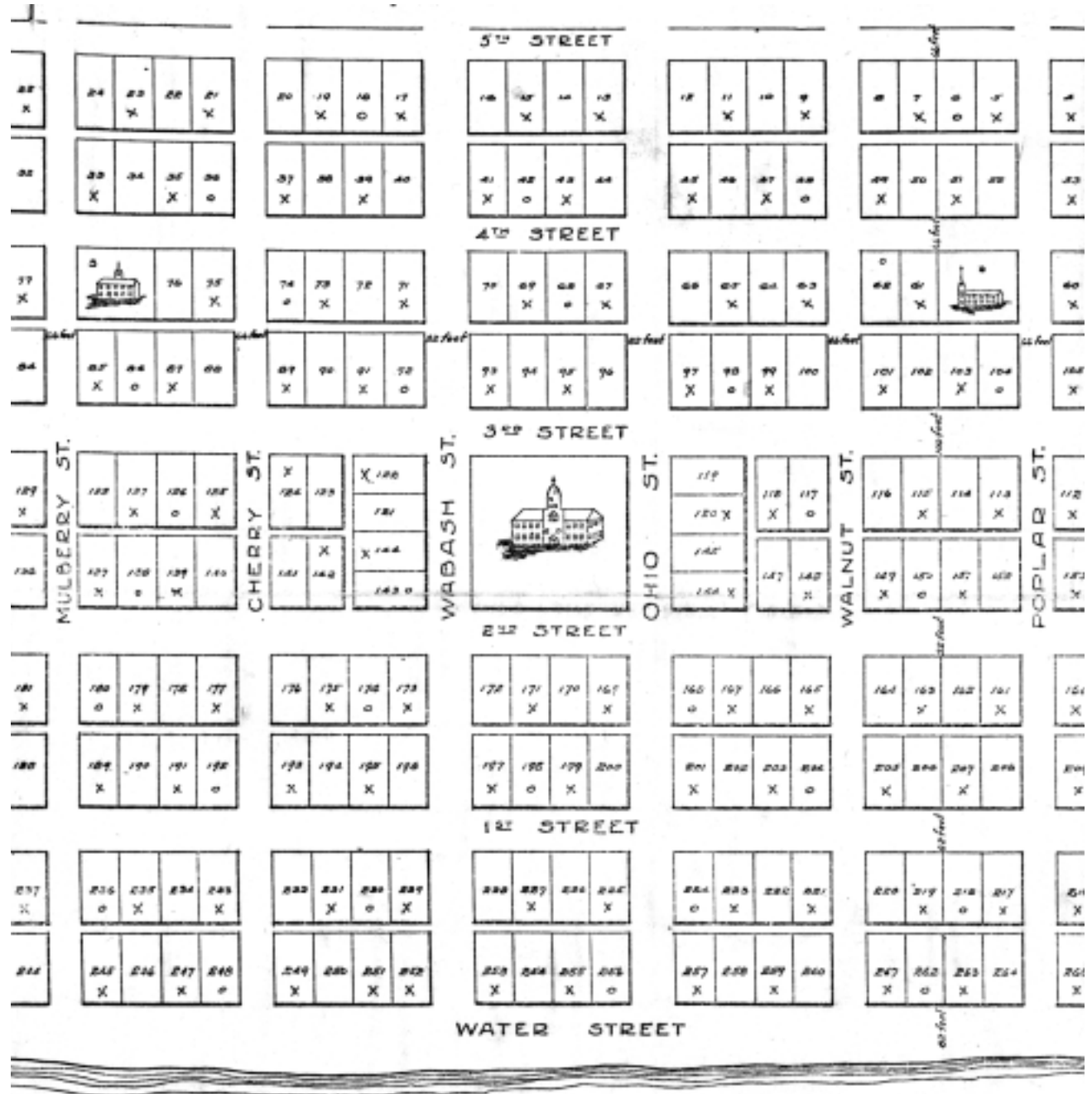
The presence of I-70 encouraged significant new development at its interchange with U.S. Highway 41 in Terre Haute, drawing commercial activity away from the downtown. Increased suburban development over the coming years would leave the downtown largely fragmented, sparsely populated, and in ill repair.



Indiana State Normal School, c. 1900
Postcard image: Courtesy of Ray Thomas



Downtown Terre Haute in 1980
Image: Melvin Bernero



Original 1816 Plat of Terre Haute
 Image: Courtesy of Vigo County Public Library



Canoes in the water at Wabash riverbank
Image: Courtesy of Vigo County Historical Society

Wabash River

The City of Terre Haute exists because of the Wabash River, which constituted a primary means of transport for people and goods for many centuries. Many native tribes settled in the Wabash Valley all along the river and its tributaries. The higher banks of the Wabash, such as those found in Terre Haute, were the locations of choice for Native Americans, European settlers, and U.S. military stations.



The National Road / Wabash Avenue bridge, c. 1906
Postcard image: Courtesy of Ray Thomas



Industry dominated the riverfront for many years
Image: Courtesy of Vigo County Public Library

Throughout the 19th Century, traders utilized the river as a primary connector to facilitate commercial exchange between the Great Lakes and New Orleans. The development of the National Road through downtown Terre Haute further strengthened the city's status as an emerging hub of commercial activity.

Accumulation of silt and runoff from farming gradually made the Wabash River too shallow for larger vessels to navigate. At the turn of the 20th Century, the river could have been dredged to accept larger ships, but by then railroads had become the dominant mode of long-distance transportation across the country and the cost of dredging the river did not make economic sense. From then on, the Wabash ceased to serve as a primary artery for transportation of goods. Instead, the river became a channel for disposal of sewage and waste for agricultural operations and the industries along its banks.

A 1977 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study exploring the feasibility of dredging the river proved that doing so was not financially viable. As a result, the Wabash River is one of few U.S. rivers that have maintained a relatively "natural" state. The single dam along the Wabash, located in northern Indiana, provides some flood control to urban centers downstream.

The covered wagon bridge crossing at Terre Haute was replaced in 1905 by a deck truss bridge. This bridge was rehabilitated in 1973 and was later demolished in 1992, replaced by two one-way bridges at Cherry and Ohio Streets. The new bridge design left a vacant, narrow plot of riverside land at the western "end" of Wabash Avenue.

Recent initiatives by government, community leaders, and private landowners have improved the natural environment along the riverfront. A number of strategies have been undertaken by local government and private landowners to reduce river pollution, resulting in significant progress toward restoration of natural habitats.

Wabash River Development and Beautification, Inc. (WRDBI) initiated the Riverscape Plan in 2003, which offers a vision for land use surrounding the river in and around Vigo County. One of Riverscape's major early accomplishments is the designation of the Wabashiki Fish and Wildlife Area, a continuously growing wetlands currently consisting of 2,683 acres just across the river from Terre Haute. This was implemented in collaboration with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Vigo County Parks Department. Wabashiki is part of the wider Healthy Rivers Initiative, an ongoing 43,000-acre protection, restoration, and enhancement project for the Wabash River and Sugar Creek corridor, begun in 2010.



Fairbanks Park, south end, demonstrating proximity to the river
Image: Courtesy of Terre Haute Department of Engineering

Fairbanks Park

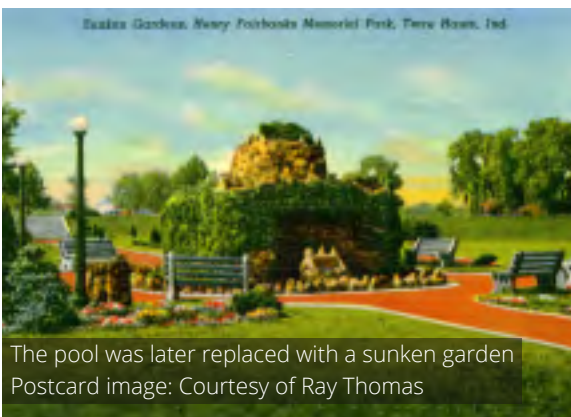
The land that currently comprises Fairbanks Park was donated to the City of Terre Haute in 1916 by the Fairbanks family. The land had previously been abandoned and its structures were in disrepair; therefore, the city welcomed the opportunity to convert the site to a more desirable use. Since then, a number of water-related elements have been incorporated into the park (though none function today), and it has served as a serene respite from urban life and industry.

The sunken area first contained a swimming pool
Postcard image: Courtesy of Ray Thomas



In the 1870s a hot spring was discovered on the site of Fairbanks Park during an oil drilling effort. A naturally-heated bathhouse resort was built on the site and was open for business until the early 1900s. For many years after the resort closed, a water pipe remained open and people drank the sulfur water for good health.

In 1924, almost a decade after the area was established as Fairbanks Park, an enormous oval-shaped public swimming pool measuring nearly 200 feet by 130 feet was opened near the center of the park. The pool, which operated for 15 years, was surrounded by a seven foot wide sandy beach. A sunken garden with hundreds of perennials and evergreens replaced the pool in 1937. The focal point of the garden was a fountain, which was illuminated with lights of various colors and surrounded by sycamore trees, shrubs, and ivy vines.



The pool was later replaced with a sunken garden
Postcard image: Courtesy of Ray Thomas

Paul Dresser Drive, which winds through the park and acts as the primary access road, was completed in the late 1930s. A component of the city's Emerald Necklace plan created by nationally renowned designer George Kessler, the drive was originally conceived as a boulevard that would encircle the entire city in a winding fashion. The drive extended south to Margaret Avenue for a period of time and was later confined only to park property.

Over the years, two prominent artifacts of Terre Haute's history were relocated within Fairbanks Park. The façade of the original Federal Building was moved to the park in 1933 when the rest of the building was demolished. It was placed at the highest point in the park where it now serves as part of a memorial to Chauncey Rose, an early and influential philanthropist. The birth home of Paul Dresser, a Terre Haute native and world-renowned songwriter who wrote Indiana's state song, "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away," was saved from demolition in the 1960s and is now relocated just inside the southern entrance of the park at Farrington Street.

Efforts in the 1980s to improve the park initiated a design contest for redeveloping the former pool and sunken garden area with an iconic, designed fountain. The selected design – a large, painted steel dome-like structure with streams of water released from its top – was built in 1983 and served as an attraction for the park for several years. Also in 1983, a Hiroshima Memorial was constructed in the southeast corner of the park in response to the national buildup of nuclear arms occurring at that time.



The now inoperable fountain was constructed in 1983
Image: Courtesy of Vigo County Public Library



Government Campus

The original 1816 plat of Terre Haute's downtown designated a courthouse square in the area that is labeled "Government Campus" in this plan. The square formed the physical and civic nucleus of the new village. Construction began on the original courthouse in 1818, the same year in which Vigo County was formed. Surrounding the square were Wabash Street to the north, Third Street to the east, Ohio Street to the south, and Second Street to the west. Two- and three-story buildings were soon added along all of these streets, facing the square.

The courthouse originally housed county administrative offices in addition to the courts. The building gradually fell into disrepair and in 1868 county offices were temporarily relocated to a building at the corner of Third and Ohio Streets. Construction of a new courthouse was delayed for two decades as citizens expressed displeasure at the high cost.

Construction finally commenced on the new courthouse structure (which still stands today) when a 10,000 pound cornerstone was laid on August 28, 1884. The courthouse features a two-ton bell made in 1887, partly funded by the estate of Francis Vigo, the prominent Italian-American Revolutionary War figure for which the county is named. The architect of the courthouse specified a monumental scale for the building in order to inspire the surrounding community to rise in prominence.

From 1870 to 1936, Terre Haute's City Hall was located at Fourth and Walnut Streets. The current City Hall was a project of the Works Progress Administration, constructed on the Government Campus site and opened in 1936. The fountain in its plaza was designed by city redevelopment staff and was constructed in 1974.

Work began on the Vigo County Security Center, which was developed to replace the jail at 30 Ohio Street, in 1975. The facility was built on a tight budget to accommodate only 86 prisoners, with the hope that a fourth floor could be added in the future to accommodate additional cells. Overcrowding quickly became an issue that lingers to this day.

Second Street was closed to vehicular traffic within the Government Campus in 1960. Wabash Avenue was closed to vehicles beginning with the construction of the Vigo County Security Center in the 1970s.

In 1983 the Vigo County Courthouse was added to the National Register of Historic Places.



Terre Haute City Hall, 1936
Postcard image: Courtesy of Ray Thomas



Wabash Avenue in downtown Terre Haute, 1936
Image: Courtesy of Vigo County Historical Society

Downtown Terre Haute

Downtown was originally planned with a courthouse square as its center, stretching from the Wabash River to Fifth Street, and from Eagle to Swan Streets. Wabash Avenue (then called Wabash Street) and Ohio Street flanked the courthouse square on the north and south sides, and each road held equal footing as the primary east-west arteries of downtown. Surveyors of the first federally-funded interstate highway – the National Road – decided to align the highway along Wabash Street, which cemented it as the primary thoroughfare of the town and the backbone of the central district.



As development continued east beyond Fifth Street, the central axis of the downtown shifted to the intersection of Wabash Avenue and Seventh Street. By the early 20th Century, many two- and three-story buildings lined the streets of downtown, from First to Ninth Streets and from Cherry to Walnut Streets. Passenger trains, street cars, carriages, and pedestrians bustled through town, traversing an organized grid of streets and railways.

Since the mid-20th Century, Americans have used their cities differently than ever before because of the automobile. Before affordable cars were available, the average person relied on trolleys, trains, or horse-drawn carriages to travel distances exceeding a few miles. Beyond that people relied primarily on walking; therefore, buildings and amenities were densely developed with walking distance in mind. Once automobiles became affordable, distance between assets was no longer an important factor. New developments were no longer sited with pedestrian access in mind, and before long many traditional downtowns were largely abandoned.

The case of Terre Haute's downtown illustrates this trend. The rise of the automobile era brought significant change to the landscape in Terre Haute as Interstate 70 was completed in the early 1970s. The highway attracted development to the periphery of the city, drawing commercial

activity away from the downtown. Later, U.S. Highway 41 was redirected from Seventh Street to Third Street to speed vehicular traffic, effectively separating the downtown district from its civic, recreational, and environmental assets to the west - including the courthouse square, Fairbanks Park, and the Wabash River, the focus areas of *Turn to the River*.

These major changes effectively transformed the character of the downtown. The Swope Art Museum maintained a positive cultural presence, but many other historic downtown buildings were abandoned. Most continued activity came from a business presence which increased in the 1970s when financial institutions and legal firms began to occupy some of the older buildings and add new ones. At that time Indiana State University did not have a campus separate from the downtown. Activity from that sector continued but there was no longer much life downtown after business hours.

Since the late 1990s, Terre Haute's citizens and leaders have turned their focus toward positive improvement of the city's urban core through investment in a number of redevelopment projects. The city established Seventh Street as the "Arts Corridor" to support established arts venues and organizations in the area and promote new efforts. Art Spaces' formation in 2003 was a significant component of Terre Haute's cultural renewal.





reflect

Sala Wong, *Indistinct* (video still), 2013, Urban
intervention with video
© Sala Wong, courtesy of the artist

© 2013 sala wong



Reconnecting with the river and its wetlands offer ample opportunities for birdwatching and photography
Image: Marty Jones

© Marty L Jones

Keys to building a better future through creative placemaking include fully understanding the present circumstances found within an area to be rehabilitated, and determining the measure of its current public use and access. This effort also provides an opportunity to begin the important process of community engagement. By inviting residents to provide information and concerns about their experiences in using a space, along with their ideas for positive change, a door is opened to increased use and better care of public places.

This chapter combines facts, public opinion and observations about the existing conditions of the *Turn to the River* study area and also references existing initiatives relevant to downtown Terre Haute, the river, and the spaces in between.

PRESENT

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Colored boxes throughout this chapter contain comments, opinions, and ideas from the public

Existing Conditions: Wabash River

Facts

The Wabash River is Indiana's official state river, flowing approximately 500 miles through the state. It begins near Ft. Recovery, Ohio, continuing approximately 30 miles before it enters Indiana. From there it flows 61 more miles until it is dammed for flood control at the J. Edward Roush Lake. The segment of the river beyond that point is the longest free-flowing (undammed) section of any U.S. river east of the Mississippi. The overall natural state of the Wabash is due in part to its lack of damming and dredging. The latter is due to a 1977 study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which found that commercial navigation was not practical for the Wabash River.

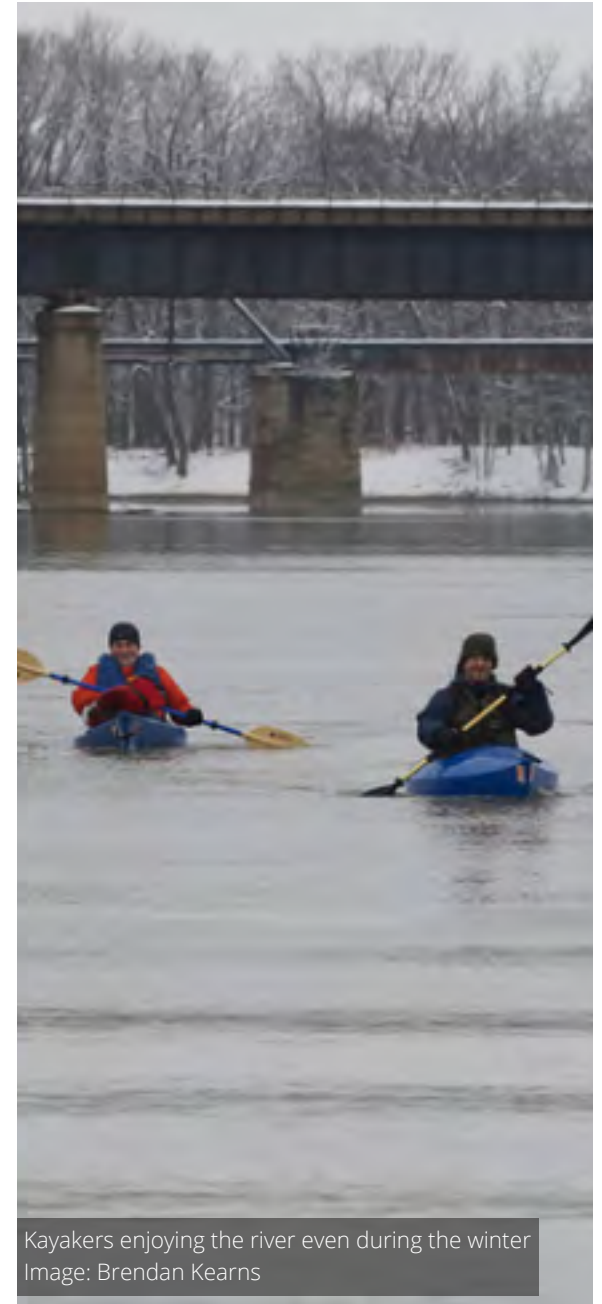
Today, people in the Wabash Valley use the river primarily for recreational purposes. Bird-watching, wildlife-viewing, boating, and fishing are some of the more popular activities. A boat dock at Fairbanks Park provides the only point of public boat access within Terre Haute.

Occasional flooding is a natural, recurring phase of the river. The wetlands of the Wabashiki Fish and Wildlife Area, located just across the river from the study area, dissipate flood waters to reduce the likelihood of major flooding and damage to the city and adjacent areas.

It is rare for a city the size of Terre Haute to be located adjacent to such a large preserved natural area. Portions of Wabashiki are designated for recreational use including walking, bicycling, running, and other trail activities; wildlife viewing; hunting; and fishing. Dewey Point, a primary access site for the wetlands, is under development with space reserved for public art. The nature of this asset creates many new opportunities for education and awareness-building regarding the river, its natural resources, and their role in the health and vitality of our community.

Residents perceive the river as being dirty and polluted. This impression is confirmed consistently through the public input. Many people believe that the brown color of the river's water is due only to pollution from industry and farming. Although agricultural runoff is a serious problem and does play a role, in fact the color of the water is derived largely from microscopic algae called diatoms which naturally occur in river water.

Like many of our nation's rivers, origins of the Wabash River's pollution in this region are rooted in the past industrial and agricultural uses of properties adjacent to it. Land within the city along the river that is identified as being toxic is increasingly under municipal control and the city is expending



Kayakers enjoying the river even during the winter
Image: Brendan Kearns



Airboat rides on the Wabash
Image: Brendan Kearns

vigorous and diligent efforts to remediate contamination. Their work is ongoing.

While e-coli is still present in the river water, the levels have decreased over the past decade and continue to decline. The City of Terre Haute Sanitary District follows a state and federally approved water management plan to reduce incidents of river contamination.

Public Input

Public input suggests that the majority of residents of our region feel no real connection to the Wabash River. Many respondents suggested that they have had few experiences with the river, citing numerous barriers:

- + *There is only one river access point for boats in the city*
- + *The river's waters are dirty/polluted*
- + *There is limited visual interaction with the river due to Jersey Barriers on bridges*
- + *Commercial activity does not take place along the river*
- + *The riverbank's steep slope creates fear and apprehension*
- + *There is "no reason" to go there*
- + *Lack of access to a boat or other vessel*

Observations

There appears to be a significant lack of understanding among local residents regarding the ways in which a river can be experienced, aside from being in a boat. People are precluded from connecting with the river visually due to the design of river bridges and lack of visual cues throughout the other areas of the city. People passing through town note that you can drive down Third Street, two blocks from the river, and not know of its presence within the city.

Despite the overwhelming majority who feel disconnected from the river, a minority incorporate the river into their everyday lives. Some depend on the river for their livelihood, some reside along its banks, and others enjoy the river for recreation. Members of this group do feel connected.

The natural state of the river presents unique opportunities for education, recreation, and tourism as well as challenges with flood control.

Existing Conditions: Fairbanks Park

Facts

Fairbanks Park consists of 48 acres of land that serve as the only area of public access to the Wabash River within the city. The park contains a wide expanse of grassy open space and a terrain that slopes down to the river from its eastern border at First Street. There are numerous mature trees, including several new trees planted in 2013. Plans for landscaping near the Dresser House will incorporate 25 new trees in the park by 2015.

The park includes a number of public amenities and facilities of varying scale, condition, and age including:

- + A children's playground
- + Picnic benches and shelters
- + Public restroom facilities
- + An open-air amphitheater
- + Two architectural landmarks:
 - + Chauncey Rose Memorial Plaza
 - + Paul Dresser's birth home
- + A Hiroshima Memorial
- + A dome-shaped metal structure that once served as a fountain
- + The National Road Heritage Trail

Park facilities leased to private organizations include: the Vigo County YMCA, the Terre Haute Softball League, and the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana. The park is also home to the offices of the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department.

The City of Terre Haute designates Fairbanks Park as its main "Festival Park," and concentrates most large-scale outdoor public events there. The park's large open spaces are also used by the public for casual games, picnics, and small gatherings.

2013 Year of the River brought new attention to the park. The Terre Haute Farmer's Market set up a mid-week market in Fairbanks Park to increase options for market-goers. Watermark, a group of professional artists, installed a public art piece called "Watermark Landing", which serves as a small riverfront plaza celebrating the river and its resources. A sculpture in honor of Paul Dresser entitled *A Song for Indiana*, to be placed near his childhood home, will serve as the newest addition to the park's landscape.



Amphitheater steps and Chauncey Rose Memorial
Image: Brendan Kearns



Families enjoying the park during an event
Image: Brendan Kearns

Public Input

Combined comments from public and stakeholder interviews and surveys suggest that Fairbanks Park is underutilized. They seek a larger, more permanent attraction for recreational purposes. While regular park visitors do not experience fear, the perception by those who do not go to the park is that it feels unsafe. A portion of respondents avoid the park because of a perceived negative reputation. Typical characterizations of this reputation included:

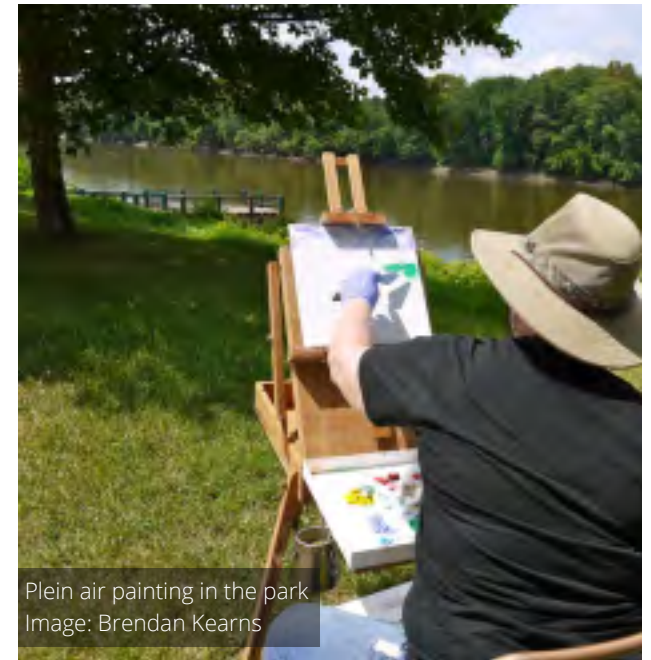
- + *A presumption that the park is unsafe*
- + *A belief that illicit activity takes place in certain areas*
- + *An aversion to the annual "Banks of the Wabash Festival" which some respondents view negatively*
- + *A negative perception of the Wabash River being dirty/polluted, dangerous, etc.*

Observations

The predominant concern with Fairbanks Park appears to be based on its negative reputation and a perception that it is unsafe, primarily coming from residents who do not regularly use it. Reputation aside, the park has a natural sloping landscape that hinders the view from First Street where the park entrances are located. From the street, the park slopes down to the river's bank which then drops down

sharply to the river in most places. There is an absence of prominent wayfinding and identification features on approach and in adjacent areas. A lack of major family-friendly amenities and the lack of wayfinding within the park, even for the features that do exist, also contribute to the park's image problem, discouraging residents from forming a positive relationship with the river.

New wayfinding, signage, and boulevard-style upgrades along First Street have potential to increase visibility and access to Fairbanks Park. Wayfinding and careful siting of new amenities within the park will provide a more comfortable and positive experience.



Plein air painting in the park
Image: Brendan Kearns

Existing Conditions: Government Campus

Facts

The Government Campus consists of one city block which includes the Vigo County Courthouse, Terre Haute's City Hall, and the Vigo County Security Center. Between City Hall and the Courthouse is a plaza with a fountain. Five permanent memorials and a large parking lot are also located on the grounds. Other governmental agencies located nearby include: the Social Security Administration, the Vigo County Community Corrections Center, a Federal Bureau of Investigations satellite office, a Secret Service Agency, county and regional Purdue Extension offices, the Vigo County Annex, and the Vigo County Juvenile Justice Center.

The block is surrounded by four major roadways (westbound U.S. 150/Cherry Street to the north, U.S. 41/Third Street to the east, eastbound U.S. 150/Ohio Street to the south, and First Street to the west). The buildings are concentrated along the eastern and southern edge of the campus, with surface parking accommodations situated on much of the remaining space.

The interior of the large parking lot includes eight trees and scattered terminal islands of varying shape, size, and condition. A lack of organized ingress and egress confuses

motorists entering the space and pedestrians have no easy way to cross parking lanes.

The plaza located between the courthouse and city hall includes a decaying fountain. A paved walkway runs between the Courthouse and the Security Center where Wabash Avenue once continued to the river.

Public Input

Public input indicates a strong negative impression of the Government Campus. Positive comments focus almost exclusively on the beauty of the County Courthouse's impressive architecture and its historic importance. Aside from this, input suggests multiple problems ranging from an overall lack of aesthetics to practical access issues.

Many people experience the site only in passing while traveling on adjacent highways. Many of those interviewed and surveyed say they find no reason to linger and only visit if they have business to conduct.

Despite the overall negative comments, a number of optimistic respondents emphasized the potential for significant positive change.



City Hall and Government Campus plaza
Image: Jennifer Hale

Barriers include:

- + *Third Street/U.S. 41 as a physical barrier, creating an unsafe situation for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross*
- + *Lack of parking, inefficient parking lot, and a need for landscaping*
- + *Vehicles moving too quickly on adjacent highways and one-way streets designed for vehicles, not pedestrians*
- + *Lack of attractions and amenities*
- + *Unwelcoming atmosphere*
- + *"Jail" (security center) as an eyesore and a source of fear*

Observations

This area is the face of county and city government. The original courthouse square once served a positive role as the heart of the community and housed all county government administrative offices. As a center of civic pride, the courthouse created a positive impression of community leadership and city life.

Current county and city government leaders face a challenge in managing a negative public perception about the existing physical environment.

People would benefit by having a positive reason to visit or use the Government Campus. The prevailing perception is that most business that occurs there is related to the courts, law enforcement, and other negative situations. In fact, there are many types of business conducted in City Hall. There are also opportunities for people to be engaged in the political process and to carry out positive civic duties. The Government Campus should be a place of civic pride, an inviting and respected landmark of the community.

Indiana State University has purchased significant amounts of riverfront land to the north of the Government Campus and is currently building a sports complex. Significant opportunity remains to collaborate with ISU on future developments in the area.



The Government Campus as viewed from Wabash Avenue. The pedestrian path is sometimes blocked when prisoners are being transported from the Security Center to the Courthouse.

Image: Mary Kramer

Existing Conditions: Downtown Terre Haute

Facts

Downtown Terre Haute is undergoing many changes and continues to experience a brisk level of activity and investment. A recent shift is evident with an increase in housing development, a sector that has not been prevalent downtown in recent decades. By 2018 the downtown district will be home to several hundred new residents. Many building owners are retrofitting upper story units, while larger redevelopment projects are starting at the Deming Center and the 500 block of Wabash Avenue, which will offer market-rate apartments and student housing.

The downtown is being revitalized through many community-led arts and cultural events and business activities. In 2015 the City will submit an application to the state for a designated Cultural Arts District, encompassing a section of the downtown radiating out from the Arts Corridor. The Swope Art Museum, a 70-year cultural anchor for Terre Haute, continues to offer an award-winning collection of regional art and many public events. Art Spaces is adding new sculptures to the Arts Corridor and many other locations. The Indiana Theater, a historic landmark that sat largely unused for several years, has been restored as an active event and performance center. A historic factory

building is being retrofitted as the Vigo County History Center. Indiana State University has a strong commitment to community engagement and regularly contributes to downtown revitalization through redevelopment projects, an Energize Downtown initiative, and numerous partnerships and collaborations. The Vigo County Public Library as well as community and university galleries and performance spaces also contribute to downtown cultural life. The city's four major colleges and universities, including Indiana State University, Ivy Tech Community College, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, all add to the unique character and economic vitality of the city, with students eager to participate in renewed downtown activity.

Popular annual large-scale events held downtown, including the Downtown Block Party, the Miracle on 7th Street, and Blues at the Crossroads, attract thousands of attendees annually. The region's first community-owned co-op grocery store is scheduled to open downtown in 2015. Existing and new restaurants and shops offer promise of increased partnerships between business and the arts.



Downtown Terre Haute Block Party
Image: Jason Saavedra



Downtown Terre Haute Farmer's Market
Image: Jason Saavedra

Public Input

Public comments concerning the downtown district recorded from *Turn to the River* participant meetings and from an extensive on-line survey documented a perceived lack of connectivity between the Wabash River area and downtown Terre Haute. An overwhelming majority of the *Turn to the River* respondents regard all study area intersection crossings within the existing six-lane U.S. 41/Third Street highway corridor as a major impediment for the safe and efficient movement of pedestrians and cyclists between downtown Terre Haute, the Government Campus, and the Wabash River. Many public comments also referred to Wabash Avenue as a “backbone” of the community with no safe connectivity directly or indirectly to the Wabash River. These respondents further stated a strong desire to re-establish safe and accessible connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists with the river from both the downtown area and the Government Campus.

Observations

There is significant potential for leveraging growth in the downtown through understanding and promoting the Wabash River as a unique asset to attract new residents and increased commercial activity in Terre Haute. While creating meaningful public places within *Turn to the River's* study area it will be essential to maintain and celebrate the unique strengths of both districts and reconnect them in meaningful, beautiful, and accessible ways.



Aerial view of the Dresser and Drieser bridges and the location where Wabash Avenue once spanned the river
Image: Brendan Kearns



An artist captures the Wabash River in her work
Image: Courtesy Tribune Star/Jim Avelis

Turn to the River offers a vision for Terre Haute which recaptures the connectivity once enjoyed between the city's downtown and the Wabash River. Artists, stakeholders, and members of the public contributed many exciting ideas for the future throughout the planning process. This chapter synthesizes their input to form a series of recommendations integrating public art and design to positively re-connect the downtown and riverfront areas.

FUTURE

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- Bring Business to the Riverfront
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107 Moving Forward

- Implementation Strategies
- Next Steps

Analysis of the data gathered throughout the planning process revealed a number of recurring themes which steered the development of the plan and the resulting recommendations. This section presents the most prevalent themes individually and lists the associated opportunities.

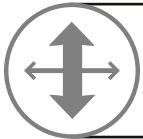
THEMES



Public spaces benefit from the presence of public art year-round. This installation, *Entre les Rangs*, in the Place de Festivals in Montréal, Canada, alludes to nature with light-activated reflective sticks that resemble a field of wheat.
Image: flickr - art_inthecity

Themes

Each recurring theme is represented by one of the following icons, and the individual plan recommendations relate to one or more of them. Linking themes and recommendations establishes an integral picture of the combined areas with the icons serving as reference points throughout the following section.



Access / Linkages

encourage use of public places through improved access and connectivity

People will readily enter spaces where access is safe and well-designed. When attempting to reactivate an underutilized space, its physical, visual, and psychological connectedness to the surroundings must be considered. Existing barriers should be discovered and remedied. A solution may be as simple as providing attractive signage or guidance on how to use a space through awareness-building and outreach. In other instances, physical barriers may need to be altered, circumvented, or removed. Universal access is best achieved if considered early in the conceptual phase of any design.



Building Awareness & Excitement

mobilize change through education and inspiration

In many cases, neglected public places require a focused effort to be drawn back into the collective awareness of the community. A variety of strategies to educate and inspire community members of the value and potential of existing places will help them to become popular assets. These strategies should cater to a diverse population and reach out to its members in numerous and innovative ways.



Creating Welcoming Environments

design places that provide a sense of belonging

A welcoming environment is one that offers visual appeal and interest, with areas designed for people to linger or explore. Elements that spark imagination and dialogue will encourage them to return. An initial variety of low-cost features and amenities used to start the process will get people excited, while ultimately increasing civic pride and livability for the whole community.



People Bring People

create meaningful places that attract people and encourage interaction

People are drawn to populated sites where they recognize activity and feel safe. The more people there are in a place, the safer it feels. People use community places to meet and greet colleagues and friends and to find a sense of interconnectivity with others - even those who are strangers. Active public places provide safe environments where people from diverse cultures and walks of life converge and share positive experiences. When this is achieved, the users of the space feel a strong attachment to it and consider it an asset.



Reactivating Spaces

transform existing neglected spaces into lively places that benefit the community

Buildings, structures, or spaces that have been abandoned or have fallen into disrepair offer significant opportunity for renewed activity. A place's history may provide clues to inform a new, positive role. Redevelopment of neglected properties contributes positively to the community by improving safety, expanding business opportunities, increasing the tax base, and improving the overall livability of neighborhoods, parks, and civic areas.




Economic Development

facilitate exchange of assets to support the community

Economic development is a broad discipline encompassing many factors. For the purposes of *Turn to the River*, economic development opportunities are those which are likely to contribute to the growth of the local economy by creating new commercial opportunities, added tax revenue, and growth in tourism. Commercial synergy - the idea that concentrated, diverse commercial activity can find strength in interdependence, and that it benefits from the physical presence of people - is an economic development approach considered in this plan.

Recommendations were formed using the suggestions of professional artists, feedback from stakeholders and the public, and best practices in the planning profession. The most frequently repeated ideas were given priority. There were many additional ideas not detailed in this section (see Appendix B, Public Input). Public art and design are integrated within each recommendation.

RECOMMENDATIONS



Discovery Green is a designed public park in Houston Texas. Complete with multiple permanent and temporary public art installations, the park hosts regular public events and offers a wide variety of opportunities for entertainment and recreation. For more information visit discoverygreen.com.
Image: flickr - Jason Tenenbaum

Add More Attractions

People are drawn to vibrant places that offer a variety of things to do, look at, interact with, or learn from.

- Permanent, adaptable event facilities
- New and rehabilitated buildings with a mix of uses (retail, commercial, and residential)
- Public art, interactive water features, ice rink, arts venue, nature center

Public Art and Design Opportunities

Public art alters its environs, activates space, and adds meaning to people's lives. When designed to consider history of a specific place, the natural environment, and the character of the community, it will expand and enrich the human experience. Care and variety in design enhances the appeal of existing attractions and creates exciting new ones.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased livability
- Increased economic activity, including tourism
- Increased cultural access
- Increased inter-cultural exchange



Economic Development



Reactivating Spaces



Welcoming Environments



People Bring People



This reflecting pool located in the South Bank Parklands of Brisbane, Australia, served as one of numerous public settings for the iOrpheus public opera. Adaptable public spaces can be used for public art performances and a variety of other events. Image: flickr - Life as Art

FUTURE



Image: flickr - art_inthecity

21 *Balançoires* is an interactive installation in the Promenade des Artistes in Montréal, Canada. Each swing triggers different musical notes, and more complex melodies emerge when users coordinate movements.



Image: Chris Higgin

A-maze-ing Laughter is a bronze sculpture by Yue Minjun located in Morton Park in Vancouver, Canada. Originally a temporary installation, it quickly became a tourist attraction and was purchased for permanent installation.



Image: Courtesy of Peterson Cos

This splash pad in Silver Plaza in Downtown Silver Spring, Maryland, uses simple but exciting design elements.

Add Public Amenities

Amenities can be designed to make visitors feel welcome, comfortable, and safe, and assert an overall positive image of the community. The most effective amenities are those which are interactive and engaging.

- Public art
- Lighting
- Gateways
- Trees and landscaping
- Seating
- Shelters
- Bike racks
- Signage

Public Art and Design Opportunities

Public art can be integrated into any streetscape or public space. Artists working in the public realm contribute meaningful and exciting design concepts and activate spaces with unique works of art. Any type of amenity should be well-considered within its environment and incorporate sound design.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased livability
- Increased economic activity, including tourism
- Increased cultural access
- Increased inter-cultural exchange



Access /
Linkages



Awareness /
Excitement



Economic
Development



Reactivating
Spaces



People Bring
People

Works of art can double as public seating and encourage interaction in public spaces. This work is located in the Old Port promenade in Montreal, Canada. Ju Ming, *Taichi Arch*.
Image: flickr - art_inthecity

FUTURE



Image: Courtesy of the artist

Madeline Wiener's bench sculptures can be found in a number of communities throughout the U.S. This piece, called *Storytime*, greets visitors to Doyle Park in San Diego, California. People are encouraged to sit and relax on these sculptures.



Image: David Newsom

Sunflowers, an Electric Garden by Mags Harries and Lajos Héder uses solar collectors to mask a loading facility off a major highway, providing shade along a pedestrian path by day and lighting it at night.



Image: Peg Butler

Peg Butler and Buster Simpson's *Dekum Bike Corral* functions as public art, bicycle parking, and a storm water management tool. Water from the adjacent building travels to the roof of the corral, is filtered by the planters, and soaks into the ground.



Image: Ross Miller Studio

The *Rose of Venus Fountain* in Boston, Massachusetts, designed by artist Ross Miller, cools visitors down in the summer and serves as public art year-round. The fountain plaza is lit up at night with a multi-color theatrical lighting system.

Bring Business to the Riverfront

Diverse types of commercial activity near the river will attract a variety of people (in addition to those seeking recreation) while adding economic development opportunities.

- Retail spaces (restaurants, shops, grocery stores, service-oriented businesses)
- Pop-up art and retail venues
- Recreational rentals (boats, bicycles, equipment)
- Food trucks / mobile markets
- Mixed-use buildings

Public Art and Design Opportunities

New development should involve the arts sector in identifying opportunities for integration of public art and innovative design in overall site plans as well as in individual buildings and spaces.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased livability
- Increased economic activity, including tourism
- Increased tax base



Economic
Development



Reactivating
Spaces



Welcoming
Environments



People Bring
People



Food trucks offer varieties of affordable foods to encourage visitors to spend time in public places. This example, called the Eat Art Truck, commissions artists to paint works on the exterior of the vehicle at regular intervals.

Image: flickr - deepwarren

FUTURE



Image: flickr - Geir Halvorsen

Cafe K in Porsgrunn, Norway offers diners a great view of the adjacent river with transparent walls.

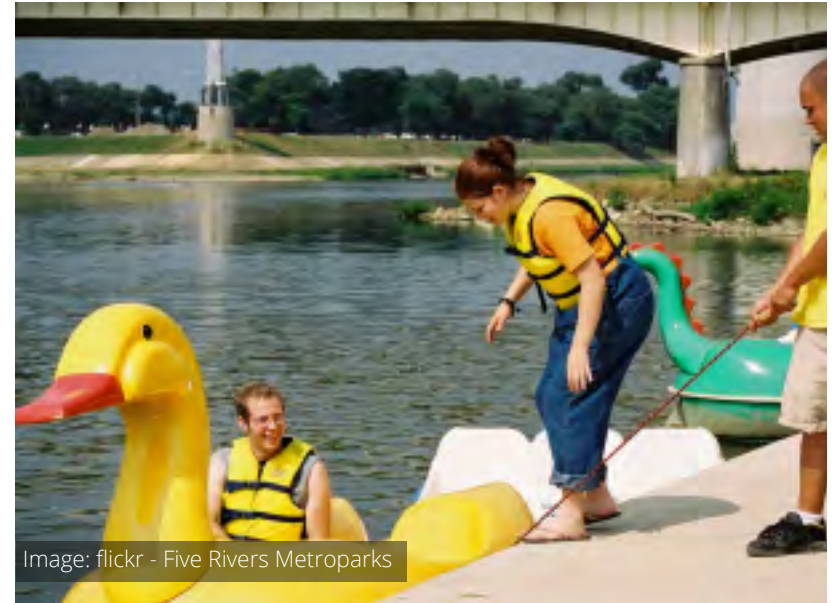


Image: flickr - Five Rivers Metroparks

Visitors at Five Rivers Metroparks in Dayton, Ohio, take a ride in a uniquely designed paddle boat.



Image: Courtesy of Conflict Kitchen

The Conflict Kitchen in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, engages its customers in discussion on world politics while feeding them the cuisine of countries with which the U.S. is in conflict. Its identity and menu change regularly with current geopolitical events.



Image: flickr - Michigan Municipal League

Outdoor art galleries and festivals near the river offer artists a venue for entrepreneurship.

Connect Wabash Ave. to the River

Wabash Avenue has long served as the backbone of the downtown and originally continued to the river. A unique opportunity exists to reconnect the downtown with the river through reopening this central artery as a landscaped pedestrian walkway with public art.

- Pedestrian promenade extending Wabash Avenue through the Government Campus to the river
- River overlook park or other designed public space at the west end of the promenade
- Visual indicators of the presence of the river throughout the downtown
- Wayfinding coordinated with overall community signage

Public Art and Design Opportunities

Public art and design will hold a central role in the vision and development of the promenade as a primary means of pedestrian access to the river from the downtown. Thematically-related public art integrated throughout the overall design of the promenade will convey the river's importance to Terre Haute.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased public health and wellness
- Increased livability
- Increased civic pride
- Increased access to natural resources
- Increased connection to the history of the city
- Increased access to participate in city and county government dialogue
- Increased understanding of the role of arts in livable communities



Access /
Linkages



Awareness /
Excitement



Economic
Development



Reactivating
Spaces



People Bring
People

The promenade could serve as a venue for interactive outdoor art or educational exhibitions. These works are on display in Berri Square in Montreal, Canada, as part of the Make Art Public (MAP) initiative.

Image: flickr - art_inthecity

FUTURE



Image: Nathan Shaulis

Shady Liberty, a pedestrian bridge by artist Sheila Klein, spans over train tracks and a busway in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The bridge connects a residential neighborhood at-grade with a raised parking garage and nearby shops.



Image: Mike Reali

Stacy Levy's *Street Lagoon* project brought the community together to heighten the awareness of where rainwater flows after it falls. Reminders such as this help residents connect to nature and understand their natural resources.



Image: Mags Harries and Lajos Héder

This Poetry Trellis, part of *Passage* by Mags Harries and Lajos Héder, provides partial shade and offers unique and engaging elements, in this case, shadow-cast poetry on the ground.

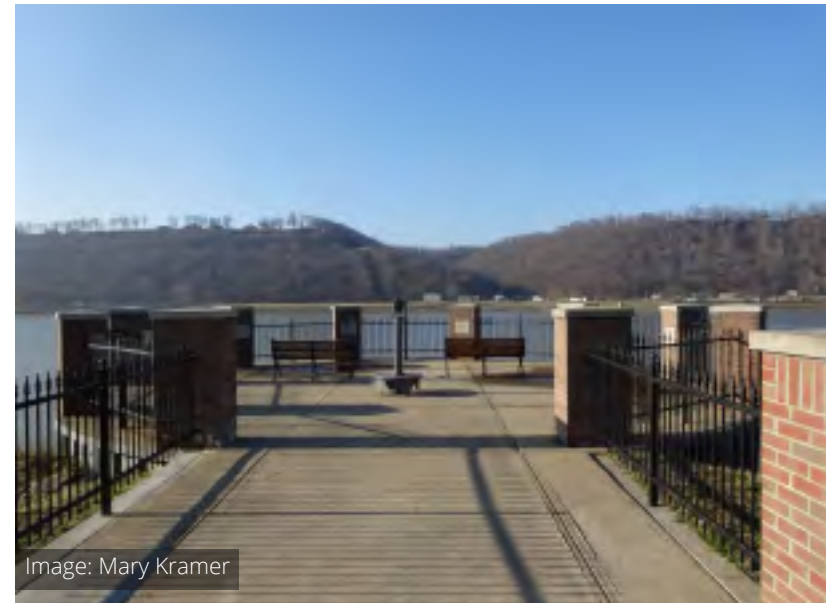


Image: Mary Kramer

A welcoming overlook offers greater access to the river and serves as a popular tourist attraction. Elements of public art and design may be added for additional interest.

Enliven Public Spaces with Events

Public events build positive connections among diverse community members. Spaces dedicated to this purpose create vibrant centers of activity.

- Permanent, adaptable spaces that are conducive to a variety of events
- Increased number of events for community members
- Accessible, comprehensive, well-publicized events calendar
- Encouragement of inter-cultural exchange and learning

Public Art and Design Opportunities

Opportunities exist to offer an adaptable community event space for use in arts performances, outdoor learning activities, and exhibitions.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased livability
- Increased economic activity
- Increased cultural access
- Increased inter-cultural exchange



Awareness /
Excitement



Welcoming
Environments



Economic
Development



Reactivating
Spaces



People Bring
People



The iconic Alexander Calder sculpture in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is located in the plaza that surrounds the city hall and county administration buildings. The work is the focal point of the Festival of the Arts, an annual community celebration in downtown Grand Rapids.

Behind the stage: Alexander Calder - *La Grande Vitesse*
Image: flickr - John Eisenschenk

FUTURE



Image: Courtesy of Open House

Matthew Mazzotta's *Open House* project transformed an abandoned house into an adaptable community events space. The structure appears to be a house, but folds out into a 100-seat theater.



Image: flickr - The Commonwealth

Multi-cultural festivals and events build community and forge positive relationships among people of diverse backgrounds.



Image: flickr - caribb

Montreal's annual International Jazz Festival is successful, in part, because of the city's multiple unique public places. The Place des Arts Esplanade, seen here, is one of many places where people can relax or have fun between shows.



Image: Kathy Chapman

Storytelling and other gatherings are encouraged in *Ben's Circular Tower* by Mags Harries and Lajos Héder. The tower incorporates whimsical design, a glowing glass rock, and castle-like materials, which attract children and families to the site.

Implement Wayfinding

Well-designed wayfinding systems incorporate signs, maps, color schemes, pavement markings, and other unique, coordinated elements to attract people to locations that may not be in view and offer excitement about what they will find there. These systems also increase universal access, build awareness of assets, and improve a community's image.

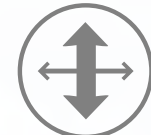
- Attractive and coordinated signage, gateways, and directional markings throughout the downtown and at the primary entry points of the city
- Design elements throughout the study area in highly visible and at times unexpected places that echo and connect to the wayfinding and lead into the downtown

Public Art and Design Opportunities

The most effective wayfinding systems efficiently direct people to a destination while also providing aesthetic interest. Creative and well-conceived design offers potential for a variety of innovative, artistic wayfinding solutions.

Expected Outcomes

- Improved universal access and connectivity
- Increased awareness of community assets
- Increased tourism and improved tourist experience
- Increased economic development
- Increased civic pride



Access /
Linkages



Awareness /
Excitement



Economic
Development

Wayfinding elements should be attractive, functional, and coordinated with their environment. This sign within Olympic Park in London, England, uses the London 2012 identity while also echoing design elements from the adjacent architect-designed Coca Cola Beatbox - an interactive pavilion where visitors can create music in real time.
Image: flickr - Martin Deutsch

FUTURE



Image: Mary Kramer

Signage can also provide information about the history or ecology of an area, such as this one along the Madison, Indiana, riverfront.



Image: Mary Kramer

Water-related public art and design elements, if creatively placed, would draw attention and direct people to the river. Collette Hosmer - *Santa Fe Current*.



Image: Douglas Kornfeld

Douglas Kornfeld's 17 *Evacuspots* sculptures serve both as public art and as emergency evacuation gathering spot "icon/signs" for residents of New Orleans.

Improve the Streetscape

Sections of the study area are bisected by major roads and streets that are designed to move vehicles quickly through the area. Safe crossings will increase pedestrian access to public places within the study area.

- Re-evaluation of roadways in the study area to increase safety, mobility, and connectivity for all users
- Improvement of crossings at pedestrian access points
- Addition of public art, amenities, and wayfinding

Public Art and Design Opportunities

Major highway crossings designed by professional artist/engineering teams provide beautiful gateways while encouraging access to distinct areas. Design elements incorporated into roads are an effective means of calming traffic and increasing safety. Art beautifies public ways, allowing users to experience them meaningfully.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased livability
- Improved safety for all users
- Improved access and connectivity
- Improved urban aesthetics



Access /
Linkages



Awareness /
Excitement



Welcoming
Environments



Economic
Development



People Bring
People



Buster Simpson's *Beckoning Cistern* captures storm water from the adjacent building and transports it to bioswales.

Image: Buster Simpson

FUTURE

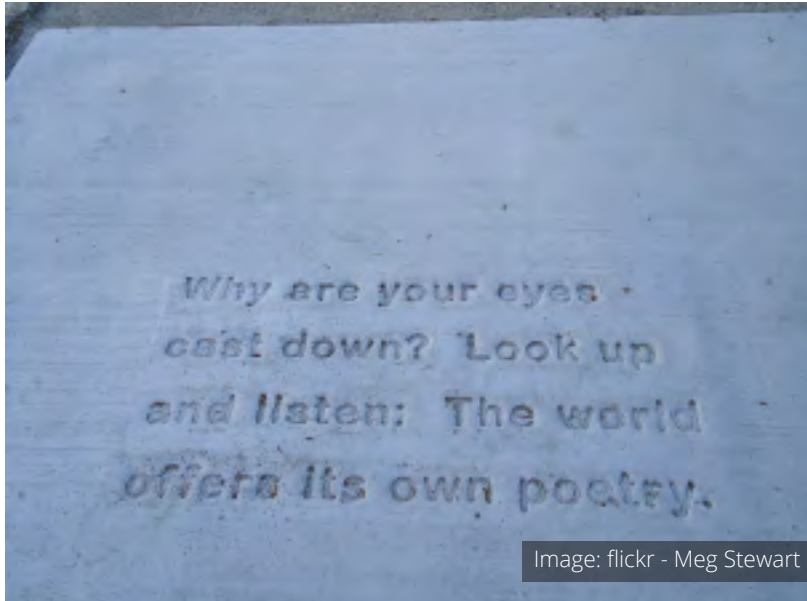


Image: flickr - Meg Stewart

Stamping poetry, imagery, or other designs into paths and walkways enhances the streetscape in a unique way.



Image: flickr - Corbin Keech

As part of Portland's Green Streets project, bioswales and green plantings are being added in various parts of the city to capture rain water and beautify the streetscape.



Image: flickr - Michigan Municipal League

This temporary installation was part of ArtPrize, the world's largest art competition, held annually in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Temporary and permanent public art installations enliven the streetscape and create a sense of place.



Image: localecologist

This public plaza was installed on the New York University campus after a large-scale utility project enabled a new design for the space. The plaza opens up the streetscape, adds natural elements, and encourages people to linger.

Increase Transportation Access

Safe, efficient, and accessible transportation is crucial for community health, the cultivation of people-friendly public spaces, and the success of street-front businesses.

- Consideration of street designs to accommodate access for all users
- Consolidated automobile parking and addition of bicycle parking
- Improved bus service and addition of bus stops and shelters
- Environmentally sound solutions as parking needs increase

Public Art and Design Opportunities

Transit stops and buses offer opportunities for incorporation of unique public art and design elements. Parking areas and garages should be designed to incorporate landscape and architectural aspects that harmonize with the character of surrounding structures.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased safety
- Increased public health
- Increased transportation efficiency for all users
- Increased environmental sustainability
- Increased economic activity



Access /
Linkages



Awareness /
Excitement



Economic
Development

Creatively designed bicycle racks will encourage people to use bicycles as a means of transportation while adding visual interest and identity. Pictured: *Croquet Court*, Earlyn Tomassini. Image: flickr - Lynn Gardner

FUTURE



Image: flickr - Tito Perez

Bicycle racks can go beyond traditional designs and encompass site-specific elements. This rack, near a library, encourages bicycling as well as reading and reinforces the library's identity.



Image: Pat Martin

A trail will attract pedestrians and bicyclists to a river which makes ease of access even more crucial. Pictured here is the Boise River near Boise, Idaho.



Image: flickr - Kidz Connect

Living Maps is a project in Vienna, Austria, by artist Michael Pinsky which maps out the past, present, and future of the Macondo neighborhood. The map is printed on a bus shelter, encouraging residents to add information and draw pictures.



Image: Mags Harries and Lajos Héder

This transit shelter is one of many within the *Arbors & Ghost Trees* project by artists Mags Harries and Lajos Héder, an initiative to improve and reconstruct four miles of Baseline Road, a major transit artery in Phoenix, Arizona.

Increase Visibility of Public Places

Input suggests that a number of public places in the study area are difficult to see from typical transportation routes, which affects usage of and access to those sites. It also indicates that there are few visual cues to lead people to the study area. Various strategies are suggested to remove barriers to visibility.

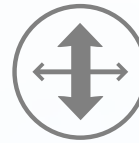
- Attractive, coordinated wayfinding system
- Gateway features that are visible from a distance
- Replacement and enhancement of bridge components to allow visual access to the river
- Visual cues located throughout the downtown

Public Art and Design Opportunities

Innovative design should lead the way in signage, gateway features, and bridge enhancements and tap the expertise and experience of public artists and designers working in this realm.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased livability
- Increased return on investment in public spaces
- Increased awareness of public assets



Access /
Linkages



Awareness /
Excitement



Reactivating
Spaces



People Bring
People



Gateways signify the importance of a place. This designed gateway arch announces the historic Gaslamp Quarter in San Diego, California.
Image: flickr - photoinko

FUTURE



Image: wikimedia - Jeffrey Beall

The historic Rainbow Arch Bridge in Fort Morgan, Colorado, one of several similarly-designed bridges throughout the United States, was designed by James Marsh with visual access to the river in mind.



Image: flickr - Trailnet

This gateway sign announces the beginning of the Riverfront Trail in Saint Louis, Missouri, and activates a former industrial area.



Image: flickr - NYC Department of Transportation

The WalkNYC initiative in New York City, New York, includes installation of new wayfinding signs that use universal visual language to provide consistent information, common destinations, and even helpful details like the locations of building entrances.

Promote Pop-Up Venues

Pop-up venues are spaces in which temporary public activities may occur. They use space efficiently and offer access to affordable opportunities for entrepreneurship, learning, and recreation.

- Permanent indoor and outdoor spaces designed for pop-up commerce and temporary gatherings
- Free or inexpensive flexible lease options in commercial spaces

Public Art and Design Opportunities

Pop-up venues are used as temporary gallery or performance spaces that provide artists and others with affordable business opportunities. Artist involvement in the design of these venues adds significant value and appeal.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased collaboration and sense of community
- Increased opportunities for entrepreneurship, education, and recreation
- Increased inter-cultural exchange
- Improved local economy



Welcoming
Environments



Economic
Development



Reactivating
Spaces



Pop-up venues can offer exhibition space for burgeoning artists. This space in New York, New York, called the Storefront for Art and Architecture, uses innovative architectural features to showcase the work of up and coming artists.
Image: flickr - Storefront for Art and Architecture

FUTURE



Image: flickr - sergedegracia

Openhouse, a company in New York City, New York, owns and rents multiple flex spaces for temporary use. This space housed an indoor park, which hosted numerous events throughout two winter months.



Image: flickr - Michigan Municipal League

Food trucks are an increasingly common type of pop-up venue.



Image: flickr - Michigan Municipal League

Art and street fairs are pop-up events that provide business opportunities for artists and other entrepreneurs.



Image: Dan Videtich

Prairie Logic, by artist Janet Zweig, is a combination green roof on top of a parking garage, and a pop-up performance space. A prairie was planted and a boxcar stage was constructed for music, theater, readings, and educational programs.



Sandy River Delta Bird Blind, designed by artist Maya Lin for the Confluence Project, connects visitors with birds and wildlife. Slats include names and current status of each of the 134 species noted by Lewis and Clark on their westward journey. Image: Courtesy of Confluence Project, Staff Photo

Reconnect with Nature

Urbanization has made it increasingly difficult to be immersed in nature. Innovative strategies will increase awareness of the benefits of connecting with and preserving important natural resources.

- Nature research and exhibition center
- Educational programming
- Addition of natural landscaping elements in public spaces that positively affect the environment
- Addition of visible systems that help us to understand our natural resources
- Recreational facilities and sites that encourage hands-on interaction with nature

Public Art and Design Opportunities

Public art has great potential to reconnect us with nature by highlighting natural phenomena and creating learning opportunities. Public art and design also serve a functional purpose in addressing environmental issues.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased awareness and connection with nature, especially along the river
- Increased environmental stewardship and protection of the river as a critical natural resource
- Increased community health and wellness



Awareness /
Excitement



Economic
Development



Reactivating
Spaces



People Bring
People

FUTURE



Image: Brendan Kearns

Fishing is a popular pastime on the Wabash River and in the Wabashiki Fish and Wildlife Area. Increased access would allow many more people to enjoy this natural asset.



Image: Lisa Jo Baer

Canoe, kayak, or even sailboat rentals and instruction facilities would encourage more people to get onto the river.



Image: Deedee Morrison

Deedee Morrison's solar-powered light sculpture, *Global Convergence*, integrates imagery of endangered fish and asks that we consider the relationship between nature, humanity and technology.



Image: Betsy Damon

In Betsy Damon's *Living Water Garden*, flow forms are one of many elements that naturally clean river water. Children love to play in and watch the flow forms, and in the process of play they learn about natural phenomena.

This section presents opportunities for incorporating public art and design throughout the study area to connect the downtown to the river in multiple ways.

It also notes existing concepts and planned projects by other entities for the Government Campus, Fairbanks Park, the downtown, and adjacent relevant areas. For a full list of existing plans and initiatives see Appendix C.

Known and estimated timeframes for *Turn to the River* recommendations and existing plans referenced in this section are indicated by the following symbols:



Near Term (1 - 5 years)



Intermediate Term (5 - 10 years)



Long-Term (10+ years)

OPPORTUNITY STUDIES



Lively public spaces make visitors feel comfortable while encouraging play. This fountain element at the Riverscape Metropark in Dayton, Ohio, accommodates visitors with seating while adding visual interest and inviting interaction.

Image: flickr - Five Rivers Metroparks

Wabash Avenue Corridor

Visibility of the River. Artist-designed bridge enhancements that offer visual access or reminders of the river from Cherry and Ohio Street bridges.

Wabash Lookout. A river overlook at the western end of Wabash Avenue to link the Wabash Avenue Promenade with riverfront trail expansions. Design space with interesting, visual, interactive elements to draw people in and encourage them to linger, gather for events, and enjoy the river. Promote the Wabash River as an asset to fuel sustainable human-scale riverfront development.

Wayfinding. Comprehensive, visually appealing, and easily understood signage throughout the study area.


Wabash Avenue Promenade. Reconnect Wabash Avenue to the river through the Government Campus and beyond. Provide a safe, well-designed, pedestrian-scale promenade that includes a variety of water-related public art and design elements to increase awareness of the river, and ecological facets to capture stormwater and keep it from running directly into the river.

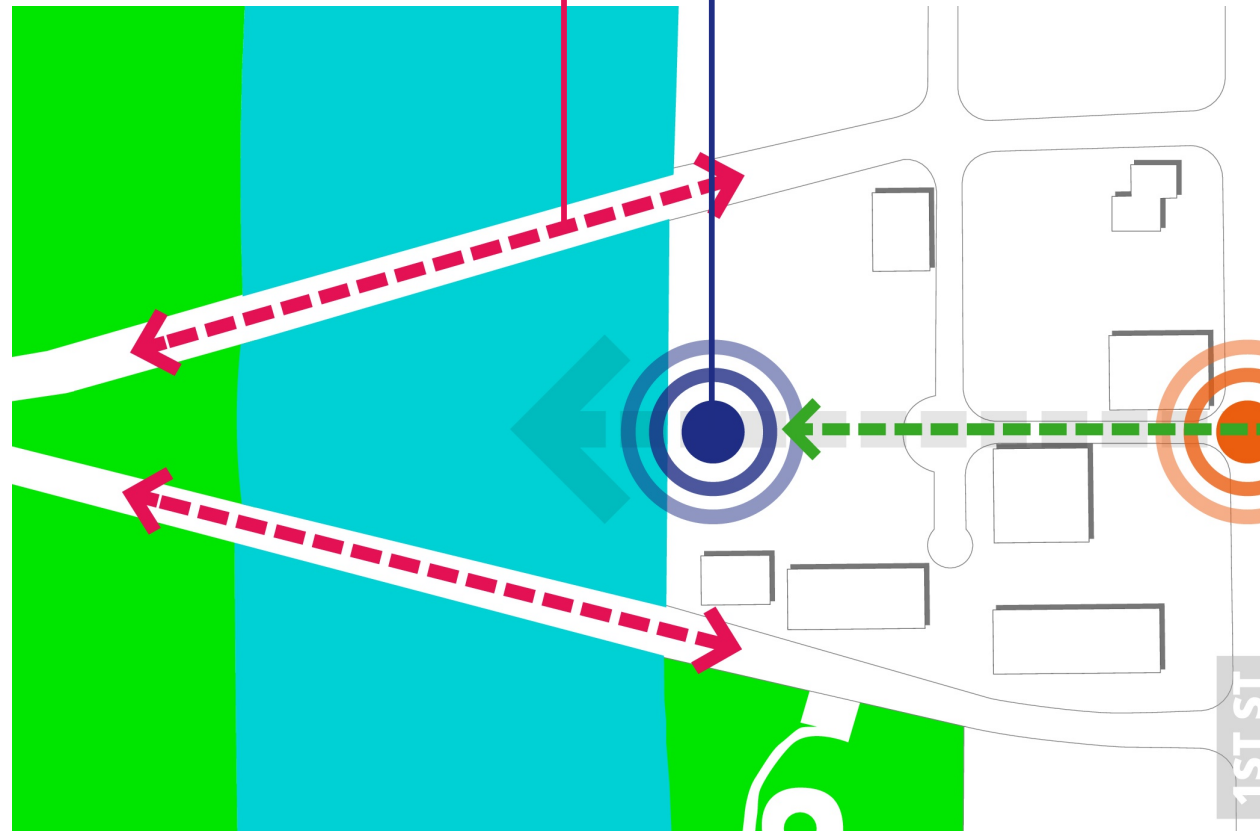
1st & 3rd Street Crossings. Transportation safety and access for all users. Affordable elements to make crossing 1st and 3rd Streets safer and more appealing. Study the feasibility and suitability of pedestrian bridge(s).

Wabash Avenue Streetscape Improvements. Bring indicators of the river downtown with rain gardens, bioswales, designed visual elements and sculptures, and other water-related concepts. Create an element of surprise and excitement.

Wabash Lookout 
Artist-designed public space at city-owned riverfront property

Visibility of the River 
Artist-designed bridge enhancements that offer visual access to the river

Wayfinding 
A system of signs and other elements throughout the study area that direct people to the downtown district and the river



Wabash Avenue Promenade



A well-designed, safe, pedestrian-scale continuation of Wabash Avenue between 3rd Street and the river

1st and 3rd Street Crossing

SEE P. 103

Safe and aesthetically-pleasing urban design elements, roadway elements, visual signals, and signage



Pedestrian bridge (study needed)



Planned Projects by Other Entities

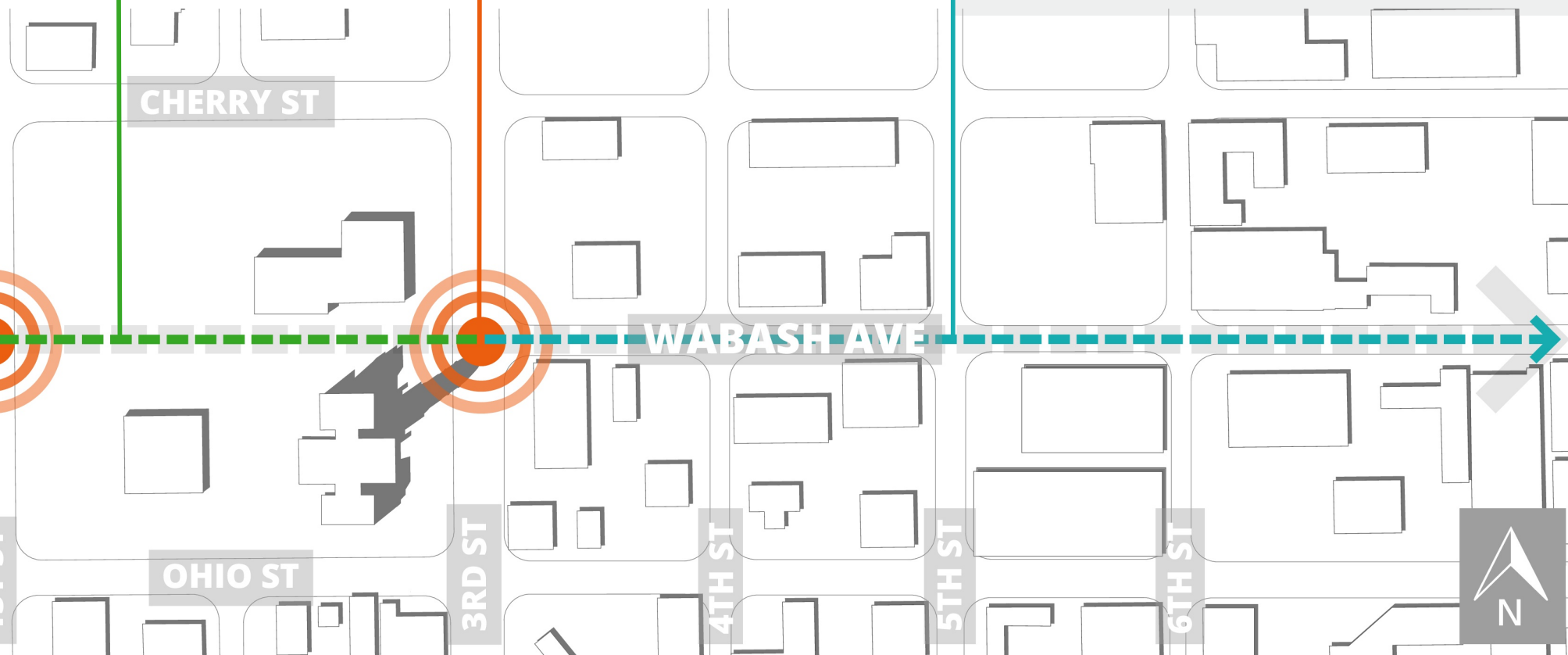
New Mixed Use Development. Upper-story apartments, student housing, and first floor retail situated along and near Wabash Avenue.



Wabash Avenue Streetscape Improvements



Rain gardens, bioswales and other water-related elements to help the ecology of the river and increase public awareness of the river and related environmental systems while beautifying the streetscape



Fairbanks Park

Urban Passage. Public-art-infused connection to the future northern extension of the National Road Heritage Trail and urban spaces near the northern end of the park.

Wayfinding. Comprehensive, visually appealing, and easily understood signage system throughout the study area.

Dining. Food trucks, food stands, and permanent eateries in and/or adjacent to the park.

Restoration of Historical and Cultural Assets. Revival and upgrade of existing historical and cultural assets. Rehabilitation of Chauncey Rose Memorial, recognition and integration of Hiroshima Memorial, activation of Dresser House with landscaping and public art, redevelopment of sunken fountain/garden area as a meaningful public asset.

Family-Friendly Attractions. Splash park, skating rink, and/or public gathering spaces as appropriate and feasible.

Planned Projects by Other Entities

Banks of the Wabash Heritage Trail. Extension of the National Road Heritage Trail to the north, including a path under the Cherry and Ohio Street bridges.

Bark Park. A new family-friendly attraction activating the northern end of the park.

Paul Dresser Drive Trail. Extension of a recreational trail south of Fairbanks Park to the Wabash River Oxbow. Riverside views will provide opportunities to explore seasonal wetlands.



Urban Passage

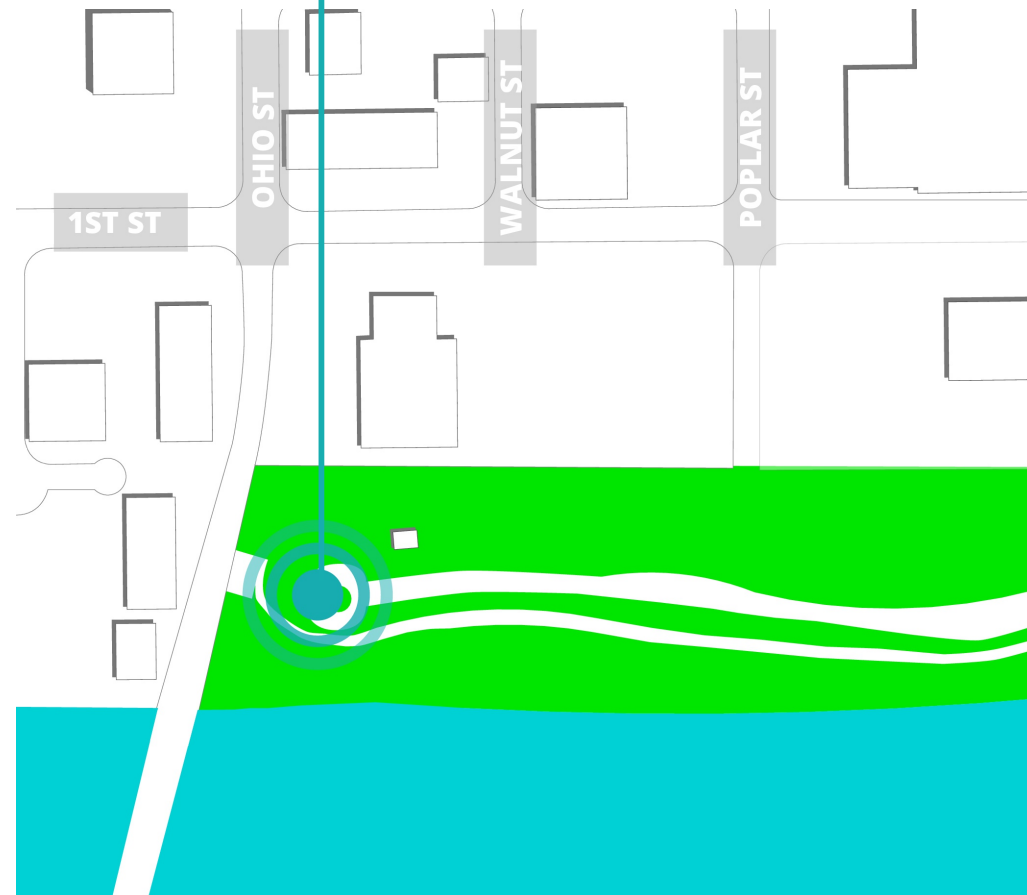


Activation of northernmost park entry/exit point with public art

Wayfinding



A system of signs and other elements throughout the study area that direct people to Fairbanks Park and the river



Dining

Food trucks



Food stands



Permanent eateries



Restoration of Historical and Cultural Assets



- 1 Chauncey Rose Memorial
- 2 Sunken Garden/Fountain
- 3 Hiroshima Memorial
- 4 Dresser Birth Home

Family-Friendly Attractions



Splash pad

Improvements to existing public gathering spaces

Additional adaptive spaces

Promotion of existing features



Government Campus

Art Spaces' involvement with the Government Campus originated from a discussion with Terre Haute's Mayor in 2007 regarding the possibility of a new sculpture between City Hall and the Courthouse. A determination was made at that time that the entire area warranted a complete makeover and re-design.

Civic Plaza. Public art and other design features to beautify the plaza and transform it into a gathering space for public events.

Greenscaped Parking. Efficient reconfiguration of Government Campus parking lot. Incorporation of best practice storm water management with trees, landscaping, rain gardens, bioswales and permeable pavement.

Integration of Wabash Avenue Promenade. Carefully planned incorporation of the pedestrian promenade through the Government Campus. Safety elements near parking lots are a high priority.

Security Center Repurposing. Creation of a public-use asset and tourist anchor such as an environmental research/education and exhibition center with a focus on the river and wetlands. Other possible uses include an aquarium, a river or natural history museum, and incorporation of a roof-top garden.

Gateway to the Downtown. Large-scale, welcoming gateway at 3rd Street and Wabash Avenue to signify the entrance to Terre Haute's downtown and the presence of the Wabash River. It could be integrated into a pedestrian bridge crossing 3rd street if this is shown to be feasible.

Wayfinding. Comprehensive, visually appealing, and easily understood signage system throughout the study area. Link to signs planned by other entities for the downtown.

Integration of Wabash Ave. Promenade



Carefully planned incorporation of the pedestrian promenade through the Government Campus

Greenscaped Parking

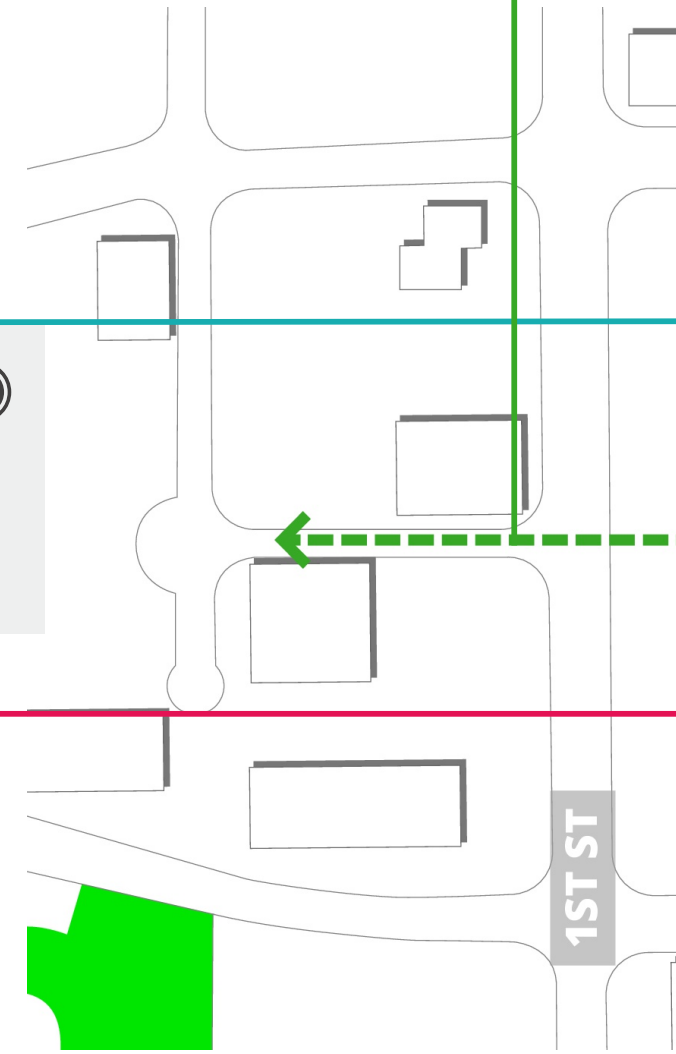


Trees, landscaping, rain gardens, bioswales, permeable pavement

Civic Plaza



A redesigned and enlivened space between the County Courthouse and City Hall through public art and landscape design



Security Center Repurposing



A cultural asset to complement the courthouse, such as:

- + Environmental Research/Education and Exhibition Center
- + Natural History/River Museum

Gateway to the Downtown



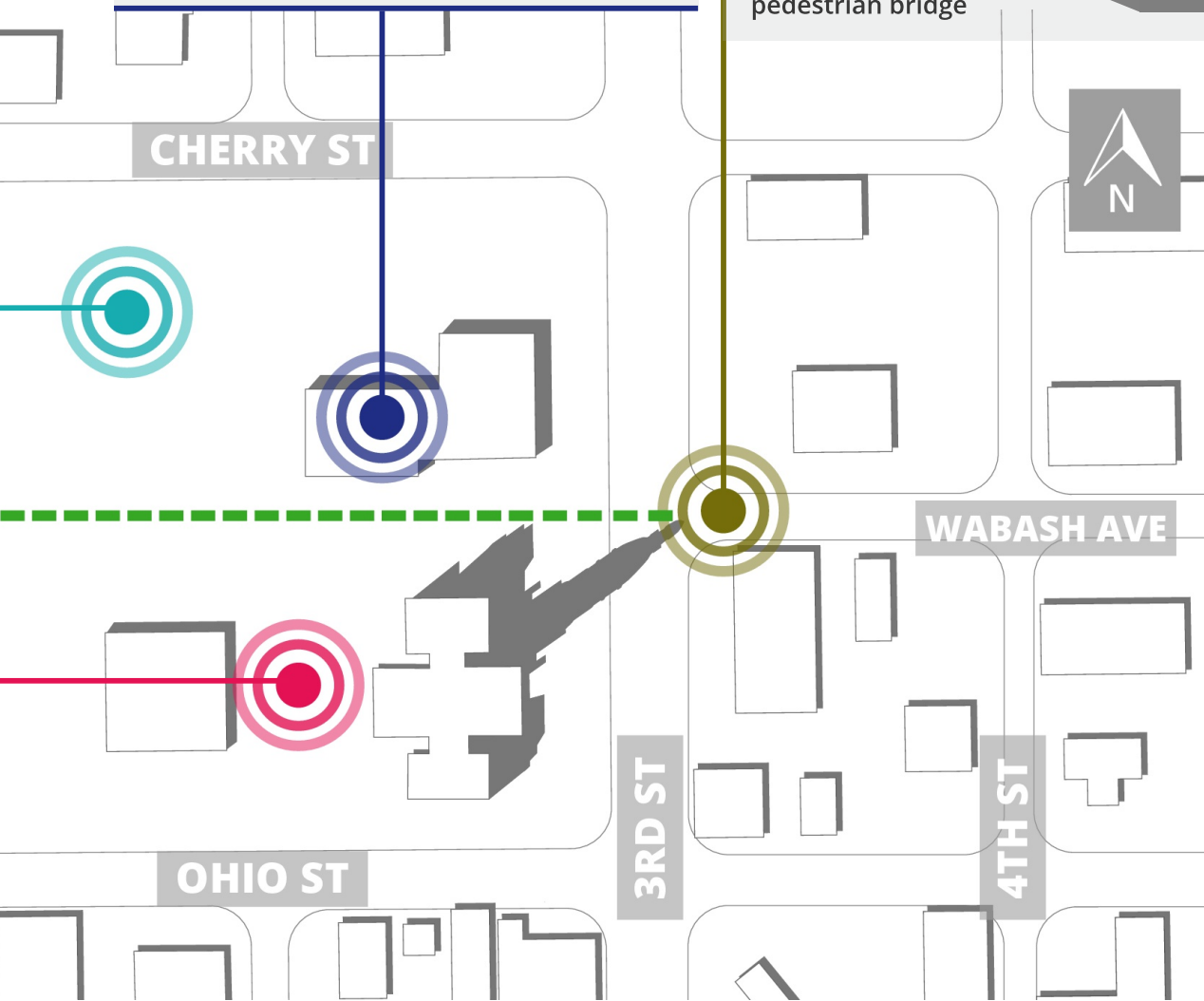
Large-scale gateway feature at 3rd Street and Wabash Avenue with possible integration into pedestrian bridge

SEE P. 103

Wayfinding



A system of signs and other elements throughout the study area that link to the planned downtown wayfinding



Planned Projects by Other Entities



1st Street Boulevard. Removal of railroad tracks along a section of 1st Street. Upgrades to the streetscape to provide a boulevard feel.



3rd Street Beautification. Addition of safety and beautification elements along 3rd Street from Poplar to Cherry Streets.



Parking. Reconfiguration of parking spaces in the Government Campus lot.



Wayfinding Signs Downtown. Development of a wayfinding system for the downtown area.

Third Street Crossing

Among all of the input received from stakeholders and the public, the most frequently-cited barrier was the crossing of Third Street / U.S. Highway 41. Currently, pedestrian and bicycle accommodations at the intersection of Wabash Avenue and Third Street include:

- + Ladder-style striped crosswalks at both north and south sides
- + Advance stop lines, designed to create safer space between stopping vehicles and pedestrians/bicyclists
- + Pedestrian signals with countdown timers at both north and south sides
- + Relatively tight curb radii
- + Curb ramps leading down to crosswalks

Despite the fact that these features exist, input from stakeholders and the public reveals that they do not sufficiently reduce barriers and people are discouraged from walking or bicycling from the downtown area to the river. A variety of design and policy solutions are used across the nation to provide safe access across high-capacity roadway intersections. In addition to the current existing features cited above, the following solutions may be appropriate for the Third Street and Wabash Avenue intersection (and/or other locations nearby), and warrant further study. While they offer varying degrees of feasibility, appropriateness, and cost, each shows promise for increased safety for those crossing from the downtown area to the Government Campus, Fairbanks Park, and other adjacent riverfront areas.

Pedestrian Facilities

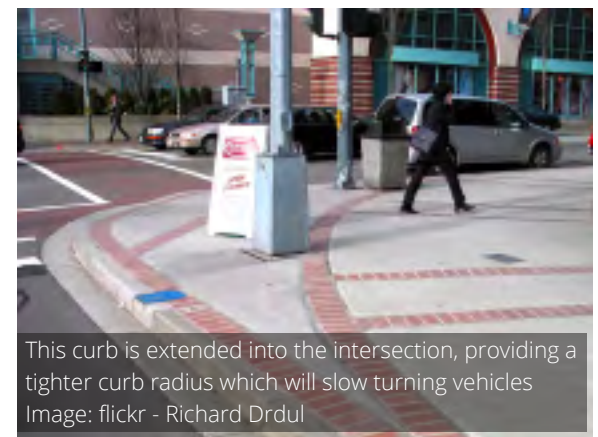
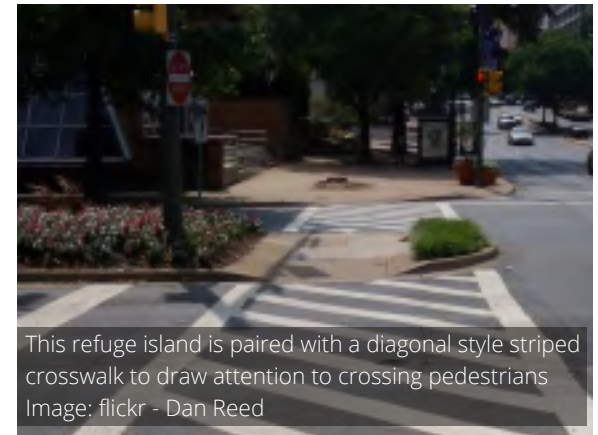
Overpass/underpass - a bridge or tunnel over or under the existing roadway that separates pedestrians and bicyclists from vehicular traffic. To effectively capture downtown pedestrian traffic this would need to be considered in close proximity to the central crossing (Wabash Avenue and Third Street).

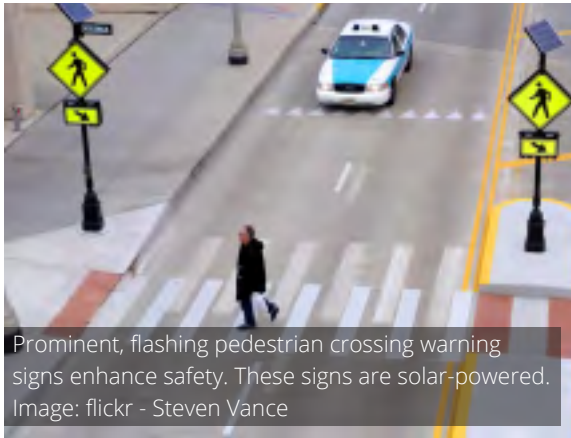
Pedestrian refuge island - a widened median with a cutout that enables pedestrians to safely stop mid-way while crossing the street if they are unable to travel the full distance across the road.

Lane width reduction - reduction of lane widths to match a slower speed limit, making room for pedestrian refuge islands and/or curb extensions.

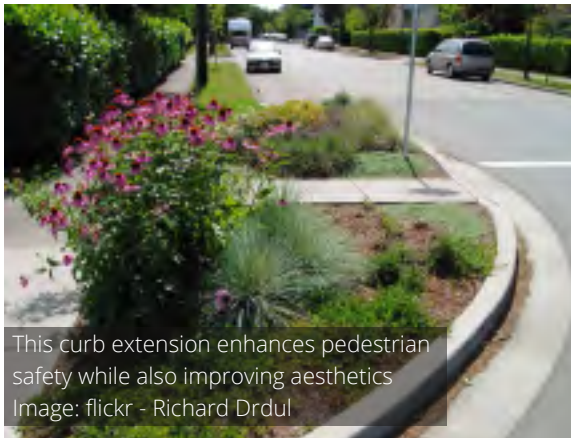
Tighter curb radii - an even tighter shape of curb than currently exists will slow turning vehicles.

Pedestrian-scale lighting - lighting that sufficiently illuminates the walkway across the street as well as adjacent areas, serving not only pedestrians and bicyclists but also providing greater visibility for approaching motorists.

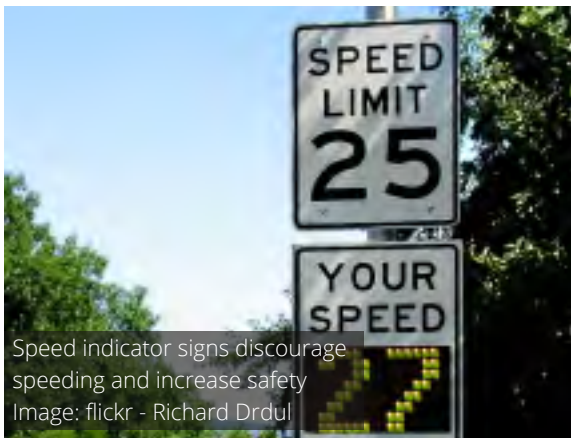




Prominent, flashing pedestrian crossing warning signs enhance safety. These signs are solar-powered. Image: flickr - Steven Vance



This curb extension enhances pedestrian safety while also improving aesthetics. Image: flickr - Richard Drdul



Speed indicator signs discourage speeding and increase safety. Image: flickr - Richard Drdul

Pedestrian crossing warning signs - clear and compelling signage, erected adjacent to the street and/or embedded in the roadway itself, reminding drivers that they are entering an area with pedestrians.

Paving treatments and other design enhancements - colored bricks/pavement or other creative design elements that signify the intersection as an important and differentiated feature to remind motorists that pedestrians will be crossing.

Curb extensions / bulbouts - extension of sidewalk into the driving lane, increasing pedestrian visibility and shortening the distance within which pedestrians must walk in the roadway (these already exist within Wabash Avenue at Third Street, but only improve safety for those crossing Wabash Avenue).

Policy Enhancements

Speed limit enforcement - options include automated speed indicators, video tracking, warning signage, greater increased officer enforcement, and others.

Pedestrian rule violation enforcement, as above

Right-turn-on-red restrictions - post signs that restrict turning on red, reducing the likelihood that vehicles will overlook pedestrians at the corner.

Crossing guards - temporary use of crossing guards at times of special events and high pedestrian volume.

Focus: Overpass/Underpass

A “pedestrian bridge” was mentioned frequently by stakeholders and the public as a solution for overcoming the issue of safety and access when crossing Third Street. While an overpass or underpass would be a costly option, such a solution would provide the maximum separation of pedestrian and vehicular traffic and could provide an elegant and captivating gateway into the city along its major north-south state highway.

Studies of overpasses and underpasses as solutions highlight the following important points to consider:

- + Overpasses and underpasses provide complete separation of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.^{1,2}
- + Bridges provide opportunities for designed placemaking elements to serve as gateways and monuments for the community.
- + Overpasses and underpasses are the most costly alternative among common

pedestrian safety measures and a plan incorporating these should include shorter term less expensive measures as well. Cost depends on the unique conditions of the site as well as the type of construction.

- + Pedestrians are very unlikely to use the overpass or underpass if a faster or more direct route is available.² Attractive design will encourage use. Enhancements, including plantings on a walking portion, can provide a sense of security.
- + Due to high cost, poor design, and poor utilization of many existing overpasses and underpasses, they are described as a measure of "last resort" or for situations where "no other measures are considered appropriate."^{2,3,4} Attention to design could overcome most of these concerns.

Some conditions under which an overpass or underpass may be feasible include:

- + A detailed study indicates that potential users would choose the bridge or tunnel rather than bypass it by crossing at street grade.
- + A highly attractive, feasible design is developed that provides easy access to the bridge or tunnel, possibly from multiple locations.
- + A building or structure (existing or new) on one or both sides of the street is available to connect through elevator access to an overpass.
- + Reconstruction/improvements of the roadway and/or nearby utilities is scheduled and can happen in tandem with an overpass or underpass project.

While these illustrate an ideal scenario, a feasibility study is recommended in order to consider all aspects and opportunities that could make an overpass or underpass feasible.

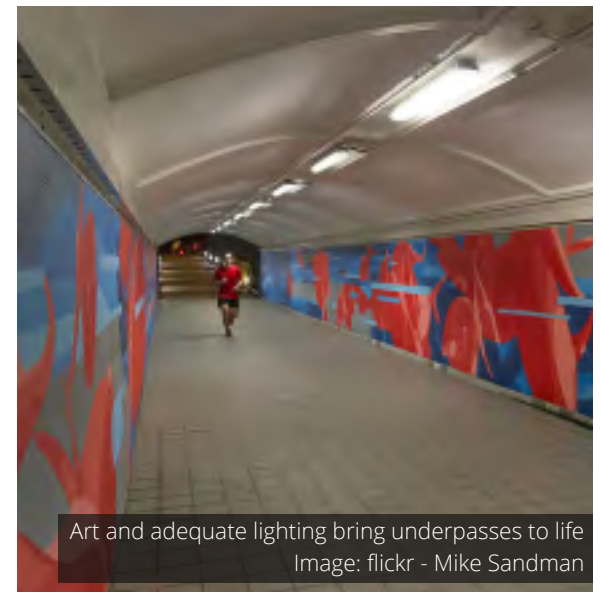
Further Reading

"A Guide for Reducing Collisions Involving Pedestrians," NCHRP Report 500

http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_rpt_500v10.pdf

"Costs for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Infrastructure Improvements"

http://katana.hsrb.unc.edu/cms/downloads/Countermeasure%20Costs_Report_Nov2013.pdf



1. "A Guide for Reducing Collisions Involving Pedestrians," NCHRP Report 500, Vol. 10 (2004).

2. "Pedestrian Facilities Users Guide - Providing Safety and Mobility," U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Publication No. FHWA-RD-01-102 (2002).

3. "Overpasses/Underpasses," Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center, http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/planning/facilities_crossings_over-underpasses.cfm.

4. "Crosswalk Markings For Better Or Worse?" University of California, Berkeley Institute of Transportation Studies, <http://www.techtransfer.berkeley.edu/newsletter/03-2/crosswalk-pics.php>.

Indiana Complete Streets Coalition

<http://www.healthbydesignonline.org/IndianaCompleteStreetsCampaign.html>

League of American Bicyclists

<http://bikeleague.org/>

The National Center for Bicycling and Walking

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

National Complete Streets Coalition - Smart Growth America

<http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/complete-streets/>

National Cooperative Highway Research Program - A Guide for Reducing Collisions Involving Pedestrians

http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_rpt_500v10.pdf

PEDBIKESAFE - Pedestrian Safety Guide, Pedestrian/Bicycle Countermeasure Selection System

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

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center

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

"Pedestrian Facilities Users Guide - Providing Safety and Mobility," U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/01102/01102.pdf>



The Vancouver Land Bridge, designed by artist Maya Lin, for the Confluence Project, reconnects historic Fort Vancouver with the Columbia River waterfront
Image: Courtesy of Confluence Project, Staff Photo

This section discusses possible implementation strategies and next steps for *Turn to the River*.

MOVING FORWARD

Well-designed public places attract families and encourage active, healthy lifestyles.
Image: flickr - Denis-Carl Robidoux



Implementation Strategies

One of the most compelling features of the *Turn to the River* plan is that it brings together inspiring and transformative concepts with practical and achievable approaches. The suggested strategies that follow offer guidelines for anyone wishing to initiate aspects of this exciting placemaking project.

Keep it Moving

The excitement level for re-establishing Terre Haute's sense of connection to the river, built over the course of the past two years through *2013 Year of the River* and *Turn to the River*, is high. It will be important to maintain this momentum as members of the community initiate the next steps in achieving a vision they helped to create. This enthusiasm will best be maintained by engaging the public (now broader interested groups) in the design phase, and proceeding with that upon completion of this plan.

Civic Engagement

Continuous community involvement in shaping public places within the study area will ensure a sense of civic pride and ownership. While not every citizen will choose to be engaged in the development process, those who do will feel a strong sense of connection to the place and may act as its "champions" by encouraging friends, relatives, and even strangers to visit.

Aim for the Anchor

A place with an anchor attraction will be the most likely to achieve success. Determining and planning central pivotal projects, even if they are not immediately achievable, and building around them, is crucial to successfully achieving the best design results. Short-term achievements may be accomplished in the interim, but should be implemented in consideration of a long-term central concept.

Go for the "Small Win"

While keeping big projects in mind, it is also possible to focus on projects that would have high impact and low cost. This approach is called the "lighter, quicker, cheaper" (LQC) approach, coined by the Project for Public Spaces (PPS) - an internationally recognized center for resources, tools and inspiration for placemaking. The PPS advocates using the LQC approach in taking first steps toward implementing an ambitious placemaking plan. These solutions keep the momentum going while building interest in spaces and attracting interest that would lead to larger investments. LQC plans and projects must be coordinated with the planned anchor as a central consideration during the design phase.

Examples include temporary art and educational installations at key high-visibility locations, artist-designed temporary wayfinding signage for events, banner design competitions, food trucks and pop-up retail (possibly through examining and adjusting current policy); outdoor plays or movie screenings in places where future projects are planned.

Partnerships and Coordination

Partnerships among entities with direct interest in *Turn to the River* will develop and enrich initial concepts, add consideration of relevant needs and resources, and make projects more feasible. Funding and other required resources will be more easily procured through coordinated and collaborative effort. One typical example, public-private partnerships (PPPs), allows both municipalities and private developers to reap the benefits of collaborative efforts. A list of partners and potential funding sources deemed applicable for *Turn to the River's* study area and recommendations can be found in Appendix D. These suggestions are based on research and current trends in placemaking and public art.

Next Steps

Turn to the River is being released at an exciting time in Terre Haute, immediately following a year-long community-wide celebration of the Wabash River (*2013 Year of the River*), and just as several related projects are on the cusp of being developed within the study area (see Appendix C). Art Spaces will continue to engage the community and build partnerships with public and private entities over the coming years to integrate art and design into the fabric of the community in meaningful ways.

The City of Terre Haute and the State of Indiana will both celebrate their Bicentennials in 2016; and Vigo County's will follow in 2018. Implementing one or more significant redevelopment projects on and near the Government Campus would be an ideal way to commemorate these momentous occasions in our city and state history.

The recommended Wabash Avenue Promenade and Lookout could be underway by 2016 if partnerships and funding sources are quickly established. Beautifully designed and universally accessible, the Wabash Lookout would serve as an anchor attraction to draw people to the river. The Wabash Avenue Promenade, leading to it from the downtown, could be developed incrementally with certain segments completed that same year. The LQC approach could be applied to provide additional means of celebrating the Bicentennials with temporary public art installations, lively performance events, banner contests, and in many other ways.

Depending on the county's final determination regarding relocation of the Vigo County Security Center, possible repurposing of the building may be considered near the time of the County

Bicentennial. Designed to become a civic and cultural anchor with a revised purpose and programming, it would draw residents as well as tourists. The Civic Plaza redevelopment, lower-cost pedestrian accommodations at the Third Street and Wabash Avenue intersection, and parking lot reconfiguration and greenscaping are LQC strategies to consider in this case.

Next steps for Art Spaces begin with a design phase for the Government Campus (to include a Wabash Avenue Promenade) and a new Wabash Lookout. The scope of the design area will be determined in consultation with the city and county administration and based in part on existing plans. A team and community engagement approach, with professional arts expertise at the core, will continue to guide the project. Funding sources for the design phase are currently being explored.

The Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Board and Staff will review *Turn to the River* to identify recommendations that would best align with or enhance their most recent updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Art Spaces plans completion of a sculpture in Fairbanks Park this year, and anticipates future collaborations with the department.

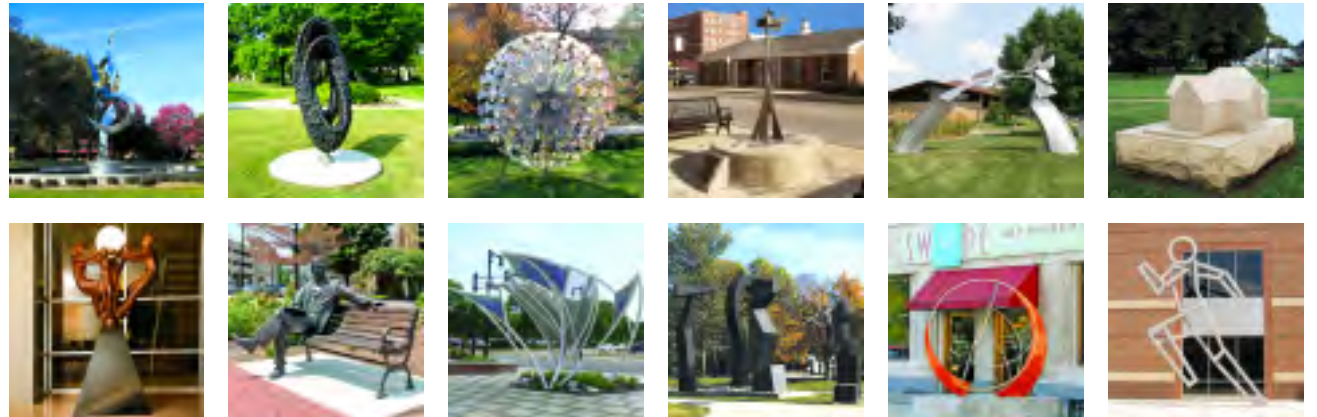
Indiana State University has begun construction of a new Track and Field and Soccer Complex adjacent to the river directly north of *Turn to the River's* study area. The presence of this new venue will immediately change the character of the riverfront and give people added impetus to link the downtown with the river. Downtown Terre Haute, Inc's continued focus on expanding commercial and entrepreneurial opportunities and downtown housing, developing a wayfinding system, and adding streetscape improvements will intersect with and invigorate recommendations within this plan. Riverscape's recent success with Wabashiki on the west side of the river and their compelling and ambitious goals for improvement and development on the east side of the river also support the recommendations of *Turn to the River*. Each of these entities are strong potential partners for connecting to the river through public art and design.

Turn to the River is a vision, a plan, and a valuable tool. Investment in the study area will serve Terre Haute's population of 60,000 as well as an additional 500,000 people in smaller communities throughout the region that rely on Terre Haute for healthcare, education, shopping, and cultural resources. Collectively the recommendations in the plan will improve lives as citizens benefit from having additional opportunities to connect with nature; enlivened spaces that support inter-cultural interaction, dialogue, civic participation, and energizing visual experiences; new and exciting commercial activity; and increased stewardship of the natural environment, all leading to a more vibrant and livable community.

To follow the progress of *Turn to the River* visit:

www.wabashvalleyartspaces.com/turntotheriver.html

The website also offers a link to sign up for the Art Spaces mailing list to receive invitations to future public meetings for *Turn to the River*, as well as sculpture dedications and other events.



Images: Rebecca Andrews

Art Spaces – Wabash Valley Outdoor Sculpture Collection, Inc.

669 Ohio Street

Terre Haute, Indiana 47807

812-235-2801

www.wabashvalleyartspaces.com

info@wabashvalleyartspaces.com

APPENDICES

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A	A Selection of Resources for Researching Public Art to Transform Communities
B	Public Input
C	Existing Plans & Initiatives
D	Potential Partnerships

Appendix A: A Selection of Resources for Researching Public Art to Transform Communities

Turn to the River Visiting Artists 2013

Stacy Levy | www.stacylevy.com

Stacy Levy reveals the presence of urban nature and clarifies the patterns of natural processes at work. She often works with water, from acid mine drainage to urban streams and rivers to rainwater. Her art provides a vehicle for translating the natural world to a language of human understanding and makes unseen aspects more visible. This includes revealing invisible aspects of microorganisms, the spiraling hydrological patterns of a stream, prevailing winds and their effects on vegetation, the flow of water through living systems, and integrating natural patterns and processes into the built environment

Buster Simpson | www.bustersimpson.net

Buster Simpson has been working in the public realm since the late 70's and is viewed as a pioneer in an approach to public art which manifests human concerns, provides creative solutions for infrastructure and systems we rely upon, allows us to experience our own environment in fresh ways, and adds poetry to our daily experience. He works with a broad range of entities including cities, universities, transportation and planning departments, and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Betsy Damon | www.keepersofthewaters.org

Betsy Damon works toward creating community-based models of water stewardship, directing people to consider creative solutions for the urgent threats to water as a fragile and integral source of life. She founded Keepers of the Waters in 1991 to inspire and promote projects that combine art, science, and community involvement to restore, preserve, and remediate water sources. Through sculpture, teaching, lectures, and workshops, she urges immediate consideration of water use and quality as a paramount global concern.

Additional On-line Resources and Publications

Americans for the Arts – www.americansforthearts.org – is a national organization serving to advance and lead the network of organizations and individuals who cultivate, promote, sustain, and support the arts in America. Links on their site connect to public art and creative placemaking resources and case studies.

Green Museum – www.greenmuseum.org – is an online museum/encyclopedia of artists working the field of environmental art.

The National Endowment for the Arts – www.arts.gov – is an independent federal agency that funds and promotes artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. Links on their site connect to public art and creative placemaking resources including *Creative Placemaking*, a white paper for The Mayors’ Institute on City Design by Ann Markusen and Anne Gadwa.

Project for Public Places – www.pps.org – is a nonprofit planning, design, and educational organization dedicated to helping people create and sustain public spaces that build stronger communities. They offer news and information about placemaking projects and trends.

Public Art Archive – www.publicartarchive.org – is a free, online and mobile accessible catalog of completed public artworks worldwide.

Appendix B: Public Input

This appendix lists public input received for *Turn to the River* that is not shown elsewhere within the plan document. Please note that, in most cases, these comments were recorded verbatim and reflect opinions and ideas contributed by the public. Where necessary, some comments were summarized for ease of presentation.

Barriers

Wabash River

Input from stakeholder meetings regarding barriers

Placing art too close to the river could have a negative impact on the material and image (re: flooding)

Make bridges gateways

Buy-in of current private ownership

Pedestrians should cross under Ohio at the bridge

Have way-finding at the river

Disability access @ 3rd, 1st, down to river

Money is always barrier

People need to have patience

The private landowners along the river may be a barrier

Bridges

Afraid of being first to build

Bridge over the river

Who's going to be the first to build?

False fears

Local stigma --> more family attributes will eliminate the bad

More access points to the river

River is dirty and dangerous

Get people on the river

Get a corporate sponsor for boat rides (example: Gander Mountain)

Ped bridge over water

Input and notes from maps during public meetings regarding how the river is used, how it is accessed, and barriers to its use

Taking lunch to river

Peaceful

Driving in

Getting to river is difficult

Wabashiki bird watching - shore birds

Dresser area not attractive

Can not see river from bridge

Perception of pollution

Can canoe and kayak down to Fort D
Boat parades
Still peaceful
Student was told not to go to park (5years ago)
In Cincinnati you know that you are on the river- here you don't know b/c of the jersey barriers on the bridge
When you drive down 1st street, you don't know how close you are to the river
Never been on a rowboat on the river
People used to ski on the river
Do we need more boat access points?
3 feet deep in channel
No place to get gasoline for boats
No place to eat by the river
Places to stop in Clinton, Montezuma, and Attica
Taught to not trust river
Perception of no people = bad place to be
Tranquil
Neglected
Unapproachable
Open sewer
Detached
Unmanaged
Accessible, but barriers
Cleaner than it was
Boat ramps
Foam

Fairbanks Park

Input from stakeholder meetings regarding barriers

Walking the current distance from park to nearest restaurant for a lunch break (time constraints)

Money is always a barrier

First thought is to drive -- do we design for driving/visitors?

People's attitudes-- negative, can't do this

Do something with the old jail

Education and awareness of amenities

Parks department not having information

Too many cars

Safety

Lack of funds

Lack of collaboration between the City and the County Parks Departments

Pedestrian connectivity

Remove garden at old fountain

Rehab old post office facade in park

Consistent events to promote park
Parking is too easy
Remove train tracks (along First Street)
Lighting
Maintenance

Input and notes from maps during public meetings regarding how the park is used, how it is accessed, and barriers to its use

Beautiful stage
Where to park park car if driving?
Underutilized
Longer trails
Boat dock needs improvement
Improve playground
Riverfront trail disconnected
Entrances need improvement
Attract the YMCA members to stay to utilize the park
Bring symphony back
ISU students tell each other to stay away from the park
Visibility/route
"Dirt Fest"
Hodge podge mix of places
No direction markers or signage
First Street entrance and exposure
Lack of connectivity
Lack of events
Bring back restaurants
Dogs do not feel welcome
Damaged resource
Treated as an edge- it is a center
Re-establish boundaries
Economic issues
Perceptions

Government Campus

Input from stakeholder meetings regarding barriers

Third Street
Patience of people involved could be a potential issue/barrier
Streets are major obstacles
Keep Wabash Ave extension open through entire parking lot
Change First Street and Ohio
Create a more inviting atmosphere
Gateways at: 3rd and Wabash Ave., 14th and Wabash, and 7th and Poplar

APPENDIX B

Crossing 3rd St. and 1st St.
Crossing 3rd St. as pedestrian
Signage
Maneuvering around parking lots
Third Street
Third Street (create pedestrian bridge or architectural attraction)

Input and notes from maps during public meetings regarding how the campus is used, how it is accessed, and barriers to its use

Ugly
Parking lot
Crumbling
City Hall is pathetic
Horrible placement of the jail
Courthouse should stand alone
Lack of landscaping
Few people use the space
Third Street is frightening
No accessibility
Hard to get to
It's all about the cars
Position is awkward and uncomfortable
Parking is too far away from buildings
Lack of signage
Not beautiful
Not efficient
Cannot see courthouse in its full light
Lack of public events to bring people to the campus
No parking east of building
Too much concrete
Boring
Unfriendly
No signage
Not much use
Only used by lawyers and criminals
Parking lot is congested
No food
Sidewalks are too close to traffic
Bad traffic lights for pedestrians
City Hall is a mess - tear it down
Jail is ugly - relocate
Cannot get to statues and memorials - not user friendly
Regular folks do not want to be there

Barriers by Frequency - Survey Results

Wabash River		Fairbanks Park		Government Campus	
	No.		No.		No.
Access	53	Attractions (lack of)	49	Parking	47
Attractions (lack of)	38	Stigma / poor reputation	39	No need	36
Polluted/dirty	26	No barriers	31	Only business purposes	30
No barriers	22	Distance	21	Attractions (lack of)	28
Lack of information/signage	17	Aesthetics/upkeep	14	Access	25
Safety concerns/fear	12	Lack of amenities	12	Aesthetics/upkeep	22
Aesthetics/upkeep	8	Access	11	3rd Street	20
Visibility	6	Safety concerns/fear	10	Traffic concerns	20
Personal conflicts	6	3rd Street	9	Uninviting/intimidating	18
No desire to visit	6	Parking	8	Only reasons to visit are negative	16
Distance	6	Personal conflict	7	Safety	15
Lack of other people/activity	5	1st Street	7	No barriers	12
Stigma / poor reputation	4	No desire to visit	5	Jail	11
3rd Street	4	Visibility	4	Stigma / poor reputation	7
Lack of amenities	4	Spatial arrangement	3	Visibility	4
Uninviting	3	Dirty/polluted	3	Personal conflict	2
Parking	3	Not welcoming	3	Lack of amenities	2
Trails (lack of connectivity)	1	Underutilization (no people)	3	Spatial arrangement	1
Insects/bugs	1	Poor river access	3		

Ideas for the Future

Stakeholder Meetings

What additional amenity(ies) would encourage you and your family to utilize the spaces more? (listed in order of frequency)

More trails / trail connectivity
 Informational signs / walking tours (history, ecology, etc.)
 Improve aesthetics / Improve Government Campus parking lot (landscaping, circulation, etc.)
 Design for pedestrians
 Exercise stations
 Bike rental
 International / cultural festival
 Commercial activity
 Boat / canoe rentals
 More access points to the river
 Corporate-sponsored boat rides
 Welcoming approach
 Improve bus schedule
 Music in public spaces
 Public events and space rental calendar
 More art diversity - open platform for expression
 Restaurants
 Mixed use buildings
 Build to riverfront
 Eco-center
 Boat docks
 Covered market space
 Add shelter at east side of FB park (more accessible due to sloping)
 More public green space
 More student-oriented events
 Food trucks
 Maps / trail orientation
 Cleaner river
 Yoga in the park
 Movies in the park
 Boat parade
 Festival of lights
 Benches / places to sit
 Summer theater
 Electricity access for events
 Splash pad
 Swimming pool
 More piers on river

Accessibility upgrades
Add natural elements (trees, etc.)
Traffic calming on 1st and 3rd streets
Improve jail aesthetics
Gateway features
Better/more permanent seating at amphitheater

If you could do one thing to enhance the study area (with unlimited funding), what would be your ideal contribution? (listed in order of frequency)

Restaurants/cafes along the river
Pedestrian bridge over the river
Condos / apartments
Pedestrian bridge over 3rd street
Public plaza west of courthouse
Music venue on/at the river
Accessible playground in FB park
Aquatics center
Relocate the jail and communications tower
Develop Thompson's Honda property
First Street trolley
Artist lofts/studio space/gallery
Remove Jersey barriers on bridges
Water sports
Ice skating rink
Swimming pool w/ slides
Manicured landscapes
Aviary
Zoo
Pond in the park
Native american monument
Grocery store downtown
Downtown residences
Water street as a promenade
Better pedestrian access across river bridges
Large-scale art piece as a landmark
Preserve/restore City Hall
Repurpose old Jail along Ohio St (housing, hotel, themed restaurant)
First Street as a Boulevard
Rehab jail property and build infill around it
Preserve State Bank Building (Kesler Law)
Preserve/restore Courthouse (restore entrances / grand entrance to second floor)
Underground parking
Community events center

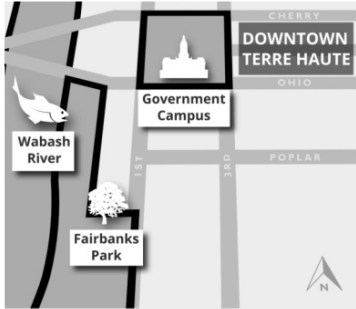
APPENDIX B

Peace/forgiveness garden
Botanical garden
Skate park
Improve Government Campus parking lot
Remove arch fountain at FB park
Splash park
River walk
Observation station
Pedestrian bridge over 1st street

Survey Instrument

TURN TO THE RIVER

Join the conversation...



Turn to the River is a project to study the ways in which design and public art may help to re-connect Terre Haute's downtown and the Wabash River. The result will be a plan, built by you along with others in your community.

We are focusing on three public places and the connections among them (see map at left): the Government Campus (i.e. City Hall and the Vigo County Courthouse area), Fairbanks Park, and the Wabash River.

Through this conversation, you will have the opportunity to share your thoughts regarding these public spaces and discuss the issues that prevent us from enjoying them.

Which three words or short phrases would you use to describe the **Government Campus**?

--	--	--

What **discourages** you from visiting the **Government Campus**? What **barriers** do you encounter?

--	--	--

Which three words or short phrases would you use to describe **Fairbanks Park**?

--	--	--

What **discourages** you from visiting **Fairbanks Park**? What **barriers** do you encounter?

--	--	--

Which three words or short phrases would you use to describe the **Wabash River**?

--	--	--

What **discourages** you from visiting the **Wabash River**? What **barriers** do you encounter?

--	--	--

Art and design often play a big part in successfully transforming public places. This is called "creative placemaking." It may include integrating art and design with infrastructure (like storm water control systems); providing art that educates about the environment (such as mapping out waterways through public art); art and design serving a utilitarian function (bridges); wayfinding (signage, pathway design); or simply beautifying, enhancing, and enlivening certain areas through unique sculptures.

What types of art and design would you like to see in and around the government campus, the park, and/or the river? Check options below and write out any thoughts you have in the space provided:

<input type="checkbox"/> art/design about the river	<input type="checkbox"/> art/design that educates
<input type="checkbox"/> art/design along the river	<input type="checkbox"/> art/design that is just beautiful to look at
<input type="checkbox"/> art/design in the river	<input type="checkbox"/> art/design that you can climb on
<input type="checkbox"/> art/design over the river	<input type="checkbox"/> art/design that is temporary
<input type="checkbox"/> art/design that reflects/mimics nature	<input type="checkbox"/> art/design that is permanent
<input type="checkbox"/> art/design that addresses environmental issues	<input type="checkbox"/> art/design that is interactive

Other ideas for art and design projects:

Everyone uses places in the community differently and at different times. How often do you visit...

	every day	about once a week	about once a month	about once a season	about once a year	about every three years	never have visited
Government Campus							
Fairbanks Park							
Wabash River							

What would **encourage** you to *turn to the river* and the spaces in between?

Thanks for joining the conversation! Please tell us a little bit about you...

Age	under 18	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65-79	80+	Gender	Male	Female
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Zip Code - Home		How long have you lived in the Terre Haute area?
Zip Code - Work		

Turn to the River, an Art Spaces project, is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional funding is provided by the City of Terre Haute, the Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment, Indiana State University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and Ivy Tech Community College.

For more information about **Turn to the River**, visit wabashvalleyartspaces.com/turntotheriver.htm or call Art Spaces at 812.235.2801.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with this project, come continue the conversation at our second public input meeting on August 27, 2013, at 5:15pm at the Hilton Garden Inn located at the intersection of 7th and Wabash Streets in Terre Haute. We are also going on a walk to observe the study area. Meet at Max Ehrmann at the Crossroads at 4:00pm.

This form may be mailed to: Art Spaces, Inc., 669 Ohio Street, Terre Haute, IN 47807
You may also fax this form to 812.234.0156



Appendix C: Existing Plans and Initiatives

Art Spaces, Inc.

Paul Dresser Childhood Home Site Improvements

In 2014 Art Spaces will install a sculpture in Fairbanks Park to honor Paul Dresser, a world renowned composer from Terre Haute who wrote Indiana's State Song, "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away." It will be placed near Dresser's childhood home and in view of the river, just inside the south entrance to the park. Added pathways and landscaping will help establish a new cultural destination to draw people from the downtown to the river.

City of Terre Haute

City Hall Retrofitting of Main Entrance for ADA Compliance

Currently the ADA-complaint access to City Hall is provided through the employee entrance on the northwest corner of the building. Plans for implementation of a security checkpoint at the main entrance to City Hall would require that entrance to be fully ADA compliant. A plan to redesign the main entrance to be ADA compliant, in conjunction with installing a security checkpoint, has been developed by a local architectural firm.

Cultural Arts District

The City of Terre Haute, acting in concert with a broad group of community partners, is pursuing a State of Indiana designation for a downtown Cultural Arts District to strengthen existing assets and develop new partnerships between business, education, and the arts. Intended outcomes include good business retention, improved attendance at cultural events, entrepreneurship opportunities for artists, and the establishment of new business. The diversity of the city's existing cultural assets promoted as a unique district will strengthen current revitalization initiatives.

Downtown Vision Plan

Completed in 2009, the Downtown Vision Plan documents a vision for the downtown district and articulates goals, objectives, and actions to achieve the vision by discrete projects and policy directions. The current city administration has stated that an update to this plan is scheduled to be complete by early 2015.

Engineering Department - CSO Project

The city recognizes the impacts that storm water has on area waterways. The City of Terre

Haute Sanitary District follows a state- and federally-approved water management plan to reduce incidents of river contamination.

National Road Heritage Trail Extension

The city is extending the National Road Heritage Trail along the Wabash River in 2014-2015 from the south end of Fairbanks Park to the former International Paper property now owned by the Board of Public Works and Safety. The city will eventually develop a trailhead facility at the former International Paper property and construct a trail under the Interstate 70 river bridges and onto the Wabash River Oxbow property now owned by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

The city will use the existing Sugar Creek Scrap brownfield site as an intermediate trailhead facility in 2014-2019 between Fairbanks Park and the former International Paper property upon the completion of a remediation construction project and the installation of combined sewer overflow infrastructure.

A critical component of successful trail connectivity north of Fairbanks Park will be overcoming the barrier posed by the Dresser and Dreiser Bridges (Cherry and Ohio Streets). The Wabash River trail segment planned to the north of the Dresser/Dreiser bridges and running past the ISU Sports Complex (now under construction) will link to the existing National Road Heritage Trail as it continues to the east. A Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology senior civil engineering student design project demonstrated a practical and cost-feasible construction design that includes switchbacks leading trail users under both bridges. The so-called trail “underpass” would be above the Wabash River and usable approximately 350 days of the year.

Parks and Recreation Department - Master Plan

A newly updated master plan for the years 2014 – 2018 was built upon the previous five-year plan. According to the document, the department will focus its efforts on budget maintenance, improvements to golf operations, establishment of a parks foundation, addition of aquatics facilities, elimination of underutilized parks, and trail maintenance and expansion. The plan specifies short- and long-term goals for Fairbanks Park. Short-term goals include “re-work[ing] the fountain area to serve as another park attraction,” adding a dog park, and adding more public art. A list of long-term goals includes support for *Turn to the River* recommendations and most improvements planned for Fairbanks Park are on hold until the completion of this plan.

Third Street / U.S. Highway 41 Beautification

The city will beautify and upgrade Third Street / U.S. Highway 41 from Poplar Street to Cherry Street with a Transportation Enhancement construction project beginning in July 2014. The project scope includes the addition of planter boxes in the medians, new sidewalks, Americans with Disabilities (ADA) ramps, resurfacing, and pavement markings including all areas of pedestrian crossings. These improvements will increase safety for pedestrian and bicycle movements, serve as a traffic calming mechanism for through traffic movements and beautify the streetscape.

Girl Scouts of Central Indiana

Additional Programming at the River's Edge

As advocates for education and experience, the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana's Service Center in Terre Haute is in an ideal location in Fairbanks Park adjacent to the river. They recently acquired a mobile science lab, but are also in the process of creating a more permanent location with river access that will offer Scouts increased opportunities to learn about the ecology of the Wabash River.

Indiana State University

Campus Master Plan

In Indiana State University's most recent master plan, completed in 2009, the university asserts that it will reach toward the river for future expansion of the campus. Several new sports facilities are proposed for the riverfront area and one is already under construction. A coordinated campus wayfinding signage system is recommended. A western campus gateway at Third and Chestnut Streets is included in addition to the landscape and visual enhancement of both sides of Third Street at Chestnut as well as Cherry Streets.

Downtown Student Housing

Indiana State University has plans to provide downtown housing through a lease agreement with a local developer currently building a multi-use building in the 500 block of Wabash Avenue. When completed it will hold an estimated 260 beds on the upper three floors with retail space on the ground floor. The modern features and amenities combined with the downtown location will help to attract and retain students.

Energize Downtown Initiative

The Energize Downtown initiative was launched to develop ways for Indiana State University to be a major partner and catalyst to the redevelopment of Terre Haute. Doing so will not only help advance the City and region in key areas, including jobs, economic vitality, healthcare, and neighborhood development, but also help advance all of ISU's strategic priorities. The University recognizes the importance and value of building a great "college town" and is committed to working collaboratively with arts and community development partners to ensure the continued revitalization of downtown Terre Haute. The initiative is providing meaningful experiential learning opportunities for students, faculty and staff to enhance the overall campus environment, which, in turn, is having a positive impact on recruitment and retention of quality students and faculty.

Sports Complex

The anchor development of ISU's westward expansion will be a new sports complex that will host track and field events, with the possibility of future upgrades to accommodate other types of events. This project is currently under development.

Sisters of Providence

Future Trail

Plans to commemorate Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, founder of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, through re-establishing the path she traveled upon her arrival to establish the order in 1840, are currently in the conceptual phase. It will be designed as a pedestrian and bicycle trail connecting the Sisters of Providence and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with Terre Haute, effectively extending the National Road Heritage Trail to the west, while also providing greater access to one of the area's unique cultural assets.

State of Indiana

Department of Agriculture - Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant Program

The CWI grant program allows landowners and conservation groups to apply for funding for implementation of soil conservation practices that will reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution (pollution carried over ground by rain water). In 2012, the Tri-County Watersheds Improvement Project, consisting of a partnership among Vermillion, Fountain, Parke, and

Montgomery counties, received funding for programs that will increase conservation tillage and the use of cover crops and no-till farming practices. These counties are located upstream along the Wabash River, and thus the practices should improve the quality of river water as it passes through Terre Haute.

Department of Natural Resources - Healthy Rivers Initiative (HRI)

The HRI was initiated in 2010 by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to permanently protect over 43,000 acres located in the floodplain of the Wabash River and Sugar Creek in west-central Indiana and over 26,000 acres of the Muscatatuck River bottomlands in southeast Indiana. HRI projects involve the protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural habitats and provide flood protection of nearby lands while increasing public access to recreational opportunities.

Department of Natural Resources - Indiana Wetlands Conservation Plan (IWCP)

Just 300 years ago, approximately 25% of Indiana was covered with wetlands. Because of farming and development, only 3.5% of Indiana is considered wetlands today. Since 1996, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources has used the Indiana Wetlands Conservation Plan (IWCP) as a guide in efforts to reclaim wetlands as state recreational areas that conserve natural habitats.

Vigo County

Parks Department - Dewey Point Trailhead

A master plan has been developed by Riverscape and the Vigo County Parks Department for trailhead improvements at Dewey Point – a primary gateway for recreational opportunities in the Wabashiki Fish and Wildlife Area. Immediate addition of parking, restroom facilities, a picnic shelter, bioswales, and a canoe launch to be followed by public art, an overlook, and other amenities at a later time will serve as a draw for enjoyment and study of the area and its resources. The improvements will begin in 2014 and will continue as additional funds are secured.

Wabash River Development & Beautification, Inc. (WRDBI)

Riverscape Master Plan

Riverscape is the brainchild of the WRDBI Board. It describes a broad concept for future utilization of land from parts of Terre Haute and Vigo County surrounding the Wabash River. This concept is part of a larger vision to transform the face and image of Terre Haute to bring economic growth opportunities for new business and provide a landmark destination for tourists through the restoration, revitalization, and re-purposing of lands along the banks of the Wabash.

Collaborative Projects

Downtown Terre Haute Wayfinding

Indiana State University and Downtown Terre Haute, Inc. are partnering with the City of Terre Haute to develop a much needed wayfinding system for the community. The project will analyze the effectiveness of current signage, downtown and throughout the community, and will result in a comprehensive design and schematic layout to be implemented incrementally. The design will incorporate elements of the recent branding strategy for Downtown Terre Haute and install engaging, clear, and safe signage with a consistent visual identity to enhance the visitor's experience. A strong wayfinding system will promote downtown and accelerate economic and community development.

Terre Haute / Vigo County Comprehensive Plan: THRIVE 2025

Adopted by the Vigo County Area Plan Commission in 2007, the Terre Haute/Vigo County Comprehensive Plan, THRIVE 2025, sets the course for future development of Terre Haute and Vigo County. It is used by Vigo County Area Planning Department staff to make recommendations regarding development approval, zoning changes, and variances.

Wabashiki Fish and Wildlife Area

A partnership between Riverscape, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and the Vigo County Parks Department resulted in the establishment and preservation of Wabashiki, a 2,683-acre wetlands located directly across the river from the south portion of the study area, from which it is visible. A levee trail around the wetlands has been developed and Dewey Point, the main public access area, is scheduled for groundbreaking in late 2014.

Appendix D: Potential Partnerships

With the goal of increasing livability for residents of Terre Haute and the surrounding Wabash Valley of West Central Indiana, a broad array of entities, including stakeholders interviewed during the planning phase, may be considered as potential partners for the next steps (design and implementation phases) of *Turn to the River*. It is recommended that the City of Terre Haute (the current governmental partner for this phase of the project) and Vigo County be considered as potential partners throughout any phase of *Turn to the River*.

Following is a list of identified national entities that have stated guidelines for innovative or creative placemaking projects.

ArtPlace America

<http://www.artplaceamerica.org>

ArtPlace America advances the field of creative placemaking through partnerships and funding opportunities throughout the United States.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

<http://www.arts.gov>

The NEA offers several programs that provide grants for innovative projects:

- + Art Works: Funding for transformative and innovative projects that will ensure the vitality of the arts
- + The Challenge America Fast-Track: Support for small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations
- + Our Town: Support for creative placemaking projects that contribute to the livability of communities and place the arts at their core

Other governmental departments and agencies also offer grants in several categories that are worth exploring for certain aspects of *Turn to the River*:

United States Department of Transportation (US DOT)

<http://www.dot.gov/>

The US DOT offers grants in several categories that can be used to improve state and local roadways and improve safety for all users. Grant funds can be used for a wide array of improvements, depending on the specific requirements of the program. See <http://www.dot.gov/grants> for additional information.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

<http://www.epa.gov/>

The EPA offers an Environmental Education Model Grant Program which provides funding to support environmental education projects designed to increase environmental awareness and stewardship. See <http://www2.epa.gov/education> for additional information.

National, state, regional and local foundations offer funding opportunities applicable to many aspects of *Turn to the River*.

Corporations, businesses, groups, alliances and individuals may also be considered potential interested partners to study and act on the recommendations presented by *Turn to the River*.

