In 2010, the City of Indianapolis aggressively increased its efforts to improve the quality of life for the residents and businesses of our community more than any previous year. Mayor Ballard is committed to Indianapolis having a lot to offer its residents and businesses to spur economic activity and to attract and retain talent. Clean water and air; healthy people, communities and buildings; and a walkable, bikeable, busable, accessible city all contribute to quality of life in Indianapolis.

City Parks and Green Spaces Provide Recreation, Improve Quality of Life
Parks and greenspaces throughout the City of Indianapolis provide playgrounds, trails, picnic areas, golf courses, swimming pools and other amenities that improve quality of life in the City.

Indy Parks maintains and operates park properties in Marion County, including six regional parks that provide natural settings and a sense of remoteness from urban life. Each park offers unique and inexpensive recreational opportunities for residents. Community parks feature family centers, nature centers, sports facilities, playgrounds and more. Regional parks feature scenic views, lakes, rivers or ponds and cultural amenities. Eagle Creek Park, on the City’s northwest side, provides 4,200 acres of park space, making it one of the largest municipal parks in the country.

Indianapolis is home to:
• 207 parks
• 11,140 acres of green space
• 11 greenways
• 5 nature centers

Greenways
Indianapolis is consistently recognized locally, regionally and nationally for its premier greenway system. To date the City has:
• More than 59 miles of greenway trails
• 26 miles of blueways
• A variety of conservation corridors

Sidewalks
A new study published in the American Journal of Preventative Medicine that reviewed data from 11,541 survey participants in 11 countries came to the conclusion that, “those who live in an urban neighborhood are twice as likely to be physically active as those in the suburbs,” with the most important factor being accessibility to sidewalks.
**Bikeways**

Bike lanes are a critical component to a sustainable, connected and livable city, providing avenues for transportation and recreation that improve quality of life and reduce pollution. The City of Indianapolis currently has 30.63 miles of bike lanes. There is also an aggressive push to continue extending bike lanes for commuter and recreational use. By the end of 2011, there will be more than 65 bike-lane miles installed in the City.

### 2008 – 2.41 miles
- 52nd Street, Monon Greenway to Keystone Avenue – 1.0 mile
- Westlane Road, Michigan Road to Ditch Road – 1.41 miles

### 2009 – 20.36 miles
- New York and Michigan streets, Arlington Avenue to White River Parkway West Drive – 11.0 miles
- Ritter Avenue, East Pleasant Run Parkway South Drive to 10th Street – 0.43 miles
- Southeastern Avenue, Franklin Road to Five Points Road – 1.81 miles
- Allison Pointe, 82nd Street to Dead End – 0.90 miles
- Allisonville Road, Binford Boulevard to 82nd Street – 5.5 miles
- East Street, Sanders Street to Fletcher Avenue – 0.72 miles

### 2010 – 7.86 miles
- Illinois Street, New York Street to 16th Street – 1.17 miles
- Cold Springs Road, Lafayette Road to Granada Circle – 0.88 miles
- Lafayette Road, County Line to 71st Street – 3.60 miles
- Southeastern Avenue, South Sheridan Avenue to Hunter Road – 0.57 miles
- Raymond Avenue, Sherman Drive to Southeastern Avenue – 1.64 miles

### 2011 Planned – 27.86 miles
- Illinois Street and Capitol Avenue, 16th and New York streets to Canal Towpath – 10.26 miles
- Lafayette Road, 71st Street to West New York Street – 9.46 miles
- Madison Avenue and Shelby Street bike lanes, Virginia Avenue (Shelby Street) to County Line Road (Madison Avenue) – 8.14 miles

### Mayor’s Bike Ride

On June 5, more than 600 riders braved the rain to join Mayor Ballard on his annual bike ride. The ride showcased the newly installed Allisonville Road bike lanes as well as the Fall Creek Greenway. The event was a successful collaboration of the Marion County Health Department, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and local nonprofit organizations, which garnered the help of more than 55 volunteers.

### Bicycle Friendly City

In October, the League of American Bicyclists designated Indianapolis a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community for the first time and recognized Indianapolis for its connectivity efforts. Bicycling Magazine recently ranked the Circle City 45th on the list of America’s top 50 bike-friendly cities, the first time Indianapolis or a city in Indiana has appeared on this list.
Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene & Marilyn Glick

The Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene & Marilyn Glick is a world-class urban bike and pedestrian path that connects neighborhoods, cultural districts and entertainment amenities. It also serves as the downtown hub for the entire central Indiana greenway system. The Cultural Trail is made possible by a large public and private collaboration led by Central Indiana Community Foundation, the City of Indianapolis and several nonprofit organizations.

There will be 81 rain gardens that line the trail, as part of the 163,300 feet or nearly four acres of new green space downtown. The new green infrastructure along the Cultural Trail is also expected to filter and divert 2.7 million gallons of storm water from Indianapolis’ storm sewer system each year.

Indianapolis Cultural Trail is Economic Driver

According to a recent economic-development study, the Indianapolis Cultural Trail will create more than 11,000 jobs, and the economic benefits attributable to the Cultural Trail will exceed $863 million. The study, conducted by the Indiana University Center for Urban Policy and the Environment, calculates investments from expected increase in downtown residential and commercial ownership, attraction of creative-class talent and increases in tourism and convention stays.

The study was used in the successful grant proposal that awarded $20.5 million to the Cultural Trail from the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery program administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Nearly 1,400 other proposals totaling more than $57 billion in requests from around the United States were submitted for $1.5 billion in available transportation funding. The Cultural Trail was one of 51 proposals awarded and one of only two trail projects in the country to receive funding.
City Spurs Local Food Movement

Urban Gardens

Urban gardens work to strengthen the fabric of our communities in a number of important ways. By turning vacant land into positive and active spaces, providing healthy fruits and vegetables and fostering the development of new skill sets, urban gardens provide a valuable opportunity to bring communities together around a common purpose.

Creating more urban gardens and engaging more individuals and organizations in growing healthy food at the community and neighborhood level is an essential component of sustainability in Indianapolis. To foster this development of a “gardening culture” in Indianapolis, in 2010 the Office of Sustainability announced the Indianapolis Urban Garden Program. A partnership with the Department of Metropolitan Development and the Indianapolis Land Bank, the Urban Garden Program makes available abandoned or unutilized land to community groups or individuals for the purpose of urban gardening.

Interested individuals or groups of individuals can review available properties and download the application at www.Indy.gov/SustainIndy.

The City also operates two urban gardens — the Mayor’s Urban Garden and Eagle Creek Garden.

Urban Garden Mentoring Program

Also launched in 2010, the Urban Gardening Mentor Program helps encourage urban gardening and growing food by connecting experienced and beginning gardeners for learning opportunities. This program, a partnership between the Office of Sustainability and Purdue Extension of Marion County, aims to assist individuals and organizations that are new to urban gardening.

Mayor’s Urban Garden Challenge

On Nov. 19, 2010, Mayor Ballard issued a challenge to Indianapolis to create 50 urban gardens in Center Township by the end of 2011. Currently there are 35 gardens that have been identified in urban Indianapolis.

Urban Farming Forum

As the urban farming movement in Indianapolis grows, Mayor Ballard is committed to increasing urban gardens to provide a means to healthy, fresh food for neighborhoods known as “food deserts.” At the Second Annual Urban Farming Forum held on March 21, 2010, the City announced a partnership between the Mayor’s Office of Sustainability, the Department of Metropolitan Development and the Indianapolis Land Bank, whereby some vacant properties will be made available for urban gardening and farming.

“My hope is that by making these vacant properties available for the purposes of growing food, we will see an increase in the number of urban gardens in Indianapolis.”

— Mayor Greg Ballard

Mayor Ballard stands next to a corn and tomato garden bed at the Mayor’s Urban Garden.
Farmers Markets
There are at least 12 farmers markets throughout Marion County, including two winter markets and 10 that run through the spring, summer and autumn months. Farmers markets offer a wealth of social and economic benefits for Indianapolis such as profits for business owners, job creation, social networking, community building, stimulating development, farmland preservation and sustainable food sourcing.

Indianapolis Farmers Markets:
- 38th and Meridian Farmers Market
- Abundant Life Church Farmers Market
- Binford Farmers Market
- Broad Ripple Farmers Market
- Farmers Market at Wishard
- Indianapolis Farmers Market at the City Market
- Go Green Farmers Market
- Traders Point Green Market
- Indianapolis Farmers Market on Fall Creek Parkway
- Stadium Village Farmers Market
- Indianapolis Winter Farmers Market
- Winter's Eve Farmers Market

City Provides Critical Funding for Indy’s First Food Co-op
The City of Indianapolis provided one of the final pieces of funding that allowed the first food cooperative, Pogues Run Grocer, to open in 2010 on the City’s near eastside. The Department of Metropolitan Development awarded the nonprofit grocer $100,000 in grant funds from the Community Development Block Grant Program, a program whereby federal dollars are provided to cities to use for their most-critical community needs. Because the co-op is located in an area where two national grocery chains had moved out and the community was primarily served by more than a dozen convenience stores serving high-cost, low-nutrition foods, the funding went a long way toward helping the neighborhood get a grocery store that makes available healthy, local goods, creating nine jobs and keeping dollars local by supporting local farmers and producers.

IndyGo Ridership Increases
IndyGo, Indianapolis’ public transportation system, is operated by Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (IPTC). There are 29 fixed bus routes with close to 4,500 stops all around the City. The Green Line Downtown/Airport Express delivers nonstop service from the Indianapolis International Airport to downtown Indianapolis daily from 5 a.m. – 9 p.m. IndyGo also operates the Commuter Express, with service from Fishers and Carmel to downtown daily. This year IPTC added an additional 20,000 hours of local bus service and a new supplemental route on the near eastside. The company delivered 8,507,644 passenger trips in 2010, a 3.6 percent increase over the previous year. IndyGo attributes its increased ridership to investments in passenger tools, technology, customer service, transit awareness communications and operational efficiencies.