

# PAST FORWARD: The Urban Patch Project



Joyce L. Moore, Director

2012 ACGA Conference – San Francisco, California  
Community Gardening on the Cutting Edge: Good Bones 8.11.2012



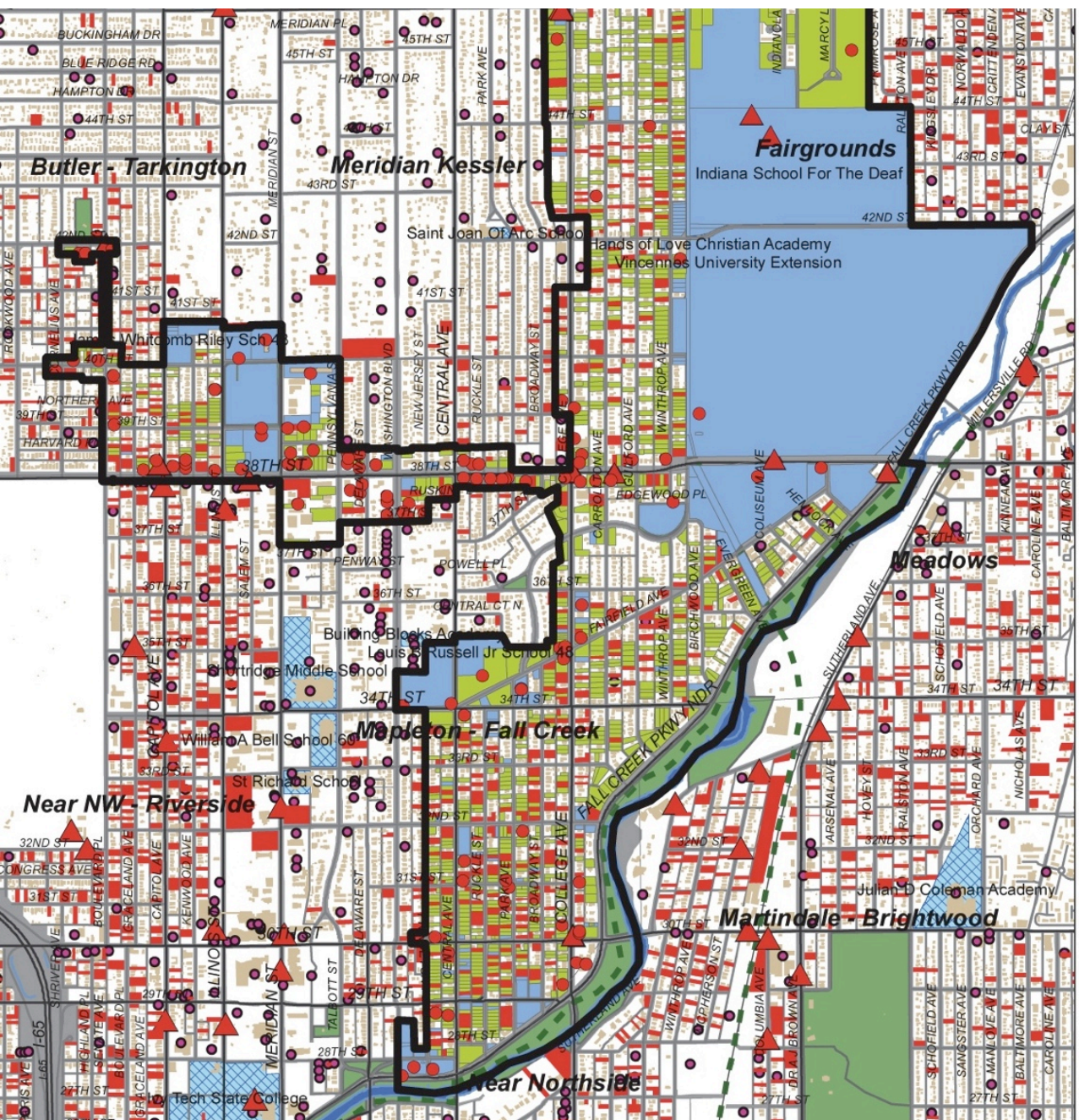
# How we began ...



Albert A. Moore, Flanner House Agriculturist and Food Coordinator, unloads, at the Cannery, produce grown in the gardens. Mr. Moore is the focal point for the entire food program - Gardening, Canning, Nutrition, and Health emphasis.



# Mid-North current development patterns and vacancy



## LAND USE

- VACANT:  
397 Parcels= 50 Acres
- PUBLIC OR NOT-FOR-PROFIT:  
234 Parcels = 526 Acres
- PARCELS WITH LOWER ASSESSMENTS  
(Valued at less than \$500,000 per Acre)  
= 1617 Parcels = 364 Acres  
(Public Property not included)
- ZONING VARIANCES:  
592 Cases = 365 Parcels = 405 Acres
- VACANT ADDRESSES :  
(Jan2011\_USPS) = 561 Parcels = 79 Acres
- ▲ BROWNFIELDS: 35 Parcels =  
320 Acres (Fair Grounds Included)



# Mid-North demographics

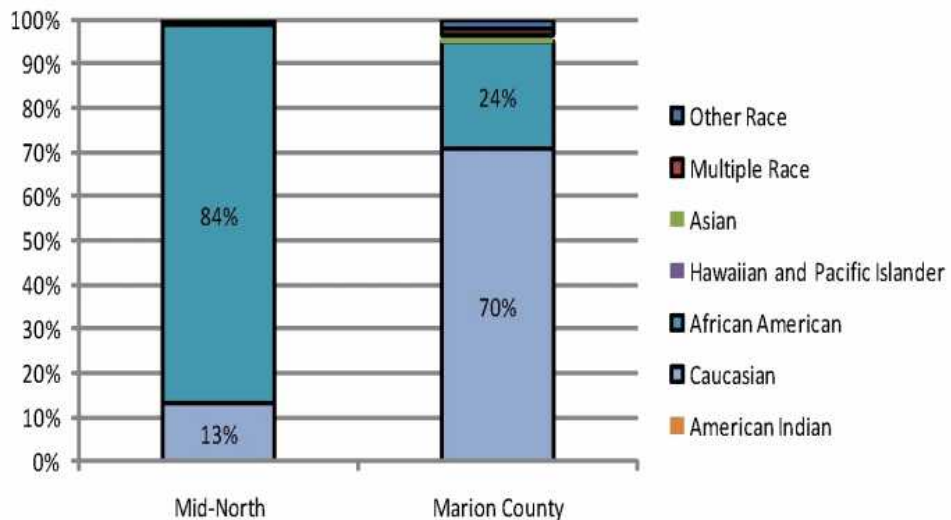
Mid-North has 5,170 people per square mile (2X the Indianapolis average density)

Mid-North has 10,900 people, 85% Black

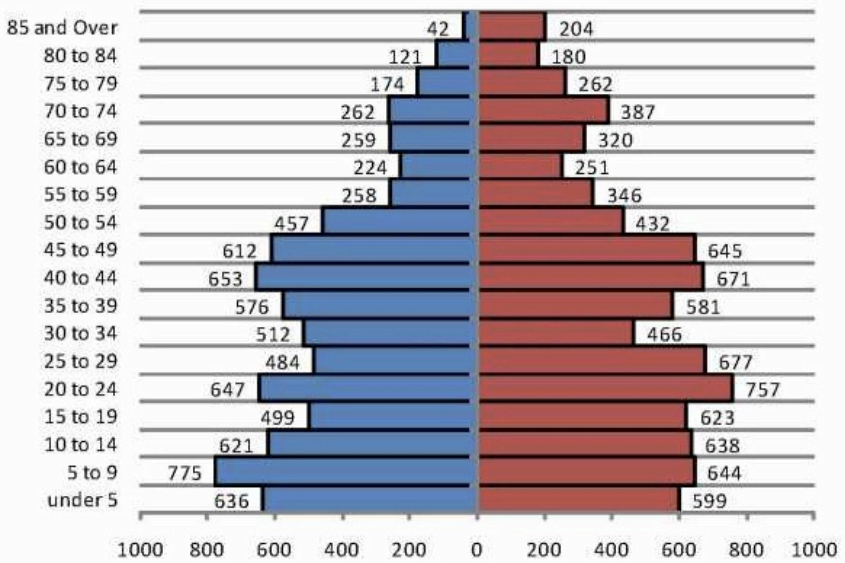
Large youth population (under 9 years old)

Household incomes are ~ \$34K/year (35% below the Indianapolis average)

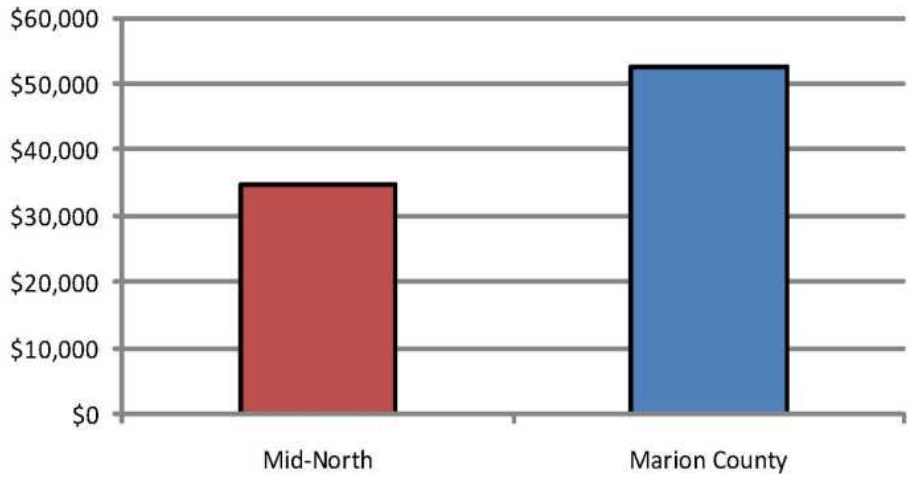
## RACE



## AGE



## INCOME

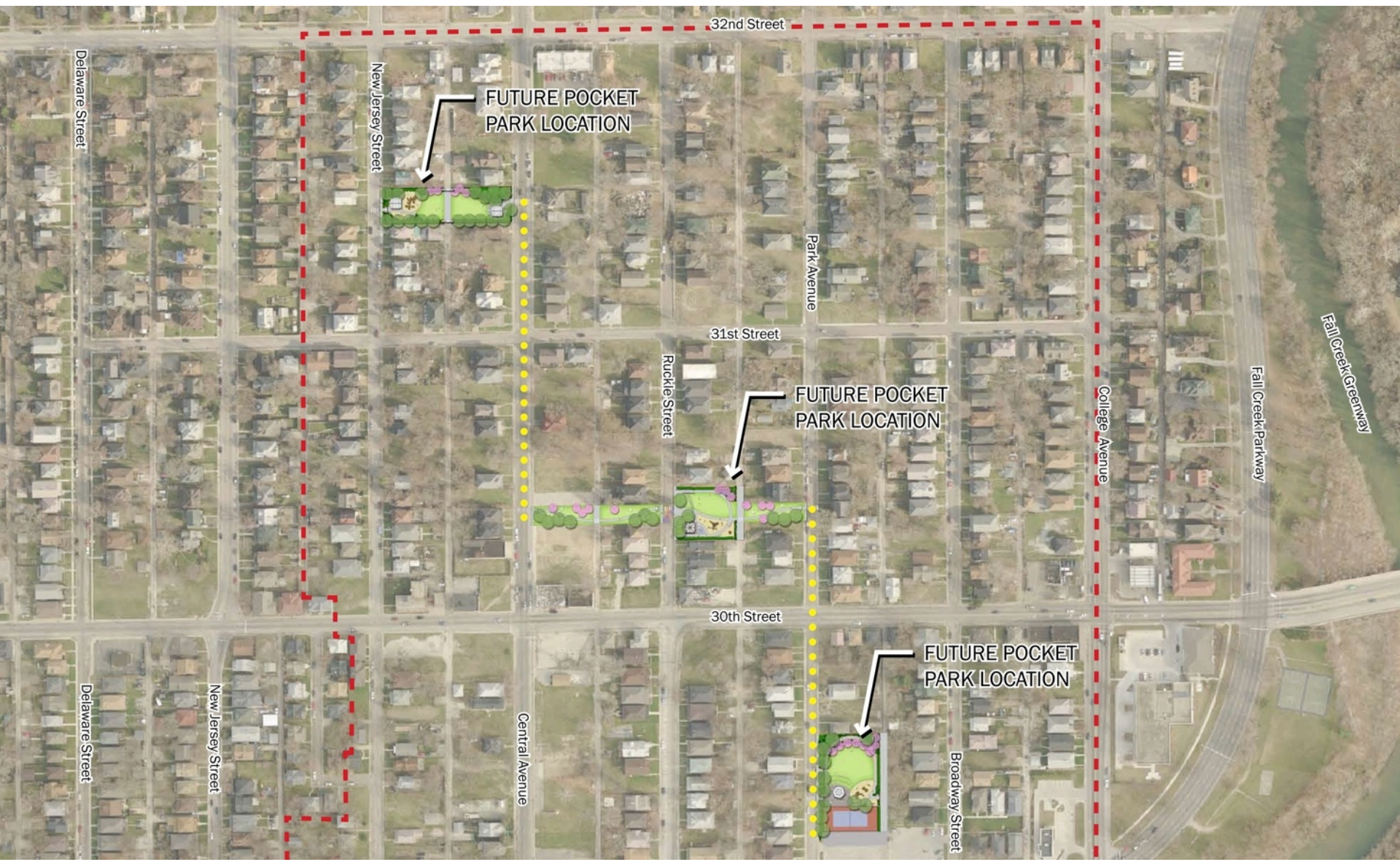


# Mapleton-Fall Creek development plans



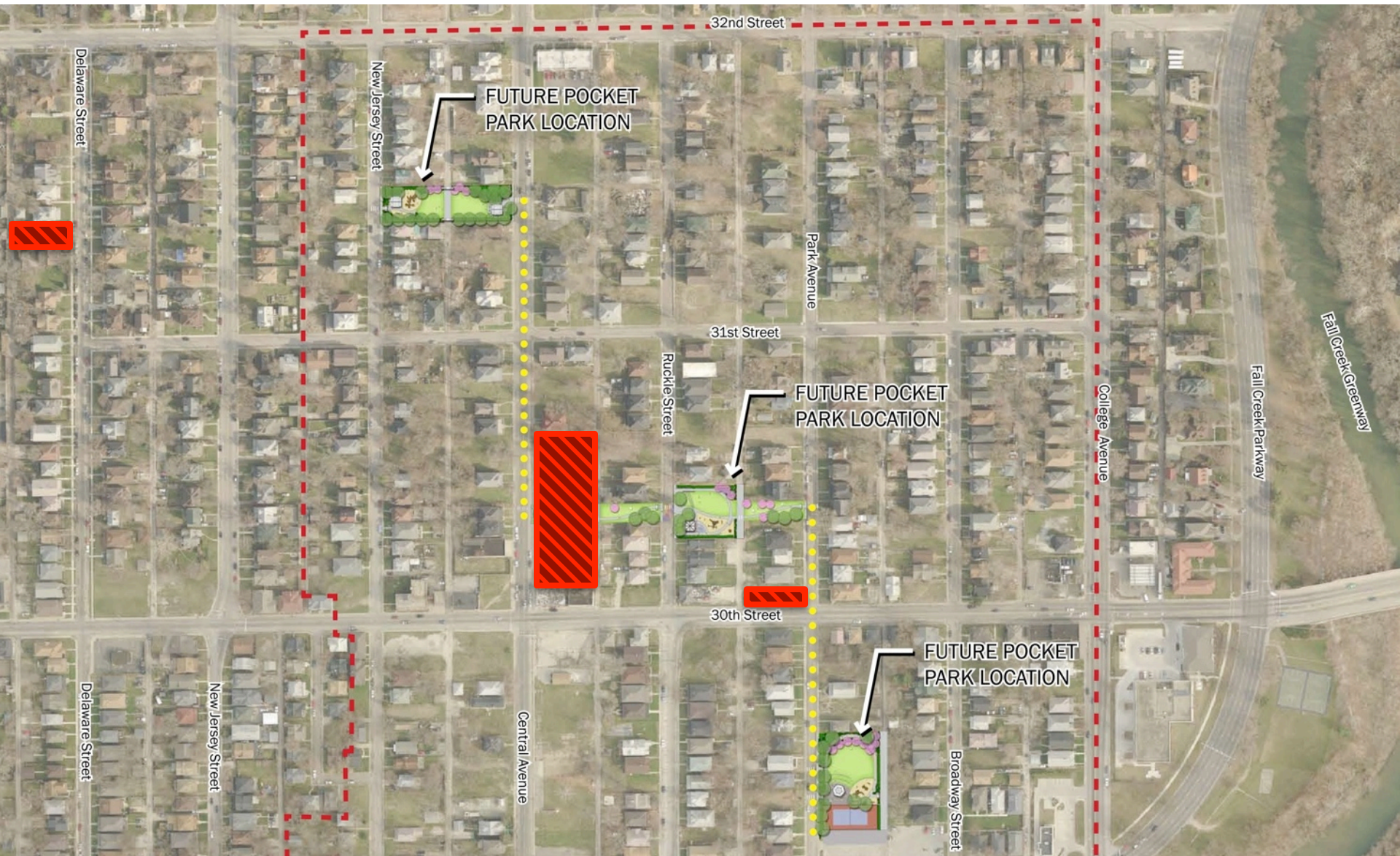
MFCDC (local development corporation) has several projects in the community

# Mid-North area MFCDC open space plans



Open space is part of a larger sustainable neighborhood redevelopment plan

# Our model is designed to augment these existing efforts

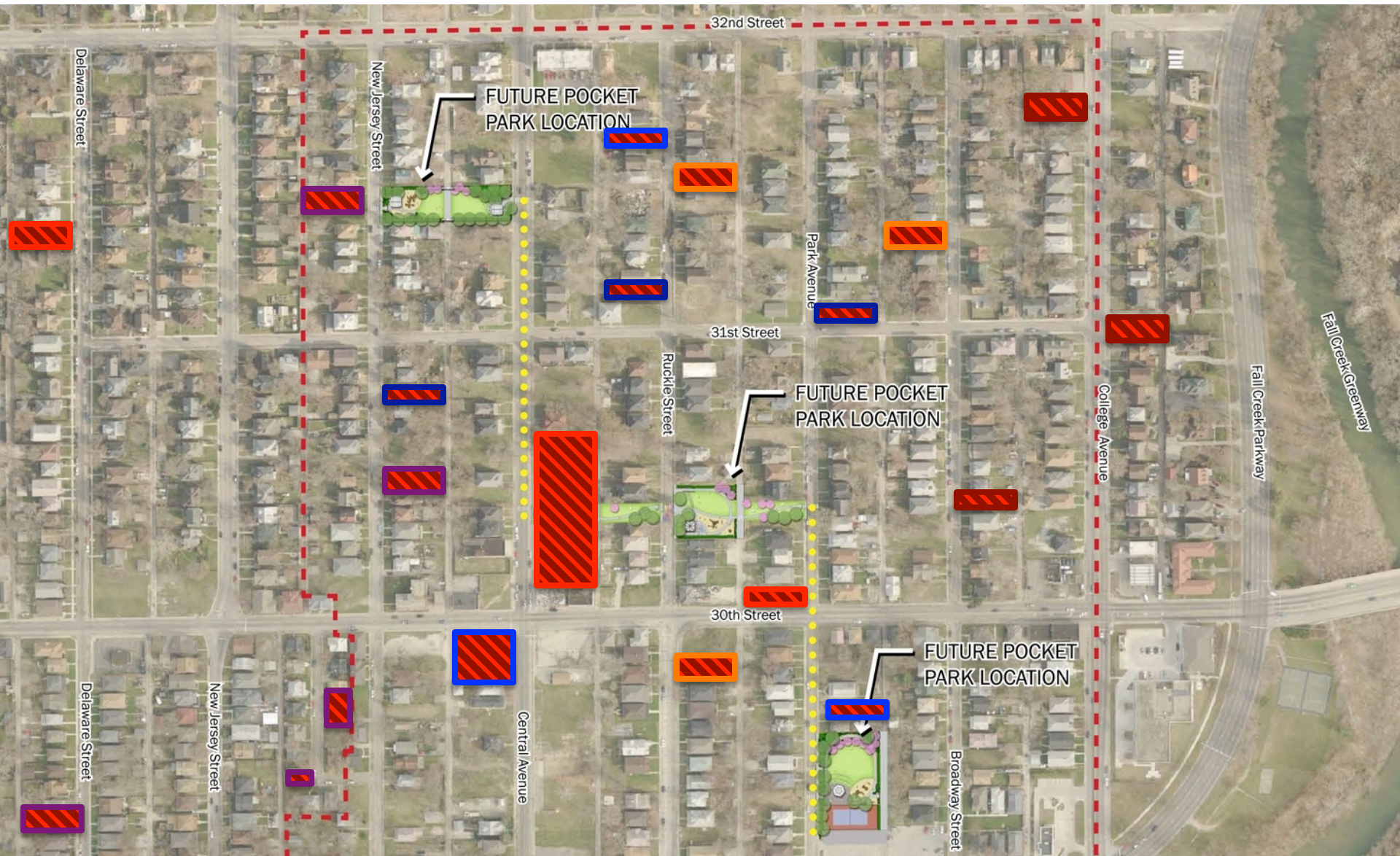


Smaller-scale approach with building/open space/community programs

**Urban Patch interventions**



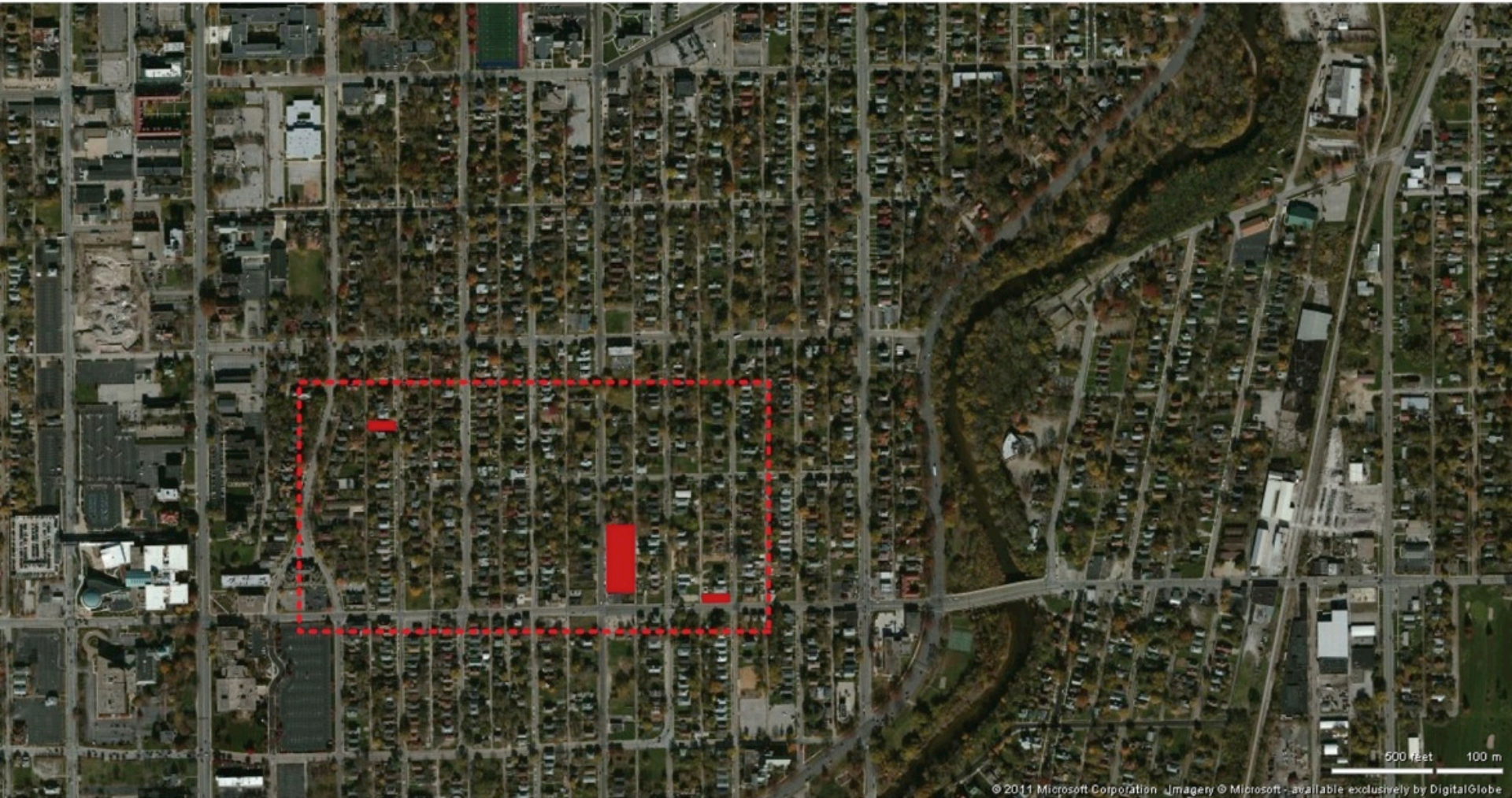
# Urban Patch "dynamic" community development model



Individual project goals are flexible, based on timing, funding, availability, etc.

# Phase 1: a geographically-targeted approach

MAPLETON FALL CREEK AREA, INDIANAPOLIS, IN



Generally located along the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor with nearby existing community assets (schools, museums, etc.)

# Phase 1: projects are within walking distance

HISTORIC MERIDIAN PARK - DELAWARE PROJECT

foreclosure home rehabilitation



FALL CREEK GARDENS - STONE SOUP GARDEN

1 acre community garden

MFC - PARK GARDEN

5200 sf permaculture garden



# DELAWARE PROJECT

Long-vacant Fannie Mae foreclosure home purchased and renovated

# Delaware Project – Historic Meridian Park



Maintains the historic character of the neighborhood with green updates



Before

After



Before

After

# FALL CREEK GARDENS / STONE SOUP PROJECT





# Fall Creek Gardens / Stone Soup Project



Corporate intern volunteer day

# Fall Creek Gardens / Stone Soup Project



Middle school after school seed starting workshop

# Fall Creek Gardens / Stone Soup Project



Herb gardening workshop

# Fall Creek Gardens / Stone Soup Project



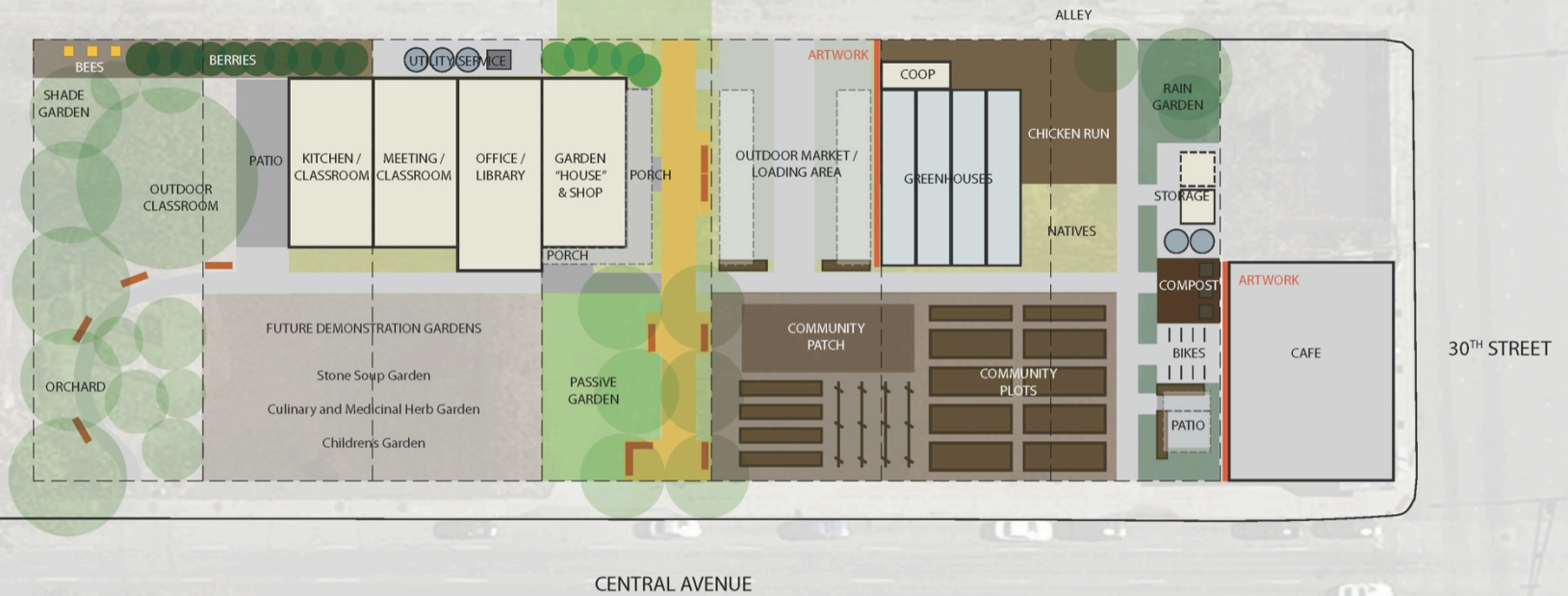
Rain barrel construction workshop

# Fall Creek Gardens



Seven formerly vacant lots turned into a one-acre urban learning farm

# Fall Creek Gardens



Future plans for the one-acre site

# PARK GARDEN



Creating a new community green space providing fresh fruit, herbs & flowers

# Park Garden

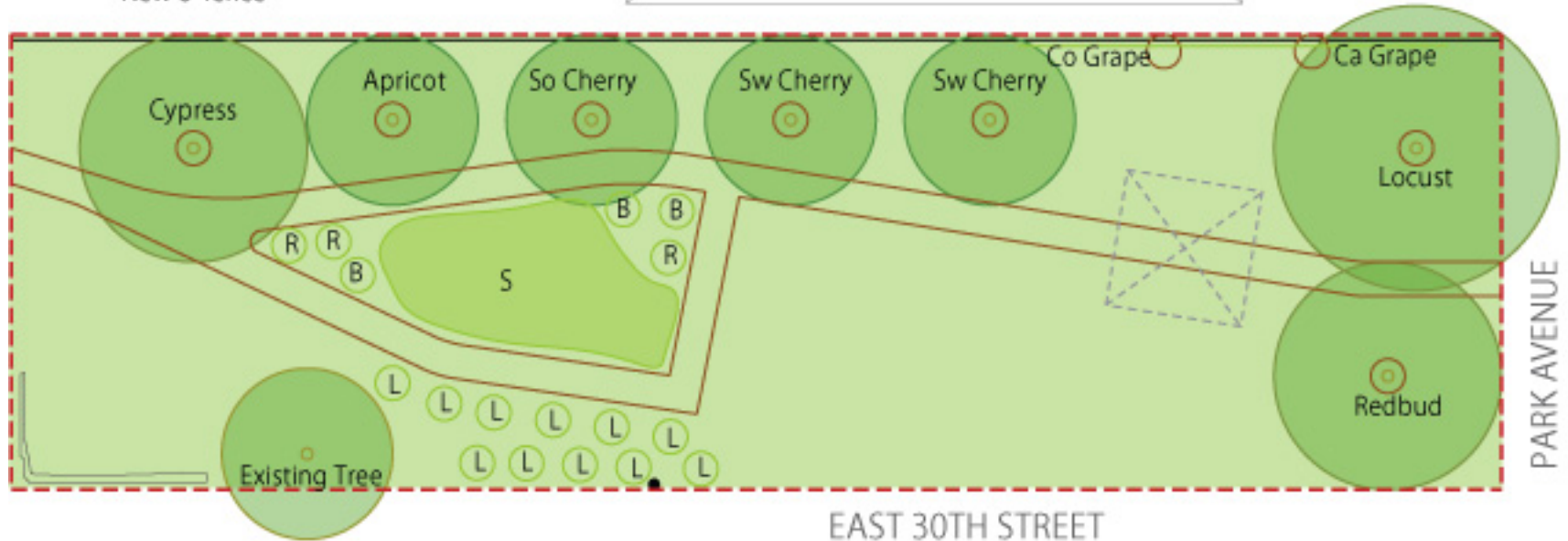
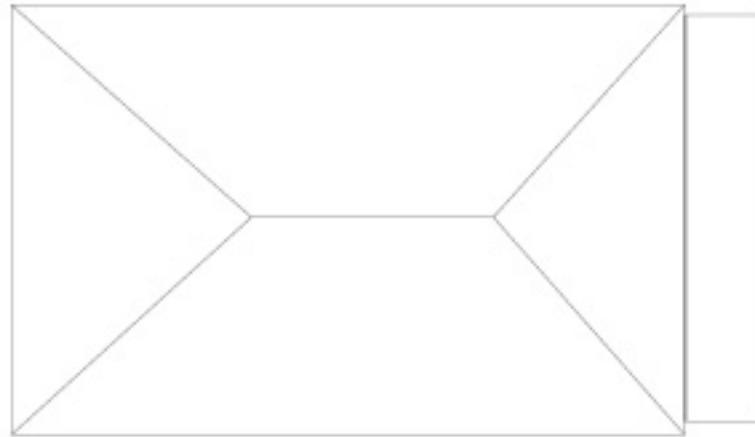


Urban permaculture demonstration garden – concept plan by Katie Chase



# Park Garden

- S Strawberry patch
- L Lavender
- R Raspberry
- B Blueberry
- Mulch garden path
- New trees
- New 6' fence



EAST 30TH STREET

Urban permaculture demonstration garden (phase 1 plantings)

# Park Garden



ioby brings environmental projects to life, block by block.

[see our progress](#)

[get started »](#)

STATUS: UNDERWAY, ACCEPTING VOLUNTEERS

## Urban Patch - Park Garden

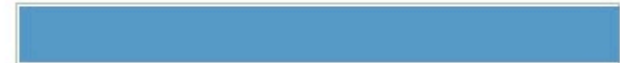
The Park Garden is a new green space on Indianapolis' north side. It will be a permaculture garden with fruit trees and bushes, and native plant species.

SHARE THIS PROJECT

[OVERVIEW](#) [BUDGET](#) [UPDATES](#) [DONORS](#)

NEARBY PROJECTS

TOTAL FUNDING NEEDED: \$1,326



**\$1,341**  
RAISED SO FAR

**\$0**  
STILL NEEDED



[donate to this project](#)



**project leader**  
Urban Patch

**location**  
3002 Park Avenue  
(Mapleton - Fall Creek / North Midtown)

**latest update**   
Your donation in action!



Social media campaign raised over \$1300 in 3 weeks using ioby.org



# Park Garden



Site at 30<sup>th</sup> Street and Park Avenue

# Park Garden

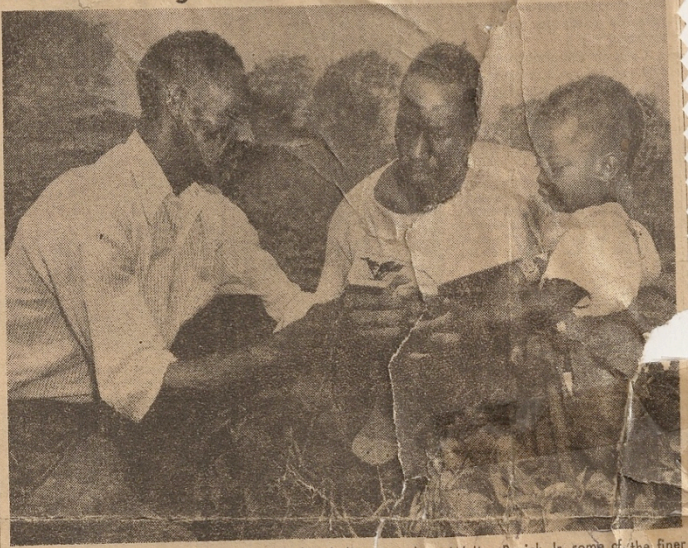


Volunteer work day with Earnst & Young (during the drought!)

# The legacy continues . . .

APOLIS TIMES

## Gardening— Local Veterans Taking GI Training Course In Gardening at Flanner House Project



Albert Moore, Flanner House's agricultural director, shows Walter Penick Jr. some of the finer points of gardening. Walter's son, Marvin, 2, looks in on the discussion at the Flanner House vegetable gardens on Kessler Blvd.

By MARGUERITE SMITH

IT'S A long way from roaring guns that smashed the beach heads into Okinawa and Ie Shima to the quiet Flanner House vegetable gardens on Kessler Blvd.

That's the path the GI Bill of Rights opened in late May for Walter Penick Jr., 167 Bright St. He and a limited number of other veterans will learn about tomatoes and lettuce. They may train for gardeners' jobs.

"At the very least," explains Albert Moore, Flanner's agricultural director, "Walter may raise a good garden for his family. With luck, he may be able to sell some vegetables later."

The trainees spend one-third

of their time in the classroom, two-thirds in the garden. For you can't learn how to garden out of a book, says Mr. Moore. "Walter is especially interesting," says his teacher. "He was born and reared in the city. So vegetables were to him just something that appeared on the table, full-grown. He didn't know, for instance, that in this climate we have to set out new tomato plants each spring. He's learning a new appreciation of nature."

### Plant Fall Garden

"He studied in the book how to fertilize tomato plants with chemicals. Then I had him use some manure under another row so he could observe the difference. The weather was too hot and dry, but that's something he has to learn, too. He can't control the weather so he must learn to work with it."

"The program was approved too late for the class to plant an early garden. But they can raise a variety of vegetables even now. I'll have them set broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower plants to head up in the fall. We'll sow seeds of the early spring crops like lettuce and greens later to catch the cooler fall days. And they still

have time to sow seeds of crops like corn, cucumbers and beans."

### Experimental Garden

A separate experimental garden teaches the difference between ground properly and improperly handled. Here one row of beans had humus added. It was cultivated after each rain. Another row, seeded at the same time was carelessly fertilized, cultivated once in a while. When a gardener asks "Why don't my beans do well," here's an object lesson for him, says Mr. Moore.

Planter gardens cover more acreage this year than ever before. Some of the gardeners cultivate additional patches in their backyards.

Laid for the Kessler section is donated rent free (and has been for years) by John H. Bookwalter, Mr. Bookwalter, like some other local citizens, sees the land raising vegetables instead of weeds, says Mr. Moore.

He sees it opening useful activity to teen-agers and to mothers with small children who can't easily get regular jobs. By their help in the gardens, their families get healthier diets at lower cost.

# home+garden

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2012 • SECTION D



ONCE-VACANT  
LOTS IN  
MAPLETON-FALL  
CREEK WILL BEAR  
FRUIT AND MORE

## How does your garden grow?



Fall Creek Gardens has raised beds and a newly planted orchard of 23 saplings, shrubs and more. The 1,700-square-foot garden near 30th Street and Central Avenue will be ready in the spring for people to get their hands dirty.



"We want to educate people to think differently about how they live. There's such a direct link between health and diet."

MAGGIE GOEGLIN



"There could be a tremendous cascade of good things that can result from all of this. We're really excited about getting this going and watching it grow."

JOYCE MOORE

### WINTER GARDENING WORKSHOPS

#### » STARTING SEEDS FOR THE GARDEN:

10 a.m. March 3, Indy Winter Farmers Market west wing, Downtown City Market. Urban farmer Tyler Henderson of Growing Places Indy ([www.growingplacesindy.org](http://www.growingplacesindy.org)) teaches the basics of starting your garden from seeds.

#### » SPRING COVER CROPS:

1 p.m. March 3, Fall Creek Gardens community garden space, Central Avenue, just north of 30th Street (next to Unleavened Bread Cafe). Urban farmer Matthew Jose of Big City Farms talks about using the power of plants to improve soil fertility, learn how and why to use cover crops in your garden.

#### » HOW TO START A COMMUNITY GARDEN:

9:30 a.m. March 24, Purdue Extension, Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1202 E. 38th St.

» See GARDEN, Page D4

time, helping residents improve their diets, use sustainable practices and work together, say organizers.

"We want to educate people to think differently about how they live," said Maggie Goeglein, part-time project manager for Fall Creek Gardens. "There's such a direct link between health and diet."

The garden is a key element of a neighborhood-led plan that includes pocket parks, connecting trail ways and commercial and residential development, much along Central Avenue and nearby streets in the 2900 to 3100 blocks.

It's fitting that the garden abuts the Unleavened Bread Cafe, a nonprofit business run by Elaine Womack. The popular faith-based eatery serves good

food, but also is a refuge for people in need and for neighborhood gatherings.

Over the next several years, the Mapleton-Fall Creek Development Corp. will use \$5 million in federal neighborhood stabilization funds to create three pocket parks on Park Avenue, Ruckle and New Jersey streets and connectivity trails — one running through Fall Creek Gardens. The pocket parks, a growing urban trend, are small green spaces designed to give residents nearby areas to gather, get physical activity and enjoy the outdoors.

Goeglein said organizers want to provide information on everything from vegetable gardening and planting fruit



 URBAN PATCH

future site of the


**GOLDEN HILL**

**URBAN APIARY**

**& PERMACULTURE GARDEN**

sponsored by

**J.L. MOORE REALTY, LLC**

[www.urbanpatch.org](http://www.urbanpatch.org) 

where we began . . . Original homesite of Albert Moore on 29<sup>th</sup> Street

past forward...



Urban Patch's Golden Hill Apiary project - bee arrival

Questions?



Visit us at:

[urbanpatch.org](http://urbanpatch.org)

[fallcreekgardens.org](http://fallcreekgardens.org)