



Millersville at Fall Creek Valley, Inc.

www.millersvillefcv.com

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In just a few years, [Millersville at Fall Creek Valley, Inc.](http://www.millersvillefcv.com) (M@FCV) created a grass-roots association and built a unified community out of 30 separate [neighborhoods](#), well connected to city planners and managers, other communities and many other sources of support for revitalizing the area and improving its quality of life.

This energetic group has sparked new ideas, managed sound planning and organized community leaders and teams of volunteers who work together to make great things happen in Millersville.

Key accomplishments to date:

- **[Millersville Treasures](#) tour and book:** An Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center *IMAGINE* grant awarded to M@FCV in 2010 enabled us to conduct a free trolley tour highlighting the strength of our community's neighborhoods, natural resources and rich history, and to publish a book about this heritage. The book was composed with the assistance of local students, their teachers and additional underwriting from IUPUI.
- **Crime mediation:** Crime persisted at a threatened apartment complex until residents, owner and police were connected through M@FCV's efforts, and a satellite night security post was established on site.
- **Village beautification:** Working from a landscape architect's plan, volunteers created attractive village gateways by planting 35 trees along its roadways and hundreds of shrubs and flowers on two medians, thanks to a *Greenspace* award through Keep Indianapolis Beautiful and IPL, and Indianapolis Department of Public Works support. Volunteers have also turned out on numerous [beautification](#) work days to help with neighborhood clean-ups, graffiti abatement and [invasive plant removal](#) along the Greenway, opening up new views of Fall Creek.
- **Adoption of a master plan for M@FCV:** In 2012, the [Millersville at Fall Creek Valley Village and Corridor Plan](#) was adopted, culminating two years of development with City Planning to establish guidelines for connectivity, village development, and Fall Creek and Greenway sustainability.
- **Millersville Café Market:** For three years, these colorful socials through the summer months spotlighted the village and provided a community gathering place to shop, dine and get to know neighbors. These events showcased local musicians, student artwork, and conservation and wellness initiatives.
- **Summer Concerts on the Lawn:** These popular outdoor events at Indianapolis Public School 106 brought people together from throughout the community for an enjoyable evening concert series featuring the Indianapolis Symphonic Band.
- **Revitalized shopping center:** In 2014, a new Walmart Neighborhood Market opened and, in 2016, a companion strip center hosting new restaurants and shops. M@FCV joined in business development efforts and provided planning guidance in keeping with the village master plan. After five years struggling with a badly deteriorating and largely vacant shopping center, M@FCV welcomed a new local developer who renewed the site and returned a grocery store to the community. Current and historic Millersville photos are showcased at the Market, thanks to a Walmart Community Grant.

- **Safe sidewalks:** Connectivity planning and advocacy has helped lead to new 56th Street sidewalks and a new trail connecting the 56th Street sidewalk to the Fall Creek Trail at 56th Street and Fall Creek Parkway. This ongoing work is developing long-needed *safe* pedestrian connections between our schools, our village center, the Fall Creek Greenway and Millersville neighborhoods.
- **New community park:** With lots of help, we transformed a raggedy acre of land into a tranquil, sustainable, community park with a pond, adjacent to the Fall Creek Trail near 56th Street and Fall Creek Parkway, North Drive. In partnership with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, we created the [Millersville at Fall Creek Preserve](#). Over three years, volunteers cleared invasives, planted native species, and established a woodland path to Fall Creek. The pond's banks have been stabilized and a concrete plaza is in place to host benches and a remarkable limestone and bronze sculpture, crafted by Indiana artists. A plaque tells the story of Millersville's history in a nutshell, and of how the sculpture reflects its history as a town built around busy gristmills on the shores of Fall Creek. A companion plaque honors Millersville at Fall Creek Valley, Inc. President Catharine ("Cac") Diehr. The park welcomes visitors to enjoy connecting with nature and learning about conservation practices. The Preserve was made possible by the strong support of Indianapolis Department of Public Works Land Stewardship and IndyParks, with grants from the Fall Creek Watershed Partnership /Upper White River Watershed Alliance, SustainIndy, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, IPL, the Indianapolis Arts Council, and Northeast Corridor Quality of Life / LISC.
- **"Keep Millersville Beautiful" anti-litter campaign:** After years of cleaning up in their "free time," a small group of dedicated Millersville volunteers took things to the next level. They developed a focused anti-litter ["Keep Millersville Beautiful" campaign](#) plan designed to generate greater support—and partnered with movers and shakers and groups who can help leverage community, City and State resources and programs. Key partners include the Binford Redevelopment and Growth (BRAG) association, City-County Councilor Christine Scales, State Representative Carey Hamilton, our Mayor's Neighborhood Advocates, the Indianapolis Office of Sustainability, Department of Public Works, Department of Business and Neighborhood Services (Code Enforcement), and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful. We have communicated goals and plans to neighborhood organizations, schools, churches, businesses and city government through the Millersville website, e-newsletter and social media, window stickers, meetings and handouts. And we're working with partners to establish regular cleanups on Binford and Shadeland Avenues; get our community more involved in litter prevention, cleanup, and the Adopt-A-Block program; and to recruit more volunteers.
- **Awards:** Numerous grants and other [awards](#), and partnerships and donations, all spotlight the votes of confidence and support shown to M@FCV and its worthy projects. We couldn't have accomplished all that we have without the generous help we've received from so many organizations and individual donors and volunteers. Many thanks to all who have lent a hand!