



Millersville at Fall Creek Valley, Inc.

<https://www.millersvillefcv.com/>

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since 2009, when [Millersville at Fall Creek Valley, Inc.](https://www.millersvillefcv.com/) (MFCV) was created, this grass-roots organization has built a unified community of 30 [neighborhoods](#) and 50 businesses and institutions, well-connected with city planners and managers, civic and community groups, 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:** Using a 2010 Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center *IMAGINE* grant, we conducted a free trolley tour highlighting the strength of our community's neighborhoods, natural resources and rich history, and published a book about its heritage. The book was composed with help from local students, their teachers and additional underwriting from IUPUI.
- **Crime mediation:** Crime persisted at a threatened apartment complex until we connected residents, the owner and police; as a result, a satellite night security post was established on site. When we worked with the police and the owner leasing to a "massage parlor" suspected of harboring human trafficking, it was closed. And we called for investigation of art theft in our community park.
- **Village beautification:** Working from a landscape architect's plan, volunteers created attractive Village gateways by planting 35 trees along central streets, and hundreds of shrubs and flowers on two roadway medians. A 2011 *Greenspace* award through Keep Indianapolis Beautiful and IPL, and Indianapolis Department of Public Works support made it possible. Volunteers have continued to maintain the plantings, and have turned out on numerous [beautification](#) work days to help with community clean-ups, graffiti abatement and invasive plant removal along the Greenway to open up new views of Fall Creek.
- **A community master plan:** 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, from 2011-2013, we organized a series of colorful summer socials to spotlight the Village and provide 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:** For three years, from 2010-2012, we ran this enjoyable evening concert series featuring the Indianapolis Symphonic Band, outdoors at Indianapolis Public School 106, to bring people together from throughout the community.
- **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 community 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.

- **Safer sidewalks, bike lanes and calmer traffic:** Connectivity planning and advocacy led to new 56th Street sidewalks and bike lanes, a new trail connecting the 56th Street sidewalk to the Fall Creek Trail, and new traffic-calming bike lanes along Emerson Way.
- **Community park:** With lots of help, we transformed a raggedy acre of land into a sustainable community park, adjacent to the Fall Creek Trail near 56th Street & Fall Creek Parkway, North Drive. In partnership with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, we created the [Millersville at Fall Creek Preserve](#), which welcomes visitors to connect with nature and learn about conservation. Over four years, volunteers cleared invasives, planted native species and established a woodland path to Fall Creek. The pond's banks were stabilized and a concrete plaza added with benches and a remarkable limestone sculpture, crafted by Indiana artists. A plaque tells the story of [Millersville's history](#) and how the sculpture reflects that history of a town built around busy gristmills on the shores of Fall Creek. Companion plaques honor Millersville at Fall Creek Valley, Inc. Charter President Catharine ("Cac") Diehr, and Beautification co-chairs Keith and Diane Gardner. 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 Arts Council of Indianapolis, and Northeast Corridor Quality of Life / LISC. We organized a festive community celebration for its dedication in 2016.
- **"Keep Millersville Beautiful" campaign:** In 2017, we launched a focused ["Keep Millersville Beautiful" anti-litter campaign](#) that has led to [monthly volunteer cleanups](#), window decals at Village businesses, crews cleaning up on trashy Binford Boulevard, and more. We brought together movers and shakers who've helped us leverage City, State and community resources and engage more volunteers. Key partners include neighbor Binford Redevelopment and Growth (BRAG), 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.
- **Village Businesses – directory, outreach and placemaking:** Among other efforts to help our 50-some [Millersville Village Business](#) community connect and thrive, we established key contacts at all businesses and, in 2018, developed and published a new online business directory and guide to leasable space in the Village, followed in 2021 by the installation of Millersville Village signage at three locations, aligned with our goal of increasing community identification.
- **Trailside scenic stop:** Complementing the community park we finished in 2016, we cleared another small jungle just south of there to open up a rare, unobstructed view of Fall Creek, complete with an easily walkable grassy area, stone blocks to sit on, and native wildflowers framing the view. It's the [Millersville Fall Creek Overlook](#), a place that allows everyone to see the stream, relax, and enjoy nature's beauty right in the middle of Millersville. After creative brainstorming, site design planning and proposal development by Millersville Beautification volunteers, networking and site visits helped us get input and support from multiple sources of funding, services and materials. Generous donations from a wonderful Millersville at Fall Creek Valley board member and the Herbert Simon Family Foundation through Reconnecting to Our Waterways made everything possible. We couldn't have done it with them and additional support from the Indianapolis Department of Public Works Office of Land Stewardship and Department of Parks and Recreation; partners Reconnecting to Our Waterways and the Indiana Wildlife Federation; and amazing Millersville volunteers.
- **Planning and zoning - oversight and advocacy:** Board members and other volunteers' watchdog work helped obtain beneficial land use commitments and extensive landscaping at a new grocery and shopping center; commitments for premium design and landscaping, low-key signage and lighting, and limited late-night hours at a new fast food restaurant; and more. Dedicated neighbors monitor business development activity, proactively research zoning and land use issues, and take steps to voice community concerns about usage, violations and requirements based on MFCV's Village and Corridor Plan. Reaching out to City managers, meeting with business owners and managers, rallying neighbors and speaking up at public hearings has helped ensure development compliance and quality, contributing to beauty, safety and value-add to our community.

- **Support for our schools:** Our [schools programs](#) have connected volunteers with students, teachers and staff at our community schools to help them succeed at school and learn more about the importance of community through classroom and event support, teacher appreciation notes and treats, and activities that have included a Fall Creek ecology learning event for grade schoolers; kids' anti-litter letters and a meeting with the Mayor; their helping at a local senior center and writing holiday letters to our troops; and Halloween Trunk or Treat fun. We have also partnered with a program that assists with the mental health support of students who are grieving.
- **Awards and contributors:** Our numerous grants, [awards](#), honors, partnerships, and donations 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, individual donors and volunteers. Many thanks to all who have lent a hand!
- **Communications:** Volunteers have created and continue to publish a variety of communications to reach out to neighbors regularly, making it easy and fun to connect and stay informed: a comprehensive [website](#); frequent e-newsletters; timely and topical e-blasts; and quick-hitting posts on social media.