

NORTHSIDE NEWS

APRIL 2024

TOP NEWS

- Construction Season Highlights
- Nickel Plate Update
- Total Solar Eclipse
- Animal Shelter RFP
- Cleanups!
- Crown Hill Foundation Events
- IMPD Blood Drive
- National Night Out Info & Registration
- Thriving Buildings Workshops

RESOURCES

- Report potholes, abandoned vehicles, stray animals, & more through the Mayor's Action Center:
 - 317.327.4622
 - [Request Indy Online here](#)
 - Request Indy App
- My contact info
 - mina.moussa@indy.gov
- Community Office Hours
 - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays from 10-12
 - [Click here for locations](#)

NEW MNA ALERT!

Hello! Many of you have met me already, but if you haven't, my name is Mina Moussa, and I am the MNA for Area 1. Before joining the city, I was with Project Azul, an Indianapolis non-profit focused on upskilling individuals in the logistics and manufacturing industries. I majored in Anthropology at Ball State (chirp chirp!). When I'm not working, I like to disc golf, try out new restaurants, and watch movies.



SOCIALS

If you know anyone who may find this newsletter helpful, please encourage them to add their email to the distribution list at: [Click this link](#)

To see weekly updates, [follow me on Nextdoor here.](#)



CONSTRUCTION SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 14TH - MAYOR HOGSETT & DPW HIGHLIGHT 2024 PROJECTS

Mayor Joe Hogsett joined the Indianapolis Department of Public Works and the Indianapolis City-County Council at Saint Lawrence Catholic Church Thursday morning to announce the major construction projects for 2024.

This year's projects will help to improve the city's roadways, rehabilitate bridges, enhance pedestrian safety, and improve stormwater infrastructure. A full map of projects across the city can be found [online](#).

Indianapolis will see a total of \$363 million in infrastructure investment this year through projects funded in 2024.

Indy DPW and our contractors will help construct:

- 134,797 linear feet of new and rehabbed sidewalks
- 93,305 linear feet of new trails
- 2,232 new ADA ramps
- 243 lane miles of new or rehabbed streets
- 42,281 linear feet of new storm sewers
- 19 bridge rehabilitation projects
- 21 miles of bike lane created
- 23 lane miles of strip patching

"My colleagues and I on the Council recognize the importance of infrastructure in fostering economic growth and enhancing the overall quality of life," City-County Councilor Keith Graves said. "That is why we were proud to work with Mayor Hogsett and Director Herget to pass record level infrastructure funding for our city, and I am proud to see some of that funding invested in District 9."

Also included in this construction season are multiple residential streets that will see paving work after the City-County Council approved \$25 million for residential resurfacing in September 2023.

This year marks the third consecutive year of a dedicated funding package for the rehabilitation of residential streets by Indy DPW. To date, the funding has allowed for the reconstruction of over 400 residential road segments throughout the city.

In the coming years, Indy DPW intends to convert portions of more one-way thoroughfares to two-way traffic with the help of funding through the federal RAISE grant and the updated [Complete Streets policy](#).

All the projects funded this year are part of Mayor Hogsett's five-year, \$1.2 billion capital plan, delivering critical investment in Indianapolis' infrastructure.

NICKEL PLATE UPDATE

APRIL 1ST - NICKEL PLATE CONSTRUCTION TO CLOSE FALL CREEK PKWY

The Nickel Plate Trail project is set to initiate a full closure of Fall Creek Parkway at Evanston Avenue from April 15 to April 30. This closure marks a significant step forward in the ongoing efforts to transform the Nickel Plate Railroad bed into a dynamic multi-use trail, spanning from the State Fairgrounds into Hamilton County.

The \$14.9 million project broke ground in late 2023 and is expected to remain in construction until mid-2025, adding nine miles of trail to the city's network. The project includes the development of multi-use spur connections at 62nd Street east of Eastwood Middle School and on 86th Street west of Sahm Park, enhancing connectivity and accessibility across the region.

The closure of Fall Creek Parkway at Evanston Avenue allows for the full removal of the railroad crossing at this section. The roadway will be patched with new asphalt, and a section of the concrete median and curbs will be replaced on each side of the road. Detour routes will be clearly marked to minimize inconvenience for commuters and residents during this period.

The Fall Creek Parkway detour is as follows:

Northbound:

- Head west on 38th Street at the intersection of 38th Street and Fall Creek Parkway
- Turn north on College Avenue
- Head east on 46th Street
- Turn south onto Keystone Avenue
- The detour ends once driver has returned to Fall Creek Parkway

Southbound:

- Head north onto Keystone Avenue at the intersection of Keystone Avenue and Fall Creek Parkway
- Turn west on 46th Street
- Head south on College Avenue
- Turn east on 38th Street
- The detour ends once driver has returned to Fall Creek Parkway

A visual map of the detour can be found [here](#).

Community members are encouraged to stay updated on project developments and closures via our social media pages and are advised to plan alternate routes accordingly.

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

APRIL 4TH - INDIANAPOLIS PREPARES TO WELCOME 100,000 VISITORS FOR ECLIPSE

With Indianapolis in the path of totality for the highly anticipated solar eclipse on April 8th, the City of Indianapolis is urging residents and visitors to plan ahead for expected crowds and traffic impacts. The City is taking proactive measures to ensure the safety and security of the community during this unique celestial event.

IMPD

To enhance accessibility and responsiveness, IMPD will strategically deploy officers on foot, bike, ATV, and motorcycles throughout the city. This will allow officers to respond to active incidents quickly. Mobile trailer cameras and drones will be deployed near major events and attractions, giving officers an additional view. Officers will remain vigilant, particularly around hospital entrances and nearby roads, to facilitate clear passage for ambulances and emergency vehicles.

IMPD has adjusted staffing schedules, including canceling middle shift days off, to ensure sufficient coverage in all districts.

MESA

In anticipation of potential challenges and to ensure a coordinated response the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) will be activated on the morning of April 8 and will be open all day to address any emerging issues promptly. Residents and guests in Marion County are encouraged to text ECLIPSEINDY to 67283 to receive public safety messages related to the event and can also visit indy.gov/activity/total-solar-eclipse-2024 for more information.

All are encouraged to plan ahead if traveling, including starting the day with a full gas tank, as traffic will be the number one issue with the influx of visitors. This is a good opportunity to create an emergency kit for your vehicle to include snacks, water, and a way to charge your phone. Please be patient and remember to leave space for emergency vehicle and not block intersections.

Parks

Park Rangers will be focused on patrolling area parks, where large crowds are expected to view the once-in-a-lifetime event.

Residents are encouraged to register and arrive early if they plan on visiting one of Indy Parks' 12 featured eclipse watch sites. Solar eclipse glasses will be provided to registrants while supplies last. More information, FAQs, and registration can be found at parks.indy.gov/a-total-eclipse-of-the-parks

DPW

This is expected to impact solid waste services, as these large vehicles will be pulled off the streets at 1:30 pm on Monday. Residents with Monday trash hauling serviced by Indy DPW are asked to place their trash carts out Sunday night if possible. Any households whose trash is not picked up Monday can leave their cart out until Tuesday, when routes will be completed.

Safety tips for residents and visitors:

- During the eclipse, individuals are asked to refrain from pulling over on highways or roadsides to watch the event. Instead, spectators are encouraged to exit the roadway safely and park in designated viewing areas.
- Motorists should plan ahead and allow extra travel time, ensure vehicles are fueled, and stock up on essentials such as water, snacks, and medication. Pedestrian safety is also emphasized, with drivers cautioned to be extra vigilant and observant.
- Drivers are reminded not to wear eclipse glasses while operating a vehicle.
- Tips on how to view the eclipse safely can be found on NASA's website.

ANIMAL SHELTER

MARCH 22ND - CITY ISSUES RFP FOR NEW ANIMAL SHELTER

The City of Indianapolis Department of Business and Neighborhood Services (DBNS) issued the Indianapolis Animal Care Services Shelter (IACS) Request for Proposals for a Construction Manager as Constructor (CMc) build. The new shelter is being built at the directive of Mayor Joe Hogsett to provide improved operations and animal welfare services through IACS.

“Relocating to a new site was the first step to accelerate the timeline of this much-needed project,” said Mayor Joe Hogsett. “With today’s announcement, we are even closer to construction of a modern facility that will significantly increase Indy’s animal shelter capacity while also improving services.”

The new Indianapolis Animal Care Services Shelter will be built at 5001 E. Raymond Street, taking a significant portion of the 24-acre parcel. Site due diligence is currently underway, with a land survey completed and soil borings to soon take place. The shelter site plan and initial designs are being adapted to the site. Per the standard CMc model, the design will be completed in partnership with the awarded contractor.

Current shelter site plans contemplate a 72,000 square foot structure. By comparison, the current shelter is 24,000 square feet. The City is currently executing a contract with J.S. Held as Owner’s Representative to assist as a program manager for the project. kRM Architects was awarded the architectural contract in 2021. A groundbreaking is expected soon after the CMc contract is awarded.

Funding for the facility includes a \$20 million bond approved by the City-County Council. Friends of Indy Animals has 99% committed of its \$7 million ‘Journey Home’ capital campaign. More than 80 individuals, families, foundations, and companies have contributed to the campaign. Key gifts include a \$3 million grant from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, a \$1 million investment from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., and a \$1 million gift from the Irsay family and the Indianapolis Colts.

Responses to the IACS Shelter RFP are due on April 19, 2024, by noon. To learn more about this bid and other City opportunities, visit www.indy.gov/activity/find-bid-opportunities.

CLEANUPS

So many cleanups this month!

April 6th: Harrison Run Neighborhood off Fall Creek/Lee Road

April 13th: BRAG - Skiles Test Park

April 20th: Sargent Road Association off Sargent Road

April 21st: Sahm Park: [Register here](#)

May 18th: Great Millersville Cleanup - Meet at 5024 E 56th St

**WE
ARE**



**BRING
GARDEN
TOOLS &
GLOVES!**

**CLEANING UP
SKILES TEST
NATURE PARK!**

**JOIN US &
VOLUNTEER!**



SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH

9AM-11:30AM

ENTRANCE TO SKILES TEST PARK

6828 FALL CREEK RD



Coffee, Water & Snacks Provided!
Questions? Call 317-697-1025
or email info@binford71.org

GREAT MILLERSVILLE CLEANUP 2024



**GREAT
MILLERSVILLE
CLEANUP
2024**

**Our BIGGEST Cleanup of the
YEAR!**

WHEN: Saturday, May 18 at 10
AM

WHERE: Meet at Lincoln Square
Pancake House for refreshments,
map, and cleaning supplies.
5024 E 56th St, Indianapolis IN

WHAT: Community Cleanup Event
with special "Trashure Hunt" to win
free gift cards!

**SAHM PARK
CLEANUP**



TEN TO TWELVE PM

CROWN HILL FOUNDATION EVENTS

April 11, 6 PM

Talk Title: Shifting Baselines - Indiana's Natural Landscape of 1816 and Today

Speaker: Mike Hoymoya, Indiana DNR State Botanist, Emeritus

Indiana's natural landscape has changed dramatically over the past 200 years, and yet many people are totally unaware just how much change has occurred. With regard to the environment, we forget what used to be, and our "normal", our baseline, has shifted from what was normal of our predecessors. Bison, elk, wolves, and even parakeets (now extinct) once occupied our land, as did vast prairies, forests and wetlands. This presentation will focus on "original" Indiana and how it was different from today. The talk aims to help people become aware of how dramatically Indiana's natural environment has changed since statehood. The ultimate goal is to inspire action to protect the remaining remnants of "original" Indiana.

Friday, April 26th

Arbor Day Event

Tree Seedling giveaway on the Waiting Station front porch, located at 3400 Blvd Place

Crown Hill Foundation Public Tours:

Saturday, April 27th at 2PM

Spring Trees & Tombstones

See the beauty of the amazing blooming spring trees of Crown Hill & learn about their human neighbors. On this tour, led by our staff Arborist and our Director of Historic Preservation, this tour will take a closer look at some of the amazing trees in the cemetery, and among the trees, visitors will also hear about some of the interesting people buried at Crown Hill. Enjoy nature and history at the same time!

Sunday, April 28th at 9AM

Bird-Watching Tour with Ornithologist Wesley Homoya

Join Wes Homoya - native Hoosier, avid birder, experienced guide, and passionate conservationist-as we explore spring ephemeral wildflowers in our South Woods and migrant bird activity. At over 555 acres, Crown Hill is a unique site that provides habitat for numerous birds and other wildlife. Please dress appropriately for the weather/walking and bring your own binoculars (if you have them).

Saturday, May 4th at 4PM

Racing Legends

On this driving tour, we will complete a shortened version of Crown Hill's Self-Guided Racing Legends Tour and visit the graves of the four founders of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, racecar drivers, auto manufacturers, and others who have made Indianapolis "the racing capital of the world." You will also see the Final Finish Line! It will conclude with the view at sunset of the downtown skyline from James Whitcomb Riley's tomb high atop beautiful Crown Hill!

Saturday, May 11th at 4PM

Heritage

The Heritage Tour presents the history of Crown Hill Cemetery while visiting the graves of some of the many interesting people buried here, both the famous and not-so-famous, recent and long gone. A variety of monuments will be seen, including some of our most recognized statues. Tour participants will also have an opportunity to enjoy the stunning 360-degree panoramic view of the downtown Indianapolis skyline around sunset from the tomb of the famous Hoosier Poet, James Whitcomb Riley, high atop beautiful Crown Hill.

IMPD BLOOD DRIVE

Donate Blood In Memory of **Breann Leath**



Breann was a mom, veteran, police officer, daughter, sister and loved her community. Breann was killed in the line of duty on April 9, 2020. Breann was an organ and tissue donor.

IMPD Blood Drive In Honor of Breann Leath

Location: IMPD East District HQ
Community Room
201 North Shadeland Avenue, Indianapolis

Friday, April 19, 2024

12 pm to 6 pm



For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



American Red Cross

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

IMPD East District – National Night Out (NNO) Against Crime Tuesday August 6th, 2024

National Night Out (NNO) has been held annually since 1984, on the first Tuesday in August and that date for this year is August 6th, 2024. It begins with neighbors just turning on their porch lights and sitting in front of their homes. This event itself unites residents, law enforcement, civic groups, businesses, members of the faith community and neighborhood organizations from over 16,000 communities and involved 38 million residents across the United States. It is typically organized by **CrimeWatch groups, block clubs, nonprofit organizations, companies, across Indianapolis and Homeowners Associations** and is fully supported by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department. These events can be as simple as cookouts, ice cream social or just neighbors wanting to get to know one another better.

The event is meant to increase awareness about police programs in communities and things you can do on your block to keep you and your neighbors safe through **CrimeWatch/block clubs and other anti-crime efforts.**

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department East District,
201 N. Shadeland AV - Indianapolis, IN 46219
Fax 317-327-6297 Office Phone 317-327-6225
Website: <https://www.indy.gov/activity/impd-east-district>

IMPD East District – National Night Out (NNO) Against Crime

Neighborhood/Community Group Registration 2024

Neighborhood/Group Name: _____

Address/Location of NNO Event: _____

Type of Event (Cookout/Block Party etc.) _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Expected Number of Attendees: ___ Start time: _____ End Time: _____

Registration Deadline Wednesday, July 31st, 2024

Please complete this form and return to:

Attn: Steve Talley, 201 N. Shadeland AV., Indianapolis, IN 46219,
Fax 317-327-6297 - Office Phone 317-327-6225
Email: Steve.talley@indy.gov

THRIVING BUILDINGS WORKSHOPS



THRIVING BUILDINGS & BENCHMARKING + TRANSPARENCY: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



In 2017, Mayor Joe Hogsett set the ambitious goal for Indianapolis to reach **carbon neutrality** by 2050. Energy benchmarking and transparency is a critical step in this process and in encouraging efficiency.

Indy's benchmarking program, referred to as **Thriving Buildings**, gives organizations the opportunity to benchmark their energy and water data to identify ways to **save money on utility costs while improving air quality for Indianapolis residents.**

WHAT IS **BENCHMARKING**?

BENCHMARKING is tracking the energy and water use of our buildings by inputting utility data into *EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager*. This gives building owners the ability to become more energy efficient through comparing energy uses with other buildings and tracking their progress over time.

WHAT IS **TRANSPARENCY**?

TRANSPARENCY is reporting the benchmarking information to the city and community. Similar to miles-per-gallon calculators on cars or nutrition labels on food packages, this will improve consumer choice, building owner accountability, and reward energy efficiency.

WHAT ARE THE **BENEFITS**?

Thriving Buildings could spur both economic development and climate benefits for Indianapolis by 2030. Through increased energy efficiency initiatives, Indianapolis could see a wide range of benefits for Indy's business owners, tenants, and community.

\$16 million in utility bill savings per year



1,400 jobs created



27% reduction in CO₂ emissions within the built environment



\$77 million in public health savings due to improved air quality



THRIVING BUILDINGS WORKSHOPS

BUILDING OWNERS WILL **BENCHMARK THEIR BUILDING'S ENERGY AND WATER CONSUMPTION** BASED ON THE FOLLOWING **TIMELINE**:

	PHASE 1 (2021)	PHASE 2 (2022)	PHASE 3 (2023)	PHASE 4 (2024)	PHASE 5 (2025)
IMPACTED BUILDINGS	voluntary benchmarking period for all building types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City buildings $\geq 50,000$ sq ft Voluntary for all other building types 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City buildings $\geq 25,000$ sq ft All buildings $\geq 100,000$ sq ft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City buildings $\geq 25,000$ sq ft All buildings $\geq 50,000$ sq ft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City buildings $\geq 25,000$ sq ft All buildings $\geq 50,000$ sq ft
DATA TRANSPARENCY	N/A	N/A	Scores for covered city properties	Scores for covered city properties	Scores for covered city properties Scores for all covered properties will be published in 2026

BENCHMARKING ASSISTANCE

indy.gov/activity/benchmarking-and-transparency



- The above webpage contains a step-by-step "How To Benchmark" guide and links to instructional videos and resources.
- Our office hosts multiple Data Jams each spring: these are free, in-person workshops where our program manager walks building owners through the simple benchmarking process.
- A recording of a previous virtual Data Jam is also available at the above webpage.

To stay up to date on Thriving Buildings news, **sign up for emails at ThriveIndianapolis.com/news & follow us on social media!**



BENCHMARKING@INDY.GOV



@SUSTAININDY

FREE, GUIDED WORKSHOPS FOR INDY BUILDING MANAGERS 50,000 SQ FT+

By tracking our energy usage over time, we can cut costs + emissions and improve public health

Wednesday, March 13 1:30 - 3:30pm	@	CAP Indy Ball State 25 N Pine Street
Thursday, April 18 9:30 - 11:30am	@	CAP Indy Ball State 25 N Pine Street
Friday, May 17 1:30 - 3:30pm	@	CAP Indy Ball State 25 N Pine Street

Bring your laptop! Participants will leave Data Jams knowing how to take advantage of the free ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager software and comply with the Indianapolis Energy Benchmarking and Transparency Ordinance (art III Ch. 710).

Join a "Data Jam" workshop! The Office of Sustainability will be hosting Data Jams through May 2024 to provide building managers learning to benchmark for the first time an in-person opportunity to receive additional assistance. These workshops are provided at no cost. Bring your laptop and join others learning to benchmark for the first time!

Participants will leave Data Jams knowing how to take advantage of the free ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager software and comply with the Indianapolis Energy Benchmarking and Transparency Ordinance.

Data Jam #2 | CAP Indy Ball State, 25 N Pine St | Thursday, April 18 | 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Data Jam #3 | CAP Indy Ball State, 25 N Pine St | Friday, May 17 | 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

[Find more information on the Thriving Buildings Program indy.gov website here](http://indy.gov/activity/benchmarking-and-transparency)