



# RIVER WEST

**A GREAT PLACE**

BUILDING INNOVATION  
ON INDY'S NEAR WEST SIDE

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# RIVER WEST IS A GREAT PLACE

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Just west of Indy's White River lies a neighborhood that has never been a stranger to hard work. From iron mills to meatpacking, the residents here have strengthened Indianapolis in more ways than imaginable. They're rolling up their sleeves one more time, after decades of bettering the city, to now better their own prospects. Centered at the intersection of West Michigan Street and King Avenue, River West is a diamond in the rough, ready for a good polish.

The following goals leverage proximity to major Indianapolis attractions and relationships with anchoring partner organizations, as well as technology, arts, and supply chain opportunities as the foundations of this Great Place's springboard to connectivity.

RIVER  WEST

## GREAT PLACES 2020

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In a great city, you need a number of great places to create a truly lively community – places where people choose to live, work, and play. Great Places 2020 is a collaborative initiative that responds to this need.

The identification of three initial focus areas will anchor the Great Places 2020 initiative. Located within the west, north, and east sides of Indianapolis, these areas have deep roots in our city's history. While each Great Place has its own unique character and vision, together they will strengthen Indianapolis and allow the City to grow and prosper.

- » **River West is centered at the intersection of West Michigan Street and King Avenue**
- » **Englewood Village is centered at the intersection of East Washington and Oxford Streets**
- » **Maple Crossing is centered at the intersection of 38th and Illinois Streets**



LOVE THY  
NEIGHBORHOOD

# LOVE THY NEIGHBORHOOD

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Every Great Place needs a variety of attributes to succeed. Great Places 2020 uses the L.O.V.E. acronym to embody these critical components: livability, opportunity, vitality, and education.

River West developed the following LOVE goals during a community engagement and planning process to build upon current assets and guide work over the next five years.

## **LIVABILITY**

- » Encourage walking, bicycling, and transit use
- » Provide public spaces that are unique, lively, and authentic to the Near West community
- » Employ crime prevention strategies and enhance public safety efforts
- » Create opportunities to improve public health and access to healthy food
- » Enrich arts and cultural opportunities through promoting community creativity, inviting arts programming, and celebrating Near West history

## **OPPORTUNITY**

- » Foster an entrepreneurial environment that builds upon the geographic proximity to downtown Indianapolis, 16 Tech, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, IUPUI, and the hospital complex
- » Create infrastructure and develop partnerships to support economic development and employment opportunities

## **VITALITY**

- » Increase residential density by providing a variety of housing types with demographic and income diversity
- » Create a beautiful, welcoming neighborhood through reducing blight and abandonment
- » Improve the awareness and marketability of neighborhood housing stock

## **EDUCATION**

- » Increase access to quality early childhood education offerings
- » Improve graduation rates at George Washington Community High School
- » Enhance opportunities for adult learning and workforce training



# LIVABILITY

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Enhance the health and wellbeing of residents by creating natural and cultural amenities and improving greenspaces, walkability, and public safety.

- » **Establish the B&O Trail to connect from Speedway to Indianapolis**
- » **Calm W. Michigan Street traffic and introduce bike lanes and bike shares**
- » **Implement a recreation and parking plan for Bahr Park and improve usability and access to Haughville Park**
- » **Improve safety by utilizing crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) and enhancing partnership with IMPD**
- » **Develop art talent in the neighborhood, sponsor street festivals and invite arts programming into the community**
- » **Improve health outcomes through better access to fitness, primary care and healthy food resources**



**MAX BAHR PARK**





# OPPORTUNITY

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Utilize the area's existing hardworking spirit to attract entrepreneurs and growing businesses that will create valuable jobs and strengthen the community.

- » **Establish a place-based Entrepreneurship Center and support small business development**
- » **Improve existing retail spaces and create new mixed-use development along W. Michigan Street**
- » **Explore development of Tech Houses along W. Michigan Street**
- » **Foster job development by targeting supply chain and workforce development needs of neighboring institutions**
- » **Improve infrastructure for business development through Michigan Street corridor free wifi, remediation of brownfields, and street and sidewalk improvements**



**MICHIGAN STREET DEVELOPMENT**



## VITALITY

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Use diversified housing, housing renovations, and support to current residents to bring energy to the neighborhoods upon which this Great Place is founded.

- » **Promote anchor institution housing incentive programs**
- » **Increase density by offering a wide variety of housing types to meet the housing needs of residents across varying income levels**
- » **Renovate homes along Belleview and around the north side of Haughville Park**
- » **Develop and implement a neighborhood marketing campaign**
- » **Retain resident diversity and reduce blight through vigorous homeowner repair program, demolition of un-salvageable abandoned homes, and strategic infill**



**BELLEVIEW PLACE REDEVELOPMENT**





## EDUCATION

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Offer a rich array of educational opportunities to its residents, from cradle to career, to ensure that children, youth, and adults have access to high quality schools, enrichment activities, and training programs.

- » **Increase early childhood education offerings**
- » **Strengthen adult education and workforce development**
- » **Improve graduation rates at George Washington High School**
- » **Enhance STEAM offerings at the library, Christamore House, and other out-of-school learning venues**



This is just the beginning.  
To view the full plan, go to  
**[GreatPlaces2020.org](https://www.GreatPlaces2020.org)**

**LEAD NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERS:** Westside Community Development Corporation, IUPUI, Eskenazi Health, Goodwill Industries, White River State Park, 16 Tech, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Hawthorne Community Center, Christamore House, Haughville Library, Near West Collaborative, Hearts and Hands of Indiana

**IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS:** City of Indianapolis, Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership, Indy Chamber, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Local Initiatives Support Corporation Indianapolis, United Way of Central Indiana

**SPONSORS:** Buckingham Foundation, Central Indiana Community Foundation, Lilly Endowment, Funders' Network, BMO Harris Bank, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority, JP Morgan Chase, The Kresge Foundation, MIBOR, PNC Bank, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Reconnecting to Our Waterways

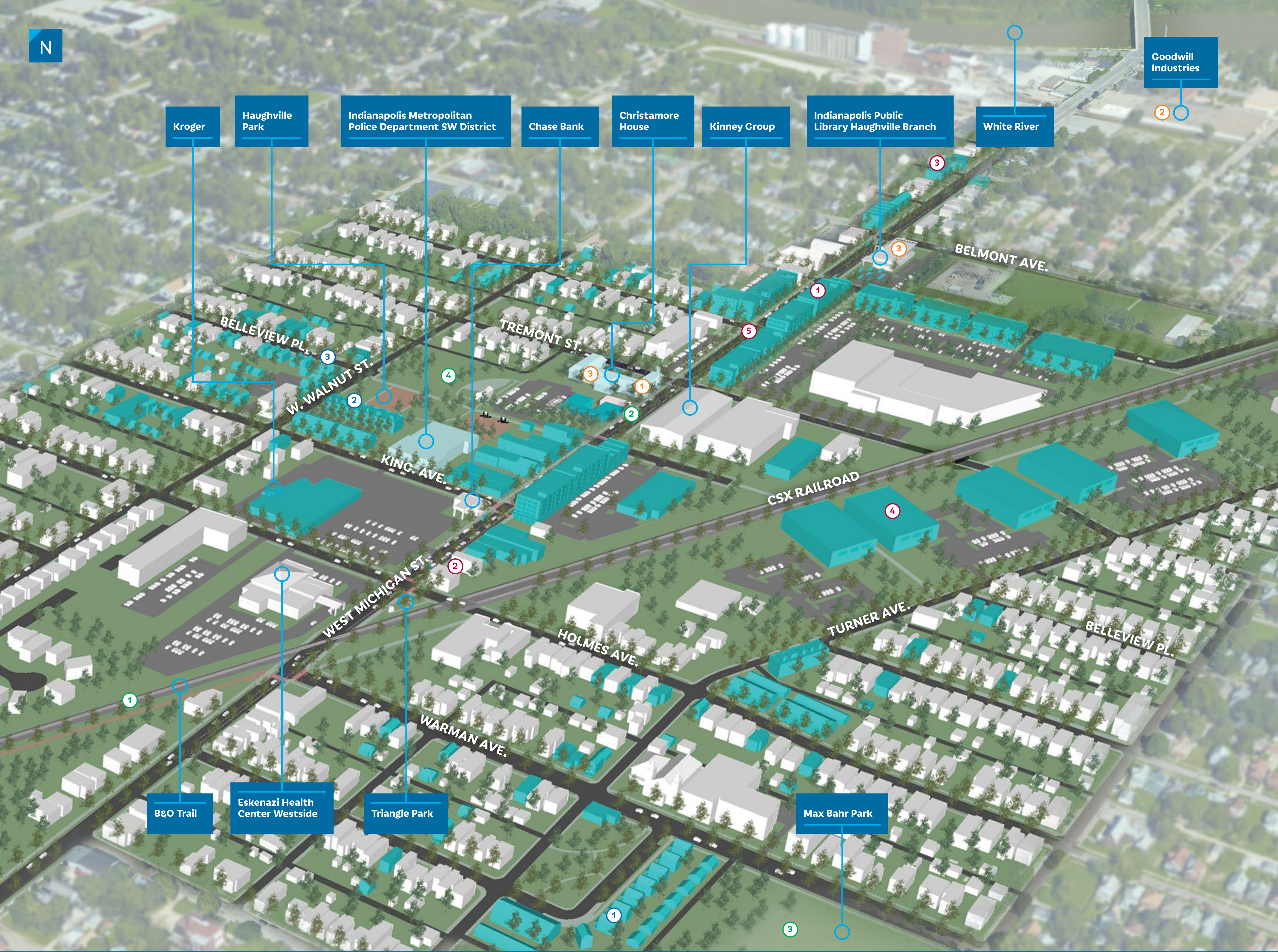
**Great Place plan completed by MKSK, Greenstreet, and Blackline Studio for Architecture**



RIVER  WEST

A GREAT PLACE





### LIVABILITY

- 1 Establish the B&O Trail to connect from Speedway to Indianapolis
- 2 Introduce bike lanes and bike share
- 3 Implement a recreation, and parking plan for Bahr Park
- 4 Improve usability and access to Haughville Park

### OPPORTUNITY

- 1 Create mixed-use development along W. Michigan
- 2 Improve existing retail spaces along Michigan and support small business development
- 3 Explore development of Tech Houses along Michigan
- 4 Foster job development by targeting supply chain needs of neighboring anchor institutions
- 5 Improve Michigan Street corridor infrastructure

### VITALITY

- 1 Promote anchor institution housing incentive programs
- 2 Increase density by offering a wide variety of housing types to meet the housing needs of residents across varying income levels
- 3 Renovate homes along Bellevue and around the north side of Haughville Park

### EDUCATION

- 1 Increase early childhood education offerings
- 2 Strengthen adult education and workforce development
- 3 Enhance STEAM offerings at the library, Christamore House, and other out-of-school learning venues

### MAP KEY

- Proposed New Development
- Existing Assets
- Key L.O.V.E. Projects



A GREAT PLACE

This map displays River West as projected in 2020.