



*keep*  
**Indianapolis**  
*beautiful* <sup>INC.</sup>

*We unite people to beautify the city, improving its environment and foster pride in the community.*



**Keep Indianapolis Beautiful  
IPL Project Greenspace  
2010 Project Grant Application**

**APPLICATIONS DUE AUGUST 13th, 2010 BY 5:00PM**

This application is also available online at [www.kibi.org](http://www.kibi.org).  
(You may fax, email, or snail mail completed applications to KIB)

Organization Name: **IndyTilth** ([www.indytilth.org](http://www.indytilth.org))

Contact Name/Title: **Sarah Wiehe**

Address: **3370 Broadway Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205**

Evening Phone Number: **317.797.3392**

Daytime Phone Number: **317.797.3392**

Email Address: [swiehe@gmail.com](mailto:swiehe@gmail.com)

Township: **Center**

Briefly describe your organization's mission:

**To encourage a healthy urban community and environment by reducing our ecological footprint by conserving natural resources and rebuilding diverse ecosystems, engaging local experts in organic farming as well as inspiring and teaching individuals in organic growing techniques, and encouraging local food systems by modeling sustainable food practices and supporting local vendors.**

Please indicate what type of project you are submitting (please circle):

**Pocket  
Park**

**Gateways &  
Corridors**

**Landscape  
Beautification**

**Community  
Vegetable Garden**

**Median  
Planting**

## Criteria for evaluation of projects submitted

All projects will be evaluated according to the following:

- Maintenance plan,
- Number of people directly impacted by the proposed improvement,
- Public access or visibility of the project,
- Other benefits to the community,
- Number of volunteers the applying organization brings to the project,
- Other resources the applying organization brings to the project: donations, materials, food, etc.
- Neighborhood or organization need,
- Size of project (not too big, not too small; larger projects may apply for a “phase 1” grant)

## Using this application

All applicants are to fill out and return the following:

- Applicant Information,
- Circle the type of project for which you are applying,
- Building On Success,
- Benefits to the Community,
- Applicants must also complete the Maintenance section of the application,
- Make sure to have multiple people sign the Application Certification,
- Include any attachments that may assist us in understanding your project plans,

**ALL applicants MUST have long-term maintenance plans for ALL projects proposed in this application. Future partnerships with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful will be based in part on how well projects are maintained.**

**Please note that these are not cash grants, but project grants. KIB will provide design, materials, and project management while you provide the ideas, volunteers, and future maintenance.**

*Keep Indianapolis Beautiful reserves the right to adapt all or any component of this proposal, based on the availability of resources (equipment, supplies, financial support, etc.)*

***Please return your application to:***

(You may fax, email, or snail mail completed applications to KIB)

**Phil G.D. Schaefer, VP of Programs  
Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc.  
1029 East Fletcher Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46203  
Fax: 317-264-7565  
Email: [pschaefer@kibi.org](mailto:pschaefer@kibi.org)**

If at ANY time you have a question about any part of this application, please contact Phil Schaefer at 264-7555 ext. 109 or [pschaefer@kibi.org](mailto:pschaefer@kibi.org)

# Gateways, Gardens, Parks, Medians, and Other Beautifications

**Keep Indianapolis Beautiful works with neighborhoods and other community groups interested in creating, improving, and maintaining gardens, parks and other greenspaces in Indianapolis. If you have questions pertaining to gardens, parks, gateways or medians, contact Phil Schaefer at 264-7555 x109 or [pschaefer@kibi.org](mailto:pschaefer@kibi.org).**

Type of project:

## **Landscape/Beautification**

Describe your project. What is your vision, what do you want it to look like 5 years from now?

### **Double 8 Foods Rain Garden**

The proposed project entails a rain garden in Mapleton Fall Creek at Double 8 Foods adjacent the parking lot on N Park and E 34<sup>th</sup> (see aerial maps and site photos in addendum). The parking lot already slopes toward these areas (see contour map in addendum) so minimal lot re-grading would be necessary for the water to be fully captured. This area would nicely envelope an existing recycling center, located on the Double 8 Foods parking lot approximately a year ago which has been very popular. We have developed a comprehensive maintenance plan described below which includes daily maintenance by Double 8 Foods and monthly maintenance by neighborhood work parties. Volunteers for neighborhood work parties will be achieved through a rich network of collaborating organizations (see letters of support and noted collaborators below). Food and drinks at all events will be provided by Double 8 Foods. Water will be provided to the rain garden in dry periods, particularly while the garden is being established, using water captured by rain barrels or a cistern on the Double 8 Foods building. Overflow can be directed to the rain garden to minimize storm water run-off.

Currently, the Double 8 Foods parking lot is extensive and not aesthetically-pleasing. More importantly, it contributes to considerable storm water run-off which frequently pools in the streets along E 34th and N Park due to improperly graded streets, multiple potholes, and clogged storm drains (frequently used as a trash can by community members). The Double 8 Foods is a tremendous asset to the community, particularly since many of the Mapleton Fall Creek residents do not have transportation to drive to another grocery. Double 8 Foods has worked hard to partner with the community and has been active in neighborhood events, responded to individual requests for specific food items, and hired employees predominantly from the neighborhood.

This project has a tri-fold vision. First, the rain garden would help to beautify the Double 8 Foods site which is currently almost completely covered in non-porous surface (concrete or building). Second, and more importantly, the rain garden would help to reduce storm water run-off which, as described above, is a major issue in this area. Third, and most importantly, the rain garden would educate community members about on-site storm water remediation. Specifically, this rain garden would act as a model for on-site storm water remediation for several of its commercial and residential neighbors. We would like to show that it is possible to implement and maintain a rain garden in blighted, low-income neighborhoods - not just in prosperous areas such as along the Cultural Trail. What better way to introduce a greater breadth of Indianapolis residents to these ecologically-sound and smart environmental practices than through this type of day-to-day exposure.

Since many, if not most, Mapleton Fall Creek residents use the Double 8 Foods - if not for weekly grocery trips, at least for periodic as-needed items, this is a perfect way to educate the community about the importance of rain gardens. It is likely not something that they may make a special trip to see or learn more about. Implementing a rain garden in this neighborhood would have large environmental impacts, multiplying its direct environmental effect with educational outreach. These educational efforts could be implemented through on-site community meetings of the surrounding neighborhood associations, local churches and low-income residential complexes with the support of

**Marion County Soil and Water Conservation (discussed via phone on 8/10/10, Clean Water Indiana grant which supports these types of educational outreach sessions) and The Children’s Museum.**

**I would like to mention an example which may help to illustrate why and how this rain garden could be such a success in Mapleton Fall Creek. Approximately one year ago, I worked with others in the neighborhood to move the recycling center from The Children’s Museum (TCM) to the Double 8 Foods while TCM was undergoing their expansion. This was met with some resistance in part because it was thought that “poor people would not recycle” and “this site would encourage a lot of illegal dumping” and other similar-type comments. I am proud to say that the move has been a huge success. Not only is the bin being filled quickly, I have personally witnessed people carrying (not driving) their recycling to the station. What is more, I have only witnessed or know about (after talking with Double 8 Foods) only a single episode of illegal dumping. The Double 8 Foods is thrilled to have the recycling center at their store as it has not been a problem to maintain and is thought to bring them additional business. My neighbors and I are thrilled to have a recycling center so close to our homes. We believe that the rain garden could be a similar success story for this neighborhood and act as a model for other low- to middle-income neighborhoods in Indianapolis.**

Location of project (Address or Surrounding Streets):

**N Park between E 34th and Fairfield; E 34th just east of N Park**

Will work be done in an existing Park/Greenspace? If so, name:

**No**

If not, what is the function of land right now?

**Area between parking lot and sidewalk with deteriorating asphalt where weeds are growing**

Is the property where your project is to occur owned by the community or organization requesting this grant?

**No**

If not, has the property owner given long-term written permission for proposed improvements to the property being considered in this application?

**Yes**

If not, who will be responsible for working with the property owner to get written permission?

Or, what steps are being taken to secure ownership of this land?

**N/A**

How many people are on your committee? How many in your organization?

**The Steering Committee includes Sarah Wiehe (nearby resident, IndyTilth, MFCNA board member), Isaiah Kuperstein (Double 8 Foods owner), Doressa Breitfield (MFCDC staff), Terri Coleman (nearby resident, gardener, MFCDC board member), and Tyson Domer (nearby resident, green building consultant, MFCDC board member). There are several others contributing to the application. All in all, 14 individuals directly contributed to the application by reviewing, adding to, and critically revising content. Over 200 individuals would be counted if all members of contributing organizations were included.**

At least half of the volunteers for your project should come from your neighborhood or community group. How many can you commit? How will you encourage their participation?

**At least 30 volunteers from the neighborhood plus additional volunteers recruited through collaborating organizations. We will encourage their participation with food, the opportunity to meet and get to know their neighbors, and the opportunity to learn about and maintain a rain garden in their neighborhood. Given the enthusiastic response that we have received with this application, I have no doubt that we will have ample participation in the maintenance of this project.**

Prep work is usually done the day before your project. How many volunteers do you have to help on your prep day (usually Friday)?

**At least 20 (This is a bit difficult due to people's work schedules. It could be significantly more if it were after 5pm.)**

**All applicants are to fill out sections entitled "Building on Success", "Benefit to the Community" and "Maintenance" sections. Applications that don't include this information will be disqualified from consideration.**

## **Building on Success**

1. KIB's IPL Project GreenSpace is a partnership. What resources will your organization commit to ensure that this is a successful project? Please be as specific as possible.

Food and water for volunteers, etc.? (we encourage you to ask for donations from local businesses)

**Food and water for volunteers during the implementation phase and for monthly work parties will be provided by the Double 8 Foods.**

**The CDC will provide the tools for the monthly work parties which include 2 wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, hoes, etc. These will be supplemented by tools that the volunteers are able to bring and use personally.**

Partnership with other organizations?

**We have developed partnerships with several community organizations in addition to Double 8 Foods including Mapleton Fall Creek Development Corporation, Historic Meridian Park Neighborhood Association, Watson McCord Neighborhood Association, Mapleton Fall Creek Neighborhood Association, Constitution Gardens, Tabernacle Presbyterian Church and the Mid-North Church Council (see letters of support). These organizations will help with volunteer recruitment for the monthly work parties and provide overall support for the project. Our educational efforts will be supplemented with help from The Children's Museum and the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District.**

2. How does the proposed project contribute to your neighborhood's broader plans for improving its quality of life?

**Mapleton Fall Creek has just initiated their Quality of Life Planning Process that is coordinated by The Children's Museum, and it is too soon to state officially how the rain garden proposal relates to this Plan. However, a survey in 2008 of the Mapleton Fall Creek residents identified lack of green space as the top priority. As a result, the CDC is working to convert 3 areas of the neighborhood where there are vacant lots into pocket parks. This rain garden proposal would complement these efforts and reflect the values and wishes of the community. In addition, based on data from research studies, we know that green space significantly contributes beneficially to the physical and mental health of its surrounding residents. In these ways, and through education about the environmentally-sound and**

**progressive interventions such as rain gardens and rain barrels, the rain garden project will contribute positively to our neighborhood's quality of life.**

3. Have you ever considered public art for the greenspace for which you are applying? KIB encourages collaboration between neighborhoods and local artists.

**YES! This would be a terrific addition to this extensive rain garden. I could imagine several sites along the rain garden corridor where public art could be displayed. Given this high profile area of the neighborhood, it would be a wonderful idea to incorporate public art.**

4. Do you have other sources of funding for this project?

**No, but I did have a discussion with Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District who mentioned potentially being able to help with rain garden design work and/or some of the educational outreach (using their funds though Clean Water Indiana grant).**

5. Please list.

**None available that we know of but we are happy to apply for additional funding. LISC comes to mind as a potential collaborator but we have not contacted them at this point.**

## **Benefit to the Community**

1. Why is this project important to the community?

**In a 2008 survey of Mapleton Fall Creek residents, lack of green space was identified as the top priority. The Double 8 Foods parking lot is extensive and not aesthetically pleasing. More importantly, it contributes to a considerable storm water run-off which frequently pools in the streets along E 34th and N Park. The Double 8 Foods is a tremendous asset to the community, particularly since many of the Mapleton Fall Creek residents do not have transportation to drive to another grocery. Double 8 Foods has worked hard to partner with the community and has been active in neighborhood events, responded to individual requests for specific food items, and hired predominantly from the neighborhood. This project would help to beautify the Double 8 Foods but, more importantly, help reduce storm water run-off and educate community members about on-site storm water remediation. In all of these ways, the Double 8 Foods rain garden project is important to the community.**

2. Who will this project benefit?

**This project benefits the Mapleton Fall Creek neighborhood residents and patrons of the Double 8 Foods, Double 8 Foods, and attendees of the churches across the street (Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and Tabernacle Presbyterian Church). In addition, this project has the potential to act as a model for other communities and be a educational resource for many in the larger northern Indianapolis area.**

3. How will you measure or evaluate the success of your project?

**We will measure our success by the degree of sustained involvement in the project and maintenance of the rain garden as measured by individuals coming to the monthly work parties, Double 8 Foods' daily upkeep, and submission of future grant applications and projects to continue upgrading the site (facade grant from LISC, extension of the rain garden to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and Constitution Gardens across the street, extension of the "recycling center" on the Double 8 Foods grounds, etc). We will specifically evaluate this by tracking the number of community members and other volunteers who attend monthly work parties and future grant proposals and projects to extend the immediate area's amenities.**

# Maintenance

Explain in detail how you will care for your project once it is completed. Include who will carry out this maintenance and how water will be accessed. ALL applications **must** provide and **stick to** a plan for long-term maintenance and upkeep. Failure to provide a detailed plan will result in not being considered. Examples: Who monitors and how often? Who repairs and how quickly? Who does routine stuff, picks up trash, etc?

1. Please describe a detailed plan of how your project will be maintained once it is completed.

**We have commitments from the following organizations to recruit volunteers for the monthly work parties to prune, mulch, weed, etc.: Mapleton Fall Creek Development Corporation, Mapleton Fall Creek Neighborhood Association, Historic Meridian Park Neighborhood Association, Watson McCord Neighborhood Association, Constitution Gardens, Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, and Mid-North Church Council (see letters of support). Sarah Wiehe, Terri Coleman and Tyson Domer, who all live within 1 block and can see the parking lot from their homes, will ultimately take all responsibility for maintenance not completed by other community members and volunteers and will monitor the rain garden at least weekly.**

2. Who specifically will carry out this maintenance?

**The Double 8 Foods will be in charge of the day-to-day maintenance including picking up trash and debris from the rain garden and watering as needed from the rain barrels or cistern installed on the property. Neighborhood volunteers will take care of the weeding and pruning under the guidance of Sarah Wiehe, Terri Coleman, and other experienced gardeners at the monthly work parties.**

3. How will water be accessed for your project?

**The Double 8 Foods has a very large flat roof which is now also contributing to storm water run-off. We propose, as part of this application, to build and implement rain barrels or a cistern with overflow into the rain garden to water the rain garden during dry spells. Rain gardens typically do not need much watering after they are established. During the first 3 years, we will water during periods where it does not rain at least 1" once in the past week.**

# Application Certification

Please carefully read the following and sign. This page must be completed in order for application to be valid. Make sure also to attach (if applicable) your organization's list of Board of Directors.

We have carefully read the information provided about the IPL Project GreenSpace application. Our officers have approved the submission of the proposal. If we receive assistance, we pledge to be good stewards of the resources received, not only by working cooperatively with KIB staff to complete our projects to the best of our ability, but also through our commitment to long-term care for the projects we implement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair / Officer

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Date

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Officer / Committee Member

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