## FEDERAL PROTECTION FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

The property indicated on the attached as-built plan was acquired and/or developed with a grant from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This grant program is administered at the federal level by the National Park Service (NPS) in the U.S. Department of the Interior and at the State level by the Division of Outdoor Recreation in the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Grants are made to local units of government, usually the park and recreation board, to acquire or develop local parks. The recipient agency is identified on the site plan.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578; 78 Stat. 897) in Section 6(f)(3) states that property acquired or developed with LWCF assistance shall be retained and used for public outdoor recreation in perpetuity. Any property so acquired or developed shall not be wholly or partly converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses without the approval of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Department of the Interior has the ultimate authority to disapprove conversion requests and/or reject proposed property substitutions.

Conversions generally occur in the following situations:

- 1. Property interests are conveyed for non-public outdoor recreation uses.
- 2. Non-outdoor recreation uses (public or private) are made of the project area, or a postion thereof.
- 3. Indoor recreation facilities, which are not support facilities for outdoor recreation, are developed Within the park.
- 4. Public outdoor recreation use of the property is terminated.

Examples of typical conversions are: new public thoroughfares, utility lines, indoor recreation facilities (community centers, swimming pools, ice links, etc.), other civic structures (fire stations, schools, libraries, fairgrounds, town halls, etc.); and the introduction of exclusive (nonpublic) uses.

If a conversion cannot be avoided, the local unit of government will be held responsible to see that real property of equivalent value, usefulness and location is provided to replace that converted at the park site as indicated on the attached site plan. Repayment of the grant funds or the provision of replacement facilities is not an acceptable form of mitigation

LWCF regulations also specify that all future utilities constructed or renovated on the site must be installed underground, and the local project sponsor signed an agreement providing this assurance in the grant documentation. Disposition of any existing overhead lines was agreed to during the project, and may be noted on the attached site plan. Future utility lines not serving park will need approval prior to their construction.

For property owned by the local unit of government (the park and recreation board or other governmental unit) the provisions of Section 6 (f)(3) of the LWCF Act apply in perpetuity, and thus continue with the land even after any LWCF assisted facilities have served their useful lives and been discontinued.

Proposed conversions must receive advance approval from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of the Interior. Replacement property must receive federal approval prior to its acquisition. Conversion requests involve specific detailed documentation. Flease contact the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to obtain further information regarding a conversion. The agencies to contact are:

Grants Section
Division of Outdoor Recreation
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
605 State Office Building
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2267
(317) 232-4070

Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Interior Building
Washington, D.C. 20240

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