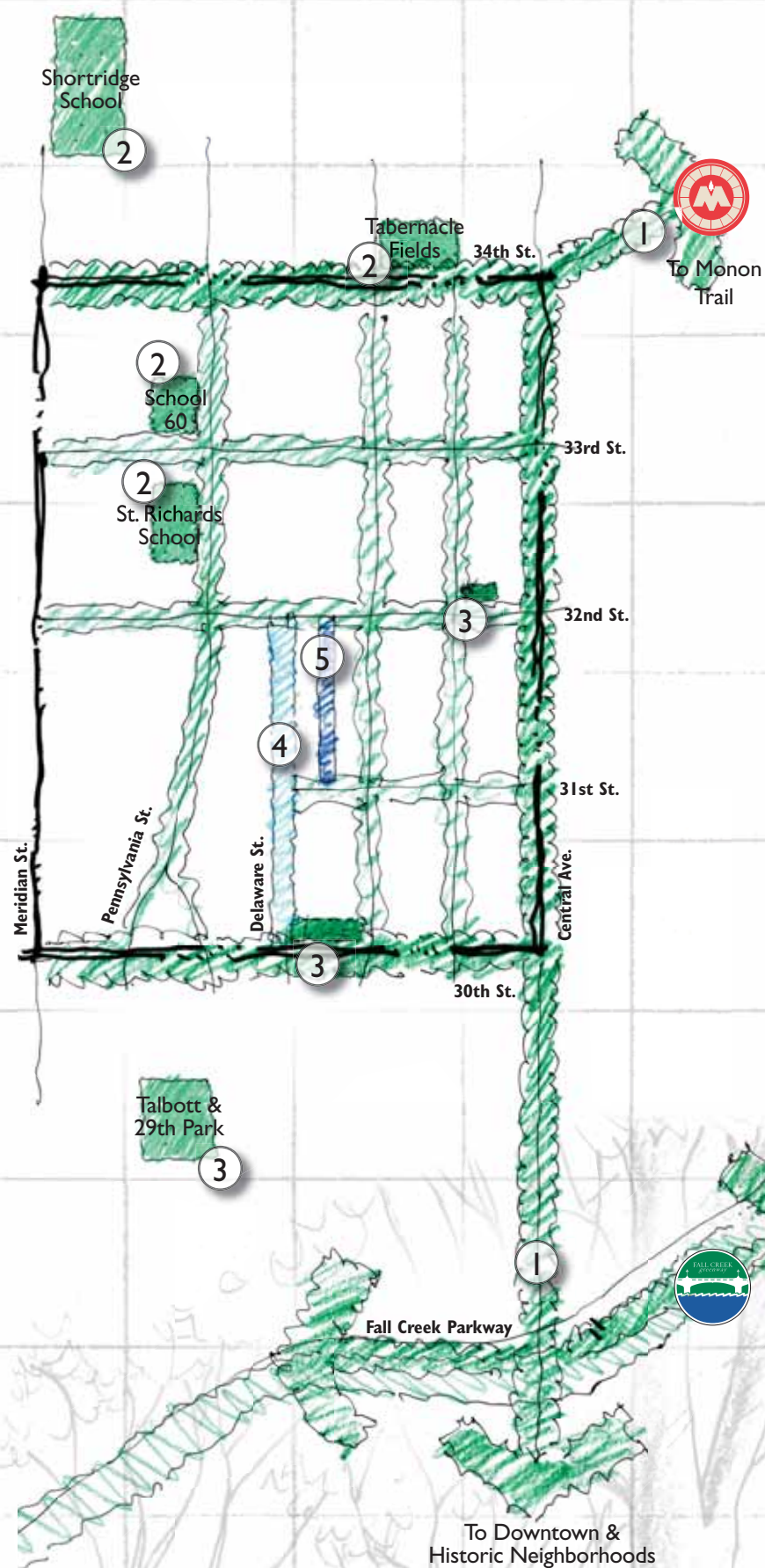


# Develop a Network of ACTIVE PUBLIC PLACES



## A HIERARCHY OF OPEN SPACES

### 1 CONNECTIONS TO GREENWAYS

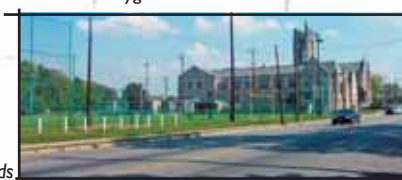
The Indy Greenways system continues to grow in popularity. The Meridian Park neighborhood can capitalize on its proximity to the popular Monon Trail (less than one mile to the east) and the scenic Fall Creek Greenway (six blocks to the south). A well-developed streetscape along Fairfield Avenue and Central Avenue could connect the neighborhood to these regional amenities.

### 2 INSTITUTIONAL OPEN SPACE

Shortridge School, School 60, St. Richard's School, and Tabernacle Presbyterian Church all maintain substantial amounts of sports fields and recreation space. This semi-public space is a great asset for the neighborhood. These institutions are also great potential partners in any effort to beautify, program, or otherwise enhance these open spaces.



School 60 Playground



Tabernacle Presbyterian Fields

### 3 NEIGHBORHOOD & POCKET PARKS

The only nearby municipal park is the Talbott and 29th Park, located across the busy one-way pair of 29th and 30th Streets. As the area improves, it will be important to explore a safer pedestrian connection to this nicely developed park. The neighborhood might also explore developing pocket parks on some vacant lots. Such parks might include community gardens, landscaping, public art, picnic tables and benches, or a small playground. They also transform an undesirable vacant lot into a tremendous opportunity for beautification through open space.



Vacant lot at Delaware St. and 30th St.



### 4 SIDEWALKS AND FRONT YARDS

Meridian Park has a good sidewalk network that is generally in great condition. In addition to a pedestrian transportation function, this network also serves an open space function. Many neighborhood residents regularly walk the neighborhood along what could be considered "pedestrian parkways" if you factor in the front lawns and gardens of homes along the sidewalk. The neighborhood can easily improve these "pedestrian parkways" by encouraging neighbors to add landscaping in their yards. A mix of spring-flowers and flowering trees, lush summer foliage, and amazing fall colors will create a striking natural beauty for residents as well as passers-by. Establishing relationships with nurseries, creating a perennial plant exchange program, or simply offering awards are simple ways a neighborhood group can encourage such enhancements.

### 5 ALLEYWAYS

Alleyways often become the back door to the neighborhood where trash and similar materials accumulate. By changing residents' thoughts of alleys from one of a back door to one of a neighborhood greenspace can not only add available open space but improve the overall appearance of the neighborhood as well. While alleys must maintain their service and vehicle function, their low traffic volumes can allow sharing with adjacent residents. Alleys are different than systems above in the hierarchy in that they are usually ONLY for residents. Visitors often see and have access to everything else, but alleys are strictly for residents. As such, a great alley says that the pride and beauty in the neighborhood isn't just for show.



While a unique example, Washington Court illustrates the potential for front yards to contribute to the public sidewalk to form a "pedestrian parkway".