

# THE SOUTHWEST DISCOVERY PARK

The abandonment of the former Franklin County Children Services' "Franklin Village" site, has given the residents of the Southwest Columbus a unique opportunity. Within the densely forested and beautifully natural 77 acres, the community can design and develop whatever future use they see fit. The Southwest Discovery Park is a proposed melding of the identified interests of that community and the areas stakeholders. Hoping to incorporate our principle themes (Commerce, Community, and Conservation/Recreation) the park will adopt a multi-use and multi-functioning design. It will proactively address the needs of the area at present, and inspire its visitors in the future.



## Conservation and Recreation

It was clear in the recommendations that any plan for the site should have conservation as one of its key tenants. The place today, is beautiful. Therefore, development in the Discovery Park will focus on the northeast corner leaving the natural areas undisturbed. The more passive western portion of the site will feature miles of hiking trails and forest re-growth zones. A one mile bike circuit will encircle the site, crossing the Early Creek in the north and south. Later phases will connect the park to greenways running along Big Run Creek and eventually the Scioto trail.



Legend			
	Streams		Town Center
	Primary Roads		Pond/Wetland
	Paved Surfaces		Grassland
	Buildings		Hiking Trails
	Tree Cover		Bike Path
	Planning Site/Grass		Pedestrian Entrance
	Community Gardens		Car Entrance
	Playscape		Parking

## Commerce

The need for tax revenue, jobs, and a commercial focal point requires a portion of the site be devoted to commercial development. This growth, however, should be concentrated and accent the larger park. The Town Center will blend the private and public spheres with a small square at its center, and a farmer's market to the south. It's important that this development turns its focus from the busy Frank and Gantz roads inward toward the square and into park.



## Community

It's clear in the present community gardening effort that the residents of the area have a solid communal foundation to be built upon. The success of these gardens requires any new design for the site to incorporate this idea and help foster its continued success. The Discovery Park will enhance community gardening and connect the process to the town center with the newly established farmer's market. The children of the area will be incorporated in a new Playscape. And lastly the Discovery park will host outdoor galleries of sculpture and art aimed at involving the community in the creative process.

