Plants of Pogue’s Run

A variety of plants grow along the banks of Pogue’s Run and throughout the Near Eastside. Many are native and have been growing here since before European settlement, but others are non-native, having been introduced by humans from other areas. Some of the non-native plants are invasive, growing aggressively in the area, displacing native plants that provide food and shelter to animals and promote a healthier ecosystem.

Top Invaders of Pogue’s Run

Asian bush honeysuckle

A shrub with arching branches; 5-15 feet tall; opposite dark green leaves, red berries in fall; first to leaf out in spring and last to lose leaves in fall.

Garlic mustard

A biennial herb; first year low growing rosette with kidney-shaped leaves; second year triangle-shaped leaves with white flowers up to 4 feet tall.

Wintercreeper

An evergreen vine, forms dense ground cover; trailing or climbing over 20 feet; dark waxy leaves.

Tree of Heaven

A tree with large alternate compound leaves; smooth pale brown bark; plant smells of “rotten peanuts.”

Pogue’s Run Ecology

Combined Sewer Overflows

Combined sewers are a method for conveying both stormwater and domestic wastewater (sewage) to waste treatment facilities in one unified system. However, during periods of heavy rain, stormwater can overwhelm the capacity of the system, leading to Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). CSOs are a significant source of pollution released into waterways from cities and towns, placing an increased burden on our waterways and ecosystems. CSOs can be reduced in a variety of ways, including wet weather control, which involves intercepting stormwater before it enters the combined system. Pogue’s Run is a great place to encounter nature in the Near Eastside. Pogue’s Run provides habitat for many plants and animals in this urban environment. Follow Pogue’s Run as it meanders through the community to discover the area’s biodiversity. As you explore the broader Near Eastside, you will find that Pogue’s Run is a magical place full of history and Indianapolis’ ecological legacy. The variety of public art installations throughout this area is one of the prominent elements that has driven downtown Indianapolis’ cultural development. However, the area is in need of consideration and stewardship. Local organizations and community members have collaborated to control these invasive species and to restore the habitat along Pogue’s Run. You can help by not planting invasives and removing any you find on your property. You might also consider planting natives and creating a back yard habitat. To learn more, check out these sites:

- Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society: www.inapws.org
- Indiana Wildlife Federation, Backyard Habitat: www.indianawildlife.org

This guide was produced by Reconnecting to Our Waterways (ROW) and supported by the Kresge Foundation, and CICF. ROW is a grassroots initiative designed to reclaim the benefits of Indianapolis’ waterways, to provide opportunities for physical, human, and economic development. It’s about helping neighbors strengthen waterways, and in turn, helping waterways strengthen neighborhoods. ROW partnered with East 10th Street Civic Association, Williams Creek Consulting, and local designer Julia Taugher in the design of this brochure.
POGUE’S RUN is a magical place full of history and wonder at what the future holds—a collection of stories, art, culture and natural beauty. This guide invites you to explore the Pogue’s Run watershed, to visit its neighborhood businesses and cultural institutions, and to pause at its scenic parks and waterway destinations.

POGUE’S RUN HISTORY
From the Native Americans who first lived in this area and the pioneer George Pogue, to the many features listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Pogue’s Run has a lot to offer for a history buff. The waterway and its salt Marshes share stories of disappearance, but history endures in the neighborhoods surrounding Pogue’s Run. Enclosed in this guide are pieces of military history, architectural significance, and Indianapolis’ ecological legacy.

ART
The variety of public art installations throughout this area is one of the prominent elements that have driven redevelopment and created place. Concurrently with the creation of this guide, creative sculptural art is being installed at “rest stops” along the creek’s banks, but the Near Eastside is adorned with other murals and sculptures as well. These art pieces celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the creek and neighborhood and invite visitors to find beauty in these urban places. This guide provides some clues for where art pieces can be found, but art in Indianapolis is constantly evolving, always providing something to explore.

POGUE’S RUN ECOLOGY
Pogue’s Run is a great place to encounter nature in the Near Eastside. Pogue’s Run provides habitat for many plants and animals in this urban environment. Follow Pogue’s Run as it meanders through the community to see beautiful parks, large oak trees, a prairie planting, or a variety of wildlife, including foxes, groundhogs, and warblers. As you explore the broader Near Eastside community, keep in mind you are still in the Pogue’s Run watershed. The watershed was once forested, but is now an engineered system of storm drains, roads, parking lots, and buildings, all of which have degraded the stream habitat. Community members can reduce their impact in a variety of ways, including picking up trash and pet waste, planting a tree, and installing a rain garden or a rain barrel.

COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOWS
Combined sewers are a method for conveying both stormwater and domestic wastewater (sewage) to waste water treatment facilities in one unified system. However, with a 1/4 inch rainfall, the current combined system is overwhelmed and overflows into Pogue’s Run. Citizens Energy Group is addressing this public health concern through a variety of combined sewer overflow control measures. In the area of Brookside Park, Citizens is adding an underground storage facility, preventing the annual release of millions of gallons of combined sewage into the creek.

BUSINESSES IN THE AREA
An historic home for many industrial and manufacturing firms, the Pogue’s Run area also hosts a growing small business community. Many quality manufacturing firms still line Massac Avenue (Mass Ave.) and Sherman Drive, while food and retail shops are clustered in the 10 East 10th Street Civic Association, Williams Creek and the City Industrial Complex is now home to a collection of makers, artists, and light manufacturers. Near Eastside redevelopment has been spearheaded by these small business investments, which has led to vibrant commercial and industrial corridors.

THE KRESE CENTER FOR IDEAS & CREATIVITY
& Explore
A Reason to Pause
ART
Rest Stop Art Parks
The Pogue’s Run Rest Stops give people a reason to pause and connect with the waterway. Rest Stops highlight the special qualities of the neighborhoods and city they serve as connection points and gathering spots for a variety of planned and spontaneous events.

Herron students planning and preparing models for Pogue’s Run Rest stop art parks.

Three Rest Stops were funded by the Krueger Foundation through Reconnecting to Our Waterways in 2015: one in Cottage Home Park, one in Brookside Park, and one in Spades Park. The campus of George Pogue Elementary School, funded in 2014, is the fourth Rest Stop.

In addition to gateway murals described above, the Near Eastside is full of hidden art, including murals on New York, Vermont, Michigan, and Michigan Street. The chinquapin oak, at Temple Ave. and Nowland Ave. is a great place to appreciate historical architecture, including several schools and churches, Carolina Wrens, Chimney Swifts, Bird-tailed Skimmers, Chickadees, and Tinitize.

Public Art
In addition to gateway murals described above, the Near Eastside is full of hidden art, including murals on New York, Vermont, Michigan, and Michigan Street. The chinquapin oak, at Temple Ave. and Nowland Ave. is a great place to appreciate historical architecture, including several schools and churches, Carolina Wrens, Chimney Swifts, Bird-tailed Skimmers, Chickadees, and Tinitize.

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PLANTS OF POGUE’S RUN

A variety of plants grow along the banks of Pogue’s Run and throughout the Near Eastside. Many are native and have been growing here since before European settlement, but others are non-native, having been introduced by humans from other areas. Some of the non-native plants are invasive, growing aggressively in the area, displacing native plants that provide food and shelter to animals and promote a healthier ecosystem.

TOP INVADERS OF POGUE’S RUN

Asian bush honeysuckle (Lonicera maackii)
A shrub with arching branches; 5-15 feet tall; opposite dark green leaves, red berries in fall; first to leaf out in spring and last to lose leaves in fall.

Garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata)
A biennial herb; first year low growing rosette with kidney-shaped leaves; second year triangle-shaped leaves with white flowers up to 4 feet tall.

Wintercreeper (Euonymus fortunae)
An evergreen vine, forms dense ground cover; trailing or climbing over 20 feet; dark waxy leaves.

Local organizations and community members have collaborated to control these invasive species and to restore the habitat along Pogue’s Run. You can help by not planting invasives and removing any you find on your property. You might also consider planting natives and creating a backyard habitat. To learn more, check out these sites:

• Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society: www.inpaws.org
• Indiana Wildlife Federation, Backyard Habitat: www.indianawildlife.org

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POGUE’S RUN A Reason to Pause & Explore

POGUE’S RUN HISTORY

A visitor enjoys relaxing on a sculpted bench at the Pogue’s Run Art and Nature Park.

Businesses along the creek are one of the prominent elements that has driven redevelopment and created place. Concurrently with the variety of public art installations throughout this area is a variety of military history, architectural history, and creative sculptural art is celebrated by murals and sculptures as well. Art pieces celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the creek and neighborhood businesses and cultural institutions, and the creek's scenic parks and waterway destinations. To pause at its scenic parks and waterway destinations, and to explore the historic beauty of this urban waterway, you can visit the following:

• Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society: www.inpaws.org
• Indiana Wildlife Federation, Backyard Habitat: www.indianawildlife.org

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