



Frequently Asked Questions

Environmental Stewardship Updates

Throughout construction, every project is guided by a commitment to environmental stewardship. We are not just building trails and facilities. We are restoring wetlands, replanting forests, improving water quality, and transforming former industrial land into healthy green space. Our approach ensures that as construction moves forward, the natural environment is protected, enhanced, and made more resilient for generations to come.

Flood Debris Cleanup & Management

One of Origin Park's biggest wonders is that it lives alongside the Ohio River—a dynamic, ever-changing landscape that shifts with each rise and fall of the water. This relationship brings incredible beauty: every swell leaves behind driftwood, branches, and other natural materials that enrich the park's wild, untamed character. But living by the river also comes with challenges. Alongside these natural gifts, man-made debris—trash, construction remnants, and other unwanted materials can wash ashore and must be carefully managed to keep the park safe, clean, and welcoming for everyone.

Houseless Population Support in the Park

Origin Park approaches the houseless population with compassion while keeping the park safe and accessible for all. By partnering with local social services, increasing staff visibility, and creating well-maintained, welcoming spaces, we address immediate needs and safety concerns. Looking forward, we are developing long-term solutions through expanded partnerships and community programs to ensure Origin Park remains a safe, accessible, and vibrant destination for everyone.

Park Clean-Up & Waste Management

Keeping Origin Park clean and welcoming is a top priority. Our staff regularly monitor and maintain the park, and we partner with community volunteers for clean-up days that address litter, invasive plants, and debris. Because the park includes floodplain areas, high water can deposit additional trash, and we have accounted for this in our ongoing maintenance plan.

While these efforts involve staffing and material costs, we manage them carefully within our operational budget to ensure sustainability. Investing in a clean, safe, and attractive park also supports revenue generation, as a well-maintained environment enhances visitor experience and encourages attendance at events, rentals at The Vista event center, and other park programming. Looking ahead, we plan to expand our volunteer program in 2026, offering more community engagement opportunities while supplementing maintenance efforts in a cost-effective way.

Potential Park Additions

Origin Park is always exploring thoughtful ways to enhance the visitor experience. While a variety of ideas have been shared by the community, these features are not currently included in the Master Plan.

Our goal is to complement—not duplicate—the incredible amenities already available throughout our region's parks.

Because space within Origin Park is limited, we're intentional about what we create, focusing on features that are unique, sustainable, and aligned with our mission. We remain open to community input and will continue to evaluate potential additions as the park grows—ensuring every element contributes meaningfully to the park's long-term vision and impact.

Croghan Launch Access & Improvements

Flooding caused significant debris and damage at Croghan Launch, creating safety and accessibility challenges. It will remain closed for the foreseeable future while we assess conditions and prevent further damage. Looking ahead, we are actively exploring long-term solutions to protect the launch, stabilize the shoreline, and ensure it can safely and sustainably serve visitors for years to come.



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Park Location & Preservation Priorities

Origin Park is located along the Ohio River in Southern Indiana, transforming 430 acres of former industrial and neglected riverfront land into a thriving regional destination. Our mission is to preserve and enhance natural habitats, provide equitable access to green space, and offer recreational opportunities for the community—all while ensuring the park is financially sustainable.

Conservancy Model & Sustainability

Origin Park is owned and operated by River Heritage Conservancy, a nonprofit organization. Unlike city or state parks, a conservancy is not dependent on tax dollars or political cycles. Instead, it is funded by private philanthropy, grants, partnerships, and earned revenue, which provides flexibility and independence.

Park Funding & Revenue Strategy

Origin Park is a nonprofit project developed through philanthropic support, foundation contributions, and federal and state grants. Amenities such as trails, restored habitats, and recreation facilities are made possible through generous donations from individuals and local foundations, along with up to \$37.5 million in state funding. This state funding is milestone-based, each portion is contingent on meeting specific benchmarks, so the full amount is not guaranteed until those goals are achieved. Every element of the park's development is supported entirely through charitable giving and designated grants.

Park Operations

Park Ownership & Governance

Origin Park is owned and led by River Heritage Conservancy, a nonprofit organization created to transform and care for this unique riverfront landscape. Built on a conservancy model, our approach ensures that the park is developed and managed with the community's long-term benefit in mind.

Proposed Wildwater Location

The Wildwater Adventure Center at Origin Park will be built on two former landfills—one already capped and one recently acquired that remains uncapped. We are working closely with Indiana Department of Environmental Management to cap and stabilize the newly acquired site. By designing a water-based adventure center here, we are addressing long-term environmental hazards while creating a safe, engaging space for recreation. This project exemplifies how Origin Park transforms challenging sites into sustainable, vibrant destinations.

Wildwater Attraction Water Source

The water source for the Wildwater Adventure Center is still to be determined, and we are carefully evaluating options to ensure safety and sustainability. No matter the source, the attraction will meet all regulatory requirements for water quality, including proper treatment and ongoing maintenance.

We have a plan in place to continuously monitor water levels within the facility as well as the structural integrity of the water system. Additionally, we will work with third-party water quality experts to manage treatment and follow all recommended best practices, ensuring a safe, clean, and enjoyable experience for all visitors.

Ohio River Shoreline Erosion

Origin Park faces accelerating erosion along the north shore of the Ohio River, driven largely by high-velocity flows released from the McAlpine Dam—a problem the Army Corps of Engineers has acknowledged since the 1970s. With long-term solutions estimated to cost more than \$20 million, River Heritage Conservancy and the Town of Clarksville are working with state and federal partners, including Congresswoman Houchin, to identify a viable path forward.



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Providence Dam & Silver Creek

Origin Park has no ownership or management role over Silver Creek. The Providence Mill Dam removal effort is intended to support the ecological health of the creek and improve safety and recreational access, not to serve park-specific development. Silver Creek being open and healthy for public use is beneficial for the community, and the creek itself is not owned by the City of New Albany, River Heritage Conservancy, or any other single entity.

Throughout this process, the River Heritage Conservancy has emphasized that it does not plan any commercial use of Silver Creek and remains focused on ecological restoration and long-term public access along the Blueway.

Impact on Ohio River Greenway

The Greenway is an integral part of Origin Park and a top priority for ensuring safe, equitable access to the park. As planning for Origin Park continues, we are committed to assessing potential effects and ensuring that any development aligns with the Greenway's mission of providing safe, accessible, and enjoyable spaces for the community.

Origin Park Visitor Fees

Origin Park will remain free to enter, including access to the Wildwater Adventure Center. Costs will apply only for optional paid activities, such as rafting, rock climbing, or the zip line. Additionally, the park will offer a mix of free and paid parking to accommodate all visitors, ensuring both accessibility for the community and support for the park's long-term operations and maintenance.

Miscellaneous

Event Center Access & Guest Transportation

We are working closely with the Town of Clarksville to ensure safe and efficient access to The Vista event center. Traffic within the park itself is not a major concern; the greater challenge lies at the interstate interchanges, which fall under the Town's responsibility for traffic studies and planning. By collaborating with Clarksville, we can coordinate improvements that provide a seamless transition for guests arriving at the park.

In addition, we are exploring opportunities to manage vehicle flow by queuing guests inside the park rather than along the highway. This approach will help reduce congestion, improve safety, and create a more welcoming arrival experience for visitors.

Full Park Build-Out Timeline

If funding is secured, construction at The Wildwater at Origin Park is expected to begin in 2026. Developing the park's northern portion will require rethinking its design and securing additional funding to ensure it meets both community and environmental goals. The Vista will open in spring 2026.

Overall, we estimate a 10-15-year build-out for the full 430-acre park. This phased approach allows us to carefully plan, fund, and implement each section while maintaining quality, sustainability, and public access throughout the development process.