

Los Angeles River Cooperation Committee

Overview In 2009 a memorandum of understanding between the LA County Flood Control District and City of Los Angeles – with the U.S. Corps of Engineers serving in an advisory capacity – created the Los Angeles River Cooperation Committee (LARCC). LARCC helps prioritize projects located along the upper reaches of the LA River by bringing together agencies, and streamlining project implementation.

Goals of entity The LA River Master Plan (created by the County in 1996) and the more recent LA River Revitalization Master Plan (created by the City in 2007) provide the guiding principles behind LARCC. Collectively these plans outline efforts such as aiding in flood control, environmental remediation, and providing recreational opportunities and amenities for the public along the river.

LARCC itself provides cross-jurisdictional alignment between the City and County in reviewing projects that affect the river.

Organizational and operational structure The memorandum of understanding which created LARCC specifies which City and County staff are to act as representatives on the Committee, and includes professionals in water management, engineering and parks. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers serve in an advisory capacity on the Committee. To facilitate cross-jurisdictional alignment the Committee meets to discuss any of the following actions that lie within the bounds of the LA River Revitalization Master Plan project area:

- Reviews substantive proposed projects
- Reviews all permits received by either the City or County
- Reviews all grant requests for projects

In addition to using the two LA River Master Plans to help guide their decisions, the Committee also considers the hydraulic impacts, water quality impacts, operation and maintenance issues, potential liability, and security and safety of projects.

Process and criteria for creation A memorandum of understanding - as was utilized to create LARCC - does not come with stringent criteria, and is primarily limited by the parties' willingness to commit.

Funding Funding for LARCC and the projects it helps facilitate is not specified in the MOU. Funding for revitalization projects come from a variety of sources including public-private partnerships, and grants from different levels of government. Additionally, the City has adopted a Capital Improvement Expenditure Program and raised bonds to help fund projects.

Oversight and enforcement Memorandums of understanding vary in strength depending on what is specified in the MOU, but are typically not legally binding. Enforcement of MOUs is weak.

Indiana River Basin Commissions

Overview

Indiana River Basin Commissions (RBC) are established by the Indiana legislature to address basin wide water resource issues. The Maumee, St. Joseph, and Upper Wabash River Basin Commissions were established under [IC 14-30](#). Each Commission is created independently, and its governance and powers vary slightly. As compared to related River Basin Development Commissions, RBCs are primarily used for planning and coordination rather than the construction and operation of flood control projects.

Note there is also an Ohio River Basin Commission, which is different and was Federally authorized by the Water Resources Planning Act of 1965 (P.L. 89 - 80).

Goals of entity

- Water resource planning, including flood control and water quality
 - Regulate waterways in the basin by assuming a member political subdivision's duties through a cooperative agreement
 - For St. Joseph River, acquire land or buildings related to flood mitigation, flood damage reduction, water quality improvements, or soil conservation.
 - For Upper Wabash, coordinate installation of trails
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Organizational and operational structure

Each is governed by a Commission. While membership varies slightly by Commission, they generally are codified in Statute to include city or county elected officials and the county surveyor, with some including technical partners like soil and water conservation district representatives or public health officials.

RBCs can be established as a separate municipal corporation. The physical boundaries of the RBC can be established on a case-by-case basis either by defining the physical boundaries in state code or by having counties elect to opt into the RBC. The membership requirements appear to vary by RBC. Some of the RBC members are appointed by the governor, mayors, or other elected officials and may vary by town/county size within the boundaries of the RBC catchment area. Additionally, if applicable, the county's executive director and certain staff persons with the requisite experience (i.e. county surveyor) as required by the statute as members. For some RBCs, a cooperative agreement can be created by an RBC and another entity to carry out statute specified duties.

Process and criteria for creation

Created by act of State Legislature

Funding

- Grants
 - County appropriations
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Oversight and enforcement

Plans must be submitted to DNR for approval.

Indiana Conservancy District

Overview	<p>An Indiana Conservancy District (ICD) - as established under the Indiana Conservancy Act (IC 14-33) - provides a method for landowners, or a municipality, to create a special taxing district to solve issues related to water resources management.</p>
Goals of entity	<p>A conservancy district can be established to solve a variety of local water resources management issues, however those which are most relevant to the White River Vision Plan include its abilities to aid in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flood prevention and control.• Developing forests, wildlife areas, parks, and recreational facilities related to water management.• Operation, maintenance, and improvement for any of the purposes that an Indiana Conservancy District was established for.
Organizational and operational structure	<p>The Board of Directors serves as the primary decision-making body for the ICD, and must either be a landowner or a nominee of a corporate landowner. Three non-voting advisory members of the Board serve to provide expertise. The Board does the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creates a district plan, which provides a detailed analysis of the current physical state of the district, the problems it faces, and the improvements that are necessary.• Handles operations of the district including financial actions such as levying taxes, issuing bonds, and incurring debt.• Hire employees to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the board.
Process and criteria for creation	<p>To create an ICD a petition must be filed in the circuit court where the majority of the district is located. A municipality can file a petition to initiate an ordinance which is then adopted by the legislative body. Alternatively, a petition can be filed by landowners provided they meet the required number of signatures, and that they own at least 51% of the assessed value of property.</p> <p>The petition includes information such as the name, boundaries, and purpose of the proposed district, but must also provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A statement of the necessity of accomplishing each purpose.• A statement that the creation of the district will be conducive to public health, safety, or welfare.• A statement that the costs and damages of and to be paid solely by the district will probably be less than the benefits received in the district. <p>The Indiana Natural Resources Commission provides technical review and recommendations to the court, and creates a report on whether the proposed district meets the necessary conditions. The circuit court will ultimately make a ruling, either ordering the district to be established or dismissing the petition.</p>
Funding	<p>The ICD creates a taxing district which levies a special benefits tax rate. The tax rate cannot exceed more than \$.0667 for every \$100 of assessed property value.</p> <p>Additional revenue is allowed in the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Donations• Federal or state grants• Revenue from services provided
Oversight and enforcement	<p>Multiple checks on ICDs exist. The Indiana Natural Resources Commission provides technical review and recommendations to the circuit court regarding activities and operations within the district. It also approves the district plan when the district is first created. The circuit court that established the district may also dissolve it if the district is deemed no longer of benefit.</p> <p>Budgets must be approved by the Department of Local Government Finance, and are also subject to periodic audits by the State Board of Accounts.</p>

River Basin Development Commissions

Overview

River Basin Development Commissions (RBDC) are established by the Indiana legislature primarily to address flood control issues under [IC 14-13-2](#). The Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission and the Kankakee River Basin and Yellow River Basin Development Commission were each created independently, and their governance and powers vary slightly.

Goals of entity

RBDCs were created to:

- Plan, construct and manage flood control works
 - In the case of Little Calumet, parks and recreation projects
 - Acquire property, including through eminent domain in the case of Little Calumet.
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Organizational and operational structure

Each is governed by a Commission, the composition of which

- In the case of Little Calumet, it is a 9-member bi-partisan commission appointed by the Governor, which must include one nomination from the DNR, two nominated by larger cities in the basin, two nominated by the Lake County Commissioners, and the remaining four nominated by smaller communities in the district. Members serve four year terms and must have a relevant technical professional background.
 - In the case of Kankakee, the Commission is comprised of the DNR Director plus an appointment from the County executive of each county in the basin, or the County surveyor if they fail to make an appointment. Members serve four year terms and must have a relevant technical professional background. Additional, non-voting advisory members may be appointed from counties located in the basin in Illinois.
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Process and criteria for creation

RBDCs are created by an act of the state legislature at their discretion. No specific criteria need to be met for their creation.

Funding

RBDCs receive their funding via a special assessment on real property within the area of the defined watershed. This special assessment levied varies based on land use (residential vs commercial or industrial), as well as between the different river basin commissions. For example, Little Calumet's special assessment ranges from \$45 for a residential parcel to \$360 for an industrial or utility parcel, and for Kankakee it ranges from \$7 for a residential parcel to \$360 for an industrial/utility parcel. In the case of Kankakee, the County may opt instead to replace the assessment with a direct appropriation.

In addition to these special assessments, bonds can also be issued by RBDCs.

Oversight and enforcement

Annual reports for RBDCs are required and available for review. Additionally, RBDCs are audited by the State Board of Accounts.

Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Overview	The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission – as established under IC 14-13-6 – was created to recognize, promote, and protect the cultural and natural heritage of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor throughout Indiana. Crossing 19 counties it provides a cohesive vision for the corridor, and through the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund provides funding for projects along its stretch.
Goals of entity	To further the goals of the Heritage Corridor the Commission is tasked with exchanging information, establishing common goals, and helping to coordinate efforts of different entities throughout the Corridor. The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Management Plan serves as the master plan for the corridor, providing priorities and a plan of action for the Commission.
Organizational and operational structure	<p>The Commission serves as the primary decision-making body throughout the Corridor. One individual from each county that is part of the Corridor is appointed by the county commissioners to serve as a voting member on the Commission, as well as the director of the Department of Natural Resources or their designee. In addition to the voting members, the directors of various state departments or divisions related to tourism, transportation, and natural resource management serve as non-voting members of the Commission, and provide an advisory capacity.</p> <p>The Commission is endowed with significant powers including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holding public hearings• Entering into contracts and cooperative agreements• Receiving and dispersing state and federal funds
Process and criteria for creation	The creation of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor was largely the result of a significant rise in interest and requests to the Indiana General Assembly for conservation and recreational development along the Wabash River in the late 1980s. In response, the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund bill was passed to provide funding for these projects, and the Commission was established.
Funding	Under IC 14-13-6 the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund was established to fund the Corridor Commission's administrative costs as well as provide funding of projects and materials that further the corridor management plan. As of 2009 the Corridor Fund has a dedicated money source – royalties from oil collected beneath the property of landowners along the Wabash River are collected in the fund before being distributed in the form of project grants to other entities.
Oversight and enforcement	Applications for grants from the Corridor Fund are received by the Department of Natural Resources which works closely with the Commission to select projects to receive funding for projects.

White River State Park Development Commission

Overview

The White River State Park Development Commission operates White River State Park, which is independent of the Indiana DNR State Park system. It is authorized to do projects within one mile of the banks of the White River in Marion County, although it has always focused on the actual White River State Park in downtown.

Goals of entity

- Design and build parks, recreational facilities, exposition facilities, zoos and aquariums, and meeting facilities.
 - Acquire property, including through the use of eminent domain
 - Enter into leases or license agreements for use of its facilities
 - Grant funds or property to local agencies for related purposes
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Organizational and operational structure

The Commission is comprised of 10 voting members, including the Park Director, the Mayor of Indianapolis, the President of Indiana University, and seven members appointed by the governor. Members serve four-year terms and have bi-partisan requirements. The Governor also appoints 4 members of the legislature based on nominations from the Senate President and Speaker of the House to serve as non-voting members. The Governor appoints the Park Director and names the Commission Chairperson and Treasurer.

Process and criteria for creation

Created by act of State Legislature IC 14-13-1

Funding

- User fees
 - Grants
 - State appropriations
 - Issue bonds
 - May establish a nonprofit subsidiary White River State Park Foundation to solicit private donations.
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Oversight and enforcement

- Audit by the State Board of Accounts, including the Foundation if established.
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Ohio Metropolitan Park District

Overview	Ohio law provides for the creation of “metropolitan parks”, park districts that are separate from (and often in-addition to) county or municipal park departments for the conservation of natural resources and provision of recreational amenities. They are independent public corporations, separate from municipalities or the state.
Goals of entity	Metropolitan parks are large in scale, designed with the intent of conserving open spaces and their natural resources for the enjoyment of the public. To that end metropolitan parks can: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquire land• Build parks and assume control of parks built by others• Contract with an outside entity to operate a natural history museum
Organizational and operational structure	The Board of Park Commissioners serves as the primary decision-making body for the District. Three commissioners are appointed by the county probate judge (an elected position) to serve staggered three-year terms. The Board may decide to add two additional judge appointments. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop park rules and enforce through their own or contracted police services• Hire employees
Process and criteria for creation	A petition defining the proposed district boundaries is filed with the county probate judge by either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Majority of registered and active voters within the proposed district• By resolution of county commissioners, township trustees, or municipal legislative body. After a public hearing, the judge approves or denies the creation, and may shrink or alter district boundaries. Annexations are permitted by at least half of property owners in the annexed area approving, the Board approving, and the approval of the probate judge in the county containing the annexed area.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Property tax levy of up to \$0.50 per 1,000 of assessed valuation. An additional levy may be approved by public referendum.• Assessment of benefits to benefiting properties that does not exceed 50% of the cost of park improvements. This assessment can be increased with approval of at least 60% of property owners benefiting from improvements.• Issuance of bonds• Collection of fines for rule violations
Oversight and enforcement	A petition to dissolve the district must be signed by at least 25% of registered and active voters within the district, and then must be approved by a majority of voters at the next primary or general election. If the dissolution fails, there is a four-year waiting period before another may be filed. If dissolved, the properties are offered first to the State Department of Natural Resources, then to other state departments or local unit of government for use as parks or other public purposes, and then to the county commissioners for disposal to any use.

Ohio Conservancy Districts

Overview	Ohio law provides for the creation of regional water management districts called conservancy districts with wide-ranging powers. Water management may include flood control, water supply, irrigation, or wastewater treatment and disposal. More recently the provision of recreational services has been added.
Goals of entity	<p>The Ohio Conservancy District primary goals are to build and maintain the infrastructure necessary to aid in water management, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building dams, levees and bridges• Operating irrigation networks• Acquire property in or outside of the district, including through eminent domain and annexation• Maintain and build water and wastewater treatment systems• Build and operate parks and recreational facilities• Monitoring water quantity and quality• Establish rules for the use of its services and lands and enforce them through district police forces.
Organizational and operational structure	<p>The Board of Directors contains three people appointed by the court, at least two of which reside in the counties with territory in the district, with staggered five-year terms. If the district contains all or parts of more than 16 counties, the board contains 5 people, with at least 3 residing in the affected counties.</p> <p>The Board of Appraisers contains three people appointed by the court after recommendation of the Board of Directors. These appointees must reside in Ohio but cannot own land within the district. The appraisers assess fees based on the benefits or damages caused by District plans/projects to all property within the district.</p>
Process and criteria for creation	<p>A petition defining the proposed district boundaries is filed with the court of common pleas in one of the counties containing territory in the proposed district. The territory does not need to be contiguous, and cannot be located wholly within a single municipal corporation. This petition may be made by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 500 residents or a majority of residents in district• Owners of more than half of property (in size or value) in district• Governing body of any governmental entity with taxing authority <p>A judge from each county with territory in the proposed district presides over a joint public hearing regarding the petition, after which they vote to approve or deny its creation.</p> <p>If water or wastewater projects are occurring adjacent to the District, a judge may, by petition of whoever is building the project or by the District Board of Directors, annex the territory served by such projects into the District.</p>
Funding	<p>Much of the funding for the Ohio Conservancy Districts is provided by fees for the services the district provides, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special assessments/fees for projects in proportion to benefits appraised• Annual maintenance assessments• Recreational use fees• Service fees for water supply or wastewater services
Oversight and enforcement	<p>All meetings, contracts, and proceedings are open for public review.</p> <p>When addressing water supply or sewage disposal, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency must approve plans and projects.</p> <p>An annual report is required, and all accounts and reports are audited by the State auditor.</p>

Central Indiana Regional Development Authority

Overview	<p>In the 2020 legislative session, creation of a new Central Indiana Regional Development Authority was enabled that is different from (and intended to replace, although not automatically) an entity of the same name that the region created as part of the Regional Cities funding competition. The RDA is intended to facilitate and undertake regional planning efforts as well as implementation of programs and projects of regional significance.</p>
Goal of entity	<p>The RDA's goal of undertaking regional planning efforts of "regional significance" is broad in definition and scope, encapsulating a variety of large-scale infrastructure and economic development projects. From funding and developing airport authority projects to constructing roads, bridges, and trails the RDA has significant discretion in project development. Additionally, they are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquire, own, build, or finance projects for the benefit of member jurisdictions• Make grants to members
Organizational and operational structure	<p>A Strategy Committee is the governing body of an RDA, and is empowered to make decisions. State statute does not define membership, instead leaving that to the Preliminary Development Plan that members agree to.</p> <p>Staffing and daily management is provided by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The MPO is a federally-mandated entity that distributes federal transportation funds in larger regions. Until this year, the City of Indianapolis served as the host agency for the MPO, although it is governed by a Policy Board, made up of a representative of each member, with each member having a single vote. In the same legislation as this RDA legislation, the MPO was codified as an independent agency.</p>
Process and criteria for creation	<p>Two or more fiscal bodies, within the Census-defined Indianapolis MSA, of the following must adopt substantially similar resolutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adjacent counties• County/Counties and adjacent municipalities• Municipalities in adjacent counties <p>Marion County is forced to join if has not elected to do so if more than 60% of eligible political subdivisions become members. Upon formation, or in the event other jurisdictions join or leave, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation must be notified.</p> <p>A preliminary, and ultimately a final, comprehensive strategic economic development plan must be created that focuses on diversifying the regional economy, establishing regional goals, identifying ways to eliminate duplicative government services, and identifies investment priorities with specific projects/programs and funding sources. The plan must also satisfy the needs of a federal Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The topics this plan may cover is quite broad, covering health care, affordable housing, education, recreation, and branding.</p>
Funding	<p>Initial versions of this legislation allowed individual members to impose new income or food and beverage taxes of up to 1%. Currently however, a Regional Strategy Fund is established by the Strategy Committee. This fund consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Membership payments required by agreement (note that if Marion County is forced to join, it is exempted from being compelled to pay membership dues).• Grants from the federal government• Gifts, contributions, donations, and private grants• Money transferred under an interlocal agreement
Oversight and enforcement	<p>RDAs must comply with state public purchasing and public works bidding requirements. Additionally, annual audits or subject to review by the State Board of Accounts, and an annual report of the operations and activities of the Authority is required.</p>

Boston Harbor Islands Partnership

Overview	The Boston Harbor Islands Partnership - established under United States Code (16 USC 460) – joins together eleven different members to manage and provide support for the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park. Collectively these federal, state, city, and nonprofit agencies provide oversight, fundraising, programming, and planning to the 34 islands that comprise it.
Goals of Entity	The Boston Harbor Islands system was created to provide for public use, recreation, education, and access throughout the region. The Boston Harbor Islands Partnership helps coordinate the different agencies involved in the Boston Harbor Islands to achieve this goal, and follows the General Management Plan. The General Management Plan is a high-level policy document providing a mission, goals, and management direction for the Partnership.
Organizational and Operational Structure	Each year the Partnership elects one of its members as Chairperson and one as Vice Chairperson to preside over meetings and appoint committees. The six standing committees help define specific strategies and programs to reach the mission and goals laid out in the General Management Plan. The committees then make recommendations to the Partnership which are voted on. In addition to the members of the Partnership and the committees, the Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council exists to provide public input to the Partnership and help guide in their decisions.
Process and criteria for creation	The Boston Harbor Islands were designated as a unit of the national parks system. Proposals for new national park units must meet criteria such as being a “nationally significant” resource, and may come from officials at any level of government, as well as members of Congress, the National Park Service, or Native American tribes. Proposals that meet the criteria can be designated by an act of Congress.
Funding	In addition to the federal funds which are available to it as a unit of the national parks system, the various members of the Partnership can use other funds to finance projects and programming within the Boston Harbor Islands. Grants, donations, and fees for programming are additional sources of revenue for individual members of the Partnership.
Oversight and enforcement	Upon its creation, the General Management Plan was drafted and submitted to the Governor of Massachusetts for review. After considering any recommendations the Governor had the Partnership then submitted the plan to the Secretary of the Interior for review who then approved it. Currently, as a unit of the national parks system, the Boston Harbor Islands is administered by the Secretary of the Interior, the state of Massachusetts, and the City of Boston in partnership. It also remains subject to regulations and management by the National Park Service.
