

Section A

Master Plan – Credits & Study Team

**Mooreville Park Board**

Lynn Adams  
Rhonda Clair  
Kelli McGuire  
David Pearson  
John Root  
Matt Swindle  
Vacancy

**Mooreville Park Administrative Staff**

Brent Callahan	Superintendent
Kris Wilson	Director of Recreation
Melissa Bade	Office Manager
John Karst	Maintenance Manager
Morgan Wilkins	Maintenance Coordinator

**Town of Mooreville**

**Town Council**

George Watkins	President
Mark Mathis	Vice President
Jeff Cook	Member
Tony Langley	Member
Virginia Perry	Member
Sandra Perry	Clerk/Treasurer
Tim Currens	Attorney

**Mooreville Insurance Board**

Mark Harris  
Sandy Perry  
Debbie Monts  
Jeff Cook

**Planning Commission**

Mike Young	Chairman
James Logan	Vice Chairman
Brian Anderson	Member
Charles Berwick	Member
Darrell Brown	Member
Perry King	Member
Ann Whaley	Member
Robert Williamson	Member

**Board of Zoning Appeals**

Jon Swisher	Chairman
Robert Williamson	Vice Chairman
Neal Allman	Secretary
Alan Kramer	Member
Mike Young	Member

### **Board of School Trustees**

Dr. Bill Roberson	President
Matt Swindle	Vice President
Perry King	Secretary
Ron Wright	Member
Randy Davis	Member
Brad Lindsay	School Superintendent
Jim Diagostino	Chief of Finance and Operations
Scott Kern	Chief Learning Officer

### **Master Planning Study Team**

## **Section F Facilities and Equipment Progress Evaluation**

### Accomplishments and Changes 2004

- Due to limited resources and continued growth in population, the district teamed up with other government agencies to plan for the development of a comprehensive trails and greenways network in the region.
- The 2004 budget was reduced \$100,720 from the 2003 budget.
- Landscaping & flowers at the south end of pool parking lot.
- Flowers placed around sign posts and front entrance.
- Prepared ground for construction of walking trail to be paved in 2005.
- Started Pioneer Adventure Camp, a full day summer camp.
- Started youth sports camps in basketball, t-ball, soccer, golf, and gymnastics.
- Submitted and received \$100, 000.00 grant for construction of an accessible playground in Pioneer Park.
- Mooresville Optimist Club donated and installed two new marquee signs at main entrance to Pioneer Park.
- Purchased a new dump truck to replace the old dump truck with a broken frame.
- Fixed training pool leak at the Aquatic Center.
- Planted Cherry Trees along Old State Road 67.
- Expanded partnership with the Mooresville Consolidated School Corporation to include sports camps and Pioneer Adventure Camp field trips.
- Rerouted drainage in Pioneer Park at the splits in the road, both North and South ends.
- Eagle Scouts constructed and installed 10 new park benches along the trail.

### Accomplishments and Changes 2005

- Indiana Park & Recreation Association awarded the Outstanding Park Development Award for 2005 to Mooresville for the Pirates Cove handicapped accessible playground. The Kendrick Foundation contributed \$100,000 toward the cost of the fitness oriented playground and fitness trail. No property tax money was used in the development and many local groups and individuals helped to make up the \$60,000 additional needed to complete this outstanding asset for the community.

- Paved 1 mile walking trail in Pioneer Park.
- Continued networking with adjoining departments and the Indianapolis Airport for a continuous trail and greenway system that would connect the Mooresville area with its neighbors.
- Painted pool concession stand in tropical theme
- Painted restrooms and planted flowers, which were donated
- Expanded sports camps and summer camp activities.
- Acquired new computer equipment and services.

### **Accomplishments and Changes 2006**

- Hired New Director of Recreation
- Purchased 21 acres adjacent to Pioneer Park. The Park now encompasses 136 acres.
- Pioneer Adventure Camp has maxed out after its third year of operation setting new participation and revenue records.
- New playground equipment installed at Rooker Park.
- Refurbished bathhouse walls.
- Tiled new soccer fields.
- Refurbished playground equipment in Pioneer Park.
- Renovated bathrooms at Old Town Park.
- Park received outstanding Park Development Award from Indiana Park & Recreation Association for Pirates Cove Playground developed without property tax money.

### **Accomplishments and Changes 2007**

- Installed new stainless steel pool lockers
- Purchased new mower, ATV, truck, liftgate
- Replaced fiberglass & steel supports on waterslide
- Accepted ownership of ice machines donated by Coke Company for Aquatic Center
- Received \$74,000 grant for trails from Kendrick Foundation

### **Accomplishments and Changes 2008**

- Purchased new aquatic center umbrella covers, playground cover and new fence
- Acquired a used fork lift
- Installed new full-size outdoor basketball court
- Stained and sealed all picnic tables
- Purchased fryers and refrigerators for concessions
- Privacy fence installed at maintenance storage yard
- Repaved park road
- Added 1-mile paved walking trail
- Upgraded chemical storage areas
- Purchased new maintenance truck
- Security system upgrade for Aquatic Center
- Purchased new lights for the Community Christmas Tree

### **Accomplishments and Changes 2009**

- Purchased new registration software program
- Acquired touch-screen monitors and purchased new computer hardware

- Purchased new ice machine for front concession stand
- Installed new acid tank for main pool
- Replaced drains for all pools
- Installed new stainless handrails for pool drop slide
- Installed memorial benches along trails
- Hired full-time Maintenance Coordinator

### **Accomplishments and Changes 2010**

- Replaced Training Pool Water heater
- Replaced trash cans at Aquatic Center and Pioneer Park
- Replaced Aquatic Center Lifejackets
- Re strapped 100 deck chairs
- Seal coated trail surfaces
- Replaced and repaired pool deck concrete
- Replaced and upgraded Old Town Park Shelter House and Rest Room Electrical Line
- Installed new playground at North Park
- Installed new playground at Pioneer Park
- Purchased new port-a-johns
- Expanded rest rooms at front of Pioneer Park
- Remodeled Aquatic Center concession stand

### **Accomplishments and Changes 2011**

- Purchased Replacement Bucket Truck
- Purchased Replacement Backhoe
- Purchased Replacement Pickup Truck
- Purchased Replacement of 2 computers
- Received Joint Grant with Fire Department from Kendrick Foundation for New Automatic External Defibrillator
- Received Donation of 8 Memorial Benches for Trails at Pioneer Park
- Re-strapped 100 deck chairs at pool
- Repaired Pool Defuser Box
- Old Town Park Restrooms repainted
- Removed Approximately 15 acres of Invasive Species growth in wooded areas of Pioneer Park
- Replaced washed out section of walking trail in Pioneer Park.

### **Accomplishments and Changes 2012**

- Heated soccer field restrooms, now open year-round
- Installed Ultraviolet light disinfection system for Splash Pad at Aquatic Center
- Installed handicap accessible stairs at Aquatic Center (second accessibility method to Main Pool)
- Installed filter supports for the two sand filters at the Aquatic Center
- Re-gel-coated waterslide
- Re-welded stair tower handrail
- Staff certifications for Park and Recreation Professional, Certified Pool Operator, Safe Food Handler, Playground Safety Inspector
- Installed 3 Wi-Fi hotspots in Pioneer Park
- Acquired second maintenance truck
- Started REC&U Before and After School program at 2 elementary schools
- Purchased and replaced safety surface and two new playgrounds and swing sets

- Purchased three new computers and installed wireless internet for the office
- Purchased new awning for Park Office
- Rebuilt main pump for Aquatic Center
- Repaired pour-in-place tiles at the main playground
- Received donation of 7 park benches for Pioneer Park

## **Section G – Agency Profile**

### **History of the Mooresville Park & Recreation District**

The following is a brief history of the Park & Recreation development and history in Mooresville. This information was taken from old files and records.

#### *Old Town Park*

The first 3.3 acres of land for Old Town Park was donated by Samuel Moore to the Town of Mooresville on November 26, 1877. In 1916 the Town of Mooresville purchased an adjacent lot to the park for \$400 from John and Alva Roberts. For \$1,000, an additional 2.6 acres were purchased from Chester and Emma Lawrence in 1922. The next purchase was not made until 1980, when 1.92 acres were purchased from Frank and Mildred Justin. In 1989, the last purchase was made when .17 acre was purchased from Virginia Spoon. On September 28, 2000 2.6 acres was given the town for the Street Department Building. Total now is approximately 5.4 acres. Old Town Park is currently bounded by East South Street, Park Drive, State Road 67 and High Street, with East Fork White Lick Creek running through the property.

#### *North Park*

North Park, 5.86 acres located in the Highland Meadows subdivision, is divided by Goose Creek and bordered by residences on Greenwood Drive and Parkway Drive. This property was donated by Robert Dunn in 1965.

#### *Pioneer Park*

In 1971 the Mooresville Park & Recreation district purchased 104.12 acres from Milford and Eleanor Carlisle for \$1,500 per acre, using federal funds and bond issues. Originally called Carlisle Park, the name was changed to Pioneer Park in 1975. In 1994 6.636 acres was purchased from Robert & Sherry Stewart. In 1998 4.38 acres was purchased from Cyndi Loudermilk James. In 2006 21.04 acres was purchased from Cyndi Loudermilk James. Total of Pioneer Park is now 136.18 acres. It is located on Indianapolis Road and Old State Road 67 and also has Baby East Fork White Lick Creek and Shilon Creek running through the property.

#### *Hadley Memorial*

Hadley Memorial was purchased by the Town of Mooresville in 1989 from Citizens Bank. It is a 1,200 square foot section of land located in the downtown business district.

#### *Rooker Run Park*

The land for Rooker Run Park was donated to the park district by the developer in 1995. It consists of 18.7 acres less 4 acres of retention basins. It is a low-laying open area on the East Fork White Lick Creek with a raised area at the entrance of the park.

### **History of the Park Board**

The Park Advisory Board was established in May 1922 and the park fund in August of that same year. The first superintendent, J.A. Richardson, was hired in 1928. He was followed by several other superintendents until the position was terminated in 1981 due to a lack of funding.

Committees were appointed by the Town Council for one-year terms from 1940 until 1963, when the Park Board was established by Ordinance #4-1963. Overcoming years of obstacles the Park Board was finally able to hire a full-time Superintendent in 1987. That same year an ordinance was passed to establish the Department of Park and Recreation into a district including Brown Township.

Since then, the Park District has overseen the construction of a shelter house, restrooms, an outdoor swimming pool and bathhouse in Pioneer Park, the addition of full-time Office Manager, the coordination of 70-90 part-time seasonal workers, the hiring of a full-time Director of Recreation and Maintenance Supervisor.

Among the successful events and activities to be developed are: bike races, the Halloween Hike, Arbor Day, Civil War Days, all-day day camps, preschool camps, swimming lessons, water aerobics, etc.

To date, four full-time staff, ninety part-time/seasonal staff and several helpful volunteers administer the various programs and activities, which help make the Mooresville Park & Recreation District one of the finest in Indiana.

The Mooresville Park & Recreation District Board is appointed as follows:

- A. Two (2) Republican appointments for a four (4) year term.
- B. Two (2) Democratic appointments for a four (4) year term.
- C. One (1) by the Library Board for a term of one (1) year.
- D. One (1) by the School Board for a term of one (1) year.
- E. One (1) by the Judge, Morgan Circuit Court for Brown Township for a term of four (4) years.

The terms are staggered so that a member leaves the Board each year and one member appointed. The current Board is made up of the following members with their term of office expiration dates.

Vacancy (A) Jan 1, 2013

Matt Swindle (D) Jan 1, 2012  
38 W. Washington  
Mooresville, IN 46158

Lynn Adams (C) Jan 1, 2013

Rhonda Clair (B) Jan 1, 2014  
Member  
45 St. Clair St  
Mooresville, IN 46158

Kelli McGuire (E) Jan 1, 2014  
Member  
49 Hadley Woodland  
Mooresville, IN 46158

David Pearson (A) Jan 1, 2015  
Member  
631 Maple Lane  
Mooresville, IN 46158

John Root (B) Jan 1, 2012  
Member  
357 Bridge St  
Mooresville, IN 46158

**Committees**

Pool Committee

Personnel Committee

Program Committee

Kelli McGuire

Rhonda Clair

Budget Committee

Policy Committee

The Park Board meets regularly on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Mooresville Park District Office. At this time, the Board approves claims and payment of bills, makes policy and operational decisions, approves requests for use of park facilities, approves new purchases (equipment, structures, etc.) and receives an update on departmental activity. The meetings are open to the public.

**The Park Law**

The Mooresville Park Board, by ordinance, operates under the First Class City Park Law. The Town's **Ordinance (#4-1987)** can be found in the Appendix Section and was for the Establishment of a Department of Park and Recreation for the Town. The State statute (36-10-3) establishes the executive department of public parks in First Class cities/towns and provides that the Board of Park & Recreation shall have exclusive government, management, and control of all park and recreation areas within the City/Town subject only to the laws of the State.

The duties of the Board are outlined under Section 10 and are as follows:

(a) The Board Shall:

- (1) exercise general supervision of and make rules for the department;
- (2) establish rules governing the use of the park and recreation facilities by the public;
- (3) provide police protection for its property and activities, either by requesting assistance from state, municipal, or county police authorities, or by having specified employees deputized as police officer; the deputized employees, however, are not eligible for police pension benefits or other emoluments of police officers;
- (4) appoint the necessary administrative officers of the department and fix their duties;
- (5) establish standards and qualifications for the appointment of all personnel and approve their appointments without regard to politics;
- (6) make recommendations and an annual report to the executive and fiscal body of the unit concerning the operation of the board and the status of the park and recreation programs in the district;
- (7) prepare and submit an annual budget in the same manner as other executive departments of the unit; and
- (8) appoint a member of the board to serve on another kind of board or commission, whenever a statute allows a park or recreation board to do this.

- (b) In a municipality, the board shall fix the compensation of officers and personnel appointed under subsections (a) (4) and (a) (5), subject to IC 36-4-7-5 and IC 36-4-7-6.

Also under Section 11 the powers of the Board are outlined as follows:

(a) The Board may:

- (1) enter into contracts and leases for facilities and services;
- (2) contract with persons for joint use of facilities for the operation of park and recreation programs and related services;
- (3) contract with another board, a unit, or a school corporation for the use of park and recreation facilities or services, and a township or school corporation may contract with the board for the use of park and recreation facilities or services;
- (4) acquire and dispose of real and personal property, either within or outside Indiana;
- (5) exercise the power of eminent domain under statutes available to municipalities;



- (6) sell, lease, or enter into a royalty contract for the natural or mineral resources of land that it owns, the money received to be deposited in a non-reverting capital fund of the board;
  - (7) engage in self-supporting activities as prescribed by section 22 of this chapter;
  - (8) contract for special and temporary services and professional assistance;
  - (9) delegate authority to perform ministerial acts in all cases except where final action of the board is necessary;
  - (10) prepare, publish, and distribute reports and other materials relating to activities authorized by this chapter;
  - (11) sue and be sued collectively by its legal name, as the Mooresville Park & Recreation Board, with the service of process being had upon the president of the board, but costs may not be taxed against the board or its members in any action;
  - (12) invoke any legal, equitable, or special remedy for the enforcement of this chapter, a park or recreation ordinance, or the board's own action taken under either; and
  - (13) release and transfer, by resolution, a part of the area over which it has jurisdiction for park and recreational purposes to park authorities of another unit for park and recreational purposes upon petition of the park and recreation board of the acquiring unit.
- (b) The board may also lease any buildings or grounds belonging to the unit and located within a park to a person for a period not to exceed twenty-five (25) years. The lease may authorize the lessee to provide upon the premises educational, research, veterinary, or other proper facilities for the exhibition of wild or domestic animals in wildlife parks, dining facilities, a bathhouse, skating facilities, dancing facilities, or amusement rides generally found in amusement parks. A lease may be made for more than one (1) year only to the highest and best bidder, after notice that the lease will be made has been given by publication in accordance with IC 5-3-1.

**Mission Statement**

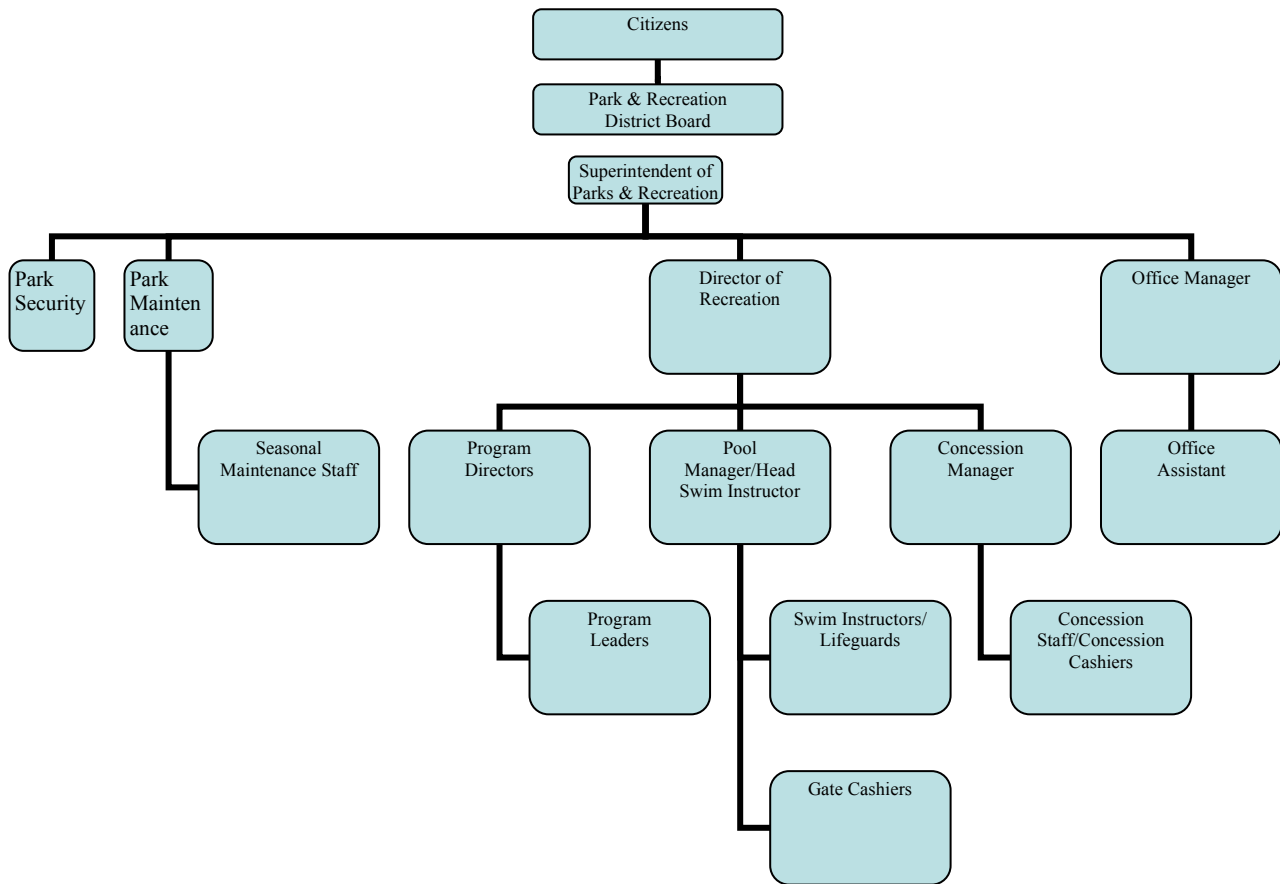
The Mooresville Park & Recreation District shall provide and maintain a small town character through quality parks, facilities, open/natural space, programs, and services which will enhance the physical, social, and emotional well being of all the citizens of Mooresville and Brown Township in Indiana.

**5. Departmental Staff**

The following is a listing of the current full-time staff of the Mooresville Park & Recreation District:

Brent Callahan	Superintendent of Park & Recreation
Kris Wilson	Director of Recreation
Melissa Rose	Office Manager
John Karst	Maintenance Supervisor
Morgan Wilkins	Maintenance Coordinator

## Existing Structure of the Organization



### List of issues or concerns regarding the existing structure

Add Maintenance Coordinator Position

Park Security should be at same level as seasonal staff

Program Leaders, Swim Instructors, Concession Staff, Gate Cashier and Office Assistant should all be at same level

Advisory line to Town Council?

## Departmental Divisions

### Administrative Division

With one full-time Superintendent of Park & Recreation, the Administrative Division works toward communication with Department Staff, Board of Directors, Town Board, Town Departments and Media. The Superintendent concentrates on Budget, Personnel Management, Supervision, Program and Park Planning, Grant Planning, and Community Relations.

With one full-time Administrative Assistant the Administrative Division is assisted with processing Department business. The Administrative Assistant greets visitors, answers questions, answers phone

inquires, processes claims, handles bookkeeping, and basically shares Department communications to all interested sources.

### Recreation & Aquatics Division

The focus of the Recreation & Aquatics Division is to provide quality, positive recreation opportunities which enhance the well being of the diverse citizenry of Mooresville.

The Director of Recreation is responsible for youth and adult fitness, education, and sports, REC&U Before and After School program, Pioneer Adventure Camp and the coordination of department marketing procedures. In addition, this position is responsible for the overall operation of the Aquatic Center.

### Maintenance Division

The make up of the Maintenance Division includes two full time staff supervisor and part-time staff. The Park Maintenance Division develops and maintains parks and park facilities along with turf maintenance, tree maintenance, structure maintenance, landscape maintenance, and litter control.

## **Agency Policies and Objectives**

### Statement of Purpose

A statement of policies and objectives helps define the role and responsibility of the Park & Recreation District within town government and to the community. These written policies and objectives help guide decision making by the Board and staff in order to meet the challenges of providing sufficient open space and facilities to meet the recreation needs and interests of all Mooresville residents thereby enhancing the physical and social character of the community.

## **Department Goal Statements**

- Promote community involvement in the planning and operation of all facets of the Park & Recreation District operations.
- To allow for orderly growth and development of physical and natural resources.
- To incorporate within the department and its programs new technologies and processes that will make activities and services more cost effective.
- To develop systems of information and guidance to provide for a more effective delivery of activities and services.
- To more effectively coordinate park and recreation services with other area services to improve the community's total services.
- To offer comprehensive, quality recreational programming aimed at satisfying the needs of varying age levels, physical abilities and special interests.
- To maintain and improve the appearance of parks and existing facilities throughout Mooresville at a high standard of quality on a systematic/scheduled basis.
- To utilize the natural characteristics of the land, when evaluating its potential for parks and recreational purposes.
- To periodically assess and evaluate the recreational needs of the citizens of Mooresville and Brown Township.
- To make park and recreation participation as simple and convenient as possible to clientele and treat patrons like valued customers.

- Provide efficient and effective administrative direction, coordination and leadership for quality leisure services throughout Mooresville and Brown Township and the surrounding communities.
- To effectively communicate programs to prospective patrons through sound marketing practices.

### **Relationship with School Corporation and Other Agencies**

Currently, the Mooresville Park & Recreation Board utilizes the law allowing a school board appointed member to serve on the Park and Recreation Board. The Park and Recreation district also has a cooperative agreement with the Mooresville Consolidated School Corporation for the use of their facilities and for participation in Pioneer Adventure Camp field trips. This partnership between the two entities needs to be continually nurtured to maximize mutual benefits in the areas of programming and facilities.

Various other facilities are currently utilized for park programming. These facilities include the School Corporation, the Mooresville Public Library, and the Mooresville Government Center.

There has been much collaboration for programming with area groups and organizations. The Park District continues to look for partnerships in presenting programs and improving services.

- Mooresville Consolidated School Corporation
- Mooresville Public Library
- Meadow Lakes
- Healthier Morgan County Initiative
- Youth Organizations (Football, Baseball, Softball)
- Lions Club
- Tri Kappa

### **Town's Fiscal Resources**

The Mooresville Park Board's main source of Departmental Funding comes from property tax levy and the issue of bonds for capital projects.

Traditionally, the Park Board has used the Park Fund to finance the administration, programming, supplies, maintenance and day to day operational expenses. The Town's Tax areas include: food & beverage, property taxes, certified shares, tax incremental financing, motor vehicle highway, cigarette tax, excise tax, alcoholic beverage tax, and bank building and loan tax. The monetary source of the Park Fund is property tax, and department revenue.

In 2008, the Total Assessed Value of the Town of Mooresville was \$591,692,763. The Park District's 2% of the total assessed value, therefore is \$11,833,855.

The issues of Bonds have been for the capital improvements and/or development of parks and their facilities. There are currently no Municipal Park Bonds.

### ***Expansion***

The Park Board is currently looking into the potential of expanding the District to include Madison and Harrison Townships in addition to Brown Township (which includes the Town of Mooresville). This District expansion would parallel the boundaries of the Mooresville School Corporation.

### **Departmental Budget Analysis**

(Excel spreadsheet)

## *Section H: Community Description*

### **Government & Services**

#### *FIVE-MEMBER TOWN COUNCIL*

George Watkins	President
Mark Mathis	Vice President
Jeff Cook	
Tony Langley	
Virginia Perry	
Sandra Perry	Clerk Treasurer
Tim Currens	Attorney

#### *LAW ENFORCEMENT*

Tim Viles, Chief of Police  
Police Department

Police Officers	20
Police Cars	22
K-9 Units	1
Emergency Dispatchers (FT)	4
Emergency Dispatchers (PT)	6

#### *FIRE PROTECTION – Town of Mooresville*

Tim Medsker, Chief  
Mooresville Fire Department  
415 SR 144  
Mooresville, IN 46158

Full-time Firefighters	12
Part-time Firefighters	22
Fire Station	1
Fire Trucks	3
100-ft. Ladder Truck	1
Support Vehicle Rescue Squads	5

#### *FIRE PROTECTION – Brown Township*

Brian Stanley, Chief  
471 Samuel Moore Pkwy  
Mooresville, IN 46158

Full-time Firefighters	13
Part-time Firefighters	10
Fire Stations	2
Fire Trucks	4
Support Vehicle Rescue Squads	1
Ambulances	3
Paramedics (FT)	4
Paramedics/Firefighters (PT)	10

#### *Fire Insurance Rating*

Class 5

#### *Public Works Department*

*Dave Moore, Superintendent*

PLANNING COMMISSION

Mike Young	Chairman
Ann Whaley	Vice Chairman
Darrell Brown	Secretary
Brian Anderson	Member
Charles Berwiek	Member
Jeff Dieterlen	Member
Perry King	Member
Beverly Viles	Member
Tim Currens	Attorney

ZONING COMMISSION

Jon Swisher	Chairman
Robert Williamson	Vice Chairman
Neal Allman	Secretary
Alan Kramer	Member
Mike Young	Member
Tim Currens	Attorney

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD (7 members)

Matt Swindle	President
Kelli McGuire	Vice President
Rhonda Clair	Secretary
Lynn Adams	Member
David Pearson	Member
John Root	Member
Vacancy	

Utilities

Natural Gas

- Vectren
- Cinergy

Telephone

- AT&T

Electric

- Indianapolis Power & Light Company
- South Central Indiana REMC/Hoosier Energy
- Cinergy

Water

- Hill Water Company
- Indiana American Water

Sewage

- Mooresville Waste Water Treatment Plant

Waste Disposal

- Ray's Trash Service

5. Major Employers

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>	<i># of Employees</i>
Mooresville Consolidated School Corp		525
St. Francis Hospital		430
TOA		
IMI Concrete		
Wooley Lumber Company		

6. Educational Facilities

A. Elementary and high schools

- i. Public high school – 1
- ii. Public middle school – 1
- iii. Public elementary schools - 5
- iv. Private schools – 1 (Mooresville Christian Academy, K-8)

B. Colleges, universities, technical schools, etc.

- Ivy Tech uses Mooresville High School as a site for classes
- Mid-State Adult Education

7. Medical Facilities

- St. Francis – Mooresville (former Kendrick Center)
- Meadow Lakes – assisted living
- Miller’s Merry Manor – assisted living/nursing home

8. Communications

A. Newspapers

- Mooresville-Decatur Times
- Mooresville Magazine (quarterly magazine)

B. Television Stations

C. Radio Stations

- WCBK (Martinsville)

9. Financial Institutions

- Citizens Bank
- M&I Bank
- First National Bank & Trust
- Home Bank
- Regions Bank
- First Merchants Bank
- First Indiana Bank
- Chase Bank
- Harris Bank

10. Churches

A. Number of churches – 23

B. Religions – Baptist, Methodist, Christian, Catholic, Jehovah Witness, Pentecostal, Quaker

## 11. Cultural Facilities

- Mooresville Library, Mooresville
- July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks Celebration, Mooresville
- Morgan County Library, Monrovia
- Morgan County Library, Martinsville

## 12. Recreational Opportunities within the Local Jurisdiction

### A. Private recreation facilities

- Core Fitness
- Anytime Fitness
- Indiana Martial Arts
- Mooresville Arts Partnership
- Hoosier Hotshots
- X Treme Dance Academy
- American Dance Company

### B. Public Golf Courses

- Eagle Pines Country Club – Mooresville/Brown Township

### C. Private Golf Courses

- Heartland Crossing Golf Club – Camby

### D. Fraternal organizations

- Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 3988
- Masonic Temple
- Mooresville Post VFW No. 111
- Mooresville American Legion

### E. Additional recreational facilities

- Mooresville Natatorium – Mooresville High School

## 13. Regional Public Recreational Opportunities

### A. State/County/Township Parks: Copy Pages H23 – H30

### B. Additional non-jurisdiction recreational opportunities

- Copy Page H31 – H32
- Plainfield Recreation Center
- Splash Island, Plainfield



## Section I: Inventory

### 1. Existing Recreation Facilities (Copy Pages I1 – I2)

- Old Town Park
- North Park
- Pioneer Park
- Hadley Memorial
- Rooker Run

### 2. Existing Recreation Programs – Programs provided by Mooresville Park & Recreation District

#### **Aquatic Center**

- Informal Swim
- Pool Rental
- Family Swim
- Lap Swim
- Swim Lessons
- Water Aerobics
- Lifeguard Certification
- Guard Start
- Sunset Swim
- Family Float
- Itty Bitty Beach Party

#### **Special Events**

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Candy Cane Hunt
- Bike Races (3)
- Halloween Hike
- Hayrides
- Mooresville Fireworks Celebration
- Go Kart Race

#### **General Programming**

- School Age Summer Camp
- Preschool Summer Camp
- Before & After School Program
- Start Smart Preschool Sport Development
- Pumpkin Carving
- Letters from Santa
- Daddy Daughter Date Night
- Mother Son Dance
- 
- Touch a Truck
- Children's Book Swap
- Cornhole Tournaments
- Family Fishing Derby
- Wildlife Trackers
- Bug Off
- Crawdad Dig

#### **Cooperative Programming**

- Arbor Day (Schools)
- Christmas Tree Lighting (Schools)
- Little Tykes Story Time (Library)

## Section M: Action Plan

Inventory of departmental vehicles and replacement year projections.

### Other

1. Newspaper articles published on the master plan process (notices of public meetings, etc.)
2. Previous master plans

3. Department policy manual and job descriptions

4. City street map

5. Recreational programs offered with description and attendance records

6. Quality digital copy of parks logo

7. Brochures, pamphlets, etc. from the Department of Tourism

8. Studies, plans, etc. completed within the last five years

9. Additional information that would supplement the above requests.

**Mooreville Park Master Plan  
Community Input**

**Where do you live?**

- Town of Mooreville and/or Brown Township
- In Morgan County, but outside Mooreville and/or Brown Township
- Outside Morgan County

**Your age group**

- Under 18
- 18-25
- 26-35
- 36-50
- 51-65
- Over 65

**Gender**

- Male
- Female

**Please indicate the number of individuals and ages in your household**

- |              |           |           |            |             |             |     |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----|
|              | 0-3 years | 4-6 years | 7-10 years | 11-14 years | 15-17 years | 18+ |
| One          |           |           |            |             |             |     |
| Two          |           |           |            |             |             |     |
| Three        |           |           |            |             |             |     |
| Four         |           |           |            |             |             |     |
| Five or more |           |           |            |             |             |     |

**How often do you use or visit the Mooreville Parks?**

- 1-5 times/year
- 6-10 times/year
- 11-20 times/year
- 21 or more times/year

**How would you rate the Mooreville Parks in the following areas?**

- |                      |           |      |         |      |      |
|----------------------|-----------|------|---------|------|------|
|                      | Excellent | Good | Average | Fair | Poor |
| Park cleanliness     |           |      |         |      |      |
| Park safety          |           |      |         |      |      |
| Friendly staff       |           |      |         |      |      |
| Walking trails       |           |      |         |      |      |
| Programs             |           |      |         |      |      |
| Events being offered |           |      |         |      |      |

**What should be the top priority the Park Department should focus on completing within the next 5 years - - FACILITIES**

- |                  |                         |                        |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Highest Priority | Second Highest Priority | Third Highest Priority |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|

Purchase land to preserve open space and natural areas?  
Acquire more recreation land?  
Expand the Aquatic Center with a lazy river and more water slides  
Expand bicycle/pedestrian pathways  
Develop additional youth fields  
Utilize school space for community recreational programming  
Develop new Family Recreation Center  
Upgrade or develop additional playgrounds  
Add additional picnic shelters

**What should be the top priority the Park Department should focus on completing within the next 5 years - - PROGRAMS/SERVICES**

Highest Priority	Second Highest Priority	Third Highest Priority
Preschool and children's programs		
Youth/Teen programs		
Adult programs		
Senior programs		
Additional Festivals		
Additional entertainment venue events		
Greater joint programs with Mooresville Schools		
Greater joint programs with Mooresville Library		

**Which of these interpretive or leisure service facilities are important for Mooresville Parks to provide you and our community?**

Family Center (with indoor recreation facilities)  
Trail Connections  
Additional land for recreational activities  
Additional land for natural areas/preservation  
Cultural programming  
Natural programming  
Leisure service programming  
Active recreation/sports programming  
Large rental hall facilities  
Senior Adult programming  
Adult programming  
Teen programming  
Children programming  
Preschool programming  
Bus Trips  
Wi-Fi connection  
Joint activities with school  
Joint activities with library

**Given \$100, how should we spend it? (Divide \$100 between the following according to your priorities. Total of the 7 answers MUST equal \$100)**

Acquire additional land for natural areas and preservation

Acquire additional land for recreation

Expand pool with lazy river and more slides

Add/maintain trail system

Build a Family Recreation Center

Develop existing properties and undeveloped park properties

Enhance or improve existing resources (ie. operations, facilities, staff)

Expand or add programming

Other:

**Which methods should Mooresville Parks use to generate additional revenue to meet the growing need of the community?**

Increase user fees

General Obligation Bond issue

Increase Park Department's Budget

Develop higher revenue producing activities and/or facilities



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- DNR Approval Letter
- Ordinance 91-14
- Resolution 2003-12
- SCORP Sheets of Park Facilities
- ADA Self-Evaluation Checklists for Parks and Recreation Agencies  
(prepared by Chuck Lehman)
- Assurance of Compliance Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Newspaper Articles on the Master Plan Process (3)
- Progress Report (prepared by Lehman & Lehman, Inc., 3/15/06)
- Public Park and Recreation Trends:
  - A Status Report
  - By Ruth V. Russell, Department of Recreation and Park Administration  
Indiana University
  - “High Performance Boards: Luck of the draw or by design?”
  - By J. Thomas Lovell, Jr., CPRP
  - Parks & Recreation, July 2004
  - History of Illinois Park Districts
  - Park District Law, Frequently Asked Questions

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## Section C: Foreword

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### Foreword

Master planning of any project takes time, energies, and a team effort in processing a guideline for future implementation of goals and objectives. In his book *Recreation Planning and Design*, Seymour M. Gold writes about the area of recreation planning as follows:

*“Recreation Planning is a process that relates the leisure time of people to space. It is an art and a science that uses the concepts and methods of many disciplines to provide public and private leisure opportunities. In practice, recreation planning blends the knowledge and techniques of environmental design and the social sciences to develop alternatives for using leisure time, space, energy, and money to accommodate human needs.*

*“Recreation planning deals with the future and develops alternatives for rational decisions by the public and private sector. It should be representative of what people want, imaginative in projecting what might be, and realistic in recognizing what is possible.*

*“The purpose of recreation planning is to meet events we expect to happen, accomplish things we want to happen, and prevent things we do not want to happen.”*

The previous statement represents a sound basis and challenge for meeting the end product of a Recreational Master Plan. Such a master plan should not be static or rigid. Rather, it needs to be dynamic and flexible for issues not anticipated.

While this master plan is a five (5) year plan for the Mooresville Park & Recreation District, it should be used as a tool and a guideline for implementation of the action steps contained herein. The plan should be used throughout the next five years as a basis for decision-making for the Mooresville Park & Recreation District. The plan should be kept up to date and reviewed annually, thus keeping the department in a perpetual state of “the first year of a five-year plan.”

— Charles F. Lehman, ASLA, FRSA  
*President, Lehman & Lehman, Inc.*



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Section D: Resolution

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## Resolution Adopting the Mooresville Parks Master Plan Update 2011-2015

**WHEREAS**, the Mooresville Park & Recreation Board is aware of the parks and recreational needs of the residents of the Town of Mooresville and Brown Township;

**WHEREAS**, the Mooresville Park & Recreation Board is desirous of providing aesthetic and functional parks and recreational facilities and programs to the residents of the Town of Mooresville and Brown Township to meet their needs, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Mooresville Park & Recreation Board realizes the importance of sound planning in order to meet the needs of its citizenry, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Mooresville Park & Recreation Board is continually aware of the value and importance of leisure opportunities and recreational programs and facilities to the future of the Mooresville Park and Recreation District, its programs and services, and to the residents of the Town of Mooresville and Brown Township;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mooresville Park and Recreation Board, by unanimous declaration, does adopt the *Mooresville Park & Recreation Master Plan 2011-2015*, dated April 8, 2011, as its official plan for the growth and development of parks and recreation opportunities in Mooresville, Indiana, over the next five years. The Mooresville Park & Recreation Board is committed to an annual review and update of the goals and objectives of this Master Plan.

Passed and signed the Eighth day of April, Two Thousand Eleven.

### Mooresville Park and Recreation Board:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Swindle, *President*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelli McGuire, *Vice President*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rhonda Clair, *Secretary*

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Pearson, *Member*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Ransome, *Member*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregg Howard, *Member*

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Root, *Member*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Attested:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brent Callahan, *Superintendent*



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## Section E: Executive Summary

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### Introduction to Study's Approach

Lehman & Lehman, Inc. feels that master planning is undertaken in order to achieve clearly defined strategies and objectives, and to provide recommendations for action on identified future needs tied to those objectives. We believe that the continual participation of the public in the planning process is essential. From a user's perspective, personal involvement in the identification of problems, needs, desires, and ultimately decisions, is much healthier than reacting to decisions already made by management.

The planning process needs to be continuous and must be sensitive to changes of conditions, needs, new information and opportunities. This document should not be considered the "final" plan, which can become irrelevant and stagnant. With annual reviews by the Mooreville Park & Recreation Board planning will remain a productive ongoing process facilitating future actions.

The *Mooreville Park & Recreation Master Plan* is intended as a guide for providing parks and recreation in the community. The planning process for this document offered insight into the changing needs, trends and events since the last master plan.

### Master Plan Highlights

Through focus groups, public meetings and work sessions, and a community survey, a master plan directive has been established for the next five years. While this document will call out in detail the individual actions recommended in the near future some of the larger highlights are listed below.

**Strategic Issues** – As a part of this study eight (8) strategic areas related to this five-year master plan have been identified. The Master Planning Task Force and the Consultant will define those strategic areas further within the next several months. Those strategies will be discussed with the Board and will be made a part of this five year master plan update. In addition to the noted Action Items these master plan strategies will provide further guidance for the Mooreville Parks over the next five years and beyond.

**Big Picture Projects** – The City has recently adopted their Greenways / Trails Master Plan. Its defined trail segments will expand the connectivity throughout Mooreville as well as extend connections outside of the city limits. These trails and greenways connect neighborhoods to schools, parks, natural features and other destination points of the community. The Greenways Master Plan calls for a nine (9)-mile loop connecting the downtown, park system, neighborhoods, schools, and the two existing trails (Little Turtle Waterway and River Bluff Trail). Based on the population projections of the City it places Mooreville as





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## Mooreville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

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one of the highest amount of trail miles per population within the state. This is a major promotional tool and one that can result in economic vitality and pride in the community.

Within the last five years the City completed an Aquatics Improvement Feasibility Master Plan. It is suggested that within the next five years that the City pursue the economics and financial strategies for the aquatics implementation and development.

**Communications** – The master planning process found the need for the Parks District to expand its community advisory groups. These advisory groups are a strong way of keeping communication connections within these interest and ethnic groups. In addition the expansion of partners with various community agencies is strongly recommended for efficiencies and effectiveness.

**Additional Studies** – It has been said that the result of planning is more planning. This is true in this planning project as several studies are recommended to occur over the next five years. These range from economic and fiscal ideas and opportunities, to individual park site master plans, to staff consolidation options, to site and facility improvements at various parks and the golf course, to studying consolidation of sports fields in a central location for greater marketing appeal for tournament play.

## The Five Year Action Plan

The action plan, established as a part of this master plan, is organized in action years. It is the intention of the Mooreville Park and Recreation Board and Staff to conduct an annual review of this plan and to make adjustments in response to current issues and information.

The District Annual Report should include not only the physical accomplishments over the past year, but also should note the number of programs (services) offered to the public along with the number of participants.

An analysis of annual budgets and funding sources for the five year Action Plan has been included in this report. The Mooreville Park and Recreation Board and Staff should continually search for additional funding sources, grants, gifts from corporate foundations, and other methods of creative financing to assure implementation of the Action Plan outline herein.

If all of the Action Plan elements (“A” priorities) are implemented, then the “B” and “C” priorities could be considered for implementation. This could be part of the Annual Review process.

Refer to Section M for the Action Plan.



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## Section E: Executive Summary

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# Focus Group & Community Survey Analysis Executive Summary

## Purpose

The purpose of the focus groups was to gain information about how the Mooresville community perceives the Mooresville Parks and Recreation District. Between October 2005 and February 2006 a series of eight (8) focus groups (plus one make-up session) involving approximately 65 people were conducted.

Park Staff (8 participants)

Master Planning Task Force (13 participants)

City District Heads (9 participants)

Aquatics and Park Facilities (10 participants)

Sports Facilities (5 participants)

Golf and Trails (12 total\* participants)

Marketing (3 participants)

Latino Population (6 participants)

\*One (1) additional make-up focus group was conducted with one (1) participant attending. This participant's interest was within the Golf and Trails Focus Group and is counted as a member of that group.

## Results

Focus groups were asked to comment on their perceptions of the quality of the Parks and Recreation District, the District's current strengths and weaknesses, and suggestions for future directions and goals for the District. For a complete review of the focus groups results, refer to section K.

Focus groups felt that the overall quality of the park system is very good. Participants noted that the parks are nicely landscaped and well maintained (both noted by the focus groups as strengths of the District), but that improvements to key parks (specifically, Tower Park and the Skate/Rail Park) would strengthen its quality perception in the community.



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The focus groups specifically addressed 20 areas of interest / concern; 15 of the 20 areas addressed were shared by three or more focus groups. These areas are summarized below; for all areas of interest / concern, refer to Section K.

### Athletic Fields and Facilities

Seven of the eight focus groups commented within this category. Shared areas of interest and / or concern included the lack of a soccer field / facility (community members currently use any open space for soccer play). Focus groups suggested that the Park District study the potential for a sports complex and / or study how current sports fields might be moved and regrouped more cohesively by type within specific parks. Consolidation of fields would allow for additional and new sports tournament opportunities, an activity requested by two of the eight focus groups. Improvements and upgrades for the baseball and softball fields and basketball courts were also suggested.

### Marketing / PR

Seven of the eight focus groups commented within this category. A strong consensus exists that the Park District should strive to improve communication with the public through the Internet, newspaper, and schools. A growing Latino population in the Mooresville community means that the District will also need to improve communications to this unique demographic. Focus groups also felt the Mooresville park system (parks, amenities and services / programs) could serve as a spur to economic development for the City of Mooresville, and this possibility should be studied.

### Trails / Greenways

Seven of the eight focus groups commented within this category. The community is proud of Mooresville's extensive trail system, and focus groups commented that the Park District should strive to complete the Greenways / Trails Master Plan. Focus groups also felt that additional trails are necessary to connect more neighborhoods to the park system and key locations such as Ivy Tech. A strong consensus also exists that ADA accessible pedestrian sidewalks are needed throughout the parks.

### Aquatics (Tower Park Pool)

Six of the eight focus groups commented within this category. The consensus is that the Parks District and the City should pursue the Aquatics Improvement Feasibility Master Plan as soon as possible.

### Dykeman Golf Course

Six of the eight focus groups commented within this category. Groups felt that the future of the golf course should be addressed as soon as possible. The possibility for additional amenities such as a driving range and a banquet facility (which could serve as a revenue source) should also be studied.



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## Section E: Executive Summary

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### Park Amenities

Six of the eight focus groups commented within this category. A consensus exists that the restrooms need to be updated and additional restrooms made available at the golf course and in parks lacking facilities.

### Parks (General)

Six of the eight focus groups commented within this category. Focus groups felt that though the parks are high in quality, the Park District should continue to focus on general aesthetic improvements and address vandalism / graffiti problems. Focus groups also expressed concern about the number of small, relatively unusable parks, believing they may be an unnecessary resource drain.

The Consultant notes here that the Parks District plans to sell two small parks (Biddle Island Park and Lilac Park) in the spring of 2006. These parks were not included in this Master Plan.

### Programming

Six of the eight focus groups commented within this category. Focus groups encouraged the Park District to evaluate the effectiveness of existing park programming for the current residents of Mooresville. The District was encouraged to add winter sports / activities programming, more sports tournaments, and to consider adding river sports within the District's current aquatics programming.

### Safety Concerns

Six of the eight focus groups commented within this category. The perception of safety from crime (especially gang-related) is of major concern. Focus groups asked for additional safety measures, such as increased police presence, increased staff supervision. Additional park lighting was also suggested.

### Financial Issues

Four of the eight focus groups commented within this category. Focus groups felt the Park District should study fiscal strategies in order to generate additional capital for staff wages. It was also suggested that the City of Mooresville and the Park District consider revising the no-alcohol policy in order to generate revenues through increased facility rentals for family reunions, special events, and at the Dykeman Municipal Golf Course clubhouse.

### New Parks / Attractions

Four of the eight focus groups commented within this category. The focus groups felt the City of Mooresville would benefit from a civic park in the downtown.



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## Mooresville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

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### Park Staff

Four of the eight focus groups commented within this category. Suggestions included consolidating the District offices (administrative and maintenance) to one building, adding specialized staff members (such as an electrician), or looking at ways to outsource some manpower (such as mowing) in order to free existing staff to focus on more tasks. There is also need for a Recreation Director and for more continuing education opportunities for the current staff.

### Flory Nature Preserve

Three of the eight focus groups commented within this category. There is consensus that the Park District should study the potential uses for this space and create a Master Plan for its further development.

### McHale Complex

Three of the eight focus groups commented within this category. This facility is considered to be an excellent asset by the community. Updates, such as increased parking and acoustic improvements, could increase this facility's use.

### Skate/Rail Park

Three of the eight focus groups commented within this category. Focus groups expressed concern about the general aesthetics of this facility.

## Agency Strategic Focus

As a result of community feedback and District analysis, the Master Planning Task Force and the Consultant have identified eight (8) strategic areas of focus for the next five-year period.

The strategic areas include:

Administrative

Connections

District

Facilities



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## Section E: Executive Summary

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### Fiscal and Revenues

### Marketing

### Partnering

### Programs / Services

Following the approval of this Five-Year Master Plan, additional focus will be given in detail by the Master Planning Task Force to these strategic issues. The result of that additional planning will be made part of this Five-Year Master Plan.

## Additional Studies and Planning

### Demographics

The Consultant noted during the course of this study that the Town of Mooresville has experienced a demographic shift over the last 15 years. Based on Census data and population estimates, Mooresville has experienced an increase in minority populations, particularly the Latino population, and a reduction in Caucasian population. The county population appears to be adjusting similarly. This trend in population shifts should be studied annually within the city and the county for its impact on development growth, economic impacts, recreational programming needs, recreation standards, etc.

### Alternative Revenue and Funding Sources

The Mooresville Parks and Recreation District should study opportunities for “new” funding sources to be used for capital, facilities, and upgrades. This study should also look at additional means of creating economic development. This could be via hosting of sports tournaments, festivals, partnering with other agencies, etc.

### District Staff Consolidation

It is recommended that the District study the potential efficiencies of consolidating the Districtal staff. As a part of this study new and possibly combinations of staff positions (i.e. Recreation Director and specialists) can be defined and determined.

### Ben Long Recreation Center Feasibility

There is interest in considering the transfer/trade of land and facilities between the Ben Long Center and the current Salvation Army facility on South 4th Street, nearer to the downtown.



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## Mooresville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

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### Individual Park Site Master Plans

It is recommended by the Consultant that the Mooresville Parks and Recreation District study and implement individual Park Site Master Plans for all park sites. Such studies would assist in the successful implementation of many of the site improvements and program expansions called out in this Five Year Master Plan's Action Plan. This can also accomplish master planning action items by addressing opportunities for District office consolidation, site and facility improvements and consolidation of sports fields. The Consultant recommends Park Site Master Plans specifically for Dykeman Municipal Golf Course (and its land acquisition potential and facility expansions) and Flory Nature Preserve (to assist in determining its future and best use as a park facility).

### Marketing Plan

Conduct a study and prepare a marketing plan for the District. The results of this study, a Marketing Master Plan, would help to provide direction for making the District's facilities and programs a more visible element within the Mooresville community.

### Sports Complex Feasibility Study

A study for the feasibility of a sports complex within the Mooresville Parks and Recreation District is recommended. This study should also examine properties which would accommodate such a complex. Include the involvement of the Mooresville Community School Corporation.

## Benefits of Parks & Recreation

*Adapted with information taken from: Indiana Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan 2006-2010 Hoosiers Moving Forward, prepared by Indiana Department of Natural Resources, January 2007 and information taken from: Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan, Porter County Regional Parks, prepared by Eppley Institute for Parks & Public Lands, Indiana University in association with Rundell Ernstberger Associates, May 1998.*

### Parks and Recreation: An Essential Service

Parks and recreation is fun and enjoyment...but it goes beyond just the fun. It is fundamental to the quality of life for all people, communities and our environment. The value of parks and recreation has been identified many times as a factor in determining the "good life".

With the obesity epidemic and the fight against a sedentary lifestyle, the value of recreation both inside and out of doors is even more important to our citizens today. In a recent report from the Trust for America's Health, Indiana is the ninth most obese state, 26% of adults do not participate in regular



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## Section E: Executive Summary

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exercise. The direct connection between the health of our communities and the opportunities provided for an active, healthy lifestyle is a basic human need.

When considering outdoor recreation, whether you look at the economic benefits of increased property values or the enhanced self-esteem gained by an individual from participating in a special event or through becoming active and healthier, or you look at the community awareness strengthened by a festival, or gain better understanding of the stewardship of land, we are now more than ever an essential service.

A grassroots effort to promote public awareness of the existence and provision of parks and recreation activities is essential. Some simple suggestions to help with this effort:

- Write opinion pieces for your local newspaper, cable TV and other community bulletin boards.
- Make sure that your facility is well represented on your municipal, county or State web site.
- Make sure your brown signs with your park names and arrows with directions are posted and visible.
- Keep your services in the minds of communities by using banners, radio ads, etc.
- Provide strong customer service and quality management at our parks and facilities.

There are many parks and recreation opportunities available throughout the State of Indiana. Whether referring to a bike trail, walking trail, pristine pond at a state park or an elaborate aquatics facility, you see what Joseph Lee (“Father of the Playground Movement” and National Recreation Association president 1910-37) means in the quote: “Play for adults is recreation...the renewal of life; for children it is growth...the gaining of life”.

While no one can reasonably deny the benefits of parks, recreation and the environment, we still must understand the attitudes and opinions of the users of parks and recreation facilities to help us wisely direct our future economic and advocacy efforts.

Let’s continue to invest in the future and fulfill the dreams of the families in our Indiana communities. Services provided through parks and recreation are essential, appreciated and limitless.

Indiana has moved into a tie with South Carolina for eighth in national obesity ranking. Additionally, Indiana ranks 13<sup>th</sup> for adult diabetes and 20<sup>th</sup> for hypertension (Trust for America’s Health, 2006). Each of these conditions can be prevented or delayed by making healthy lifestyle choices. As providers of outdoor recreation opportunities, we are prime players in the fight against the increase of disabling chronic conditions that could cost individuals and taxpayers millions of dollars to control and treat. By





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## Mooreville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

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providing opportunities for individuals to meet essential physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual needs, facilitators of outdoor recreation also play an important role in the long-term economy of their communities.

Although we must include all age groups in our plans, we need to pay special attention to serving our aging population. Admittedly, the prevalence of chronic diseases and conditions increases as a population ages; participation in outdoor recreation can contribute to a healthier lifestyle, which can help prevent or delay many conditions associated with aging. These include heart disease, cancer and stroke (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2004). When addressing the needs of older adults, we need to consider challenges associated with balance, mobility, hearing and vision loss, and greater propensity for injury. According to 2005 U.S. Census Bureau statistics, the median age in Indiana is 36.1 years old, 11.9% of Hoosiers are 65 or older, and 1.3% are 85 and older. The percentage of people 65 and older has remained steady for at least two years; however, the portion 85 and older has increased slightly. These statistics show the importance of considering the State's significant senior and aging mid-range populations when planning for and making decisions about future recreational opportunities.

Fortunately, accessibility and universal design are already high priority issues in our State. Indiana offices promote exceeding the federally mandated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines and considering the use of universal design, both for future improvements and alterations to current buildings and for new construction. "Universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without adaptation or specialized design" (Center for Universal Design, 2006). Universal design includes but is not limited to accessibility; it is a performance- or usability-based design that promotes a product or environment that can be used by a broad spectrum of people (children, elderly, vision or mobility impaired, etc.) (National Center on Accessibility, Universal Design Education On-line, 2004). The benefits of universal design will extend beyond the older population into the realm of citizens with physical or cognitive disabilities. More than 13 percent (13.4%) of Indiana residents 21 to 64 years old reported having a disability in 2005 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2006). Park and trails professionals in Indiana have expressed a keen desire to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities and limitations by implementing universal design at their properties. Communities should address the needs of the entire user population and strive to include as many representatives as possible in the planning of a proposed facility, activity, or program. Effective planning that includes universal design will pave the way for individuals of all ages and abilities to be actively involved in outdoor recreation throughout our State.

Another issue faced by communities and facilities managers is how to pay for planned improvements. Grants are one way. Several are administered by IDNR:

- Hometown Indiana
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)



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## Section E: Executive Summary

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- Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund
- Indiana Waters
- Shooting Range Program
- Historic Preservation Fund (HPF)
- Hoosier Riverwatch Program
- Lake and River Enhancement Program
- Urban Forest Conservations Grants Program
- Arbor Day Grant Program
- TreeSteward Program Grants
- Forest Management Cost-Share Assistance Programs
- Best Management Practices (BMP) Cost-Share Program
- Fire Fighting Assistance Programs
- Partners for Reclamation
- Surface Mining and Reclamation Technology

To learn more about grant programs administered by IDNR go to <http://www.IN.gov/dnr/assistance/grantresources.html>.

Economic benefits of parks, recreation and open space include those benefits associated with promotion of tourism, increased property values, attraction of business and industry and reinvestment in property. Specifically, research has found that there are significant economic, community, health and environmental benefits by provision of local parks and recreation.

While some view public parks and recreation as trivial or unnecessary, the research conducted since the 1930's proves otherwise. In fact, research has shown the small investments in park and recreation areas, programs, services and facilities are invaluable to a community. The impacts, economic, environmental, community, health and wellness, and others, help to create a healthy, vibrant place in which humans live.

The entire community benefits when investments in local parks and recreation are made. Communities point out with great pride the number and size of local parks provided when comparing themselves to other communities. Parks and recreation also have a positive effect on corporate relocation, reduced crime and community spirit. Some of the benefits of parks and recreation to the City of Mooresville are described under the following headings:



### Health & Fitness Benefits

Significant benefits are attributable to provision of local parks and recreation. Encouraging physical activity and quiet activities has significant individual and community positive impacts. With a minor publicly funded investment, local government officials can positively effect the health and fitness of the community as shown in the following examples:

- Physical activity appears to relieve symptoms of depression and anxiety and improve mood.
- The physically fit person is less prone to injury and is less likely to experience depression.
- Positive and enjoyable recreation experiences can decrease stress and psychological tensions.
- Each additional mile walked or run by a sedentary person would give him or her an extra twenty-one (21) minutes of life.
- Physically active older people typically benefit from lower blood pressure, increased muscle strength, joint flexibility and lower total cholesterol levels than do less active people.
- According to the Gallup Poll for American Health, Americans who exercised regularly were two and one-half (2 1/2) times more likely to report that they were happy than Americans who did not exercise at all.
- County and city parks, with the opportunities provided for informal physical activities such as hiking, canoeing, running and others offer these health and fitness benefits.

### Environmental Benefits

Logically, the preservation of the natural resources most often found in local parks results in environmental benefits to a community. Yet the far-reaching benefits to the environment of this small public investment are often underestimated. Preservation of an area's topography, wooded areas and historically important areas can often create the fabric of a high quality life for the community. Benefits of parks and recreation to Mooreville residents include the following environmental positives:

- Greenways limit and control air pollution.
- Green space is essential for recharging our aquifers.
- Greenways prevent pollution of surface and ground water.
- Greenways maintain wildlife habitats and natural systems.
- Trees and vegetation help reduce noise and dust and absorb pollutants.



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## Section E: Executive Summary

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- One (1) shade tree may save the energy cost equivalent of four (4) air conditioners operating all day.
- According to a 1995 issue of “Money Magazine”, Americans rank clean air and clean water number one (1) and two (2) when choosing qualities for “The Best Place to Live”.
- Open space enhances our quality of life including recreation, education, aesthetic and spiritual enrichment.

### Economic Benefits

The economies of local communities are affected by many factors including corporation and business location, real estate value, education quality and workforce characteristics. Fundamental to all of these factors is the quality of the “place” where the business or corporation or community is located. Mooreville Parks help define “place” for people and has the following economic benefits:

- Proximity to greenways, rivers and trails can increase sale prices, the marketability of adjacent properties and promote faster sales.
- In the neighborhood of Cox Arboretum, in Dayton, Ohio, for example, the proximity of the park and arboretum accounted for an estimated five percent (5%) of the average residential selling price of homes.
- Increase in property values result in increased tax values. Park and open space investments often pay for themselves in a short period of time, due in part to increased property tax revenues from higher values of nearby property.
- A study of the impact of greenbelts on neighborhood property values in Boulder, Colorado revealed the aggregate property value for one (1) neighborhood was approximately \$5.4 million greater than if there had been no greenbelt. This resulted in \$500,000.00 additional potential property tax revenue annually.
- Quality of life is increasingly cited as a major factor in corporate location decisions. In 1996, Ernst & Young’s Kenneth Leventhal noted recreation opportunities as the second most important quality of life location criteria. Labor factors, business costs and geographic factors were other considerations.

### Community Benefits

Community parks and recreation can impact the community also. It has positive effects on crime reduction, brings people together and creates a sense of identity for places which may have long ago



## Mooreville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

become urban. It puts human beings in contact with each other, bringing out the need for social interaction and the benefits of mutual sharing.

As communities plan for the future, it has become clear that the quality of life is defined by many aspects of community life. Included in the aspects of quality of life are issues such as safety, education, affordability, employment opportunities and of course, leisure offerings. Mooreville Parks, through the informal use of picnic shelters, or attendance at events such as the “Popfest”, Fine Arts Festival and other seasonal events add a sense of community to Mooreville. Benefits in this area include:

- Cincinnati, Ohio initiated the Late Evening Recreation Programs in 1993. During the initial 13-week period, the number of juvenile criminal incidents dropped 24% from 491 to 373. Cost per person to provide this recreation service was \$.56 (Beyond Fun and Games, 1994).
- Individuals learn new skills and develop new interests in parks and recreation.
- The opportunity to develop partnerships, combine resources and meet social needs is provided.
- Community pride building stronger community is created.
- Provide opportunities for families to connect and facilitate the ability to expand intergenerational programs.
- Youth show improved academic performance and adults and businesses realize increased productivity when a sense of community is created at local places or activities.
- Participants of all ages live healthier, longer lives, have reduced stress levels and gain increased self-esteem and confidence when interacting in recreational activities.

It has become clear to society at large that the benefit of providing adequate park, recreational and open space areas are significant. With over a 100-year history in the American City, parks have become an integral part of our society and community expectations.

A survey was conducted from May 2003 to February 2004, by the State of Indiana, as reported in The Indiana Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2006-10 and illustrates the importance of outdoor recreation. When asked, “How important is outdoor recreation to you?” 54.1% responded that it is “essential”, while 39.1% deemed it “desirable”. The survey shows the participation in outdoor recreation activities as follows:

Item/Activity	% Preferred
Walking.....	84.9%
Bicycling.....	43.7%
Horseback.....	11.0%
Motor vehicle.....	41.6%
Photography.....	59.8%





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## Section E: Executive Summary

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Picnicking .....	52.0%
Playground.....	37.2%
Rollerblading.....	11.8%
Court sports .....	40.0%
Field sports .....	32.5%
Golf.....	29.1%
Camping.....	53.5%
Boating .....	40.7%
Swimming.....	60.7%
Hunting .....	27.1%
Fishing.....	52.3%
Winter sports .....	34.5%
Trapping.....	3.4%
Shooting sports.....	27.4%
Fairs/festivals.....	68.4%
Remote control.....	12.1%
Lawn games.....	25.0%



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## Section F: Progress Evaluation

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### Facilities and Equipment Progress Evaluation

#### Accomplishments and Changes 2004

- Due to limited resources and continued growth in population, the district teamed up with other government agencies to plan for the development of a comprehensive trails and greenways network in the region.
- The 2004 budget was reduced \$100,720 from the 2003 budget.
- Landscaping & flowers installed at the south end of pool parking lot
- Flowers placed around sign posts and front entrance
- Prepared ground for construction of walking trail to be paved in 2005
- Started Pioneer Adventure Camp, a full day summer camp
- Stated youth sports camps in basketball, t-ball, soccer, golf, and gymnastics
- Submitted and received \$100,000 grant for construction of an accessible playground in Pioneer Park
- Mooresville Optimist Club donated and installed two new marquee signs at main entrance to Pioneer Park
- Purchased a new dump truck to replace the old dump truck with a broken frame
- Fixed training pool leak at the Aquatic Center
- Planted Cherry Trees along Old State Road 67
- Expanded partnership with the Mooresville Consolidated School Corporation to include sports camps and Pioneer Adventure Camp field trips
- Rerouted drainage in Pioneer Park at the splits in the road, both north and south ends.
- Eagle Scouts constructed and installed 10 new park benches along the trail.

#### Accomplishments and Changes 2005

- Indiana Park & Recreation Association awarded the Outstanding Park Development Award for 2005 to Mooresville for the Pirates Cove handicapped accessible playground. The Kendrick Foundation contributed \$100,000 toward the cost of the fitness oriented playground and fitness trail. No property tax money was used in the development and many local groups and individuals helped to make up the \$60,000 additional needed to complete this outstanding asset for the community.



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## Moore'sville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

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- Paved 1 mile walking trail in Pioneer Park
- Continued networking with adjoining departments and the Indianapolis Airport for a continuous trail and greenway system that would connect the Moore'sville area with its neighbors.
- Painted pool concession stand in tropical theme
- Painted restrooms and planted flowers, which were donated
- Expanded sports camps and summer camp activities
- Acquired new computer equipment and services

### Accomplishments and Changes 2006

- Hired new Director of Recreation
- Purchased 21 acres adjacent to Pioneer Park. The park now encompasses 136 acres.
- Pioneer Adventure Camp has maxed out after its third year of operation setting new participation and revenue records.
- New playground equipment installed at Rooker Park
- Refurbished bathhouse walls
- Tiled new soccer fields
- Refurbished playground equipment in Pioneer Park
- Renovated bathrooms at Old Town Park

### Accomplishments and Changes 2007

- Installed new stainless steel pool lockers
- Purchased new mower, ATAV, truck, and liftgate
- Replaced fiberglass I& steel supports on waterslide
- Accepted ownership of ice machines for Aquatic Center, donated by Coke Company
- Received \$74,000 grant for trails from Kendrick Foundation

### Accomplishments and Changes 2008

- Purchased new aquatic center umbrella covers, playground cover and new fence
- Acquired a used fork lift
- Installed new full-size outdoor basketball court
- Stained and sealed all picnic tables
- Purchased fryers and refrigerators for concessions
- Privacy fence installed at maintenance storage yard
- Repaved park road





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## Section F: Progress Evaluation

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- Added 1-mile paved walking trail
- Upgraded chemical storage areas
- Purchased new maintenance truck
- Security system upgrade for Aquatic Center
- Purchased new lights for the Community Christmas Tree

### Accomplishments and Changes 2009

- Purchased new registration software program
- Acquired touch-screen monitors and purchased new computer hardware
- Purchased new ice machine for front concession stand
- Installed new acid tank for main pool
- Replaced drains for all pools
- Installed new stainless handrails for pool drop slide
- Installed memorial benches along trails
- Hired full-time Maintenance Coordinator

### Accomplishments and Changes 2010

- Replaced Training Pool Water heater
- Replaced trash cans at Aquatic Center and Pioneer Park
- Replaced Aquatic Center Lifejackets
- Restrapped 100 deck chairs
- Seal coated trail surfaces
- Replaced and repaired pool deck concrete
- Replaced and upgraded Old Town Park Shelter House and Rest Room Electrical Line
- Installed new playground at North Park
- Installed new playground at Pioneer Park
- Purchased new port-a-johns
- Expanded rest rooms at front of Pioneer Park
- Remodeled Aquatic Center concession stand

### Accomplishments and Changes 2011

- Purchased Replacement Bucket Truck
- Purchased Replacement Backhoe
- Purchased Replacement Pickup Truck
- Purchased Replacement of 2 computers
- Received Joint Grant with Fire Department from Kendrick Foundation for New Automatic External Defibrillator
- Received Donation of 8 Memorial Benches for Trails at Pioneer Park




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## Mooreville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

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- Re-strapped 100 deck chairs at pool
- Repaired Pool Defuser Box
- Old Town Park Restrooms repainted
- Removed Approximately 15 acres of Invasive Species growth in wooded areas of Pioneer Park
- Replaced washed out section of walking trail in Pioneer Park.

### **Accomplishments and Changes 2012**

- Heated soccer field restrooms, now open year-round
- Installed Ultraviolet light disinfection system for SplashPad at Aquatic Center
- Installed handicap accessible stairs at Aquatic Center (second accessibility method to Main Pool)
- Installed filter supports for the two sand filters at the Aquatic Center
- Gel-coated waterslide
- Re-welded stair tower handrail
- Staff certifications for Park and Recreation Professional, Certified Pool Operator, Safe Food Handler, Playground Safety Inspector
- Installed 3 wi-fi hotspots in Pioneer Park
- Acquired second maintenance truck
- Started REC&U Before and After School program at 2 elementary schools
- Purchased and replaced safety surface and two new playgrounds and swing sets
- Purchased three new computers and installed wireless internet for the office
- Purchased new awning for Park Office
- Rebuilt main pump for Aquatic Center
- Repaired pour-in-place tiles at the main playground
- Received donation of  park benches for Pioneer Park



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Section G: Agency Profile

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## Mooresville Park and Recreation District Board

The Mooresville Park & Recreation District's Board has meetings on the second Monday of each month. All meetings are open to the public and are held in the Park Office at 7:00 p.m. The Park Board is made up of seven members from the community: four appointed by the Mooresville Town Council, one appointed by the School Board, one appointed by the Library Board, and one appointed by the Morgan County Circuit Judge. The purpose of the Park Board is to set policies, oversee park and recreation programs, plan, acquire and develop recreation facilities, parks and open space areas to meet future needs as the community grows.

The current Mooresville Park Board members, along with committee assignments and expiration dates of terms, are listed below:

<b>Member Name and Address</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>	<b>Committee Assignment</b>
Matt Swindle, President 38 W. Washington Mooresville, IN 46158	January 1, 2013	
Kelli McGuire, Vice President 49 Hadley Woodland Mooresville, IN 46158	January 1, 2015	
Rhonda Clair, , Secretary 45 St. Clair Street Mooresville, IN 46158	January 1, 2014	
Lynn Adams 11899 N Bethel Rd Mooresville, IN 46158	January 1, 2013	
David Pearson, Member 631 Maple Lane Mooresville, IN 46158	January 1, 2015	
VACANCY	January 1, 2013	
John Root, Member 357 Bridge Street Mooresville, IN 46158	January 1, 2012	



## The Park Law

The Mooreville Park Board, by ordinance, operates under the First Class City Park Law. The Town's Ordinance (#4-1987) can be found in the Appendix Section and was for the Establishment of a Department of Park and Recreation for the Town. The State statute (36-10-3) establishes the executive department of public parks in First Class cities/towns and provides that the Board of Park & Recreation shall have exclusive government, management, and control of all park and recreation areas within the City/Town subject only to the laws of the State.

## Who's Responsible The Board or the Administrator?

The following table helps to define the respective roles of a Park Administrator and the Park Board:

Task	Park Board	Park Administrator
Long-Term Goals (more than one year)	Approves	Recommends and provides input
Short-Term Goals (less than one year)	Monitors	Establishes and carries out
Day-to-Day Operations	No Role	Makes all management decisions
Budget	Approves	Develops and recommends
Capital Purchases	Approves	Prepares requests
Decisions (building, renovations, leasing, expansion)	Makes decisions, assumes responsibility	Recommends (could also sign contracts if given authority)
Supply Purchases	Establishes policy and budget for supplies	Purchases according to board policy and maintains an adequate audit trail
Major Repairs	Approves	Obtains estimates and prepares recommendation
Minor Repairs	Policy should include amount that can be spent without Board approval	Authorizes repairs up to prearranged amount
Emergency Repairs	Works with administrator	Notifies Board chairperson and acts with concurrence from chair
Cleaning and Maintenance	No Role (oversight only)	Sets schedule
Fees	Adopts Policy	Develops fee schedule
Billing, Credit and Collections	Adopts Policy	Proposes policy and implements
Hiring of Staff	No Role	Approves all hiring
Staff Development and Assignment	No Role	Establishes
Firing of Staff	No Role	Makes final termination decisions
Staff Grievances	No Role	The grievances stop at the administrator
Personnel Policies	Adopts Policy	Recommends and administers



Section G: Agency Profile

Staff Salaries	Allocates line item for salaries in budget	Approves salaries with recommendations from supervisory staff
Staff Evaluations	Evaluates administrator	Evaluates other staff
<i>Park Board and Administrator Newsletter, Aspen Publishers, 1991</i>		

## Department Staff

### Administrative

*Superintendent*  
Brent Callahan

*Office Manager*  
Melissa Bade

*Director of Recreation*  
Kris Wilson

*Maintenance Supervisor*  
John Karst

*Maintenance Coordinator*  
Morgan Wilkins

## Department Divisions

### Administrative Division

With one full-time Superintendent of Park & Recreation, the Administrative Division works toward communication with Department Staff, Board of Directors, Town Board, Town Departments and Media. The Superintendent concentrates on Budget, Personnel Management, Supervision, Program and Park Planning, Grant Planning, and Community Relations.

With one full-time Administrative Assistant the Administrative Division is assisted with processing Department business. The Administrative Assistant greets visitors, fills question's, answers phone inquires, processes claims, handles bookkeeping, and basically shares Department communications to all interested sources.

### Maintenance Division

The make up of the Maintenance Division includes two full time staff and part-time staff. The Park Maintenance Division develops and maintains parks and park facilities along with turf maintenance, tree maintenance, structure maintenance, landscape maintenance, and litter control.

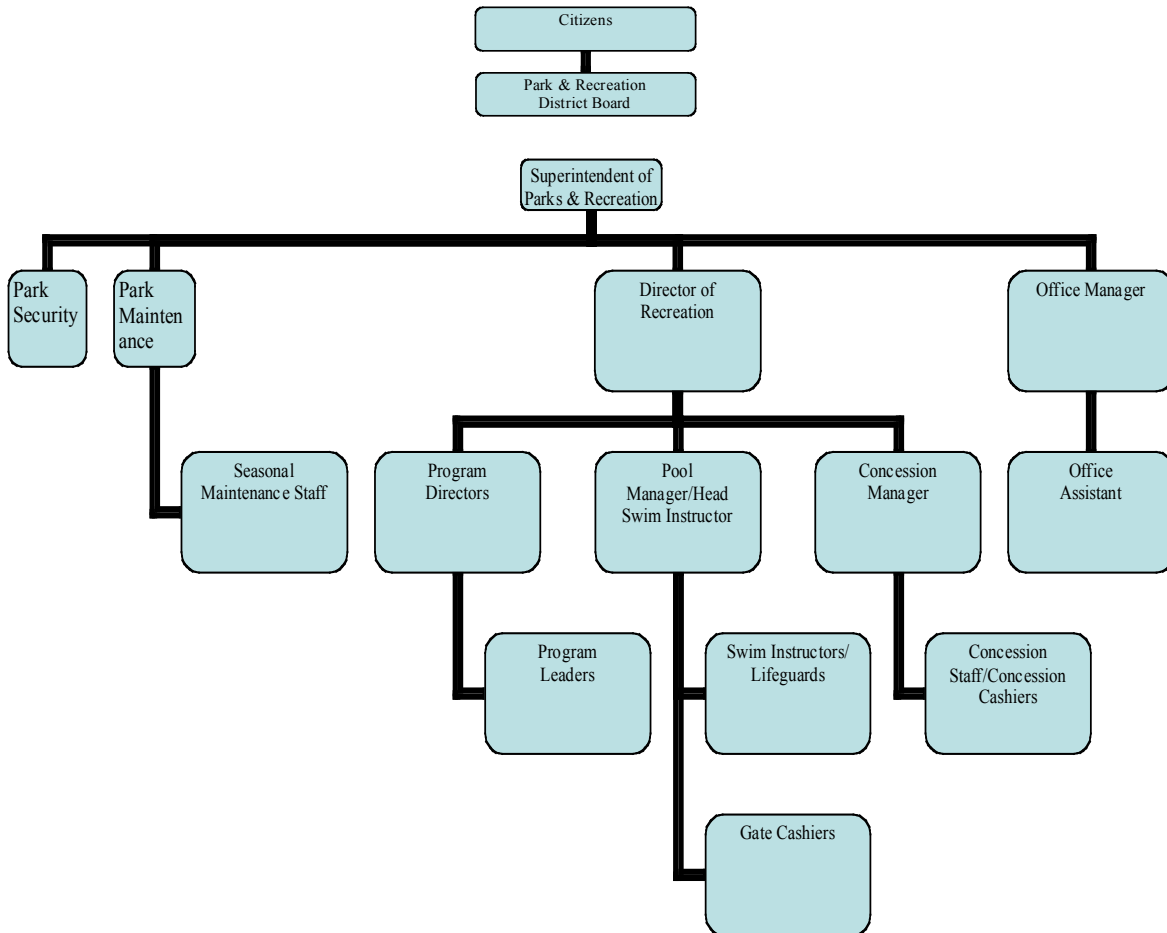


## Recreation / Aquatics Division

The focus of the Recreation Division is to provide quality, positive recreation opportunities which enhance the well being of the diverse citizenry of Mooresville. The Director of Recreation is responsible for youth and adult fitness, education, and sports, camps and the coordination of department marketing procedures.

## Existing Organization Structure

The Mooresville Parks & Recreation Department is currently organized as follows





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## Section G: Agency Profile

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### Agency Policies and Objectives

#### Statement of Purpose

A statement of policies and objectives helps define the role and responsibility of the Park & Recreation District within town government and to the community. These written policies and objectives help guide decision making by the Board and staff in order to meet the challenges of providing sufficient open space and facilities to meet the recreation needs and interests of all Mooreville residents thereby enhancing the physical and social character of the community.

#### Department Goal Statements

- Promote community involvement in the planning and operation of all facets of the Parks and Recreation District operations.
- To allow for orderly growth and development of physical and natural resources.
- To incorporate within the department and its programs new technologies and processes that will make activities and services more cost effective.
- To develop systems of information and guidance to provide for a more effective delivery of activities and services.
- To more effectively coordinate park and recreation services with other county services to improve the community's total services.
- To offer comprehensive, quality recreational programming aimed at satisfying the needs of varying ages, levels, physical abilities and special interest.
- To maintain and improve the appearance of parks and existing facilities throughout Mooreville at a high standard of quality on a systematic/scheduled basis.
- To utilize the natural characteristics of the land, when evaluating its potential for parks and recreational purposes.
- To periodically assess and evaluate the recreational needs of the citizens of Mooreville and Brown Township.
- To make park and recreation participation as simple and convenient as possible to clientele and treat patrons like valued customers.
- Provide efficient and effective administrative direction, coordination and leadership for quality leisure services throughout Mooreville and Brown Township.
- To effectively communicate programs to prospective patrons through sound marketing practices.



## Compliance with State and Federal Regulations

### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H. W. Bush. The adoption of the ADA occurred after two decades of effort to remove the barriers, caused not just by physical features of the environment, but by attitudes and misconceptions toward people with disabilities.

The ADA law is an attempt to achieve inclusion in society for individuals with disabilities. It does this by codifying requirements that create the conditions to permit individuals with disabilities of all kinds equal access to all parts of society. The ADA differs from the individual state discrimination laws in that it has a more sweeping range and applies retroactively to existing facilities.

The ADA law will be enforced as individuals file complaints against businesses and organizations that do not meet code. In order not to create undue hardship, the law provides for the establishment of a reasonable plan of action that clearly indicates intent to achieve compliancy over a reasonable period of time. A transition plan that is being implemented is the best protection should a complaint be filed.

It is helpful when working with the ADA to approach it as a means of creating new possibilities. Working to comply with the law can “enlarge your view” and open up new opportunities for your organization. As you achieve compliancy, you will be better able to utilize persons with disabilities as employees as well as appeal to an enlarged clientele.

In order for the Mooresville Parks and Recreation Department to be eligible for future Federal / State funding assistance, it will need to complete an ADA Self-Evaluation. These Self-Evaluations can be found in the Appendix of this document. The related elements of implementation of ADA Transition Plans have been included in the Action Plan.

The Mooresville Park & Recreation District complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination in the provision of services, programs or facilities to individuals with disabilities.

### Relationship with the School Corporation and Other Agencies

Currently, the Mooresville Park and Recreation Board utilizes the law allowing a school board appointed member to serve on the Park and Recreation Board. The Parks and Recreation Department also has a cooperative agreement with the Mooresville Community School System for the use of their facilities and for participation in sports camps and Pioneer Adventure Camp field trips. This partnership between the





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## Section G: Agency Profile

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two entities needs to be continually nurtured to maximize mutual benefits in the areas of programming and facilities.

Various other facilities are currently utilized for park programming. These facilities include the School Corporation, the Mooresville Public Library, and Mooresville Town Hall.

There has been much collaboration for programming with area groups and organizations. The Park District continues to look for partnerships in presenting programs and improving services with:

- Mooresville Consolidated School Corporation
- Mooresville Public Library
- Meadow Lakes
- Healthier Morgan County Initiative
- Youth Organizations (Football, Baseball, Softball)
- Lions Club
- Tri Kappa

## City's Fiscal Resources

The Mooresville Park Board's main source of Departmental Funding comes from property tax levy and the issue of bonds for capital projects.

Traditionally, the Park Board has used the Park Fund to finance the administration, programming, supplies, maintenance and day-to-day operational expenses. The Town's Tax areas include: food & beverage, property taxes, certified shares, tax incremental financing, motor vehicle highway, cigarette tax, excise tax, alcoholic beverage tax, and bank building and loan tax. The monetary source of the Park Fund is property tax, and department revenue.

In 2008 the Total Assessed Value of the Town of Mooresville was \$591,692,763. The Park District's 2% of the total assessed value, therefore, is \$11,833,855.

The issues of Bonds have been for the capital improvements and/or development of parks and their facilities. There are currently no Municipal Park Bonds.

## Expansion

The Park Board is currently looking into the potential of expanding the District to include Madison and Harrison Townships in addition to Brown Township (which includes the Town of Mooresville). This District expansion would parallel the boundaries of the Mooresville School Corporation.



## Mooreville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

### Departmental Budget Analysis

The table below represents the departmental budget and spending from 2004 through 2008.

#### Departmental Budget Analysis

The following tables represent the departmental budgets for the last five years.

	2004 Expenses	2005 Expenses	2006 Expenses	2007 Expenses	2008 Expenses	
<b>PERSONAL SERVICES</b>						
201-01-110	Park Superintendent	\$ 44,678.00	\$ 45,676.54	\$ 46,695.74	\$ 47,695.96	
201-01-111	Park Personnel	\$ 191,310.74	\$ 197,128.50	\$ 193,791.38	\$ 181,606.08	
201-01-112	Park Security	\$ 8,822.23	\$ 7,842.26	\$ 9,355.16	\$ 9,998.91	
201-01-113	Park Board Members	\$ 1,675.00	\$ 1,675.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 2,450.00	
201-01-114	Office Manager	\$ 31,782.40	\$ 32,780.80	\$ 33,800.00	\$ 34,798.40	
201-01-115	Aquatic Rec Director	\$ 32,843.20	\$ 33,841.60	\$ 37,708.46	\$ 35,859.20	
201-01-116	Maintenance Supervisor	\$ 31,054.40	\$ 32,052.80	\$ 33,072.00	\$ 34,070.40	
201-01-121	Social Security Taxes	\$ 27,658.84	\$ 28,190.75	\$ 28,269.68	\$ 27,452.07	
201-01-122	Longevity	\$ 3,384.62	\$ 3,576.94	\$ 3,615.38	\$ 3,923.08	
201-01-124	PERF - Retirement	\$ 17,943.76	\$ 16,947.29	\$ 17,525.74	\$ 18,622.61	
201-01-125	Unemployment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
201-01-126	Overtime	\$ 16,003.05	\$ 13,928.70	\$ 10,375.35	\$ 10,874.68	
<b>SUPPLIES</b>						
201-01-211	Office Supplies	\$ 4,022.71	\$ 3,769.06	\$ 5,433.72	\$ 2,550.92	
201-01-212	Computer Supplies	\$ 1,068.84	\$ 18,339.63	\$ 7.00	\$ 230.00	
201-01-213	Cleaning Supplies	\$ 1,908.74	\$ 1,932.39	\$ 2,271.05	\$ 3,247.37	
201-01-216	Pool Chemicals	\$ 9,945.94	\$ 16,488.27	\$ 1,941.83	\$ 13,624.28	
201-01-221	Gasoline & Oil	\$ 7,898.34	\$ 11,153.40	\$ 12,963.52	\$ 12,896.42	
201-01-223	Other Supplies	\$ 41,417.10	\$ 32,497.49	\$ 28,145.18	\$ 21,492.61	
201-01-231	Uniforms	\$ 794.11	\$ 805.35	\$ 878.26	\$ 876.72	
201-01-233	Misc Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 5,497.29	\$ 8,665.48	\$ 6,328.95	\$ 10,414.99	
201-01-247	Ground Maintenance	\$ 3,640.35	\$ 1,654.47	\$ 4,088.96	\$ 2,412.82	
<b>OTHER SERVICES</b>						
201-01-311	Garbage Collection	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,513.00	\$ 2,847.40	\$ 2,951.72	
201-01-312	Professional Service	\$ 1,736.64	\$ 5,022.56	\$ 4,533.12	\$ 5,814.03	
201-01-321	Postage	\$ 1,210.91	\$ 685.14	\$ 1,437.44	\$ 153.35	
201-01-322	Telephone & Pagers	\$ 4,659.75	\$ 4,875.79	\$ 5,231.29	\$ 6,312.91	
201-01-324	Travel & Expenses	\$ 749.89	\$ 174.62	\$ 1,376.51	\$ 198.43	
201-01-331	Printing	\$ 2,097.39	\$ 3,524.96	\$ 7,154.49	\$ 6,649.32	
201-01-334	Publication of Legals	\$ -	\$ 139.34	\$ 11.51	\$ 11.80	
201-01-336	Miscellaneous Advertising	\$ 1,183.15	\$ 719.06	\$ 577.40	\$ 1,639.88	
201-01-341	Health Insurance	\$ 49,696.00	\$ 56,530.00	\$ 56,530.00	\$ 56,530.00	
201-01-342	Other Insurance	\$ 25,872.75	\$ 30,801.32	\$ 29,714.62	\$ 28,669.12	
201-01-351	Electricity	\$ 20,818.22	\$ 21,332.87	\$ 20,772.31	\$ 20,643.75	
201-01-352	Gas - Heat	\$ 10,186.58	\$ 9,843.28	\$ 10,380.69	\$ 6,960.07	
201-01-353	Water	\$ 5,446.84	\$ 6,700.90	\$ 5,281.38	\$ 6,605.69	
201-01-354	Sewer	\$ 4,156.10	\$ 6,556.10	\$ 4,567.40	\$ 6,615.57	
201-01-361	Building & Structure Repairs	\$ 89.92	\$ 834.14	\$ 2,239.51	\$ -	
201-01-362	Equipment Repairs	\$ 10,598.55	\$ 11,331.18	\$ 14,152.07	\$ 20,861.94	
201-01-363	Maintenance Agreements	\$ 732.00	\$ 1,354.00	\$ 6,857.00	\$ 1,045.00	
201-01-366	Paving	\$ -	\$ 23,735.50	\$ -	\$ -	
201-01-371	Equipment Rental	\$ 622.00	\$ 194.50	\$ 619.02	\$ 205.00	
201-01-390	Training & Seminars	\$ 977.00	\$ 530.00	\$ 864.68	\$ 1,870.00	
201-01-391	Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 287.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 57.00	\$ -	
201-01-392	Credit Card Services	\$ -	\$ 2,132.56	\$ 844.35	\$ 1,390.69	
201-01-397	Memberships	\$ -	\$ 1,520.00	\$ 1,065.00	\$ 2,407.00	
<b>CAPITAL OUTLAYS</b>						
201-01-421	Improvement to Building	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,801.61	\$ 110.29	
201-01-432	Other Park Improvement	\$ 5,434.44	\$ 1,768.06	\$ 13,839.49	\$ 10,110.90	
201-01-433	Landscaping	\$ 902.66	\$ 1,534.68	\$ 475.45	\$ 861.72	
201-01-434	Playground	\$ -	\$ 15,750.00	\$ -	\$ -	
201-01-443	Other Equipment	\$ 1,425.08	\$ 722.98	\$ 3,336.50	\$ 1,677.00	
201-01-444	Pool Equipment	\$ 1,573.21	\$ 4,669.45	\$ -	\$ -	
201-01-456	Unappropriated Balances	\$ 3,483.50	\$ 2,741.00	\$ 4,589.00	\$ 2,071.00	
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 639,489.24</b>	<b>\$ 727,220.71</b>	<b>\$ 680,173.60</b>	<b>\$ 667,463.70</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>OTHER FUNDS</b>						
202-01-110	<b>Park Grant</b>	\$ -	\$ 100,593.76	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74,000.00
203-01-110	<b>Park Donation</b>	\$ 10,194.36	\$ 26,793.15	\$ 6,050.00	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Non Reverting Operating</b>						
205-01-211	Concession	\$ 46,553.51	\$ 51,462.07	\$ 36,136.67	\$ 57,598.01	\$ -
205-02-211	Workshops	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
206-01-110	<b>Non Reverting Capital</b>	\$ 57,487.06	\$ 24,032.12	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -





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## Section H: Community Description

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### Location of the Town of Mooresville

*Taken from: [www.moore'sville.org/Home](http://www.moore'sville.org/Home)*

Mooresville, Indiana is a town located in the heartland of America that combines a small town atmosphere with the benefits of a big city. It offers a beautiful Midwestern setting for high quality family life. Just 10 miles southwest of our state capital, Indianapolis, Mooresville is located next to a major distribution center and international air hub. Because of all it has to offer, Mooresville is the "Crossroads of Progress" and is becoming the new home of many businesses and families.



#### Distances from Mooresville, Indiana

<i>City / Location</i>	<i>Miles</i>
Springfield, IL.....	215
Chicago, IL.....	194
Cincinnati, OH.....	125
Louisville, KY.....	125
South Bend, IN.....	159
Bloomington, IN.....	35
Indianapolis, IN.....	19

#### History of the Town of Mooresville

*Taken from: [www.moore'sville.org/Overview](http://www.moore'sville.org/Overview)*

In 1824, Samuel Moore, a North Carolina Quaker, laid out the plans for the land he purchased for \$2.00 an acre in 1823. He called it Mooresville, after his last name. Samuel chose this location because of the delta that lay between the east and west forks of White Lick Creek. This land had a fertile bottom ground and water to power mills. He set aside 16 lots within four 5-acre blocks. Mr. Moore would not allow a public sale of the lots, but gave the lots to desirable citizens.

Asa Bales built the first cabin in the town. Samuel Moore Rooker was the first child born in town and was named for and by Samuel Moore. Mr. Moore constructed a frame building on the northeast corner of the public square, from which he sold his merchandise.

In 1826 Alexander Worth & Company opened the second store and also built a woolen mill. The first school society in Mooresville was organized in Samuel Moore's store in 1828.

Also in 1828, Samuel Moore married Eliza Worthington of Madison, Indiana. Eliza was a Methodist and both the Quaker and Methodist denominations were prominent in the early development of the community.



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## Mooresville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

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By 1831 the population of Mooresville had grown to 200. The town was incorporated in 1838. The Mooresville Chronicle was established in 1846 and lasted four years. In 1872, the first bank, Savings Bank of Mooresville, was established. Samuel Moore died in 1889, at the age of 90.

Mooresville adopted "Home of the State Flag" as its slogan in 1966, in honor of Paul Hadley, the Indiana state flag's designer. Mr. Hadley was a well-known watercolor artist and lived in Mooresville for many years.

Mooresville's population grew from 200 in 1831 to 2,000 in 1900 to just over 10,000 today.

## Natural Features

### Physiography

Mooresville is located in the northern portion of Morgan County, which is generally a flat plain.

### Soils

The type of glacial deposit and the effects of weather combined to create different types of soils, generally in the upper five feet of earth. These soils have different characteristics which affect their suitability for different land uses. For more specific site analysis, refer to the *Soil Survey of Morgan County Indiana*, United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service.

The predominant group of soils is *Miami-Crosby*, deep and moderately well-drained. These soils are found fairly evenly inter-mingled in Mooresville and in the buffer zone to the southeast and southwest. The gently sloping and moderately sloping soils have fair potential for residential and urban development. In most areas these soils have a seasonal high water table. Because of wetness and moderately slow permeability of the *Crosby* soils, these soils are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields.

*Genesee-Shoals* soils surround the forks of White Lick Creek. The *Genesee* soils that predominate are well drained and best suited for cultivated crops and trees. Flooding and wetness are the main limitations. The soils are generally not suited to use as building sites and septic tank absorption fields because of flooding and wetness.

*Fox-Ockley* soils lie adjacent to the *Genesee-Shoals* soils in the northern half of the planning area. These are well drained soils that are moderately deep over sand and gravel. The soils are suited to use as building sites. Fox soils are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields because of the danger of underground water supplies becoming polluted. *Ockley* soils, however, are well suited to this use.

*Rensselaer-Whitaker-Martinsville* soils are located in the extreme northwest corner and in a southern pocket just west of State Route 67. Both the *Rensselaer* and *Whitaker* soils that are found here are poorly drained and usually require artificial drainage to prevent ponding. For this reason, they are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields and building sites.



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## Section H: Community Description

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*Crosby-Brookston* soils are found in the easternmost portion of the planning area and in a small pocket in the vicinity of Indianapolis and County Line Roads. The soils are fairly evenly mixed and are poorly drained. These soils are usually artificially drained. Wetness and ponding make these soils poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields and building sites.

### Topography

The primary natural event that shaped the Mooresville area was the movement of the major glaciers out of the north during the Ice Age. Morgan County is the southern boundary of the most recent of these glacial movements, the Wisconsin Glacier. The glaciers leveled off the topography as they moved south and left behind a level deposit of earth as they melted. Weather and erosion have since created slopes along streams and drainage ways. This is the basis for the difference in character of the landscape in the northern and eastern parts of the county, which were covered by the glacier, and that of the central and southwestern portions of the county, which were not.

Mooresville is located in the area which was covered by the Wisconsin Glacier. Thus, the land around the community is dominated by gently rolling land areas that have been cleared for agricultural use. Areas of steep slopes are generally restricted to the floodplain of the Big White Lick Creek and its tributaries.

A significant portion of the planning area is in the floodplain, the low-lying land surrounding the streams and other natural drainage channels that is subject to frequent flooding. The natural floodplain consists of the floodway, which floods at least every five years, and the floodway fringe. The floodway fringe is that area surrounding the floodway and extending to the 100 year flood boundary. Because of the flooding hazards and steep surrounding slopes, floodplain areas are unsuitable for most kinds of development.

### Climate

Mooresville lies 39° 36 minutes north latitude. Average annual temperature is 52° F. In winter the average temperature is 30°, and the average daily minimum temperature is 21°. In summer the average temperature is 74°, and the average daily maximum temperature is 85°.

Mooresville has an average annual rainfall of 40 inches. Of that total, 60 percent usually falls in the months of April through September. Mooresville receives an average of 29 inches of snow each winter.

With the wide seasonal extremes of temperatures that occur in the Mooresville area, both winter and summer sports activities are possible for local residents .

### Plants and Wildlife

Vegetation indigenous to the area includes wild herbaceous plants, hardwoods, wetland plants, grasses, legumes, grains and seed crops. The area is the natural habitat of quail, pheasant, field sparrows, wild turkey, thrushes, woodpeckers, ducks, geese, squirrels, red fox, gray fox, raccoon, deer, muskrat, beaver and mink.



## Government and Services

Moore'sville uses a town government in the form of a five-member Council, Clerk-Treasurer and Judge. Town Council Members appoint a Police Chief, Public Works Superintendent, Fire Chief, Cemetery Sexton, Waster Water Treatment Plant Superintendent and Economic Development Director.

### *Town Council*

George Watkins..... President  
Mark Mathis..... Vice-President  
Jeff Cook ..... Member  
Tony Langley ..... Member  
Virginia Perry..... Member  
Sandra Perry..... Clerk-Treasurer  
Tim Currens..... Attorney

### *Law Enforcement*

Tim Viles, Chief of Police  
Police Department  
104 West Main Street  
Moore'sville, IN 46158  
20 sworn Police Officers  
22 Police Cars  
1 K-9 Unit  
4 Emergency Dispatchers (FT)  
6 Emergency Dispatchers (PT)

### *Fire Protection - Moore'sville*

Tim Medsker, Chief  
Fire Station  
415 SR 144  
Moore'sville, IN 46158  
12 Full-Time Firefighters  
22 Part-Time Firefighters  
1 Fire Station  
3 Fire Trucks  
1 100-foot Ladder Truck

5 Support Vehicle Rescue Squads

### *Fire Protection- Brown Township*

471 Old SR 67  
Moore'sville, IN 46158  
13 Full-Time Firefighters  
10 Part-Time Firefighters  
2 Fires Stations  
4 Fire Trucks  
1 Support Vehicle Rescue Squad  
3 Ambulances  
4 Paramedics (FT)  
10 Paramedics/Firefighters (PT)

### *Fire Insurance Rating*

Class 5

### *Public Works Department*

Dave Moore, Superintendent

### *Park Board of Trustees*

Kelli McGuire..... President  
Rhonda Clair..... Vice President  
John Root..... Secretary  
Lynn Adams ..... Member  
David Pearson..... Member  
Matt Swindle..... Member  
Vacancy ..... Member

### Utilities

#### *Natural Gas*

- Vectren
- Cinergy

#### *Telephone*

- AT&T



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## Section H: Community Description

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### *Electric*

- Indianapolis Power & Light Company
- South Central Indiana REMC/Hoosier Energy
- Cinergy

### *Water*

- Hill Water Company
- Indiana American Water

### *Sewage*

- Mooresville Waster Water Treatment Plant

### *Waste Disposal*

- Ray's Trash Service

## Hospital & Medical Care Services

St. Francis Hospital and Health Center  
 Meadow Lakes Assisted Living  
 Miller's Merry Manor

## Educational Facilities

### *Public*

Mooresville Consolidated School Corporation

- 1 – High School
- 1 – Junior High Schools
- 5 – Elementary Schools
- 1 – Education Opportunity Center

### *Private*

Mooresville Christian Academy (K-8)

## Colleges, Universities & Technical Institutions

Indiana University..... Bloomington  
 University of Indianapolis..... Indianapolis  
 Butler University..... Indianapolis  
 Ivy Tech State College..... Indianapolis  
 Indiana University-Purdue University (IUPUI)  
 ..... Indianapolis  
 DePauw University ..... Greencastle  
 Anderson University..... Anderson

## Transportation

### *Local Airport: Indianapolis International*

Passengers flying into and out of Indianapolis International Airport are served by 12 airlines. On average, there are 180 daily departures, 39 of which are nonstop from Indianapolis to major U.S. destinations.

### *Highways*

Mooresville is quite literally located at the crossroads of America, with easy access to all directions of interstate travel. Interstate 70 is within three miles of Mooresville, and Interstate 465 is less than ten miles away. I-465 provides easy access to Interstates 65, 69, 70 and 74.

### *Indiana Rail Transportation*

Rail service is available through the Indiana Southern Short Line, with a connection to Conrail. CSX has a major switching yard only 20 minutes from Mooresville.



## Major Industries

INDUSTRY	PRODUCT / SERVICE	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
Nice-Pak Products, Inc.	Baby Wipes	300
General Shale Brick	Face Bricks	100
SaniServe	Engine Bearings & Bushings	92
Overton & Sons Tool & Die	Carbide Tool & Die	85
Jack K Elrod Company	Stadium Seating/Structural Steel Fabrication	75
Thiesing Veneer Co.	Hardwood Face Veneer	75
LinEl Signature	Skylights	70
G.R. Wood, Inc.	Veneer & Dimensional Wood	40
Laboratory Equipment Corp.	Mechanical & Electrical Test Equipment	40
Sun Polymers International, Inc.	Powder Coating Resin	40
Indy Steel	Steel Fabrication	30
Equipment Technologies, Inc.	Tractor Sprayers	30
Mooresville Consolidated Schools	Education	525
St. Francis Hospital	Medical	430
TOA		320

## Communications

### Newspapers

- Mooresville-Decatur Times
- Indianapolis Star

### Television and Radio

All major television networks are available to residents of Mooresville with signals originating in Indianapolis and Bloomington. Cable and satellite service is also available.

- WFYI (Ch. 20) PBS network
- WHMB (Ch. 40) Independent
- WISH (Ch. 8) CBS network
- WNDY (Ch. 23) UPN network
- WRTV (Ch. 6) ABC network
- WTBU (Ch. 69) PBS network





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## Section H: Community Description

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- WTHR (Ch. 13) NBC network
- WTTV (Ch. 4) WB network
- WXIN (Ch. 59) Fox network

Several AM and FM radio station signals are received in Mooresville providing a variety of news and music.

- WIBC (1070 AM)
- WCBK (102.3 FM)
- WFMS (95.5 FM)
- WTPI (107.9 FM)

## Financial Institutions

### Banks

- Citizens Bank
- BMO Harris Bank
- Home Bank SB
- First Merchants Bank
- Regions Bank
- First National Bank & Trust
- First Indiana Bank
- Chase Bank
- Harris Bank

## Places of Worship

Founded by a North Carolina Quaker who married a Methodist woman, those two denominations have been prominent in Mooresville, which is now home to more than 23 places of worship of many faiths.

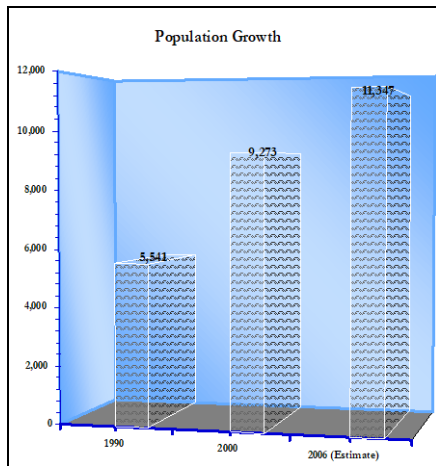
## Fraternal and Civic Organizations

- Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 3988
- Masonic Temple
- Mooresville VFW Post No. 111
- Mooresville American Legion



## Population

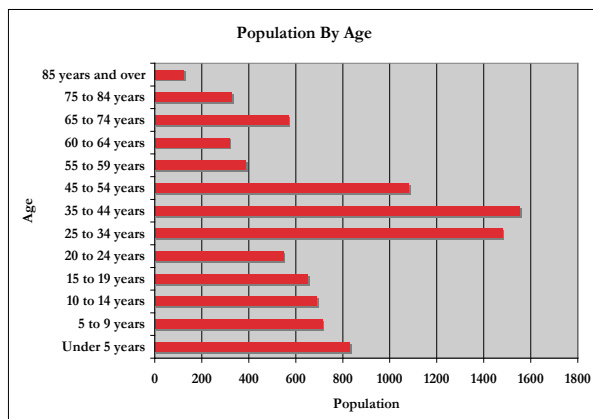
Population studies are an important part of the analysis of the current condition and future expectations of the community. An analysis of a community's population provides background information necessary to determine future park and recreation needs. The trends of population characteristics over the recent past give insight to the future needs of the community. On the following pages are population statistics for the Town of Mooreville and Morgan County to help determine future needs for public recreation infrastructure, facilities and services.



### Population Growth

Population growth is an important issue for Park & Recreation Departments. Park Departments carry the responsibility of providing quality parks and open space, recreation programs and facilities for the use and enjoyment of the community making parks a destination point for many people and families.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Mooreville's population has increased from 5,541 persons in 1990 to an estimated 11,347 persons in 2006. The continued growth of the community will require much planning for the Park Department as park usage also increases creating the need for more land.



### Population by Age

The total population for Mooreville in 2000 was 9,273 with the median age being 33.3 years. The largest sector is the 25 – 54 year olds, however, Mooreville Parks must not forget the increasing older community (55 – over 85) when preparing Park Programming.



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Section H: Community Description

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*Population by Race & Ethnicity*

*Household Characteristics*



## Recreation

The Mooresville Parks and Recreation Department provides a wide variety of facilities, programs and services that enhance the physical, social and emotional well-being of people of all ages. Parks and Recreation facilities have become as important to Mooresville families as every other neighborhood service.

### Recreational Opportunities Within Local Jurisdiction

#### *Private Recreation Facilities*

- Core Fitness
- Anytime Fitness
- Indiana Martial Arts
- Spotlight on Stars
- Hoosier Hotshots
- X Treme Dance Academy
- American Dance Company

#### *Public Golf Courses in and near Mooresville*

- Eagle Pines Country Club

#### *Semi-Private Golf Courses in and near Mooresville*

- Heartland Crossing Golf Links

### Regional Public Recreational Opportunities

#### ***Sodalis Nature Park***

Sodalis Nature Park is 210 acres of beautiful, mature woodlands and reforestation area, which serves as home to an abundance of native Indiana wildlife. Visitors can enjoy fishing in the 5.5 acre pond, hiking over 3.5 miles of nature trails and relaxing in the picnic area. The park exists within a permanently protected conservation area established to protect the endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*).



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## Section H: Community Description

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### ***Shades State Park***

Shades State Park is located about 17 miles southwest of Crawfordsville (off S.R. 47), it is a favorite for hikers and canoeists. The sandstone cliffs overlook Sugar Creek and numerous shady ravines. Adjacent Pine Hills Nature Preserve affords spectacular topography for those willing to take a fairly long hike.

#### *Facilities:*

- Airstrip
- Camping
- Class B / 105 sites
- Cultural Arts Programs
- Dumping Station
- Fishing
- Hiking Trails
- Interpretive Services / Seasonal
- Picnicking
- Shelter Reservations
- Youth Tent Areas

### ***Turkey Run State Park***

Nestled along State Road 47 southwest of Crawfordsville, Turkey Run provides deep, sandstone ravines, aged forests, and scenic views along Sugar Creek for its visitors. The Colonel Richard Lieber Cabin commemorates the contributions of the father of Indiana's state park system.

#### *Facilities:*

- Cabins, Inn Operated
- Camping - Class A / 235 sites Class B / 18 sites
  - (all B sites are non- reservable walk-in tent sites only)
- Camping Reservations
- Camp Store
- Cultural Arts Programs
- Dumping Stations
- Fishing
- Hiking Trails
- Turkey Run Inn Accommodations
- w/ Indoor Pool (toll free 1-877-500-6151)
- Inn Restaurant
- Meeting & Conference Facilities
- Nature Center / Planetarium
- Interpretive Services
- Picnicking
- Playgrounds
- Saddle Barn
- Shelter Reservations
- Swimming / Pool (See Swim Alert)
- Tennis & Other Games
- Youth Tent Area

### ***Fort Harrison State Park***

Landscape and history blend in a unique setting in northeast Indianapolis at Fort Harrison State Park. The 1700-acre park features walking and jogging trails, picnic sites, fishing access to Fall Creek and two



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## Mooresville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

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national historic districts. The former Citizen's Military Training Camp, Civilian Conservation Corps camp and World War II prisoner of war camp is preserved at the park headquarters location.

### *Facilities:*

- Bicycle Trail
- Cultural Arts Programs
- Fishing
- Hiking Trails / Multi-use Trail (paved)
- The Fort Golf Resort & Conference Center
  - Harrison House Suites & 3 Officer's Homes
  - The Garrison w /Dining & Conference
  - Facilities, 5 Meeting Rooms
- Golf Course / 18 holes & Driving Range
- Nature Center
- Interpretive Services
- Picnicking
- Picnic Shelters
- Shelter Reservations
- Saddle Barn w / horse trail rides, hayrides

### **McCormick Creek State Park**

Unique limestone formations and scenic waterfalls are some of the highlights at Indiana's first state park, McCormick's Creek. This park is located along the White River, 14 miles northwest of Bloomington. McCormick Creek State Park is known for its cliff surrounded canyon and the careful preservation of it original plant-life.

### *Facilities:*

- Cabins, House keeping
- Camping (Class A / 189 sites, Class C / 100 sites)
- Camping Reservations - Camp, Group
- Cultural Arts Programs
- Dumping Station
- Hiking Trails
- Inn Accommodations
- Inn Restaurant
- Meeting & Conference Facilities
- Nature Center
- Interpretive Services
- Picnicking
- Rental-Recreation Building
- Saddle Barn
- Shelter Reservations
- Swimming / Pool (See Swim Alert)
- Tennis & Other Games
- Youth Tent Areas



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## Section H: Community Description

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### ***Brown County State Park***

Located in the beautiful hills of Brown County off Highway 46, you will especially enjoy the variety offered in Indiana's largest state park, including nearly 20 miles of roads, with numerous scenic vistas. There are comfortable accommodations at the rustic Abe Martin Lodge, large campgrounds, hiking trails, interpretive services, and extensive horse riding facilities.

#### *Facilities*

- Bridle Trails / Saddle Barn
- Cabins, Housekeeping
- Cabins, (Motel Type)
- Camping - RVs Use West Gate
  - (Class A / 401 sites • Class B / 28 sites)
- Camping Reservations
- Camp Store
- Camp, Rally / 60 sites
- Camp, Horsemen's - Entrance off Hwy. 135 South
  - (Class A / 118 sites, Class C / 86 sites)
- Cultural Arts Programs
- Dumping Station
- Fishing / Ice Fishing
- Hiking Trails
- Inn Accommodations / Inn Restaurant / Meeting & Conference Facilities
- Nature Center / Interpretive Services
- Picnicking / Playground Equipment
- Shelter Reservations
- Swimming / Pool (See Swim Alert)
- Tennis & Other Games
- Youth Tent Areas

### ***White River State Park***

Here's a state park for those not in the mood to camp, hike, swim, fish or hunt bugs. It's natural to expect White River State Park to offer beautiful waterways, grassy expanses and tree-lined boulevards. And you'll find these in abundance. But for those days when you're hoping for more, we offer that, too! Just one block west of the RCA Dome in Downtown Indianapolis, this great new urban park offers attractions for the entire family. White River State Park is not operated by DNR but by an independent commission.

#### *Facilities*

- IMAX® Theater
- Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art
- NCAA Hall of Champions
- Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial
- The Indianapolis Zoo
- White River Gardens
- Victory Field
- Pumphouse Visitors Center
- The National Institute for



### ***Cataract Falls***

Location: on Hwy. 231 South of Cloverdale to Owen County Road 1050N; turn west (right) and follow the signs. It's not too hard to find, really.

Description: It's a waterfall and then another waterfall, running over a limestone bed; the walls are hollowed out behind the falls, you can walk out behind the water; lots of wading fun and climbing around. The best picnic spot you could ever imagine, a perfect day trip when you don't want to do too awful much. I've found fossilized wood here; there may be some other fossil hunting to be done. The recreation area isn't much unless you want to fish or boat. There is a Nature Conservancy Purchased woods (Cataract Lake) here also.

Nearby Points of Interest: Lieber State Recreation Area, Owen-Putnam State Forest, McCormick's Creek State Park.

### ***Morgan-Monroe State Forest***

Morgan-Monroe State Forest is counties in south central Indiana. The forest land encompasses many steep ridges and valleys, and is forested with some of the state's finest hardwoods.

The original settlers of the area cleared and attempted to farm the ridges, but were frustrated by rocky soil unsuitable for agriculture. The state purchased the eroded, abandoned land to create Morgan-Monroe State Forest beginning in 1929.

Morgan-Monroe State Forest is located southwest of Indianapolis, 35 miles south from Interstate 465 via State Road 37 (5 miles south of Martinsville or 16 miles northeast of Bloomington-follow signs 8 miles east of State Road 37.)

#### *Facilities:*

- Camping
- Primitive (class C) camping is available for a fee - 21 sites.
- Oak Ridge Campground - 11 sites
- Scout Ridge Youth Tent Campground and Nature Preserve
- Cherry Lake
- Lakes- Bryant Creek Lake (9 acres), Cherry Lake (4 acres) and Prather Lake (4 acres)
- Picnicking
- Hunting
- Gold Panning
- Hiking Trails
- Scout Ridge Nature Preserve Trail -1/2 mile
- Pathfinder Trail - 2/3 mile
- Tree Identification Trail - 2/3 mile
- Fire Tower More Hiking Trails





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## Section H: Community Description

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- Rock Shelter Loop - 3 miles (moderate)
- Mason Ridge Loop - 2.7 miles (moderate)
- Three Lakes Trail - 10 miles (rugged)
- Low Gap Trail - 10 miles (rugged)
- Draper Cabin



## Central Indiana State Reservoirs

Source: Graphics and text taken from State of Indiana Department of Natural Resources Website • <http://www.state.in.us/dnr/parklake/reservoirs> - 8/20/01

### **Brookville Lake**

Mounds SRA and Quakertown SRA  
16,445 acres - 5,260-acre lake

#### *Facilities:*

- Archery Range
- Boating / 9 Launch Ramps
- Camping
  - Class AA / 62
  - Class A / 404 sites
- Camping Reservations
- Camp Store
- Cultural Arts Programs
- Dumping Station
- Fishing / Ice Fishing Pier
- Hiking Trails
- Horseshoe pits
- Hunting
- Interpretive / Recreational Programs
- Kent's Harbor Marina
- Picnicking / Shelter Houses
- Playground
- Shooting Range
- Swimming / 2 Beaches
- Volleyball

### **Cagles Mill Lake**

Cunot Ramp and Cataract Falls, Lieber SRA  
8,075 acres - 1,400-acre lake

#### *Facilities:*

- Activity Center
- Basketball Court
- Boating / 2 Launch Ramps
- Camping
  - Class A / 150 sites
  - Class B / 102 sites
- Camping Reservations
- Cultural Arts Programs
- Dumping Station
- Fishing
- Handicapped Fishing Trips
- Fishing Pier
- Hiking / Fitness trails
- Horseshoe Pits
- Hunting
- Interpretive / Recreational Programs
- Picnicking / Shelter House Reservable
- Playground Equipment
- Rental-Fishing Boats, Pontoons
- Swimming / Pool & Waterslide
- Waterskiing
- Water Safari Boat Tours



Section H: Community Description

**Cecil M. Harden Lake**

Raccoon SRA  
4,065 acres - 2,060-acre lake

*Facilities:*

- Archery Range
- Basketball Courts
- Boating / 5 Launch Ramps
- Camping
- Camp Store
- Cultural Arts Programs
- Dumping Stations
- Fishing / Ice Fishing
- Fishing Pier
- Hiking Trails
- Horseshoe Pits
- Hunting / Limited
- Interpretive / Recreational Programs
- Picnicking / Shelter Houses Reservable
- Playground Equipment
- Rental-Fishing Boats, Pontoons
- Swimming / Beach
- Volleyball Courts
- Waterskiing
- Youth Tent Areas

**Local and Regional Cultural Facilities**

Moore'sville Library .....	Moore'sville, IN
Morgan County Library .....	Martinsville, IN
Bill Monroe's Bluegrass Hall & Museum.....	Morgantown, IN
Bill & James Monroe Festival.....	Morgantown, IN
Children's Museum.....	Indianapolis, IN
Indianapolis Zoo .....	Indianapolis, IN
Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra .....	Indianapolis, IN
NCAA Headquarters & Hall of Champions Museum .....	Indianapolis, IN
Indiana Pacers (NBA).....	Indianapolis, IN
Indianapolis Colts (NFL) .....	Indianapolis, IN
Indianapolis Indians (AAA Baseball) .....	Indianapolis, IN
Indianapolis Ice (ice hockey) .....	Indianapolis, IN
Indiana Blast (1A Soccer).....	Indianapolis, IN
Indiana Fever (WNBA) .....	Indianapolis, IN
Indiana Medical History Museum.....	Indianapolis, IN
Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians & Western Art.....	Indianapolis, IN
Indiana State Museum .....	Indianapolis, IN
James Whitcomb Riley Home .....	Indianapolis, IN
Benjamin Harrison Presidential Home .....	Indianapolis, IN



Mooreville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

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## Section I: Inventory

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### **Existing Recreation Facilities**

Mooreville's parks are well equipped to provide adequate active recreational facilities for Mooreville residents of all ages. The parks contain attractive areas for walking and picnicking and nearly all have playground equipment and playfield areas.

Through this fine park system, along with continued expansion of facilities and programs, the needs of the residents of Mooreville, as well as Brown Township, can continue to be met.

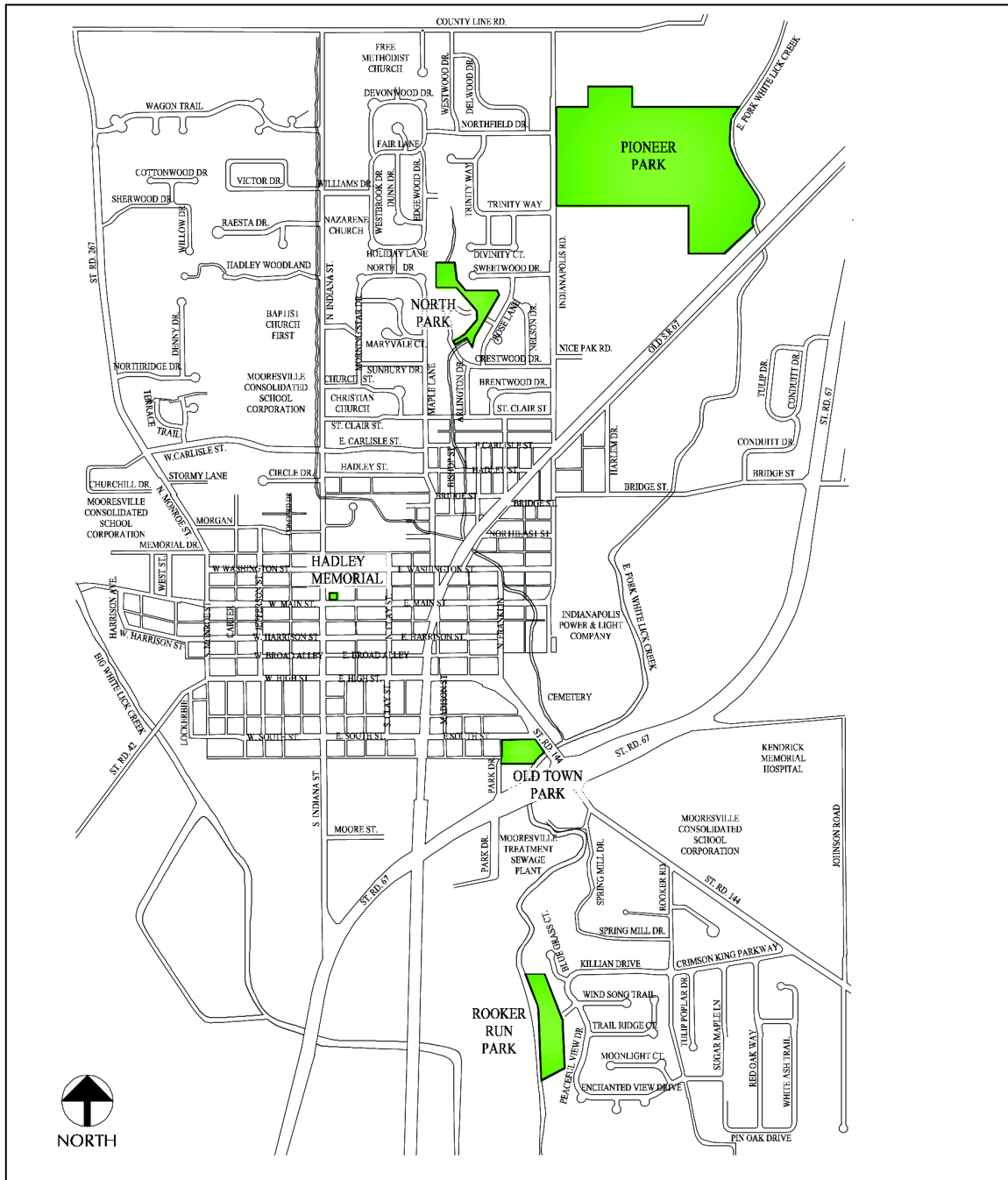
The pages that follow provide an inventory of the Mooreville park system and programs provided. Included is an overall town map that identifies each park property. Individual park site plans follow in the form of aerial photographs.

The five (5) public parks in the Town of Mooreville range in size from 1200 sq. ft. (Hadley Memorial) to 150 acres (Pioneer Park). The types of facilities available in each park also vary widely, as can be seen in the Facility Infrastructure Inventory matrix.



Mooreville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

Town Map of Park Facilities





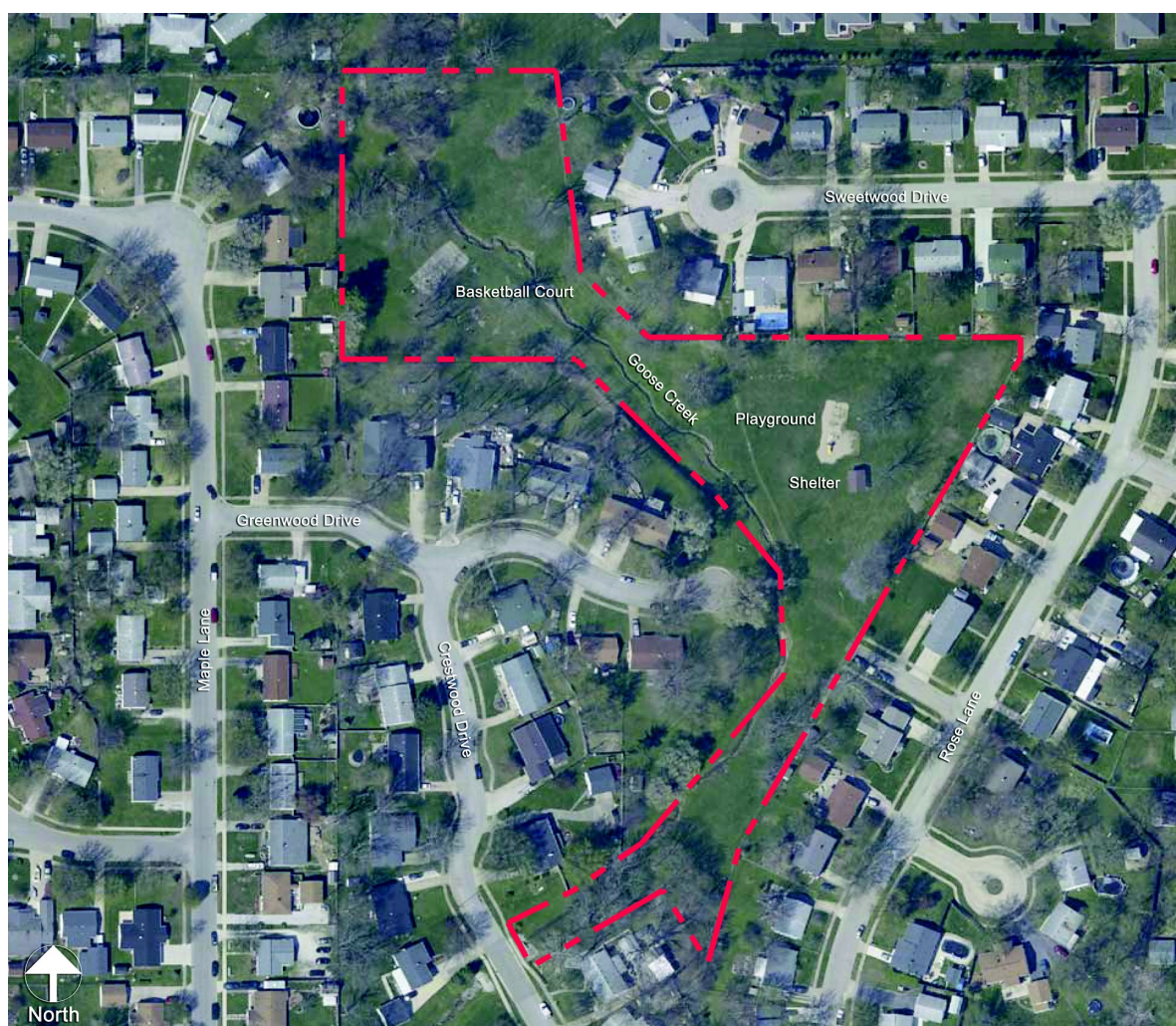
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## Section I: Inventory

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### North Park

Located in the Highland Meadows subdivision, this neighborhood park contains 5.86 acres and is divided by Goose Creek and bordered by residences on Greenwood Drive and Parkway Drive. Robert Dunn donated the land for North Park in 1965. Amenities located at this park site include picnicking, one picnic shelter, playground, and one basketball court. This park is passive in its character serving a local neighborhood.





## Old Town Park

Located at South and Park Streets, this neighborhood park is the oldest park in Mooreville dating back to 1877 when Samuel Moore donated 3.3 acres of land to the Town of Mooreville. Old Town Park now contains approximately seven acres and is bounded by East South Street, Park Drive, State Road 67 and High Street, with East Fork White Lick Creek running through the property. Amenities found in this park include a shelter, playground, and a log cabin for Boy Scouts usage, restrooms and water fountains.







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## Section I: Inventory

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### Pioneer Park (Update map w/ new acreage)

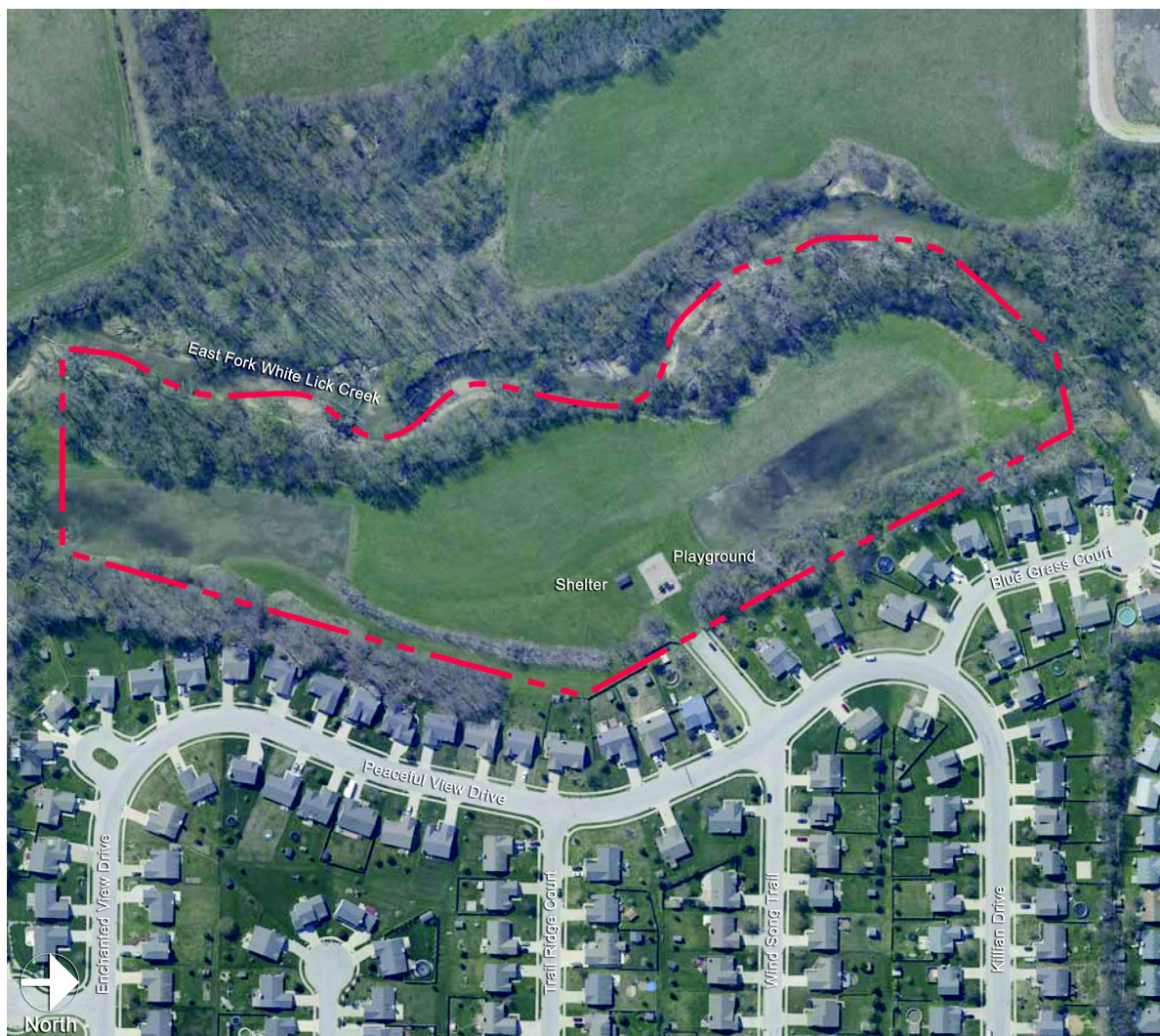
Located at 1101 North Indianapolis Road this community park site serves as the main park in the Mooreville system. The 150-acre site is located on Indianapolis Road and Samuel Moore Parkway and also has East Fork White Lick Creek running through it. The Park District's office and maintenance center are located on this park site. Amenities located in Pioneer Park include the Mooreville Family Aquatic Center, seven picnic shelters, playgrounds, six baseball diamonds, soccer fields, three horseshoe courts, one sand volleyball courts, one basketball court, and a paved walking/jogging trail around the majority of the park site. This park is the site for many seasonal activities and festivals.





## Rooker Run Park

The land for Rooker Run Park was donated to the park district by the developer in 1995. It consists of 18.7 acres. It is a low-laying open area on the East Fork White Lick Creek with a raised area at the entrance of the park. A playground was added to Rooker Run Park in 2006.





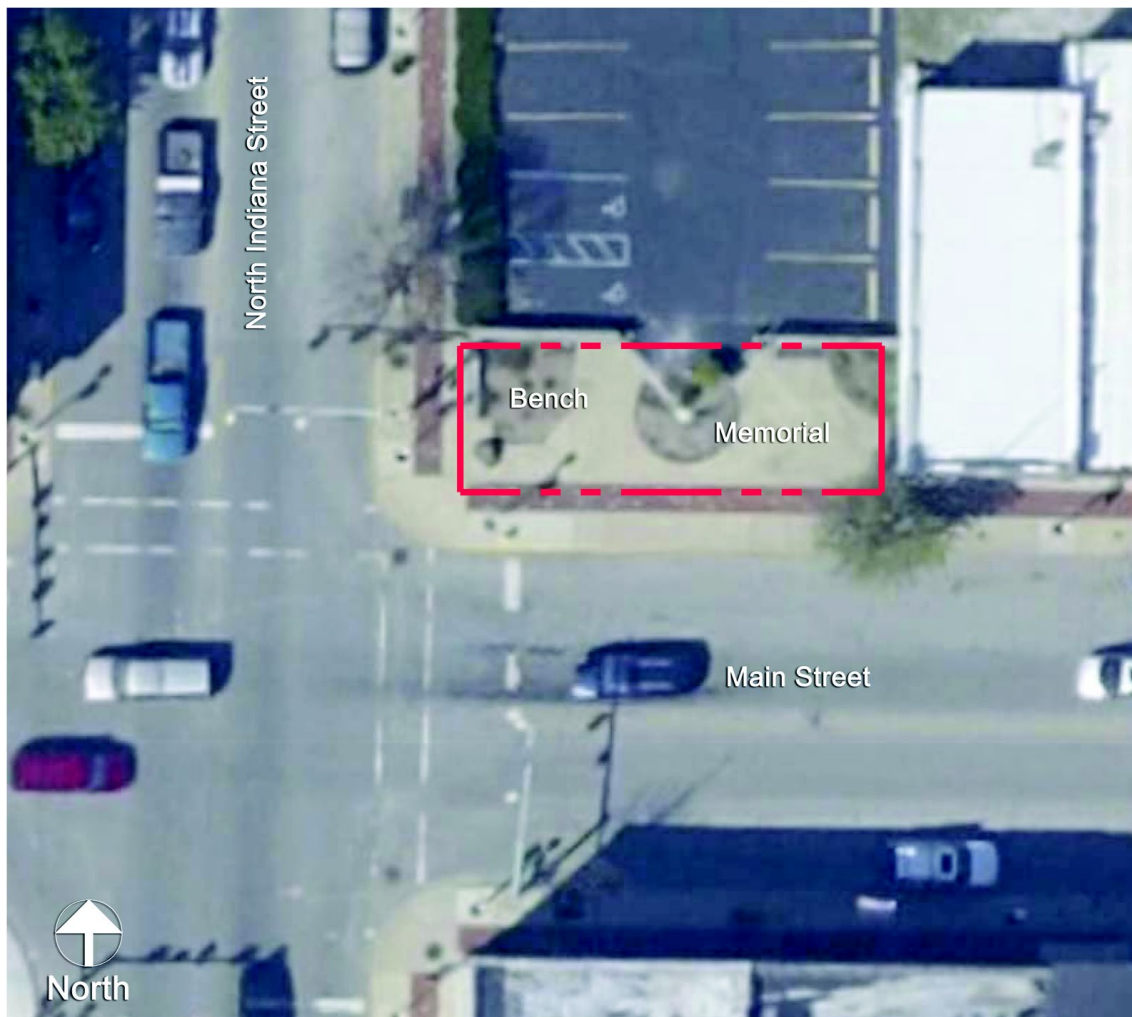
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## Section I: Inventory

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### Hadley Memorial

Hadley Memorial Park is classified as a block park. It is a 1,200 square foot section of land located in the downtown business district at the corner of Main and Indiana Streets. The memorial commemorates Paul Hadley, the designer of the Indiana State Flag. The site contains a small memorial and park bench.





Mooreville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

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Section I: Inventory

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Mooreville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

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## Section I: Inventory

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### Mooreville General Program Inventory

#### Youth Programs

Coach Teders Tennis Camp	Guard Start
Komets Soccer Club	Letters from Santa
Mooreville Youth Baseball (Babe Ruth)	Lifeguard Training
Mooreville Girls Softball	Preschool Summer Camps
Morris J Cohen Youth Football	Safe Sitter Training
Mooreville Youth Wrestling	School Age Summer Camp
Mooreville Area Swim Team (MAST)	Start Smart Baseball
Mooreville Boys Junior Basketball	Start Smart Soccer
Mooreville Girls Junior Basketball	Swim Lessons
Optimist Soccer	

#### Family Programs

Campfire Cookout	Crawdad Dig
Open Swim	Nature Scavenger Hunt
Family Swim	Kite Flying Day
Lap Swim/Water Aerobics	Public & Private Hayrides
Bug Off/Insects	Wildlife Trackers

#### Special Events

Arbor Day Program	Mooreville Bike Race
Community Christmas Tree Lighting	Mooreville Fireworks Celebration
Daddy Daughter Date Night	Mooreville Grand Prix
Easter Egg Hunt	Mother and Son Dance
Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt	Pirates & Princesses Splash Party
Halloween Hike	Touch A Truck
Human Power Vehicle Bike Race	



## Facility Rental

Shelter Rental  
Aquatic Center Rental  
Hayrides

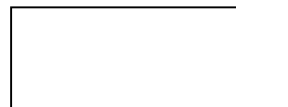




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Section I: Inventory

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## Section J: Maintenance

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### Park Maintenance

The image of the Mooreville Park and Recreation Department relates to how well its parks and facilities are maintained. Parks are known to be the welcome mat of cities and towns. Therefore, a visitor's first impression is critical. Mooreville Park and Recreation Department is fortunate to have beautiful parks and a maintenance staff dedicated to its works and to the City.

Park maintenance procedures and practices can be summarized as follows:

- Centralized
- Maintenance reviews conducted through daily site visits
- Trash pick-up of all park areas
- Winter snow plowing of all parks as well as some other municipal properties
- Annual inspections are conducted on all park facilities

It is important that the Maintenance Division continue to evaluate its role and purpose and make adjustments so that policies & procedures can be developed to enhance park maintenance efficiency. Each maintenance staff member should have a supervisor who assigns and monitors work assignments, etc. It has been demonstrated that an employee given responsibility and authority responds with increased pride in his/her work.

### Maintenance Strategy

Park grounds maintenance involves turf maintenance, tree maintenance, structure maintenance, landscape maintenance and litter control.

- Turf Maintenance – includes mowing, trimming, fertilization and chemical application.
- Tree Maintenance – includes watering, pruning and insect control.
- Structural Maintenance – includes shelter houses, restroom facilities, playground equipment, fence lines, park trails, bleachers and parking lots.
- Equipment Maintenance – includes trucks, tractors, front-end loader, mowing equipment and all other mechanical equipment as required.
- Landscape Maintenance – includes mulch application, trimming and flower displays throughout town.
- Litter Control – (on all park sites) includes trash barrel collection and hand pick up work.

The following recommendations are based on review of existing maintenance practices. The recommendations are divided into four (4) basic categories for each division:



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1. Operations
2. Facilities
3. Equipment
4. Staff

### Operations

The maintenance operations of the Park Department are in good working order, requiring only a few changes. Recommendations are as follows:

During the public input sessions and planning team meetings there was concern expressed regarding the amount of facilities and manpower to maintain them. To help address these concerns Work Request and Work Order forms can be used. Samples of the forms have been included for review by the park staff.

It is recommended that an Operations and Safety Manual for maintenance practices be developed. Such a manual would provide direction in areas of responsibility and procedures. It would also be an excellent tool for new employee orientation and training.

Additionally, the development of a landscape maintenance program and schedule would help identify what needs to be done, where it should be done, and most importantly, when it should be done and by whom.

The old methods of administrating the operations of the park and recreation department are not as productive and efficient in today's hi-tech age. It is recommended that The Mooresville Park and Recreation Department consider implementing a computer-based maintenance management program.

Goals of such a system would be to:

1. Facilitate better long and short term park planning and provide for more accurate monitoring of park maintenance activities.
2. Increase the cost effectiveness of maintenance practices and improve maintenance scheduling.
3. Provide management with more accurate and complete information on which to base budgets and make decisions.

A computerized "Parks Maintenance Management System" (as published in *Trends* by the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service) includes nine basic components:

- Task Definitions
- Activities
- Inventory
- Accomplishment Units
- Quality Standards
- Service Levels
- Methods and Procedures
- Standard Crew Complement
- Productivity Standards

It is through such a management system that short-term planning and resource allocations can be determined along with long-term strategic decisions. In the short term it serves as an overall check on performance and budget results. Long term, it will aid in decisions on staffing, equipment purchases, budget forecasting, etc.





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## Section J: Maintenance

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It is recommended that The Mooresville Park and Recreation Department investigate the possibility of computerizing its maintenance operations.

### Facilities

The facilities in the Mooresville Park and Recreation Department are in various stages of maintenance attention. In general, and over time, all of the park facilities will require an upgrade. In order to implement an upgrade, budget resources and needs lists will be required. Many of these items have been addressed as a part of the Action Plan of this study.

Once the facilities have been upgraded to a satisfactory level, it is recommended that a preventative maintenance program be developed and implemented. A Building & Structure Checklist form should be developed and reviewed on an annual basis, thus providing time to plan and budget for repairs and renovations. Items in the checklist may include structural conditions, roofing, mechanical systems, plumbing systems, electrical systems, doors, windows, painting, etc.

### Equipment

The Park Department's maintenance vehicles and equipment were found to be in good condition. Vehicle/equipment replacement has been an on-going program in the Mooresville Park and Recreation Department. It is important to have the proper maintenance equipment and vehicles to complement the staff in its duties and responsibilities.

Due to the fact that some vehicles and equipment are in service longer than their expected life may necessitate that a service log system be developed. By tracking the maintenance and repairs on each piece of equipment, the replacement program can be better organized. "Trouble" pieces of equipment can be moved up in the replacement program and each piece can be better evaluated for the suitability of the job required.

The specific pieces of equipment or vehicles that will need replacement in the near future have been identified in the Five Year Action Plan.

### Staff

It is good practice to review each new development, facility, or program to determine and anticipate any potential impact it may have on the maintenance staff.

A few recommendations for maintenance staff include:

1. Continuation of staff training and education programs.
2. Development of a staff manual with:
  - staff training
  - operations procedures
  - job descriptions
  - maintenance policies
3. Training for emergency procedures. (When an accident occurs in a park, often the maintenance



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## Mooresville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

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staff is the only park personnel in the area and so each person should be knowledgeable of first aid emergency procedures.)

### Safety Rules

#### General Rules

- ✓ Safety glasses must be worn when using: weed whip, edger, chainsaw, wood chipper, or any other equipment judged to present an eye hazard.
- ✓ Safety vests must be worn when working on or near roadways or when transporting equipment on roads (example: driving the Toro to Town Hall)
- ✓ Flashers on equipment must always be on when you are on public roadways.
- ✓ Under no condition should safety devices be removed from equipment.
- ✓ Empty paint cans, aerosol cans, paint thinner, brush cleaner, must be placed in the marked containers.
- ✓ All gasoline cans must be returned to the safety cabinet every night.
- ✓ You are expected to evaluate your work assignment and select the proper safety equipment for the job. *If you are not sure, ask!*
- ✓ Report and unsafe equipment to the safety man.
- ✓ Never fill any gas tank with the engine running.
- ✓ Never adjust any mowers or other power equipment with the engine running.
- ✓ Look before you back up.
- ✓ Never stand up on any piece of equipment while in operation.
- ✓ Never borrow any piece of equipment without the supervisor's permission.
- ✓ No speeding or horseplay on any piece of park equipment.
- ✓ Keys must always be removed when leaving a piece of park equipment unattended in a park.
- ✓ Extreme caution should be used whenever working along the edge of a body of water, especially when mowing.
- ✓ Never allow anyone to ride on a mower or tractor.
- ✓ Anyone being transported in the back of a truck must be seated either on the floor of the bed or on an approved seat.
- ✓ No walkman-type devices are allowed while on the clock.
- ✓ Check out all equipment prior to using it (belts, blades, oil level, brakes, tire pressure).
- ✓ Never clear a clogged mower chute with the machine running.
- ✓ Extra caution must be used when mowing damp or wet grass or hilly areas. Don't use a machine in an area it's not designed for.
- ✓ Report any and all injuries and equipment malfunction or damage immediately.
- ✓ Radio must always be on to answer your calls.



## Section J: Maintenance

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- ✓ Follow all posted road signage (speed limits, etc.).
- ✓ Pace yourself throughout the day and ask for help when lifting – macho men end up disabled.
- ✓ There is no substitute for common sense. When in doubt, ask!



## Maintenance Work Forms

On the following pages are sample maintenance forms used for Work Requests and Work Orders. A revised version of these forms would be helpful to the Mooresville Park and Recreation Department for processing and tracking its maintenance activities.

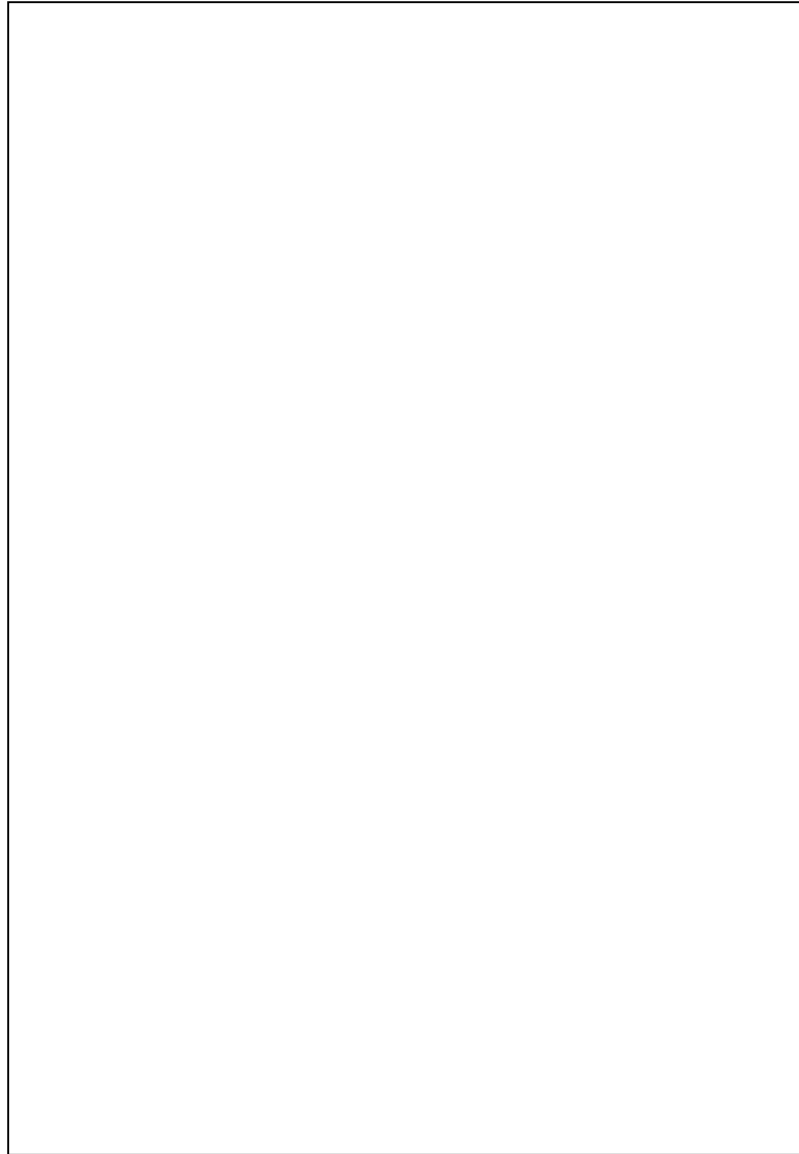






Section J: Maintenance

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## Design Strategies to Deter Vandalism

### Building Design

- Design informal gathering areas to insure orderly flow, supervision, and natural surveillance.
- Attach equipment to floors with sunken bolts.
- Remove all unnecessary hardware close to the ground level.
- Minimize exposed plumbing pipes and accessories.
- Avoid recessed entrance ways.
- Place entrances where highly visible.
- Ladders necessary for access to the roof should be located inside.
- Include a secure room whenever possible to provide storage for special use groups, thermostat, etc.
- Use recessed gutters and internal down spouts.

### Walls

- Should be made of fireproof material whenever possible.
- Easily repainted surfaces.
- Legitimate graffiti areas.
- Recess hardware into walls and cover with protective plate.
- Rough textured walls.

### Windows

- Sky lights may be substituted for windows.
- Eliminate windows on the back of buildings or those on woodland sides.
- Use break resistant windows (Plexiglas or lectern, etc.).
- Windows should be sealed.
- Openings should be narrow to prevent entry.
- Place windows high above reach of potential vandals whenever possible.
- Minimize glass around play areas.
- Avoid large areas of glass.
- Remove or avoid useless windows.



## Section J: Maintenance

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- Windows should not open outward.

### Lighting

- Provide ample interior and exterior lighting to deter vandals (entrances, parking lots, etc.).
- Interior fixture should be recessed.
- Fixtures should be located high above reach.

### Doors

- Should consider visibility for location.
- Material should be heavy and solid (including frames).
- Automatic closers when appropriate.
- Eliminate as much exterior hardware as possible.
- Consider installing a middle post for double doors.
- Metal plate should be welded to metal door.

### Restrooms

- Walls should have an easily cleaned surface.
- Eliminate mirrors.
- Use block walls as partitions.
- Make plumbing as inaccessible as possible.
- Avoid low placement of screen vents.
- Locate away from external entrances.
- Sinks should be supported on three sides.
- Avoid overhead braces across stalls or utilize a wide or ungripable one to discourage swinging.

### Roof

- Use standing seam metal with severe slopes wherever possible.
- Avoid asbestos, composition, and wood shake shingles on one or two story buildings.
- Make access difficult.



## Fences

- Minimum height of 8 feet.
- Should be transparent (wrought iron or chain link).
- Eliminate unnecessary fences.
- Fence around public areas that are off limits at certain times.
- Gates at trail / access ways.

## Landscaping

- Provide adequate visibility to all entrances.
- Avoid using gravel or stones near buildings (that may be thrown).
- Do not plant so close to building that they can provide access to the roof.
- Carefully select places where shrubbery is to be planted so as not to provide hiding places.
- Protect young teens with guards.
- Plant trees and bushes not easily burned, broken, or climbed.
- Establish buffer area between formal play areas and school buildings.

## Miscellaneous

- Install signs at 7ft. heights when allowable.
- Routed wooden signs are hard to deface.
- Refrain from metal signs as much as possible as they tend to attract marksman and thrown rocks.
- Flowers in a raised bed around a sign help protect it.
- Design fire hydrants that require a special tool to operate.
- Secure covers or manholes and use covers with little resale value.
- Use tamper-proof screw and fastener when possible.
- Utilize audible alarms.

## **Suggested General Playground Maintenance Checklist**

### General Upkeep of Playgrounds

- Check the entire playground area for miscellaneous debris or litter.
- Check for missing trash receptacles and for those which are full.



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## Section J: Maintenance

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- Check for any damage (i.e., any broken or missing components) to equipment or other playground features caused by vandalism or wear; for example, check for any broken or missing handrails, guardrails, protective barriers, or steps or rungs on ladders, and for damage to any fences, benches, or signs on the playground.

### Surfacing

- Check for equipment that does not have adequate protective surfacing under and around it and for surfacing materials that have deteriorated.
- Check loose surfacing material for foreign objects or debris.
- Check loose surfacing material for compaction and reduced depth, with special attention to heavy use areas such as those under swings and slide exit regions.

### General Hazards

- Check all equipment and other playground features for any hazard that may have emerged.
- Check for sharp points, corners, and edges; for example, check the sides and sliding surface of slide chutes for sharp or rough edges caused by deterioration.
- Check for protrusions and projections.
- Check for missing or damaged protective caps or plugs.
- Check for potential clothing entanglement hazards, such as open S-hooks.
- Check for pinch, crush, and shearing points or exposed moving parts.
- Check for trip hazards, such as exposed footings on anchoring devices and rocks, roots, or any other environmental obstacles in the play area.

### Deterioration of Equipment

- Check all equipment and other playground features for rust, rot, cracks, and splinters, with special attention to possible corrosion where structures come in contact with the ground.
- Check for unstable anchoring of equipment.

### Security of Hardware

- Check for any loose or worn connecting, covering, or fastening hardware devices; for example, check the S-hooks at both ends of suspending elements of swings and all connection points on flexible climbing devices for wear.
- Check all moving parts, such as swing bearing hangers, for wear.



## Equipment Use Zones

- Check for obstacles in equipment use zones.

## Drainage Systems

- Check the entire play area for drainage problems, with special attention to heavy use areas such as those under swings and slide exit regions.

## Summary Characteristics of Organic & Inorganic Loose-Fill Materials & Unitary Synthetic Materials

### Organic Loose Material

- Wood chips, bark, mulch, etc.

#### *Fall Absorbing Characteristics*

- Cushioning effect depends on air trapped within and between individual particles, and presupposes an adequate depth of material.

#### *Installation / Maintenance*

- Should not be installed over existing hard surfaces (e.g., asphalt, concrete).
- Requires a method of containment (e.g., retaining barrier, excavated pit).
- Requires good drainage underneath material.
- Requires periodic renewal or replacement and continuous maintenance (e.g., leveling, grading, sifting, raking) to maintain appropriate depth and remove foreign matter.

#### *Advantages*

- Low initial cost.
- Ease of installation.
- Good drainage.
- Less abrasive than sand.
- Less attractive to cats and dogs (compared to sand).
- Attractive appearance.
- Readily available.



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## Section J: Maintenance

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### *Disadvantages*

The following conditions may reduce cushioning potential:

- Environmental conditions: rainy weather, high humidity, freezing temperatures.
- With normal use over time, combines with dirt and other foreign materials.
- Over time, decomposes, is pulverized, and compacts.
- Depth may reduce by displacement due to children's activities or by material being blown by wind.
- Can be blown or thrown into children's eyes.
- Subject to microbial growth when wet.
- Conceals animal excrement and trash (e.g., broken glass, nails, pencils, and other sharp objects that can cause cut and puncture wounds).
- Spreads easily outside of containment area.
- Can be flammable.
- Subject to theft by neighborhood residents for use as mulch.

### Inorganic Loose Material

- Sand and gravel.

### *Fall Absorbing Characteristics*

- Cushioning effect depends on air trapped within and between individual particles, and presupposes an adequate depth of material.

### *Installation / Maintenance*

- Should not be installed over existing hard surface (e.g., asphalt, rock).
- Method of containment needed (e.g., retaining barrier, excavated pit).
- Good drainage required underneath material.
- Requires periodic renewal or replacement (e.g., leveling, grading, sifting, raking) to maintain appropriate depth and remove foreign matter.
- Compacted sand should periodically be turned over, loosened and cleaned.
- Gravel may require periodic break up and removal of hard pan.

### *Advantages*

- Low initial cost.
- Ease of installation.



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## Mooresville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

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- Does not pulverize.
- Not ideal for microbial growth.
- Nonflammable.
- Materials are readily available.
- Not susceptible to vandalism except by contamination.
- Gravel is less attractive to animals than sand.

### *Disadvantages*

The following conditions reduce cushioning potential:

- Environmental conditions: rainy weather, high humidity, freezing temperatures.
- With normal use, combines with dirt and other foreign materials.
- Depth may be reduced due to displacement by children's activities, and sand may be blown by wind.
- May be blown or thrown into children's eyes.
- May be swallowed.
- Conceals animal excrement and trash (e.g., broken glass, nails, pencils, and other sharp objects that can cause cut and puncture wounds).

### *Sand*

- Spreads easily outside of containment area.
- Small particles bind together and become less cushioning when wet; when thoroughly wet, sand reacts as rigid material.
- May be tracked out of play area on shoes; abrasive to floor surfaces when tracked indoors; abrasive to plastic materials.
- Adheres to clothing.
- Susceptible to fouling by animals.

### *Gravel*

- Difficult to walk on.
- If displaced onto nearby hard surface pathways, could present a fall hazard.
- Hard pan may form under heavy traffic areas.

## Unitary Synthetic Materials

- Rubber or rubber over foam mat or tiles, poured in place urethane and rubber compositions.





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## Section J: Maintenance

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### *Fall Absorbing Characteristics*

- Manufacturer should be contacted for information on Critical Height of material when tested according to ASTM F1292.

### *Installation / Maintenance*

- Some unitary materials can be laid directly on hard surfaces such as asphalt or concrete.
- Others may require expert under-surface preparation and installation by the manufacturer or a local contractor.
- Materials generally require minimal maintenance.

### *Advantages*

- Low maintenance
- Easy to clean.
- Consistent shock absorbency.
- Material not displaced by children during play activities.
- Generally low life cycle costs.
- Good footing (depends on surface texture).
- Harbor few foreign objects.
- Generally no retaining edges needed.
- Is accessible to the handicapped.

### *Disadvantages*

The following conditions may reduce cushioning potential:

- Initial cost relatively high.
- Undersurfacing may be critical for thinner materials.
- Often must be used on almost level uniform surfaces.
- May be flammable.
- Subject to vandalism (e.g., ignited, defaced, cut).
- Full rubber tiles may curl up and cause tripping.
- Some designs susceptible to frost damage.



## Playground Safety

Falls from playground equipment account for more than 70% of playground injuries. Equipment failures, per se, rarely cause the injuries. Of the injuries sustained, the following percentages apply:

climbers – 42%  
swings – 23%  
slides – 16%

merry-go-rounds – 5%  
miscellaneous – 14%

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has produced two handbooks: Volume I, *General Guidelines for New and Existing Playgrounds*; and Volume II, *Technical Guidelines for Equipment and Surfacing*.

Although the guidelines are not legal standards, in actual practice they might as well be. What happens when a child is hurt and a lawsuit is brought is that the courts look at the “state of the art.” And, the “state of the art” in playground equipment is the CPSC guideline. Failure to comply is likely to be considered negligence.

The installation of fall-absorbing ground cover is extremely important. Failure to install an acceptable (by the CPSC) fall-absorbing material under play equipment may be considered negligent no matter what other circumstances are present at the time of an accident.

A large number of lawsuits are now pending in this general area of “Playground Safety.” The Chicago Park District recently settled out of court for \$2.9 million in the case of a child who was injured in a fall onto an asphalt-surfaced playground. This information is provided, not as an authoritative commentary on the liability issue, but rather as historical facts for your review and understanding. Further, we strongly recommend a program of retrofitting to correct existing safety problems in the parks. The liability exposure is a growing concern and should be appropriately addressed.

When retrofitting, the safety surfacing should be installed as follows:

**Protective Surface Area:** Install with a minimum of six feet in all directions from all stationary equipment and seven feet in the direction of motion from such equipment as slides. The direction of motion for whirls is all the way around. In the case of swings, seven feet is added to the swing seat in its fully extended (horizontal) position.

**No Encroachment Zone:** For pieces of equipment this area extends six feet in all directions from the protective surface area. No other structure shall infringe on it. If two or more units are installed in the same protective surface area, the minimum distance between stationary pieces is twelve feet. Direction of motion footage is to be added to twelve feet.





## Section J: Maintenance

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**Ground Hazards:** In the course of play there is a tendency for holes to develop in some play area surfaces, especially under swings, at the foot of slides, around whirls, etc. These should be kept filled. There should be no exposed concrete footings to trip over or fall into.



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## Section K: Issues

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### Trends & Conditions

#### Issues, Trends, and Conditions Affecting Parks and Recreation Planning: The Global View

Strategic planning is worthless unless there is first a strategic vision, a clear image of what is to be achieved, which organizes and instructs every step toward that goal. That strategic vision must be developed in the context of information that is likely to affect contemporary society. Social trends are then analyzed for future input on local leisure services.

*The following is an excerpt from a document published by The Trust for Public Land entitled, "The Excellent City Park System...What Makes It Great and How to Get There," published in 2003. The document describes seven (7) measurements of defining an excellent city park system. These measurements form goals and objectives for every park system to address and apply in their daily implementation of their master plan. Each of the descriptions is followed by Key Questions to consider in applying to the Park System.*

#### The Excellent City Park System... What Makes It Great And How to Get There

*Published by: The Trust for Public Land, Written by: Peter Harnik*

Great cities are known for their great parks, and one measure of any city's greatness is its ability to provide recreation, natural beauty, and signature open spaces for its citizens. For over thirty years the Trust for Public Land has brought conservation expertise to America's cities – helping to envision and create more than 400 parks and gardens in 150 cities nationwide – protecting land for people close to home.

Successful parks pay dividends for cities – building civic pride, increasing tourism and economic investment, and contributing to health and quality of life.

But while most of us think we know a great park when we see one, until recently we have lacked a framework for understanding how cities create and support successful parks. This report helps to create that framework. The Excellent City Park System builds on measures of park system success first introduced in Peter Harnik's *Inside City Parks* in 2000.

This volume enlarges the number of cities gauged against those measures to 55 as it introduces new concepts of what makes a park system great.

The Trust for Public Land is proud to have sponsored this research and to bring you this report as part of its continuing commitment to conserve land for people where they live, work, and play.

– *Will Rogers, President of the Trust for Public Land*



**THE SEVEN FACTORS OF EXCELLENCE ARE:**

1. *A clear expression of purpose*
2. *An ongoing planning and community involvement process*
3. *Sufficient assets in land, staffing and equipment to meet the system's goals*
4. *Equitable access*
5. *User satisfaction*
6. *Safety from crime and physical hazards*
7. *Benefits for the city beyond the boundaries of the parks*

**1. A CLEAR EXPRESSION OF PURPOSE**

Park systems do not just “happen.” Wild areas don’t automatically protect themselves from development, outmoded waterfronts don’t spontaneously sprout flowers and promenades, and flat ground doesn’t morph into ball fields. Even trees and flora don’t instinctively grow – at least not always in a pleasing, usable fashion.

The citizenry must clearly set forth in writing the purpose of the park system and a mandate for the park department. The department must then use that mandate as a springboard for its mission statement and the definition of its core services. Most big-city park agencies have a legislative mandate and a mission statement, but about 20 percent of them have not formally defined their core services. A failure to develop this definition and to periodically check whether it is being followed can lead to departmental drift due to political, financial or administrative pressures. On the other hand, having a strong concept of mission and core services can stave off pressures to drop activities or pick up inappropriate tasks.

For instance, in Chicago in the late 1980s, when newspaper exposes revealed massive waste and malfeasance within the Chicago Park District, Mayor Richard M. Daley brought in a new director, Forrest Claypool, to clean house. Under his philosophy that every organization can do only a few things really well, Claypool was shocked to discover that the Chicago Park District had 13 divisions, only one of which was called “Parks.” Going back to the agency’s mission statement, he privatized much of the work, downsized to six divisions, and decentralized. Within less than a decade, the Park District was widely noticed for its excellence. Also, to inform the public the department should regularly publish an annual report summarizing its system and programs and showing how well it fulfilled its mandate. Less than half of big-city agencies publish an annual report – and most of the reports provide “soft” concepts and images rather than precise information, such as number of activities held, number of people served, and other specific outcomes and measurable benefits. Few agencies give a comprehensive budgetary report, and fewer still look honestly at challenges that weren’t adequately met and how they could be better tackled in the future.

**Key Questions**

- *Does your agency have, and make available to the public,*
  - *a written legislative mandate?*
  - *a written mission statement?*
  - *a written set of defined core services?*
- *Does your agency publish a publicly available annual report? Does it provide hard, numerical information on outcomes? Does it provide useful budget numbers?*





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### 2. ONGOING PLANNING AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

To be successful, a city park system needs a master plan.

A plan is more than an “intention.” It is a document built upon a process, demonstrating a path of achievement, and expressing a final outcome. The department’s master plan should be substantiated thoroughly, reviewed regularly, and updated every five years. The agency should have a robust, formalized community involvement mechanism – which means more than posting the document on a web page and hoping for feedback. The ideal master plan should have, at the least, the following elements:

- an inventory of natural, recreational, historical and cultural resources
- a needs analysis
- an analysis of connectivity and gaps
- an analysis of the agency’s ability to carry out its mandate
- an implementation strategy (with dates), including a description of other park and recreation providers’ roles
- a budget for both capital and operating expenses
- a mechanism for annual evaluation of the plan

Although five years may seem a short lifespan for a plan, it is startling to realize how rapidly urban circumstances change. In TPL’s survey, about two-third of agencies were operating on out-of-date master plans and some were relying on plans formulated 10, 15 or more years ago – back in the days before the rise of computers and geographic information systems, not to mention dog parks, mountain bikes, ultimate frisbee, girls’ soccer leagues, skateboard courses and cancer survivor gardens, among other innovations.

The ability of good planning to build community support was demonstrated in 2001 in Nashville, Tenn., when Mayor Bill Purcell initiated a year-long parks and greenways process, the first such citywide conversation in the 100-year history of its parks. Upon completion, resident support had been so solidified that the city council enthusiastically funded a \$35-million capital-spending plan, the largest Nashville park appropriation ever.

Not every city will always have a mayor who cares strongly about parks, but every park agency should have a formalized citizen advisory board with which it meets regularly. Its members should be appointed by the mayor or the city council, its sessions should be open to the public and its role should be to provide the agency with constructive criticism, helpful advocacy, user feedback, and fresh planning ideas.

While most park agencies have plans, too often they never reach fruition because key elements are trumped by other agencies or private interests. Visions of a new waterfront park may be for naught if the transportation department has its own designs on the same parcel. Any park plan (and its implementation strategy) should be coordinated with plans for neighborhoods, housing, tourism, transportation, water management, economic development, education and health, among other factors. Ideally the agencies will reach agreement; if not, the issue should go to the mayor or city council for resolution – with plenty of public involvement and support from pro-park advocates.

As confirmation of its involvement with the community, the department should have formal relationships with non-profit conservation and service-provider organizations. These arrangements may



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or may not involve the exchange of money, but they should be explicitly written down and signed, with clear expectations, accountability and a time limit that requires regular renewal. Having formal relationships not only enables a higher level of service through public-private partnership, it also provides the agency with stronger private-sector political support if and when that is needed.

Finally, no city can have a truly great park system without a strong network of park “friends” groups – private organizations that serve as both supporters and watchdogs of the department. Ideally, a city will have one or two organizations with a full citywide orientation, assuring that the system as a whole is well run and successful, and also scores of groups that focus on an individual park and its surrounding neighborhood – concentrating on everything from cleanliness, safety and quality to programming, signage and special fundraising.

### Key Questions

- *Is your park-and-recreation plan integrated into the full city-wide comprehensive plan?*
- *Do you have a park system master plan that is less than five years old?*
- *Does the agency have an official citizen advisory board or similar community involvement mechanism that meets regularly?*
- *How many contracts do you have with private non-profit organizations?*
- *Do you have a city-wide “park friends” organization? How many individual parks have “friends” groups?*

### 3. SUFFICIENT ASSETS IN LAND, STAFFING, AND EQUIPMENT TO MEET THE SYSTEM’S GOALS

Obviously, a park system requires a land base. But the size of that base is not an immutable number: big-city systems range in size from almost 20 percent of a city’s area down to 2.5 percent, and from more than 45 acres per 1000 residents to just over 3 acres per 1000. While there is no ordained “optimum” size, a city’s system should be large enough to meet the goals outlined in the agency’s master plan.

Despite the truism “If you don’t measure, you can’t manage,” many cities do not have accurate figures on their systems. It is critical that every agency know the extent of its natural and historical resources – land, flora, buildings, artwork, waterways, paths, roads, and much more – and have a plan to manage them sustainably. It is important to publish these numbers annually to track the growth (or shrinkage) of the system over time. Ideally, the agency should be able to place a financial value on its holdings and should have a plan to pay for replacing every structure in the system.

Because it is so much more expensive to create and operate “designed” landscapes (constructed parks that are mowed or regularly cleaned up) than natural landscapes (those which are left alone, except for the occasional trail), it is valuable to know the acreage split between these two categories. The TPL survey reveals a large range: some urban park agencies have 100 percent designed lands and no natural properties at all, while others have as little as 10 percent designed and 90 percent natural.

Newer systems in younger cities are generally growing much faster than older systems in mature, non-expanding cities, but it is not true that older cities cannot increase the size of their park systems. In the past 30 years the amount of parkland in Denver and Seattle grew by more than 44 percent each. Conversely, some “new cities” have been falling behind in the effort to add parkland – Colorado Springs’





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system grew by 185 percent between 1970 and 2002, but the city itself grew in area by 206 percent during the same time.

Even cities that are considered “all built out” can use redevelopment to increase parkland. Outmoded facilities like closed shipyards, underutilized rail depots, abandoned factories, decommissioned military bases and filled landfills can be converted to parks. Sunken highways and railroad tracks can be decked over with parkland. Denver even depaved its old airport to restore the original land contours and create the city’s largest park.

In New York, the Department of Parks and Recreation collaborated with the Department of Transportation to convert 2,008 asphalt traffic triangles and paved medians into “greenstreets” – pocket parks and tree-lined malls that are then maintained by community residents and businesspersons. In other cities, school systems and park departments are breaking down historic bureaucratic barriers and signing joint use agreements to make schoolyard fields available for neighborhood use after school hours.

In addition to land, the park and recreation department needs sufficient public revenue for land management and programs. This entails both an adequate operating budget and a regular infusion of capital funds for major construction and repairs and land acquisition. A detailed survey of the 55 biggest cities showed that, in fiscal year 2000, the “adjusted park budget” – the amount spent by each city on parks operations and capital, minus everything spent on such big-ticket items as zoos, museums, aquariums or planetariums – came to an average of \$80 per resident. While that figure is probably not high enough – considering that every system is millions or billions of dollars behind its needs – it is certain that, in current dollars, this should be considered a minimum.

Moreover, there should be an effective, complementary private fundraising effort – one that serves not only signature parks but also the whole system. Although private efforts should never be designed to let the local government “off the hook,” they can be valuable in undertaking monumental projects or in raising work to levels of beauty and extravagance that government on its own cannot afford. Private campaigns are also effective in mobilizing the generosity of corporations, foundations, and wealthy individuals which otherwise would not contribute to government agencies.

Excellent park departments not only receive adequate funding, but also spend their money wisely and commit themselves to effective stewardship. Outstanding stewardship means having enough qualified natural resources professionals to properly oversee the system and manage the work of pruners, mowers, and other laborers. Moreover, since a system rarely has enough paid staff to accomplish all its goals, the excellent department has a high-visibility, citizen- friendly marketing program whereby members of the public can understand the stewardship of the system and become involved, if they wish.

Finally, park departments must track their expenditures accurately and be able to report them to the public usefully and understandably. Most agencies have the raw information but too many of them do not provide it; numbers are either difficult for politicians, reporters and the general public to get hold of, or the statistics are put forth incomprehensibly.

### Key Questions

- *What was your agency’s total actual revenue in the most recent completed fiscal year, including both operating funds and capital funds?*
- *What was the city’s approximate total level of private donations for parks?*





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- *What is the acreage you own (and/or control) within the city limits, broken down into three categories:*
  - *natural areas (including water acreage)*
  - *designed areas (including water acreage)*
  - *undeveloped areas (land not yet open to the public)*

*Note: If you own land outside the city limit, what is the acreage?*

- *How many acres, if any, do you operate in joint use with a school district?*
- *How many natural resources professionals – horticulturists, foresters and landscape architects – do you have on staff?*
- *Is there a natural resources management plan?*
- *How much did your agency spend in the past fiscal year, including maintenance, programming, capital construction and land acquisition?*
- *Is there a marketing plan for the park system?*

### 4. EQUITABLE ACCESS

The excellent city park system is accessible to everyone regardless of residence, physical abilities or financial resources. Parks should be easily reachable from every neighborhood, usable by the handicapped and challenged, and available to low-income residents.

Most cities have one or more very large unspoiled natural areas. By virtue of topography – mountain, wetland, canyon, and stream valley – they are not, of course, equidistant from all city residents. But created parks – squares, plazas, playgrounds, neighborhood parks, ball fields, linear greenways – should be sited in such a way that every neighborhood and every resident is equitably served.

Preferably, people and parks are no farther than 10 minutes apart by foot in dense areas or 10 minutes apart by bicycle in spread-out sections. Moreover, it is not enough to measure access purely from a map; planners must take into account such significant physical barriers as uncrossable highways, streams and railroad corridors, or heavily-trafficked roads. Also, the standard for acceptable distance shouldn't be based on an idealized healthy adult, but rather on a senior with a cane, a mother pushing a stroller, or an eight-year-old riding a bicycle. Unfortunately, most cities do not provide this kind of park equity. Los Angeles has abundant parkland in its mountainous middle but precious little in the crowded south-central section. New York has vast acreage in Staten Island and the Bronx but a dearth of greenspace in Brooklyn. And most cities haven't accurately analyzed which of their residents are far from parks.

Cities should also assure park access by a wide range of challenged persons, including the elderly, infirm, blind and those confined to wheelchairs. This includes appropriate surfacing materials, ramps, signs and handicapped parking. The best way of achieving this goal is through the creation of a Disability Advisory Committee that meets regularly.

Finally, agencies must assure equitable access for those who can't pay full price. While it is acceptable to charge appropriate fees for some park facilities and programs, agencies should consciously plan for the approximately 20 percent of residents who cannot afford such fees, utilizing such alternatives as scholarships, fee-free hours, fee-free days, or sweat-equity volunteer work.

#### Key Questions

- *Do you know the distance from every residence to its nearest park? If so, what percentage of city residents are located more*



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- than one-quarter mile from a park of at least one acre in size?*
- *If your agency charges a user fee for any location or activity, does it offer income-based reductions or scholarships, or free days?*
  - *Is there a formal disability advisory group to assist in meeting the physical and programming mission of your park system?*

### 5. USER SATISFACTION

By definition, the outstanding city park system is well used. Having high usership is the ultimate validation that it is attractive and that it meets people's needs. High attendance also increases safety because of more "eyes on the park."

Knowing the level of park use requires measuring it, not only for an estimate of a gross total but also to know users by location, by time of day, by activity and by demographics. And finding out the satisfaction level requires asking questions – not only of users but of non-users as well. Furthermore, to spot trends, these efforts must be carried out on a recurring, scientific basis.

The Trust for Public Land found that an overwhelming number of city park agencies are unaware of their total usership. Not having this number severely reduces an agency's ability to budget and to effectively request funding from the city council. Most departments can track their paying users – golfers playing rounds, swimmers using pools, teams renting fields. But this is only a tiny fraction of the true total. The lack of basic information is in stark contrast to, for instance, the transportation department, the school system or the welfare department, all of which can make a strong factual case justifying their budget requests.

As for satisfaction, most agencies rely on informal feedback such as letters of complaint or messages relayed back by the staff. This is unbalanced and ineffective, and does not provide the agency with clear direction. It therefore tends to result in a park system that meets the efficiency needs of the provider rather than the comfort needs of the user. (Most infamously, many agencies "solve" the problem of dirty bathrooms not by cleaning but by permanently locking them.)

Naturally, it is not possible to accurately count all passive users of a system. However, observation, selective counts, and extrapolations – repeated over time – can provide meaningful data. Chicago takes aerial photos of large events and then uses a grid to count participants. The city also sets up electronic counters to measure the number of users passing a given point.

#### Key Questions

- *Do you know the yearly use of your park system (i.e., user-days)? What is the attendance by time of day; by park; by activity? What are the demographics of your users and non-users?*
- *Is there at least one full-time person in the park agency (or elsewhere in the city government) devoted to surveying park users and non-users, and analyzing the surveys?*

### 6. SAFETY FROM PHYSICAL HAZARDS AND CRIME

To be successful, a city park system should be safe, free both of crime and of unreasonable physical hazards – from sidewalk potholes to rotten branches overhead. Park departments should have mechanisms to avoid and eliminate physical hazards as well as ways for citizens to easily report problems.

Crime, of course, is dependent on a large number of factors that are beyond the reach of the park and recreation department – poverty, drug and alcohol use, population demographics, lack of stabilizing neighborhood institutions. But there are other factors – park location, park design, presence of uniformed



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personnel, presence of park amenities, availability of youth programming – over which the department has some control. Ultimately the greatest deterrent is the presence of large numbers of users.

Park visitors are also reassured if they see uniformed employees. Even if the number of actual police or rangers is quite small and their rounds infrequent, the perception of order and agency responsibility can be extended simply by dressing all park workers and outdoor maintenance staff in uniform.

Similarly, well-run youth recreation programs have been shown to decrease delinquency and vandalism. The excellent park system takes it even farther by tracking youth crime by neighborhood over time. Having hard numbers is the only way to know if targeted programs are having success.

Basic to any safety strategy is the accurate, regular collection of crime data in parks and, preferably, near parks, since parks and their surrounding neighborhoods are interrelated. Only about half the surveyed agencies currently collect this data and, of those that do, most have no strategy to use the information. Another valuable piece of information is the ratio of male to female users in each park since a low rate of female users is a very strong indication of a park which feels unsafe.

### Key Questions

- *How many uniformed park personnel does your agency have or contract with? (Uniformed personnel can include park police, rangers, outdoor park workers or visible/recognizable volunteers in the parks, but does not include office workers.)*
- *Do you systematically collect data on crimes that occur in parks?*
- *Do you systematically collect neighborhood data comparing youth crime rates with the provision of recreational services?*
- *Do you know your system's ratio of male to female users, preferably on a park-by-park basis?*

## 7. BENEFITS FOR THE CITY BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PARKS

The value of a park system extends beyond the boundaries of the parks themselves. In fact, the excellent city park system is a form of natural infrastructure that provides many goods for the city as a whole:

- cleaner air, as trees and vegetation filter out pollutants by day and produce oxygen by night;
- cleaner water, as roots trap silt and contaminants before they flow into streams, rivers and lakes;
- reduced health costs from sedentary syndromes such as obesity and diabetes, thanks to walking and running trails, sports fields, recreation centers, bikeways, golf courses, and other opportunities for physical fitness;
- improved learning opportunities from “outdoor classrooms” in forests, meadows, wetlands and even recovering brownfields and greyfields (previously used tracts);
- increased urban tourism based on attractive, successful parks, with resulting increased commerce and sales tax revenue;
- increased business vitality based on employer and employee attraction to quality parks; and
- natural beauty and respite from traffic and noise.

While each individual factor may be too diffuse to measure, taken collectively good parks have been shown to increase the property value of residences up to a radius of about two-fifths of a mile. (Of course, troubled parks can have the opposite result.) The sophisticated park agency regularly collects financial data (or contracts with a university or other entity) in order to know which of its parks are positively impacting the surrounding neighborhood. It also informs the media, the tourism and real estate industries, and even the mayor's office at budget time. Unfortunately, few agencies maintain this economic database.



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### Key Question

- *Does your city systematically collect data comparing property values near parks with those farther from parks, and report on the findings?*

## Recreation & Park Trends Analysis

*Adapted with information taken from:*

Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan, St. Joseph County Regional Parks, prepared by Eppley Institute for Parks & Public Lands, Indiana University in association with Rundell Ernstberger Associates, May 1998.

Dynamic changes now underway will have a dramatic impact on the policies and management of American cities. Gone are the days for local governments when revenues were plentiful and public officials could merely adjust tax rate to balance budgets, and when public programs were unquestionably increased in response to citizen demands for more services. The many changes taking place in our society have made it necessary to reevaluate the scale and mix of public services, as well as how they are financed (Kemp, 1990).

Profound changes are affecting all levels of government services provision. Public park and recreation providers face the changes more directly than many public services. Often these programs are the brunt of government “downsizing”, while being pressured to add more services and facilities. This “thinning of the blood” increasingly applies to many local government park and recreation departments throughout the country. And, in spite of increasing pressures to reduce government expenditures, the demand for leisure services is at an all time high. With the increasing commercialization of the “leisure experience”, the traditional providers and services provided have changed, but the need for well managed public park and recreation programs is as strong as ever. The key to managing the change is to understand the trends and issues impacting leisure service provision while designing services to meet the changes head-on. “The challenges of change are evident, obvious and numerous. Our role as leaders in the parks and recreation movement is to select those that are most critical and manage a strategic response to each” (Balmer, 1991).

A public recreation and park department must not move forward without taking into account societal, economic and technological changes. These changes will alter the very nature of the types of services offered and in the manner in which they are delivered. The clearer the understanding of the trends and issues impacting the delivery of services, the better park and recreation services provided in Mooresville.

The Mooresville Park Board and Department Administrators have a responsibility to both determine and respond to change. Beyond the need for agency survival and effectiveness is a leadership responsibility of a coordinated view of the future so that they may ultimately become architects of change – creating a preferred future for Mooresville residents through strategic management.



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A number of far ranging societal trends that impact recreation services include:

1. The need to better define the economic impact of recreation opportunity.
2. The need to manage increasing costs and decreasing resources in recreation services.
3. The effects of technology and science on prolonging life and sedentary lifestyles.
4. The growth of nontraditional families and changing social relationships.
5. The changing roles of federal and state government in funding support for outdoor park development.
6. The health/wellness industry growth including employee wellness services, health maintenance organizations and health providers offering wellness services.
7. Environment/ecology issues such as management of decreasing open space and increased demands for open space/natural areas.
8. Demographic factors such as an aging population and diversifying ethnic makeup of the country.
9. Travel/tourism demand increasing including the new demands of eco-tourism.

### Top Ranked Trends

Identifying trends and issues impacting recreation and park provision is not an easy task. Recreation and park departments survive in a web of complex environments which include changing demographics, unclear funding sources and increased private competition. For a modern recreation and park provider such as the Mooresville Parks and Recreation Department to survive, it must identify the trends and issues most impacting the provision of service.

A recent comprehensive study of trends and issues in local government recreation and park departments was completed at Indiana University's School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation in 1992. The study identified trends having an extreme and great impact on local government recreation and park agencies.

#### *Extreme Impact*

1. Deteriorating park and recreation infrastructure
2. Increasing crime (violence, drug use, vandalism, gangs) in communities and parks
3. Declining park and recreation budgets relative to costs
4. Increasing competition for shrinking federal, state and local tax resources
5. Massive public sector debt



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### *Great Impact*

1. Neglect of children
2. Greater cultural diversity (growing and more influential huge growth in Hispanic population/minority populations)
3. Greater difficulty in providing equal opportunity for leisure to all people
4. Declining quality of life and livability of urban areas (insufficient open space, deteriorating city)
5. Greater division between “haves” and “have-nots”
6. Increased public demand for participation, accountability and productivity in government

### *Solutions*

Merely identifying the trends and issues is not enough. The next logical step to the study was to project solutions which deal with emerging trends and issues. Key solutions suggested from the research include:

1. Ensuring that adequate finance for capital development exists by the creation of greater citizen support, the exploration of other funding sources and improved long-range planning.
2. Spending priorities with increasingly tight budgets should focus on maintaining service quality over quantity. Programs serving disadvantaged groups and self-supporting programs should be emphasized.
3. Parks should be made safe places by keeping them filled with programs and people, through united community efforts such as Park Watch and through attention to design and security.
4. Public park and recreation services would best strengthen their political position and shape policy through building local citizen and inter-organizational constituencies. A database indicating the benefits of parks, recreation and leisure to community development and health should be developed, while education and training of staff would ensure political skills are developed.
5. The way to obtain funding in the face of competition from other community services is to work with other agencies. Maintaining visibility in the community and interpreting the benefits of parks and recreation is necessary.
6. Park and recreation services should be managed more like a business in terms of efficiency, effectiveness and marketing techniques, but without the profit motive. A balance would be required between taxed and earned revenues to ensure public welfare roles of parks and recreation are maintained.
7. Board and staff training should be a priority funding item in order to maximize effectiveness, even in times of budget shortages.



## Strategic Planning Work Sessions

### Strategic Planning: The Process

By Daniel D. McLean, Ph.D.

Einstein once said, “The significant problems that we face today cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them.” This is as true today as it was when he uttered those words. One of the key characteristics of our society is change. We cannot deny it and we cannot ignore it. The organization we work for today is not the same organization we worked for 10 or even 5 years ago. Our collective history suggests that we are a society that chooses to grow and to focus on change, even as we sometimes deny that change. Those motivations have not changed significantly; in fact agencies operate in a more dynamically complex political and economic environment than ever before.

Strategic Planning is a tool that allows park and recreation organizations to successfully plan for the future. Strategic planning is the process by which the guiding members of an organization envision its future and develop the processes and operations necessary to achieve that future (Pfeiffer & Nolan, 1993). Strategic planning focuses on answering three important questions:

1. *Are we doing the right things?* Are the services and programs the organization is providing the types, quality and quantity that stakeholders and customers desire to have provided? Do they represent the needs and wants of the community the organization is designated to serve? Has the organization investigated, in a very meaningful way, what it is that its constituents desire? Has it integrated those desires into regular program offerings and services, or is the organization tied to what it think is best and captured by tradition and/or competition? Answering this set of questions challenges the organization to determine the appropriateness of current directions when compared to a vision of services that stakeholders and constituents have for the organization.
2. *Are we doing things right?* Once an organization determines what “right things” need to be done, it begins to look at processes for the delivery of services and programs and the internal and external support of those services and programs. Whereas the previous question looks at the “what the organization should do,” this question looks at the “how effectively the organization does those things it ought to be doing”.
3. *What should we do next?* The natural outcome of the previous two questions is “how does the organization go about gaining a congruence between what people want and how the organization can provide it?” This question is answered in the processes dealing with outcomes and delivery. A major emphasis of the strategic planning processes focuses on responding to this question.



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Each of the questions sets the stage for a portion of the strategic planning process. Asking, “Are we doing the right things?” gets to the issue of what does the community, its citizens and leaders expect of the parks and recreation department? When that question is answered the Department has the ability to create a vision of the future. The 2nd question asks if the things that are part of what the community is expecting of the department are being done effectively and efficiently. Finally, what should the department do to meet the desired future?

Strategic planning then is more than an end product. It is a process of learning, adaptation, change, challenge and listening. It is a process of innovation. According to Kanter (1983) innovation is “the generation, acceptance, and implementation of new ideas, processes, and products, or services”. Strategic planning is inherently innovative. It is a process that involves many people who are willing to give of their time and energies to the success of the strategic plan and, ultimately, of the organization. The success of the strategic planning effort is a starting point for change. Strategic planning is a journey with a road map that provides alternative routes as the terrain expectedly and unexpectedly changes, but also has a destination that the organization and its members can collectively arrive.

## Focus Groups

### Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to provide additional detailed information from the community about their perceptions of the Mooresville Parks and Recreation Department as it currently operates and as the members of the community perceive it should operate in the future. The data in this study is organized to provide specific information to: 1) the master planning team to assist in development of a master plan, and 2) the department as they create the operational portion of the master plan. In each case, this report provides additional information that can be used to focus on the future. It is important to remember that the report needs to be used in the context for which it was designed — as a reality check for community perceptions.

Focus groups were organized to respond to specific questions about how the department currently operates and about how the focus group participants think it should operate in the future. Focus groups were used because they provide an easily accessible and flexible way to gather information from a variety of stakeholders, regular customers, and politicians who have a vested interest in some aspect of the department’s services. The flexibility of focus groups comes from focus group participants’ ability to delve into topics that might not surface through a questionnaire or other format.





### What Is a Focus Group?

Focus groups are a special type of group in terms of purpose, size, composition and structure. It is ideally composed of seven (7) to 12 people who have some commonality that relate to the topic of the focus group. (from R. A. Krueger. 1994. Focus groups: A practical guide for applied research. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications)

### How Are Focus Groups Used?

Focus groups are used because they tap into human tendencies. Attitudes and perceptions relating to concepts, programs or services are developed in part by interactions with other people. We are a product of our environment and are influenced by people around us (Krueger, 1994). Focus groups provide data that is closer to the social side of the continuum because they allow individuals to respond in their own words, using their own categorizations and perceived associations. Focus groups are useful in the following ways:

1. Obtaining general background information about a topic of interest;
2. Generating research hypothesis that can be submitted to further research and testing using more quantitative approaches;
3. Stimulating new ideas and creative concepts;
4. Diagnosing the potential for problems with a new program, service, or product;
5. Generating impressions of products, programs, services, institutions, or other objects of interest;
6. Learning how respondents talk about the phenomenon of interest that may in turn facilitate the design of questionnaires, survey instruments, or other research tools that might be employed in more quantitative research; and
7. Interpreting previously obtained quantitative results. (D. W. Stewart & P. N. Shamdasani. 1990. Focus groups: Theory and practice. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications)

### Advantages & Disadvantages of Focus Groups

Focus groups have both advantages and disadvantages when compared to other types of data collection procedures.



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## Section K: Issues

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### *Advantages*

1. Because focus groups are social experiences people are frequently more relaxed and open in their participation and discussion. In addition, because of the sharing that occurs the quality of the responses are often improved or more creative.
2. The focus group format allows the moderator to probe when unexpected issues arise.
3. From a research methodological perspective, focus groups have high face validity, meaning their results are more defensible than some other types of qualitative research methods.
4. Compared to questionnaire construction and administration focus groups are a relatively inexpensive data collection process.
5. Focus groups can provide quick responses. Questionnaires can take up to three or four months to gather results, analyze and report while focus groups can be done in considerably less time.

### *Disadvantages*

1. The researcher has less control in a focus group than in an individual interview.
2. Data from focus groups is more difficult to analyze than from quantitative studies or from individual interviews, but when an experienced researcher applies appropriate methodologies the data is forthcoming and useful.
3. The technique requires carefully trained interviewers.
4. Groups can vary considerably. Each focus group has unique characteristics. The use of multiple groups overcomes this weakness.
5. Groups can be difficult to assemble, as was evidenced in a couple of groups in this study.
6. Finally, the discussion must be conducted in an environment conducive to conversation.

## Introduction to Focus Group Methodology

The methodology is a key element in understanding how research is organized. This section provides a discussion of how the focus groups were designed, selected, implemented, and analyzed. Questions regarding the process of focus groups are answered in this section.



### Data Collection Methodology

Focus groups provide an effective and important data source for master planning. The use of focus groups allows penetration into multiple parts of the community that might not be otherwise accessible. Focus groups can be considered a stratified sample of a select population. As with any research design it is difficult to generalize the results to the entire population or Department, but the number of groups included in the study allow us to make sufficient generalizations for the purposes of master planning. The goal is to secure sufficient information on any particularly coded topic to achieve saturation (enough information so that new information is not present).

For this data collection process eight (X) focus groups were identified:

- Park Staff (X participants)
- Master Planning Task Force (X participants)
- City Department Heads (X participants)
- Aquatics and Park Facilities (X participants)
- Sports Facilities (X participants)
- Golf and Trails (X participants)
- Marketing (X participants)
- Latino Population (X participants)

### Coding

The process of coding is a qualitative methodology used by researchers to find variables in the data and to investigate and report those variables. Coding requires an intensive investigation of all the data collected and organizing it into categories that help to explain the phenomena of parks and recreation. In the case of this research the data was organized around existing conceptions about the department and desired activities by the department in the future. The coding process interprets the data, organizes it into an understandable and explanatory pattern, and suggests implications for the department.



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## Section K: Issues

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### Focus Groups Participants

Selecting the categories for focus groups and who to participate in each focus group was a shared process between the Consultant (researcher), the Parks Administrator, the Park Board, and the Master Planning Task Force. The director and board identified key stakeholders (groups and individuals) who should be included in the focus group. Names of individuals and groups were organized into a matrix. As the researchers listened to various discussions additional names/groups were added to the list. Based on the information received, the researcher suggested types of groups to interview. These were confirmed or negated by the director. Names were then assigned to each of the focus group constituencies. The names came from the list of stakeholders, staff recommendations, or the master planning task force.

Approximately X individuals participated in the eight (X) focus groups.

### Focus Group Questions

The following questions were agreed upon to use in the focus group process:

1. What activities or services provided by the Parks Department do you / your family / your group participate in?
2. What types of park areas, facilities, trails, greenways and walkways provided by the Parks Department do you use?
  - a. How would you describe the current quality of the park areas, facilities, trails, greenways and walkways?
  - b. How would you improve the quality of the existing park areas, facilities, trails, greenways and walkways?
  - c. Are there resources not currently provided that the Parks Department should consider?
3. What do you believe are the Parks Department's strengths and weaknesses?
  - a. What does the Mooresville Parks Department do well (strengths)?
  - b. What could the Parks Department improve upon (weaknesses)?
4. What types of park areas and facilities should the Mooresville Parks Department provide in the next five years?
  - a. What are the most important goals the Park Department should set for the next five years?



## Focus Group Analysis and Executive Summary

Purpose

Results

INSERT INFORMATION HERE

### Accessibility

One of the goals of the Parks Department is to provide parks and programs for all citizens of the community, regardless of age, sex, physical or mental capabilities, or socio/economic position. Persons with disabilities are present in every community. Most are active, working, and taxpaying citizens who expect to participate in their community, as does anyone else.

Who are the disabled? They are persons with temporary or permanent physical disabilities who have limited mobility. They are persons who have diabetes, heart conditions, arthritis or rheumatism, impairments of the upper extremities, high blood pressure, or multiple sclerosis. They are persons who may have been physically disabled since birth or recently acquired through military combat or accidents. The disabled may include the elderly or a toddler with a mobility problem.

The needs of all park patrons cannot be ignored when planning parks. It is important to remember that all community members may, at one time or another, require a more accessible environment.

Parks may be made accessible to the mentally challenged and physically disabled by employing the same designs and principles used in making buildings barrier-free. In any renovation or new construction, it is recommended that particular attention be given to the following:

1. All buildings in parks should be constructed according to the Accessibilities Guidelines outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 – specifications for barrier-free design.
2. All trails, driveways, and parking lots should blend to a common level.
3. Picnic tables are often difficult for a person in a wheelchair to use because the benches are attached to the table, forcing the person to eat at the end where the leg room is usually insufficient. Moving the supports that hold the tabletop and benches farther into the center, thereby creating more leg room at each end, can easily rectify this.



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## Section K: Issues

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4. Barbecue grills that are elevated about 32 inches off the ground or are adjustable in height are most ideal.
5. Water fountains and spigots should have hand-operated controls and should likewise be about 32 inches high. They are most accessible when they feature a basin which extends outward.
6. Ramps may be extended across the sandy areas to allow access to the water at the swimming beach.
7. Mentally challenged, physically disabled, and non-disabled children can use the same playground equipment if appropriate designs are incorporated. The greatest obstacle to the use of a playground for handicapped children is the sandy surface which many playgrounds use for cushioning effect to prevent injuries. Solutions to this problem include using pea gravel instead of sand. This is more stable material and still provides cushioning in the event of a fall.
8. In developing interpretive programs, special efforts should be made to accommodate those who suffer from sensory losses. Programs should contain items requiring the use of all senses, especially touch, taste, and smell. The intellectual level of the group should be considered, particularly when presenting a program to the mentally challenged. Park staff should consult with the group leader prior to the start of the program to determine how to gear the presentation for the particular group. To ensure that all visitors with disabilities are treated appropriately, it would be helpful to have Park staff attend in-service training for the purpose of learning about some of the common disabilities and what types of special treatment, if any, they require.

Committees of individuals with disabilities and their advocates should be formed as advisors when any special park facilities are being planned for these groups. In general, it is best to avoid anything that would call attention to a person's disability. Above all else, the park should not be designed for the handicapped only. All possible efforts should be made to integrate the persons with disabilities into the mainstream of life.

## Privatization

A financing and service delivery alternative that combines many of the advantages of the approaches is privatization. The privatization concept is based on public/private partnerships. The key is that both sides gain, but neither benefits at the expense of the other. The private sector gets a business opportunity, enhanced by the use of tax benefits. The public sector gets a needed service at a lower cost than otherwise possible, and if desired, eventual ownership of the facility that provides the service.

Certain types of projects can be constructed by the private sector more efficiently and at a lower cost than if the identical project is constructed by the public sector. This is because the private sector does not



## Mooresville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

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have to abide by the bureaucratic procedures and procurement regulations of federal, state, and local funded projects, and through operational efficiencies realized through economies of scale.

The private sector, pursuing a legitimate “service contract” with a local government unit, is also eligible for tax benefits not available to tax-exempt municipalities. The benefits include ACRS depreciation, tax credits, and the deductibility of interest payments on the debt used in the project financing. When private sector construction and operational savings are combined with available tax benefits, the lower project costs which result can be shared with the local community in the form of lower user fees, while providing a fair return on the investment to the private sector.

While many local government officials are still frowning over the cutbacks in federal grants and state support for capital-intensive infrastructure projects, some see a brighter future. Advisors to public officials are formulating creative and innovative financing approaches. Public officials and their advisors are becoming familiar with these alternative approaches, learning where and when the different concepts make sense. Equally important, they are discovering how to blend the concepts together to provide the most cost-effective form of service delivery to the public.

### Revenue Management

Operating our public park systems and continuing to provide an array of public leisure experiences to the citizenry is an increasingly complex, difficult task for most public park and recreation systems. Conflicting priorities for limited tax dollars usually result in appropriations at all levels of government which are not keeping pace with the cost of operating a parks and recreation department.

In addition to improving the cost effectiveness of the department, it is extremely important to examine all potential sources for generating supplemental support. And, clearly, the self-generated revenues from fees and charges must be carefully considered.

Pressures on public parks and recreation managers to generate a higher percentage of income from user fees have intensified since the 1970s. This pressure is in marked contrast to the preceding two decades in which large infusions of tax dollars resulted in the rapid expansion of park systems around the country and a relaxation of generating revenues from fees and charges. During those two decades, government endeavored to serve everyone at little or no direct cost to the park user or program participant. But now, taxpayers are calling for less taxes and more “pay as you go” financing of recreation services under which users bear more of the cost of specialized services they enjoy. Therefore, the need for more aggressive revenue management is evident.



## Section K: Issues

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### **Park Standards & Needs**

In order to evaluate the existing and to forecast the future park and recreation needs of a community, “standards” should be used as guidelines. These standards are to be considered minimums in assessing the recreational needs of the community. The standards typically relate to acreage and populations being served (not necessarily the ages of the population or the level of incomes, etc.) These standards form a base line from which need-analysis can be performed. While these standards are national standards they do not always relate to the reality of the local community’s situation. The analysis of this study will utilize the national standards but will relate the analysis with the local community situations in mind.

### **Park Classifications**

Within a park system there exists many different types of park facilities, sized to serve various populations. Within these varied facilities many different programs and functions can take place. The park system needs to have and maintain a variety for a balanced park and recreation program.

Authorities have differed on the ratio between acres and populations served for the various park classifications.

The standards from Purdue University will be used as a part of this study’s analysis. These standards have been used and proven realistic throughout the State of Indiana. These tables can be found on the following pages.





## Mooresville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

### **COMMUNITY PARK STANDARDS...**

<b>Size</b>	Minimum of 10 acres and ideally would contain 35 – 70 acres. 7.0 acres per 1,000 persons.		
<b>Service</b>	People served through this park would be between 5,000 – 10,000. Access to this park via biking or driving to serve the entire city. 1-1/2 to 3 mile service radius.		
<b>Purpose</b>	To provide an activity dominated recreation area with moderate amount of managed undeveloped land that draws from a community-wide service area.		
<b>Characteristics</b>	Variety of land forms Moderate slopes Tree cover High use capacity Good drainage capabilities		
<b>Conceptual Development</b>	30 – 50% =	Active recreation uses	
	23 – 40% =	Passive recreation uses	
	10 – 20% =	Special facilities uses	
	10 – 20% =	Undeveloped areas	
<b>Typical Facilities</b>	Playfield	Playground	Court Games
	Open Play Areas	Picnicking	Fishing
	Arboretum	Golfing	Winter Sports
	Swimming Pool	Community Center	Wooded Areas
	Trails		



Section K: Issues

***NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS STANDARDS...***

<b>Size</b>	The size of a Neighborhood Park would be 4 – 15 acres or 3.0 acres per 1,000 persons		
<b>Service Area</b>	People served through this park would be between 4,000 – 5,000. Access to this park would primarily be foot traffic. A service radius of 1/2 to 1-1/2 miles should be considered.		
<b>Purpose</b>	To provide group activities, individual-oriented activities and passive recreational facilities for all age groups within walking distance of urban neighborhood residents.		
<b>Characteristics</b>	Two types of neighborhood parks are common: School-Park Site and Standard Neighborhood Park. These two parks both meet the recreational needs of the neighborhoods. The Park-School facility provides the highest recreational potential and the most efficient use of the land and widest scope of recreational opportunities.		
<b>Other Characteristics</b>	High use capacity and accessibility Relatively flat land with good drainage Intensive development of park areas Development in conjunction with schools where possible		
<b>Conceptual Development</b>	40 – 80% =	Active recreational uses	
	10 – 30% =	Passive recreation uses	
	0 – 5% =	Undeveloped areas	
<b>Typical Facilities</b>	Playground Neighborhood Activities Open Play Areas	Playfields Swimming Pool Center	Court Games Sitting Areas



***BLOCK PARKS (Tot-Lots, Vest Pocket Park) STANDARDS...***

<b>Size</b>	Minimum of 1 acre and ideally would contain 1 – 5 acres or 1/2 acre per 1,000 persons
<b>Service Area</b>	People served through this park would be between 500 – 2,500.
<b>Purpose</b>	To provide limited recreational and sitting areas in a small scale park setting for sub-neighborhood area
<b>Characteristics</b>	High use capacity and accessibility Facilities requiring small tracts of land for development Flat land and good drainage characteristics Few barriers to walking access
<b>Conceptual Development</b>	60 – 100% = Active Recreational Uses 10 – 20% = Passive Recreation Uses 0% = Undeveloped Land
<b>Typical Facilities</b>	Playgrounds                      Shelter Small Court Areas              Tot-Lots

***SPECIAL RECREATION AREA STANDARDS...***

<b>Size</b>	Varies, can range from 5,000 square feet to several acres in size
<b>Service Area</b>	Community-wide.
<b>Purpose</b>	To provide preservation and public access to significant points of interest to the community.
<b>Characteristics</b>	Presence of significant community features Historical, cultural and ecological interests
<b>Typical Facilities</b>	Historical or cultural sites Monuments Wooded educational sites Natural areas Single use or purpose facilities Small urban parks that provide passive and relaxing areas of green within the urban fabric



## Section K: Issues

### RECREATION STANDARDS: POPULATION RATIO METHOD

#### SPACE STANDARDS FOR **DISTRICT PARKS**

(Suggested space standards for various units within the park. The minimum size is 20 acres.)

Facility or Unit	Area in Acres	
	Park Adjoining School	Separate Park
Play apparatus area – preschool	.35	.35
Play apparatus area – older children	.35	.35
Paved multipurpose courts	1.25	1.75
Tennis complex	1.00	1.00
Recreation center building	*	1.00
Sport fields	1.00	10.00
Senior Citizens' area	1.90	1.90
Open or "free play" area	2.00	2.00
Archery range	.75	.75
Swimming pool	1.00	1.00
Outdoor theatre	.50	.50
Ice rink (artificial)	1.00	1.00
Family picnic area	2.00	2.00
Outdoor classroom area	1.00	1.00
Golf practice hole	*	.75
Off-street parking	1.50	3.00**
SUBTOTAL	15.60	28.35
Landscaping (buffer and special areas)	3.00	6.00
Undesignated space (10%)	1.86	3.43
TOTAL	20.46	37.78

\* = Provided by Jr. or Sr. high school

\*\* = Based on 330 cars @ 400 sq. ft. per car

(Source: *Recreation Planning and Design* by Seymour M. Gold, 1980 McGraw-Hill, Inc., Appendix to the book)



## Mooreville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

### RECREATION STANDARDS: POPULATION RATIO METHOD

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## Park Type and Acres

Insert Chart



Section K: Issues

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**Park Standards for Site Acreage & Type**

**Park Standards for Facilities**





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## Section L: Priorities

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### Priority Criteria

After careful analysis of the issues identified by the Mooreville Parks and Recreation Department, the Consultant, and through the results of the Focus Groups, the Master Planning Task Force identified priority criteria. Each of the various issue items are assigned a priority according to the following factors:

1. Financial Feasibility
2. Available Manpower
3. Existing Facilities
4. Need and Overall Impact on the City
5. Practicality

### Priority Ratings

After these factors were applied to each issue, the issues were then assigned to one of the three priority levels:

- Priority “A” – of Primary Concern and feasible to implement in the next five years. These priorities will form the projected Action Plan for the next five years.
- Priority “B” – of Secondary Concern, but still feasible to implement in the next five to ten years.
- Priority “C” – may be of Primary or Secondary Concern, but the feasibility of the action is questionable during the next five years. Issue may fall into a 10 to 20 year action time frame.

The Action Plan section of this document (Section M) addresses the implementation, and projected schedule for completion and various funding sources.

### State Planning Priorities: The Tie-In

The State of Indiana adopted a state-wide plan of priorities that are recommended for development over the period of its current Outdoor Recreation Plan. The State’s priorities are based upon the overall



objectives of providing for a wide range of recreational opportunities and experiences that will reinforce positive social and cultural values. These opportunities should be available to enrich the lives of all of Indiana's residents and visitors.

By identifying priorities and opportunities that relate directly to one or more of these State Priorities, Moore'sville Parks and Recreation Department's position is enhanced when competing for Federal and State funding programs. The State Priorities, checked below in bold, reflect the goals and opportunities that closely parallel the Moore'sville Park and Recreation Department's goals and objectives.

## SCORP 2000-2004: Indiana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

*Taken from: "SCORP 2000-2004 – A New Millennium, A New Tradition," provided by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.*

### Outdoor Recreation Goals & Objectives

Goal #1: *Protect Indiana's natural and cultural resources.*

✓ **Objective 1-1:**

Promote the appropriate outdoor recreational use of historic and cultural sites.

✓ **Objective 1-2:**

Promote wise development of recreational facilities including appropriate siting and scale.

✓ **Objective 1-3:**

Assist Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology to

identify and list significant designed landscapes, especially those with outdoor recreational elements.

✓ **Objective 1-4:**

Continue to promote greater awareness, proper use and management of the environment through education.

✓ **Objective 1-5:**

Encourage environmental ethics and responsibilities.

✓ **Objective 1-6:**

Encourage the use of new technologies to involve a greater audience base.

✓ **Objective 1-7:**

Promote appropriate outdoor recreation facility development along nationally and state designated scenic byways and scenic river corridors, which preserves their intrinsic values.





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## Section L: Priorities

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*Goal #2: Encourage and promote outdoor recreation participation.*

✓ **Objective 2-1:**

Encourage outdoor recreation as a lifestyle choice, not just an activity.

✓ **Objective 2-2:**

Instill recreational ethics and user responsibilities through education.

✓ **Objective 2-3:**

Encourage participation in outdoor recreation activities as a method to prevent skyrocketing health care costs and promote healthy living.

✓ **Objective 2-4:**

Encourage facility development in areas where there is high demand for outdoor recreation opportunities.

✓ **Objective 2-5:**

Promote incorporating the principles of Universal Design in providing outdoor recreation facilities and experiences.

✓ **Objective 2-6:**

Expand the use of economic data to support providing and maintaining outdoor recreation facilities and activities.

✓ **Objective 2-7:**

Market the value of recreational opportunities for community development and revitalization.

✓ **Objective 2-8:**

Emphasize the opportunities that outdoor recreation offers in dealing with issues such as water and air quality, brownfields, farmland preservation, tourism, and commerce.

*Goal #3: Protect and expand Indiana's wetlands, riparian habitats and water/river recreation resources.*

✓ **Objective 3-1:**

Provide support and assistance to local organizations in expanding trail and greenway systems located in riparian corridors.

✓ **Objective 3-2:**

Preserve and protect Indiana's rarest wetland and riparian resources through education, acquisition and funding.

✓ **Objective 3-3:**

Preserve and protect Indiana's woodlands through education and acquisition.

✓ **Objective 3-4:**

Encourage actions that improve the quality of Indiana's waters.





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Moore'sville Parks Master Plan Update 2009-2013

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*Goal #4: Provide long-term, consistent funding for outdoor recreation and resource conservation at the state and local level.*

✓ **Objective 4-1:**

Promote alternative sources of funding such as privatization and cost sharing for outdoor recreation to alleviate operational and maintenance costs.

✓ **Objective 4-2:**

Continue to provide recreational grant programs such as Indiana Waters, Hometown, LWCF, etc.

✓ **Objective 4-3:**

Provide facilities that are self-sufficient and income producing.

✓ **Objective 4-4:**

Encourage special initiatives by establishing criteria that reward creative methods of providing outdoor recreation.

✓ **Objective 4-5:**

Promote the SCORP to other DNR divisions, other state/local agencies and the general public to increase awareness of the document, recreation benefits and technical resources.

*Goal #5: Acquire lands for outdoor recreation and resource conservation.*

✓ **Objective 5-1:**

Give priority to acquiring lands in urban areas for outdoor recreation.

✓ **Objective 5-2:**

Make efforts to acquire lands from willing sellers.

✓ **Objective 5-3:**

Provide support and assistance to local organizations in expanding trail and greenway systems and recreational facilities.

✓ **Objective 5-4:**

Expand the use of public and private partnerships for providing outdoor recreation opportunities.

✓ **Objective 5-5:**

Be sensitive to issues of farmland and open space preservation.

✓ **Objective 5-6:**

Give priority to the acquisition of lands in areas that are deficient in recreation opportunities.

✓ **Objective 5-7:**



Section L: Priorities

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Acquisition of abandoned railroad corridors for recreation and transportation.



## Proposed Actions & Priorities

Section M of this document reflects the proposed priorities and action plan items documented by this study. The Action Priority Matrix lists each action / priority under the following headings:

1. Plan of Action: Documents the element of action noted.
2. Site, Facility, or Departmental / Administration: Notes to which site, facility, or responsibility the action relates.
3. Estimated Costs: Indicates the anticipated expense of that action element. Cost estimates reflect 2006 costs. An appropriate inflation factor will need to be factored into future action years.
4. Priority Rating: Establishes an "A," "B," or "C" priority to that element of action.
5. Priority Category: Lists category to which the element of action is assigned (i.e., Administrative, Departmental, All Park Sites, etc.).
6. Action Year\*: Indicates the year each action is scheduled for implementation.
7. Funding Sources\*: Refers to the Funding Source Legend noted at the top of each page of the Action Priority Matrix. Each Action line item has a main source or sources of possible funding assigned to it. Other funding sources have also been listed and should be considered to augment the main source(s) if necessary.
8. Strategic Issues: This column will be utilized by the Master Planning Task Force and the Consultant following the approval of this Five-Year Master Plan. Additional focus will be given in detail by the Master Planning Task Force to these strategic issues. The result of that additional planning will be made part of this Five-Year Master Plan.

\* Year of Action and Funding Source(s) apply to "A" priorities only.



## Section M: Action Plan

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### **Parks and Recreation Action Plan**

The Action Plan / Priority Matrix on the following pages outlines the project action, the estimated year of implementation, and the estimated cost and probable funding sources. All dollar estimates in the Action Priority Matrix are a result of certain assumptions and may not reflect actual costs. They are strictly preliminary estimates to be used as a budgeting tool.

**Insert Action Plan Here**



## Funding Resources

Many are the demand on local government to fund the variety of programs provided to the public sector. Following is a brief description of the principal resources available to the Park & Recreation Board for implementing programs for recreational purposes.

### **NRC — Non-Reverting Capital Funds**

Non-Reverting Capital Fund Accounts are created for the purpose of acquiring land or making specific capital improvements. All proceeds from the sale of Parks and Recreation Department property and equipment plus special user fees as established by the Parks and Recreation Board shall be deposited into this capital fund.

### **NRO — Non-Reverting Operations**

Non-Reverting Operating funds are created for park purposes from which expenditures may be made by appropriation by the Parks and Recreation Board. All receipts from program participation, event admissions, concessions, rentals, sales of merchandise and food, user fees from golf operations and revenue generated by park operations throughout the park system and rental fees from enclosed facilities shall be deposited into said special non-reverting operating fund.

### **CP — Civil City Personnel**

Each year a significant portion of the Civil City budget is devoted to personnel expenses. These expenses include base salaries, overtime pay, longevity pay based on number of years employed, medical and life insurance benefit coverage, and PERF (Public Employee Retirement Fund) contributions.

### **CO — Civil City Operations**

In addition to the annual appropriation for personnel expenses, the Park Department receives each year from Civil City funds a budget amount for operations for the upcoming year. This money is used to cover maintenance costs associated with park upkeep, departmental office operating expenses, and costs associated with promoting and running the recreation program and special events.

### **SA — City Special Appropriation**

The City may also, from time to time, appropriate money toward Park Department projects and improvements from other town revenue sources. These sources might include money from the town's Community Development Block Grant budget (CDBG). Also, funds needed to match grant requests are sometimes appropriated from a City matching funds line item.

### **GD — Gifts and Donations**

Donations of money, land, and time are important resources to the Park Department. Many recreation activities and special events would not occur if such donations were not received from individuals, service clubs, and businesses. Also, land donations to the park system have been received since early in the history of the Park Department and, where advantageous, these land donations should be encouraged and received by the Park Board.



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## Section M: Action Plan

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### **GOB — General Obligation Bonds**

General obligation bonds, which are retired by tax money, provide a funding source for implementation of large scale projects or improvements. The Park Board can not exceed a set percentage (2%) of the assessed valuation of the taxing district. Public hearings must be held and approval is required by the City Council.

### **RIF — Recreation Impact Fees**

A Recreational Impact Fee Ordinance allows for the new housing developments to assist in the funding of facilities (based on identified recreational standards) to serve that particular population growth. This funding source is not to be used for current facility deficiencies.

### **HIF — Highway Impact Fees**

Similar to the Recreation Impact Fee funding source, the City's Highway Impact Fees can be used for trail development within road right-of-ways.

### **LWCF — Land and Water Conservation Funds**

Administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation, these funds are used most predominantly for park development of outdoor recreation facilities. These grant funds can be utilized to finance up to 50% of the cost of eligible projects and are awarded annually. To qualify for LWCF funds, a city/town must have a park and recreation board established in accordance with state statues and have an approved Park and Recreation Master Plan.

### **SAFETEA-LU – Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act**

On August 10, 2005, President George W. Bush signed the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). SAFETEA-LU authorizes the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period 2005-2009.

SAFETEA-LU builds on the initiatives established in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century of 1998 (TEA-21) and the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), which were the last major authorizing legislation for surface transportation. This new Act combines the continuation and improvement of current programs with new initiatives to meet the challenges of improving safety as traffic continues to increase at record levels, protecting and enhancing communities and the natural environment as we provide transportation and advance America's economic growth and competitiveness domestically and internationally through efficient and flexible transportation.

*Significant features of SAFETEA-LU include:*

- A new environmental review process for highways, transit, and multimodal projects which applies to new projects advanced with environmental impact statements and can be applied, if DOT elects, to projects advanced with other environmental documents, thereby streamlining the environmental review process.
- Projects are prohibited on publicly owned parks, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, or historic sites unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative and all possible mitigation is used.
- A pilot program for non-motorized transportation and Safe Routes to School.
- Significant new environmental requirements for the Statewide and Metropolitan Planning process.



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- Modifications intended to provide greater flexibility in transportation planning and air quality conformity, without reducing protection for air quality.
- A total of \$370 million is provided through 2009 to continue the program to develop and maintain trails for recreational purposes that include pedestrian, equestrian, bicycling and non-motorized snow activities as well as off-road motorized vehicle activities.
- The conduct of an Wildlife Vehicle Collision Reduction Study of methods to reduce collisions between motor vehicles and wildlife, and report to Congress within 2 years on causes, impacts, and solutions. A manual of best practices is due 1 year after report to Congress. The Secretary is required to develop a training course for transportation professionals.\*

\* Sources: [http://www.fedcenter.gov/Announcements/index.cfm?id=2828&page\\_id=1854](http://www.fedcenter.gov/Announcements/index.cfm?id=2828&page_id=1854) and <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/index.htm>

### **IHT — Indiana Heritage Trust**

The Indiana Heritage Trust was created to fund the purchase of natural areas for public use. Funded by the sale of environmental license plates and donations, the money is used for land acquisition. A Project Committee reviews the proposed projects submitted to the Heritage Trust Committee, which in turn recommends approval by the Governor. The Trust Committee members are appointed by the governor and legislative leaders. A portion of the Heritage Trust funds are available to the Division of Outdoor Recreation for the purchase of land that meets established criteria. Projects could include greenways and land for trails.

### **RTP — Recreational Trails Program**

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is an assistance program of the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Federal transportation funds benefit recreation by making funds available to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. The RTP funds come from the Federal Highway Trust Fund, and represent a portion of the motor fuel excise tax collected from non-highway recreational fuel use: fuel used for off-highway recreation by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and off-highway light trucks.

### **HPF — Historic Preservation Fund Program**

Each year, the U.S. Congress appropriates approximately \$37 million to the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) The HPF provides matching grants to encourage private and non-federal investment in historic preservation efforts nationwide, and assists State, local governments, and Indian tribes with expanding and accelerating their historic preservation activities nationwide. HPF grants serve as a catalyst and "seed money" for preserving and protecting our nation's irreplaceable heritage for this and future generations.

### **Hoosier Riverwatch Water Monitoring Equipment Grants**

Equipment grants are available for volunteer groups interested in monitoring the water quality of local rivers and streams. The grants, administered by the DNR's Hoosier Riverwatch, will help as many as 60 groups establish education and river stewardship programs throughout the state. Non-profit groups, public agencies, environmental clubs and schools are among those eligible for grants. Since 1996, approximately 155 volunteer groups have received equipment and have started monitoring local





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waterways. This year, 10 grants are reserved for elementary schools to encourage participation in stewardship among young people.

### **LARE — Lake and River Enhancement**

The goal of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Lake and River Enhancement Section is to protect and enhance aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife, to insure the continued viability of Indiana's publicly accessible lakes and streams for multiple uses, including recreational opportunities. This is accomplished through measures that reduce non-point sediment and nutrient pollution of surface waters to a level that meets or surpasses state water quality standards. To accomplish this goal, the LARE Program provides technical and financial assistance for qualifying projects.

### **UFC — Urban Forest Conservation Grants**

The Urban Forest Conservation (UFC) Grants are intended to help communities develop long term programs to manage their urban forests. Grantees may conduct any project that helps to improve and protect trees and other associated natural resources in urban areas. Community projects that target program development, planning and education are emphasized. Projects funded in the past include activities such as conducting tree inventories, developing tree maintenance and planting plans, writing tree ordinances, conducting programs to train municipal employees and the public, purchase or development of publications, books and videos, hiring consultants or city foresters, etc. Certified Tree Cities may spend up to 20% of the grant funds on demonstration tree planting projects. Local municipalities, not-for-profit organizations and state agencies are eligible to apply for \$2,000 to \$20,000.

### **OG — Other Grants**

Other grant sources, besides the traditional recreation related ones sponsored by the state and federal government, exist for park improvement projects. Also, there are urban forestry grants available and grants from the Indiana Arts Commission that can be related to park and recreation projects. Private companies are also often sponsors of foundations and grant programs that may be related to an aspect of park and recreation such as tree planting, aid to handicapped persons, or programs for disadvantaged youth. Companies also sometimes sponsor volunteer programs to the community with their employee or executive resources.

## Other Funding Sources

- A. Indiana Department of Transportation
- B. Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation
- C. Indiana Committee for the Humanities
- D. Indiana Arts Commission
- E. Indiana Department of Aging and Community Services
- F. Indiana Federal Property Program
- G. Indiana Department of Commerce
- H. Indiana State Board of Health
- I. U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration



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- J. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- K. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- L. U.S. Armed Services
- M. U.S. Department of Education
- N. President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports
- O. Green Thumb, Inc.
- P. The Nature Conservancy
- Q. Acres, Inc.
- R. The Trust for Public Land
- S. National Association for the Exchange of Industrial Resources
- T. Fish America Foundation
- U. Capital Fund Drive Campaign
- V. Memorial Giving
- W. Deferred Giving

The aforementioned funding sources are not intended as an exhaustive list of available sources. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Park and Recreation Board will continue to research various federal grant-in-aid programs and private sector resources that could be utilized in the development of park and recreation projects.

The proposed Action Plan may need to be modified and adjusted as indicated by available resources. It is intended to be a flexible working document, and some adjustments should be anticipated.

The annual departmental reviews of its Objectives should include those elements of the Park and Recreation Master Plan deemed feasible for that given year. Quantifiable benchmarks should be forecast for progress evaluation, based on a reasonable time frame.



Section N: Appendix

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