

THE TOWN OF

McCORDSVILLE



**five-year
parks and recreation master plan
2022-2026**



**five-year
parks and recreation master plan
2022-2026**

MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026

MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

M c C O R D S V I L L E , I N D I A N A

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A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S :

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O F T H E T O W N O F M C C O R D S V I L L E .**

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MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

A Resolution Accepting the Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

WHEREAS, the McCordsville Parks and Recreation Board is desirous of providing a quality parks and recreation system for the citizens of McCordsville Indiana; and

WHEREAS, in doing so the McCordsville Parks and Recreation Board has sought opinions and input from the officials and citizens of McCordsville in developing a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the McCordsville Parks and Recreation Board desires to make itself eligible to meet certain requirements for participation in grant programs; and,

WHEREAS, _____, the McCordsville Parks and Recreation Board received the final draft document of the proposed Five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD, hereby accepts and adopts the final draft document of the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan presented on _____, as its official Five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the period of 2017-2021.

Passed and signed this ____ day of _____, 2022.

Kim Pearson, Chair

Justin Bastin

Susie Highley

Ann Kloc

Catherine Witsman (Library Ex-Officio)

Branden Williams (Council Ex-Officio)

ATTEST:

Beth Morton, Administrative Assistant



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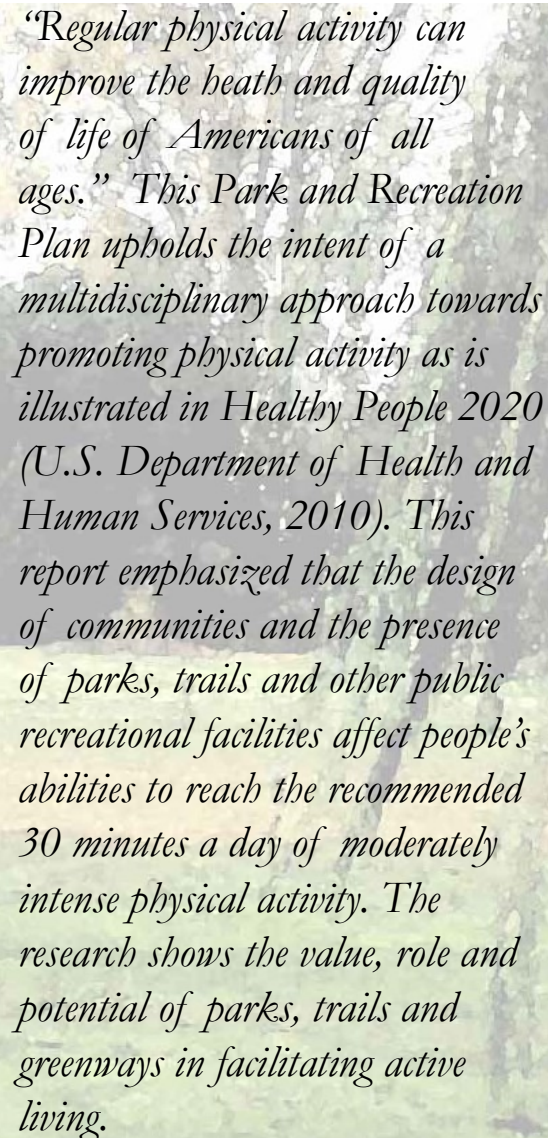
section 1: project introduction



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“Regular physical activity can improve the health and quality of life of Americans of all ages.” This Park and Recreation Plan upholds the intent of a multidisciplinary approach towards promoting physical activity as is illustrated in Healthy People 2020 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2010). This report emphasized that the design of communities and the presence of parks, trails and other public recreational facilities affect people’s abilities to reach the recommended 30 minutes a day of moderately intense physical activity. The research shows the value, role and potential of parks, trails and greenways in facilitating active living.

Background:

The benefits of parks and recreation to society are numerous, affecting a spectrum of issues including physical health, an overall sense of community, the environment, and the economy. Significant benefits are attributed to the provision of local parks for active and passive recreation, and researchers have proven their contribution to mental and physical wellness. Researchers have found positive relationships between settings for physical activity, namely parks and trails, and the physical activity patterns in adults. The more parks and recreation facilities a community provides, the more likely its residents are to engage in physical activity that helps improve physical and psychological wellness.

Access to a range of recreation opportunities and parks has been shown to increase not only the physical health of a community, but has been shown to strengthen its sense of community as well. Traditionally, parks and recreation areas have been used to provide places where families come together and enjoy nature while getting exercise and fresh air. During the 1970’s, an increase in leisure time and a more mobile society caused an increase in the demand for and the growth of recreational facilities throughout the U.S. This demand has continued to increase in recent years with a renewed interest in active living and healthy lifestyles. Communities are continuing to strive to provide new and varied means to meet the recreation needs of their residents. Recreation demands have become more diverse, with community residents taking a renewed active interest in parks and recreation. Diverse recreation

programs and facilities in communities throughout the U.S. have succeeded in engaging their residents in new and unique ways. By bringing people together with common interests, parks are an integral part of a community’s overall framework. As individuals use local parks and recreation facilities and programs, a stronger sense of community is frequently built as residents are connected and engaged to one another and to their communities.

The environmental benefits of parks are just as far-reaching as their physical and community benefits. In recent years, preservation and conservation of natural resources have emerged as planning and social issues. Throughout the United States schools have begun to teach subjects such as ecology and conservation. News reports and magazine articles disseminate information on environmental issues and concerns. This increase in the concern for the environment has caused an increase in people using nature and natural areas as recreation resources, causing “the great outdoors” to sometimes show signs of overuse. Well-maintained and well-planned parks help to enrich habitat biodiversity and maintain natural landscapes in their natural state. The preservation of natural features in parks including topography, wooded areas, and historically important areas provides important environmental benefits to our growing urban areas. In addition, these natural spaces contribute to a high quality of life within the community.

In addition to the physical, community, and environmental benefits of parks, the economic benefits of parks should not be underestimated.

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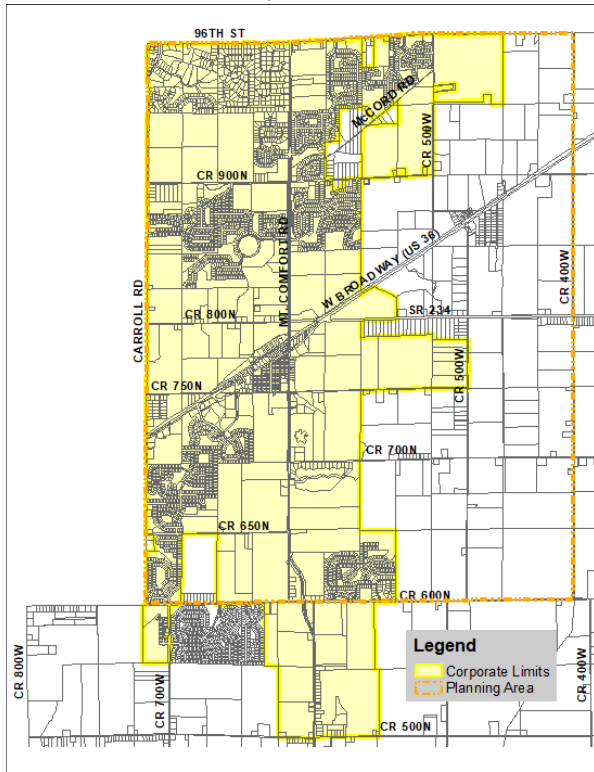


Figure 1.1: Planning Area: McCordsville, Indiana

The Study Area for the McCordsville Parks and Recreation Master Plan coincides with the Town's Incorporated Limits and the planning area for the McCordsville Comprehensive Plan, adopted January 11, 2011.

Increased property values, attraction of residents and businesses, tourism, and reinvestment in property are all benefits that can in some way or another be attributed to parks. Quality of life is increasingly cited as a major factor in corporate location decisions, and parks play a big role in reflecting a high quality of life within a community. It has become clear that the benefit of parks and recreation facilities is significant to a community's overall economy.

The McCordsville Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2022-2026 provides a means for addressing the many park and recreational needs of McCordsville, Indiana. While the plan focuses on the priorities most crucial within the next 5 years, it is built on an overall vision that has been established by the McCordsville Parks and Recreation Board. The plan has been developed with the intention that it will serve as a catalyst for parks and recreation amenities within McCordsville and the surrounding community for many years to come. It should be noted that this master plan will function as a working document and will require periodic updating to respond to changes in the needs of the community and corresponding changes in the goals of the parks department.

The Planning Process:

The McCordsville Parks and Recreation Board initiated the development of the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan as an update to the previous five-year plans. The main priority of the Board is to assist in the identification of recreation space for local residents in a community

where very few current parks and recreational amenities exist. It is the mission of the Board to provide quality parks, green spaces, and recreational opportunities for the Town's current residents and to plan for tomorrow's recreational needs by developing a park and trails system to meet the needs of this growing community. The Board employed HNTB Corporation of Indianapolis as a planning consultant in the preparation of the 2007-2011 master plan to help guide McCordsville's future in recreation programming and planning. The 2022-2026 plan was updated with the assistance, direction, and cooperation of the McCordsville Parks and Recreation Board, Town Staff, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and the citizens of McCordsville. The plan has been developed in accordance with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Planning Guidelines for Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plans. The area designated for this plan was adopted from the Town of McCordsville Comprehensive Plan. This area encompasses more than just the corporate limits. With a projected increase in population (according to the Comprehensive Plan), the Town's incorporated land area is expected to grow to encompass a much greater area. This Study Area is pictured in Figure 1.1 to the left.

Beginning with an existing conditions inventory, the plan process evolved to a final set of recommendations for the next five years. A systematic planning process that divides tasks into four main phases to help organize information into a proper sequence for problem solving was used to develop the 2022-2026 Master Plan.

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Although the growing Town of McCordsville currently has few park facilities, opportunities abound in this growing community for the development of recreational facilities as long as planning is put in place now before development encroaches on prime parkland.



The first phase is the inventory phase of the planning process. It is comprised of collecting and compiling data relevant to recreation planning in McCordsville. This information included but was not limited to natural and environmental features, cultural and man-made influences, existing recreation facilities, and residents' attitudes concerning recreation.

The second and third phases are analysis and synthesis. After information was gathered, an analysis of the community's recreational needs was conducted at public and staff meetings and through the use of a public survey. Once compiled, information was analyzed to determine its individual effects and influences on the public's demand for outdoor recreation. This needs analysis helped to paint an overall picture of McCordsville's future recreational needs and opportunities.



McCordsville currently has two parks, Old School Park, pictured above left and Town Hall Community Park, pictured above right. Old School Park, was acquired by the Town from Vernon Township on January 1, 2021, and contains a small baseball field, basketball court, tennis court, playground, and picnic shelter. Town Hall Community Park is also a neighborhood park, which features a mulch path, garden, and park shelter.

The final phase in the planning process, conceptualization and future development, formed the recommendations of the Master Plan. Goals were adopted, and recommendations for achieving these goals were developed based on identified recreational needs, opportunities, and deficiencies. Needs and deficiencies were initially identified by comparison of current recreation facilities with national standards. This analysis led to the development of recommendations that are outlined in an updated 5-year priority action schedule in Section 5 of this Master Plan.



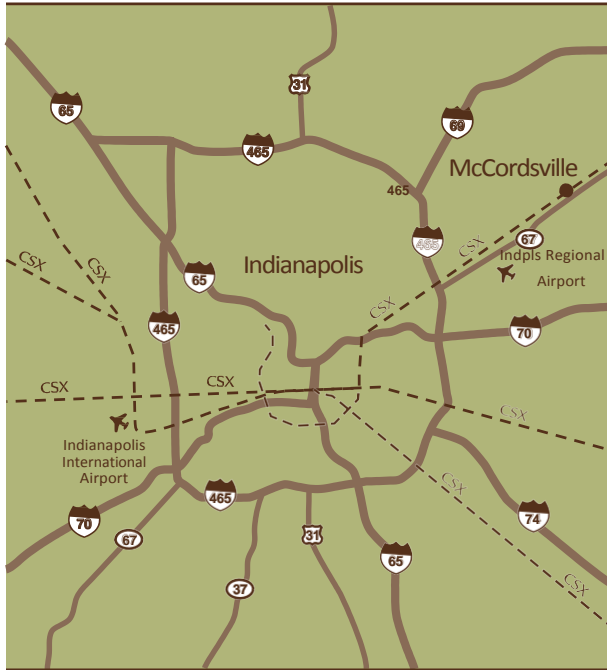
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Regional Context:

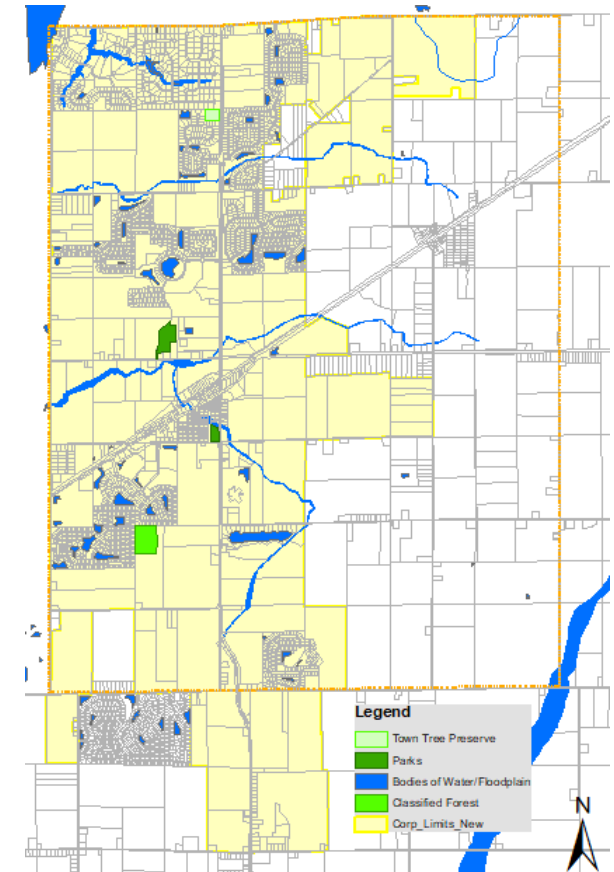
McCordsville, Indiana is a small town located twenty miles northeast of Indianapolis with a population of approximately 10,000 at the end of 2021. McCordsville is positioned in the northwest corner of Hancock County. The Town of McCordsville has seen much change, since its incorporation in 1988. The Town's population between 2000 and 2010 grew 323%, one of the greatest population gains (by percentage) in the State, and now the second largest municipality solely within Hancock County. Between 2010 and 2020 the Town's population grew from 4,797 to almost 8,503, cf, *1. The community faces the challenge of updating its infrastructure to meet the demands of growth, as well as preserving its unique small town character. McCordsville shares characteristics of a rural and suburban community. In looking to the future, the community and its leaders are seeking to preserve those qualities that will draw people to live and work in McCordsville.

Primary local access to McCordsville is provided by US Highway 36/SR 67/W. Broadway or by Interstate 70 via County Road 600 West. Situated between Interstate 69 and Interstate 70, the community of McCordsville is closely linked to the greater regional transportation network.

Natural Features and Landscape:

McCordsville's characteristically rural and suburban form provides an abundance of opportunities for outdoor recreation. Outdoor recreation, in general, relies heavily upon the natural and environmental features of an area.

Natural Resources



"McCordsville continues to value its small-town character and seeks to preserve its high quality of life that continues to draw people to live, work, and play here."

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McCordsville's rural character, abundance of open land, and natural areas provide many opportunities for the development of parks.

McCordsville's landscape is dominated by agricultural cropland which has recently been converting to residential uses. The land is relatively flat in the south. In the north of the Town near Geist Reservoir the terrain becomes more rolling. There are some woodland strands throughout the Town in windrows and on some steep slopes. The Town has completed recovered from the recession and in fact 2021 featured the largest number of new home permits in the Town's history, including the high growth years prior to the recession.

Residents of the Town desire to protect the open feeling and natural features of the town as development occurs. It was this strong desire that led the town to adopt an open space standard in the 2011 Subdivision Control Ordinance that requires a minimum of 25 percent open space within all residential developments.

With its abundance of open farmland and some woodland areas, McCordsville has a tremendous opportunity to plan for a high-quality and sophisticated future park and trail system before its mostly undeveloped agricultural lands are developed. The opportunity to plan a network of parks and trails before the build-out of the community happens is a rarity and should be considered an important priority of local leadership and citizens.

Man-Made, Historical, and Cultural Features:

Though incorporated in 1988, McCordsville has a much longer history than its thirty-four years as a Town. The original plat for the Town consisted of thirty-four (34) lots and was laid out by James Nagley in 1865. The Town was named for the McCord family who lived in the area and who also platted a portion of the Town in 1873. McCordsville had a bustling economy in its early years, with several general merchandise stores, a grist mill, and a saw mill. Around 1895, McCordsville became home to a telephone manufacturing company, and for two years the Leader automobile factory assembled automobiles in its McCordsville plant. The first church in McCordsville, the Gillum Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, was established in 1854 prior to the platting of the Town, and the first grade school was opened in McCordsville in 1874.

Cultural and Historic buildings

Today one can glimpse remnants of the past along Broadway where the original plat of the Town follows the railroad. A historic Old Town, mercantile, church and several other historic structures along the CSX Railroad still stand as a reminder of the past. These structures have been preserved, remodeled, and reused throughout the past decades and centuries. They contribute to the unique character of the Town, and remind the residents of McCordsville of their common history.

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Transportation

Although not located directly along a major interstate, McCordsville is regionally connected. Most Interstate traffic enters McCordsville from I-70 via County Road 600 W, a major north-south thoroughfare that passes through McCordsville. Four primary transportation routes exist for travel through Town or to reach Indianapolis. These routes, SR 67/US Highway 36/Broadway, SR 234, County Road 1000 North and County Road 600 West, are likely to see the most demand for adjacent development. Connection to the local and regional transportation network should be considered in the development of future parks and trails. The railroad and SR 67 do pose barriers to active transportation connectivity. The Town has submitted a grant for a widening project at CR 600 W and SR 67. If granted that project will include a pedestrian crosswalk, with a pedestrian signal. This feature, will help reduce that barrier for active transportation moving north-south along CR 600 W. As the Town continues to grow and expand its multi-use path, a safe pedestrian connection over/under the railroad tracks is desired.

Trails

Currently, the Town's trail system features many gaps. This is typical of high growth, young community. As the Town continues to develop many of these gaps will be filled in by development. However, it is expected that the Town will have some gaps to address in areas that either won't develop or redevelop. The 2011 McCordsville Comprehensive Plan includes recommendations for multi-use trails and sidewalks along new roadways throughout the Town. This is expanded upon in the Town's Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan, which was adopted in 2020. These connections are critical in maintaining a small town atmosphere and should be considered just as important as new roads. It is the task of the Park Board to plan for these trails and to help make connections between them to develop an overall network of trails that links the community to its neighborhoods, parks, and local amenities.

Park Facilities

There are two parks in Town. Old School Park located at CR 750 N and CR 600 W is a primary source of recreation amenities for its citizens. This park site was the site of the first public school in Vernon Township. When a new school was constructed in the township, the school building was demolished and the site was converted to a park. The entry arch to the old public school building that used to stand on the site was placed on a mound in the southeast corner of the park. A historical marker denotes the history of the property. Town Hall Community Park is the Town's newest park, opened in 2014.

Demographic Analysis:

Demographic analysis is an effective tool in understanding the existing conditions of the community. This analysis in conjunction with citizen input aids in identifying the issues, opportunities and constraints which will serve as the basis for the plan's goals, objectives and policies. Such goals and objectives may relate directly to recreational issues, such as how much recreational area and what type of recreational programs need to be developed.

The demographic analysis describes the town's existing and future populations, economic, social, and housing characteristics. All demographic data is based on information provided by the U.S. Census, the 2011 McCordsville Comprehensive Plan, and Town permit data.

Population Trends

Examining the population characteristics in a community helps to identify a Town's growth patterns. These patterns help to identify the different population groups in the community with their various recreational needs. Furthermore, understanding the population characteristics will help determine the need for land and recreational services to support the projected size and characteristics of that population.

Since the early 1990's, the Town of McCordsville has experienced accelerating growth. The Town's population in the 1990 Census was 684 people. In 2000, the Town had a population of more than 1,100, a growth that almost doubled in only ten years.

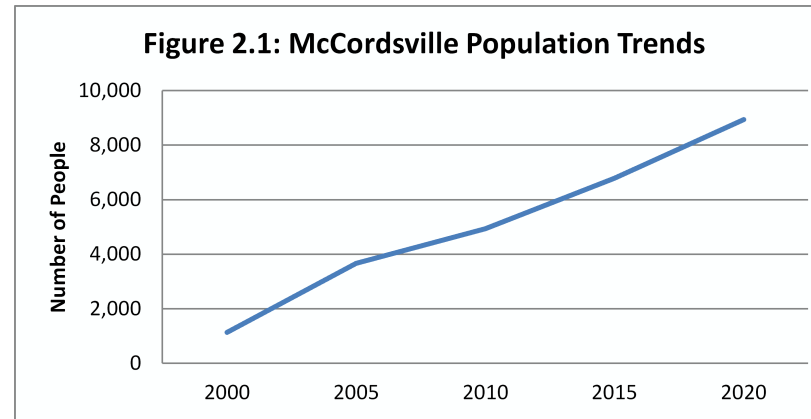
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The 2010 Census showed our population to be 4,797 persons based upon an 80% return rate.

The 2020 Census showed the Town's population at 8,503. Our internal estimates which take the number of existing rooftops times the average household size (2.8 according to Census data) plus population counts from apartments yields a population of 8,933 at the end of the 2020 calendar year. The Census number is based upon population on April 1, 2020. This growth trend in McCordsville from 2000 to 2020 is shown in Figure 2.1:

McCordsville Population Trends and is based upon estimates from the US Census Bureau and data provided by the Town. The chart illustrates this population growth spurt. The Town of McCordsville has seen much change since its incorporation in 1988. Between 1990 and 2000, the Town grew from 684 to 1,134 persons or nearly 66% and between 2000 and 2010, the population grew 320% earning the distinction of the third fastest growing municipality in the State of Indiana. This high growth trend has continued. Between 2010 and 2020 the Town grew 86%. This growth far exceeds that of the state's. This peak in population is due to the growth of Indianapolis, the continued expansion of residents outward away from the city, and our great public schools. The small Town character of the community is clearly a strong force in attracting new residential development to the Town of McCordsville, and the Town is expecting continued population increases in the near future. This expected continued population increase will have a strong impact on the community's need for parks.



Source: US Census Bureau, McCordsville Utility Dept. data, and McCordsville Planning Dept. permit data. Note: Census Data is based upon an 80% return rate. A multiplier of 2.9 people per household (which is used by MVCSC) was used to estimate population growth.

Figure 2.2:

State & County Population Trends		
	Hancock Co.	Indiana
1960	26,665	4,662,498
1970	35,096	5,195,392
1980	43,939	5,490,210
1990	45,527	5,544,159
2000	55,391	6,080,485
2010	70,002	6,483,802
2020	79,840	6,790,280
2000-2010 Change	26%	7%
2010-2020 Change	14%	5%

Source: US Census Bureau

Figure 2.3:

Hancock Co. City & Town Populations					
	McCordsville	Cumberland*	Fortville	Greenfield	New Palestine
1990	684	4,557	2,690	11,657	671
2000	1,134	5,500	3,444	14,600	1,264
2010	4,797	5,169	3,929	20,602	2,055
2020	8,503	5,954	4,784	23,488	2,744
2000-2010 Change	323%	-6%	14%	41%	63%
2010-2020 Change	77%	15%	22%	14%	34%

Source: US Census Bureau

*Includes Marion Co. population.

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It is also important to compare McCordsville's population growth with that of its neighboring towns in Hancock County. Two distinct characteristics are evident when examining the general population trends in Figure 2.3: Hancock County Town Population Trends. The first trend is that McCordsville has significantly more population than the other communities in the County, with the exception of Greenfield. Secondly, McCordsville has seen a larger population growth than other communities in the county. McCordsville has a wealth of amenities to offer, namely its attraction as a family oriented residential community with a small town charm. All of these population trends point towards the need to provide a greater number of community services, including the need for more parkland to serve a growing population.

Population Projections

When planning for recreational facilities it is important to look at the future population projections. Population projections are often extrapolated for a community to assist in the development of the land use plan. They indicate the number of persons entering the community and how many new households the community can expect. This also aids in the determination of the amount of recreational land and programs needed.

The population projections for the McCordsville planning area are shown in Figures 2.4 and 2.5. These figures come directly from the Town's Comprehensive Plan. It should be noted the Comprehensive Plan will be updated in 2022 and these projections will likely be amended.

Land Use Category	Max. Density	Acres	Housing Units	Population per Unit	Population
Rural Residential	0.50	588	294	2.9	853
Low Density Residential	0.90	3,970	3,573	2.9	10,362
Low-Medium Density Residential	1.99	592	1,178	2.9	3,416
Medium Density Residential	2.49	324	807	2.9	2,340
Medium-High Density Residential	2.99	37	111	2.9	321
Mixed-Use[±]	3.50	115	401	2.9	1,162
Total Residential Acres	-	5,626	6,363	2.9	18,453
± Assumes 50% of the Town's Mixed Use Land Use Category will consist of residential dwelling units					

Figure 2.4: Study Area Population Projections, Aggressive Scenario

Land Use Category	Max. Density	Acres	Housing Units	Population per Unit	Population
Rural Residential	0.00	588	0	2.9	0
Low Density Residential	0.51	3,970	2,025	2.9	5,872
Low-Medium Density Residential	1.00	592	592	2.9	1,717
Medium Density Residential	2.00	324	648	2.9	1,879
Medium-High Density Residential	2.50	37	93	2.9	268
Mixed-Use[±]	3.00	57	172	2.9	498
Total Residential Acres	-	5,568	3,529	2.9	10,234
± Assumes 25% of the Town's Mixed Use Land Use Category will consist of residential dwelling units					

Figure 2.5: Study Area Population Projections, Conservative Scenario

Source: US Census Bureau/ Town of McCordsville 2011 Comprehensive Plan

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Figure 2.6: Household Size		
	Hancock Co.	McCordsville
1970	3.23	3.25
1980	3.01	3.12 est
1990	2.86	2.98
2000	2.65	2.98
2010	2.64	2.9
2020	2.48	2.8
2010-2020 Change	-6%	-3%
Source: US Census Data		

These projections are equally as useful for measuring the amenities and infrastructure that a community will likely need to plan for. For this reason, this Parks and Recreation Master Plan takes into account not only the past population trends, but also the planning area build-out projections in order to plan for McCordsville's future park needs.

The methodology of determining these projections in the 2011 McCordsville Comprehensive Plan is described as follows. First, the amount of land in each land use classification was determined. To determine the most aggressive build-out model, the population was then calculated using the maximum density permitted in each land use district and the Town's average of 2.9 persons per household (See Figure 2.6: Household Size). Under this construction, the population of the planning area build-out would be approximately 18,453. For the second and more conservative model, the planning area was constructed at its lowest density. If the

planning area were to build-out at the lowest density, the build-out population would be approximately 10,234 according to the 2011 McCordsville Comprehensive Plan. These models are shown in Figures 2.4 and 2.5 on the previous page. The planning area used for these was adopted as the study area for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This land area is shown on page 1-2, Figure 1.1. In summary, these projections point towards continued growth in the town, reinforcing the need to plan for recreation amenities to serve an expanded population.

Age groups

A breakdown of the population by age is useful in determining the possible users of recreation services. The age of the population conveys information about the people who live in the community and what types of services they will demand. This is important when determining which services the park system needs to provide for the community. For example, a large percentage of younger population would require more playground equipment and athletic fields. In contrast, an older population would require more walking trails and passive recreation activities. To show the distribution of age in McCordsville, a Population Pyramid was created (Figure 2.7: McCordsville Population Pyramid, 2011).

This pyramid shows the percent of the total population that falls within the different age groups. The graph indicates that the largest percent of the population falls within the 5 years and under and 30-34 years age brackets. This indicates that the Town

of McCordsville is comprised mostly of families with young children and therefore the Town should plan to offer facilities and services that meet their needs. The shape of the pyramid also indicates that the population is growing rapidly because the bottom of the population far outweighs the top portion, which is persons sixty and over.

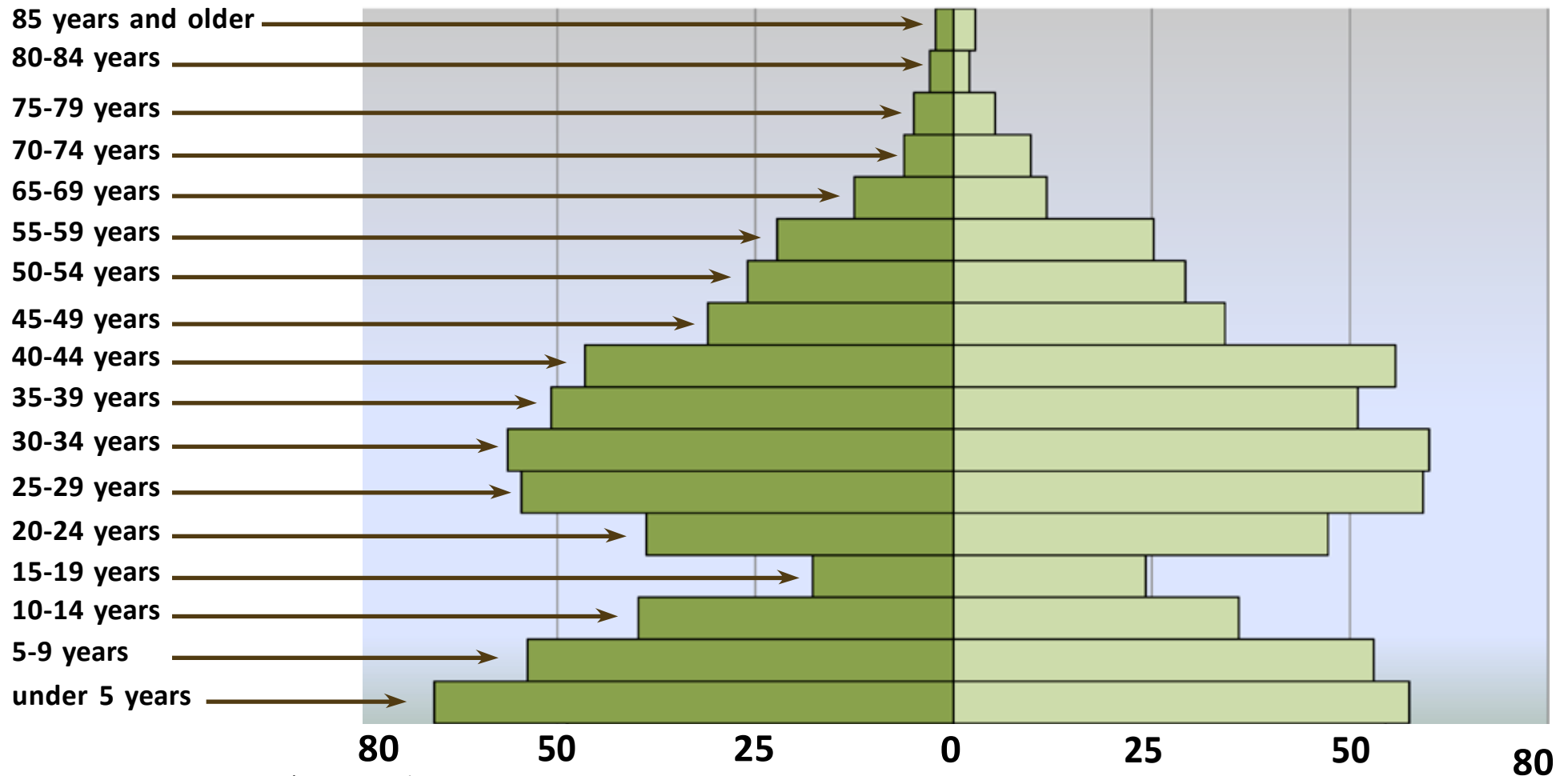
Overall, the population pyramid is an indicator of a healthy local community because of the high numbers of families and youth. McCordsville is a place where families value the high quality of life that the Town has to offer and where people are settling down to raise families. These numbers validate the need for McCordsville to work towards its objective of creating new opportunities for youth and family recreation activities and programs.

Although senior citizens are not in the highest population bracket, this does not lessen the value of special attention being paid to the recreation needs of the over 60 years of age category. The recreation needs for this age group will continue to grow as the community matures over time and they should be evaluated in the plan's priorities now in order to plan for future generations. Amenities should be planned for this age group, and they should become a higher priority as the populations in this age group increase.

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Males



Note: Census Data is Based on an 80% Return Rate

Figure 2.7: McCordsville Population Pyramid, 2011

Source: US Census Bureau 2010 Census/
Town of McCordsville 2011 Comprehensive Plan

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Household Size

Household size, the number of persons living in a housing unit, gives an indication of how many units will be needed in the future as well as determining the future population projections. The household size is shown in Figure 2.6: Household Size. The household size for McCordsville was utilized in the modeling of the future land use projections discussed in the prior sections. Household size also helps to determine the impact the population will have on future land uses and is instrumental in determining appropriate amounts of park and recreational amenities.

The national trend seen over the past three decades is that the average household size is decreasing. In 1970, Hancock County’s household size was approximately 3.23 persons per household. In 2000, it had decreased to 2.65 persons per household. McCordsville’s household size for 2000 was 2.98 persons per household, down from 3.25 in 1970. According to the 2020 Census, household size has decreased to 2.8 and therefore the next Comprehensive Plan update will need to account for this continued trend.

Examining the number of persons in a household, McCordsville’s highest percentage of households (51%) has three and four persons. Similarly, the number of married couples with children is high, with over 68 percent of households having children. These statistics strengthen the fact that McCordsville is a family oriented community. This family orientation will require a strong emphasis be put on park and recreation amenities for this

growing population of families. If McCordsville does not make a strong effort to meet these needs they may be in danger of losing their attractiveness to new residents, mainly existing residents of Indianapolis region who are “shopping” for a community with desirable amenities. Therefore, it is imperative that McCordsville develops a plan to provide recreation amenities that will continue to attract a family-oriented population.

Housing

Examining the different housing characteristics of a community provides insight into the people who live in a community. Home ownership is what many persons strive to achieve in their lifetime. Part of the “American Dream” is to own a house that contributes to wealth and social status. If home ownership declines in a community, this may signal decline in the wealth and overall well-being of the community. With that said, the newest generation entering the housing market, the Millennials seem to be eschewing this trend. The 2020 American Community Survey may provide some valuable data regarding this generation and its effects on household size, homeownership, etc. As the 2020 ACS data comes in staff will continue to analyze.

McCordsville has seen steady growth over the past thirty years with a tremendous increase in housing units. Moreover, ownership rates in McCordsville are over 85%, beating out other attractive bedroom communities of Indianapolis such as Zionsville, Plainfield, and Carmel (in the year 2010). Figure 2.8: Home Ownership

Rates, 2010 illustrates this.

Figure 2.8: Homeownership Rates, 2010

	Owner	Renter
McCordsville	85%	15%
Hancock County	79%	21%
Cumberland	69%	31%
Fortville	64%	36%
Greenfield	66%	34%
New Palestine	78%	22%
Shirley	72%	28%
Spring Lake	92%	8%
Wilkinson	80%	20%
Indiana St. Avg.	70%	30%
Carmel	81%	19%
Fishers	82%	18%
Greenwood	62%	38%
Lawrence	70%	30%
Mooresville	67%	33%
Plainfield	69%	31%
Zionsville	78%	22%

Source: US Census
Data

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Local Economy

Economic characteristics measure the economic behavior of the community, which in turn impacts the health of the economy. The health of the economy is directly related to the living conditions of the people in the community.

McCordsville's economy is local in nature for the services that are provided to the residents. Residents of McCordsville who make any major purchases such as clothes, cars, appliances, electronic equipment, repairs, etc. often travel outside the community to a larger market such as Fishers or Indianapolis, which is typical of residents in smaller communities. Residents of McCordsville also frequently travel to a larger market for other conveniences such as restaurants, movies and hardware, or basic necessities like groceries. For these reasons, McCordsville is beginning to provide more and more of its own conveniences as the Town grows. This can be seen along the Town's major corridors.

The same is true for recreation services. Currently, McCordsville's current park and recreation infrastructure is not meeting the needs of its citizens. Therefore, local residents are forced to go to other communities to meet their recreation needs. A Town such as McCordsville with a thriving and growing economy that is demanding more and more economic conveniences will eventually demand more parks services as well. In other words, it could lose out on attracting potential residents if the Town does not start to provide more parks and recreation services.

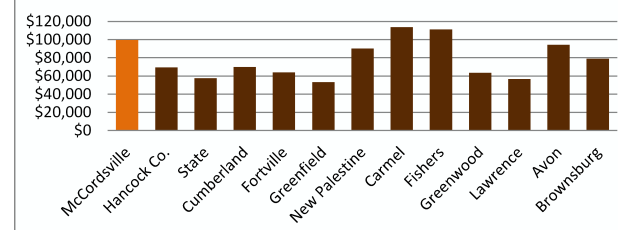
These projections were created for the Comprehensive Plan. They are based on full build-out of the planning area with its future land use plan in place. The rate of growth in the Town will be dependent on many difficult to anticipate factors such as the residential housing market, rate of agricultural land conversion, and the availability of public services. A strong housing market, rapid agricultural land conversion, and abundant public services would create an environment in which rapid growth would occur within the Town.

These projections were created for several reasons. Most importantly, in a rapidly growing community in a major metropolitan area, population projections using only historic trends are often inadequate to plan for the amount of growth that will occur in a twenty year period. In this case, a build-out projection is a useful tool for measuring the amount of growth that a community will potentially experience.

Income

Analyzing the median income of an area is helpful when trying to determine the type of park services that may be requested. According to the 2020 Census the median household income for McCordsville was \$99,497. This is higher than the median household income for Hancock County (\$65,517). The 2020 Census also collected data on job categories, the vast majority of McCordsville residents are employed by private companies, as shown in Figure 2.10.

Figure 2.9: Median Household Income



Source: US Census Bureau

Figure 2.10: Employment by Industry

Class of Worker	
Employee of Private Company	73.20%
Self-employed in own Incorp. Busines	3.70%
Private Not-for-Profit	8.60%
Local, State, & Federal Gov	11.80%
Self-employed in own not Incorp. Business	2.80%

Source: US Census Bureau

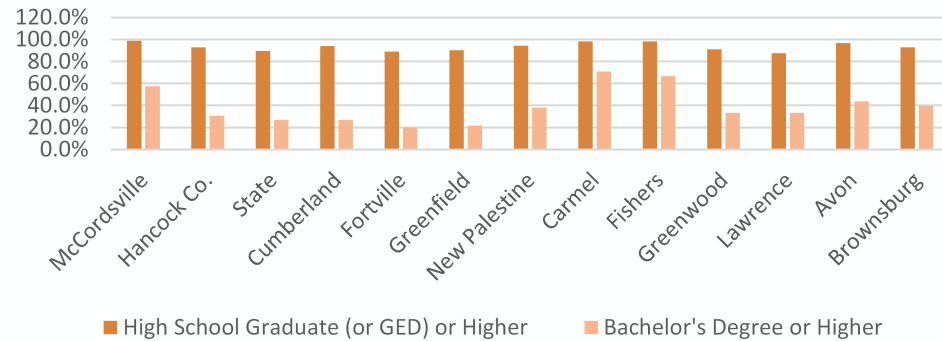
MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026

MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

Education

The educational attainment of a community is often closely related to the median household income. For this reason an analysis of the educational attainment of McCordsville was evaluated. The percent of residents in McCordsville who have graduated from high school is 98.8 percent as seen in Figure 2.11: McCordsville Educational Attainment, Adults 25 years or older. This is much higher than the Indiana state average which is 89.6 percent. When it comes to higher education, the percentage of people in the McCordsville (57.2 percent) who have achieved a bachelor's degree or higher is more than those in Hancock County (30.8 percent) and the State (27 percent). This shows that comparatively, McCordsville has a well-educated populace. McCordsville is a family-oriented community and as the numbers of families increase, so will the number of persons with a higher education. Also, there is not a strong young adult population established within the community, which would also influence this statistic. Because there are many children in school, as this population ages and they graduate, the number of persons with high school education will increase. As McCordsville continues to grow, the number of persons who have a higher degree of educational attainment will increase. If the Town can attract/retain these graduates they will provide an employee base for businesses in and around the McCordsville area.

Figure 2.11: Educational Attainment, Adults 25+



Source: US Census Bureau



McCordsville Elementary School

Accessibility

Access to public facilities and services is a large concern for many individuals. A person may not be able to access a facility due to a physical disability or may not be able to participate in activities or have an access to services for many other reasons. To ensure that access to public resources is always provided an analysis of the number of disabled residents in the community was conducted. According to the 2020 Census, roughly 8.5 percent of people in McCordsville stated they had one of the six types of disabilities categorized by the Census Bureau. This is a decrease from the 2010 Census. Based on this data, continual efforts should be taken to ensure that every resident of McCordsville has access to park and recreation facilities and activities.



section 3: existing conditions



**five-year
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McCordsville Parks and Recreation Board:

The McCordsville Parks and Recreation Board was established in the Fall of 1999 to oversee the development of parks facilities and recreation programs throughout the Town. It is a volunteer group that reports to the Town Council. The organizational structure of the Town is shown in Figure 3.1 below.

The Park Board's six voluntary members are appointed by the President of the Town Council. The Park Board is comprised of 4 members and

two ex-officio member's representing the Mt. Vernon School Corporation and the local library.

Parks and Recreation Contact information

Members of the Parks and Recreation Board can be reached at the following address:

McCordsville Parks and Recreation Board
McCordsville Town Hall
6280 W 800 N
McCordsville, IN 46055
Phone: (317)-335-3151

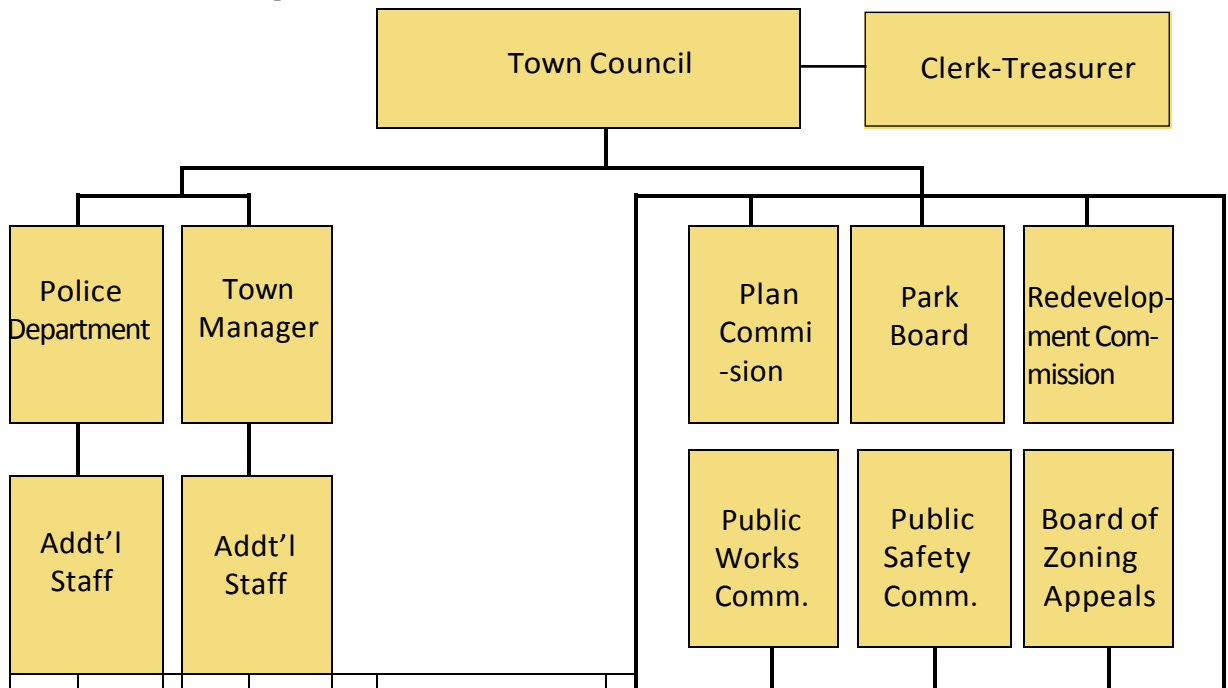


Figure 3.1: McCordsville Organizational Structure

MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026

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Park Budget:

No money will be expended for the 2022-2026 update because it is being completed entirely in-house by staff. Until the Town acquired its first park, Town Hall Community Park, there has not been a need for the Parks Board to maintain a significant annual operating budget. However, as the board plans to acquire new parkland for development, a more substantial operating budget will become essential. The budget and expenditures for the past fifteen years is shown in the table to the right.

Parks and Recreation Maintenance & Operations Budget

<u>Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
2007	\$21,500	\$11,667	2014	\$10,000	\$5,896
2008	\$11,000	\$1,762	2015	\$15,000	\$15,000
2009	\$5,000	\$1,380	2016	\$20,000	\$11,691.60
2010	\$1,000	\$0	2017	\$0	\$17.21
2011	\$1,296	\$0	2018	\$7,000	\$760.79
2012	\$0	\$0	2019	\$7,000	\$3,545.40
2013	\$10,000	\$46,303	2020	\$7,000	\$2,706.43
			2021	\$20,000	\$12,830.06
			2022	\$20,000	TBD

*Funding for Grant Matches and/or Self-Funding of the Town's Multi-use Path is not included in the Parks Budget.

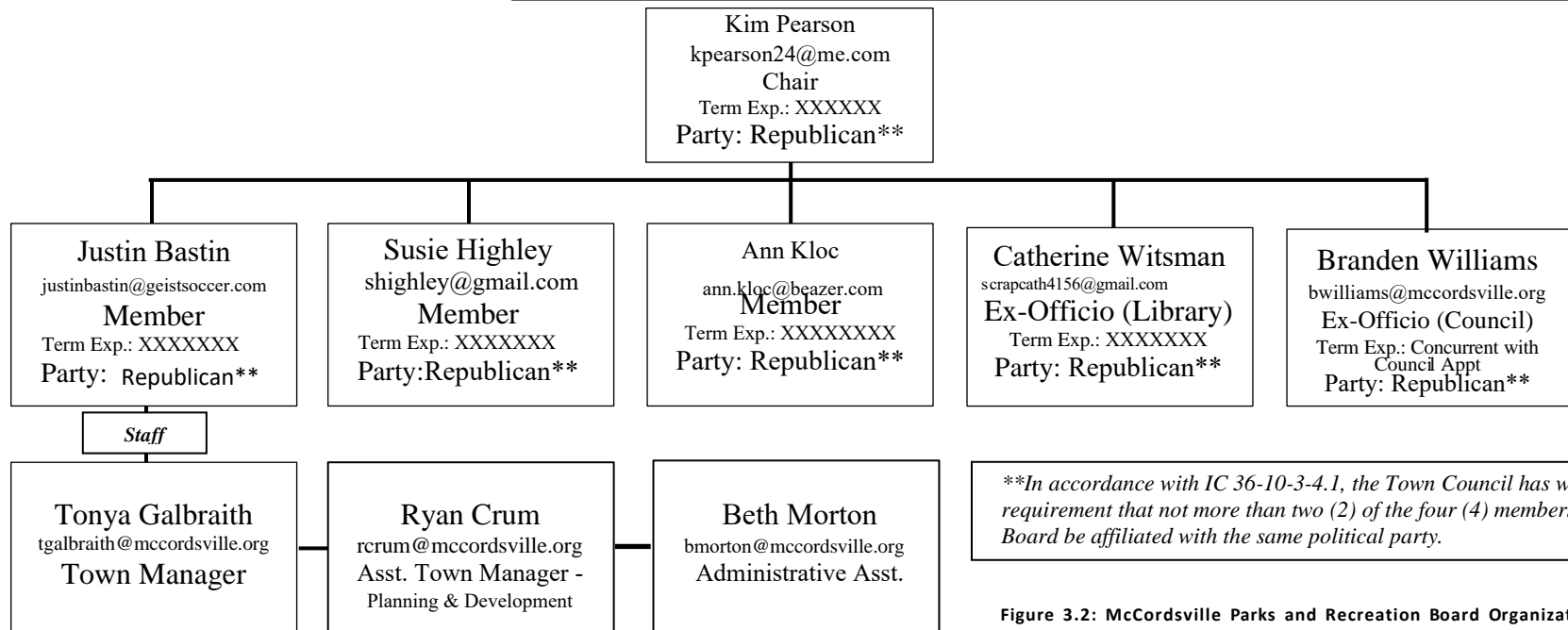


Figure 3.2: McCordsville Parks and Recreation Board Organizational Structure

MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026

MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

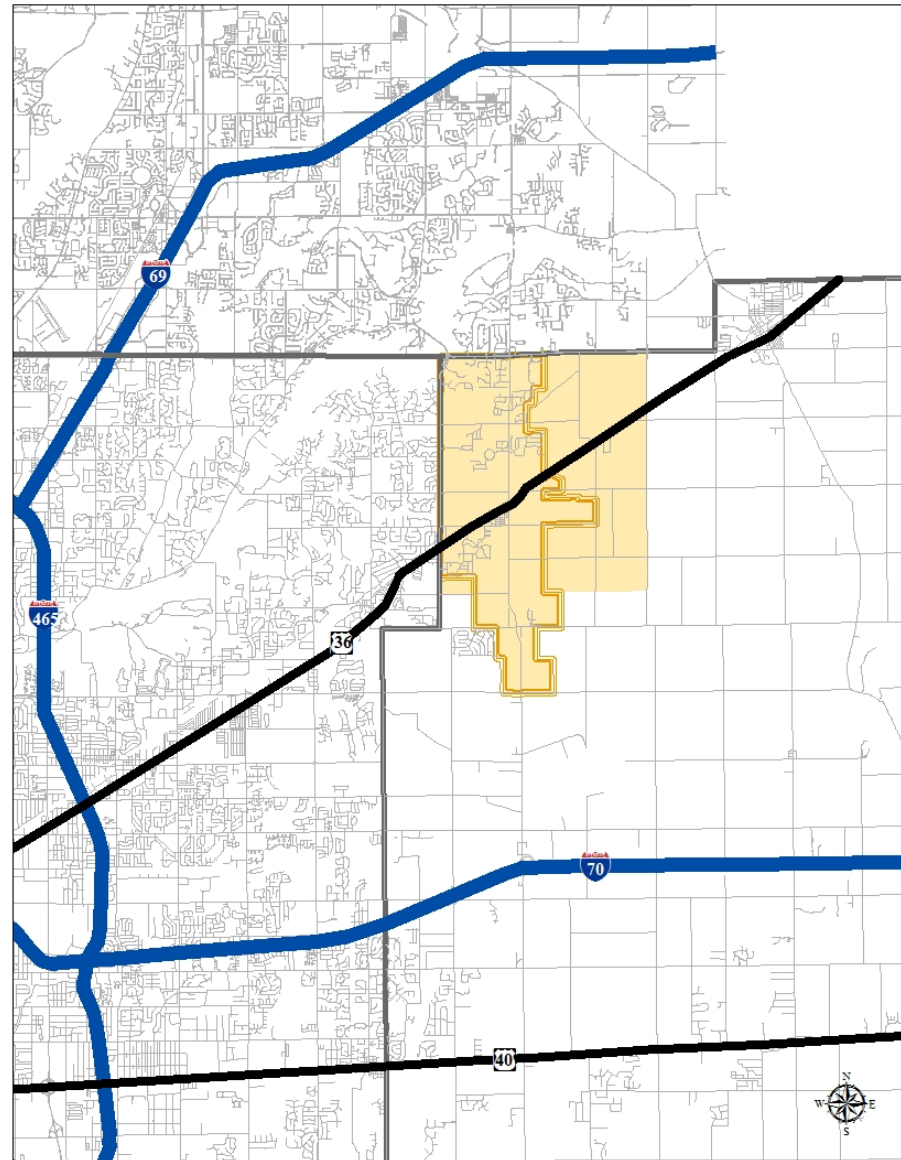
Study Area Designation and Base Map:

The Town of McCordsville is located in Vernon Township in the northwest corner of Hancock County approximately 20 miles from Indianapolis. McCordsville's current Town boundaries encompass approximately 7.4 square miles.

With a projected increase in population (according to the 2011 McCordsville Comprehensive Plan), the Town's incorporated land area is expected to grow to encompass a much greater area. For this reason, the Town's comprehensive plan has included a larger study area to account for its projected growth. The Study Area utilized in the Town's comprehensive plan has been adopted for this plan as well. The Study Area is nearly double the size of the incorporated Town, and expands to the east and south of the Town, within Vernon Township in Hancock County. This Study Area, adopted from the Town of McCordsville 2011 Comprehensive Plan, is pictured in Figure 3.3 to the right.

The limit of the Study Area begins at County Road 1000 North on the north and covers the land area south to County Road 500 North and includes the land area between County Road 700 West on the west and County Road 400 West on the east.

Figure 3.3: Study Area



MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026

MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

McCordsville Existing Park Facilities Base Map:

The Town's two park properties, Town Hall Community Park and Old School Park, along with the Town tree preserve (along the westside of CR 600 W just south of Highland Springs) are shown in green on the map below (Figure 3.4). The map to the right (Figure 3.5) shows the the Future Land Uses as envisioned by the Town's Comprehensive Plan. It should be noted, the Town Hall Community Park is not shown as Park_Open Space on the Future Land Use Map, because the park is considered temporary. It will be replaced with wastewater treatment facilities in the future as our current plant is expanded.

Figure 3.4: Existing Park Facilities

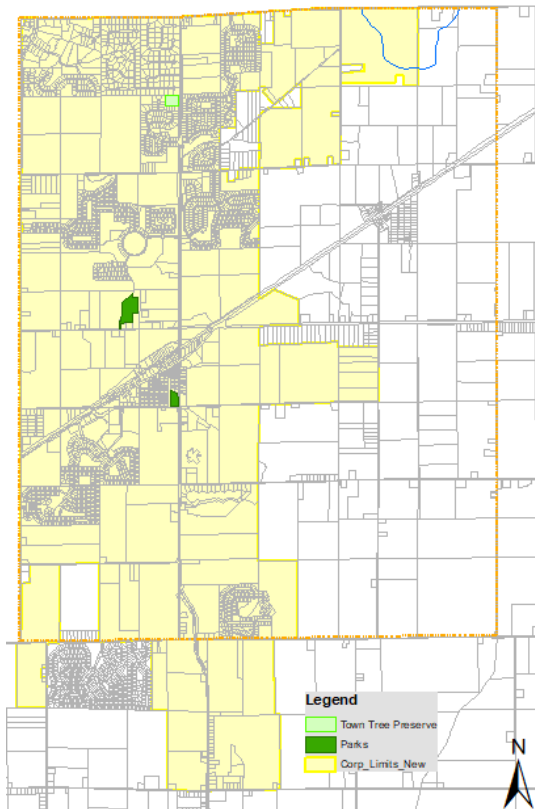
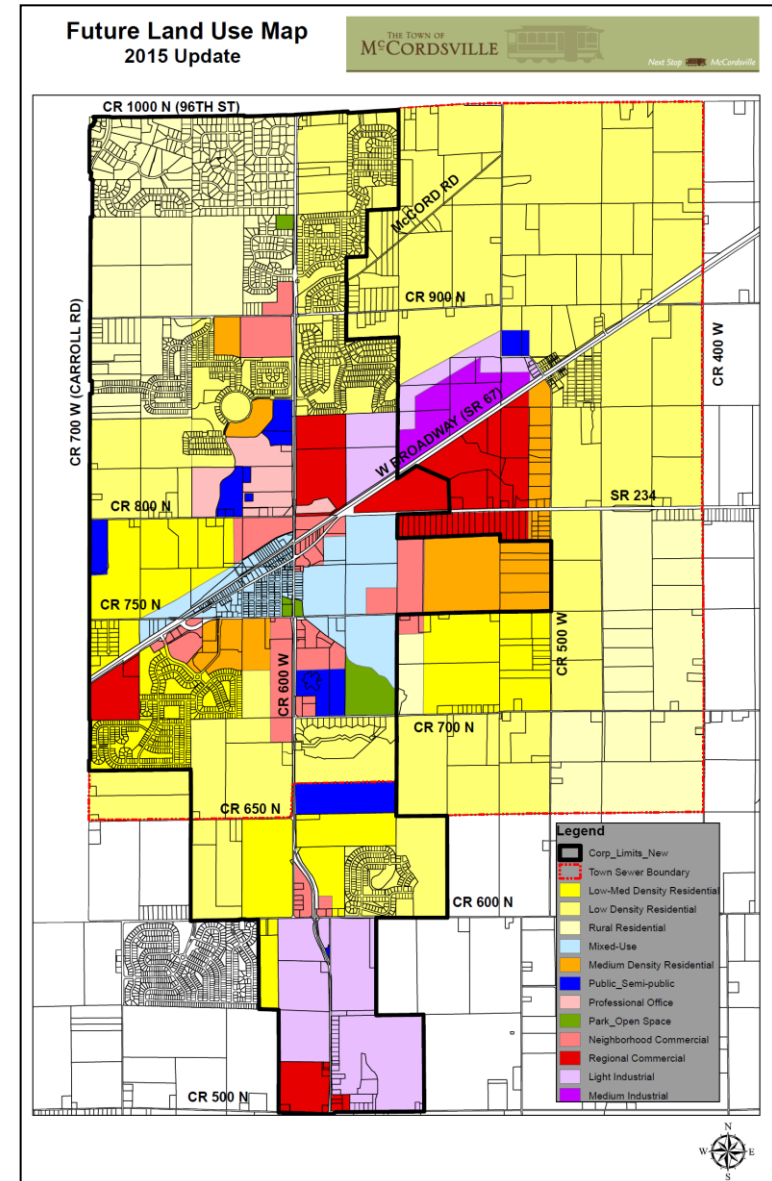


Figure 3.5: Future Land Use Map



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Town Hall Community Park:

Located in central McCordsville, next to Town hall, Town Hall Community Park, is a public park operated by the Town. The park is approximately 5 acres in size. Within the park, there is a large open-play area, a park shelter, mulch path, and garden area. Benches and pet waste stations are located throughout the park and an adjacent parking lot is illuminated at night. The park features both mature and newly planted trees and shrubs.



View of garden area and park shelter from near the park's welcome sign.



View of garden area, park shelter, and Little Free Library from the park's parking lot.



View of large open-play area being used by McCordsville residents.

MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026

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Town Hall Community Park Equipment Inventory:

Location:

6280 W 800 N (1/4 mile west of CR 600 W
on CR 800 N)

Operating Agency:

Town of McCordsville

Type of Area:

Park/Recreation Area

Acreage:

5 acres

Equipment	Quantity	Description
Park Shelter	1	Lighted
Garden	1	Pervious paver garden w/ native plantings
Mulch Path	1	Circles the park
Little Free Library	1	Located adjacent to garden
Benches	2	Located along path
Pet Waste Station	3	Located along path
Overhead lights	1	Located in the parking lot



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Town Nature Preserve:

Located in northern McCordsville, between Highland Springs and Bay Creek, the Nature Preserve was acquired by the Town in 2001. The preserve is just under 4 acres in size. The preserve is completely wooded and the Town has no plans to develop the park. However, a multi-use path may be built along the eastern edge of the preserve in the future if the Town decides to build a path along the west side of CR 600 W.

Town Nature Preserve Equipment Inventory:

Location:

Westside of CR 600 W, between the Highland Springs and Bay Creek subdivisions

Operating Agency:

Town of McCordsville

Type of Area:

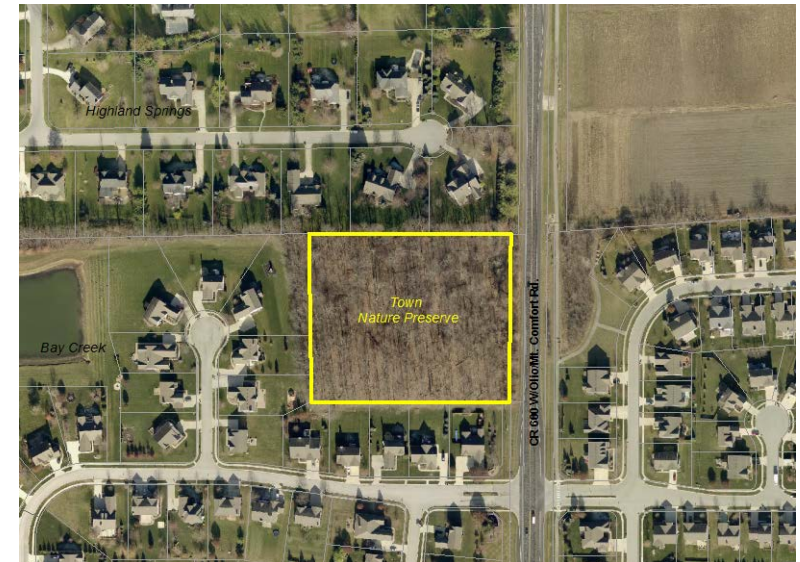
Nature Preserve/wooded

Acreage:

3.8 acres

Equipment:

None



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MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

Old School Park:

Located in the heart of Downtown McCordsville, is Old School Park. The park is approximately 3 acres and is located on the northwest corner of County Road 750 North and County Road 600 West. Within the park, there is a small baseball field, basketball court, and tennis court. In the picnic area, there is an overhead shelter with a cement floor that contains wooden

picnic tables. Near the shelter are two grills located in proximity for the picnickers to use. There is also a play area with updated equipment. The mulched playground area contains a castle-themed play structure with 3 towers, several slides, and climbing apparatus. Benches are located along the playground for close supervision. The park also has overhead lights to ensure safety at night. In addition to these built features, the park contains several mature shade trees that help to provide a peaceful atmosphere. As a further buffer from nearby traffic, a row of pine trees was planted near the road. In 2021 the Town rehabbed the shelter, resurfaced the tennis court, repaired the basketball court surface, installed electricity to the park, and completed other deferred maintenance items.



A picnic shelter is large enough to accommodate most user groups, including family reunions and celebrations.



The park contains activities to suit a wide range of users, including sports activities, playground play, picnicking, and passive recreation in its open space.

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Vernon Township Park (School Park)

Equipment Inventory:

Location:

County Road 600W and County Road 750N

Operating Agency:

Vernon Township

Type of Area:

Park/Recreation Area

Acreage:

3 acres

Equipment	Quantity	Description
Tennis Court	1	lighted
Basketball Court	1	lighted
Baseball Field	1	lighted
Picnic Shelter	1	
Grills	2	
Castle-themed playset	1	contains slides, towers, climbing apparatus, etc.
Overhead lights	4	



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Accessibility evaluation:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a Federal Civil Rights legislation that sets forth requirements for parks and recreational facilities and programs. The passage of the ADA on January 26, 1996 guarantees that access to recreation and play settings is a civil right for all Americans. According to the summary of the ADA (Public Law 101 – 336), the act prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in places of public accommodation and requires that all new places of public accommodations be designed and constructed so as to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, is not affected by ADA and still prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap for any programs offered by a recipient of federal funds. Any program, activity, or service that is offered to the public must be accessible to disabled individuals.

The design and construction of all parks and recreation amenities in the Town of McCordsville shall comply with all of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements. Further, the Parks Board shall include policies, programs, and activities to comply with ADA requirements. The Parks Board is dedicated to meet or exceed ADA requirements on park and recreation projects. The current Section 504 Compliance Form is located in the Appendix of this document. Where ADA expertise might be required, the National Center on Accessibility at IU can provide accessibility assessments of outdoor recreation areas. This may be a helpful resource in the review process of future park plans. During the review of this Parks Plan

update it was denoted that neither Town Hall Community Park nor Old School Park had an identified ADA parking space adjacent to the park. That has been added to the Action Plan.

Accomplishments of the 2017-2021 Plan:

Over the course of the past five years, the Parks and Recreation board has accomplished many of its objectives from the previous Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Town updated the Connectivity Plan and then expanded on that by adopting a Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan. It completed capital projects such as the CR 600W crossing project and the Tri-County Connector. The Town also completed some smaller projects like drill-seeding the Town Hall Community Park and added a park signage.

Future Park Opportunities:

The McCordsville Parks and Recreation Board seeks to focus on several objectives over the next five years. The Town wishes to concentrate resources on providing for increased connectivity and linear park access by focusing on multi-use path connections. Additionally the Town is in the process of taking ownership of two acres of land for a pocket park at CR 1000N and CR 500W. This acquisition should be completed in Q1 2022.

Further, the Parks Board should consider working with surrounding communities to encourage connectivity at the regional level. This includes participation and connectivity with the Indianapolis MPO's Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Plans.

MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026

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Other Parks & Recreation Progress:

Park Impact Fee:

In May of 2018 the Town adopted a Park Impact Fee Plan and Ordinance. The Plan includes one impact zone that encompasses the Town's incorporated limits and sanitary sewer territory. The study included a thorough assessment of the Town's current facilities, its growth trends, and determined what facilities the impact fee would cover. Ultimately, the Town approved a \$832 park impact fee on all residential units. The funds are placed in an impact fee fund and can be used for acquisition of parkland and open space, as well trail acquisition and construction. The Town began collecting impact fees in February of 2019, and by the end of 2021 the impact fee fund has surpassed \$700,000. To date, the Town has not expended any impact fee funds; however, the Town has executed some small impact fee fund credits in exchange for building short segments of trail in order to prevent trail gaps between development projects.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan:

In December of 2019 the Town adopted a Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan. The goal of this Plan was to build off the Town's connectivity plan and take active transportation and recreation planning to the next level. This plan also conducted a thorough assessment of the Town's current facilities and trends. It also included a strong public input component that included booths at public events, on-line survey, and traditional town hall meetings and hearings. This plan includes proposed facilities along all major transportation corridors and as well as off-road trails following transmission line easements, legal drains, and the old Interurban Rail Line. The Plan also included summary costs for each facility, streetscape diagrams for all major corridors, and prioritization of the projects. This plan should be used by the Parks Board to craft a Parks Capital Project Plans in the future. This plan should be used guide the town's trail planning for the foreseeable future.

Hancock County Trails Plan

In November of 2018, following a multi-jurisdictional planning effort, the County, along with the municipalities within the County adopted a county-wide trails plan. This plan detail a long-term strategy for an extensive trail and bike-ways system connecting communities across the county to other communities, points of interest, recreational opportunities, and amenities.



section 4: recreation needs profile



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The national trends for more diverse recreational outdoor recreational facilities, namely trails and fitness amenities, are being felt in the McCordsville community.

“Americans are seeking trail opportunities as never before. No longer are trails only for the ‘rugged individualists’ pursuing a solitary trek through breathtaking wilderness ... users include young people and senior citizens, families, individuals and organized groups, people with disabilities and the physically fit.”

*—AMERICAN TRAILS,
Trails for All Americans report,
1990*

Trends in Parks and Recreation:

Current trends throughout the U.S. are focusing on activities which can incorporate all members of the family such as walking trails and water parks. There is still major growth in fitness programs as well. People are becoming more and more health conscious by paying more attention to their overall levels of fitness and wellness. This is evidenced by the fact that more people are walking, bicycling, and jogging today than ever before. Other indicators of a focus on total health and wellness include wellness programs in schools, businesses, and hospitals. Walking, for example, is rated among the top ten activities cited by the National Recreation and Park Association. When asked why they walk or jog, 60% of respondents said that they engage in these activities for exercise/health (The Omnibus Survey completed for the Bureau of Transportation Statistics in February 2003). These indicators point towards a high demand for parks and trails. The Physical Activity Council's (comprised of 8 national trade associations in the sport/fitness/leisure industries) annual report which tracks sports, fitness, and recreation in the US shows that of those people which are active, over 60% prefer a form of fitness sport and almost 50% prefer outdoor sports over other activity categories (individual sports, racquet sports, team sports, winter sports, water sports). A summary of the top 25 most popular sports and recreation activities listed in the SGMA's Sports Participation Topline Report (2006) are listed to the right.

TOP 25 MOST POPULAR SPORTS/ RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE US

Bowling - 53.5 million
Treadmill Exercise - 48.0 million
Stretching - 42.3 million
Freshwater Fishing - 42.1 million
Tent Camping - 38.6 million
Running/Jogging - 37.8 million
Day Hiking - 36.6 million
Fitness Walking - 36.3 million
Billiards/Pool - 35.2 million
Basketball - 32.0 million
Hand Weights - 31.4 million
Weight/Resistance Machines - 29.0 million
Dumbbells - 28.4 million
Golf - 25.7 million
Calisthenics - 24.9 million
Barbells - 23.0 million
Darts - 18.8 million
Tennis - 18.3 million
RV Camping - 18.2 million
Hunting (Shotgun/Rifle) - 18.0 million
Elliptical Motion Trainer - 16.7 million
Abdominal Machine/ Exercise - 16.5 million
Inline Skating - 16.5 million
Outdoor Soccer - 15.8 million
Stationary Cycling (Upright Bike) - 15.6 million

Published in the SGMA's Sports Participation Topline Report (2006 edition)

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These national trends are being felt in the state as well as McCordsville. Walking trails, and sports-related recreation facilities are frequently highlighted at local meetings and in the feedback from our survey.

The 2021-2025 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) shows the top five outdoor recreation activities are: walking/jogging/hiking/running, camping, fishing, swimming, and canoeing/kayaking/tubing. Since, the 1995 SCORP walking has held the top spot as the preferred outdoor activity for Indiana residents. The figure to right shows the activity trends from the last 31 years.

Figure 4.1: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Activity Trends

	1989	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
1	Picnicking	Hiking, Walking Jogging	Hiking, Walking Jogging	Hiking, Walking Jogging	Hiking, Walking Jogging	Hiking, Walking Jogging	Walking, Running, Jogging
2	Pleasure Driving	Picnicking	Fairs, Festivals	Fairs, Festivals	Camping	Camping	Camping RV Camping
3	Walking	Swimming	Fishing	Swimming SCUBA Snorkeling	Picnicking	Fishing	Hiking Backpacking
4	Swimming	Camping	Camping	Nature Observation, Photography	Fishing	Swimming	Fishing
5	Fishing	Fishing Hunting	Picnicking	Camping	Swimming	Canoeing Kayaking Paddle Sports	Boating Wakeboarding Water Skiing Sailing
6	Bicycling	Bicycling	Swimming SCUBA Snorkeling	Fishing	Boating, Water Skiing, Personal Watercraft	Bicycling	Picnicking, Barbecue/ Cookouts
7	Camping	Boating	Nature Observation, Photography	Picnicking	Golf	Hunting	Gardening Landscaping Yard Work
8	Nature Observation	Nature Observation	Playground Use	Bicycling	Bicycling	Fairs/Festivals Outdoor Concerts	Swimming Snorkeling Diving
9	Motor Boating	Playground Use	Bicycling	Off-road Motorized Vehicle Use	Hunting	Boating Water Skiing Sailing	Bicycling
10	Golf	Off-road Motorized Vehicle Use	Boating, Water Skiing, Personal Watercraft	Boating, Water Skiing, Personal Watercraft	Horseback Riding	Off-road Motorized Use	Golf

MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026

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Recreation Demand Analysis: Public and Park Board Meetings

Meetings were held with the Board throughout the process to ensure that the plan is based on the community's needs and vision. All meetings were open to the public, and times and dates for these meetings were posted on the Town's website and in the local paper.

Parks Board Information Session 1: July 12, 2021

A McCordsville Parks Board Public Meeting was held on July 12, 2021 at 6:00pm at the Town Hall and was announced on the Town's website as well as the local newspaper. Members present were Kim Pearson, Justin Bastin, Susie Highley, Ann Kloc, Catherine Witsman, and Branden Williams. The update for the 2022-2026 Parks & Recreation Master Plan was introduced to the Board. An overview of the current plan, and why a new 5-year plan is necessary was discussed. Staff was given direction to conduct a parks survey.

Parks Board Work Session 2: September 13, 2021 A McCordsville Parks Board Public Meeting was held on September 13, 2021 at 6:00pm at the Town Hall and was announced on the Town's website as well as the local newspaper. Members present were Kim Pearson, Ann Kloc, Catherine Witsman, and Branden Williams. Justin Bastin and Susie Highley were absent. Staff provided a

draft of the survey and the Board fine-tuned the survey questions. The Board gave direction for the staff to take the survey live from effective September 17th thru October 17th. current 5-year plan.

Parks Board Work Session 3: November 8, 2021

A McCordsville Parks Board Public Meeting was held on November 8, 2021 at 6:00pm at the Town Hall and was announced on the Town's website as well as the local newspaper. Members present were Kim Pearson, Justin Bastin, Susie Highley, Catherine Witsman, and Branden Williams. Ann Kloc was absent. Staff provided a detailed overview of the survey results and updated timeline for the revisions.

Parks Board Work Session 4: January 10, 2022

A McCordsville Parks Board Public Meeting was held on January 10, 2022 at 6:00pm at the Town Hall and was announced on the Town's website as well as the local newspaper. Additionally, the 5-year update was specifically noticed as a public hearing item. Members present were Kim Pearson, Susie Highley, Catherine Witsman, Ann Kloc, and Branden Williams. Justin Bastin was absent. Staff provided a detailed overview of the proposed updates to the Plan. The Board voiced support for the updates and directed staff to make a presentation of the updates to the Plan Commission and Town Council, as well as submit to IDNR for comment.

Parks Board Work Session 5: March 14, 2022
Forthcoming.

MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026

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Recreation Demand Analysis: Recreation Survey

To gain an understanding of the local community’s desires and vision for McCordsville’s parks and recreation a survey was conducted in the fall of 2021. The survey was an on-line survey which the Town pushed-out on various social media platforms, our website, and through the press. A full copy of the survey is available in the appendix.

We received a total of 283 responses. More than 59% of the respondents were women. The highest age cohort responding was 35-44 year olds, making up 35% of the responses. Just over 42% of respondents reported having 1 to 2 children in their home. Of those with children in the home, over 49% of those children were aged 0-6. The following Figures show some results of the survey.

Figure 4.2: Community Interest

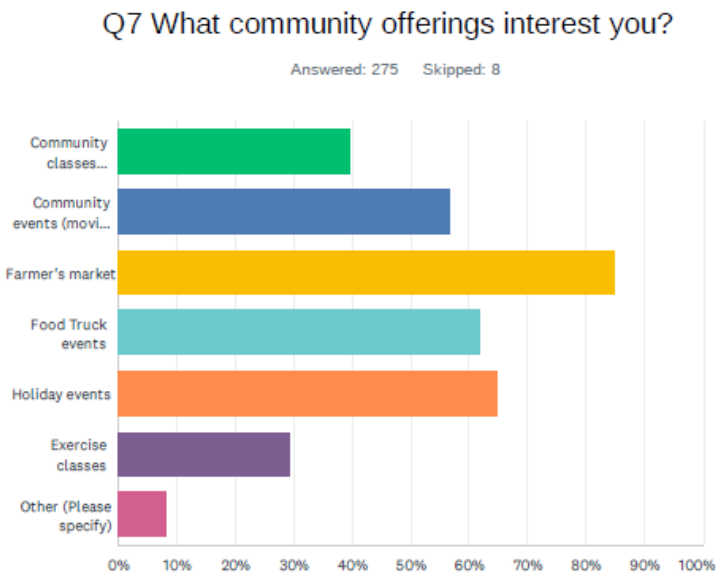
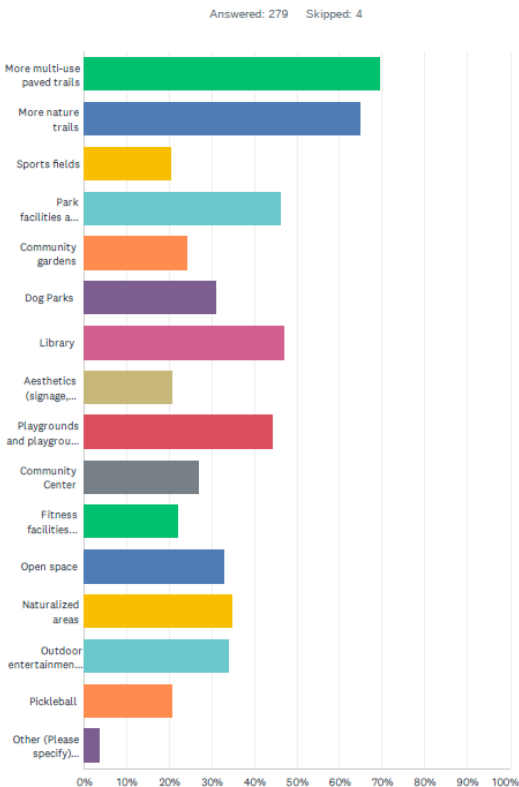


Figure 4.3: Facilities of Interest

Q11 What are some facilities would you like to see in McCordsville?



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Figure 4.4: Funding Increase

Q8 How likely would you support a tax increase for parks and trails?

Answered: 281 Skipped: 2

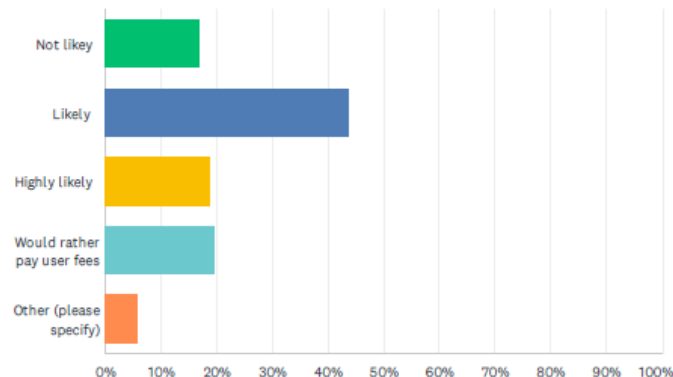
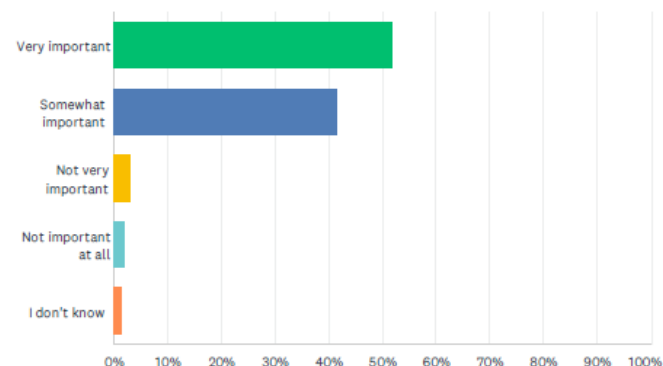


Figure 4.5: Importance of Parks & Rec

Q16 How important are parks and recreation opportunities to your overall quality of life in McCordsville?

Answered: 281 Skipped: 2



The survey results show that trails and park facilities are in demand for Town results. Additionally, activities such as farmer's markets, are also high on residents wish list. Full tabulated results can be located in the appendix.

In summary, the feedback from the survey helped inform the focus and goals of this plan. McCordsville is a very young, growing community. These results, as did the results of the 2016 survey, indicate that the community places a high value on parks and recreational facilities. The overwhelming response is that the respondents are seeking the development of trails and other recreational opportunities.

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National Level of Service Requirements Needs Analysis:

In recent years social and behavioral professionals have studied the affect of park and recreation facilities on a community. Statistics have proven that park and recreation facilities are helpful in maintaining a positive atmosphere for the health of citizens and community growth and development. The National Recreation and Park Association used to publish minimum standards, or benchmarks, to determine basic parkland needs of communities. These standards did serve as a template for community recreation planners to assess the need to develop more parks. However, the NRPA hasn't updated this since 1990, and has transformed its recommendations from a level of service type of data-set to providing a *Field Report*, based upon actual data from Parks and Recreation Agencies across the country. That data is provided in the tables below, along with the comparison to the Town's system. This comparison assists the Town in providing benchmarks and determining the recreational needs of the community.

Figure 4.7 Standards for Parkland Area Requirements

	Jurisdictions serving < 20,000			McCordsville
	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile	Median	Existing
<i>Residents per Park</i>	776	1,948	1,235	3,400
<i>Acres of Park/1,000 Residents</i>	5.2	21.8	12.4	1.16

Standards from the National Recreation and Park Association's 2021 Field Report.

Figure 4.8 Park Facility Standards for jurisdictions serving less than 20,000

Outdoor Facilities	Median	McCordsville	Outdoor Facilities	Median	McCordsville
<i>Residents per Playground</i>	2,132	10,200	<i>Residents per Football Field</i>	7,917	None
<i>Residents per Basketball Courts</i>	4,051	10,200	<i>Residents per Youth Soccer</i>	3,433	None
<i>Residents per Adult Softball</i>	5,663	10,200	<i>Residents per Adult Soccer</i>	7,541	None
<i>Residents per Tennis Court</i>	2,748	10,200	<i>Residents per Skate Park</i>	11,000	None
<i>Residents per Youth Softball</i>	5,447	10,200	<i>Residents per Multi-use Court</i>	6,200	None
<i>Residents per Youth Baseball</i>	3,000	10,200	<i>Residents per Ice rink</i>	10,000	None
<i>Residents per Swimming Pool</i>	8,591	None	<i>Residents per Lacrosse Field</i>	7,051	None
<i>Residents per Multi-purpose fields</i>	3,895	5,100	<i>Residents per Cricket Field</i>	ISD*	None
<i>Residents per Community Garden</i>	9,001	None	<i>Residents per Multi-purpose synthetic</i>	13,200	None
<i>Residents per Tot lot</i>	6,194	None	<i>Residents per Field Hockey</i>	ISD*	None
<i>Residents per Dog park</i>	11,148	None	<i>Residents per Overlay Field</i>	4,385	None
<i>Residents per Adult Baseball</i>	7,989	None			

Standards from the National Recreation and Park Association's 2021 Field Report.

Indoor Facilities	
<i>Residents per Rec Center</i>	9,800
<i>Residents per Community Center</i>	9,045
<i>Residents per Senior Center</i>	12,304
<i>Residents per amphitheatre</i>	11,000
<i>Residents per Nature Center</i>	11,704
<i>Residents per Stadium</i>	9,126
<i>Residents per Ice rink</i>	7,911
<i>Residents per Teen center</i>	12,044
<i>Residents per Arena</i>	7,102

MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026

MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

McCordsville Parks Acreage Analysis

Figure 4.7 shows how McCordsville compares to other parks and recreation agencies, serving a population less than 20,000 people in terms of total parks and total number of park acreage. Figure 4.8 and 4.9 detail how the Town compares in regards to indoor and outdoor park facilities. In many cases, the Town is lagging behind the national median. One factor that may explain why is funding. Nationwide, park agencies serving jurisdictions of less than 20,000 people have a median operating expenditure of \$114.62 per person. If the Town wishes to meet the national average of 10 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents, which is also the old benchmark used by the NRPA's Level of Service guidelines, the Town will need to increase its capital projects budget for parkland acquisition and facilities construction, and its annual operating budget. As the Town continues to grow, this gap, will increase unless other measures are taken. The Town's Comprehensive Plan projects up to 18,500 people by 2025. That population would require 185 acres of parkland, if the Town wishes to meet the national average. That means the Town would need to add 173.2 acres in the next 9 years.

Park Classifications and Land Requirements

The National Recreation & Parks Association's 1983 "Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines", by Dr. James Hall and Dr. James Mertes categorizes parks into 5 categories. Those 5 categories are noted below.

1. Mini Park

Mini-parks are characterized by their relatively small size which is typically between 2500 sf and one acre, although technically, any park smaller than five acres is considered a mini-park. They are most often specialized facilities to serve a specific segment of the population. This category includes tot-lots, pocket parks, and other small recreation areas that are often located within and serving high density residential areas. The service area for a mini-park is less than 1/4 of a mile. McCordsville currently has no mini-parks.

2. Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks are generally designed as "walk-to" parks of approximately five to fifteen acres serving the neighborhood unit. The service radius for a neighborhood park is 1/2 mile and is easily accessible to the neighborhood population. A neighborhood park is intended to serve a population of up to 5,000 but in many instance may serve more. The park requires 2.0 acres per 1,000 population served; however, many times they are smaller. Neighborhood parks are typically characterized by family oriented recreation activities such as play apparatus, multi-purpose courts, field games areas, picnic areas, etc. Neighborhood parks are often planned in conjunction with elementary schools because of the similarity in the service areas of both facilities. Both, School Park, owned and operated by the township, and Town Hall Community Park, owned and operated by the Town, are classified as neighborhood parks.

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3. Community Park

Community parks focus on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. In serving multiple neighborhoods, they provide many of the same types of facilities as neighborhood parks with the addition of community centers and water recreation. Community parks should be accessible by walking, bicycling, and automobile. Acreage varies from thirty to fifty acres and the park usually includes a much broader range of facilities than what is normally provided at the neighborhood level. Typical facilities might include play fields, ball diamonds, tennis courts, swimming, ice skating, a community building, or a wide range of other facilities. As with neighborhood parks, programs and facilities should be adapted to the particular need of the community being served. McCordsville currently has no community parks.

4. Regional Park

Regional parks serve entire cities or regions. Activities available in regional parks may include picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, trail use, golfing, etc. Regional parks tend to be large in nature with emphasis placed on open space. Because of their nature, they are usually not figured into the “core” park land provided by a town or city. This type of park is generally greater than 200 acres in size. In comparison to other parks, regional parks provide low intensity use areas with picnic and camping facilities, trails and open space in the form of meadows, woodlands and ravines. McCordsville does not have a regional park, the nearest regional park is Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis. However, the closer proximity of this park (only 7 miles) allows it to be accessible to the McCordsville population.

5. Linear Park

Linear parks are areas developed for one or more modes of travel, such as walking, running, or biking, and may also include active play areas. Desirable characteristics include built or natural corridors such as rights-of-way and/or utility easements that link community facilities or other components of the pedestrian and park system. The McCordsville Multi-use path which is planned to run the length of the Town along the North/South 600 W thoroughfare is an example of a planned and partially constructed linear park that we plan to expand on during the next few years.

Indiana’s SCORP goes on to create its own level of service benchmarks, relevant upon 3 levels of parks: Local, State/Fed, and Total (Statewide). The SCORP recommends a LOS of 20 acres of local outdoor recreation per 1,000 people. Local recreation areas are defined as those owned and operated by a county, township, municipality, or privately owned land open for public use. It recommends 35 acres per 1,000 people of state/federal recreation areas. State/federal recreation areas are defined as those owned by the State of Federal Government. The 3rd level is a statewide total, which is simply the addition of the first two recreation area levels. Focusing on just the local recreation areas Hancock County as a whole should have a total of 1,527.02 acres of local recreation lands. The current total, according to the SCORP is 509.65, leaving the County with a shortfall of 1,017.37 acres. Hancock County is listed as a “critical county” by the SCORP because it fails to meet the acreage thresholds in all 3 categories, and the county's population-growth rate is higher than the 2014 to 2018 estimated Indiana statewide population growth rate of 1.44% (data obtained from the U.S. Census 2014 and 2018 population estimates).



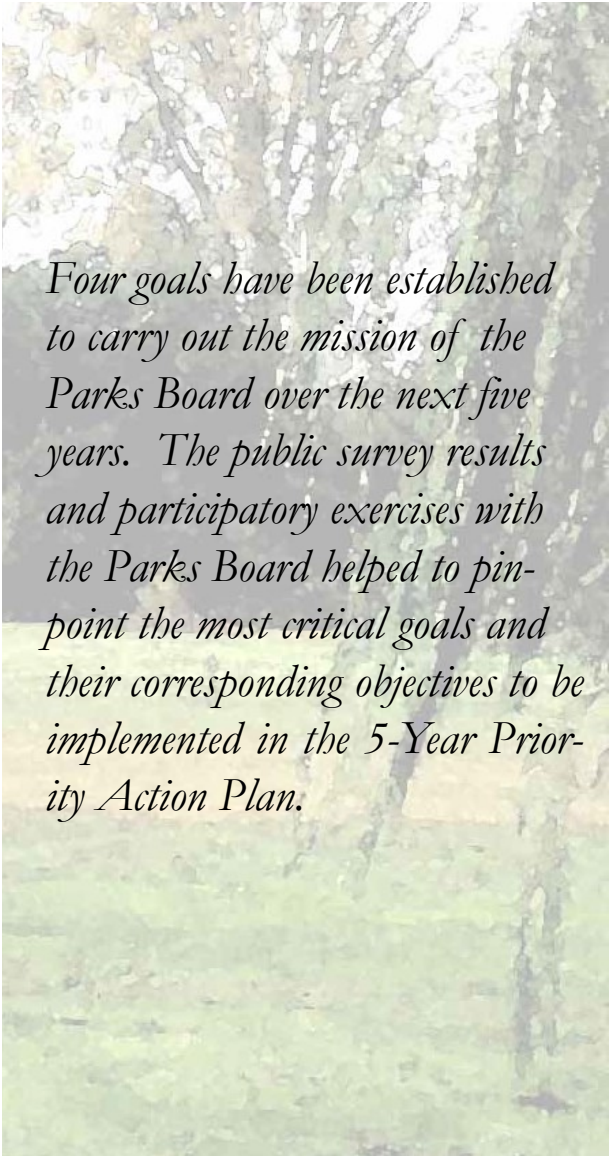
section 5: plan recommendations



**five-year
parks and recreation master plan
2022-2026**

MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026

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Four goals have been established to carry out the mission of the Parks Board over the next five years. The public survey results and participatory exercises with the Parks Board helped to pinpoint the most critical goals and their corresponding objectives to be implemented in the 5-Year Priority Action Plan.

Mission and Goals of the Park and Recreation Board:

The mission Statement is as follows:

It is the mission of the Parks Board to provide quality parks, green spaces, and recreational opportunities for the Town's current residents and to plan for tomorrow's recreational needs by developing a park and trails system to meet the needs of this growing community.

This is accomplished through dedicated leadership, a commitment to excellence, collaboration with other recreation-oriented organizations, creative programming, and the best use of the Town's natural, financial and human resources.

Four goals have been established to accomplish the mission of the Parks Board over the next five years. Each of these goals relates directly to the recommendations and action steps that were developed for the implementation of the plan. The public survey results and participatory exercises with the Parks Board helped to pinpoint the most critical objectives to be implemented over the next five years and the most likely path for accomplishing these objectives.

The following objectives are based on the goals, needs analysis and issues that have become apparent throughout the planning process used to prepare this master plan. The objectives are organized under each goal identified.

Goals and Objectives of the Plan:

Goal #1: Promote the development of pedestrian and bicycle connections that link parks, neighborhoods, community facilities and the downtown.

- Continue acquiring right-of-way or easements, where necessary, for the implementation of the Town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
- Continue Coordinating with other municipalities to make regional pedestrian links in order to connect to the greater Indianapolis Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan and build upon the County Trail Plan

Goal #2: Develop a strategy of funding sources.

- Continue seeking grants and outside funding for capital projects.
- Development a prioritization plan for the use of the Town's Park Impact Fee Funds
- Seek an increase in funding for operations

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Goal #3: Identify prime open space/parkland/stream corridors for development.

- Continue to monitor prime open space for development of a community park in the town.

Goal #4: Collaborate with local organization's to implement smaller scaled parks and recreation projects.

- Seek partnerships to aid in land acquisition, and parks and trail development within the community.
- Continue to expand the volunteer base of invested community members.
- Collaborate with property owners and work with developers to secure easements for trails along stream corridors.
- Utilize the County Trails Plan to coordinate multi-jurisdictional connections

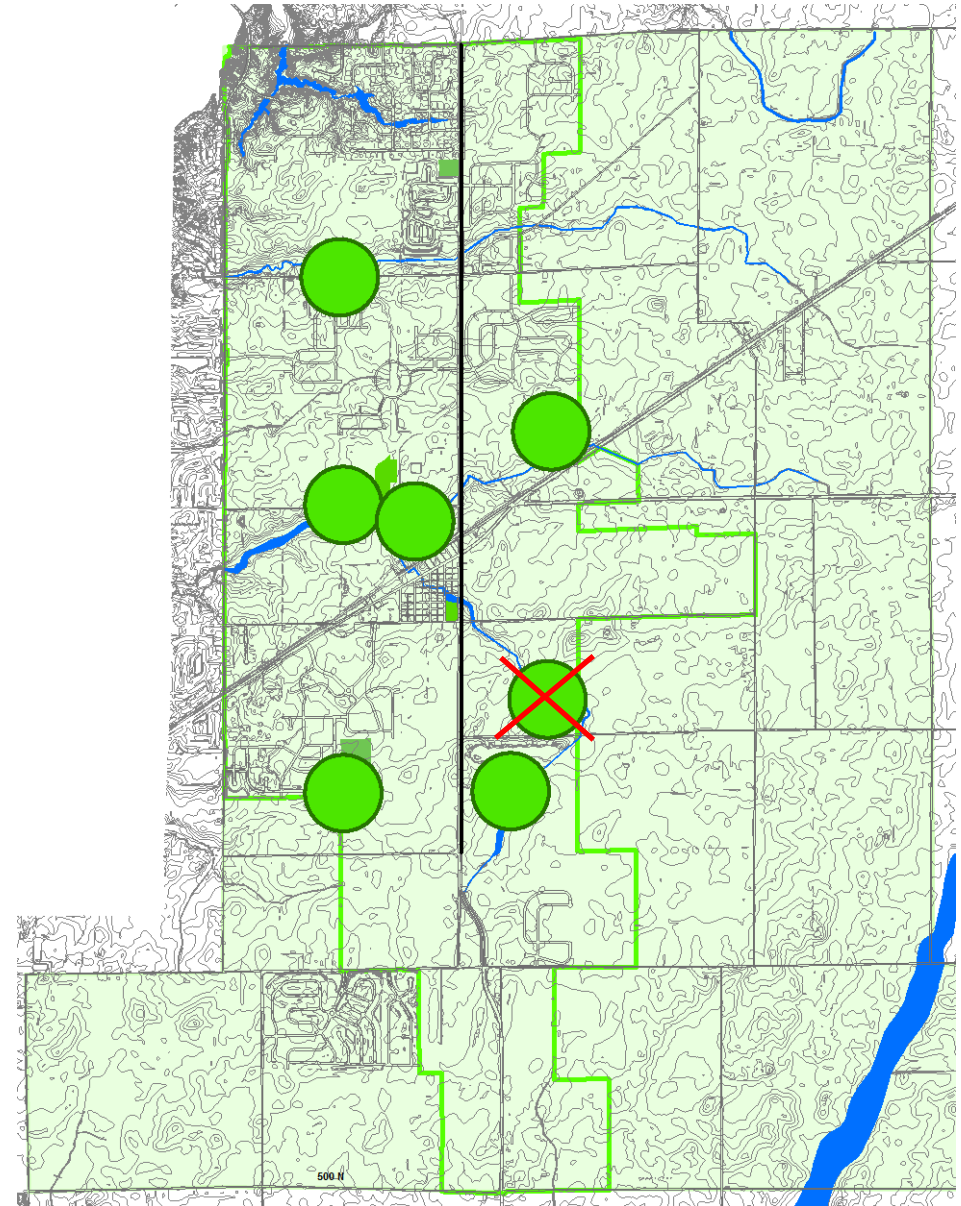
MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026

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Potential Future Parkland/Open Space Analysis:

In developing analysis of prime future parking areas for acquisition, it is important to look at a variety of factors that would make some areas more likely and/or beneficial to the Town for parkland/open space than others. It should be noted that no specific parcels were targeted during this analysis. The factors identified included the following: a proximity to schools, community amenities, cultural attractions, platted subdivisions, natural features (ie. streams, significant grade change, woods, etc), and population concentrations; distance from other parks; and areas where there are no known, planned projects.

This map is not intended to replace the open space recommendations shown on the Town's adopted Future Land Use Map. This map simply provides some additional analysis and further research and analysis is recommended.



MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026

MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

Five-year priority Action schedule and Associated Costs:

This section identifies the priorities of the Park and Recreation Board and specific projects for implementation over the next five years. The items listed in the table below are general priorities and not in the order of importance.

Year	Action	Cost Estimate	Funding Source
2022	Add ADA parking space to both parks	\$2,000	Local
	Parks Board requests increase in annual operations budget from Town	\$TBD	Local
	Council Install Streetlight in Old School Park	\$6,000	Local
	Replace mulch path at Town Hall Community Park with stone	\$20,000	Local
	Continue to Program the Town Hall Community Park	\$0	Local
	Add ADA swing to Old School Park	\$2,000	
		\$20,000	Local
2023-2026	Update the Park Impact Fee Study & Ordinance	\$TBD	Local
	Select a trail or open space project utilizing Park Impact Fee Funds Construct	\$TBD	Local
	first trail or open space project with Park Impact Fee Funds		
	Connect to the Geist Greenway	\$TBD	
	Establish a full-time Parks Department	\$TBD	

MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026

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Potential Funding Sources:

In a community the size of McCordsville, the implementation of a Park and Recreation Plan is heavily dependent on the infusion of grant money in order to develop new projects. One of the main purposes of this master plan was to develop strategies that maximized potential funding opportunities for the Board.

There are several funding mechanisms for the development of parks and recreational facilities. Many of these resources are provided through state and federal agencies. All available public funds should be explored in order to accomplish the plan's five-year priority action schedule. In addition, private monies may be available for certain facilities and activities. Many opportunities exist for funding assistance and the community should seek to maximize their matching dollars in pursuit of grant monies. An overview of potential funding sources and information described below is summarized in Figure 5.7: Funding Sources.

State and Federal Grant Programs:

The following are potential funding programs for the development of park and recreation facilities that should be explored for McCordsville's parks:

Transportation Alternatives Grants:

The Federal Highway Administration offers federal assistance for the development of non-motorized transportation-related projects as part of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. All FAST Act funding is administered through the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Pedestrian and bicycle facilities are specifically authorized, as stand-alone project's under FAST Act's Transportation Alternatives (TA) Funding. The MPO typically provides one call for grant submissions annually. Currently, the grant cycle is approximately 5-years out from grant award to start of construction.

Recreational Trails program (RTP):

The Recreational Trails Program is another federal assistance program sponsored by the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration for the development of trails. The program is funded as part of the FAST Act and provides reimbursement for 80% of project costs for land acquisition and the development of multi-use trail systems. Typically, the program provides a minimum funding level of \$10,000 and a maximum funding level of \$200,000. Eligibility includes all units of government and other non-profit organizations.

The program is administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and applications are typically available February 1st and are due back no later than May 1 of each year.

The recreational trail program funding may include the following types of projects:

- Development and rehabilitation of trailside, trail head facilities, and trail linkages
- Construction of multi-use trails
- Acquisition of easement or property for trails
- Operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection related to trails (limited to 5% of State's funds)
- Providing stream and river access sites
- Construction of bridges, boardwalks and crossings
- Signage
- Building of sanitary facilities and other support facilities (e.g., water fountains, etc.)

Next Level Trails (NLT):

The Next Level Trails Program is another IDNR Outdoor Recreation administered grant assistance program geared at regional and local trail development across Indiana. The program requires a minimum 20% local match. Eligibility includes local units of government and preference is given to regional trails, partnerships, etc.

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Land & Water Conservation Fund:

The Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is an assistance program which provides grants for 50% of the cost for the acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation sites or facilities. The program is exclusively for use by Park and Recreation Boards (a five-year parks and recreation master plan is required) and eligible uses include land acquisition, park and recreation facilities, and interpretive facilities. The program has a minimum amount of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$200,000. Applications are typically available March 1 and are typically due June 1. The community match may include local appropriations, cash or land donations, or other funding sources.

LWCF funding may include the following types of projects:

- Acquiring parks or natural area
- Picnic areas
- Sports and playfields, such as playgrounds, ball fields, court facilities and golf courses
- Water oriented facilities for boating, swimming, and access to lakes, rivers and streams
- Natural areas and interpretive facilities
- Campgrounds
- Fishing and hunting areas
- Winter sports facilities
- Amphitheaters and bandstands
- Parks adjacent to schools for mutual use
- Outdoor natural habitat zoo facilities
- Roads, restrooms, utilities, park maintenance buildings
- Nature Centers

Indiana Heritage Trust:

The Indiana Heritage Trust has been renamed the President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust Fund. This funding source will be altered along with the name change and more information from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources will be forthcoming.

Urban Forest Conservation Grants (UFC):

Urban Forest Conservation Grants are available 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. Grants may range from \$2,000-\$20,000. An equal match is required by the applicant. Applications are typically due in late October.

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program:

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA is community resource program of the National Parks Service (NPS). RTCA staff provide technical assistance to the community so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of the National Park Service in communities across America. Their focus is on helping communities help themselves by providing expertise and experience from around the nation. Applications are due annually on June 30th.

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Sustainable Communities sponsors various technical assistance programs pertaining to sustainable endeavors and creating a more environmentally conscious community.

The EPA Office of Sustainable Communities sometimes offers grants to support activities that improve the quality of development and protect human health and the environment.

MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026

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Private Funding sources:

Three additional private funding sources may provide smaller assistance for implementation of portions of the master plan:

IPL Golden Eagle Environmental

Grant: The IPL Golden Eagle Environmental Grant is a private funding program designed to provide funds for projects which will preserve, protect, enhance, or restore environmental and biological resources throughout the State of Indiana. The grants are provided by Indianapolis Power & Light Company (IPL). Any unit of Indiana local or state government (including park boards, park and recreation departments, schools, state parks, etc.) is eligible to apply. All projects must conform to and be in harmony with Indiana's native ecosystem, be biologically sound and have a positive environmental impact. Environmental improvement or environmental restoration projects or projects which produce a tangible end product or measurable results will be given the highest priority. Funding will not be considered for landscaping and beautification projects. All projects should provide appropriate access to the general public.

Habitat restoration projects with interpretive opportunities have been given priority in past award selections. Projects may include the cost of a small educational component, such as printed material. The maximum amount of award is \$10,000. Applications are due in July.

Habitat restoration projects with interpretive opportunities have been given priority in past award selections. Projects may include the cost of a small educational component, such as printed material. The maximum amount of award is \$10,000. Applications are due in July.

Greenways Foundation Grant:

The Greenways Foundation is a charitable trust working to promote the growth, enhancement, and use of Indiana Greenways. Their goal is to assist communities throughout the state in realizing the economic, social and health benefits of trails. This group helps fund trail projects with awards of \$500.00 to \$2,000. Applications are due June 1 and grants will be awarded in August.

Playful City USA Grants:

Playful City USA awards \$15,000 and \$30,000 grants for projects relating to joint-use agreements, which are partnerships between local school districts and municipalities to open school recreation facilities to the public during non-school hours. In addition, \$20,000 Lets Play Construction Grants are available. The grants are awarded to cities using the community playground build process. Applications are due March 15.

Baseball Tomorrow Fund Grant:

This program awards grants annually to promote the building of youth baseball facilities and to purchase equipment. This grant does not specify a maximum award.

Lilly Endowment:

The Lilly Endowment is a non-profit organization which funds a variety of community-focused projects throughout the state and nation. The community development grant of the Lilly Endowment focuses primarily on the quality of life in Indianapolis and Indiana, by granting funds for human service needs, central-city and neighborhood revitalization, low-income housing, and arts and culture in Indianapolis. The endowment also supports facilities and programs that advance the local economic revitalization and community recreational opportunities. The Board of Directors considered grants in February, March, May, June, July, September, November, and December. The review process takes 3-6 months. Grant applications should consist of a 2-page letter about the project, the organization, and the amount of support requested.



appendix

**five-year
parks and recreation master plan
2022-2026**



MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026

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Five Year Park and Recreation Master Plan Checklist

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Man-made, Historical, and Cultural	2-2
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Accessibility and Universal Design	3-10
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MASTER PLAN CHECKLIST

MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

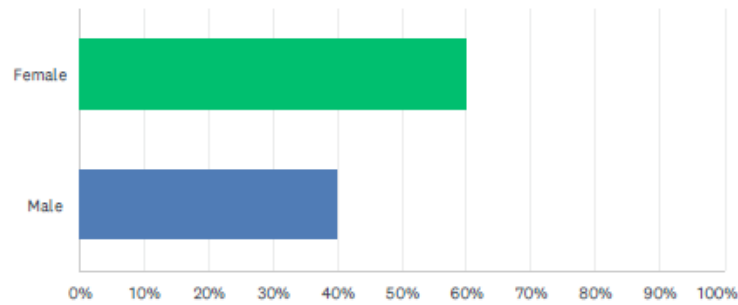
MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA



PARK AND RECREATION PUBLIC SURVEY

Q1 What is your gender?

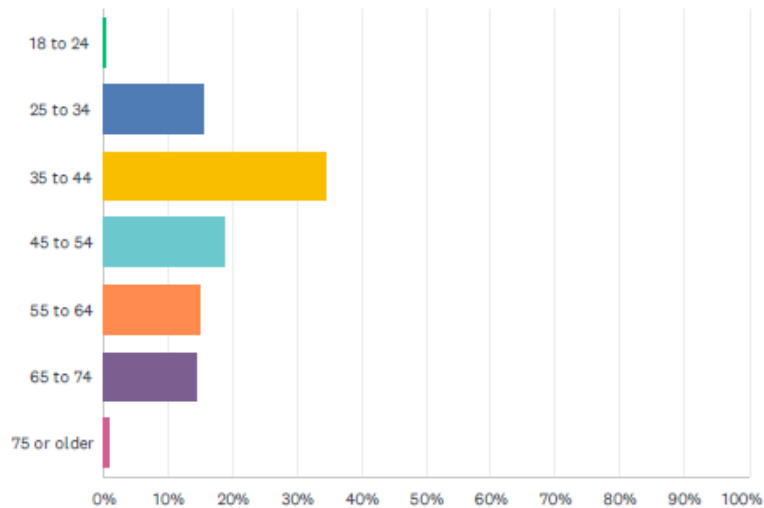
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	59.93%	169
Male	40.07%	113
TOTAL		282

Q2 What is your age?

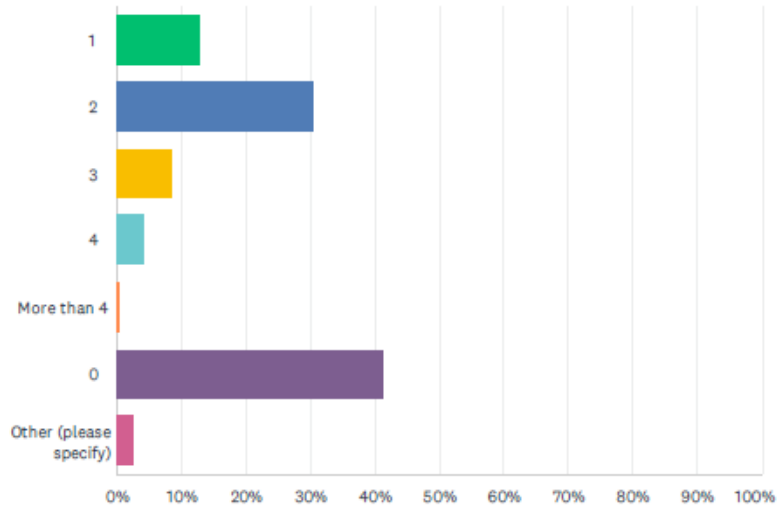
Answered: 283 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
18 to 24	0.35%	1
25 to 34	15.55%	44
35 to 44	34.63%	98
45 to 54	18.73%	53
55 to 64	15.19%	43
65 to 74	14.49%	41
75 or older	1.06%	3
TOTAL		283

Q3 How many children do you have living at home?

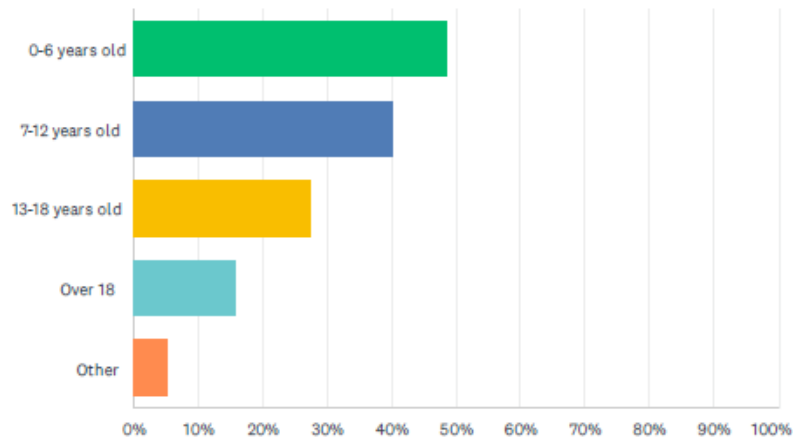
Answered: 283 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	12.72%	36
2	30.39%	86
3	8.48%	24
4	4.24%	12
More than 4	0.35%	1
0	41.34%	117
Other (please specify)	2.47%	7
TOTAL		283

Q4 If yes to question 3, what are the ages?

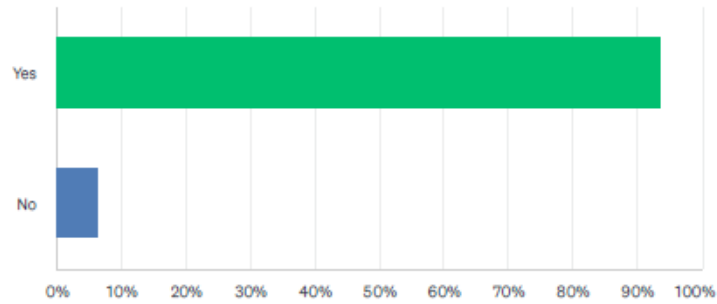
Answered: 171 Skipped: 112



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-6 years old	48.54%	83
7-12 years old	40.35%	69
13-18 years old	27.49%	47
Over 18	15.79%	27
Other	5.26%	9
Total Respondents: 171		

Q5 Are you a McCordsville Resident

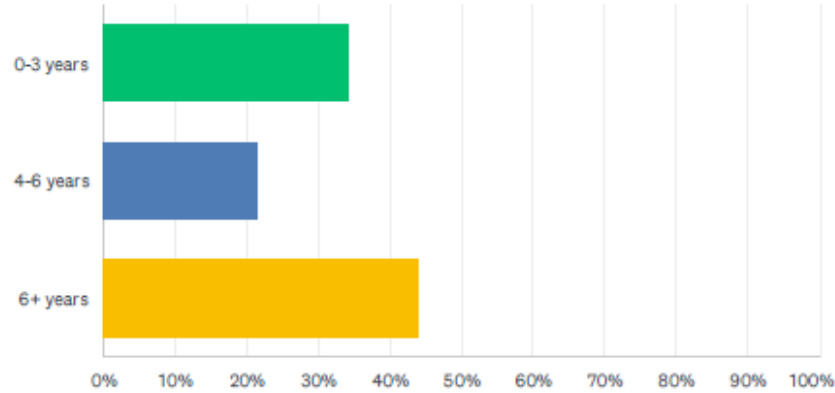
Answered: 283 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	93.64%	265
No	6.36%	18
Total Respondents: 283		

Q6 If yes, how long?

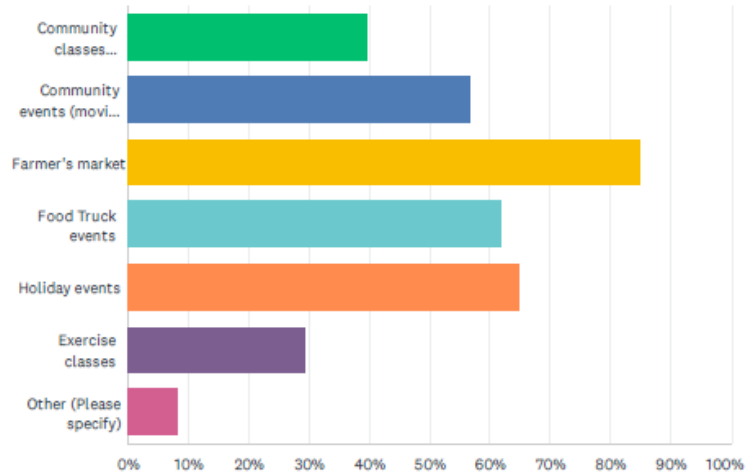
Answered: 265 Skipped: 18



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-3 years	34.34%	91
4-6 years	21.51%	57
6+ years	44.15%	117
TOTAL		265

Q7 What community offerings interest you?

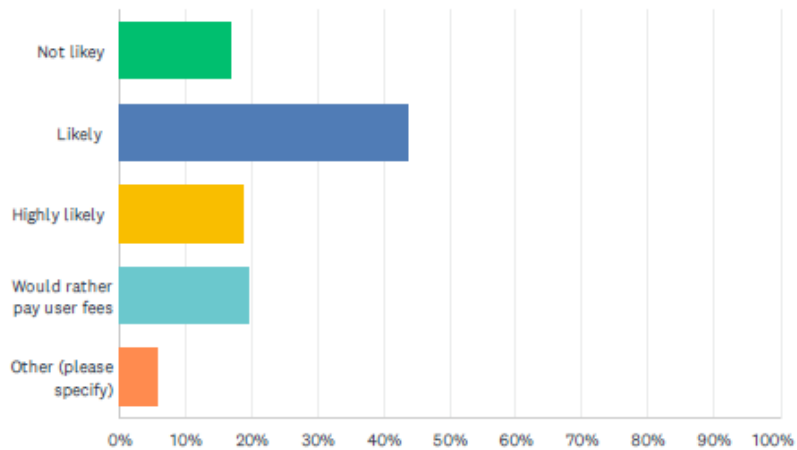
Answered: 275 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Community classes (cooking, health, art, etc.)	39.64%	109
Community events (movies in the park, trunk-or-treat, etc.)	56.73%	156
Farmer's market	85.09%	234
Food Truck events	61.82%	170
Holiday events	65.09%	179
Exercise classes	29.45%	81
Other (Please specify)	8.36%	23
Total Respondents: 275		

Q8 How likely would you support a tax increase for parks and trails?

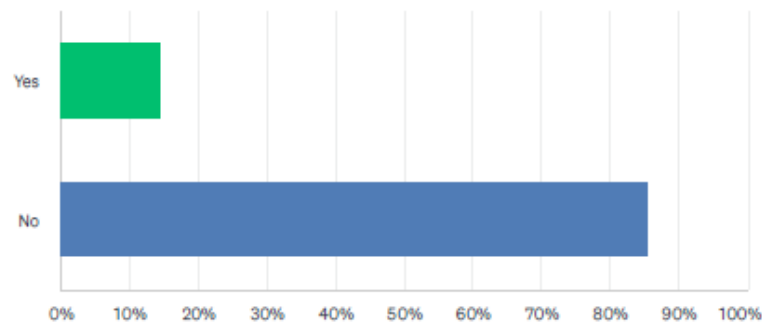
Answered: 281 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not likely	17.08%	48
Likely	43.77%	123
Highly likely	18.86%	53
Would rather pay user fees	19.57%	55
Other (please specify)	5.69%	16
Total Respondents: 281		

Q9 Are you familiar with the Building a Brighter McCordsville fund?

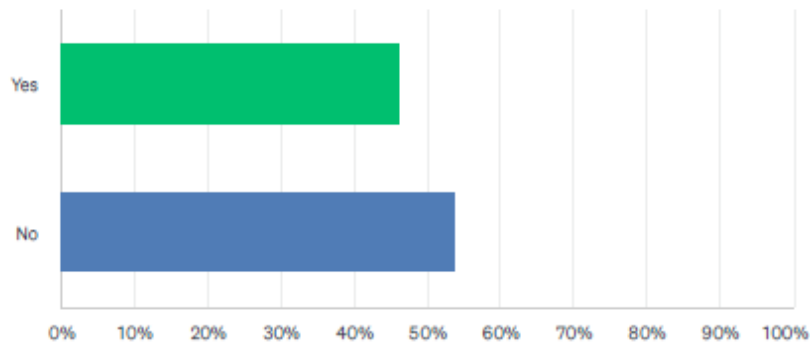
Answered: 281 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	14.59%	41
No	85.41%	240
TOTAL		281

Q10 Are you aware that McCordsville has a Parks and Recreation Board (PARB?)

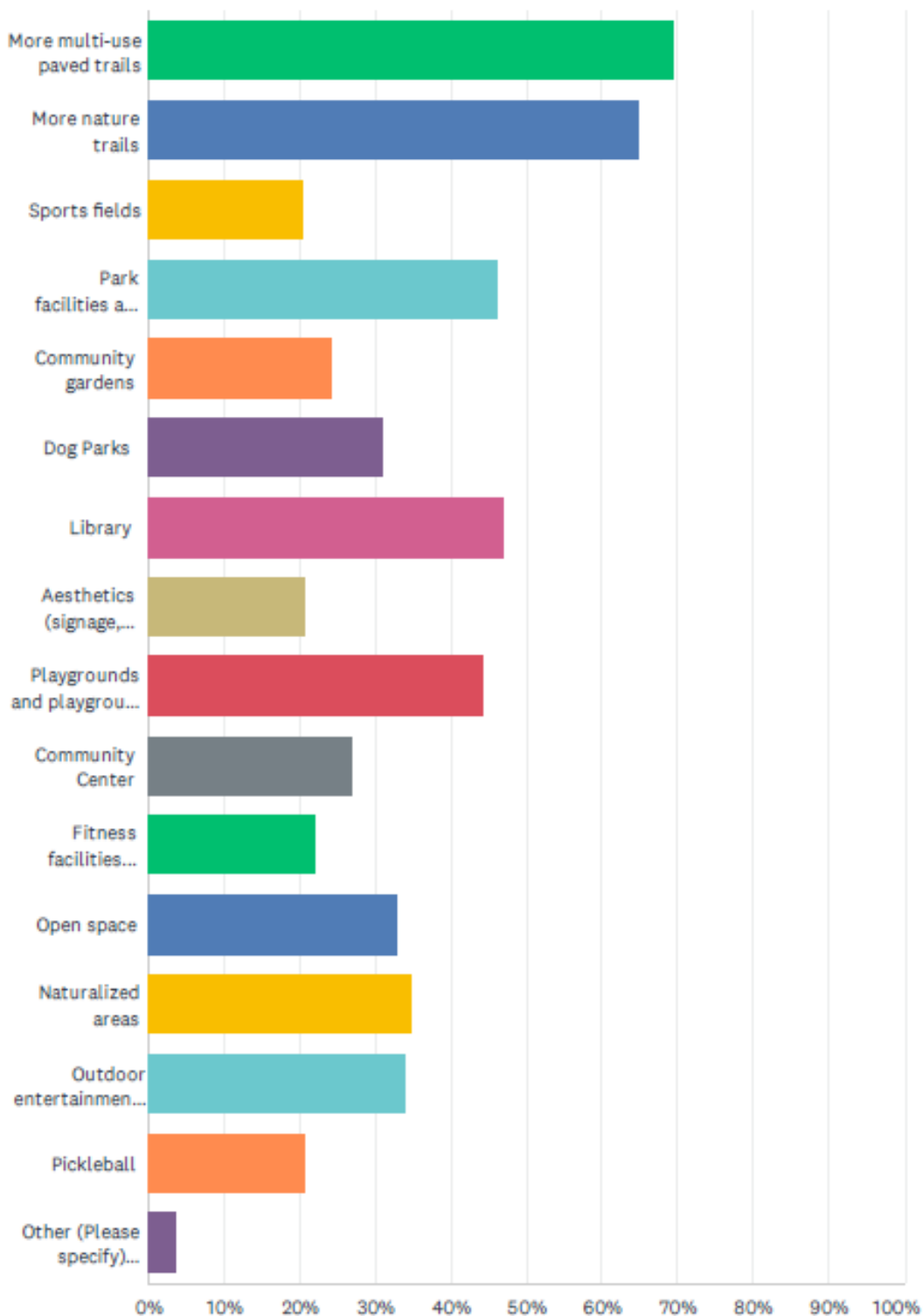
Answered: 283 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	46.29%	131
No	53.71%	152
TOTAL		283

Q11 What are some facilities would you like to see in McCordsville?

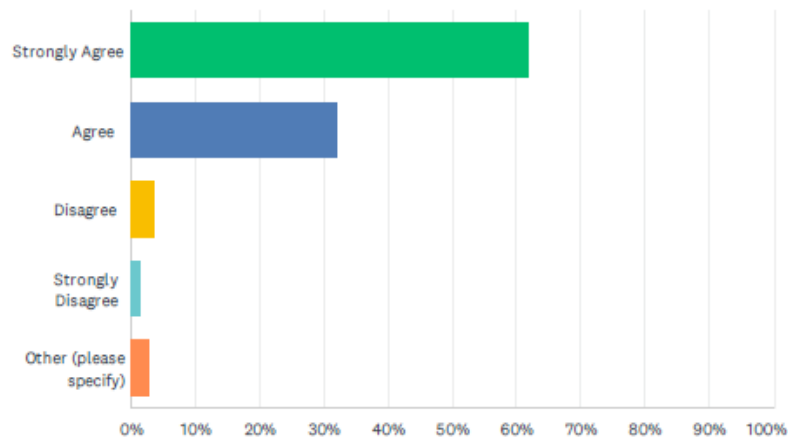
Answered: 279 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
More multi-use paved trails	69.53%	194
More nature trails	64.87%	181
Sports fields	20.43%	57
Park facilities and shelters	46.24%	129
Community gardens	24.37%	68
Dog Parks	31.18%	87
Library	46.95%	131
Aesthetics (signage, landscaping, etc.)	20.79%	58
Playgrounds and playground equipment	44.44%	124
Community Center	26.88%	75
Fitness facilities (outdoor fitness stations, etc.)	22.22%	62
Open space	32.97%	92
Naturalized areas	34.77%	97
Outdoor entertainment center	34.05%	95
Pickleball	20.79%	58
Other (Please specify)	3.58%	10
Total Respondents: 279		

Q12 I agree that community activities would make McCordsville a better place to visit

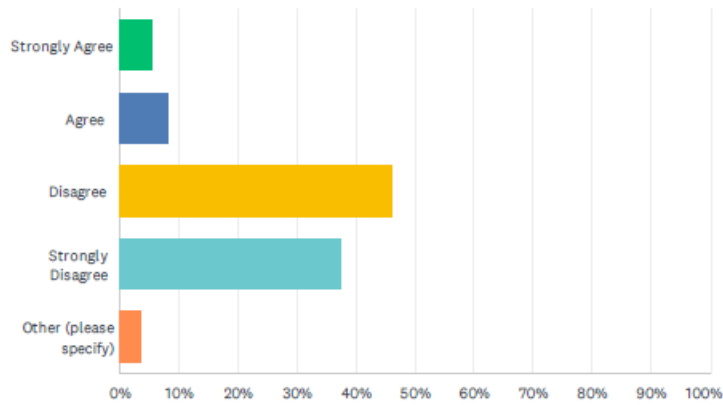
Answered: 279 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly Agree	62.01%	173
Agree	31.90%	89
Disagree	3.58%	10
Strongly Disagree	1.43%	4
Other (please specify)	2.87%	8
Total Respondents: 279		

Q13 I don't think McCordsville needs any more community events

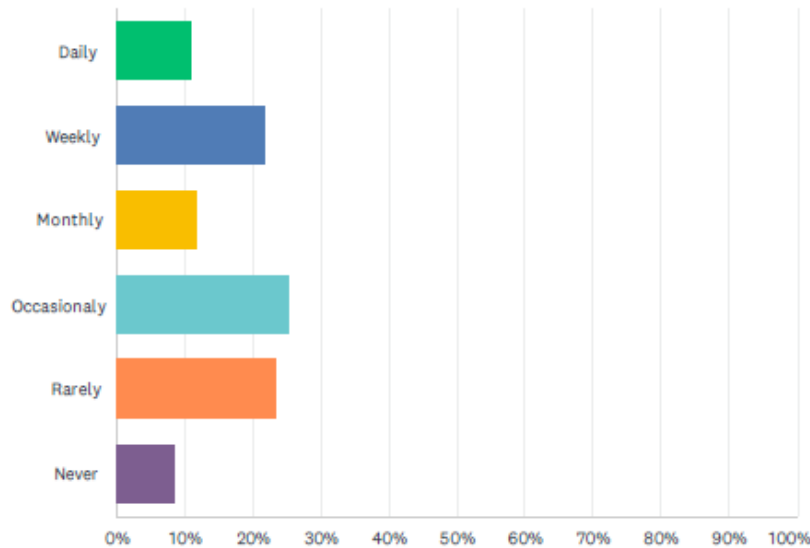
Answered: 275 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly Agree	5.45%	15
Agree	8.36%	23
Disagree	46.18%	127
Strongly Disagree	37.45%	103
Other (please specify)	3.64%	10
Total Respondents: 275		

Q14 How often do you use trails or parks in McCordsville?

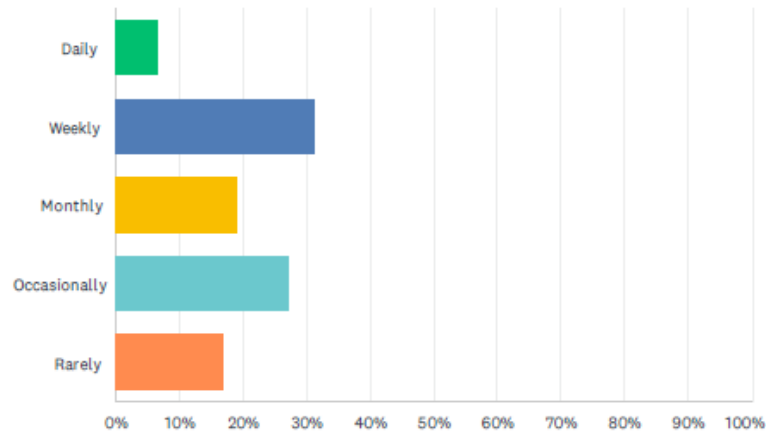
Answered: 281 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Daily	11.03%	31
Weekly	21.71%	61
Monthly	11.74%	33
Occasionaly	25.27%	71
Rarely	23.49%	66
Never	8.54%	24
Total Respondents: 281		

Q15 How often do you use trails or parks outside of McCordsville

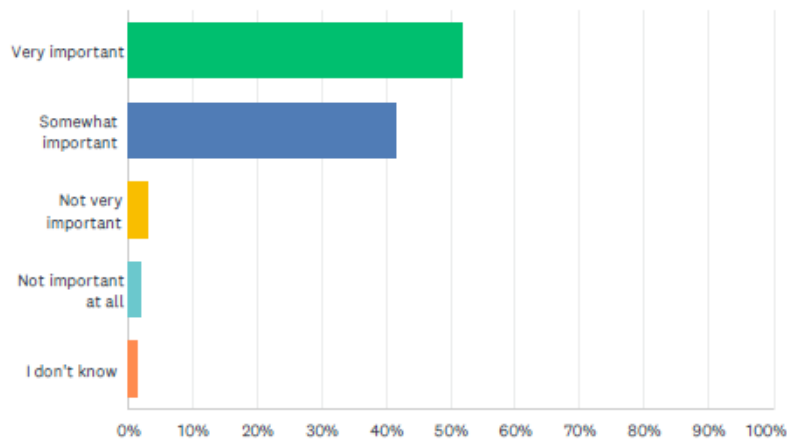
Answered: 283 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Daily	6.71%	19
Weekly	31.45%	89
Monthly	19.08%	54
Occasionally	27.21%	77
Rarely	16.96%	48
Total Respondents: 283		

Q16 How important are parks and recreation opportunities to your overall quality of life in McCordsville?

Answered: 281 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very important	51.96%	146
Somewhat important	41.64%	117
Not very important	3.20%	9
Not important at all	2.14%	6
I don't know	1.42%	4
Total Respondents: 281		

Q17 Please share any other comments you have on this topic.

Approved: 70 Skipped: 212

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	need more sidewalks for foot traffic turning left onto ohio from the CVS is hazardous when traffic blocks view of cards turning left off of pendleton.	10/17/2021 11:10 AM
2	Love the care and attention given to various areas of the McCordsville community!	10/17/2021 8:11 AM
3	Devote land to grow wild flowers to welcome pollinators, butterflies and Monarchs like the Town of Lawrence. Sponsor a Town Parade, BBQ Festival with live music & July 4th Fireworks.	10/16/2021 3:35 AM
4	With the growth of McCordsville, especially with young families, we need more options. I live in McCordsville but use Fishers amenities way more and it would be great to have options where we reside.	10/15/2021 9:56 PM
5	A lengthy walking/biking path accessible from everywhere in McCordsville would be a unifying mechanism and vastly improve the quality of life here.	10/15/2021 2:31 PM
6	More children's play space and trails connecting new neighborhoods. A local library would be amazing!	10/15/2021 2:28 PM
7	I am disabled and would like to see warm indoor pools with exercise classes for people like me. I have teens so social events that they can participate in would be great.	10/15/2021 2:27 PM
8	To question number 16: what parks and trails? I mean we have some neighborhoods that have trails but those are city specific. We have a big open field you all call a park and the other park is not easily accessible. So really, what are our options? None.	10/15/2021 1:43 PM
9	Carmel Clay Parks is a good model.	10/15/2021 1:05 PM
10	We need more sidewalks to safely walk anywhere from Gateway Crossing, specifically down 750 to the play park. I avoid going there because I'm not pushing a stroller down the side of a road that's barely wide enough for 2 cars, let alone a stroller and 4 year old on a bike. It would also be wonderful if the empty lots were cleaned up a bit. For an "up and coming" area, we could look a lot better and more inviting. I'm really looking forward to the Mt. Comfort Corridor developments to boost the appeal of the area.	10/15/2021 12:29 PM
11	Pickleball courts would be great	10/15/2021 12:28 PM
12	Public Soccer Fields!!!	10/15/2021 12:23 PM
13	bury the utility poles and lines on 96th Street	10/9/2021 9:30 PM
14	Trail on Carroll Road would be great!!!	10/8/2021 8:30 PM
15	We need to keep some woods and nature preserves to separate housing additions and businesses. Sidewalks should be a must along side all roads.	10/8/2021 5:57 PM
16	Slow down on new builds, wildlife is being pushed out for homes that are right next to each other.	10/8/2021 2:12 PM
17	Thanks for asking	10/8/2021 1:48 PM
18	The housing development proposed is just far too much; too dense and going to cause far too many traffic issues. We need to stop trying to be Fishers and Noblesville.	10/1/2021 9:05 PM
19	We really like Holland Park, Finch park, the main Carmel park, Carey Road park (they have exercise equipment for parents to workout while watching kids). These parks are great place to meet the community neighbors too. I'd support something like this in McCordsville.	10/1/2021 1:57 PM
20	I'm not a resident, but I live nearby and work here.	10/1/2021 1:23 PM
21	I would like McCordsville to stay a small town. With low taxes and safe neighborhoods.	10/1/2021 12:09 PM

22	We desperately need to do some landscaping along paved paths. Traffic and traffic noise do not exactly make using our walking paths enjoyable.	10/1/2021 11:21 AM
23	Thank you for collecting input. As a new resident, I appreciate this opportunity and look forward to seeing what the outcome is. :-)	9/29/2021 10:11 PM
24	Multi-use paved trails are extremely important for our community. It is especially important for these trails to be developed in terms of connectivity allowing users to reach destinations such as Town Hall, Old McCordsville Park, McCordsville Elementary, Geist Montessori Academy, Meijer, Chicago's Pizza. Additionally, connecting current and future neighborhoods and commercial areas to multi-use paved paths will pay dividends of health and quality of life for future generations in our community.	9/29/2021 8:34 AM
25	Our families enjoy the parks. Thank you for considering upgrades and extended opportunities!	9/28/2021 10:56 PM
26	Please protect nature and do not let Mccordsville succumb to sub-division madness. We need more nature / gardens / parks / trails and less housing developments.	9/24/2021 10:53 PM
27	Everyone comes together as a community!!	9/24/2021 4:40 PM
28	I don't live in Mccordsville but I'm just over the line and is very close to me. Would love to see nature trails and picnic/ shelters come to Mccordsville	9/24/2021 12:27 PM
29	To much growth we moved here to get away from Indy.Now were trying to be Fishers or Carmel whats wrong with small towns We have lost all our wild life in the area.	9/24/2021 11:46 AM
30	I would love to have more restaurants bars shops in McCordsville to make it a destination! Love to have pickleball courts and outdoor activities.	9/24/2021 11:36 AM
31	More sidewalks and trails is #1 i like walking when I can and if my dog can join thats awesome too	9/24/2021 11:32 AM
32	I used to live in Bay Creek (14 years) and loved when the walking path was added. I live in Geist Woods Estates and we do not have a path on our side of the road. It would be great if we had a path connecting to Highland Springs or on the side of the road by Daniel's vineyard.	9/24/2021 11:18 AM
33	We have lived here 3 years and do everything outside Mccordsville. The growth is huge snd we need more things to keep a community feel here and keep people in the community. We have to leave out town to do everything.	9/23/2021 10:10 PM
34	I would like a park with a playground and trails for walking and biking AND A BATHROOM. We usually go to Flat Fork Park and parks in Fortville and Fishers because they are really lacking here.	9/22/2021 6:26 PM
35	It would be really nice to have a library and a park that isn't so close to roads not safe for younger children or children that cannot recognize danger	9/22/2021 6:25 PM
36	I hope we preserve some natural spaces and do not allow every bit of town to be built and paved. I support a tax increase to fund open natural spaces and paths.	9/21/2021 7:59 PM
37	Please keep some trees and open land, and make a park on the north side of the tracks	9/21/2021 7:52 PM
38	You already have your minds made up on what your going to do! Your just going through the motions to justify your positions!	9/21/2021 11:29 AM
39	I would like to see more connectivity between the neighborhoods via sidewalks/paths. With the town spreading our further from 600W where the main path is, the areas off of 1000N, 900N, etc are not connected via sidewalks/paths. With the addition of the neighborhoods down 900N both east and west, it would be nice to have a continuous path from 700W all the way to 500W to connect these newer/future neighborhoods.	9/21/2021 7:38 AM
40	Until the COVID-19 pandemic recedes, McCordsville does not need to increase community activities and events.	9/21/2021 6:15 AM
41	We live in Woodhaven, it would be really nice to have paved trails down 600 so we could bike/walk to the rest of the McCordsville	9/21/2021 5:34 AM
42	Trails closer to my neighborhood, Deer Crossing, or those that could connect to it would be great!	9/20/2021 2:44 PM
43	There are no parks or large open walking/biking places in McCordsville. Only more	9/20/2021 6:38 AM

developments that all look the same....

44	Would love to have great hiking and walking trails along with a substantial-sized park. We also seriously need more fitness centers that are a lot less expensive than \$50 per month per person and still offer a good value.	9/18/2021 6:02 PM
45	I don't want McCordsville to become a mini Fishers. Targeted growth that truly benefits the community is something I could support.	9/18/2021 5:10 PM
46	Let's make McCordsville a destination, not just a home base from where you start, but travel to other communities like Fishers to get all the parks.	9/18/2021 8:57 AM
47	would love some shade along the trails!	9/17/2021 8:02 PM
48	The two biggest things I would like to see for McCordsville are better/more parks and a real Library. Something at least to the level of the Greenfield library. The Fortville library is awful.	9/17/2021 5:05 PM
49	Would at the very least love sidewalks connecting the whole town. Instead of just dead ending and kids having to use Olio	9/17/2021 4:35 PM
50	I love taking my kids to parks like Flat Fork Creek, Beckenholdt Park, Geist Park and Fort Benjamin Harrison where they can discover nature. I would really love it if Mccordsville had more opportunities like this available for its families. I would also love more information on being a part of the PARB. vnbelickis@gmail.com	9/17/2021 2:21 PM
51	All of the open spaces and farmland in McCordsville are being taken over by warehouses and subdivisions. It's distressing to watch.	9/17/2021 2:01 PM
52	Please don't turn our town into Fishers. Having a nice park or playground would be nice, but please don't overload the area with development and pavement.	9/17/2021 1:59 PM
53	We bike and walk daily so paved trails are very important! Who is responsible for trimming trees near trails through neighborhoods? Need better upkeep. More trash cans along paths and another water fountain w dog water fountain.	9/17/2021 1:54 PM
54	More opportunities for senior citizens.	9/17/2021 1:46 PM
55	I've just moved to McCordsville and have enjoyed the opportunities to get involved in the community.	9/17/2021 1:40 PM
56	We unfortunately go to Brooks School Road Park, Finch Park, or the one in Fishers with a splash pad daily. We haven't found a good one near us just yet. We also eat near Hamilton Town Center if we go out just about every time. It will be nice once we have the Mccordsville town center up and running.	9/17/2021 1:34 PM
57	Accessible, safe spaces to gather, walk, bike, and exercise really improve the culture of the community and bring the community together more surely than anything else	9/17/2021 1:20 PM
58	I am very in favor of the community offering more parks and recreation facilities and opportunities. I would support either increased taxes or a user fee. Personally, the biggest "barrier" to me using the existing trails/walkways is that my neighborhood (Geist Ridge) is not connected via sidewalks. Biking is not necessarily "safe" given the traffic and lack of walkways out of our neighborhood. Currently, we are a 3-cars for 4 ppl household, so driving to a walkway must be coordinated with the other drivers, which cuts down on the opportunities to drive to area facilities.	9/17/2021 1:18 PM
59	Enjoy the multipurpose trail on Mt. Comfort Rd	9/17/2021 12:40 PM
60	I tend to avoid McCordsville because of how busy and built up it has become. More people doesn't always mean better community. Housing additions and warehouses are taking over and I hate to see it happening.	9/17/2021 12:19 PM
61	I spend a considerable amount of time at McCordsville Sports Park for the GASL adult and youth programs. There is so much potential. I believe it's privately owned but I would love if someone just made it special. Redo the parking lot, install an actual track in place of the gravel monstrosity, improve the signage, add a shelter/picnic/playground area, improve the fields, actual bathrooms, proper storage sheds, and other outdoor sports (volleyball, tennis, etc) fields. Perhaps that all means the city purchases it, or offers a subsidized loan for the improvements on the condition that the park be opened for public use (with the exception that	9/17/2021 12:18 PM

GASL and other programs get scheduling preferences). I don't know what it looks like exactly but that would be an amazing improvement for our parks & rec.

62	We moved here from a town where we had 3 city parks in walking distance. We were at parks almost every day. Here we don't even have sidewalks for kids to ride tricycles, and going to a park means loading everyone in the car and driving 10-15 min each way. I would love to see more parks - playgrounds and especially natural play areas. Most kids here seem to spend their lives indoors, sadly. I would love our kids to have rocks to climb and sticks to arrange and dirt to dig in. Creating natural play is a passion of mine and an area I have researched significantly. If you would like any help designing a space, feel free to call me - Anna Friedman. 918-852-8226.	9/17/2021 11:50 AM
63	For my family, with a couple dogs and small child, having access to more nature trails and a community dog park would be a huge benefit. The closest ones nearby are further than we want to travel, so with not having close trails or a dog park, we find ourselves driving elsewhere on the weekends to hike and explore.	9/17/2021 11:37 AM
64	Trails connecting neighborhoods and natural areas will help inspire me to walk more. Skilled workers are looking for quality of life amenities like trails, parks and a town center accessible by walking and biking	9/17/2021 11:31 AM
65	I use the trail along 600 into fishers to go on runs. I enjoy the monon just wish it was closer	9/17/2021 11:19 AM
66	Fishers has a lot of pickle ball and upscale playgrounds. McCordsville has a playground for toddlers. Fortville has a nice park full of baseball, tennis, basketball and other playing areas. McCordsville doesn't have these type of gathering areas. Why not look into something different and innovative to make a mark on the map with the new downtown municipal development?	9/17/2021 11:15 AM
67	The Play Park is small but useful. However there's some wasted space that could be used for more tennis courts, perhaps. The one tennis court is almost always in use, and we have to go to the schools a few miles away. And we definitely need more parks overall.	9/17/2021 11:06 AM
68	We are currently under contract to build our first home in McCordsville. We are so excited the community values parks and recreation and can't wait to be part of that community growth!	9/16/2021 4:48 PM
69	I'd like to see Mccordsville know for something. Example: air balloon festival, bike trails, architecture, diversity in food.	9/16/2021 12:03 PM
70	Thank you for letting me take this survey. McCordsville rocks.	9/15/2021 3:27 PM

McCordsville Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2022 - 2026

McCordsville, Indiana

ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

The McCordsville Park Board has received and read the guidelines for compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 issued by the United State Department of the Interior and will comply with these guidelines and the ACT.

Signature

McCordsville Parks and Recreation Board

Kim Pearson

(Chair's Printed Name)

Date

SECTION 504 COMPLIANCE FORM

McCordsville Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2022-2026

McCordsville, Indiana



PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Monday July 12, 2021

Call to Order and Roll Call-Kim Pearson

Members Present: Kim Pearson, Justin Bastin, Susie Highley, Catherine Witsman,
Branden Williams, Ann Kloc

Absent: none

Also Present: Tonya Galbraith, Ryan Crum, Mark Witsman, Kyle Anthony-Petters, Claire Strayer

Approval of May 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Witsman made a motion to approve the May 10, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Second was made by Mr. Bastin and passed 4/0

Community Yard Sale-Claire Strayer and Beth Morton

Claire Strayer gave an update on the September 11 Community Sale. She is continuing to research food truck options and working on a flyer to post in the Friday Blast and social media.

Town Hall Park Path and Mound Upgrades-Mark Witsman

Mr. Witsman presented information on future upgrades of the walking path at Town Hall. The plan includes changing from mulch to crushed stone for less maintenance by 2022. The path will be out of service for about two weeks when it is filled in and stone added. Because of the WWTP there is a soil stockpile, and it is more than what is needed so it will be used on low areas, walking path and build up the mound on the site north of salt barn.

Update on Park Master Plan-Ryan Crum

Mr. Crum reminded the Board that the Park Master Plan is due every five years by the IDNR so work has begun on the draft which will be due January 2022. Mr. Crum would like input from the Park Board on the goals, public participation and priorities and strategic action schedule. Kyle Anthony-Petters, Planning and Building college intern, assisted Mr. Crum on the updating of the draft so it will be ready in January 2022. Discussion included Ms. Kloc asking about park areas in the new Town Center. Ms. Pearson asked about the impact of actions in the last five years and Mr. Crum replied that he would evaluate. The board agreed that a survey would be a good way to get the public opinions and Ms. Galbraith will get started with that. Mr. Williams thought impact fees should be revisited and Mr. Crum wants to know what big projects to do with the impact fees. All this information will be brought up again at the next meeting to continue to work on the draft of this plan. Board member will be getting the goals sent to them via e-mail so information can be added.

Authorization to acquire 2 acres at McCord Point-Ryan Crum

This potential land for a pocket park and trails is located at the southwest corner of W1000N and N 500W. Motion was made by Ms. Highley for recommendation to Town Council to transfer 2 acres for a McCordsville Pocket Park at the Southwest corner of W1000N and N500W. Second was made by Ms. Kloc and passed 5/0

5K Update (and encouragement to form teams) -Tonya Galbraith.

Ms. Galbraith encouraged the Board to get friends and teams involved in the 5k. There are 31 registered to date and sponsorships are at \$12,500.

HCCF Grant Update (and other Grants)-Tonya Galbraith

Ms. Galbraith presented the grant check from HCCF for \$3191.00. This will go towards Old School Park WIFI, Electricity and a streetlight. Other grants that Ms. Galbraith is applying for are a MIBOR grant and an IPEP grant.

At this time Ms. Galbraith also read an email from Nick Brown, Public Works, updating all the improvements that have been made to Old School Park to date.

Deer Crossing Update

Continued discussion regarding Deer Crossing Park land. Mr. Crum had a meeting with a member of the HOA and since there was a light response from the residents, they plan on going door to door to see if they can get a more definitive answer.

2021 Events

- July 24- Great American Campout/Movie Night
- August 14- 5K Path to Fitness
- September 11- Community Yard Sale
- October 30- Trunk or Treat
- Tree Lighting- (First Wednesday of December) Ms. Galbraith would like some input on this event.

The Town Clean Up Day will be rescheduled.

Community Day-sponsored by the Police is coming up also

Old Business-Impact Fee Revenue Update

Year to date the Impact fee is \$224,964.48.

New Business

Ms. Kloc was wanting to follow up information regarding Liberty Ponds Park. Currently there have been two appraisals. The Town is not able to purchase all land available, so this is still in discussion. Town Council will make final decision.

Next Meeting- September 13, 2021

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Highley. Second was made by Ms. Kloc and passed 5/0

Monday September 13, 2021

Call to Order and Roll Call-Kim Pearson

Members-Kim Pearson, Catherine Witsman, Branden Williams, Ann Kloc

Absent-Susie Highley, Justin Bastin

Also Present-Tonya Galbraith, Ryan Crum

July 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Ms. Witsman to approve July 12, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Second was made by Ms. Kloc and passed 3/0

Update on Park Master Plan-Ryan Crum

This plan is still a work in progress and Mr. Crum appreciates any input suggested by the Parks and Recreation Board. He is awaiting census results that will be available at the end of the month. Mr. Crum went over the draft with edits and the timeline for completion. Adoption of the plan will be finalized by January 10, 2022. Survey questions were presented and reviewed with suggestions from the Board. The survey will go live September 17-October 17, 2021. The survey will be posted on the Friday Blast and other social media.

Liberty Ponds (Haven Ponds) Trail-Ryan Crum

Progress is being made with Silverthorne Homes on acquisition of this property. This will take care of most if not all of park deficiency. The Park will consist of 26 acres will be a linear park with trails.

Events Update-Movie Night, Community Clean-up, 5K, Community Yard Sale) Trunk or Treat, Tree Lighting-Tonya Galbraith

- **Movie Night/Campout**- this event was rescheduled and Ms. Galbraith thought that may have had an impact on attendance. However, the campers seemed to have fun and the people who stayed for the movie enjoyed their time.
- **Community Clean Up**-Mr. Crum reported that this event was well attended and successful but there were things that they could do in the future to make it more efficient.
- **Community Yard Sale**-\$210.03 was raised for the Oscar Fund and Ms. Galbraith read a letter of thanks from Claire Strayer for the Town helping organize this event.
- **Trunk or Treat**-This will be a candy only event and will be posted on Friday Blast. There are already three vehicles registered.
- **Tree Lighting**-This event will be discussed further at the next meeting.

HCCF Grant Update and Old School Park Rehab-Tonya Galbraith

- **Streetlight Quote** (HCCF Grant)

Motion to approve payment of Invoice #00020730 for \$4166.00 for a streetlight in Old School Park was made by Ms. Kloc. Second was made by Ms. Witsman and passed 3/0. This will be paid through the HCCF grant and Building a Better McCordsville Funds.

- **Genesis Electric Quote**

Motion was made by Ms. Kloc to recommend to Town Council payment of \$16,774.01 for Invoice # 25604546 to Genesis Electrical Service. This is for electricity and WIFI in Old School Park. Second was made by Ms. Witsman and passed 3/0.

Deer Crossing Update

There is no update currently. The HOA is having issues getting response from the residents.

Old Business

- **Impact Fee revenue Update YTD-Total collected this year**
Mr. Crum reported YTD collected \$208,000 for single family residential. \$80,198.48 was collected from Gateway Crossing Senior Apartments.
- **Tennis Court Resurfacing Invoice**
Motion was made by Ms. Kloc to recommend to Town Council payment of \$6,880.00 for Invoice #1107 to AG Sports Surfaces LLC. Second was made by Ms. Witsman and passed 3/0

New Business

Public Comments

Mary Harmon, resident of Stone Grove, would like to assist with making trails in the area more bike accessible. Ms. Harmon shared some concerns that she has experienced with some of the trails. Some high weeds and signs that impact visibility and safety. Mr. Crum will work with her on the concerns and some direction on who to contact.

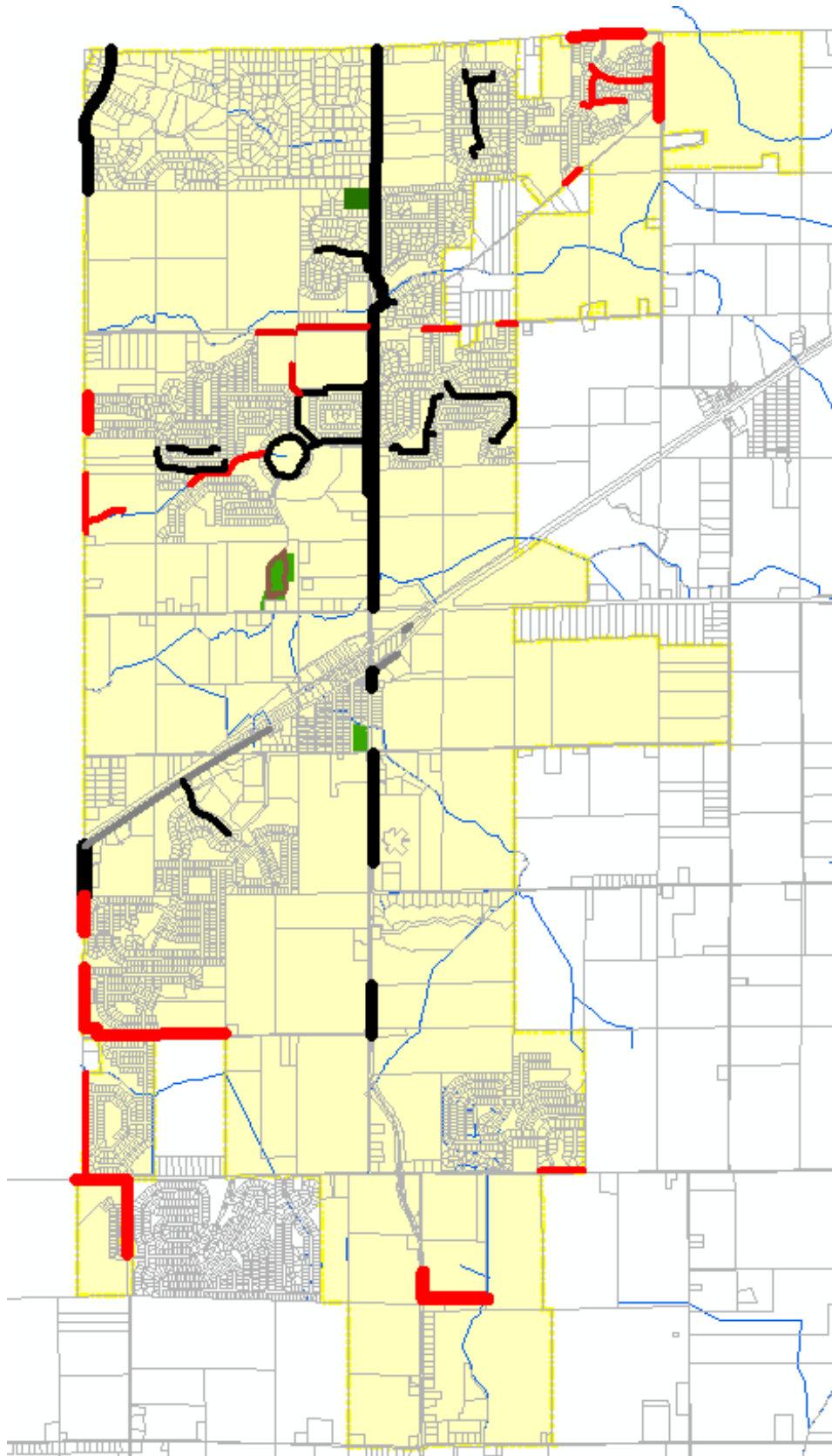
Next Meeting-November 8, 2021

Adjourn







Ms. Witsman made a motion to adjourn. Second was made by Ms. Kloc and passed 3/0

New Facilities Map

Illustrates all trails, perimeter sidewalks, and parks. Facilities added since the last update are shown in red.



Legend

- New Trail 
- New Perimeter Sidewalk 
- Existing Trail 
- Existing Park 
- Existing Nature Preserve 
- Existing Perimeter Sidewalk 

Legend

- Town Boundary
- Corridor Roadway
- Roadway Bike Route
- Neighborhood
- Destination
- Waterway / Greenway
- Proposed Sidewalk
- Proposed Protected Path
- Proposed Separated Path
- Proposed Sharrow
- Trail Head
- Proposed Regional Connection
- Existing Regional Connection

Overall Plan

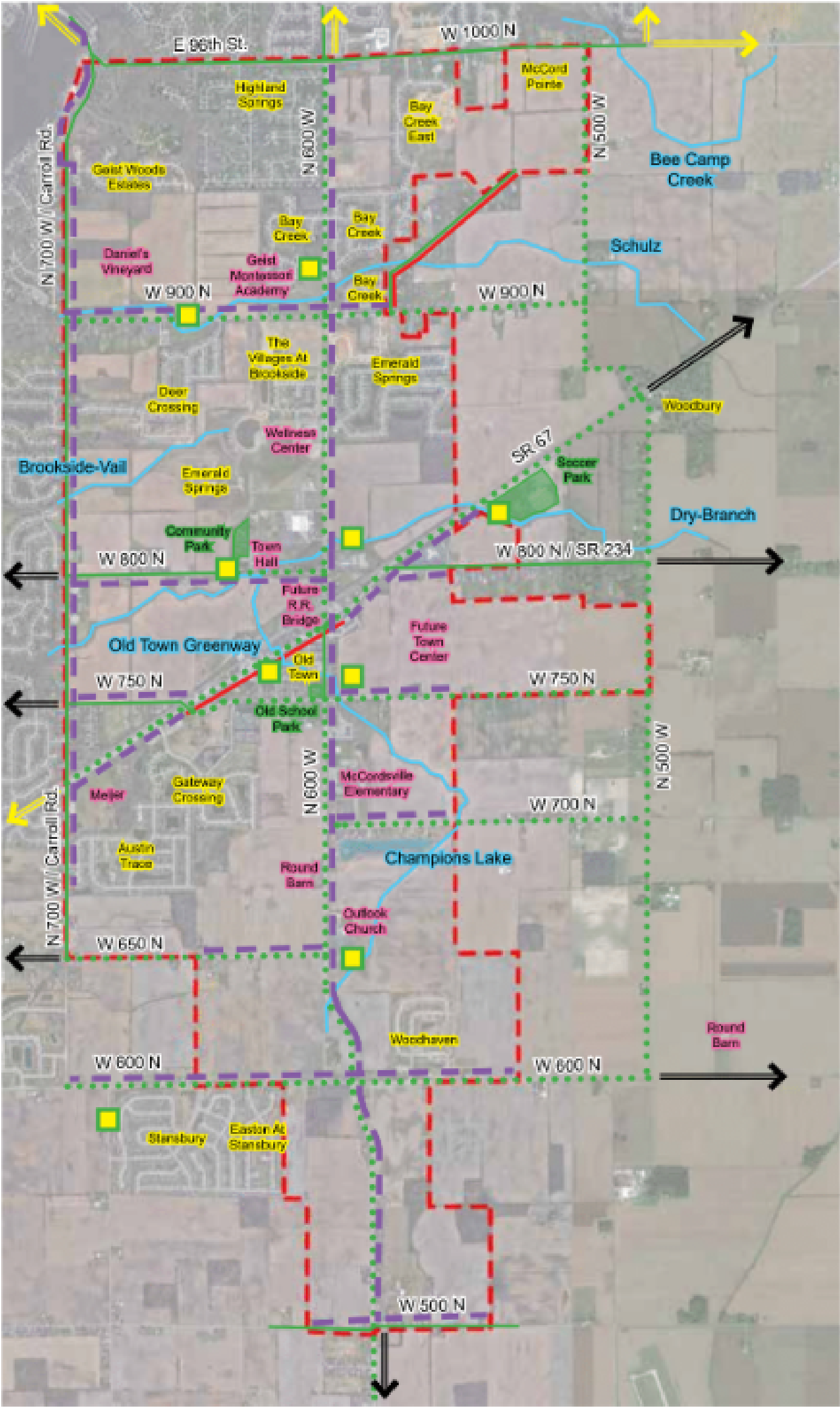
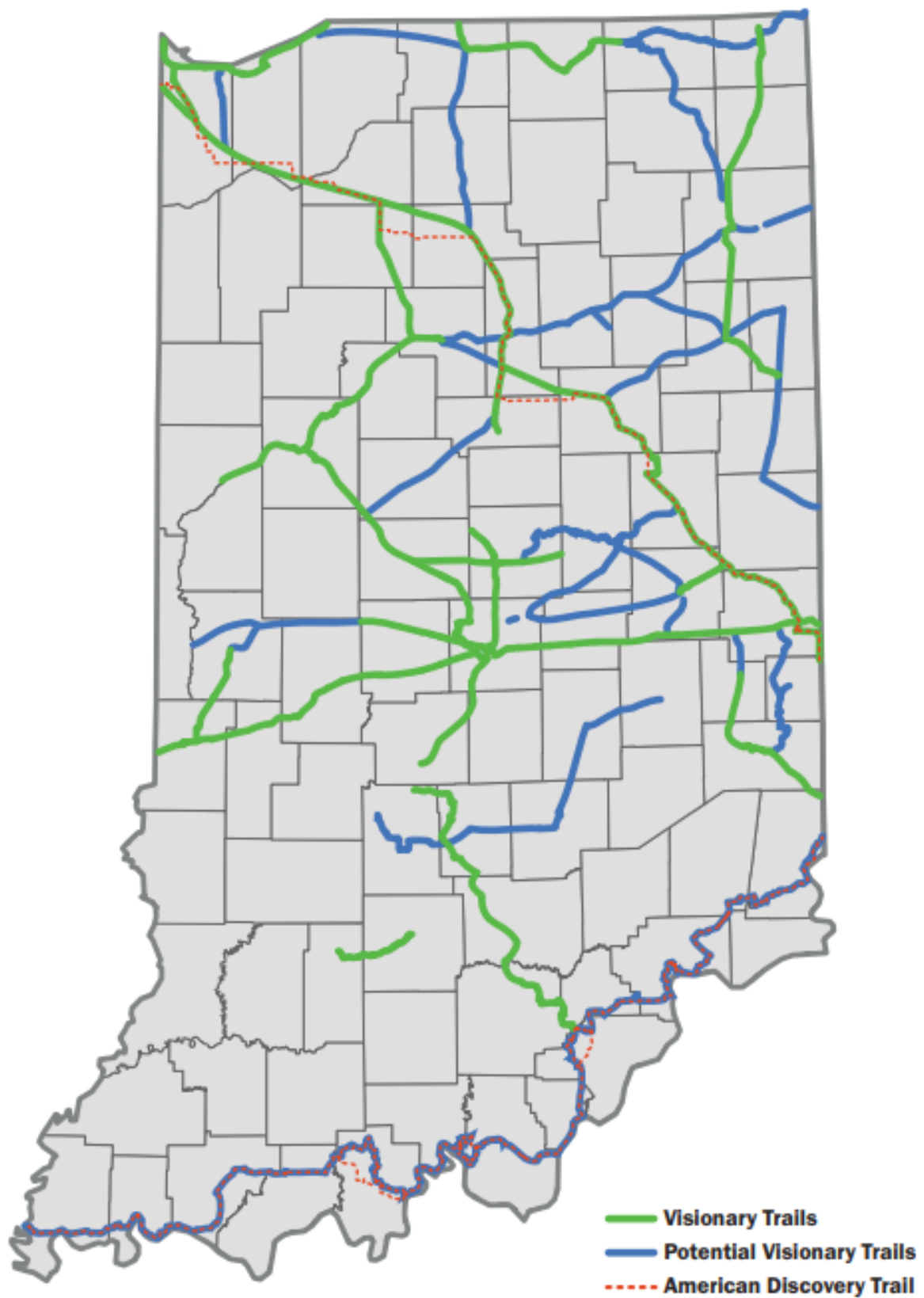
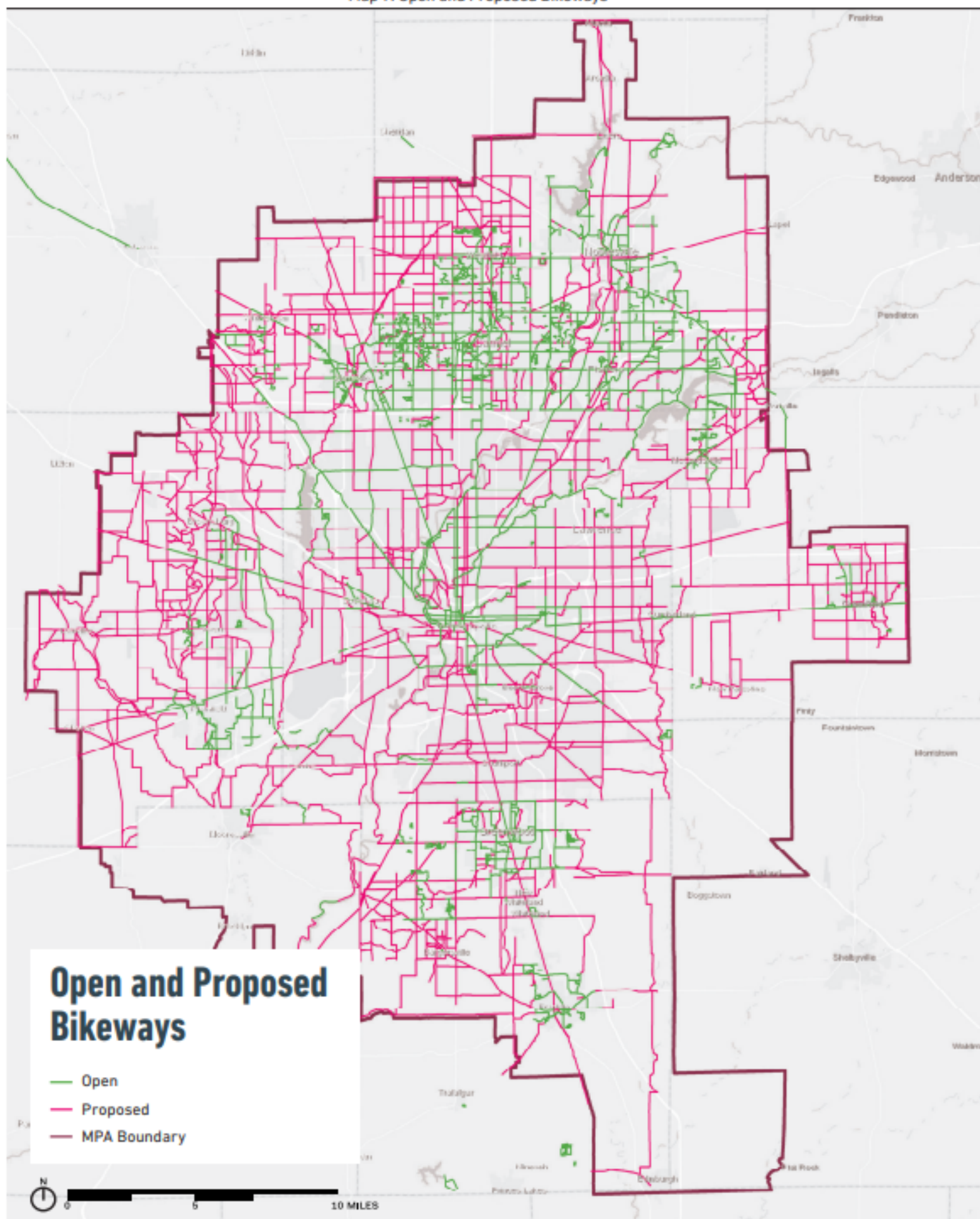


Figure 6.1

2016 INDIANA VISIONARY TRAILS SYSTEM

Map 9: Open and Proposed Bikeways



Existing Pedestrian Network & Gaps

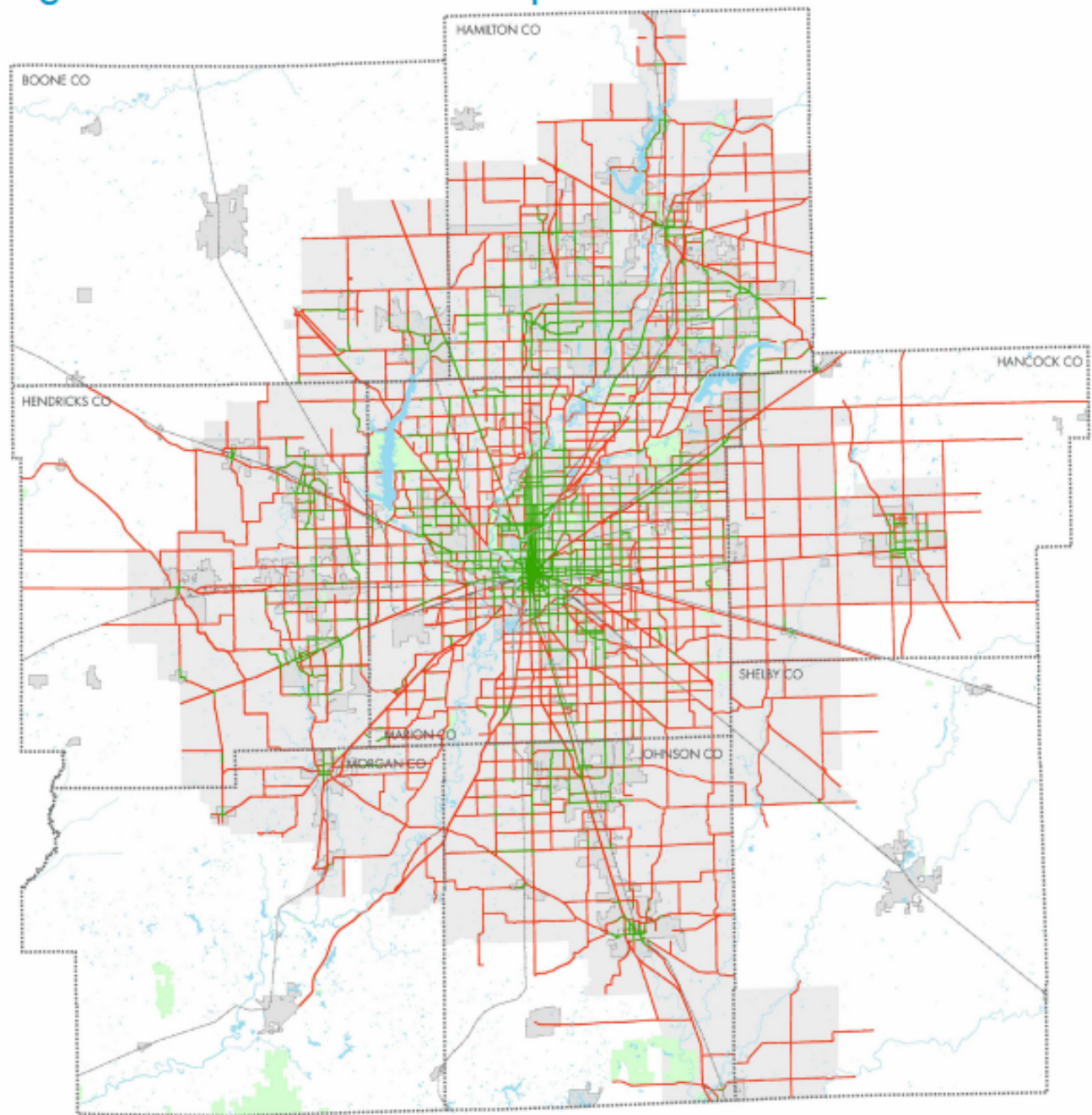


Figure 3-6. Existing Pedestrian Network & Gaps

EXISTING PEDESTRIAN NETWORK & GAPS

SCALE



Miles
0 2.5 5 7.5 10

LEGEND

■ Gaps
■ No Gaps

— Interstates
— Major Streets
— County Lines
— Waterbodies
— Jurisdictions
— MPA

