

THE TOWN OF  
MCCORDSVILLE



five-year  
parks and recreation master plan  
2017-2021





five-year  
parks and recreation master plan  
2017-2021

MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

FIVE-YEAR  
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN  
2017-2021

PREPARED FOR:  
MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
MCCORDSVILLE TOWN HALL  
6280 W 800 N, MCCORDSVILLE, IN 46055  
317-335-3151

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

THIS PLAN WAS PREPARED WITH THE ASSISTANCE, DIRECTION, AND COOPERATION OF THE MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD, INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF MCCORDSVILLE.

# **MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021**

## **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, April 10, 2017, the McCordsville Parks and Recreation Board received the final draft document of the proposed Five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

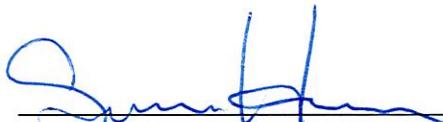
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD, hereby accepts and adopts the final draft document of the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan presented on April 10, 2017, as its official Five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the period of 2017-2021.

Passed and signed this 10th day of April, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald Hill, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Pearson, Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Stewart, Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Summer Harper, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alyson Zelencik, Ex-officio (Library Board)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Branden Williams, Ex-officio (Council Liaison)

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Catherine C. Gardner



table of contents

five-year  
parks and recreation master plan  
2017-2021



# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

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## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

### **1-0 PROJECT INTRODUCTION**

- 1-1 Background
- 1-2 The Planning Process

### **2-0 LOCAL CONTEXT AND DEMOGRAPHICS**

- 2-1 Regional Context
- 2-1 Natural Features and Landscape
- 2-2 Man-made, Historical, and Cultural Features
- 2-3 Demographic Analysis

### **3-0 EXISTING CONDITIONS**

- 3-1 McCordsville Parks and Recreation Board
- 3-3 Study Area Designation and Base Map
- 3-4 McCordsville Park Facilities Base Map
- 3-5 Town Hall Community Park
- 3-7 Town Nature Preserve
- 3-8 School Park
- 3-10 ADA Evaluation
- 3-10 Future Parks Opportunities

### **4-0 RECREATION NEEDS PROFILE**

- 4-1 Trends in Parks and Recreation
- 4-3 Recreation Demand Analysis: Public and Park Board Meetings
- 4-4 Recreation Demand Analysis: Recreation Survey
- 4-6 National Level of Service Requirements: Needs Analysis

### **5-0 PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS/ IMPLEMENTATION**

- 5-1 Mission and Goals of the Parks and Recreation Board
- 5-1 Goals and Recommendations of the Plan
- 5-3 New Facilities Location Map
- 5-4 Multi-Use Path Diagram
- 5-5 Town Hall Park Site Diagram
- 5-6 Five-Year Priority Action Schedule and Associated Costs
- 5-9 Potential Funding Sources

### **A-0 APPENDIX**

- A-1 Master Plan Checklist
- A-2 Park and Recreation Survey
- A-13 Section 504 Compliance Form
- A-14 Supporting Plans
- A-21 Public Meeting Minutes and Newspaper Articles
- A-32 Public Meeting Powerpoint Slides

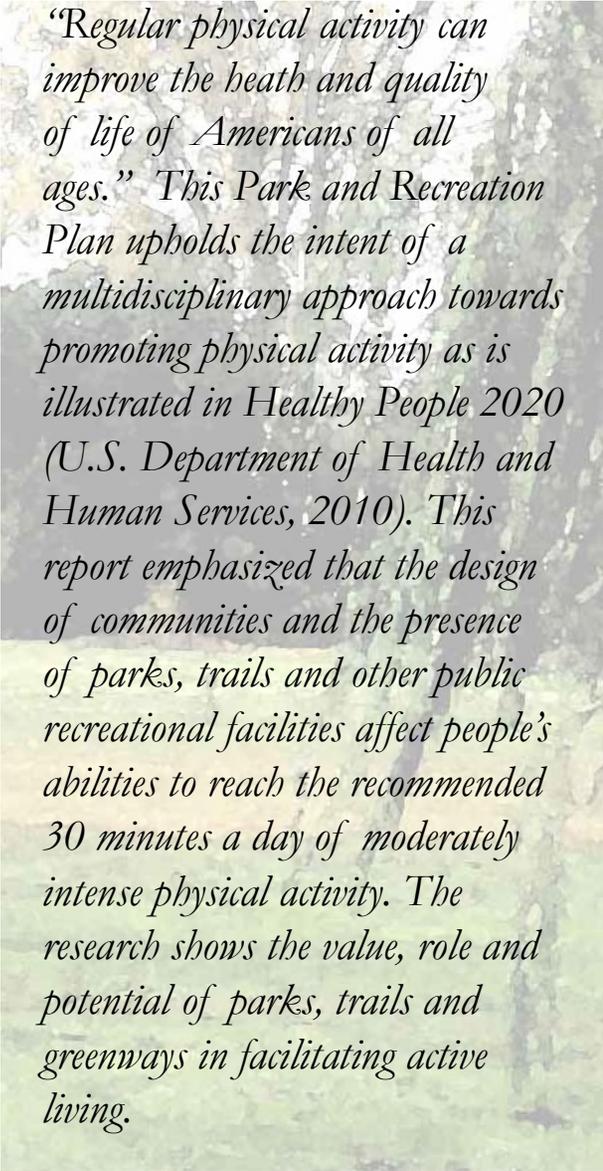




section 1: project introduction

five-year  
parks and recreation master plan  
2017-2021





*“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

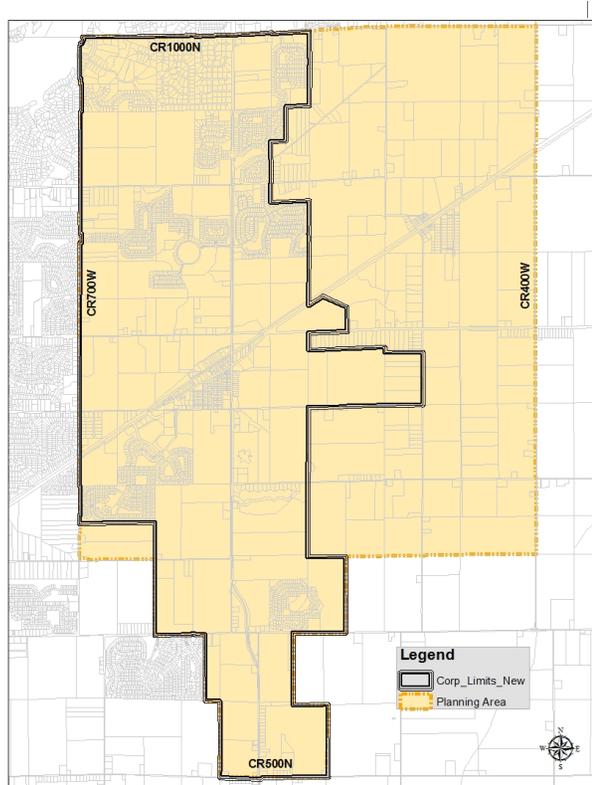
programs and facilities in communities throughout the U.S. have succeeded in engaging their residents in new and unique ways. By bringing people together with common interests, parks are an integral part of a community’s overall framework. As individuals use local parks and recreation facilities and 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.

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA



**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 2017-2021 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 2017-2021 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 2017-2021 Master Plan.

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA



*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.*



*McCordsville currently has two parks, School Park, pictured above left and Town Hall community Park, pictured above right. School Park is a neighborhood park owned and maintained by Vernon Township, 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 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. In addition, a landholding by the town that provides opportunities for park development is explored.

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.

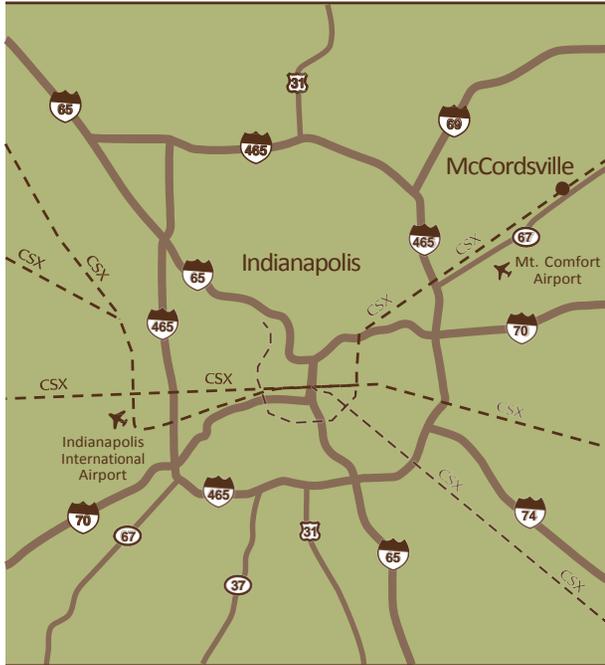
The final phase in the planning process, conceptualization and future development, formed the recommendations of the Master Plan. Goals were adopted, and recommendations for achieving these goals were developed based on identified recreational needs, opportunities, and deficiencies. Needs and deficiencies 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.



section 2: context & demographics

five-year  
parks and recreation master plan  
2017-2021





### Regional Context:

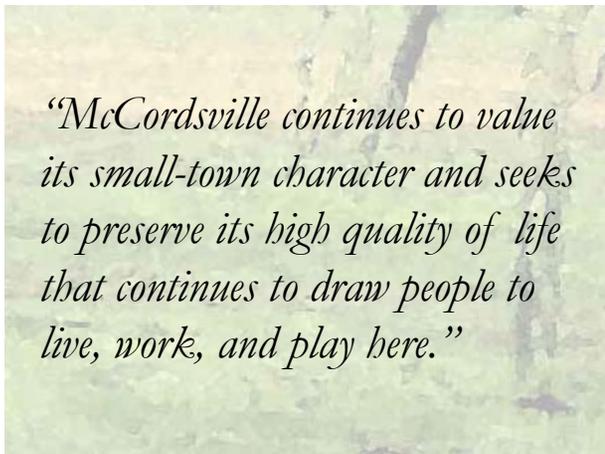
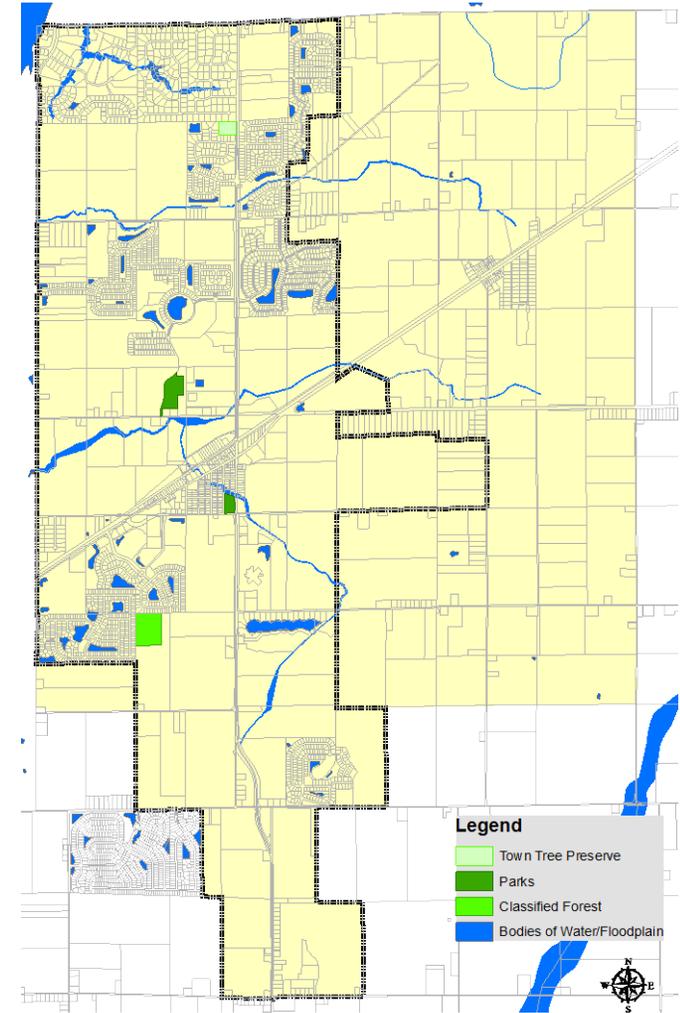
McCordsville, Indiana is a small town located twenty miles northeast of Indianapolis with a population of just under 7,000 residents. McCordsville is positioned in the northwest corner of Hancock County. The Town of McCordsville has seen much change, since its incorporation in 1988. The 2010 Census was very important to McCordsville. 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 2016 the Town estimates our population grew from 4,797 to almost 7,000. 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.”*

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA



*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 topography of the Town 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. Since the 2012 Plan the Town's residential growth has been focused mostly in the northern half of the Town, along CR 600 W. However, it is important to note that since that 2012 plan, zero new subdivisions have been approved. The growth in the Town's population can be attributed to the development of lots in existing subdivisions and the Town's 2015 South District Annexation. The nature features of the newly annexed area are similar to the natural features in the remainder of the Town. Since, 2012 the Town estimates 152 acres of agricultural ground has been developed as single-family residential.

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 as residential subdivisions or retail centers. 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 twenty-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.

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

### 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. Moreover a realignment of County Road 600 West has been identified and supported by the Town Council and adopted by the Hancock County Commissioners. This realignment will create a parkway around McCordsville to allow for better connectivity between Interstate 69 and Interstate 70. As part of this project, additional pedestrian infrastructure has been requested to further pedestrian connectivity. 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 is currently in design on an intersection project at CR 600 W and SR 67 that will include a pedestrian crosswalk, with pedestrian signal head. 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/through the railroad tracks will be needed.

### Trails

Currently, the Town has no continuous trail system. However, the Town built its first trail

along CR 600 W in 2015. The 2011 McCordsville Comprehensive Plan includes specifications for multi-use trails and sidewalks along new roadways throughout the Town. This is further illustrated in the Street Standards Section within the 2011 Subdivision Control Ordinance, the 2011 Zoning Ordinance and within the Town Engineering Standards. These specifications should continue to be enforced to ensure a safe, off road route for pedestrians and bicyclists to navigate throughout the community. These connections are critical in maintaining a small town atmosphere and should be considered just as important as new roads. The Town has taken further steps to place priority on trails by developing their own Multi-Use Paths Connectivity Plan (A-11). 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. School Park located at CR 750 N and CR 600 W is owned by Vernon Township and is operated by the Township Trustee. This park is not the responsibility of the Town of McCordsville nor its Park Board, yet it 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. It is owned and operated by the Town.

### 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 2010 U.S. Census, the 2011 McCordsville Comprehensive Plan, Town permit data, and the American Community Survey.

### Population Trends

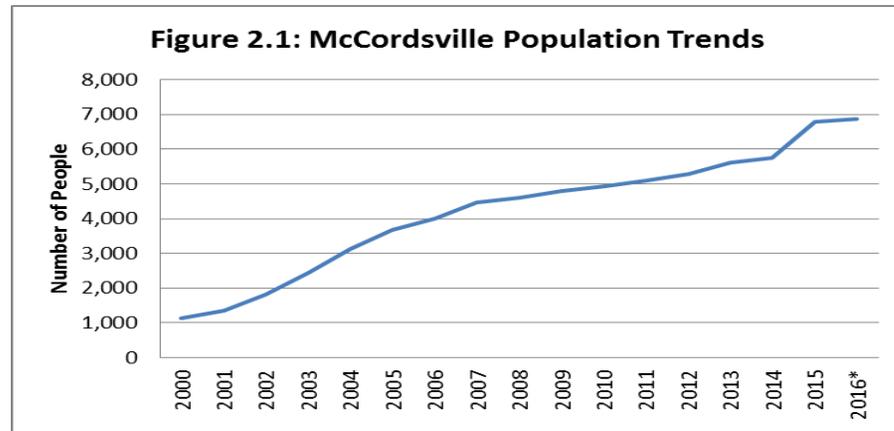
Examining the population characteristics in a community helps to identify a Town's growth patterns. These patterns help to identify the different population groups in the community with their various recreational needs. Furthermore, understanding the population characteristics will help determine the 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 tripled in only ten years.

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

The 2010 Census showed our population to be 4,797 persons based upon an 80% return rate. The Census conducted an estimate in 2015 which pegged the Town's population at 5,773. Our internal estimates which take the number of existing rooftops (2260) times the average household size (2.9 according to Census data) plus population counts from apartments yields a population of 6,874 at the end of May 2016. This growth trend in McCordsville from 2000 to 2016 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 1134 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. The trends in the county also help to illustrate this growth. Hancock County has grown at a rate of 26% between 2000 and 2010 as compared to Indiana as a whole with only a 7% change. This is shown in Figure 2.2: State and County Population Trends. This peak in population is due to the growth of Indianapolis and the continued expansion of residents outward away from the city. 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, Town of McCordsville Rooftop Counts, and Apartment Occupancy 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. \*Denotes end of May 2016.

**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
2015 Estimate	72,520	6,619,680
2000-2010 Change	26%	7%
2010-2015 Change	4%	2%

Source: US Census Bureau

**Figure 2.3:**  
**Hancock Co. City & Town Populations**

	McCordsville	Cumberland*	Fortville	Greenfield	New Palestine	Shirley	Spring Lake	Wilkinson
1990	684	4,557	2,690	11,657	671	817	216	446
2000	1,134	5,500	3,444	14,600	1,264	806	262	356
2010	4,797	5,169	3,929	20,602	2,055	830	218	449
2015 Estimate	5,773	5,467	3,957	21,497	2,221	827	217	447
2000-2010 Change	323%	-6%	14%	41%	63%	3%	-17%	26%
2010-2015 Change	20%	6%	1%	4%	8%	0%	0%	0%

Source: US Census Bureau

\*Excludes Marion Co. population

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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 much larger population growth from 1990 to 2015 as compared to other communities in the county. These population trends indicate that McCordsville is attracting more people than its neighboring towns. 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.

Land Use Category	Max. Density	Acres	Housing Units	Population per Unit	Population
<b>Rural Residential</b>	0.50	588	294	2.9	853
<b>Low Density Residential</b>	0.90	3,970	3,573	2.9	10,362
<b>Low-Medium Density Residential</b>	1.99	592	1,178	2.9	3,416
<b>Medium Density Residential</b>	2.49	324	807	2.9	2,340
<b>Medium-High Density Residential</b>	2.99	37	111	2.9	321
<b>Mixed-Use<sup>±</sup></b>	3.50	115	401	2.9	1,162
<b>Total Residential Acres</b>	-	<b>5,626</b>	<b>6,363</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>18,453</b>
± 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
<b>Rural Residential</b>	0.00	588	0	2.9	0
<b>Low Density Residential</b>	0.51	3,970	2,025	2.9	5,872
<b>Low-Medium Density Residential</b>	1.00	592	592	2.9	1,717
<b>Medium Density Residential</b>	2.00	324	648	2.9	1,879
<b>Medium-High Density Residential</b>	2.50	37	93	2.9	268
<b>Mixed-Use<sup>±</sup></b>	3.00	57	172	2.9	498
<b>Total Residential Acres</b>	-	<b>5,568</b>	<b>3,529</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>10,234</b>
± 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

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

**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	2.90
2000-2010 Change	0%	-3%

Source: US Census Bureau

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.

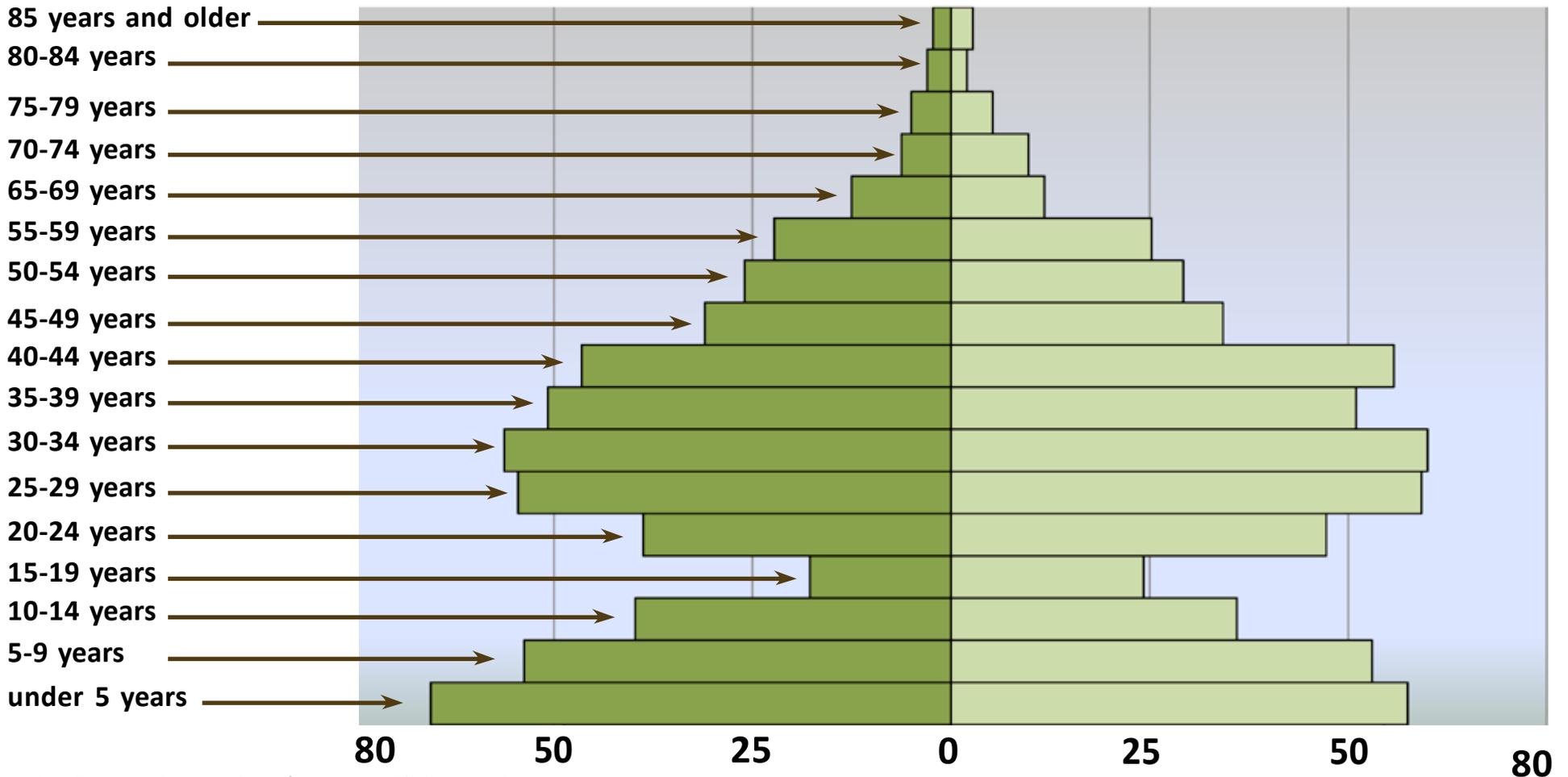
Overall, the population pyramid is an indicator of a healthy local community because of the high numbers of families and youth. McCordsville is a place where families value the high quality of life that the Town has to offer and where people are settling down to raise families. These numbers validate 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.

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

## 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

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

### 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.

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 Census may provide some valuable data regarding this generation and its effects on household size, homeownership, etc.

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. The 2011 McCordsville rooftop count further reinforces this trend. This high rate of

ownership is indicative of a stable and growing community that is attractive to homeowners.

**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

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

### 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 Castleton 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.

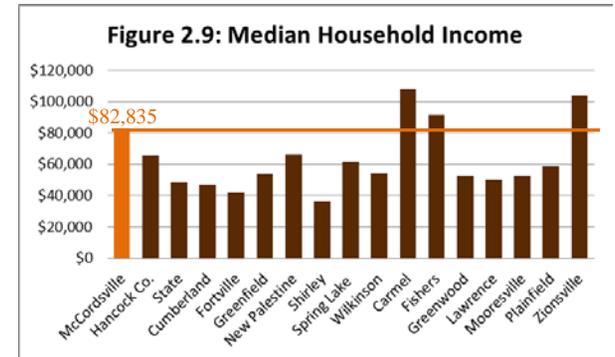
The same is true for recreation services. Currently, McCordsville's current park and recreation infrastructure is not meeting the needs of its citizens. Therefore, local residents are forced to go to other communities to meet their recreation needs. A Town such as McCordsville with a thriving and growing economy that is demanding more and more economic conveniences will eventually demand more parks services as well, lest it will lose its "customers". 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 2014 American Community Survey the median household income for McCordsville was \$82,835. This is higher than the median household income for Hancock County (\$65,517). The dominant occupations of McCordsville employees are in the service industry based on 2009 US Bureau of Economic Analysis Information.



### Employment by Industry for Hancock County 2009

Government & Education	11.8%
Retail Trade	10.6%
Construction	8.1%
Professional & Technical Services	8.0%
Health care & Social Services	7.1%
Manufacturing	7.0%
Accommodation & Food Service	5.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	3.7%
Wholesale Trade	3.0%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2.7%
Information	1.8%
Other Private	28.0%

### Figure 2.10: Employment by Industry

Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis (3.4% Margin of Error) Totals do not include county data that are not available due to BEA non-disclosure requirements.

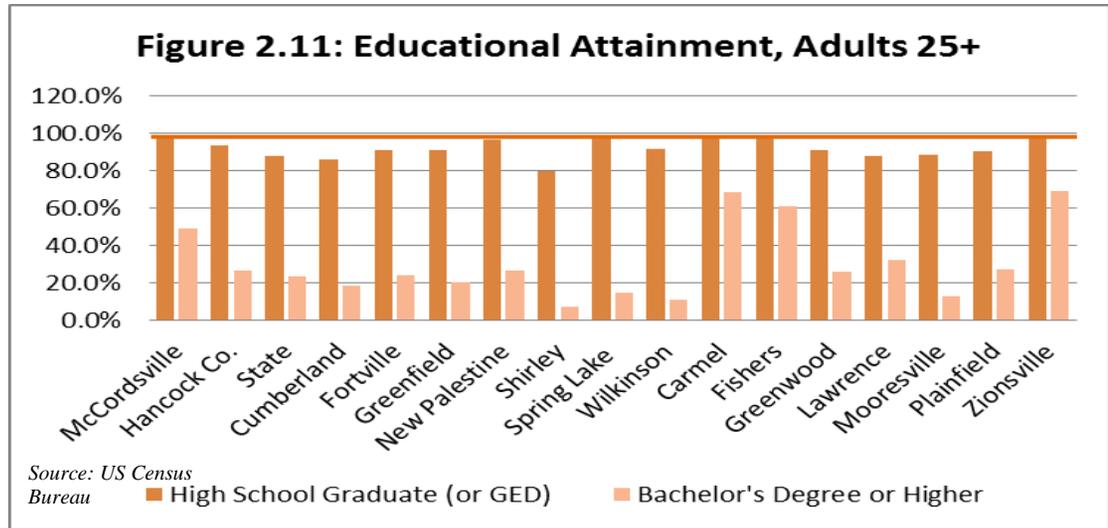
The higher number of persons in these service based industries is due to the national trend of the shifting from a manufacturing-based economy to a service-based economy. A high median income and a shift towards the service sector is typical of bedroom communities to large cities, and indicates a strong local economy.

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

## 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 98.2 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 87.6 percent. When it comes to higher education, the percentage of people in the McCordsville (49 percent) who have achieved a bachelor's degree or higher is more than those in Hancock County (26.7 percent) and the State (23.6 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.



**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 2010 Census, roughly ten percent of people in McCordsville stated they had one of the six types of disabilities categorized by the Census Bureau. 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  
parks and recreation master plan  
2017-2021





*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.*

## 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

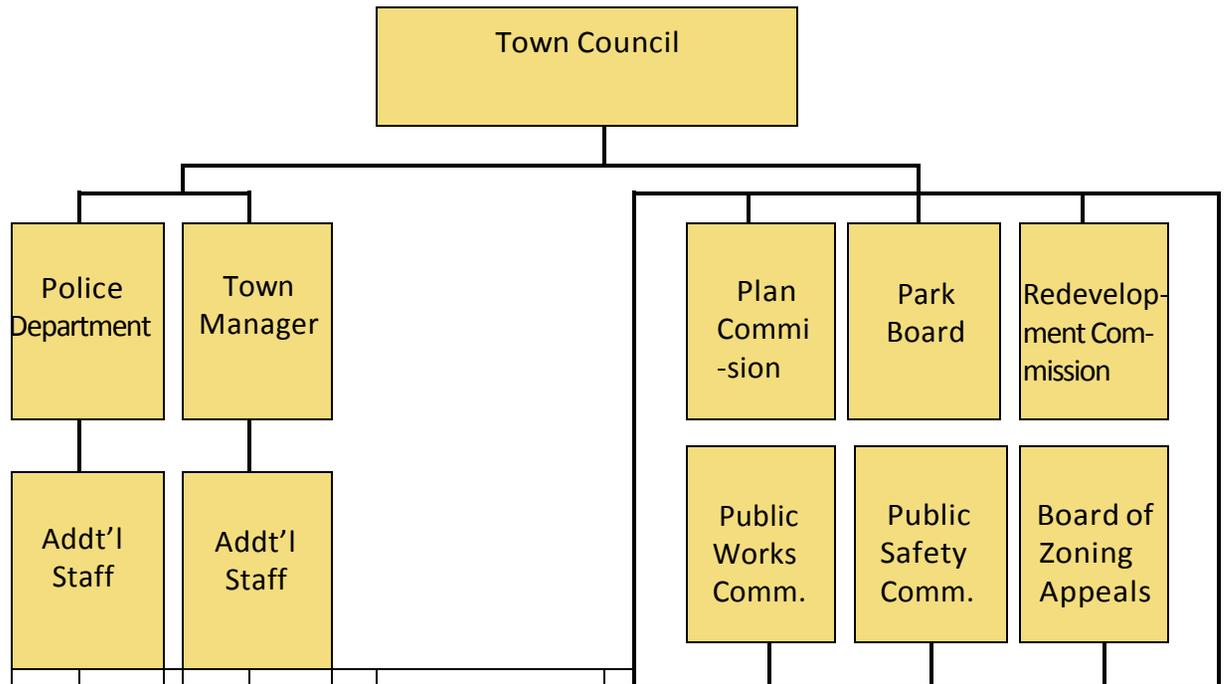


Figure 3.1: McCordsville Organizational Structure

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

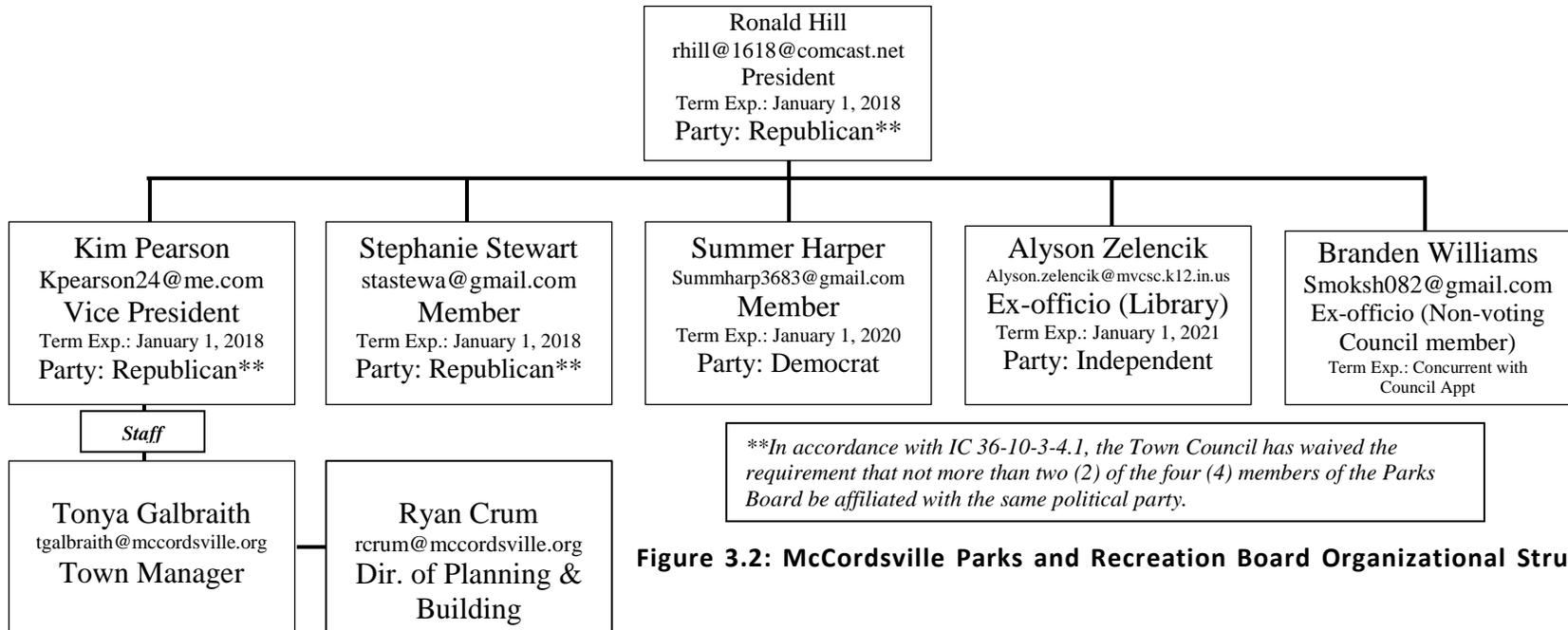
## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

### Park Budget:

The Park Board was allocated \$11,000 by the Town of McCordsville to develop this update to the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2006. No money will be expended for the 2017-2021 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 sixteen years is shown in the table to the right.

Parks and Recreation Budget					
<u>Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
2001	\$9,000	\$0	2009	\$5,000	\$1,380
2002	\$15,000	\$0	2010	\$1,000	\$0
2003	\$5,000	\$156	2011	\$1,296	\$0
2004	\$5,000	\$4,010	2012	\$0	\$0
2005	\$5,000	\$0	2013	\$10,000	\$46,303
2006	\$5,000	\$1,278	2014	\$10,000	\$5,896
2007	\$21,500	\$11,667	2015	\$15,000	\$15,000
2008	\$11,000	\$1,762	2016	\$20,000	\$11,691.60

\*Funding for Grant Matches and/or Self-Funding of the Town's Multi-use Path has been included in the 5 year Capital Projects Budget.



**Figure 3.2: McCordsville Parks and Recreation Board Organizational Structure**

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

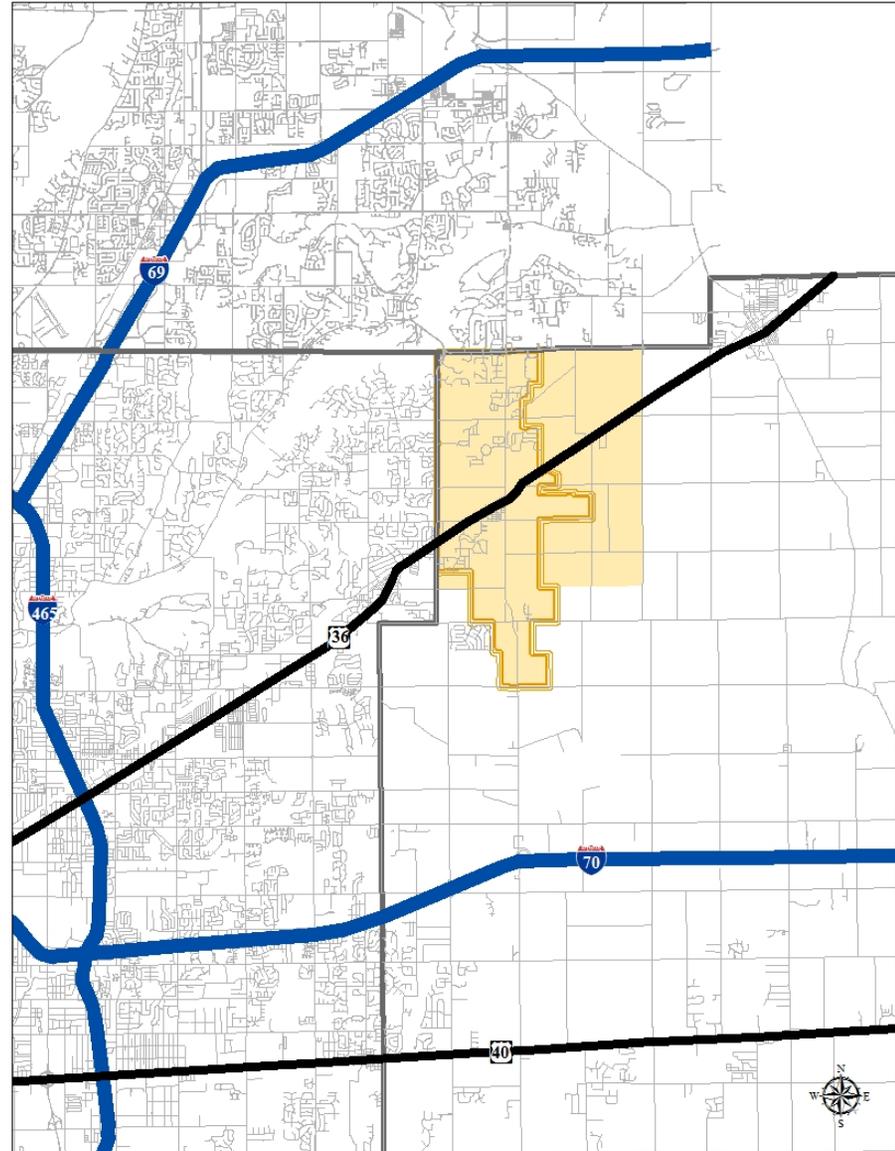
### Study Area Designation and Base Map:

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 6.5 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



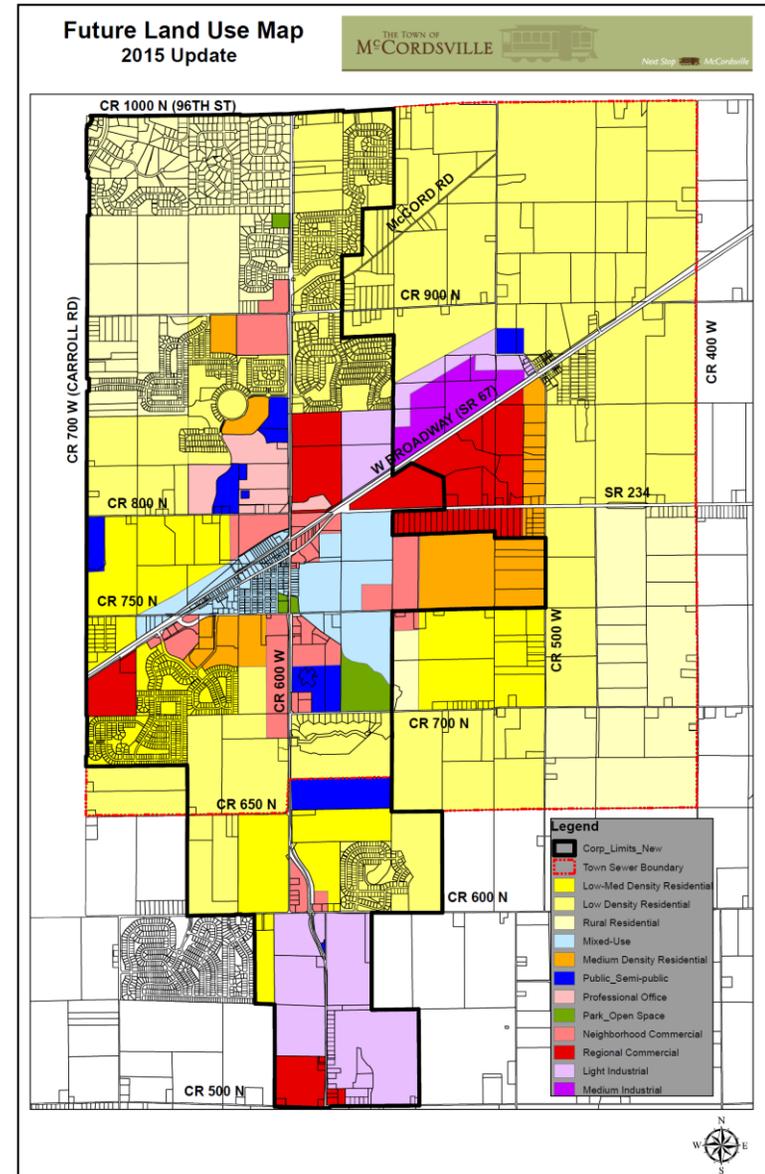
# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

## McCordsville Existing Park Facilities Base Map:

The Town of McCordsville has one park property, Town Hall Community Park, under its jurisdiction. Additionally, Vernon Township has one park, School Park, under its jurisdiction within the Town limits. The Town also owns a tree preserve along the westside of CR 600 W just south of Highland Springs. The map to the right shows those locations, as well illustrates the future land uses expected 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: McCordsville Existing Park Facilities & Future Land Use Map





# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

## 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



# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

### **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



# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

### **Vernon Township Park (School Park):**

Located in the heart of Downtown McCordsville, School Park, is a public park run by the Vernon Township Trustee. There are no plans to change the ownership or operation of 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.



*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.*

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

## 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	



# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

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## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

### **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 Town Hall Community Park did not have an identified ADA parking space adjacent to the park. That has been added to the Action Plan.

### **Accomplishments of the 2012-2016 Plan:**

Over the course of the past six years, the Parks and Recreation board has accomplished some objectives from its previous Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Town has brought its first park, Town Hall Community Park on-line, and we have finished phase I of a multi-use path along CR 600 W.

### **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.

The board intends to continue to grow and to expand linear parkland. The 2017-2021 Plan Update specifically incorporates new riparian corridor trails into the master plan and the Multi-use Path Connectivity Plan (see appendix). Sidewalks and trails are an important component of the Town's transportation and recreation facilities. The expansion and future development of these types of facilities goes hand in hand with the goals of this plan and the Comprehensive Plan.

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.



section 4: recreation needs profile

five-year  
parks and recreation master plan  
2017-2021



*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)

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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 2016-2020 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 1996 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 26 years.

The SCORP also shows that residents are only willing to travel so far to reach their favorite outdoor recreation activity. According to the SCORP survey, 62% of people are willing to travel only 0-5 miles to participate in their favorite outdoor recreation activity. This metric shows that it is important to develop recreational infrastructure in McCordsville, and not be reliant on surrounding communities to provide such opportunities for us.

**Figure 4.1: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Activity Trends**

	1989	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
1	Picnicking	Hiking/ Walking/ Jogging	Hiking/ Walking/ Jogging	Hiking/ Walking/ Jogging	Hiking/ Walking/ Jogging	Hiking/ Walking/ Jogging
2	Pleasure Driving	Picnicking	Camping	Fairs/ Festivals	Camping	Camping
3	Walking	Swimming	Fishing	Swimming/ SCUBA/ Snorkeling	Picnicking	Fishing
4	Swimming	Camping	Fairs/ Festivals	Nature Observation/ Photography	Fishing	Swimming
5	Fishing	Fishing/ Hunting	Picnicking	Camping	Swimming	Canoeing, Kayaking, Paddle sports
6	Bicycling	Bicycling	Swimming/ SCUBA/ Snorkeling	Fishing	Boating/ Water Skiing/ personal watercraft	Bicycling
7	Camping	Boating	Nature Observation	Picnicking	Golf	Hunting
8	Nature Observation	Nature Observation	Bicycling	Bicycling	Bicycling	Fairs/Festivals, Outdoor concerts
9	Motor Boating	Play- ground Use	Boating/ Water Skiing/ personal watercraft	Motorized vehicle use	Hunting	Boating, Water skiing, Sailing
10	Golf		Play- ground Use	Boating/ Water Skiing/ personal watercraft	Horseback Riding	Off-road Motorized Use

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

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## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

### **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: February 8, 2016**

A McCordsville Parks Board Public Meeting was held on February 8, 2016 at 6:00pm at the Town Hall and was announced on the Town's website as well as the local newspaper. Members present were Max Meise, Summer Harper, and Kim Pearson. Ron Hill, Jack O'Boyle and Stephanie Stewart were absent. The update for the 2017-2021 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: April 11, 2016**

A McCordsville Parks Board Public Meeting was held on April 11, 2016 at 6:00pm at the Town Hall and was announced on the Town's website as well as the local newspaper. Members present were Ronald Hill, Kim Pearson, Summer Harper, Stephanie Stewart and Max Meise. Jack O'Boyle was absent. Staff

provided a detail overview of the current 5-year plan. Staff also shared the results, thus far, of the parks survey, and a public hearing for the parks plan update was scheduled for the June 13<sup>th</sup> Parks Board meeting.

#### **Parks Board Work Session 3: June 13, 2016**

A McCordsville Parks Board Public Meeting was held on June 13, 2016 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 Ron Hill, Kim Pearson, Stephanie Stewart, Summer Harper, and Max Meise. Staff provided an overview of the updates to the Parks Master Plan thus far. Those updates have focused on Chapters 1-3. Staff is still working on Chapters 4-5 and completing due diligence on the needs profile, which has not been updated since 1990.

The results of the public survey have been compiled and were shared with the Board. A total of 507 surveys were collected. 80% of respondents would like to see more trails and 25% would like exercise classes. There was some favorable reaction to the concept of increases in taxes to help pay for parks and trails.

#### **Parks Board Work Session 4: August 8, 2016**

A McCordsville Parks Board Public Meeting was held on August 8, 2016 at 6:00pm at the Town Hall and was announced on the Town's website as well as the local newspaper. Members present were Ron Hill, Kim Pearson, and Stephanie Stewart. The Board reviewed the changes suggested by staff for Chapters 4-5, and discussed further revisions. Some discussion revolved around comparing benchmarks of ourselves to other jurisdictions of our size. The difference in spending between the Town and other jurisdictions was highlighted.

#### **Parks Board Work Session 5: October 10, 2016**

A McCordsville Parks Board Public Meeting was held on October 10, 2016 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 Summer Harper, Stephanie Stewart, Alyson Zelencik, and Branden Williams. The draft plan was presented to the Board. There were five (5) members from the public in attendance. There was no public comment and the Board requested the plan be sent to them for review.

#### **Parks Board Work Session 6: April 10, 2017**

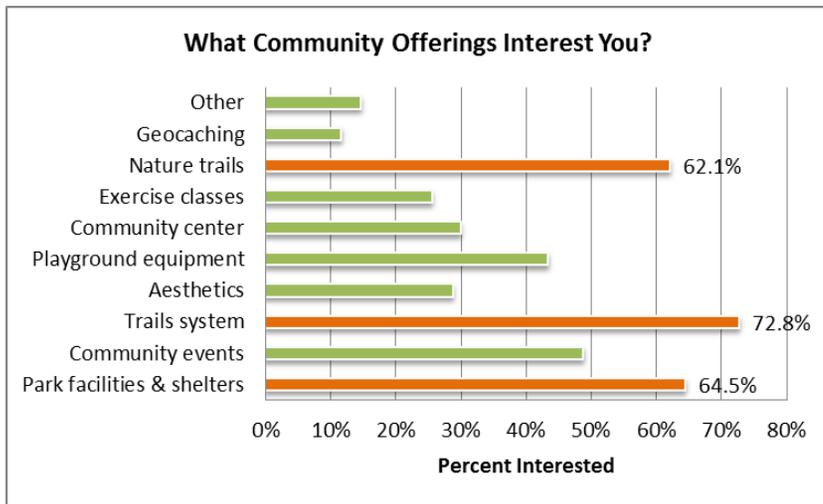
The final draft document is on the agenda for approval by the Board.

## Recreation Demand Analysis: Recreation Survey

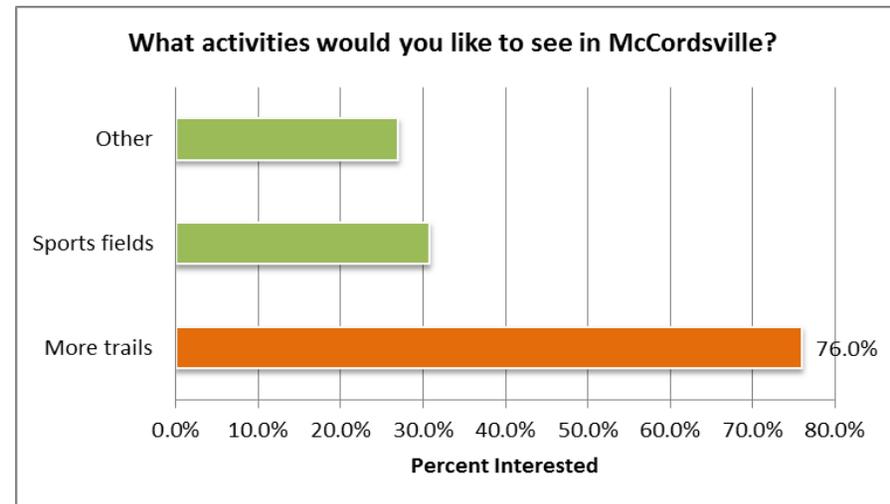
To gain an understanding of the local community’s desires and vision for McCordsville’s parks and recreation a survey was conducted in the spring of 2016. The survey was an on-line survey which the Town pushed-out on various social media platforms, our website, and through the press. A full copy of the survey is available in the appendix. A paper version of the survey was also available at Town Hall. All paper survey results received were uploaded to Survey Monkey by staff.

We received a total of 507 responses. More than 62% of the respondents were women. The highest age cohort responding was 35-44 year olds, making up 28% of the responses. Just over 58% of respondents reported having at least 1 child in their home. Of those with children in the home, over 50% of those children were aged 0-6. The following Figures show some results of the survey.

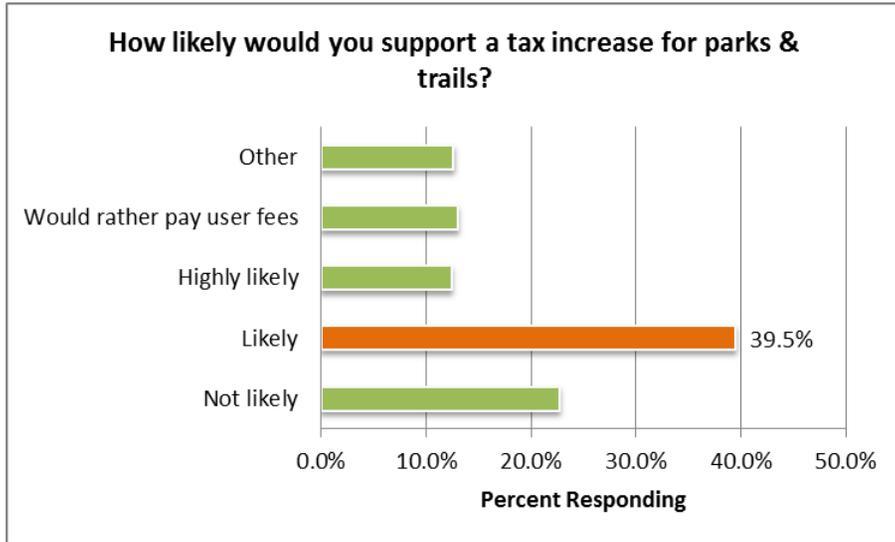
**Figure 4.2: Community Interest**



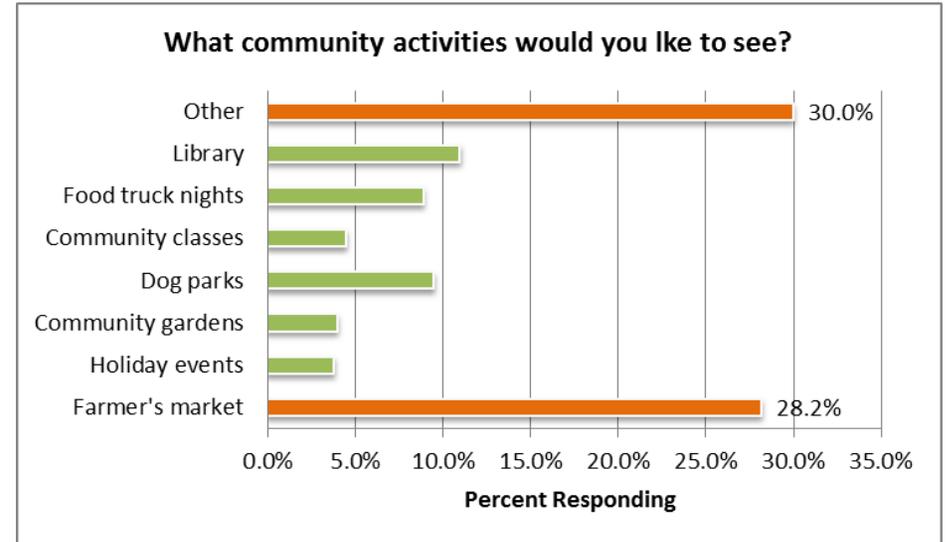
**Figure 4.3: Activity Interest**



**Figure 4.4: Funding Increase**



**Figure 4.5: Community Activities**



The survey results show that trails and park facilities are in demand for Town residents. Additionally, activities such as farmer’s markets, are also high on residents wish list. In Figure 4.5 the most common *Other* responses were some combination of the listed activities. 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 2012 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.

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

### 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>	791	2,156	1,335	2,291
<i>Acres of Park/1,000 Residents</i>	4.5	18.3	10.6	1.7

*Standards from the National Recreation and Park Association's 2016 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>	3,560	6,874	<i>Residents per Football Field</i>	25,523	None
<i>Residents per Basketball Courts</i>	7,000	6,874	<i>Residents per Youth Soccer</i>	6,671	None
<i>Residents per Adult Softball</i>	12,463	6,874	<i>Residents per Adult Soccer</i>	12,365	None
<i>Residents per Tennis Court</i>	4,295	6,874	<i>Residents per Tee-ball</i>	12,771	None
<i>Residents per Youth Softball</i>	9,687	6,874	<i>Residents per Multi-use Court</i>	13,736	None
<i>Residents per Youth Baseball</i>	6,599	6,874	<i>Residents per Ice rink</i>	16,572	None
<i>Residents per Swimming Pool</i>	34,686	None	<i>Residents per Lacrosse Field</i>	26,639	None
<i>Residents per Multi-purpose fields</i>	8,060	3,437	<i>Residents per Cricket Field</i>	199,199	None
<i>Residents per Community Garden</i>	32,376	None	<i>Residents per Multi-purpose synthetic</i>	34,915	None
<i>Residents per Tot lot</i>	12,112	None	<i>Residents per Field Hocket</i>	22,767	None
<i>Residents per Dog park</i>	43,183	None	<i>Residents per Overlay Field</i>	7,257	None
<i>Residents per Adult Baseball</i>	19,694	None			

*Standards from the National Recreation and Park Association's 2016 Field Report.*

Indoor Facilities	
<i>Residents per Rec Center</i>	26,650
<i>Residents per Gym</i>	26,418
<i>Residents per Community Center</i>	30,000
<i>Residents per Senior Center</i>	49,500
<i>Residents per amphitheatre</i>	45,817
<i>Residents per Fitness Center</i>	39,765
<i>Residents per Nature Center</i>	114,620
<i>Residents per Stadium</i>	57,051
<i>Residents per Ice rink</i>	28,500
<i>Residents per Teen center</i>	62,700
<i>Residents per Track</i>	49,715
<i>Residents per Arena</i>	57,637

### **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. The median 5-year capital budget expenditure for jurisdictions serving less than 20,000 people is \$547,000. Since, 2011, the Town has spent \$67,199 on the park system, and that number includes park events and programming expenses. In 2016, the Town's Capital Projects plan called for \$20,000 in parks funding (includes programming & event costs). Over a 5-year period that is \$100,000. 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.

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.

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

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## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

### **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.

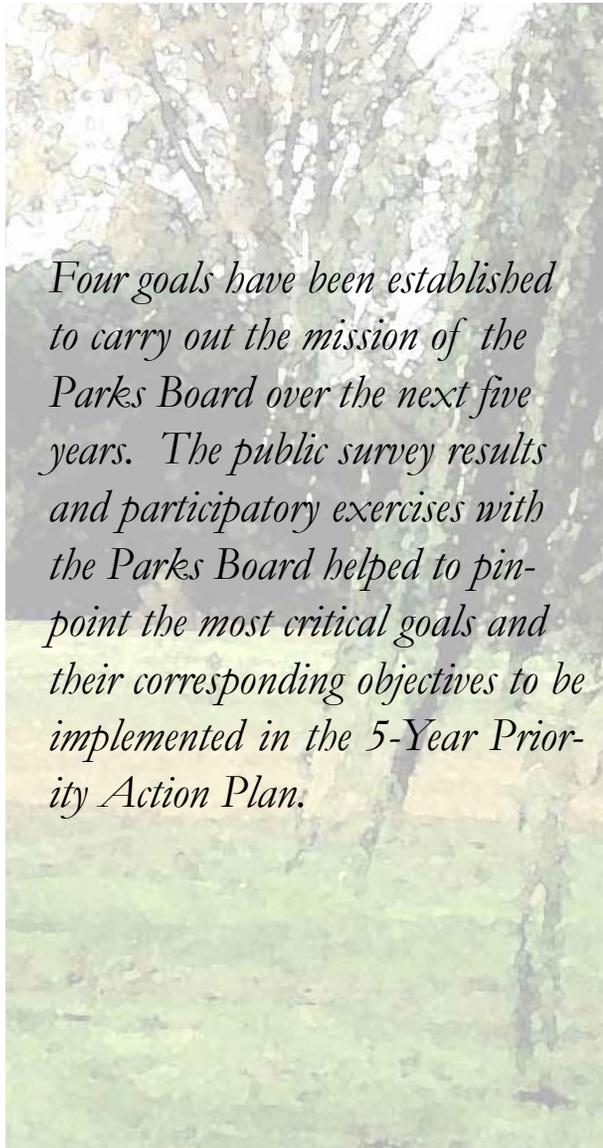
Indiana’s SCORP goes on to create its own level of service benchmarks, relevant upon 3 levels of parks: Local, State/Fed, and Total (Statewide). The SCORP recommends a LOS of 20 acres of local outdoor recreation per 1,000 people. Local recreation areas are defined as those owned and operated by a county, 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 or Federal Government. The 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1,439.56 acres of local recreation lands. The current total, according to the SCORP is 552.5, leaving the County with a shortfall of 887 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 it is growing faster than the State.



section 5: plan recommendations

five-year  
parks and recreation master plan  
2017-2021





*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.**

- Make trail planning a major priority of the Parks Board for the next five years.
- Continue acquiring right-of-way, where necessary, for the implementation of the Town's Multi-use Paths Connectivity Plan.
- Develop and implement a phased schedule of the Town's Multi-use Paths Connectivity Plan.
- Continue Coordinating with other municipalities to make regional pedestrian links in order to connect to the greater Indianapolis Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan.
- Utilize a consistent design on all new trail projects.

### **Goal #2: Develop a strategy of funding sources.**

- Continue seeking grants and outside funding.
- Develop a budget that includes funds for "matches" for grants to leverage the possibility of grant awards.
- Continue to submit grant applications for new parks and trail development.

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

- Develop a list and map of prime future parkland areas for possible acquisition. This list should be updated annually during a Park Board Discussion.
- Continue to monitor prime open space for development of a community park in the town.

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

- Collaborate with property owners and work with developers to secure easements for trails along stream corridors.

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

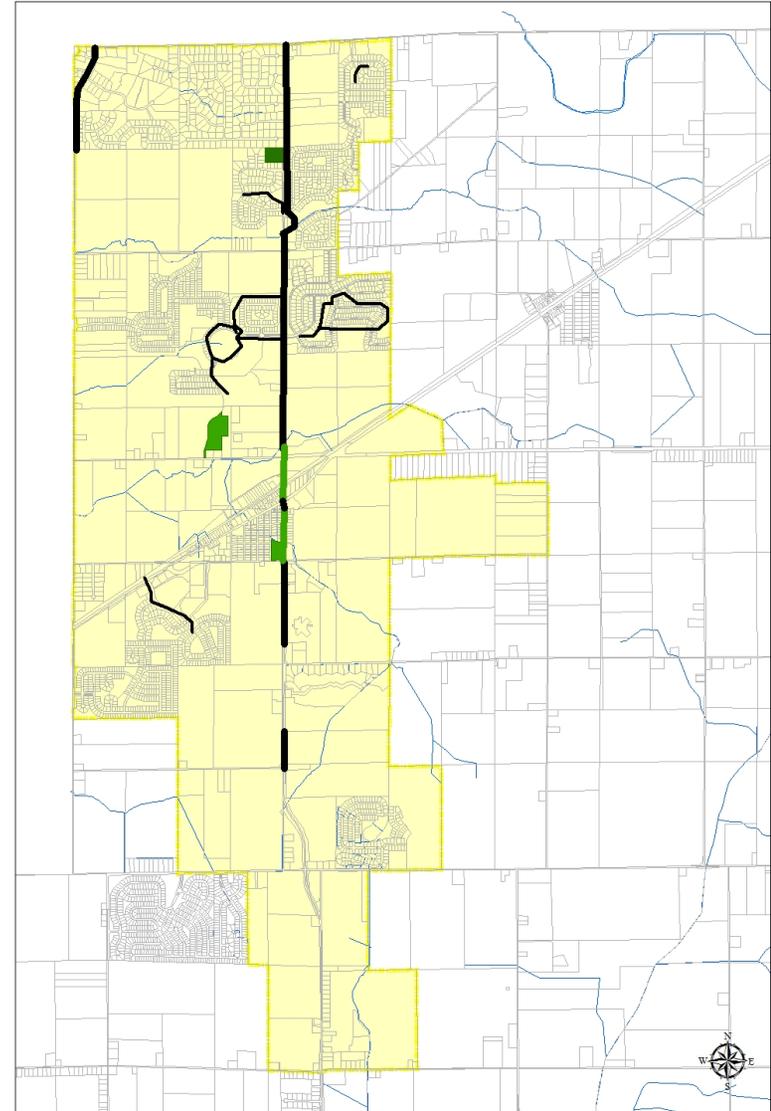
- Seek partnerships to aid in land acquisition, and parks and trail development within the community.
- Develop a volunteer base of invested community members.

### **New Facilities Location Map:**

The map to the right illustrates the existing parks, existing multi-use paths, and proposed paths listed on the Town's 2016-2023 Capital Projects Plan. The two proposed path segments are both along CR600W and are phases 3 and 4 of the Town's multi-phased approach to the multi-use path along CR600W. Once these segments are completed the three main pedestrian barriers along CR600W, the Schulz Ditch, SR 67, and the railroad tracks will have safe pedestrian crossings.

### **LEGEND**

- Existing Multi-use Path
- Existing Subdivision Path
- Multi-use Paths on 2016-2023 Capital Projects Plan
- Stream
- Existing Park
- Existing Nature Preserve

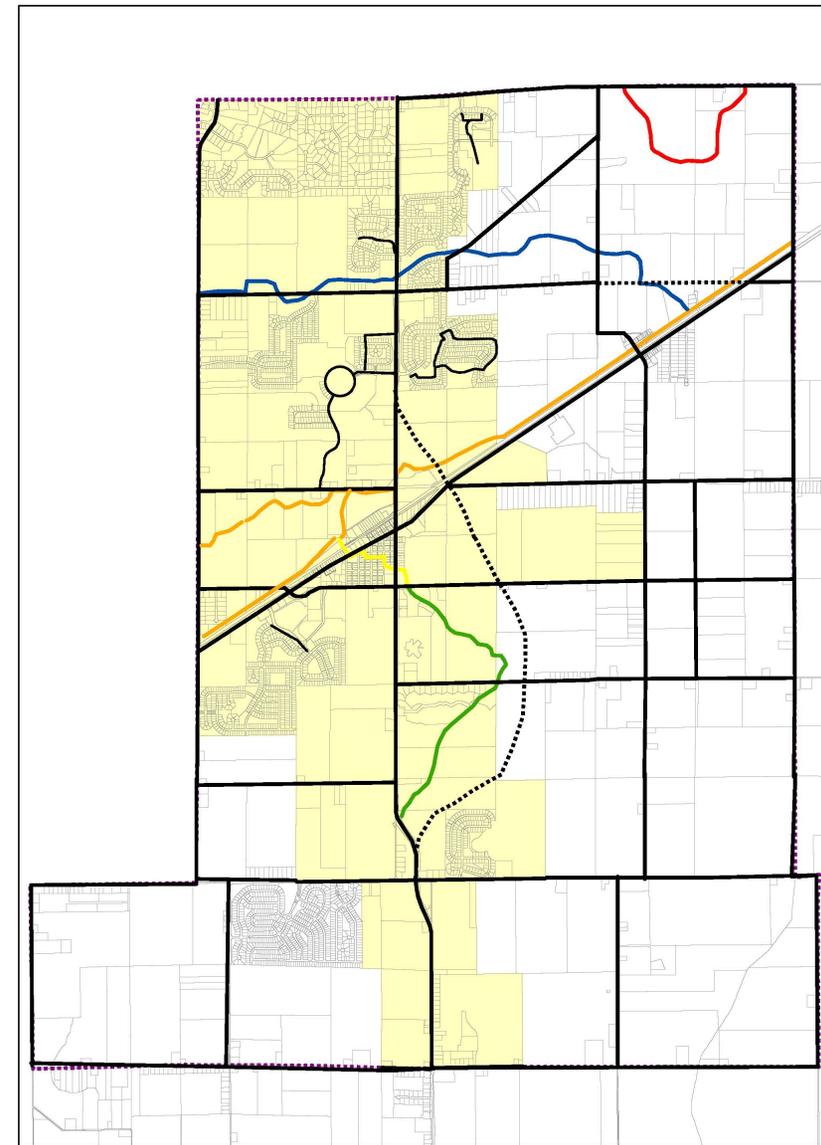


### Connectivity Plan



### Connectivity Plan:

The map to the right is the Town's Connectivity Plan. The map has been updated to include trails along the Town's major stream corridors in an effort to provide more linear recreation opportunities and facilitate off-street pedestrian and bicycle connections. The Town will seek to acquire easement for these stream corridor paths by collaborating with property owners and ensuring new development provides easements and builds adjacent trail segments. Town staff shall work to require easement dedication for these stream trails during the platting process of new development, much like is currently done for right-of-dedication, and the trail infrastructure shall be built during the construction phase of the development at the developers expense. The map also illustrates the location of multi-use paths along all collector and arterial roadways, as detailed by the Subdivision Control Ordinance. A legend is below.



- Dry Branch/Interurban Trail
- Village Boardwalk Trail
- North Fork Trail
- Stansbury Trail
- Bee Camp Trail



### LEGEND

- Multi-use Path along a Local-Collector, Collector or Arterial Rd
- Multi-use Path along a Local Street or within a subdivision
- Multi-use Path along North Fork Creek
- Multi-use Path along Dry Branch Creek/Interurban Trail
- Multi-use Path along Stansbury Ditch
- Multi-use Path along Old Town Ditch
- Multi-use Path along Bee Camp Creek

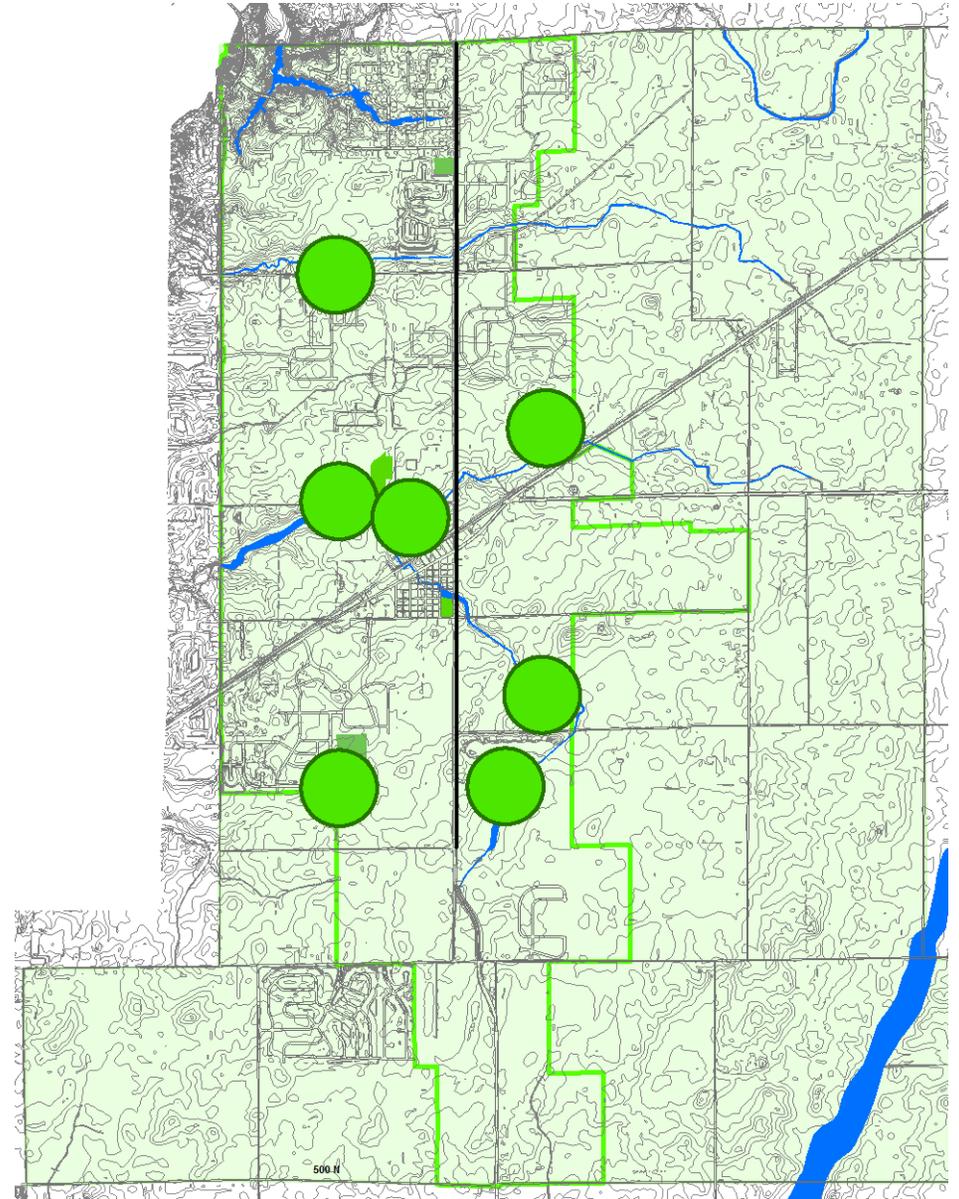
# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

## 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 2017-2021

## 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
<b>2017</b>	Seek Town Council approval of the updated Town Connectivity Plan.	\$0	NA
	Complete the CR 600 W Pedestrian Crossing Project	\$50,000	Local
	Complete the Tri-County Trail Project	\$116,000	3P
	Drill-seed the Town Hall Community Park	\$8,000	Local
<b>2018-2021</b>	Add ADA parking space to Town Hall Community Park	\$500	Local
	Continue to Program the Town Hall Community Park	TBD	Local
	Complete a Town-wide Bike/Ped Master Plan	\$40,000	50/50 ISDH Grant
	Design & Construct CR 600 W path segment from 800 to S. Railroad St	\$150,000	Local
	Construct CR 600 W path segment from S. Railroad St. to CVS	NA	80/20 STP Grant
	Landscape Town Hall Community Park Sign	\$1,000	Local
	Design & Construct CR 600 W path segment from CVS to CR 750 N	\$70,000	Local
	Seek opportunities to acquire new parkland	TBD	TBD
	Seek opportunities to develop multi-use paths along stream corridors	TBD	TBD

### **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 projects 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.)

# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

### **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 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **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 2017-2021

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## MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

### **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  
2017-2021



# MCCORDSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021

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MCCORDSVILLE, INDIANA

## Five Year Park and Recreation Master Plan Checklist

<b>Plan Requirements</b>	<b>Page</b>
Definition of Planning Area	1-2
Goals of the Plan	5-1 – 5-2
The Park Board	3-1, 3-2
Natural Features and Landscape	2-1
Man-made, Historical, and Cultural	2-2
Social and Economic Factors	2-3 - 2-10
Accessibility and Universal Design	3-10
Section 504 Compliance Form (original signatures)	A-13
Public Participation	4-4 - 4-5, A-2 -A-12
Needs Analysis	4-6 - 4-8
New Facilities Location Map	5-2
Priorities and Action Schedule	5-5
Public Presentation of the Plan	4-3
Board Resolution Adopting Plan	ii.

## MASTER PLAN CHECKLIST

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**PARK AND RECREATION PUBLIC SURVEY**

# Parks and Recreation

Parks Survey

Question Summaries

Data Trends

Individual Responses

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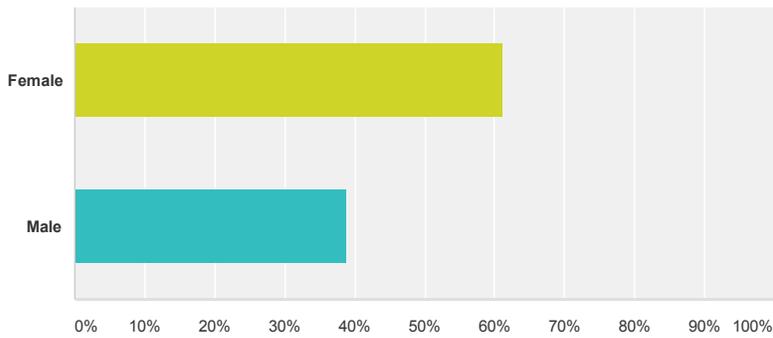
Share

Share

Q1

## What is your gender?

Answered: 542 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices	Responses
Female	61.25% 332
Male	38.75% 210
Total	542

546 responses

310 days (2/10/2016 - now)

8 views

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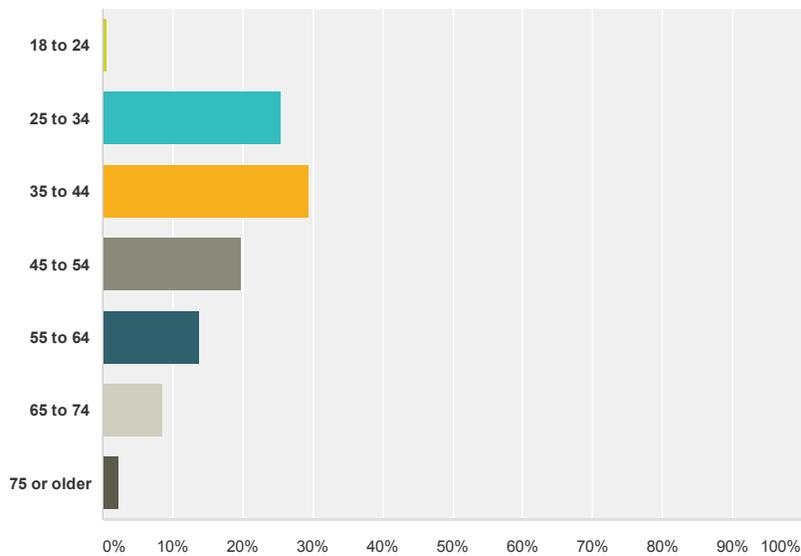
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Q2

## What is your age?

Answered: 544 Skipped: 2

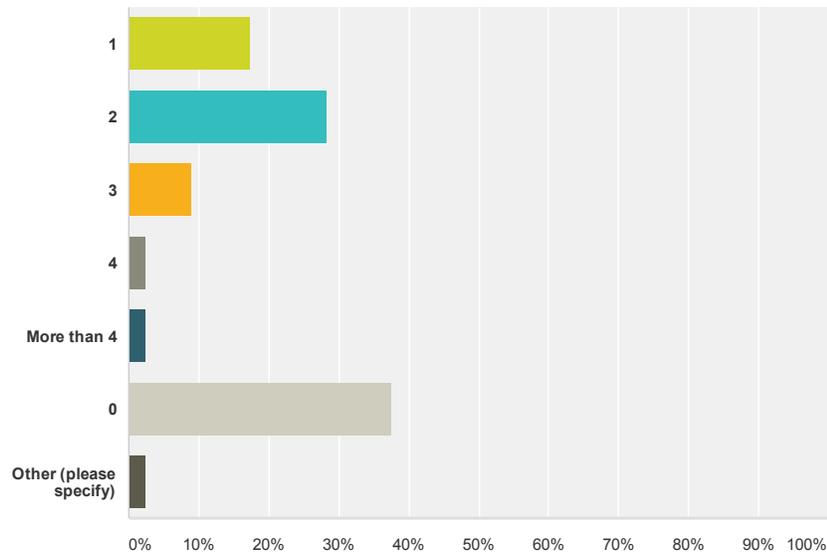


Answer Choices	Responses	
18 to 24	0.55%	3
25 to 34	25.37%	138
35 to 44	29.41%	160
45 to 54	19.85%	108
55 to 64	13.79%	75
65 to 74	8.64%	47
75 or older	2.39%	13
Total		544

Q3

### How many children do you have living at home?

Answered: 545 Skipped: 1



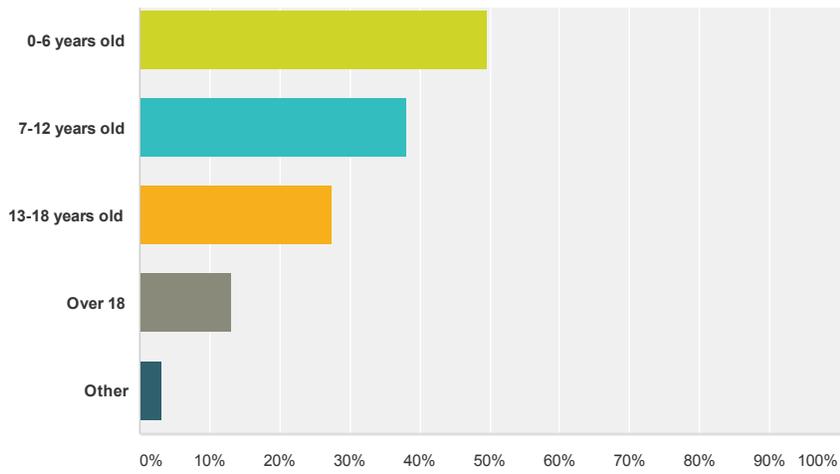
Answer Choices	Responses	
1	17.25%	94
2	28.44%	155
3	8.99%	49
4	2.57%	14
More than 4	2.57%	14
0	37.61%	205
Other (please specify)	2.57%	14
Total		545

Q4

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

Answered: 340 Skipped: 206





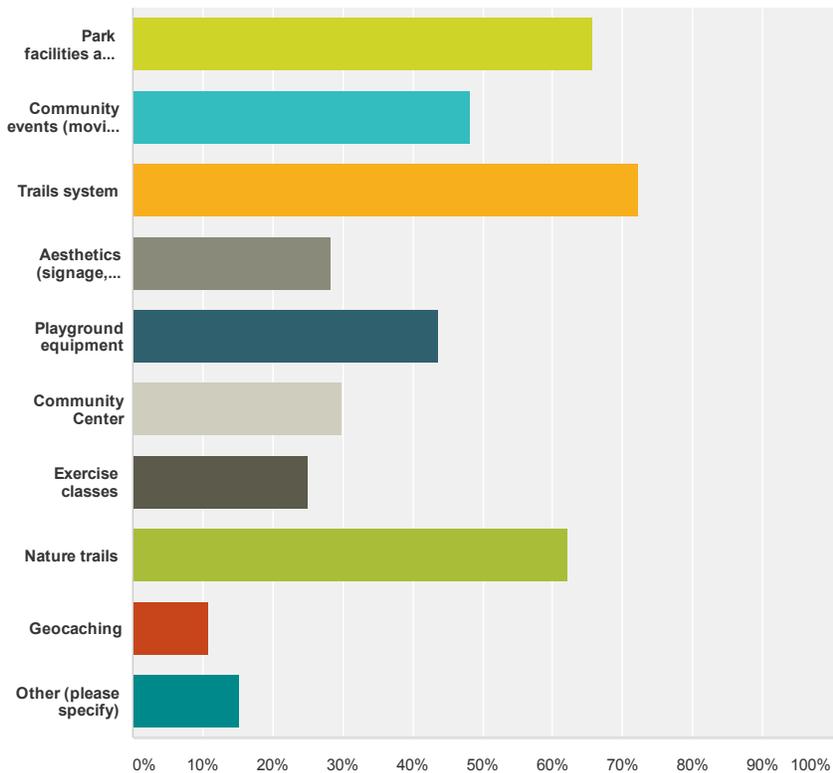
Answer Choices	Responses	Count
0-6 years old	49.71%	169
7-12 years old	38.24%	130
13-18 years old	27.65%	94
Over 18	13.24%	45
Other	3.24%	11

Total Respondents: 340

Q5

### What community offerings interest you?

Answered: 535 Skipped: 11



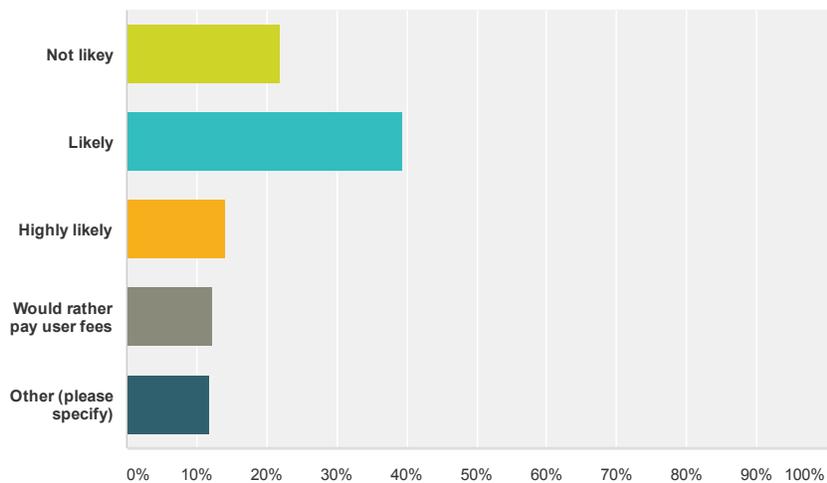
Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Park facilities and play...	65.79%	352

Park facilities and amenities	65.13%	352
Community events (movie in the park; trunk-or-treat, etc.)	48.22%	258
Trails system	72.15%	386
Aesthetics (signage, landscaping, etc.)	28.41%	152
Playground equipment	43.55%	233
Community Center	29.91%	160
Exercise classes	25.05%	134
Nature trails	62.24%	333
Geocaching	10.84%	58
Other (please specify)	Responses	15.14%
Total Respondents: 535		

**Q6**

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

Answered: 532 Skipped: 14



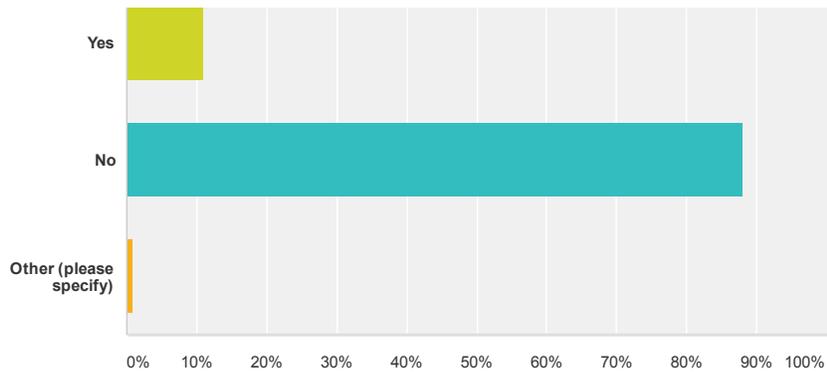
Answer Choices	Responses
Not likely	21.99% 117
Likely	39.47% 210
Highly likely	14.29% 76
Would rather pay user fees	12.41% 66
Other (please specify)	Responses 11.84% 63
Total	532

**Q7**

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

Answered: 531 Skipped: 15



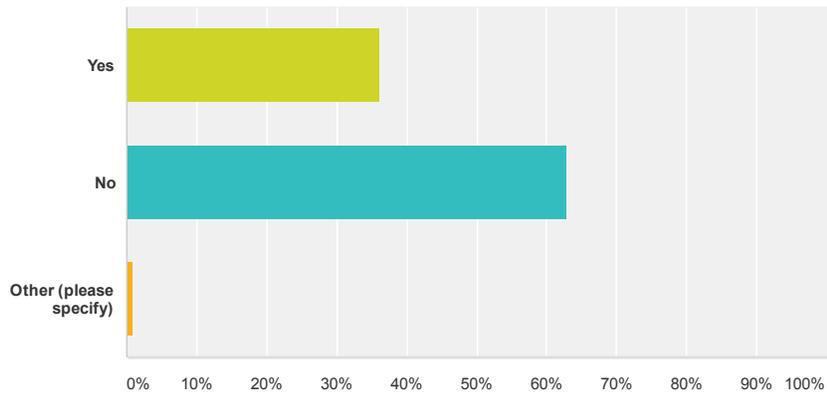


Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	11.11%	59
No	88.14%	468
Other (please specify)	0.75%	4
Total		531

Q8

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

Answered: 536 Skipped: 10



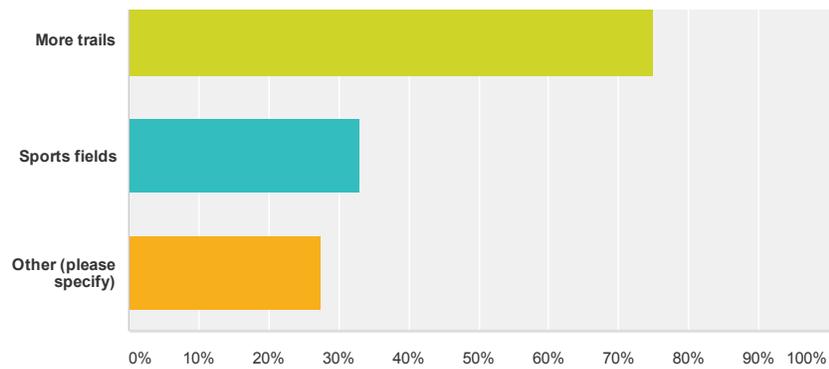
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	36.19%	194
No	62.87%	337
Other (please specify)	0.93%	5
Total		536

Q9

### What are some activities you would like to see in McCordsville

Answered: 493 Skipped: 53



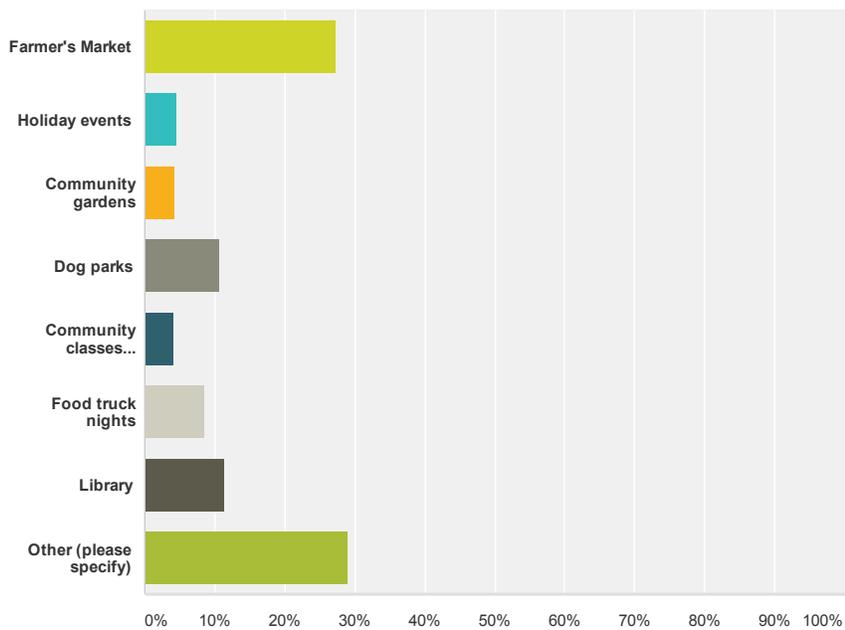


Answer Choices	Responses
More trails	75.05% 370
Sports fields	33.06% 163
Other (please specify) <b>Responses</b>	27.59% 136
Total Respondents: 493	

Q10

### What community activities would you like to see?

Answered: 509 Skipped: 37

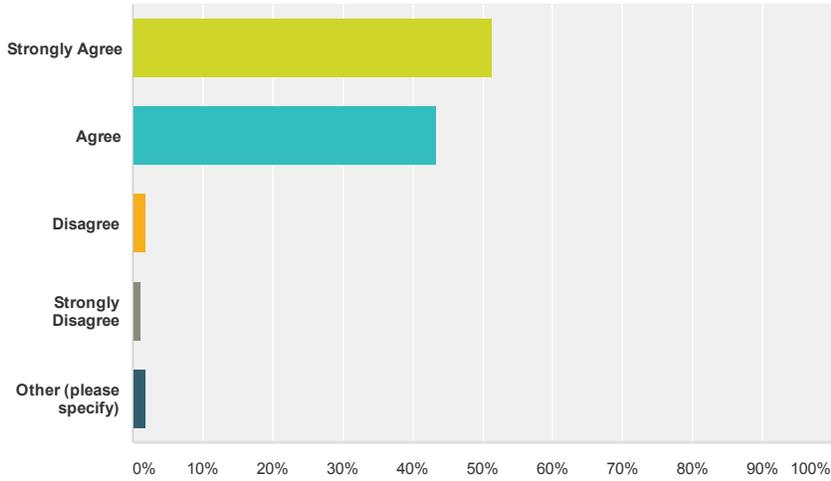


Answer Choices	Responses
Farmer's Market	27.31% 139
Holiday events	4.52% 23
Community gardens	4.32% 22
Dog parks	10.61% 54
Community classes (cooking, health, art)	4.13% 21
Food truck nights	8.64% 44
Library	11.39% 58
Other (please specify) <b>Responses</b>	29.08% 148

Q11

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

Answered: 520 Skipped: 26



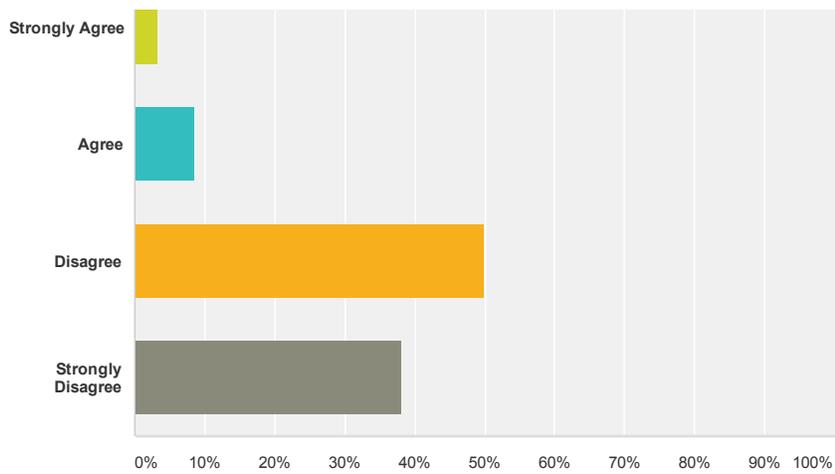
Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	51.35%	267
Agree	43.46%	226
Disagree	1.92%	10
Strongly Disagree	1.35%	7
Other (please specify)	1.92%	10
Total		520

Q12

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

Answered: 504 Skipped: 42





Answer Choices	Responses
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>3.37%</b> 17
<b>Agree</b>	<b>8.53%</b> 43
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>49.80%</b> 251
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>38.29%</b> 193
Total	504

**Q13**

**Please share any other comments you have on this topic**

Answered: 113 Skipped: 433

3/31/2016 5:39 PM

When you do events they need to be done where people want to come back the next year and come in the first place when we start them.

3/31/2016 5:10 PM

Even if McCordsville doesn't have it's own library branch, I'd love to see a coordinated effort to establish little free libraries, especially in all the new subdivisions.

3/31/2016 4:40 PM

Wise decisions are important. No reason to spend money without making the smart decisions. I appreciate the survey for that reason

3/31/2016 3:01 PM

We love Mccordsville but always end up going to parks in Fishers or Indy because they offer hiking trails and unique playground equipment.

3/31/2016 2:51 PM

Also think food truck nights is a great idea, but survey only allowed single answer for that question

3/31/2016 2:37 PM

---

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### Written Comments from the Parks Survey

Would like the town to set aside much more open safe areas, with walking paths and more sidewalks.

11/26/2016 9:41 AM

Glad to know there is a board working on this - thanks for the work you do. Green spaces/parks are important: more is better!

11/3/2016 5:14 PM

In anything planned please keep handicap accessibility in mind as I have two children (as I'm sure others do as well) on wheelchairs that could benefit from these facilities.

10/21/2016 5:52 PM

Need more daytime and evening offerings for group type of events. Possibly bus trips to places nearby, game nights, bocci courts, croquet courts, etc.

10/20/2016 7:58 PM

Question 10 allows you to pick only one activity. I would like to see Community Classes, Farmer's Market, Food truck nights, Holiday Events, and a Library.

9/15/2016 3:15 PM

Splash pads for kids, as well as parks and dog parks!!!!

9/8/2016 11:58 AM

When subdivisions were approved, developers should have been required to dedicate a tract of land for a park.

8/21/2016 5:11 PM

With the ever expanding population, I would love to see more places to make a positive influence on the kids and provide them an outlet. McCordsville is in desparate need of sport fields.

8/19/2016 9:04 AM

Just moved here, I feel there is a TON of potential here, excited to see where it goes!

8/18/2016 9:31 PM

foundation of community growth starts with activities offered for our children. poor facilities makes it to easy to segregate the children from growing within their community by having to participate in organizations outside of the mt vernon community

8/15/2016 9:10 PM

Now that a Meijer is being built on the Living Streams field, a large dog park would be a good replacement.

8/10/2016 8:22 PM

I strongly believe that a strong park system enhances the quality of life for all that live in the community. It also serves as an important economic tool in attracting new residents and business to McCordsville.

7/29/2016 10:27 AM

We recently moved here from Noblesville, and they had fantastic Parks and Recreation options. It really adds value to the community. Thank you for your hard work!

7/25/2016 11:21 PM

Community events are nice, but parks are better. We need larger parks. We need a park like the Brooks School Park in Fishers--trail, large open spaces, basketball court, and playground equipment.

7/24/2016 10:31 PM

I believe an model aircraft field would be a very positive thing for McCordsville. The field could be part of a multi use property.

7/4/2016 12:48 PM

I agree we don't need anymore holiday-type events than we have. We currently offer a good variety and I think that's enough. I know they are time-intensive to plan, & I think staff's time can be best spent elsewhere and offering classes would help fulfill a need. Hancock County has hardly no options of adult, or adult-child classes.

7/1/2016 1:18 PM

I like the idea of more community events, but I think those work better when community residents organize them and the town is a strong supporter. Also, the town can help promote existing regular activities that utilize the parks. For example, there is a group that meets to play Ultimate Frisbee at the town hall park Sunday afternoons and it is open to the public. The town could help promote those kinds of park activities.

6/27/2016 12:06 AM

Affordable Dog Park Please!!!

6/7/2016 8:51 AM

Founds should be collected by other means than raising taxes. Community fundraisers work well.

5/20/2016 12:46 PM

I believe community activities will make McCordsville. However, at the same time I don't want to see it grow too fast, so please continue your plan of steady, planned growth.

5/20/2016 11:31 AM

Especially like the idea of cooking classes, food trucks (the real deal), walking trails, and a bigger farmers market.

5/20/2016 1:21 AM

Fortville is close and doing well. Why not visit there?

5/17/2016 3:29 PM

As a senior citizen still working, I don't want to see any more projects that increase my cost of living!

5/17/2016 3:23 PM

If you want more feedback, it would help by sending return envelopes. I had to go find my own, same with the monthly bills

5/17/2016 3:20 PM

would support trail systems being built if they would make it mandatory for bikers to use paths and not ride on streets.

5/17/2016 3:15 PM

McCordsville Fireworks on a night before or after others to bring in guests

5/17/2016 2:12 PM

I feel most people like that McCordsville is small & they go elsewhere into the surrounding communities like Fishers, Carmel, Indy, etc. for events/activities. Would like to see McCordsville do a better job of maintaining their roads, trimming & cleaning up their thoroughfares, etc.

5/17/2016 2:03 PM

We need a large centrally located TOM park, preferably at a new town hall/town center site

5/17/2016 1:59 PM

Trails are great, but to keep children from waling down the middle of the street, PUT IN SOME SIDEWALKS!!!

5/17/2016 11:41 AM

We love McCordsville!

5/17/2016 11:38 AM

keep up the good work!

5/17/2016 11:12 AM

Our location, this side of the tracks, makes many Geist activities available & close to us

5/17/2016 11:07 AM

NO MORE TAXES!

5/17/2016 10:54 AM

can not afford taxes now - no more taxes

5/17/2016 10:51 AM

my biggest issue is the outrageous cost of electricity through ninestar and their ridiculous added on fees.

5/17/2016 10:47 AM

I would like to see a "community park" as outlined in your parks and recreation master plan 2012-2016 (30-50 acres). It does not appear we have anything close to that.

5/12/2016 8:23 AM

For any improvement in Parks and Rec, PLEASE IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC FLOW!!!! McCordsville is big choke on people moving around the local area.

5/9/2016 10:07 AM

we need a better park. i drive to fishers for their park on brookside and 116th

5/9/2016 8:50 AM

Moved here to be away from congestion--don't need this to be a hub of activity.

5/7/2016 2:47 PM

In addition to boosting the parks and events, it would be a great time to boost the town's presence on social media or other outlets (community newsletter?) in order to promote these events.

5/6/2016 5:13 PM

Any tax created to fund these improvements MUST be limited to the specific improvement detailed. Any future tax need MUST be created anew.

5/6/2016 4:30 PM

Trail system is a must, it will interest more people to walk, run, and ride.

5/5/2016 11:41 AM

I would love to see more parks & rec offerings in McCordsville! We are long time residents and think this would be a great addition to our town and make us just as attractive as Fishers and Carmel.

5/4/2016 11:41 AM

I live on Social Security. No more taxes.

5/4/2016 10:34 AM

The issue is our property taxes are increasing in spite of the tax cap. Assess values are being increased so the counties can make up lost revenue. The Assessors are jacking up home values so they can collect more property taxes. Also, the recent increase to bail out Mt. Vernon Schools is not helping your cause for another tax increase.

5/4/2016 10:28 AM

Retired.

5/4/2016 10:21 AM

Community festival like the 4th of July Parade and Festival in Lawrence. Are we ever getting a grocery store or a library?

5/4/2016 10:15 AM

Water fun, Lake (rent out paddle boats), pool (low annual cost), YMCA (low fees).

5/4/2016 10:06 AM

I look at other towns around me and see so much to do. I think McCordsville would want to compete with other townships for future citizens & businesses. It is difficult to spend money here due to the few businesses present! When I found out there wasn't a library here in McCordsville I almost backed out of purchasing a home here.

5/4/2016 10:00 AM

Stop looking for ways to spend money! Some people always want to spend money they did not earn!

5/4/2016 9:55 AM

Fishers is doing an amazing job with their downtown. Given how close they are, there is no need to copy them. But if McCordsville could pursue complimenting community offerings (dog parks, play grounds and nature trails) that would be great. Also, it would be great to finish a side walk connecting to Geist for walking, running, biking and safely navigating my family to the July 4th events on the bridge.

5/3/2016 10:20 PM

Thank you for asking for my input.

5/3/2016 4:31 PM

I think a Dog Park would be really cool and Holiday events (such as an annual Fall festival) would be awesome!

5/2/2016 11:26 AM

Would love to see a project for baseball and soccer fields gain some momentum with so many kids in the area now.

5/2/2016 9:20 AM

Dog park or an fence in area for dogs to run around or swim would be awesome!

5/2/2016 8:30 AM

what has been done with the tax money we already pay???

5/1/2016 5:37 PM

Please make sure that any plan has not only two or three large parks, but other smaller pocket parks as well.

5/1/2016 8:40 AM

A central hub with the library at the heart orchestrating all things "life".

5/1/2016 12:26 AM

none

4/30/2016 10:39 AM

I would like to see the bike/walking trail that is currently across from the Wellness Center extended further South along Mt. Comfort road. We are in Gateway Crossing and do not have a good way to access the trail without crossing the busy traffic of 36 and the railroad tracks.

4/29/2016 1:33 PM

No more tax increases, way out of line now. Wait till we get more pop to help pay and preventing tax increase

4/26/2016 7:28 PM

Make McCordsville more pedestrian friendly - beautify Pendleton Pike, add bike lanes, encourage crafty shop boutique owners.

4/23/2016 9:29 PM

how about a community swimming pool and water park?

4/23/2016 4:57 PM

My family and I moved to McCordsville for the convience of the big city with the amenities of a small town. With that said, McCordsville has a blank slate right now that could be great with a forward thinking plan. I am excited to have a voice in this decision. We would absolutely pay more on our taxes in order to help grow McCordsville into a family friendly community with rec leagues, parks and community events!

4/21/2016 5:24 PM

A golf course and trails which lead to the winery would be ideal. Nature trails should not just be roadside paths, but go through wooded areas.

4/21/2016 4:41 PM

None on this but we need businesses not community park. I would definitely oppose any tax increases for this. What ever happened to meijers coming to Mccordsville, This is what we need not stupid community parks.

4/21/2016 1:26 PM

My husband and I appreciate all that is being done to make our city a better place to live. Thank you!

4/5/2016 9:57 AM

We think McCordville has ENOUGH sub divisions, But most of all DONT BUILD MEIJERS !! Think of the Riff Raff that it will bring into our town. (ie walmart on Pendleton pike ) It has turned that area into a ghetto .

4/5/2016 8:39 AM

100% need a library!!!!

4/4/2016 4:39 PM

McCordsville is growing the right way, everyone I talk to I tell them about the best kept secret "McCordsville, IN".

Keep up the great job

4/4/2016 7:51 AM

I would love for McCordsville to have a baseball park that could compete with OYO and would generate money for the city and community.

4/4/2016 6:32 AM

None

4/4/2016 12:32 AM

Just would like to see McCordsville grow maybe along 67 toward Fortville. I guess it could only grow on one side because of the rr track.

4/3/2016 2:40 PM

I think that a nice baseball park would be great for Mccordsville.

4/3/2016 8:44 AM

To attract quality residential developments and business, there needs to be more to do, such as large festivals, a library of our own close by, community events shared by all ages and a common swimming pool-maybe water park that could bring in revenues to offset cost. Also, a nice downtown park center and area off the highways.

4/2/2016 4:39 PM

community events such as farmers market or movies etc would be more welcoming in a highly visible location in McCordsville

4/2/2016 3:48 PM

Town park and township park should merge all activities. Need sidewalk or trail to town park

4/2/2016 12:25 PM

when g-kids visit, usually end up at Brooks School Park playground ("it's cool and has a lot of stuff to climb on"), not playground in sub.

4/2/2016 10:06 AM

Free or nearly free (couple bucks per person) activities are always welcome. This is a growing community and fun activities that won't break the bank would be a great addition. I like the idea of a library. Greenfield is a bit far away and we have to pay at Fishers since we are not residents. I also think the idea of community classes is good. I'm sure you could get volunteers to teach the classes to get exposure. Anything that is exercise or that teaches people a skill will help its people grow.

4/2/2016 7:41 AM

need a site for a large new town park that is located at the town center

4/2/2016 7:00 AM

I appreciate these personal emails keeping me connected vs the book of information we used to receive! Thank you for all you do!

4/2/2016 5:05 AM

I was only allowed to check one box for #10. I would have checked them all!

4/1/2016 11:31 PM

#10 Only allows one pick, would like library & farmers market.

4/1/2016 10:01 PM

believe the activity should be self supporting for the most part.

4/1/2016 9:37 PM

Dog Park and farmers market need to be priority

4/1/2016 9:13 PM

Bocce court!

4/1/2016 8:55 PM

Would be nice to offer something surrounding communities can not offer, so not competing for attendance...but offering another opportunity. Would live a European Garden Market with fresh bakery and flower items, food trucks, etc one Sat mo...or a summer concert or movie a month with flavored corn for sale and yard games, cookoff in July, etc.

4/1/2016 7:58 PM

I appreciate any and all community activities...I think they bring the community together!! Maybe again another huge garage sale...they always bring neighbors together!!!

4/1/2016 7:20 PM

Drop down boxes dont work

4/1/2016 6:12 PM

When food or candy is involved, you must take "peanut allergies" into consideration.

4/1/2016 6:02 PM

We have enjoyed the trunk/treat event, Xmas event and the Easter egg hunt this past year. And hope that the town can continue to offer such events.

4/1/2016 4:44 PM

Store fronts need more of a facelift on Broadway.

4/1/2016 4:37 PM

Please find a way to bring a branch of the Greenfield Library to McCordsville. The Fortville Vernon Township Library is very small, outdated, and way below the quality you find at Fishers Library or Greenfield Library, A quality library in McCordsville is a great place to host community activities and is an invaluable resource for families with children.

4/1/2016 4:10 PM

It's great that we currently use Town Hall as our focal point for activities but we desperately need a Town Square/downtown to identify with.

4/1/2016 4:04 PM

Please finish sidewalks/paths especially west of Ohio and 900.

4/1/2016 4:00 PM

We need more connecting trails.

4/1/2016 2:52 PM

We need a Monon Center!

4/1/2016 11:38 AM

Pendleton has great community events & park for ideas

3/31/2016 9:15 PM

We spend a lot of time driving elsewhere for these things that I wish we had here!

3/31/2016 9:14 PM

McCordsville reminds me of Fishers some 30 years ago. Growing the tax base may be the best thing to focus on. Need more commercial which I understand contributes more tax than residential. We need a better defined 'downtown area' that is walkable. It's probably better to focus on making the community walkable right with trails and such rather than trying to develop a signature park or two. Master plan well, let the tax base grow, then develop the park system.

3/31/2016 7:53 PM

I think fundraisers could go a far way instead of adding additional taxes. Get the community involved. Schools. Churches.

3/31/2016 7:29 PM

I'd love to see a splash pad for the younger kids to enjoy.

3/31/2016 5:39 PM

When you do events they need to be done where people want to come back the next year and come in the first place when we start them.

3/31/2016 5:10 PM

Even if McCordsville doesn't have it's own library branch, I'd love to see a coordinated effort to establish little free libraries, especially in all the new subdivisions.

3/31/2016 4:40 PM

Wise decisions are important. No reason to spend money without making the smart decisions. I appreciate the survey for that reason

3/31/2016 3:01 PM

We love McCordsville but always end up going to parks in Fishers or Indy because they offer hiking trails and unique playground equipment.

3/31/2016 2:51 PM

Also think food truck nights is a great idea, but survey only allowed single answer for that question

3/31/2016 2:37 PM

I think the town needs to embrace the fact that the demographic is changing and more young families are moving into our community. I would rather spend money putting my kids through summer camps and going to events in my town rather than paying for them to attend a Fishers park and recreation sponsored event. With that said a good model to go forward would be how the city of Fishers uses its green space and parks to promote its self.

3/31/2016 2:31 PM

With the amount of young families McCordsville has, it would be beneficial to meet the needs of children with parks and community activities (camps or other events). We find ourselves venturing to Fishers to meet these needs and would be better closer to home!

3/31/2016 1:38 PM

I would love to have a cool park or splash pad that people would travel to bring their kids too, I drive to surrounding parks of ingest good things, it would bring more visitors to the area

3/31/2016 1:04 PM

The first thing I would like to see is the trail extended all the way to Wood Haven. It would be nice to be able to ride our bikes into town. Or take a walk with other neighbors from Wood Haven.

3/31/2016 12:12 PM

# McCordsville Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021

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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

Kim Pearson

Kim Pearson, Vice-Chair  
McCordsville Parks and Recreation Board

Kim Pearson  
(Chair's Printed Name)

Date

4/10/17

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SECTION 504 COMPLIANCE FORM





McCordsville, Indiana



**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**Parks & Recreation Board**  
**February 8, 2016**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to Order & roll call- Kim Pearson**

**Members present:** Max Meise, Summer Harper, Kim Pearson

**Members absent:** Ron Hill, Jack O'Boyle & Stephanie Stewart

**Others present:** Town Manager Tonya Galbraith, Plan Director Ryan Crum and Melissa Davidson, minutes

**2. Introduction of New Member- Summer Harper**

Ms. Harper is responsible for Harper's Best of Mutts twice that is held at the Town Hall Park. She is familiar with Town events and has interned for the Town. She is working on her Tourism Events Management Degree.

**3. Election of Officers –tabled (no quorum)**

**4. Approval of August meeting minutes – tabled (no quorum)**

**5. Start process for updating 5-year Park Master Plan**

The Parks Master Plan has to be updated every five years to be eligible for grants. Mr. Crum gave a basic timeline and an overview. Staff will craft some questions for a survey. The plan will need a public hearing and submitted to the DNR before final approval.

**6. Date for Easter Egg Hunt**

Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> starting at noon.

**7. Ideas for Bicentennial event**

Ms. Galbraith would like members to brainstorm on a type of festival since the bicentennial torch relay will come through McCordsville on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Galbraith thought utilizing the old town hall property since it is on Broadway as the torch will travel through to Fortville. Ms. Galbraith thought maybe some food trucks and activities. Scarlett Lane has offered to be a part of the event. Ms. Galbraith will look at what other communities are doing. Mrs. Pearson thought a time capsule to be buried might be a good idea for the event also.

**8. HCCF grants update- Next Round**

In round two municipalities need to partner with another municipality or a not for profit. Ms. Galbraith and Mr. Crum thought of partnering with the Mt. Vernon School Corporation and Fortville to replace the Mt. Vernon School Corporation signs. There is also an idea to partner with Cumberland and Ninestar to apply for an economic fiscal impact analysis along the 600W corridor.

**9. What we should be doing next?**

In need of some new ideas and events to have and committees to help with fundraising and events. Possible events are another 5K, Movie night and to have Trunk-or-Treat but with a fall festival.

**10. Old Business- None**

**11. New Business- None**

**12. Next Meeting- April 11, 2016**

**13. Adjourn**

**Parks & Recreation Board**  
**April 11, 2016**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to order and roll call- Ron Hill**

**Members present:** Summer Harper, Ron Hill, Kim Pearson, Stephanie Stewart and Max Meise

**Members absent:** Jack O'Boyle

**Others present:** Town Manager Tonya Galbraith, Plan Director Ryan Crum and Melissa Davidson, minutes

**2. Election of Officers-**

**Motion by Mrs. Pearson to nominate Ron Hill as President. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Stewart. Passes: 4/0.**

**Motion by Mr. Hill to nominate Kim Pearson as Vice-President. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Harper. Motion passes: 4/0.**

**3. Approval of February meeting minutes-**

\*Official approval not needed- no quorum in February.

**August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 minutes- Motion by Mrs. Pearson to approve the August 10<sup>th</sup> minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Stewart. Motion passes: 4/0.**

**4. 5-Year Park Master Plan update- Ryan**

Mr. Crum reviewed changes to the Parks Master Plan. The Plan needs to be updated every 5 years so that the Town is eligible to apply for grants. There will be a public hearing in June.

- **Survey results to date-** Ms. Galbraith provided a summary sheet of the 286 responses received. The survey may go out in the sewer bills and included in another blast for more feedback. 87% of respondents said they were not familiar with the Building a Brighter McCordsville Fund. This fund needs to be built up and eventually can help with playground equipment and other amenities that residents want in McCordsville. A majority of respondents would like more trails, water parks, park centers, bark parks, farmer's markets and Food truck nights along with playground equipment. Ms. Galbraith would also like to see some type of Community Classes that could be held at Town Hall.

Ms. Galbraith also discussed a Park Impact Fee that is paid by developers and builders through the cost of building permits. The money could help develop parkland within the town.

- 5. Ideas for Bicentennial event- torch relay Friday October 14<sup>th</sup>.** Ms. Galbraith would like to see the Parks Board or Members put together a volunteer group like other communities have to plan something for the Bicentennial. The time capsule is a good idea and Ms. Galbraith will reach out to try and find someone who can donate a capsule. One stop is the Methodist Church and Ms. Galbraith will discuss event ideas with the Outreach Coordinator. Mrs. Pearson would like to put together a committee to plan an event.

- 6. HCCF grants update-** The Communities who were awarded money last year were able to collaborate with another communities or not-for-profit for another chance at grant money. McCordsville is collaborating with the Town of Fortville and the Town of Cumberland for unified school district signs in the County. The Town is also collaborating with the Town of Cumberland and the Hancock Economic Development Council to do an economic impact analysis of 600W from 1000N to 100S in Cumberland. The study could also help with the County regarding the 600W road alignment. Awards will be announced in May.

- 7. Easter Egg Hunt summary-** The event was another great turn-out. It was about 65 degrees and a bunch of great volunteers.

**8. Old Business-**

**Shultz pedestrian bridge-** Received all of the INDOT approvals and waiting on the contractor to be able to start work. It will take about 6-8 weeks to construct and has to be completed by September.

**700W Trail-** Project is still progressing and the Town has received verbal agreements from all parties. Two signatures still needed to be obtained before the project can be released to the design phase. Geist Harbors association will complete the path in the Marion County portion.

**Daniel's Vineyard path-** There will be a path in front of Daniel's Vineyard, but they have reached an agreement with the Town to put in at a certain time triggered by either if a path is built adjacent, if the final building is constructed or in 7 years. There was a hefty price tag on sanitary sewer for this particular use.

**Movie Night-** Ms. Davidson will check dates in September for a possible movie night.

**5K-** The event was successful and raised money for the Building a Brighter McCordsville Fund. There will need to be a committee to get the 5K up and going. The Hospital would likely be involved. Ms. Galbraith will reach out to Hancock Regional Hospital. Sign-ups could possibly be done at the Wellness Center or even start at the Wellness Center parking lot with a possible health fair. This could even be incorporated in the Bicentennial event with a bison on the shirt, a mobile bison or other promotional items. The Board decided on Aug. 27, 2016 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 5K. Ms. Galbraith will help with promoting on the Facebook, town blast and the 5k Facebook page.

**9. New Business**

Mr. Meise would like to see something come from Railroad Street and the easement along the tracks to end at Scarlett Lane Brewery. The trail could be of historical value with the buildings and all. The right-of-way is owned currently by a farmer. Mr. Crum will look into this and incorporate this into the Master Plan.

At the next meeting there will be a new Administrative Assistant taking minutes. There was an Administrative Assistant/Utility Billing Clerk hired. Mrs. Olsen starts next Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> of April. Ms. Davidson will assume more duties in the Clerk-Treasurer's office.

**10. Next meeting – June 13, 2016**

**11. Adjourn-**

**Motion by Mrs. Pearson to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Harper. Motion passes: 4/0.**

**Parks & Recreation Board**  
**June 13, 2016**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to order and roll call**

**Members present:** Ron Hill, President, Kim Pearson, Stephanie Stewart, Summer Harper and Max Meise  
**Others present:** Town Manager Tonya Galbraith, Planning Director Ryan Crum and Erica Olson, minutes

**2. Approval of April 11, 2016 meeting minutes**

**Motion by Mr. Hill to approve the April 11 minutes as amended. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Harper.**  
**Motion passes: 4/0.**

**3. Appointment of new member**

**Motion by Mr. Hill to recommend to Town Council to appoint Brody Schoen to the Parks and Recreation Board. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Harper. Motion passes: 4/0.**

**4. 5-Year Park Master Plan update**

Mr. Crum reviewed updates in demographic and factual data to the Parks Master Plan Chapters 1 thru 3. Staff is still looking for more updated data as the National Parks and Recreation Association has not updated theirs since 1990 to create a needs profile.

- **Survey results to date-** Mr. Crum reviewed the 497 collected survey results. 80% of respondents would like more trails and 25% would like exercise classes. There was a favorable reaction to an increase in taxes to help pay for parks and trails.

**5. Ideas for Bicentennial event- torch relay Friday October 14<sup>th</sup>.** The state has released the relay route but no conversations with law enforcement in regards to road closures and it is hard to plan events. When we find out more we will try to arrange something simple. We will put the bicentennial logo on the 5K t-shirts. Scarlet Lane is interested in doing an adult chili cook-off event and perhaps even creating a special bicentennial beer.

**6. HCCF grants update and tour-**

- The Celebrate Communities bus tour will be in McCordsville between 1-1:45pm on June 17<sup>th</sup>. We will give them an update on how we used the 2015 grant money: the Town Hall Park sign, lights in the shelter, 3 evergreens by the shelter and to drill-seed the open area to make it grassier. We will also talk about our 2016 grant: McCordsville is collaborating with the Town of Fortville and the Town of Cumberland for unified school district signs in the County and we won \$4000 for each. Ms. Galbraith and Mr. Meise will accept of the “big check”
- The second grant we applied for is in collaboration with the Town of Cumberland for an economic impact analysis of 600W from 1000N to 100S by Thomas P Miller & Associates. Together we were awarded \$12,000 towards the \$25,000 study. The Hancock County Redevelopment Commission, NineStar Connect and the Hancock Economic Development Council also awarded us funds which left us with a \$5000 funding gap which will be split between us and Cumberland. This could be reduced because we may be able to get some funds from Hancock County.

**7. Upcoming events-**

- **Movie Night** – The movie Minions will be shown at the Town Hall Park on July 30<sup>th</sup>. We will spray the ground in the vicinity to keep mosquitos down. We have 2 shaved ice vendors already lined up and are working on getting more vendors.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Path to Fitness 5K** – Planning is coming along and we have a route identified. The start/finish line will be at the Hancock Wellness center and go through Villages at Brookside and Bay Creek East. We already have \$2250 in sponsorships. We are adding timed and chipped capabilities this year as well as a 1-mile family run/walk.

**8. Old Business-** None

**9. New Business**

- Mr. Hill had a question on the make-up of the Park Board. The make-up is by state statute, we need to look at the statute and see what we need to do. Ms. Galbraith is going to reach out to the Mt. Vernon school system to see if we can get an ex-officio representative from them.
- Mrs. Harper has someone who is interested in having a community class on how to judge beer and to properly drink it. They would like to hold it at Town Hall Park.

**10. Next meeting – August 8, 2016**

**11. Adjourn-**

**Motion by Ms. Pearson to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Stewart. Motion passes: 4/0.**

**Parks & Recreation Board**  
**August 8, 2016**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to order and roll call**

**Members present:** Ron Hill, President, Kim Pearson and Stephanie Stewart

**Members absent:** Summer Harper

**Others present:** Town Manager Tonya Galbraith, Planning Director Ryan Crum and Erica Olson, minutes

**2. Approval of April 11, 2016 and the June 13, 2016 meeting minutes**

**Motion by Ms. Pearson to approve both minutes as presented. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Stewart.**

**Motion passes: 3/0.**

**3. 5-Year Park Master Plan update**

The board reviewed the changes that were suggested by Mr. Crum for Chapters 4 and 5 and discussed further revisions – see attached marked up draft. Some statistics need updating yet and some of the written information may be turned into charts for a greater impact. An updated draft will be presented for final review at the next meeting. The formatting will change when all revisions are finalized.

Comparison benchmarks are now ourselves against other jurisdictions of our size and the National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA) has created a national database we can utilize. Over the past 5 years we have spent much less at \$67,000 than the national median in capital spending of \$547,000 on parks. Starting from this year, 2016, we have 2 specific budget line items for parks and trails which will amount to \$350,000 over 5 years as long as the Town Council continues to approve the capital projects plan as we present it.

Mr. Crum will update the draft for review at the next meeting.

**4. Bicentennial event**

Scarlet Lane is going to host a Bicentennial Chili Cook-Off Event on October 14<sup>th</sup> from 4-8pm. All Chili entries must be made using a Scarlet Lane Beer. Ms. Harper will be getting prizes from local businesses for the winner. They will be ordering glasses to give out to the attendees. The glasses will have the Scarlet Lane logo, the town's logo and the bicentennial logo on them. The Park Board will split the cost of the glasses. Proceeds from sales of any extra glasses will go to the Building a Brighter McCordsville Fund.

**5. Upcoming events-**

- **Trunk-or-Treat/Fall Festival** – Trunk-or-Treat went over well last year and we want to expand it to include more events. This year it will be on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Hoping to have a car decorating contest, games, photo booth, food trucks and a yard sale. There will be a fee of \$25 to participate in the yard sale.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Path to Fitness 5K** – Registration is now open and we have 35 registered so far but that is more than we had at the same time last year. The Wellness Center is actively promoting the event and it is in Indy Runners. The T-shirts and banners are in progress. Registration forms were handed out and the board was asked to try to pass them out. The Wellness Center is going to have a big member appreciation and Open House from 9am – noon in conjunction with the 5k which will include a bounce house, Zumba, massages and a BBQ. Their event will be held inside the Wellness Center.

**6. Old Business-**

- **Movie Night** – We had good weather and the spraying for mosquitos made a difference. Turn-out was small, probably because 2 other locations had already shown Minions. Next year we will pick an older movie. The food truck did not show but they did send over some pizzas free of charge.

**7. New Business**

- **Movie Night** – Would like to have an adult movie night September 30<sup>th</sup> or October 1<sup>st</sup> because the weather is still good and it gets dark earlier. Scarlet Lane will have their beer garden there. Some suggestions for movies are Blues Brothers, American Pie, Wedding Crashers and Bridesmaids.

**8. Next meeting – October 10, 2016**

**9. Adjourn-**

Motion by Mr. Hill to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Stewart. Motion passes: 3/0.

**Parks & Recreation Board**  
**October 10, 2016**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to order and roll call**

**Members present:** Summer Harper, Stephanie Stewart and Alyson Zelencik

**Members absent:** Ron Hill and Kim Pearson

**Others present:** Brandon Williams, Town Manager Tonya Galbraith, Planning Director Ryan Crum and Erica Olson, minutes

**2. Nomination of Parks Board Secretary.**

**Ms. Stewart was nominated by Ms. Harper. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Zelencik. Motion Passes: 3/0.**

**3. Approval of August 8, 2016 - No Quorum**

**4. Introduction of New Member**

Alyson Zelencik joins as an ex-officio member from Vernon Township library system. She and her family have lived in McCordsville since 2005. She joined the library board a year ago and is a media specialist the high school.

**5. Sporting Indiana FC Presentation**

Chris Steeno, vice president, gave a presentation about the Geist Area Soccer League that Sporting Indiana FC is beginning the spring of 2017. This will be a recreational league for ages 4-10 and if they get 6 teams for each age group they will be able to serve 264 kids. SIFC wants to bring this league to the area to be a part of the community and hopes this league will attract families that currently go elsewhere to play in recreational soccer leagues. This league will pull kids from McCordsville, Oaklondon, Geist, Fortville, Lawrence, Cumberland and other surrounding areas because McCordsville is a central location. The spring season is April thru May with one weeknight practice and a Saturday morning game. The fall season would be August thru September. They will be using Town Hall Park for practices and games.

The floor was opened for questions

- What about the added use and cost of supplies for our facilities? Jim Brandon, executive director, said they are open to a cleaning fee or they could bring in port-o-lets. They also have a staff member in the building to monitor the scene and respect the facility.
- Where would the equipment be stored? Mr. Brandon said it could be stored on-site at a staging area or would haul it back and forth in a trailer.
- What about parking? Mr. Brandon said they have staff for parking and would not need any additional volunteers. They would abide by our parking plan.
- How would the fields be marked? Mr. Brandon said they use spray paint that grows out in a few weeks and a few mows.
- What about the geese? Mr. Brandon has an organic application to the lawn that would deter the geese and is willing to work with Mr. Crider and the town to come to a solution.
- What about signs? Mr. Brandon understands that he'd have to get a sign permit and abide by allowable placement.
- What about rain dates? Gilberto Pineda, technical director, said Friday would be an option but they would work with the town's schedule.

- How many recreational soccer programs are in the area? Mr. Steeno said there are over 1300 kids participating in recreational soccer programs in Fishers and they have more than one program.

## 6. 5-Year Park Master Plan update

The board reviewed the changes that were suggested by Mr. Crum for Chapter 5.

Current language is in black and updated language is in red. Goals are mostly unchanged from current plan. We are adding “stream corridors” to goal 3. The map shows in black our current multi-use path. The green lines are the future paths that are in the capital projects plan. When we’re done, you can safely cross all pedestrian barriers on 600W.

The Connectivity Plan has been updated quite a bit. It includes stream corridors. There will be a pedestrian spine through Old Town and then connect to other trails. These trails will begin to create loops. The linear portions will be good to get from point “a” to point “b” and the loops will be good for recreation and exercise.

Parkland Opportunities is not singling out any specific properties but show areas of town that would be conducive to being a park. These factors include schools, community amenities, cultural attractions, natural features population concentration, distance from other parks and no known planned projects. Two areas in general are between 600 and 700 along 900N and adjacent to Old Town. This would need to be looked at further and may want to ask a consultant to dig into the details and see what makes sense.

The 5-year Priority Action Schedule and Associated Costs are required by the DNR in every plan. The old plan had items that weren’t necessarily actions. They are now all actions.

Potential Funding Sources has been updated with the state acts and bills that have changed as well as public grants and foundation monies available.

There is work to do on the appendix which is fitting in all the documents that we have used and referenced in the plan.

Following the public hearing, Mr. Crum plans to put it out for the 30 day public comment and review stage, make any changes and at the beginning of the year submit it to the state for their review. It is due January 15, 2017. He hopes to have it back by the February 2017 meeting.

**Ms. Stewart opened the floor for public questions or comments – There were no public speakers.**

### **Ms. Stewart asked for discussion by the Board**

Ms. Harper would like a copy of the plan and will comment on it. Mr. Crum will send members an updated copy of the plan and requests comments by November, 1. If we do not send the plan to the state by their deadline we won’t be eligible for any grants.

## 7. Bicentennial events

- The torch will be handed off at the McCordsville United Methodist Church. Their event is scheduled from 2:30-5pm on September 14<sup>th</sup>. They will have a bounce house, face painting, games and a BBQ truck. A souvenir state flag will be handed out to each person that attends. The torch will be coming from Fortville on an antique fire truck and is expected to arrive at 3:45 pm. Max Meise will take the torch and hand it off to Mary McConnell who will get on an antique tractor to continue on the route.

- Scarlet Lane is having a Chili Cook-Off Event on October 14<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm. They have the 25 entries signed up and there will be 4 judges: Ms. Tonya Galbraith, Tony May, Barry Wood and a Scarlett Lane employee. They are hoping 145 people will attend.

#### 8. Old Business-

- **5K** – We had 20 more participate than last year. A survey of participants shows that they would like to continue with chip and timing and would like to have medals. Ms. Galbraith is going to ask Town Council send \$5000 to the Building a Brighter McCordsville Fund. We are keeping a small amount back as a cushion for next year. We will probably always start and finish at the Wellness Center but the route may change as our paths change. We want to keep it off the road as much as possible.
- **Fall Movie Night**- It was a smaller crowd and we learned to not do it during fall break. Simeris on the Street and Scarlett Lane showed up and we had free popcorn. We should look ahead and pencil in for late September next year and have one, not two, movie nights. We can lock down a date and chose the movie later. If we don't chose a first-run movie we may get a bigger crowd.
- **Trunk-or-Treat/Fall Festival** – Will be October 29<sup>th</sup> from noon-2pm. We will have toss games, a photo booth, face painting, free popcorn and a yard sale. We already have several entries. One of McCordsville's new MVPs is a minister at The Caring Place and he's thinking that he can get 15 more cars to participate.
- **Christmas Tree Lighting** – Will be November 30<sup>th</sup>. We do it on a Wednesday because we want the town hall decorated for the first Friday in December, which is the town-wide Christmas Party. We have 2 groups coming to provide music. For the first time the elementary school will be able to participate.

#### 9. New Business

- **Boniccis** – It is located in McCordsville Corner Shops is now open. It is a family recreation place with arcade games and play gym activities.

#### 10. Next meeting – December 12, 2016

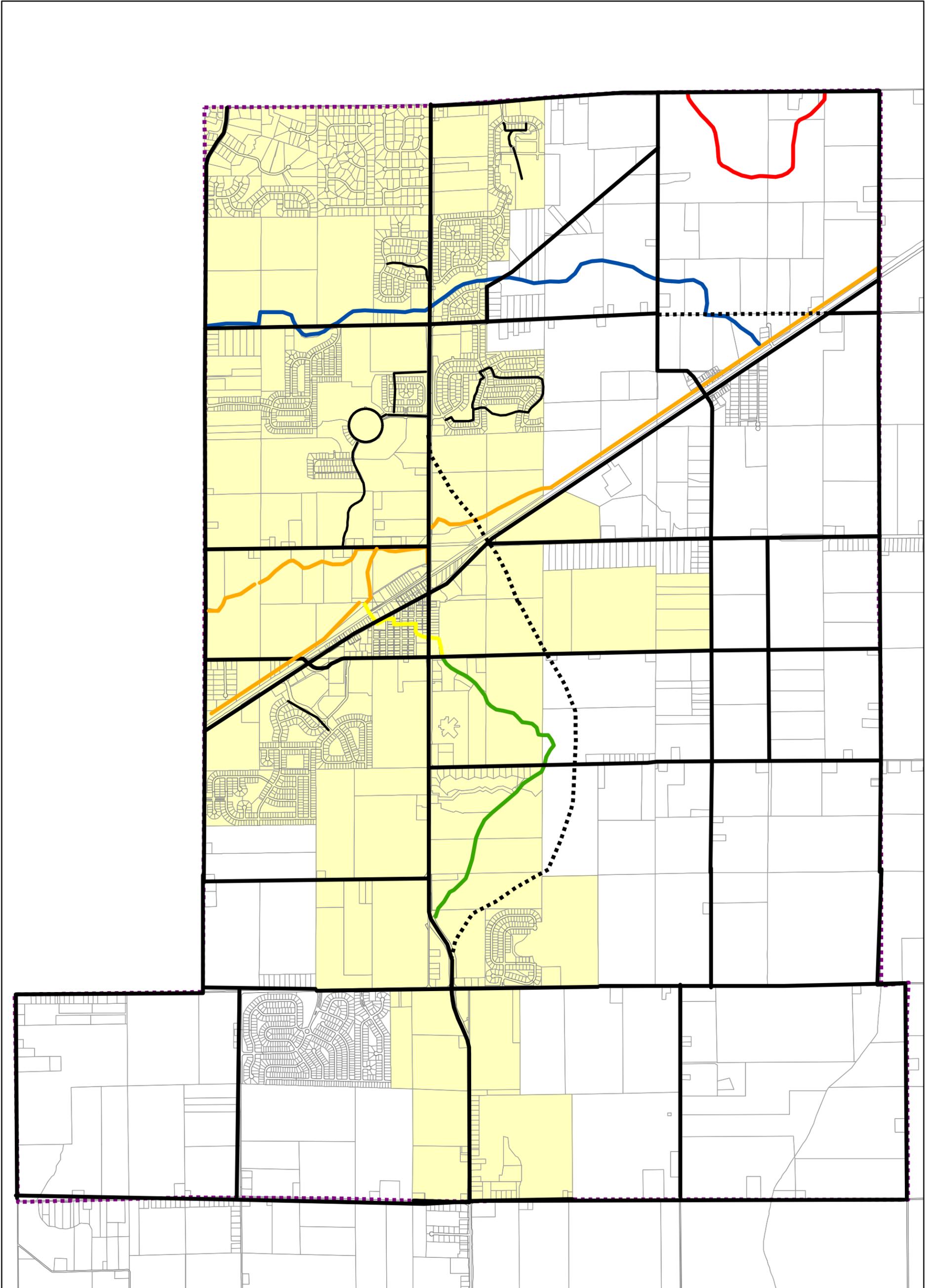
**11. Public Comments** – Ted Bragdon, with the Mt. Vernon Optimists, gave information on how the Optimists are a “Friend of Youth” in that they provide extra funds to grade schools for field trips, pizza parties and speakers as well as anything else the school won't pay for. To raise funds they do recreational sports including baseball, softball, basketball and soccer. They cover the Mt. Vernon area from Fortville to Cumberland and recognize that McCordsville sits right in the middle of the area and is the fastest growing part of the county. The Optimists would be open to an eventual partnership with Parks for baseball, softball and soccer.

#### 12. Adjourn-

**Motion by Ms. Stewart to adjourn. Motion passes: 3/0.**



# Connectivity Plan

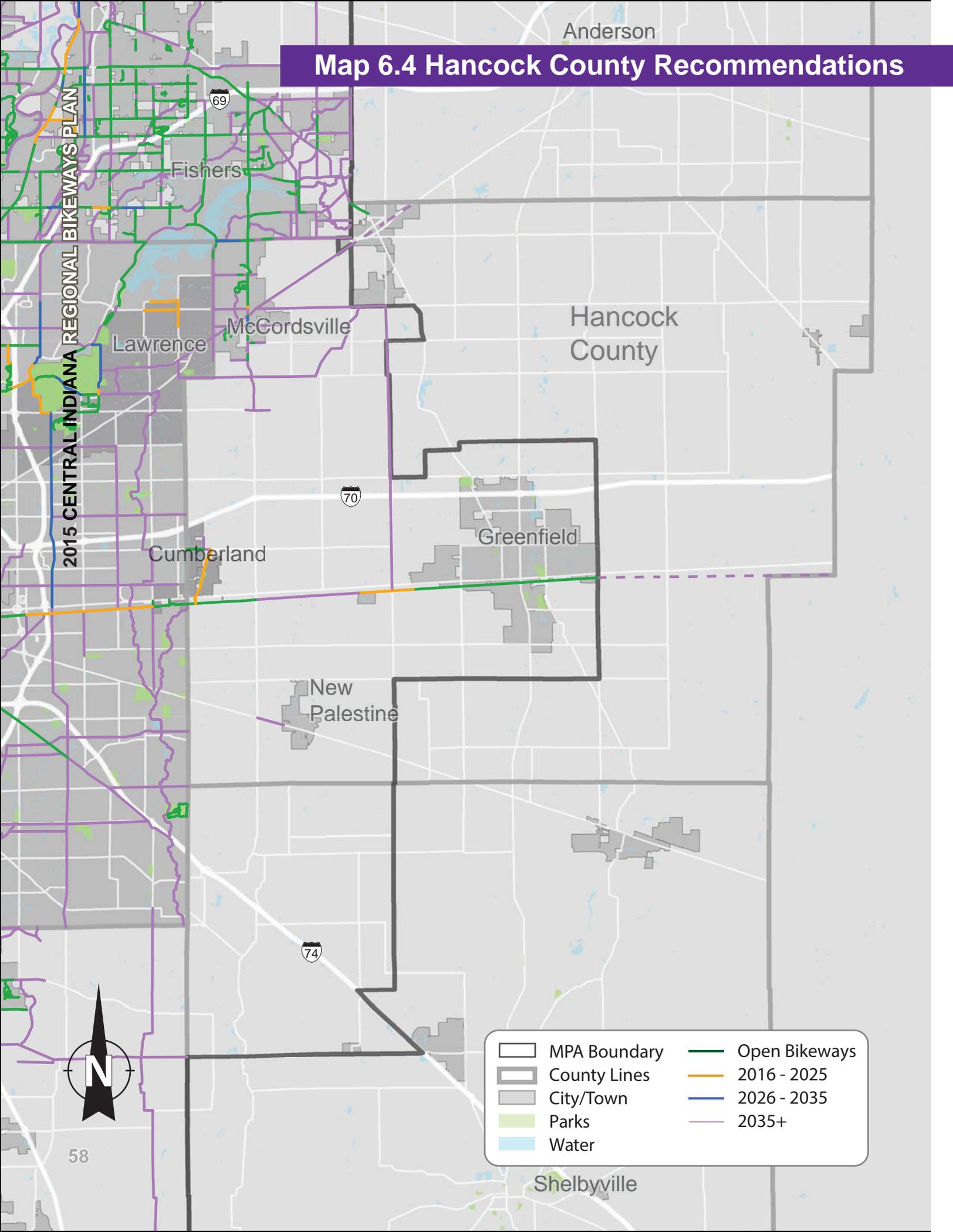


-  Dry Branch/Interurban Trail
-  North Fork Trail
-  Village Boardwalk Trail
-  Stansbury Trail
-  Bee Camp Trail



# Map 6.4 Hancock County Recommendations

2015 CENTRAL INDIANA REGIONAL BIKEWAYS PLAN



Hancock County

Greenfield

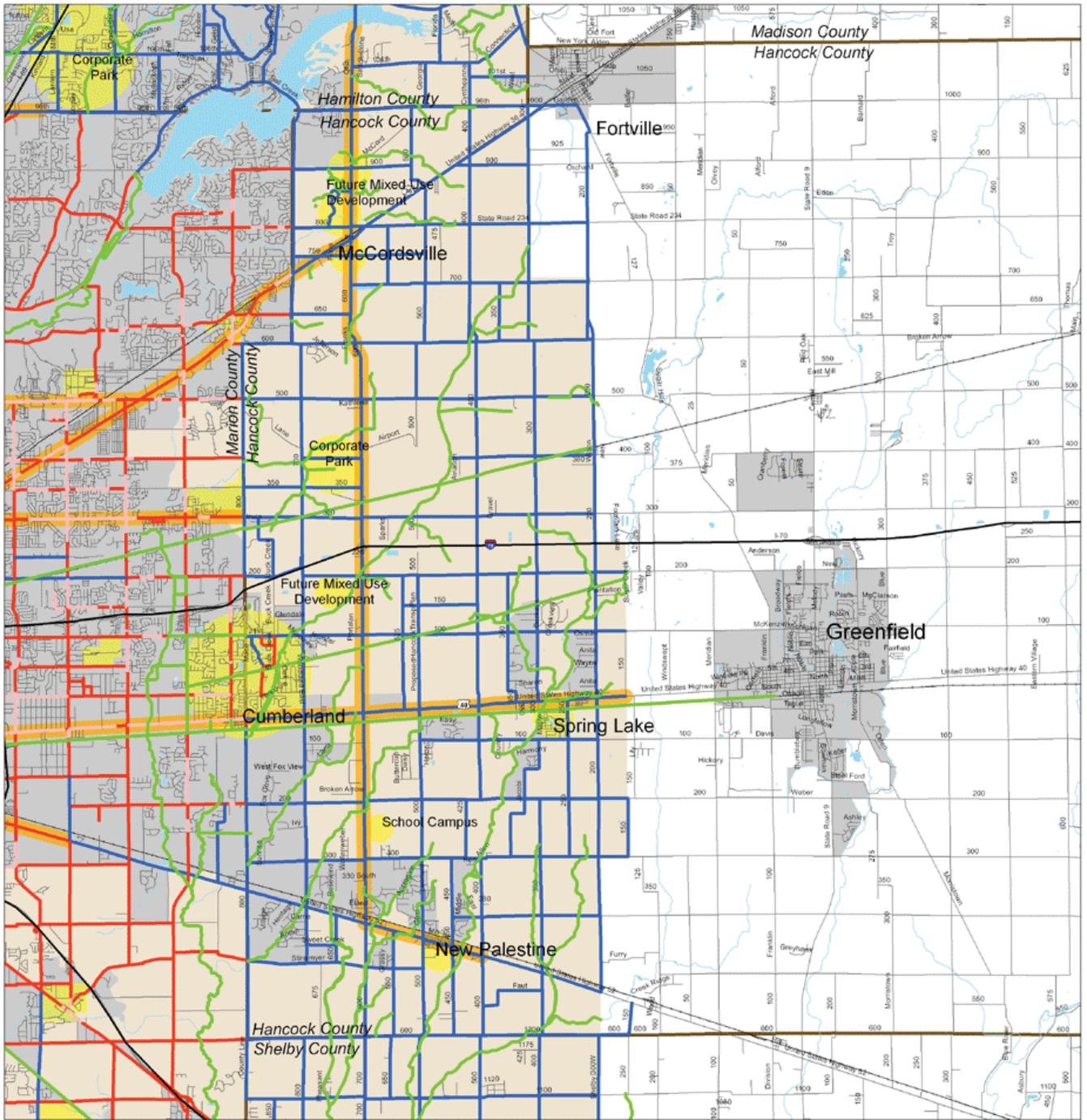
Cumberland

New Palestine

Shelbyville



- MPA Boundary
- County Lines
- City/Town
- Parks
- Water
- Open Bikeways
- 2016 - 2025
- 2026 - 2035
- 2035+



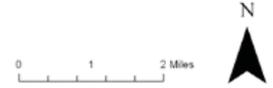
- Recommended Collector Sidewalk
- Marion County Existing Sidewalk
- Recommended Multi-Use Path (within road right-of-way)
- Recommended Multi-Use Path (within off-street right-of-way)
- Urban Greenway
- Recommended Pedestrian Corridor (existing or planned development area)
- Recommended Pedestrian District (existing or planned development area)

- County Boundary
- Urbanized Area, Census 2000
- Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA)

**Vision Plan- Hancock County**

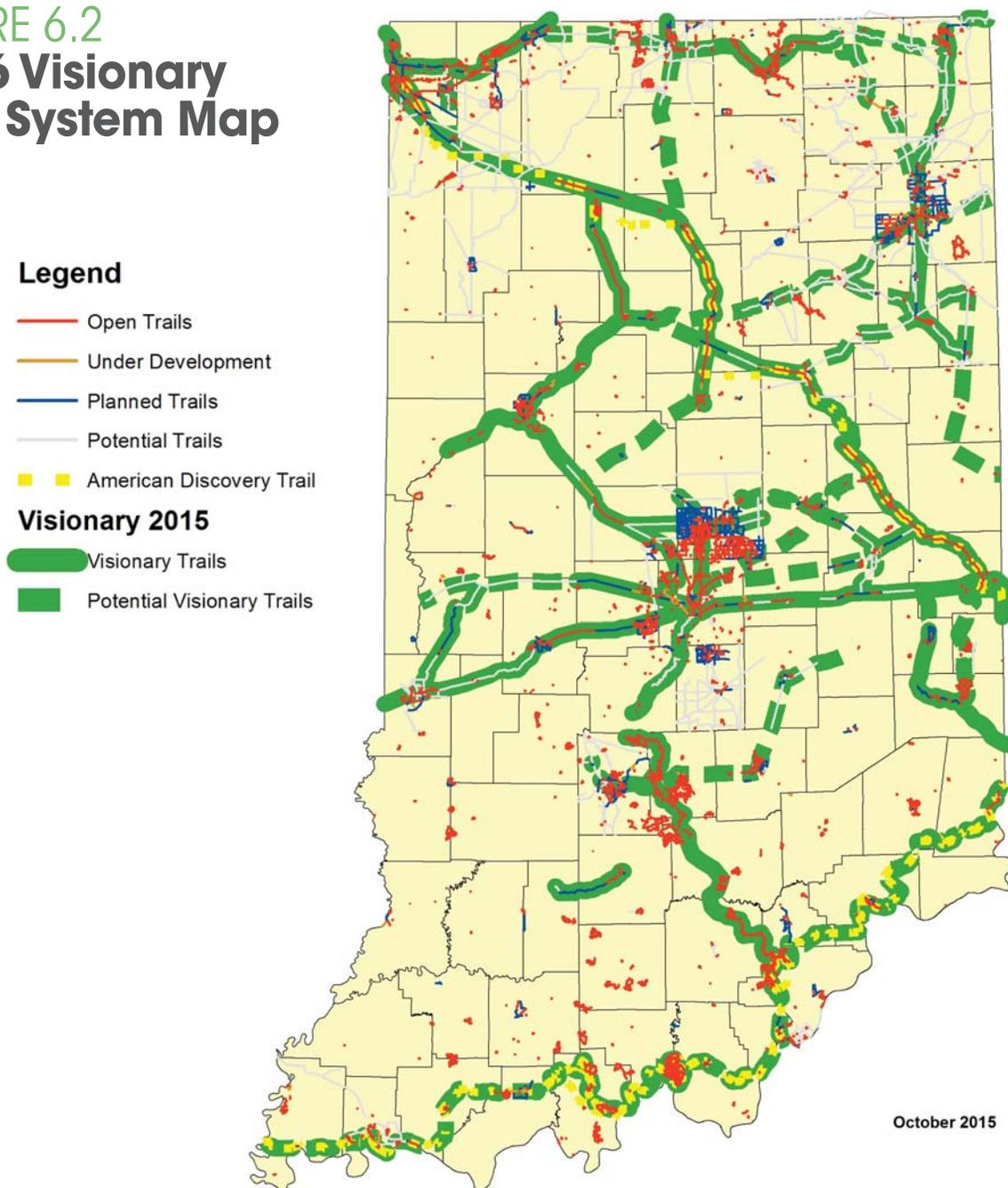
Indianapolis MPO Regional Pedestrian Plan

November 2006



This map was created by Storrow Kinsella Associates from information and data provided by but not limited to: IGIC (formerly INGIS), IMAGIS, SAVI, IUPUI (LUCI), MPO, IDNR, Hoosier Rails to Trails, and local jurisdictions/municipalities

**FIGURE 6.2**  
**2016 Visionary**  
**Trail System Map**



**2016 TRAILS PLAN UPDATE -**  
**VISIONARY TRAILS SYSTEM**

**What the Visionary Trails System Actually Is, and What It Isn't**

The Visionary Trails System is a collection of trail corridors that provide a backbone for connected trails throughout Indiana. The main purpose of the map is to show trail developers and planners where the priority trails are and how future development could fit into this network. For the Visionary Trails that are yet to be completed, the routes are intended to be broadly defined corridors within which trails are proposed or trail-potential exists. This Visionary Trails System was

created using input from trail providers, community planners and trail users. Trail corridors within the system must cross two or more counties and/or connect two visionary trails. A visionary trail must be completed, under development, or formally planned/actively supported (see figure 6.2).

The system is not a construction plan or a system the State of Indiana is unilaterally building. Rather, it encourages all levels of government and other trail providers to build trails along the corridors or connect to them. It is even possible for new trail groups to come together with a goal to build sections of trail with high priority. Some trail-funding programs encourage development of the Visionary Trail System by emphasizing it in applications for funding.

