



COMPREHENSIVE FIVE YEAR PARK MASTER PLAN

2014 - 2018



City of Lafayette Parks & Recreation
1915 Scott Street
Lafayette, IN 47906

❖ *Acknowledgements*

City of Lafayette

Mayor Tony Roswarski

City Council Members

Lauren Ahlersmeyer

Perry Brown

Ronald Campbell

Bob Downing

Lon Heide

Kevin Klinker

Steve Meyer

Jerry Reynolds

Melissa Williamson

Parks & Recreation Board

Maurie Denney

Victor Klinker

Dave Mecklenburg

Carlynn Smith

Parks & Recreation Department

Claudine Laufman - Park Superintendent

Cory Ahlersmeyer

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Cornerstone P.D.S. Inc., Fishers, IN 46038*

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Lafayette Parks & Recreation

Comprehensive Five
Year Park Master Plan

2014 - 2018

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❖ Section One: Department Information

❖ *Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department*

Claudine Laufman
Superintendent
1915 Scott Street
Lafayette, IN 47904
765-807-1500 (phone)

Tony Roswarski, Mayor
20 N. 4th Street
Lafayette, IN 47901

Parks and Recreation Board Mission Statement

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department maintains quality park and recreation facilities and services, and facilitates leisure opportunities so that citizens will receive personal, social, environmental and economic benefits.

City Council Members

Lauren Ahlersmeyer
Perry Brown
Ronald Campbell
Bob Downing
Lon Heide
Kevin Klinker
Steve Meyer
Jerry Reynolds
Melissa Williamson

Park Board Members

Maurie Denney, President
24 Imperial Drive
Lafayette, IN 47905
Term expires 12/31/15

Victor Klinker
633 Kossuth Street
Lafayette, IN 47905
Term expires 12/31/16

Dave Mecklenburg
3524 Mulberry Drive
Lafayette, IN 47905
Term expires 12/31/17

Carlynn Smith
1709 Ocala Court
Lafayette, IN 47905
Term expires 12/31/14

❖ *Department Goals*

The Lafayette Board of Parks and Recreation is the policy-making authority for the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department. The Board is bipartisan and comprised of four members appointed by the Mayor to serve staggered four-year terms. The most basic and necessary function of the City Park Board is to outline proposed goals and objectives which will provide the framework and direction within which the board will direct future land acquisition, development and recreational programming.

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department and its Board operate under the provision of the "Indiana Parks and Recreation Law" (IC 36-10-3) in accordance with City Ordinance.

The Lafayette Parks Foundation and the Friends of Columbian Park Zoo are both independent not-for-profit corporations organized under the laws of the State of Indiana. These two organizations dedicate their efforts to supporting the Parks Department and the Columbian Park Zoo.

The purpose of the Lafayette Parks Foundation is to establish and maintain an endowment fund for the benefit of the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department, encourage individuals and organizations to make financial contributions to support the Department, and in various other ways as opportunities and needs arise to support the Department.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department maintains quality park and recreation facilities and services, and facilitates leisure opportunities so that all citizens will receive:

- Personal Benefits *in the form of physical fitness, relaxation, rest and revitalization;*
- Social Benefits *in the form of stronger and healthier families, ethnic and cultural harmony, reduced anti-social behavior, and enriched lives for persons with disabilities;*
- Environmental Benefits *in the form of a green and tree-filled city, habitat for native plants and animals, and open and protected green-space;*
- Economic Benefits *in the form of more productive and healthier citizens, increased tourism, and contributions to the quality of life sought by business and industry.*

GOALS & OBJECTIVES FOR LONG TERM EXCELLENCE

Human Resources

- A Park Board that provides strong leadership and which fosters cooperation between itself, the Superintendent, the Mayor and the City Council.
- A qualified, committed Park Staff that is motivated and customer oriented, whose skills are competitively compensated, and whose achievements are recognized.

Administration and Operations

An Administration that provides good management and follows adopted plans.

- A consistent set of policies regarding patron use of park property and a fee structure that supports maintenance of facilities and programs without denying access to any citizen.
- A safety and security program that provides safe facilities to attract the public, gives patrons a sense of security, and reduces vandalism.
- A park system whose appearance is a source of pride, whose facilities are clean, and whose maintenance is guided by a financially sound asset management program.

Funding and Financial Management

- A long-term financial plan that enables careful financial management, accountability for revenue, spending and public funds, and a capital improvements program.
- Adequate long-term funding that includes a consistent level of tax support, creative new funding sources, and partnerships with business and private donors, all supported by the efforts of an active park Foundation.
- The ability to be entrepreneurial with programs and services.

Organizational Relationships

- A park system that develops community pride, is user friendly, provides great customer service, and is supported by citizens through public/private partnerships.
- Beneficial government relations through coordination and collaboration with other park departments, other local government agencies, school corporations, and Purdue University in order to reduce duplication of facilities and programs, better coordinate the provision of infrastructure and to share resources, including staff expertise.

Physical Resources and Services

- System-wide improvements that create an inviting healthy family atmosphere at all parks.
- A well-maintained Columbian Park whose facilities and services are responsive to citizen needs and interests.
- An improved Zoo with a mission to encourage the appreciation of the world's wildlife, to enhance the preservation and conservation of biodiversity, and to inspire educational discovery and exploration in a fun, family-oriented environment for all citizens of the Greater Lafayette Area.
- Fully developed Riverfront Corridor Parks that maximize their potential and their location next to the Wabash River.
- A system of Neighborhood Parks that provides age-appropriate recreation and which are maintained in cooperation with neighborhood associations and neighborhood residents.
- An improved McAllister Center with a mission to provide a safe, fun environment for recreational programs and activities; a recreational facility that serves all citizens and high quality recreational programming that will enhance health and personal enrichment.
- Programs and classes for all ages, but with the greatest emphasis on children and teens, priced to be self-supporting.

Planning and Growth

- A strong commitment to planning that responds to community desires and results in multi-year plans that can be realistically implemented and funded.
- A park system that provides for growth and new facilities commensurate with the growth of the city (including land, facilities, equipment, staff and financial resources.)
- A linear park trail system that will connect citizens to every park and the river.

The goal of this Comprehensive Five-Year Park System Master Plan is to provide a roadmap for the future of the Department and to engage our citizens in our future plans.

❖ *Organization*

Department

The Parks and Recreation Department is comprised of the following divisions: Administrative Services, Park Operations, Amusements, Columbian Park Zoo, Lafayette Municipal Golf Course, and McAllister Recreation Center led by the Superintendent. During 2013, there were 37 full-time positions, 17 part-time and temporary positions, and approximately 200 seasonal employees.

Administrative Services

This division is responsible for financial accounting, fiscal planning, purchasing, data and record management, clerical and office services, marketing, public information, and customer service.

Park Operations

Park Operations is responsible for park and facility maintenance, trails, urban forestry, natural resources, city beautification, capital development and improvement, risk management, and safety and security.

Amusements

This division oversees aquatics and concessions.

Columbian Park Zoo

This division is responsible for running the Zoo, amusement rides, providing educational programming, and raising funds for the on-going renovations.

McAllister Recreation Center

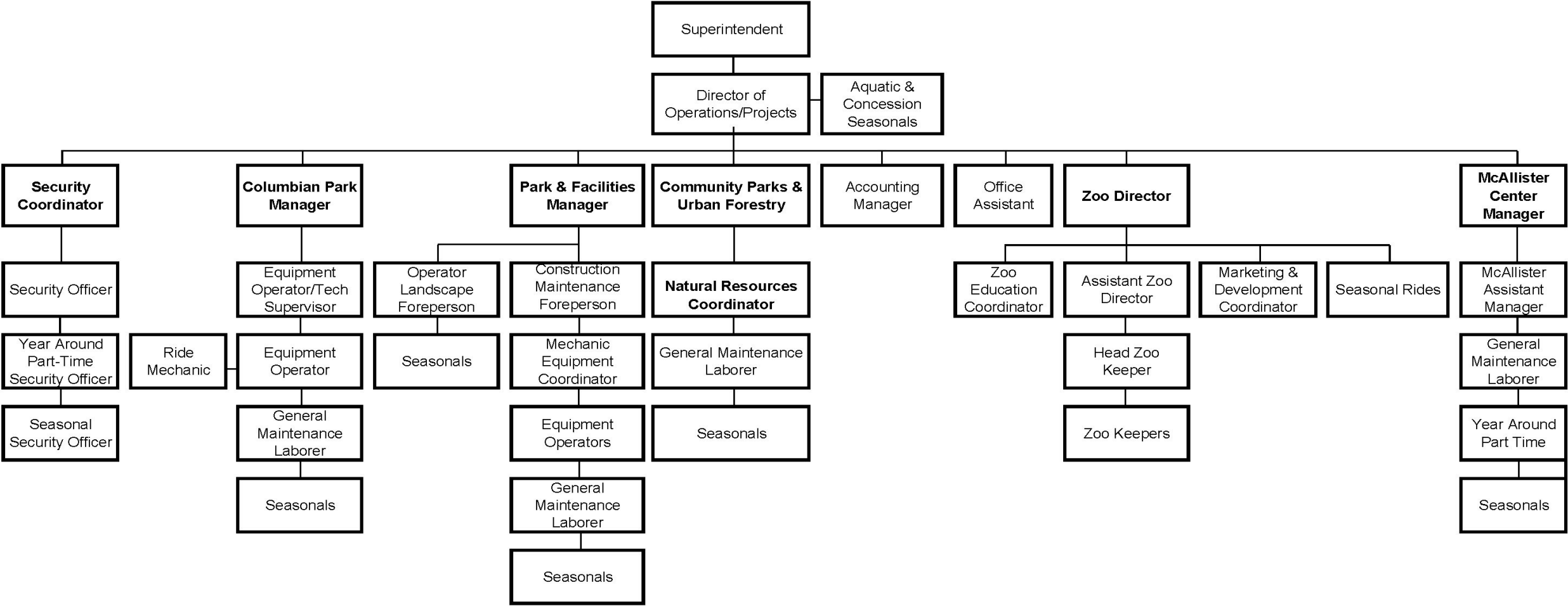
This division is responsible for the operation of McAllister Recreation Center and providing and overseeing a variety of recreational activities for the citizens of Lafayette.

Community Parks & Natural Resources

This division is responsible for planning, managing and supervising park landscape projects, managing the Adopt-A-Spot and Adopt-A-Median programs, assisting with city beautification, and developing and maintaining park signage, and conducting hazard tree evaluations.

The department organization is represented on the following flow chart on the next page.

Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department Organizational Chart



❖ *Progress Evaluation*

The following improvements were made in the Lafayette Park system during the last five years

2012

ARMSTRONG PARK

- Updated park signage

CASTAWAY BAY

- Painted restroom and changing room floors
- Changed out paper towel holders with electric hand dryers
- Installed ADA accessible lift
- Updated park signage

CAT PARK

- Updated park signage

COLUMBIAN PARK

- Changed out all paper towel holders with electric hand dryers in park restrooms
- Remodeled amusement rides to become **Wild Tykes Amusements** at the Columbian Park Zoo
- Installed new sound system on train
- Removed Water Wars amusement game
- Built new deck overlooking lagoon near the Jenks Rest
- Built a new security fence around the maintenance shop
- Made a “locker room” in the maintenance shop
- Painted and repaired picnic tables at all shelters
- Added new “universally accessible” playground equipment to the SIA Playground, replacing old equipment and other additions for the new equipment
- Installed new path/walkway on deer island near the Orange Shelter
- Updated park signage

COLUMBIAN PARK ZOO

- Remodeled amusement rides to become **Wild Tykes Amusements** at the Columbian Park Zoo
- Added fencing from petting zoo barn to parking lot
- Added drainage from downspouts to storm sewer
- Added new “universally accessible” playground equipment to the SIA Playground, replacing old equipment and other additions for the new equipment

HANNA PARK

- Updated park signage

LINNWOOD PARK

- Repaired fence (due to accident)
- Removed basketball backboard (due to vandalism)

LYBOULT SPORTS PARK

- Started fence replacement around horseshoe courts
- Relocated split rail fencing due to construction at CityBus Facility
- Updated park signage
- Replaced damaged signs

McALLISTER RECREATION CENTER

- Installed audiovisual equipment
- Installed new bench and rule sign at playground
- Updated park signage

McCAW PARK

- Replaced playground pieces that failed inspections
- Replaced damaged irrigation heads
- Ball fields one, two and three were reconditioned by JD Turf (50% paid by grant from Lafayette Youth Baseball)
- Hung new cable in batting cage
- Added new stripes to the tennis court for Pickleball play
- Poured new concrete pad in front of dumpster area
- Installed new handicapped ramp
- Updated park signage

MUNGER PARK

- Repaired graffiti on the trail that was vandalized
- Updated park sign
- Replaced damages rule sign

MURDOCK PARK

- Repaired irrigation
- Installed new path/walkway on Deer Island near the Orange Shelter
- Updated park signage
- Graded the softball field's infield for better drainage
- Painted restroom exterior
- Painted shelter

SHAMROCK PARK

- Filled cracks on roller hockey and basketball courts
- Repaired split rail fencing

STOCKTON PARK

- Installed new sandblasted redwood entry sign

TROPICANOE COVE

- Changed out paper towel holders for electric hand dryers
- Repaired broken pipe in leisure pool

-
- Refurbished and installed all new play feature signage and entry signage

VINTON NEIGHBORHOOD POOL

- Installed ADA accessible lift

PROJECTS WITHIN THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE (with assistance from the Parks Department)

- Assisted with work on the Bowman house
- Repaired and painted 110 picnic tables
- Repaired broken water line at Central Maintenance office
- Delivered tables to various events throughout the year
- Assisted with demolition of Wabash Center's playground renovation
- Completion of Citywide Trails Master Plan
- Completion of From Good to Great: Making Greater Lafayette a Community of Choice Report
- Completion of Public Tree Inventory Study for Trees in the City right-of-way

2011

ARMSTRONG PARK

- Renovated the infield of field number three
- Installed adult swing on the south side of the pond
- Installed a new irrigation controller from ET Water that allows remote operation and adjusts the irrigation based on weather conditions
- Repaired fencing on fields one and two

CASTAWAY BAY

- Painted restroom and changing room floors
- Installed a new irrigation controller from ET Water that allows remote operation and adjusts the irrigation based on weather conditions

CAT PARK

- Aerated fields and seeded for grass growth

COLUMBIAN PARK

- Ran new electric line to ice cream machine at Loeb Concessions, as well as in the restrooms
- Rebuilt Loeb Stadium dugout steps
- Painted the flag pole and foul poles at Loeb Stadium
- Welded all braces on backstop at Loeb Stadium
- Replaced two bull pin frames with new wood at Loeb Stadium
- Replaced sod in Loeb Stadium
- Painted all trash cans within the park
- Repaired and stained all picnic tables in the shelter areas
- Waterproofed all wood on the picnic shelters
- Planted new trees
- Painted curbs at all park entrances
- Repainted parking lines in all parking lots

-
- Replaced all handicapped signs in the parking lots
 - Painted all water fountains in the park
 - Enhanced Deer Island and installed new sod, planted grass seed where needed
 - Painted windows on the Jenks barn
 - Installed new electric lines in the Jenks Rest restroom
 - Painted war cannon in Columbian Park
 - Installed photo eye on Rush Pavilion exterior lighting
 - Installed a new roof on Rush Pavilion
 - Removed rotten railings on Rush Pavilion and Boathouse; sanded and stained older railings and installed new railings
 - Installed new gutters installed on the Boathouse
 - Installed 200 cubic yard engineered wood fiber at SIA Playground

COLUMBIAN PARK ZOO

- Designed, built and installed bubblers for the Otter exhibit
- Redesignated Otter exhibit pool plumbing
- Painted exterior cages
- Installed new gutters on holding building
- Ran new electric lines in the restrooms

ERIE & FERRY STREET GREEN SPACE

- Created master plan
- Regraded site
- Construction of sidewalks and shelter pads
- Installed new shelter
- Installed amenities: bench, adult swing, drinking fountain, light
- Installed spring rider with safety surface
- Installed block wall
- Installed landscape: trees, shrubs, perennials

HANNA PARK

- Installed safety surfacing to playgrounds
- Removed and replaced shelter support post
- Removed and installed a new grill

LAFAYETTE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

- Remodeled interior of Clubhouse
- Repaired protective beams on south side of driving range
- Removed the spare cart barn

LYBOULT SPORTS PARK

- Leveled outfield areas on field three due to settling of landfill underneath

McALLISTER RECREATION CENTER

- Implemented new recreation software, ActiveNet, which allows online registration for McAllister camps and programs
- Began the first phase of three phase masonry and tuck-pointing project to the exterior of the center.

McCAW PARK

- Repaired all of the infield lips
- Installed new disconnect panel and scoreboard circuitry
- Installed a new irrigation controller from ET WATER that allows remote operation and adjusts the irrigation based on weather conditions

MUNGER PARK

- Added safety surfacing to playground area

RIEHLE PLAZA, PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE & BIG FOUR DEPOT

- Painted all handrails

SOUTH TIPP PARK

- Installed safety surfacing to playground
- Removed shelter

TROPICANOE COVE

- Reconditioned lily pads
- Painted all sand play features
- Painted all exterior doors
- Installed new flow meters
- Installed new recreation software: ActiveNet

VINTON NEIGHBORHOOD POOL

- Replaced broken toilet
- Painted exterior and interior surfaces

PROJECTS WITHIN THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE (with assistance from the Parks Department)

- Public Tree Inventory
- Master Plan for Wabash River Urban Corridor: Two Cities, One River
Sponsored by Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC)

2010

ARMSTRONG PARK

- Renovated the infield of field number two
- Installed occupancy sensors in park restrooms for automatic shut off when not in use
- Installed water bottle fill station
- Built new picnic shelter with electrical outlets, grill and picnic tables. Shelter is ADA compliant
- Landscaped and installed split-rail fence around the shelter
- Installed adult swings

CASTAWAY BAY

- Built and installed shrouds on the pool drains
- Caulked all cracks and expansion joints in the facility
- Painted restroom floors

-
- Repaired all plumbing on shower head assemblies
 - Stained exterior siding

CAT PARK

- Installed occupancy sensors in park restrooms for automatic shut off when not in use
- Aerated fields and seeded for grass growth

COLUMBIAN PARK

- Purchased three fountains for installation on the lagoon
- Stained all picnic tables throughout the park
- Repaired banks along various sides of the lagoon
- Painted trash cans
- Rewired electrical at stage area on Memorial Island
- Built new shelving in the maintenance shop
- Changed out all soap dispensers in the park
- Installed new curbs along Main Street and Park Avenue
- Built and installed new entrance gates at the intersections of Park/Wallace and at Park/Scott
- Repaired broken sidewalks along Main Street
- Built and installed shrouds on pool drains at Tropicanae Cove
- Caulked all cracks and expansion joints at Tropicanae Cove
- Painted the lazy river inside of Tropicanae Cove
- Painted all exterior doors at Tropicanae Cove
- Painted all bike racks at Tropicanae Cove and SIA Playground
- Replaced broken sidewalk near the bridge area of SIA Playground
- Installed 300 cubic feet of safety surfacing at the SIA Playground
- Installed two new electrical lines at Jenks Rest
- Painted the cannon by Jenks Rest
- Built new shelving in the loft of the Big Barn by Jenks Rest
- Built and installed two barn doors at Loeb Stadium and painted entire barn
- Painted the press box at Loeb Stadium
- Constructed and installed counter tops at Loeb Stadium's concession area
- Installed new water fountain at Loeb Stadium
- Repaired concrete walls in Loeb Stadium's concourse
- Installed new drinking fountain in dugout at Loeb Stadium
- Painted all hallway doors inside Loeb Stadium
- Built new privacy fence around Zoo propane tank
- Converted shed at Zoo's Family Farm into a small gift shop
- Renovated Zoo Family Farm entrance sign

LAFAYETTE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

- Installed a new roof for the maintenance facility
- Implemented a new management system and POS
- Installed a stamped concrete addition to the drinking fountain area between green #4 and #5 tees.

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- Removed storage barn

LYBOULT SPORTS PARK

- Installed new drinking fountains
- Installed new water source at each field

McALLISTER RECREATION CENTER

- Upgraded the volleyball net system which included new standards (poles), net, out of bounds antennas and personalized pads that read McAllister in the center's signature purple and gold

McCAW PARK

- Enlarged and renovated field number three for Pony District Tournament
- Installed water bottle fill station
- Installed occupancy sensors in park restrooms for automatic shut off when not in use

MUNGER PARK

- Installed water bottle fill station near Greenbush restrooms
- Installed occupancy sensors in park restrooms for automatic shut off when not in use

RIEHLE PLAZA, PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE & BIG FOUR DEPOT

- Painted all handrails

SHAMROCK PARK

- Repaired cracks in roller hockey court

VINTON NEIGHBORHOOD POOL

- Built and installed shrouds on the pool drains
- Painted walls and floors in the restrooms
- Caulked all cracks and expansion joints in the facility
- Painted bike racks
- Installed new water fountain
- Installed new baseboard in restrooms

PROJECT WITHIN THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE (with assistance from the Parks Department)

- Master Plan for Wabash River Greenway Sponsored by WREC

2009

ARMSTRONG PARK

- Renovated field three infield with home plate and batter's box
- Repainted restrooms and refinished floors

CASTWAY BAY

- Built new life-jacket rack

COLUMBIAN PARK

- Painted all rides: boats, horse and buggy and helicopters
- Built and installed new fencing around and inside ride area
- Sided Zoo holding building with old barn wood
- Replaced flew pipe inside of the Zoo Animal House
- Striped parking lot
- Replaced pump for Leisure Pool
- Made and installed new main drain covers for Tropicanae Cove to comply with Federal regulations
- Installed new grates in all pools (Tropicanae Cove, Castaway Bay, Vinton) to comply with Federal regulations
- Built new life vest rack and installed at Tropicanae Cove
- Installed new cabinets and counter tops at Castaway Bay
- Painted Vinton pool, soffits, ceiling and restroom floors
- Installed 400 cubic yards of safety surfacing on SIA playground
- Retiled Rush Pavilion entrances
- Striped all parking lots in Colombian Park and along Park Avenue
- Purchased and installed recycle containers for the shelter area, Loeb Stadium, Zoo, SIA Playground
- Installed new pump in Triangle Fountain and ran new electric line
- Dug up and replaced broken overflow tile for the Lagoon
- Installed new roof on shelter at Deer Island
- Ran new waterline to Deer Island from Rush Pavilion
- Painted Deer Island Shelter and bridge going to island
- Stained all picnic tables and painted trashcans throughout park
- Sanded, stained, and varnished all railings on Boathouse and Rush Pavilion
- Repaired banks along lagoon near Jenks and stage areas
- Built and installed new shelving below Rush Pavilion for record storage
- Held second Annual Colombian Park Car Show
- Purchased new small trailer and equipped with sandblaster and compressor for removing graffiti
- Installed new gutters and downspouts on the stage building
- Painted all interior doors and frames and ceiling tiles in Jenks Senior Center
- Installed new AC compressor at Jenks Senior Center

LYBOULT SPORTS PARK

- Renovated all fields by switching out the Aglime with a baseball infield mix

McALLISTER RECREATION CENTER

- Replaced sidewalk to front entrances

McCAW PARK

- Painted interior of restrooms
- Installed recycling barrels

MURDOCK PARK

- Reroofed dugouts
- Eagle Scouts repaired trail and constructed a walking bridge over wetland area

2008

CASTWAY BAY

- Built new life-jacket rack

CAT PARK AND SOCCER FIELDS

- Installed irrigation to the three youth fields

CENTENNIAL PARK

- Color coated the basketball court

COLUMBIAN PARK

- Built extensions to the train tunnel behind the maintenance building, including new roll-up doors, siding on exterior and new interior lighting
- Built and installed shelving in the Boathouse basement storage room
- Installed mop sink in Boathouse basement
- Installed Halo around home plate at Loeb Stadium
- Installed computer and phone lines to Rush Pavilion
- Painted each of the amusement rides
- Painted all picnic shelter tables
- Installed goose-deterrent system lights in the lagoon
- Painted all exterior doors and pillars at Tropicanoe Cove
- Installed new water fountain at Loeb Stadium
- Stripped and waxed all floors at Tropicanoe Cove
- Installed 300 cubic yards of Fi-bar surfacing at SIA Playground
- Installed archways for entrance to Butterfly Garden at Zoo
- Painted the Slide Sculpture
- Waterproofed all picnic shelters
- Installed new Merry-Go-Round at SIA Playground
- Painted reserved parking spaces
- New curbs were installed around the exterior of the park
- Installed 40 tons of sand at SIA Playground
- Ran electric and water to fountain in Triangle; fountain ran for the first time since 1960
- Painted the flagpole in the Triangle
- Replaced two impellers on pumps at Tropicanoe Cove

MCCAW PARK

- Renovated all three baseball fields by adding infields mix with stabilizer
- Removed any lips in the infields
- Repaired all pitching mounds and home plate areas and repaired the irrigation

LYBOULT SPORTS PARK

- Demolished the old press box and install a storage garage/concession area

MURDOCK PARK

- Assisted Eagle scout in trail restoration project
- Added safety surfacing to playgrounds

SHAMROCK PARK

- Added split rail fencing along parking lot and entrance road

VINTON POOL

- Painted Vinton Pool
- Built new life-jacket rack
- Patched roof and covered with roofing material
- Installed new water heater



❖ Section Two: Community Profile

❖ *Community Profile*

Lafayette is the county seat of Tippecanoe County and is located in west-central Indiana, 130 miles southeast of Chicago and 60 miles northwest of Indianapolis. Because of its central location in the county, it is a focal point not only for Tippecanoe County, but is considered the “hub” of a nine county agricultural, commercial, industrial and educational heartland. In fact, in 1991 following the 1990 Census, the Census Bureau expanded the Lafayette MSA to include neighboring Clinton County to the southeast.

The community is served by Interstate 65, which connects Indianapolis and Chicago, and six additional state and federal highways. In addition to passenger railroad service (Amtrak), the community is provided rail service by two major lines. Chartered and commercial air transportation is provided by two airports in the county and Indianapolis International Airport is a 75 minute drive.

History

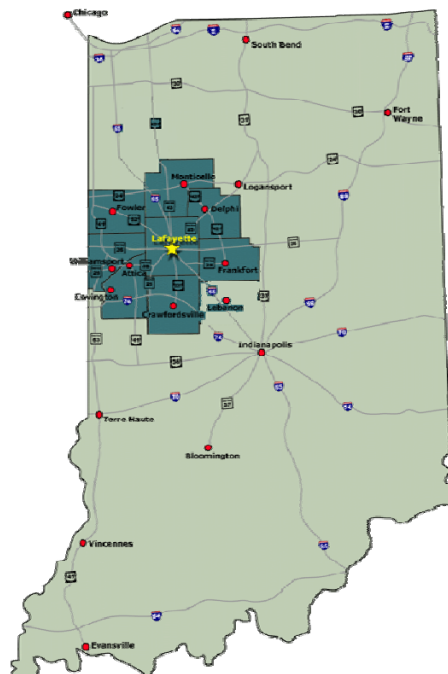
Tippecanoe County was inhabited by a tribe of Miami Indians known as the Quiatenon or Weas. In 1717, the French government established Fort Quiatenon on the Wabash River about three miles south of the current location of the city of Lafayette. The fort was the center of trade between the Indians, merchants, and trappers. A festival known as The Feast of the Hunter’s Moon takes place there each fall.

William Digby, a boatman, founded Lafayette in 1824. Lafayette was chosen by the county commissioners in 1826 to be the county seat. The Wabash and Erie Canal construction stimulated additional growth in the community in the 1840’s and it was one of the most heavily used ports on the entire canal route. However, the railroad proved to be the catalyst that put Lafayette on the map. The first rail line connected Indianapolis to Lafayette in 1852 and then a second line was added downtown on what is now 5th Street. The rail lines allowed Lafayette to become a center for meat-packing and merchandising. The selection of Tippecanoe county for the site of a land grant college established

by the Morrill Act, would result in the location of Purdue University across the Wabash due to a generous donation of land by John Purdue. The university's development along with the growth of the industrial sector became an important aspect of the growth of the entire community on both sides of the Wabash. During the depression era, Lafayette received federal aid through work relief programs which included the development of the Purdue Airport, construction of a swimming pool at Columbian Park and Purdue's fieldhouse.

Lafayette thrived during the era from 1940 - 1970's due to their industrial base and the GI Bill which brought thousands of servicemen to the area to do training and research. The construction of Interstate 65 was the catalyst for the city's new suburbs east of Lafayette in the early 1950's. Redevelopment efforts from mid 1975 to 1990's brought revitalization to the downtown along with historic preservation and new retail developments.

The Parks Department currently partners with the county historical society, county parks department, West Lafayette Parks department, native tribes, and cultural art groups to develop programs celebrating the unique history and culture of the Greater Lafayette Area including festivals, programs, etc.





City of Lafayette

❖ *Features*

Geographic Features and Land Use

The main natural feature is the Wabash River. It is an entrenched pre-glacial valley that was filled and later re-excavated. The river runs north to south through the city and Lafayette lies entirely within its drainage basin. The flood plain is very narrow for a stream of this size; the bottom lands are one-fourth to one-half mile wide with very little variation in relief and are thus subject to frequent flooding. Flooding has created challenges for recreation uses due to the damage that can be caused to recreation fields and the golf course. Careful planning is required to maximize natural resources, development opportunities, and maintenance costs for recreational facilities and other redevelopment within the Wabash River floodplain.

The Department has utilized the river historically. Planning efforts are just beginning for the former golf course property to determine a new master plan for its use. The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) is a non-profit entity which has been leading long range planning efforts since 2004 to improve the riverfront, the river corridor, and water quality. The Wabash Heritage Trail crosses all three park jurisdictions in Tippecanoe County.

The city is taking initiatives to protect the existing tree canopy within the city limits by creating tree inventories and assessing the conditions of their trees. This has been critical to maintaining healthy and vital trees which are so critical to the quality of life of a community. The city has experienced tree loss due to the emerald ash borer infestation and plants new trees to offset these losses. This area has a variety of tree diversity including maple, oak, ash, spruce, poplar and locust.

The city's other surrounding areas are relatively flat areas which are used for agricultural purposes due to their rich loam soils. These agricultural areas have become more developed as the city has expanded and grown. Industrial and retail development have occurred near Interstate 65. Existing park land like Berlovitz Woods provide opportunities for interpretive trails or a future nature center to celebrate the natural tree stands that once blanketed this area in the 1800's.

The existing geography provides other opportunities for several different recreational opportunities such as walking and bicycle trails, interpretive programs related to historical sites, wildlife and plants. Open areas provide opportunities for sports and recreation fields, shelters, and general open space within the parks. The department has identified various historical sites in the downtown area that will be linked by interpretive trail loops and eventually to the trail system.

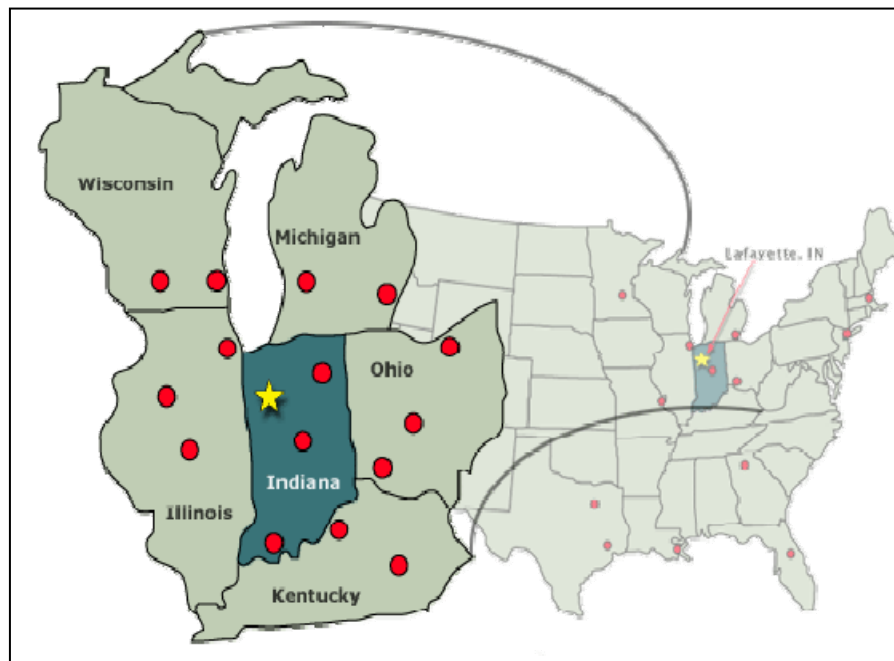
Climate

Lafayette's climate and temperature are relatively mild; generally there are no extreme temperatures in this Midwest region. Average temperatures range from 30 degrees F during the winter months to 75.5 degrees in the summer. Annual precipitation is 38 inches.

Transportation:

Because of its location 60 miles north of Indianapolis and 120 miles south of Chicago, the greater Lafayette area is easily accessed by car, bus, air and rail. A major north-south artery is Interstate 65, which connects the area with Chicago to the north and the southern part of the United States.

Conrail and Amtrack provide rail service. A regional airport and a daily commuter shuttle to the Indianapolis International Airport allow for access to major airlines. The city has actively worked with the railroads to create connections and relocate active rail lines to encourage connectivity within downtown. Pedestrian linkages over the Wabash River were proposed in the Wabash River Master Plan including enhancements to SR 26, Myers Bridge, and a new Brown Street bridge to connect West Lafayette to Lafayette.



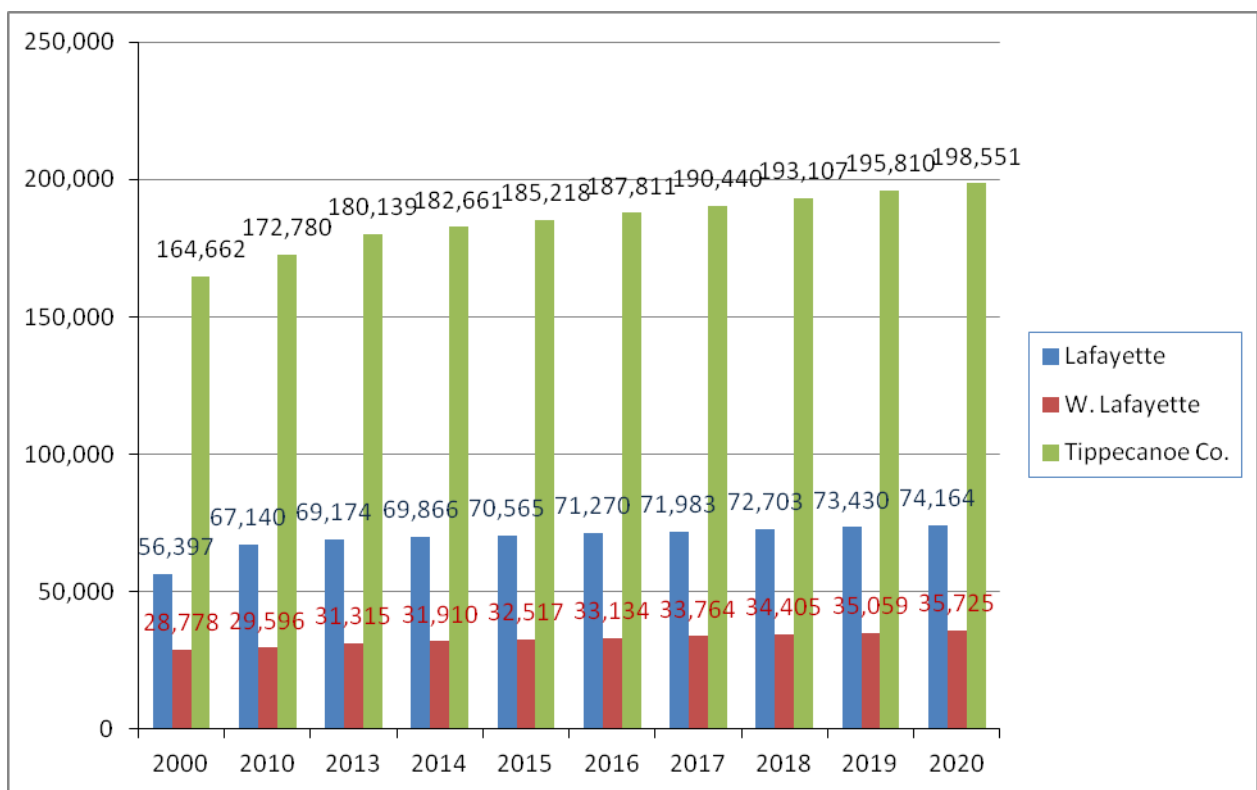
Lafayette -Proximity Map

❖ *Socio and Economic Considerations*

Population and Demographics

Overall the planning area has continued to grow over the last two decades. Lafayette has seen a small but steady increase in population. New residential and commercial areas continue to be created and the downtown area continues its revitalization. Lafayette's population has continued to increase throughout the last 10 years at a rate of 2.88 percent as compared with West Lafayette at 1.11 percent and Tippecanoe County at 0.47 percent as is depicted on the following chart. Growth estimates are conservative due to the potential impact of the recession.

Community Growth Projections



The dominant age groups for Lafayette remained steady in the 25 - 54 age group which represents 41 percent of the population. This is down slightly from 2000 by 1.2 percent. Children under age 19 represent 26.5 percent of the population. In comparison to the

2000 census there has not been much change. The baby boomer generation showed an overall minor decrease in the last 10 years. The 60 - 69 age group decreased by 1.4 percent from 9.1 percent to 7.7 percent. The majority of households at 55.6 percent within Lafayette city limits are family households that have dependent children. The department continues to see strong participation in children and adult programming and sports. The median age was 31.9.

The city's population remains primarily white; however the Hispanic population grew slightly to 12.1 percent. This growth is anticipated to continue which is consistent over the last ten years.

Age of Lafayette Population - 2010 US Census

AGE	Total	% of population	Male	Female
Total population	67,140	100	32,696	34,444
Under 5 years	5,343	8	2,735	2,608
5 to 9 years	4,388	6.5	2,224	2,164
10 to 14 years	3,783	5.6	1,828	1,955
15 to 19 years	4,306	6.4	2,151	2,155
20 to 24 years	6,881	10.2	3,358	3,523
25 to 29 years	6,752	10.1	3,532	3,220
30 to 34 years	5,146	7.7	2,644	2,502
35 to 39 years	4,142	6.2	2,144	1,998
40 to 44 years	3,937	5.9	1,997	1,940
45 to 49 years	4,040	6	2,024	2,016
50 to 54 years	4,068	6.1	1,983	2,085
55 to 59 years	3,734	5.6	1,715	2,019
60 to 64 years	3,027	4.5	1,391	1,636
65 to 69 years	2,163	3.2	948	1,215
70 to 74 years	1,706	2.5	721	985
75 to 79 years	1,324	2	510	814
80 to 84 years	1,212	1.8	452	760
85 years +	1,188	1.8	339	849
Median age (years)	31.9	(X)	30.9	33

These statistics support the staff's desire to provide new recreation programs to support these demographic age groups and cultural diversity. Staff will need to continue to monitor the age of participants in order to be responsive to the potential need for new programming for baby boomers which is a trend in other communities. The department is actively working to develop these programs by identifying new partners to assist them in these new programs.

Lafayette's median income in 2000 was \$35,859 and has slightly increased in 2010 at \$38,556. Tippecanoe County's median income has risen from \$38,652 in 2000 to \$43,485 in 2010.

❖ *Snapshot - 2013*

City of Lafayette demographics

- Median Age: 31.9
- Number of Households: 28,545
- Average family size: 3
- Median Household Income: \$38,556
- Families living below poverty: 18.6%

❖ *Education*

The residents of Lafayette support the Lafayette School Corporation, which include the following schools:

- Earhart Elementary
- Edgelea Elementary
- Glen Acres Elementary
- Miami Elementary
- Miller Elementary
- Murdock Elementary
- Oakland Elementary
- Vinton Elementary
- Lafayette Sunnyside Middle School
- Lafayette Tecumseh Junior High School
- Jefferson High School
- Lafayette Adult Resource Academy
- Greater Lafayette Area Special Service
- Tippecanoe School Corporation

Private Schools

- Faith Christian Academy (K-12)
- Central Catholic Junior/Senior High School (7-12)
- St. James Lutheran (K-8)
- St. Mary's Cathedral School (Preschool-3)
- St. Boniface School (4-6)
- St. Lawrence School (Preschool-6)
- Lafayette Christian School (K-8)

Higher education opportunities are available through Purdue University, Ivy Tech State College, Indiana Business College, St. Elizabeth School of Nursing and Harrison College.

According to data from the 2010 U.S. Census, Lafayette residents 25 years or older, 83.1 percent are high school graduates or higher, 26.3 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher.

❖ *Economic Base*

Lafayette has a broad employment base which offers a variety of employment opportunities within Tippecanoe County and outside the community. According to the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the community has over 300 manufacturing firms which include robotics, biotechnology, food processing, microelectronics, instrumentation and office/clerical industries. The greater Lafayette area business community continues to work together as a team to attract different types of employment beyond manufacturing through such opportunities as the Purdue Technology Research Park and Landis & Gyr.

Non-manufacturing Employers (Over 200 employees)

- Purdue University
- Franciscan St. Elizabeth Hospital
- Tippecanoe School Corporation
- Indiana University Arnett Health
- Lafayette School Corporation
- City of Lafayette
- Tippecanoe County Government
- McDonald's Restaurants
- Great Lakes Chemical Corporation
- Kirby Risk

-
- Wabash National
 - Lafayette Community School Corporation
 - Unity Health Care
 - Wal-Mart

Manufacturers (Over 200 Employees)

- Subaru-Isuzu Automotive Inc.
- Wabash National Corporation
- Caterpillar Inc.
- Evonik Degussa Corporation Tippecanoe Laboratories
- Alcoa/Lafayette Operations
- Lafayette Venetian Blind, Inc.
- Oerlikon Fairfield Drive Systems
- Siemens Power Transmission & Distribution
- TRW Commercial Steering Division
- Tate & Lyle, North and South Plants

Work commuting patterns show that only 5.0 percent of those living in Tippecanoe county commute out of the county to work.

Cited Sources:

US Census Bureau (2010)
U.S. Census 2011 American Community Survey
Indiana Business Research Center (www.stats.indiana.gov)
Economic Development Council of Greater Lafayette Commerce (www.glp.org)
Robert M. Taylor, Jr. etc *Indiana: A New Historical Guide* (Indiana Historical Society, 1989)

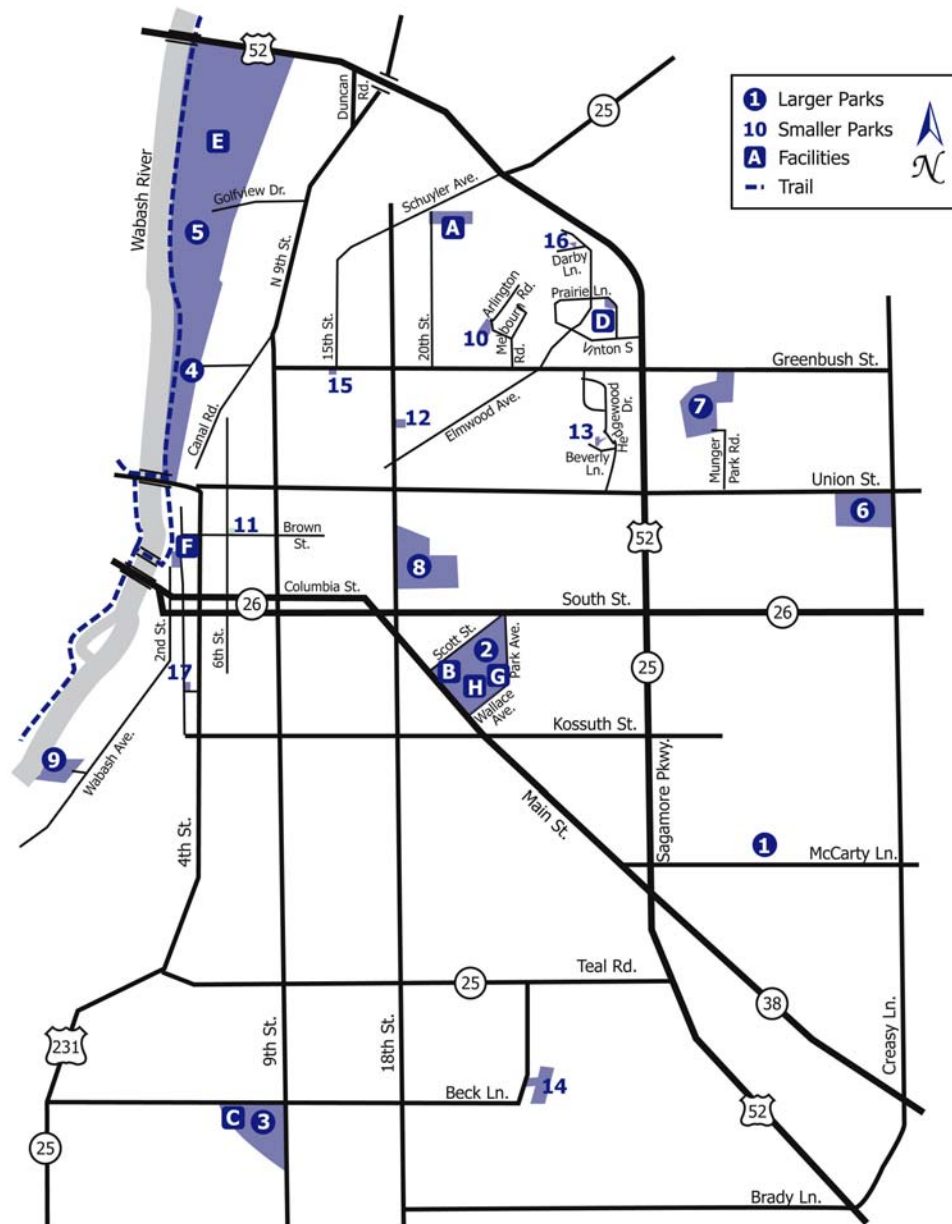
Misc. Web Resources:

www.in.gov
www.rootsweb.com
www.hometownlocator.com
www.maps-n-stats.com (original source US Census Bureau)
www.city-data.com
www.answers.com
(Forstall, Richard L. (editor) (1996). *Population of states and counties of the United States: 1790 to 1990: from the twenty-one decennial censuses*. United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Population Division. ISBN 0934213488
Indiana: A New Historical Guide – Robert M. Taylor, Jr. etc, 1989



❖ Section Three: Park Inventory

Parks and Recreation Facility Map



- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 CAT Park & Soccer Fields | 7 Munger Park | 13 Hedgewood Park | A McAllister Recreation Center |
| 2 Columbian Park | 8 Murdock Park | 14 Kennedy Park | B Tropicanae Cove |
| 3 Armstrong Park | 9 Shamrock Park | 15 Linnwood Park | C Castaway Bay |
| 4 Lybault Sports Park | 10 Arlington Park | 16 North Darby Park | D Vinton Pool |
| 5 McAllister Park | 11 Centennial Park | 17 South Tipp Park | E Lafayette Golf Course |
| 6 McCaw Park | 12 Hanna Park | | F Big Four Depot |
| | | | G SIA Playground |
| | | | H Columbian Park Zoo |

❖ *Existing Park Facilities*

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department manages nearly 700 acres of park land within the City of Lafayette. Providing and preserving parks and open green space enhances the desirability of the community and contributes to the health and wellness of all Lafayette residents. The Department also operates many unique facilities which include an award-winning family aquatic center, innovative playground, dog park, premier baseball stadium, zoo, amusement rides, recreation center, golf course, a linear trail system, and portions of the Wabash Heritage Trail. These facilities serve as an investment in the future well-being of Lafayette residents, and contribute to the overall quality of life and viability of the city.

The Planning Area is defined as areas within five miles of the city limits of Lafayette and the city limits, which does include areas west of Interstate 65. The department allows non-residents to participate in their various programs, leagues and facilities at a non-resident rate. The department works closely in partnership with the county park department and the West Lafayette park department to coordinate services and programs to maximize services and financial resources.

Columbian Park

The 'crown jewel' of the Lafayette park system, Columbian Park has served the community for over a century. The small zoo was opened in 1908 and currently houses over 120 animals. The Zoo closed to the public in 2004 for renovations and reopened in June 2007, after the completion of several new exhibits. Renovations is on-going.

Loeb Stadium, a 3,500-seat baseball stadium, was built in 1940 and is home field to Lafayette Jefferson High School, the American Legion Post-11 League, and 13-and-older Colt League. The stadium annually hosts the Colt World Series and IHSAA tournaments. Renovations to this stadium are planned in the near future.

Tropicanae Cove Family Aquatic Center continues the long aquatic tradition in the park while meeting the leisure needs of today's families. The SIA Playground provides Lafayette children and families an exciting and adventurous place to play. The innovative playground is fully accessible and includes distinct areas specifically designed for all ages ranging from tots to adults.

Columbian Park features amusement rides with a restored miniature train and other rides enjoyed by smaller children. The Rush Pavilion, restored in 1990, was built in 1890 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Also in the park are Jenks' Rest (home to the Tippecanoe County Council on Aging and Junior Achievement), Memorial Island (veteran memorials and amphitheater), picnic shelters, and the Boathouse, restored in 1999, which serves as the Parks Administrative Office.

RIVERFRONT PARKS

The Department manages a complex of parks along the Wabash River comprised of over 450 acres.

Wabash Heritage Trail

Cooperatively maintained by Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County Parks Departments, the 13-mile trail travels along the Wabash River and Burnett's Creek. Over two miles of the trail cross the Lafayette Riverfront Parks listed below.

Lyboubt Sports Park

This park is a favorite destination for sporting enthusiasts. Amenities include three lighted adult baseball fields, sheltered horseshoe courts, basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, picnic areas, and a public restroom facility.

McAllister Park

This park is home to the Lafayette Municipal Golf Course, which was built in 1971. The site lies within the flood plain and floods periodically. Flood control improvements were finished in 1999 to minimize the impact of floodwater on the golf course. A pump was installed in 2005 to aid in removing water from the golf course in the event of a flood.

Environmental Interpretive Area

Located north of US 52, this wooded site is undeveloped and consists largely of a high quality wetland.

Municipal Golf Course

The Municipal Golf Course was closed in the March of 2013 due to the high costs of repairs caused by repeated flood damage from the Wabash River. The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) and the park department will facilitate a public input process to develop a re-use master plan for the golf course site.

COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION CENTER

The Department manages seven community parks, one community recreation center, and a linear park trail system.

Armstrong Park

This 30-acre park features three lighted youth baseball fields, five lighted tennis courts, lighted basketball courts, restrooms and concession building, multi-age playground, 50-person picnic shelter, stocked pond, and a 2/3 mile paved trail. It is also home to Castaway Bay, and a community aquatic center.

Berlovitz Woods

This site is currently undeveloped. The 20-acre site is made up of woods and quality wetland. Future development plans include trails, natural interpretive areas, small playground, picnic areas, and parking. Development plans will maintain the natural character of the woods and wetland areas.

CAT Park and Soccer Fields

CAT Park and Soccer Fields were developed through a lease between the Department and Caterpillar Inc. for the use of 32-acres of land south of the facility. CAT Park includes eight irrigated soccer fields of varying sizes, parking, restroom/concession building, and attractive landscaping.

Linear Park Trail

The goal of the Linear Park is to link every park and school around the city. The trailhead begins near Armstrong Park and is about a one mile long at this time. When completed, it will be a 50-mile path.

McCaw Park

This park was developed through a redevelopment project that included a new fire station. The park is partially wooded and has three lighted youth baseball fields, tot and multi-age playgrounds, lighted tennis courts, basketball courts, parking, naturalized areas, and two small shelters with grills. Future plans include surfaced trails.

Munger Park

The park has a double shelter and grills, two public restroom facilities, playground, 1-mile paved trail, acres of wildflowers, dry detention basin, stocked pond, and fishing pier. Future plans include a new shelter, additional trees, and interpretive signs. The park and its development were made possible by significant contributions from Duke Energy and Thomas and Alice Munger.

Murdock Park

The largest and most forested park within the central city, this park has two shelters, grills, one lighted youth softball field, concession building, restrooms, 0.9-mile interpretive trail, 18-hole disc golf course, multi-age playground, sledding hill, and a lighted basketball court.

Shamrock Park

Redeveloped with -Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, this park has a boat launch ramp, shelter, grill, multi-age and tot playgrounds, lighted half-court basketball courts, lighted roller hockey rink, and open play space. The park is also home to the award-winning Shamrock Dog Park, which features two 2-acre fenced areas for large dogs and a 1/3-acre area for smaller dogs, water fountains, and gated entry.

McAllister Recreation Center

The center is housed in the former Longlois Elementary School and features a gymnasium, community meeting areas, game rooms, weight and fitness areas, open green space, basketball court, picnic shelter, grill, and multi-age playground. The Center offers programs for the youth of Lafayette. Adults and youth are afforded the opportunity to participate in programs such as: Youth Basketball, Flag Football, and Sporties for Shorties, Summer Camp, Jazzercise, Yoga, and weight and fitness training. These programs continue to be expanded and improved annually.

AQUATIC FACILITIES

The Department manages three family aquatic centers. These outdoor facilities are open during the summer season to serve the aquatic needs of the community.

Castaway Bay

Opened in July of 2003, Castaway Bay's features include a beach-like entry, spray and play areas, geysers, bubble bench, an exuberant play area that can be used for games or exercise, grass area for sunning, open green play space, and a modern bathhouse.

Tropicanoe Cove Family Aquatic Center in Columbian Park

Tropicanoe Cove helps preserve the aquatic tradition in Columbian Park while meeting the leisure needs of today's families. Features include a large leisure pool with zero-depth entrance, lazy river, water slides, water and sand playgrounds, sand volleyball court, bathhouse, and concession building. The multiple pools are serviced by a state-of-the-art water quality system.

Vinton Pool

The Vinton Pool serves north-side neighborhoods. Vinton Pool is configured in a Z-shape and features a beach-like entrance with playful water geysers. The pool also has a double splashdown slide and water basketball hoop. Two large 12-foot umbrellas provide shade to visitors on the deck.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

The Department manages eight smaller parks that serve neighborhoods.

Arlington Park

Located just north of Greenbush Street, this park was completely renovated in 2005. Improvements include a multi-age playground, picnic shelter, resurfaced and color-coated tennis and basketball court, and open green space and landscaping. Renovations were made possible thanks to CDBG funds, Tate & Lyle, Small World Child Care, and the Vinton Neighborhood Association.

Centennial Park

Site of a historic marker commemorating its downtown neighborhood, this park features a basic multi-age and tot playground, basketball court, and picnic shelter. Centennial Park serves youth programs sponsored by the YWCA and Lafayette Urban Ministries.

Hanna Park

Located next to the Hanna Community Center, this park includes unique playground equipment for 2-5 and 5-12 year old children, musical chimes, tricycle path, resurfaced basketball court, picnic shelter, and grill. This park has been adopted by the Hanna Neighborhood Association. It serves youth programs sponsored by Hanna Center and Dennis Burton Child Care Center. Hanna Park is a past recipient of CDBG funds.

Hedgewood Park

This park includes a multi-age playground, adult swing, picnic table, park bench, signage, and landscaping. The neighborhood association has established a neighborhood watch program for Hedgewood Park to ensure that the park is a safe place to play.

Kennedy Park

The largest of the Department's neighborhood parks is adjacent to Miami Elementary School. This seven-acre park has a basic multi-age playground, open space and a soccer field.

Linnwood Park

Park amenities include a multi-age playground, basketball court, shelter, picnic area, and attractive trees and landscaping.

North Darby Park

This small neighborhood park contains a multi-age playground, basketball court, new sidewalks and landscaping.

South Tipp Park

Located next to the Community Family Resource Center (CFRC), this park features a basic multi-age playground and tot playground, basketball court, and picnic shelter. This park serves youth programs sponsored by CFRC. South Tipp Park is a past recipient of CDBG funds and has been adopted by the Ellsworth-Romig Neighborhood Association and CFRC.

Stockton Park

Stockton Park is a small park of 0.5 acres which opened in 2011. Located at the intersection of Erie and Ferry Streets within the Stockton Crossing Neighborhood, this pocket park was inspired and planned with the help of the invested neighborhoods. The small

neighborhood park contains a multi-age playground, basketball court, new sidewalks and landscaping, and new fencing.

Other Recreation Providers

In addition, Lafayette's recreational needs are met through a variety of additional groups and facilities. Citizens may utilize programs and facilities offered by West Lafayette and Tippecanoe County Park's Department and other organizations in the below list.

- Prophetstown State Park
- Schools - See page 2.8 in Community Profile
- Miscellaneous Public Facilities/Group
 - Boys and Girls Club of Tippecanoe County (north and south)
 - YMCA
 - YWCA
 - Fraternal Order of Eagles
- Area golf courses
 - Lafayette Elks Country Club
 - Battle Ground Golf Course
 - Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex
 - Coyote Crossing Golf Course
 - Ravines Golf Course
 - Lafayette Country Club

Americans with Disabilities Act

Accessibility and the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements must be taken into consideration for every program and facility. The Department continually strives to achieve accessibility stands in all of its program services, facility renovations and developments. Existing facilities are in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The ADA Compliance officer for the City of Lafayette is Ms. Kim Meyer. Her office is located at 20 N. Sixth Street, 47901 in City Hall. Additional contact information: phone: 765-807-1060, email: HR@lafayette.in.gov. She can be contacted via phone, email or the City's Action Center. The City's ADA public notice and grievance policy procedures can be found on the city's website or by contacting the ADA Compliance Officer at City Hall whose contact information is provided above.

In April 2012, city staff started compliance reviews for the updated 2012 ADAAG standards for all city facilities. Reviews for parks are due to be completed in the first quarter of 2014. Some park facility reviews have been completed and the department has already completed needed improvements. These improvements have included such items as the installation of ADAAG compliant lifts at all pool facilities, replaced play equipment at SIA playground with universally accessible play equipment, interior and exterior signage, installation of new accessible ramp in McCaw Park parking area, accessible path from basketball court to McAllister Center. As these reviews are completed in 2014, staff will continue to perform the needed improvements.

The department strives to meet the ever changing needs of their constituents and whenever possible incorporate new activities that allow those who may suffer from some form of disability to be involved. Some examples of these on-going efforts include the renovations to Columbia Park Zoo which provide accessibility to exhibits for the disabled. The department also incorporates various activities and options for those who have special needs in their programming at McAllister and throughout the system. The Zoo allows any caregiver free entry to assist a special needs visitor. They also partner with the Wabash Center who provides services and assists those with disabilities.

Special considerations are incorporated into the programs to allow for everyone to participate. The department desires to be flexible in their programming and allow all skill levels and abilities to participate.

Parks and Recreation Budget

The park and recreation budget is primarily funded through property tax revenues and user fees imposed and collected for various programs.

Below is a summary of general fund and revenue from the 2008-2012. The department has partnered with local businesses and other agencies to meet the ongoing budget challenges over the last five years. They continue to actively pursue partnerships and grants to fund programs and capital improvement projects.

GENERAL FUND	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Personnel	\$2,026,425	\$2,220,365	\$2,280,846	\$2,222,285	\$2,222,285
Supplies	\$371,290	\$378,400	\$390,947	\$406,330	\$406,431
Services	\$800,180	\$801,610	\$801,775	\$810,295	\$817,595
Total	\$3,197,900	\$3,400,375	\$3,473,568	\$3,438,910	\$3,446,311

REVENUE	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Aquatics	\$344,642	\$348,183	\$446,123	\$433,368	\$437,247
Rides	\$47,791	\$42,988	\$33,403	\$37,010	\$44,857
Concessions	\$149,040	\$115,946	\$147,132	\$150,786	\$144,905
Rentals	\$45,815	\$78,837	\$75,238	\$82,526	\$82,953
McAllister	\$197,934	\$201,550	\$231,619	\$227,250	\$258,362
Zoo	\$100,585	\$89,939	\$134,679	\$130,970	\$150,159
Golf	\$496,000	\$444,659	\$272,792	\$150,575	\$380,126

❖ Section Four: Park Trends & Needs Analysis

❖ *Trends in Park and Recreation*

Citizens are becoming more health conscious as they age, and they are paying more attention to their overall health and fitness.

Current trends throughout the United States are focusing on activities that can incorporate all members of the family such as growth in fitness walking trails and aquatic facilities, and there is still major emphasis on health and wellness programs. These have been increasing over the last fifteen years and continue to do so today. Citizens are becoming more health conscious as they age, and they are paying more attention to their overall health and fitness. This is evidenced by the fact that more people are walking, swimming and exercising today more than ever before. This is also evidenced by the fact that schools, businesses and hospitals are instituting wellness programs for all ages to encourage life-long fitness and to reduce health insurance costs.

Recreational activities such as fishing, hiking, baseball, basketball, golf, and soccer are among the top 20 other activities recently identified by the National Sporting Goods Association and the National Recreation and Park Association.

2011 NSGA Sports Participation Study (%)

1. Exercise Walking (97.1)
2. Exercising with Equipment (55.5)
3. Swimming (46.0)
4. Camping - vacation/overnight (42.8)
5. Aerobic Exercising (42.0)
6. Bicycle Riding (39.1)
7. Hiking (39.1)
8. Running/Jogging (38.7)
9. Bowling (34.9)
10. Workout at Club (34.5)
11. Weightlifting (29.1)
12. Fishing (28.0)
13. Basketball (26.1)
14. Yoga (21.6)
15. Golf (20.9)
16. Billiards/Pool (20.0)
17. Target Shooting (19.6)
18. Boating/Motor Power (16.7)
19. Hunting w/Firearms (16.4)
20. Soccer (13.9)

In addition, the State of Indiana recently updated the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for 2011-2015. As part of this plan, IDNR provides a questionnaire to recreation users. The top responses of Indiana residents regarding their outdoor activities closely parallel the nation and are as follows:

1. Walking/Hiking/Jogging
2. Camping
3. Picnicking
4. Fishing
5. Swimming
6. Boating/Water Skiing/personal watercraft
7. Golf
8. Bicycling
9. Hunting
10. Horseback riding

For the last 15 years walking/hiking/jogging has been the top favorite activity of Hoosiers.

General Programming National Trends

As the department looks to provide new programming opportunities for its citizens, it is interesting to note current trends in recreation programming. Recreation Management Magazine surveys its readers who consist of Park & Recreation Departments, YMCA and YWCA, health clubs, colleges and universities, schools, aquatic centers, and Boys and Girls Clubs. According to Recreation Management Magazine's June 2013 "State of the Industry Report," the most popular programs, offered by more than half of the survey respondents who were park departments included the following:

1. 64.2 % Holiday events and other special events
2. 61.4% Fitness programs (cardio, strength, etc.)
3. 58.9% Educational programming
4. 55.2% Day camps and summer camps
5. 54.3% Youth team sports
6. 49.1% Mind-body/balance programs (yoga, Pilates, etc.)
7. 48.5% Swimming programming
8. 47.8% Adult sports teams
9. 44.1% Sport training
10. 42.7% Arts & Crafts

The most commonly planned future program additions by over 30 percent of park department respondents included the following programs:

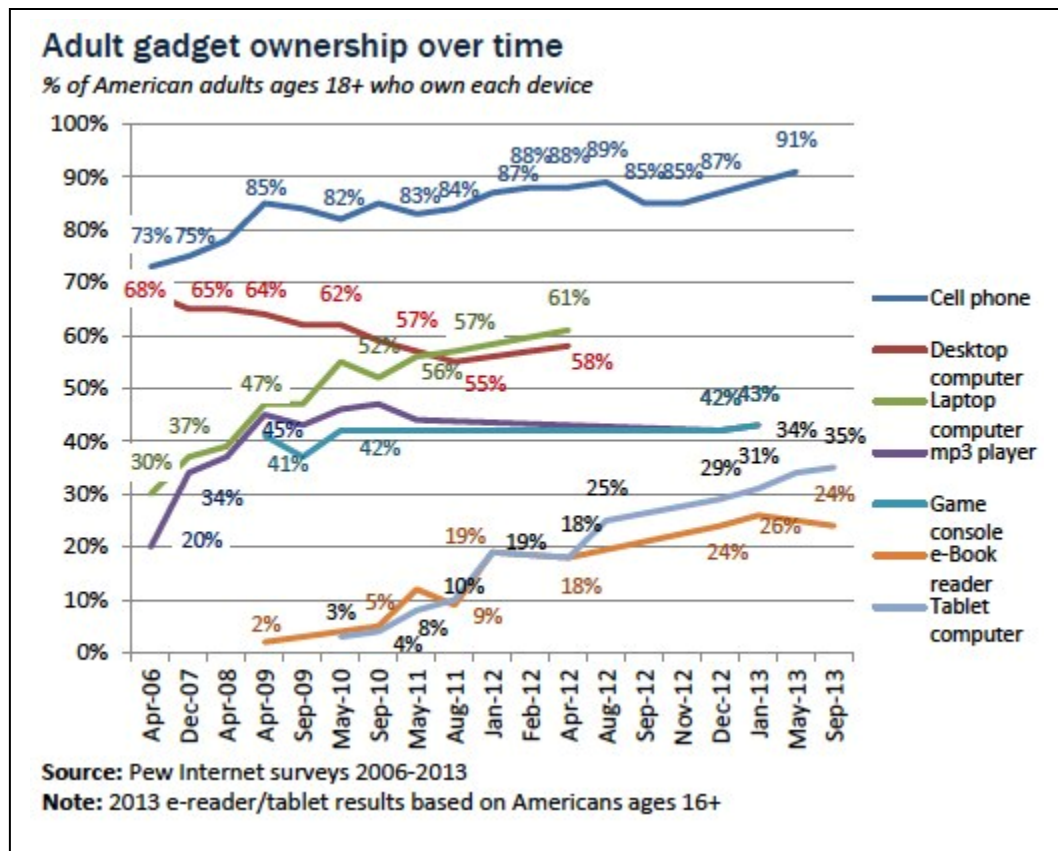
1. 28.4% Educational programs
2. 26.5% Fitness programs
3. 25.5% Mind-body balance programs
4. 23.4% Day camps/summer camps
5. 22.4% Holiday events/special events
6. 21.5% Environmental education
7. 21.4% Teen programming
8. 20.9% Programs for active older adults
9. 20.0% Sports tournament or races
10. 19.7% Sport Training

Staff will need to continue to monitor programming trends, competitors, and their user base to maximize budget dollars to provide a variety of programming for the community.

Technology Trends

There continues to be growth in technology and electronic communications. Today, 91 percent of Americans own a cell phone and 51 percent of them own a smart phone. Young adults engage in mobile data applications at much higher rates than adults in age brackets 30 and older. According to Pew Internet and American Life Project's research, minority Americans lead the way when it comes to mobile access. Nearly two-thirds of African Americans (64 percent) and Latinos (66 percent) are wireless internet users. Minority

Americans are significantly more likely to own a cell phone are their white counterparts (64 percent of blacks and 60 percent of Hispanics own a cell phone compared with 53 percent of whites.) Utilizing mobile marketing in the future will be imperative to reaching citizens about programming and event offerings. A majority (63 percent) of mobile phone users use their phones as their primary Internet device. This number has doubled since 2009. The chart on the following page illustrates the above data.



The Department continues to strive to find different approaches to encourage participation in programs and use of the park facilities. By incorporating Wi-Fi opportunities, developing new mobile software programs and applications, the Department plans to use technology as one method to reach their citizens, park users and visitors.

❖ *The Effects of Recreation on Wellness*

Recreational opportunities and facilities have a profound effect on the health and wellness of a community. Ideally, through careful planning of green space, parks, facilities and programs, a community creates an environment that offers multiple opportunities and choices for healthy lifestyles - opportunities

which easily incorporate physical activity into the daily lives of its citizens.

60 percent of the U.S. population is inactive or underactive.

Statistics released by the Surgeon General indicate that 60 percent of the U.S. population is inactive or under active; conditions which have fueled the growing epidemic of obesity, diabetes and related disorders. A growing body of evidence indicates that community design plays in fostering, or inhibiting, an active lifestyle. A few of the elements that have been identified as creating healthy, 'walkable communities' include:

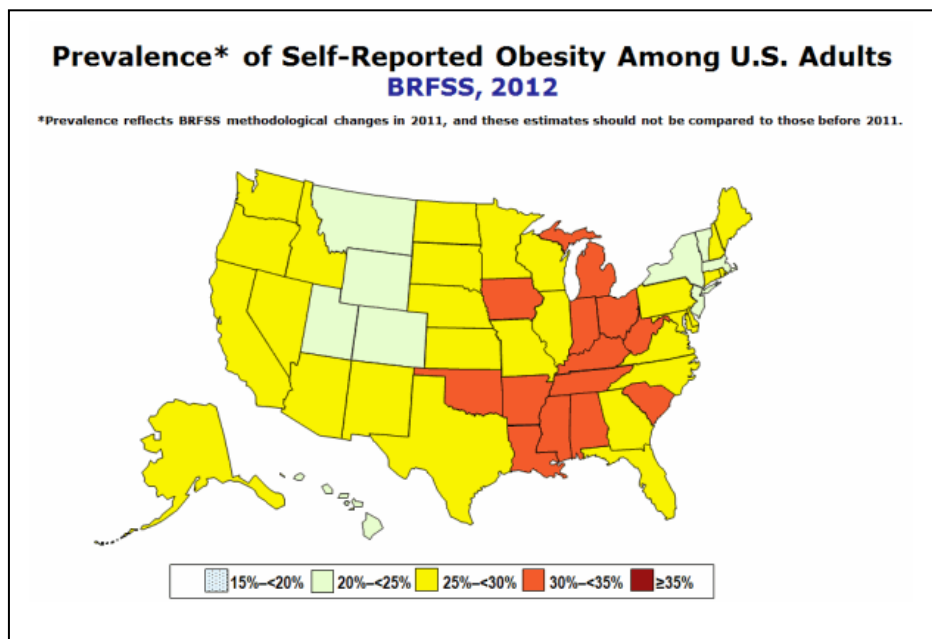
- Safe and accessible sidewalks, crosswalks and bike paths.
- Transportation alternatives with pedestrian access to buses and transit systems.
- Safe, attractive and convenient parks and recreation facilities.
- Shopping and services that can be accessed without automobiles.

Availability and accessibility of attractive bike paths, walking paths, exercise facilities and the overall aesthetics of an environment play a role in citizen's determining the type and amount of physical activity in which they will engage.

A recent Annual Report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirms that inactivity increases with age and is more common among women than men, and among those with lower income and less education than among those with higher income or education. Physical activity also declines dramatically with age during adolescence.

Supporting statistics are as follows:

- 59 percent of American adults are sedentary
- Only 25 percent of adults and 27 percent of youth (grades 9-12) engage in recommended levels of physical activity.
- Children born today have a lower life expectancy than their parents
- Indiana is ranked 41st in the nation by United Health Foundation in its 2012 *State Health Rankings* report due to the obesity levels of children and adults



National Map: Percent of Obese Adults (BMI \geq 30) in U.S.

Any age, gender, and economic or cultural group can achieve greater health benefits by increasing physical activity. This public health challenge exists for every community in America.

Baby Boomer/Older Adult Trends

The Baby Boomer's generation consists of 76 million Americans who were born between 1946 thru 1964. As they start to enter retirement, they will be looking for opportunities in sports, fitness, and arts and cultural events to support their active lifestyles. This generation is predicted to redefine the meaning of recreation and leisure programming.

Jeffrey Ziegler, past president of the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association, in his article "Recreating Retirement: How will baby boomers reshape leisure in their 60s?" identified "Boomer Basics" which highlights characteristics that park departments need to consider as they develop future programming and facilities.

Boomer Basics:

- Boomers are known to work hard, play hard and spend hard.

-
- They have always been fixated with all things youthful. Boomers typically respond that they feel 10 years younger than their chronological age.
 - Swimming pools have become less of a social setting and much more of an extension of boomers' health and wellness program
 - Because boomers have, in general, a high education level, they'll likely continue to pursue education as adults and into retirement.

Boomers will look to park departments to provide them with skills to enjoy life-long hobbies and sports. This age group will require customized experiences to cater to their needs for self-fulfillment, health pleasure, and nostalgic youthfulness. Programs and games that are associated with seniors will be avoided since this group will relate these activities to being old.

Resources:

- CDC - National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, *Overweight and Obesity*
- Inside Indiana Business Report, May 29, 2008 - Surgeon General in Indiana for Obesity Prevention.
- Jeffrey Ziegler, "Recreating Retirement: How Will Baby Boomers Reshape Leisure In Their 60s?" Parks and Recreation, October 2002
- Pew Internet and American Life Project Research:
 Smart Phone Ownership-2013 Update Aaron Smith, June 5, 2013
 Mobile Update - Joanna Brenner September 18, 2013
- Recreation Management Magazine - *2013 State of the Managed Recreation Industry* - June 2013
- United Health Foundation 2012 State Health Rankings
- United States Department of Health and Human Services - Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity

Needs Analysis

Park Classifications and Land Requirements

The Master Plan preparation process includes reviewing recreation standards developed by organizations including the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and the master plans for communities of similar size. In addition, specific characteristics such as local natural resources, economic conditions, land use availability, cultural preferences, and community needs contribute to the formation of a community's recreation standards.

The recommended standards for park classifications and land area requirements are described below and itemized in Table 1. The park classifications conform to one of three general categories: places for active recreation, resource-oriented areas and specialized facilities. Space requirements, typical facilities and programs, and unique environmental features further define the park types.

Regional Park

A regional park serves several communities or a multi-county region within a one-hour driving distance. Approximately 10 acres per 1,000 population is served, and the park is generally 1,000 acres or more. A regional park is an area of natural ornamental quality that provides diverse and unique natural resources for nature-oriented outdoor recreation such as nature viewing and study, wildlife habitat conservation, hiking, camping, canoeing, and fishing. Usually 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20% of the site developed for active recreation. Active recreation areas consist of play areas and open fields for informal use and can include specialized activities like golf, boating, hiking, lodging, and a conference center. It is common for these types of parks to become specialized in their offerings to the public. Many regional parks can be considered a 'destination park.'

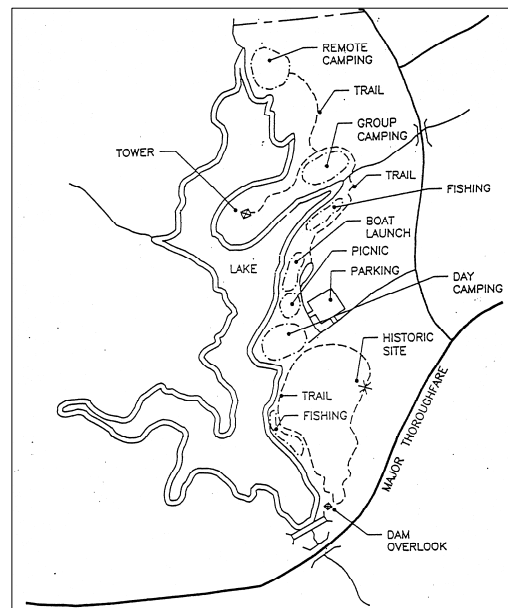


Exhibit A - Regional Park

Exhibit A illustrates a typical regional park. Prophetstown State Park located northeast of Lafayette is an example of a regional park that is near the Lafayette planning area.

District Park

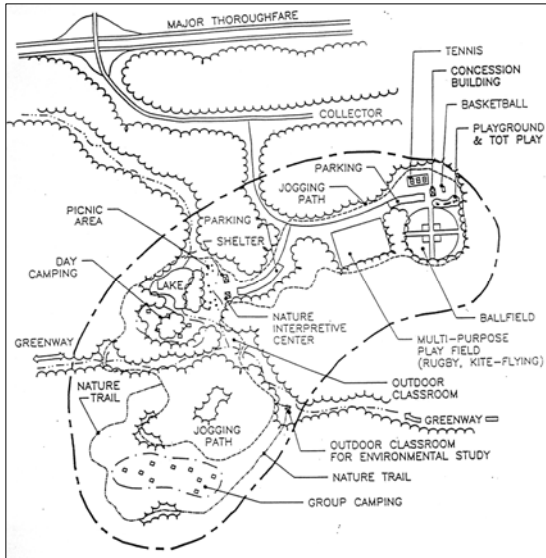


Exhibit B - District Park

A district park provides more diverse recreational opportunities than the regional park, yet on a smaller scale. Similar to a regional park, a district park emphasizes passive recreational opportunities, but it also includes active recreational facilities. A district park is easily accessible by the population it serves and maintains a 5-mile service radius. The park contains a minimum of 5 acres per 1,000 population and is usually 200-400 acres in size. District parks normally include an indoor recreation building, or an interpretive center that reflects the character of the park. Active recreational facilities located in a district park include active play areas, ball fields, hard surface courts, golfing, swimming, boating, multi-purpose play fields, picnic facilities, and various types of trails. Many district parks are specialized in their offerings to the public and draw participants from throughout the community. *Exhibit B* illustrates a typical district park.

Community Park

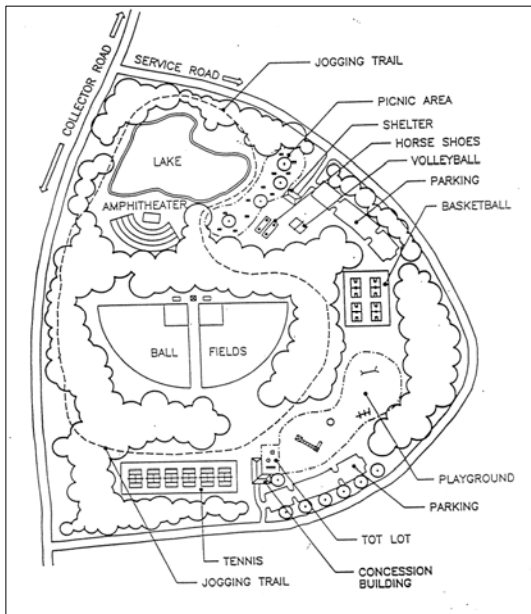


Exhibit C - Community Park

Community parks are easily accessible to a single or several neighborhoods depending on local needs and the population distribution at the time it was developed. When possible, the park may be developed adjacent to a middle or elementary school. A community park provides recreational opportunities for the entire family and contains areas suited for intense recreational purposes such as a recreation center building, athletic fields, swimming, tennis, and walking/jogging trails. The park may also have a recreation center and/or have areas of natural quality for outdoor recreation such as viewing, sitting, and picnicking. Community parks have an average service area of 2 miles and require a minimum of 3 acres per 1,000 population served and should be between 16 and 75 acres (typically 40 acres). The size is variable due to the type of facilities located within the park. *Exhibit C* illustrates a typical community park. Municipal governments usually provide community parks. Armstrong and Munger Parks are examples of a community park.

Neighborhood Park

A neighborhood park is designed to serve a population of up to 5,000, but in many instances may serve more. The park requires 3 acres per 1,000 population served and should be between 5-15 acres; however, many times they are smaller. Neighborhood parks are typically characterized by family oriented recreational activities such as court games, crafts, playground apparatus, picnicking, and space for quiet/passive activities.

The service radius for a neighborhood park is one-half mile and is easily accessible to the neighborhood population through safe walking and bicycle access. Parking may or may not be required. Where feasible, the activity use areas are divided equally between quiet/passive activities and active play areas.

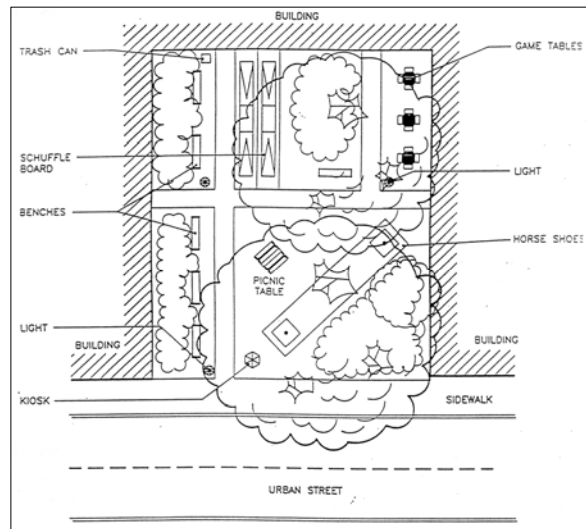


Exhibit D - Neighborhood Park

This type of park may be developed as a school/park or neighborhood center facility. *Exhibit D* illustrates a typical neighborhood park. Municipal governments normally provide neighborhood parks. Centennial, Edgelea, and Kennedy Parks are examples of neighborhood parks within this planning area.

Greenway/Linear Park

A greenway park is an area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel such as hiking and biking. The greenway park will often be developed to connect recreational facilities as well as schools and residential neighborhoods.

The acreage and service area of a greenway park is variable and subject to existing natural and man-made features, the existence of public right-of-way, and the public demand for this type of park. In some cases, a greenway park is developed within a large land area designated for protection and management of the natural environment, with the recreational use as a secondary objective. *Exhibit F* illustrates a typical greenway park. All levels of government provide these parks. The Wabash Heritage Trail is a linear Park.

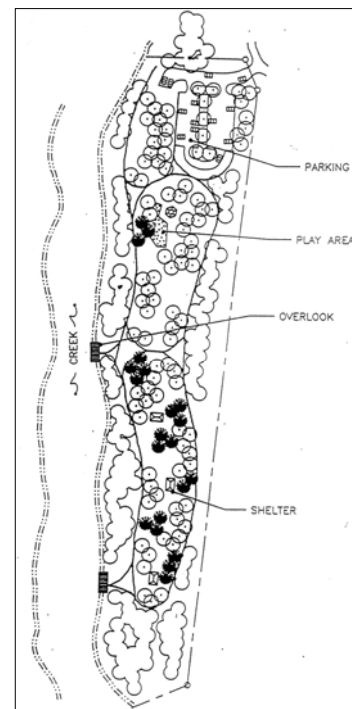


Exhibit F—Greenway/Linear Park

Special Sites or Facilities

The unique or special areas are park types that exist to enhance or utilize a special man-made or natural feature. They can include beaches, aquatic facilities, museums, golf facilities, parkways, historical sites, sites of archeological significance, arboretums, conservation easements, flood plains, river access, etc. Minimum standards relating to acreage or population have not been established by the park and recreation industry for this category. A size that is sufficient to protect and interpret the resource, while providing optimum use, is considered desirable. Other specialized facilities require space sufficient to accommodate the program planned for the site. All levels of government provide special use parks. Reihle Plaza and the Big Four Depot are examples of special use sites and facilities.

Recommendations

Park facilities were labeled per their actual use within the community, not by the actual acreage. As the charts on the following two pages will demonstrate, there are two park categories noticeably short of national averages in park acreage: regional and neighborhood parks as earlier defined in this section. This issue will only become magnified as the community continues to grow. Consequently, it will be critical for the Department to identify potential future park sites within the current corporate city limits and in the surrounding growing areas. It also is important to note the impact that trails are having within the community which allow the citizens more mobility between public spaces and neighborhoods.

Future park sites also need to be identified due to the anticipated growth within the community. The park system will need to continue to develop partnering opportunities with local developers and the School Corporation to potentially share and develop recreational facilities. The community has a variety of recreational providers. Consequently, the system needs to focus on continuing to provide a high level of service at their existing facilities, while providing new facilities in growing areas of the community. Pedestrian linkages are also an important element to the future success of the park system as it continues to grow over the next five years

Creative programs and funding will be critical to the future success of the program as the community continues to grow. The parks have become, and will continue to be, the place where the citizens have a sense of community and greater purpose.

The minimum park land requirement (in acres) for the total population of the Lafayette planning area is provided in Table 1. The acreage requirement is based upon the population ratio method (acres of park land per 1,000 population) established for each park classification.

Table 1 National Standards for Park and Land Area Requirements (NSR)				
Park Type Standard	Acres/1000 Population	Acres	Population Served	Service Area
Regional Park National Recommended	10 10	1000 1000	Several Communities 50,000-100,000	1 hr. drive 50 mi. radius
District Park National Recommended	5-10 5	200 76-200	Several Communities 10,000-50,000	15-20 minute drive 5 mi. radius
Community Park National Recommended	5-8 3	25+ 25+	Several Neighborhoods 5,000-15,000	1-2 mile radius 2 mile radius
Neighborhood Park National Recommended	1-2 2	15+ 5-15	5,000 5,000	¼-½ mile ½ mile
Greenway/Linear Park & Special Use National Recommended	Varies Varies	Varies Varies	Varies Varies	Varies Varies

The minimum park land requirement (in acres) for the total population of the Lafayette planning area is provided in Table 2. The acreage requirement is based upon the population ratio method (acres of park land per 1,000 population) established for each park classification as shown in Table 1.

The types of parks that will be needed by the end of the planning period (2018) are based upon the acreage standards provided in Table 2. They include regional parks, district parks, community parks, neighborhood parks, linear park/special use, and open space areas.

TABLE 2 City of Lafayette Planning Area Total Park Sites and Acreage Requirements			
PARK AREA	PLANNING AREA Year/Population and National Standard Requirements (NSR)		
	Existing Properties in 2014	<i>Required per NSR</i> 2014 (69,866) ⁵	<i>Required per NSR</i> 2018 (72,703) ⁵
State Parks* +1000 acre park (10 Ac/1000)	N/A ¹ N/A	N/A ¹ N/A	N/A ¹ N/A
Regional Parks* 76-400 acre park (5 Ac/1000)	418 acres ² 2 sites	349 acres ² 1 site	378 acres ² N/A
Community Parks +15-75 acre park (3 Ac/1000)	180 acres ³ 10 sites ³	209.6 acres 5 sites	227.1 acres 6 sites
Neighborhood Parks 0.5-15 acre park (2 Ac/1000)	20 acres ⁴ 9 sites ⁴	139.7 acres 11 sites	151.4 Acres 12 Sites
Special Use Parks Not Applicable	NA	NA	NA
¹ Prophetstown State Park is near the planning area. ² Regional Park: Columbian, Riverfront which consists of Youth Activity Park, former land from Lafayette Municipal Golf Course, Overlook, Lybault Sports Complex, McAllister Park, Heritage Trail ³ Community Parks: Armstrong, Berlovitz, CAT, McAllister Recreation Center, McCaw, Munger, Murdock, Shamrock ⁴ Neighborhood Parks: Arlington, Centennial, Edgelea, Hanna, Hedgewood, Kennedy, Linnwood, South Tipp, Stockton, Vinton Pool, ⁵ Population estimates were provided by Tippecanoe County Area Planning based on information from US Census Bureau Population Division, 2010 U.S. Census Bureau			

Standards Resources:

- Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2015
- Mertes, James and Hall, James, Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, a publication of the National Park and Recreation Association, 1996



❖ Section Five: Community Input



Public Input - Summary

Many formats for gathering public input were used to understand the community's opinions concerning the Department. These formats included a questionnaire, public meetings, and park board meetings.

All public meetings were advertised in the local papers, radio and television interviews, social media, email, city and department websites, and at park locations and events. The dates below indicate public meetings in which opportunities for input were given.

- June 10, 2013 - Park Board - public input opportunity
- June 27, 2013 - Stakeholder and Staff meetings
- July 8, 2013 - Park Board meeting - master plan update/public input
- July 22, 2013 - Park Board meeting/Public Open House
- July 24, 2013 - Public Open House
- August 5, 2013 - Park Board meeting/Public Open House
- August 19, 2013 - Park Board meeting/Public Open House
- August 21, 2013 - Loeb Stadium Open House Public Input
- September 15, 2013 - Park Board meeting -Draft presentation
- October 20, 2013 - Park Board meeting - public input
- November 18, 2013 - Park Board meeting - public input
- December 16, 2013 - Park Board meeting - public input
- January 13, 2014 - Park Board meeting
- February 17, 2014 - Park Board meeting - adoption of plan

(Individual meeting summaries can be found starting on page 5.20.)

Input during the planning process has been positive and many people have expressed satisfaction with the progress of the department. The community has consistently mentioned the following priorities.

- Fixing and upgrading Loeb Stadium
- Increase programming for youth and teenagers
- More bike and walking trails
- Continue renovations on zoo
- Maintain existing facilities

Other opportunities for public input:

The City of Lafayette has engaged the public in several studies over the last five years that have allowed for several opportunities for public input. The City hired Next Generation Consulting who completed a plan called "From

Good to Great: Making Lafayette a City of Choice” in late fall 2012. This plan studied how to improve quality of life and make Lafayette a place that all ages want to live in. This study met with many stakeholder and focus groups within the City including the general public. Over 1500 residents completed an online survey.

In the recommendations of this plan, two directly related to parks: Goal 2 - Make the Hilltop-to-Hilltop Corridor Human-Scale, Pedestrian-Friendly and The-Place-To-Be and Goal 3: Greater Lafayette = Green. Goal 2 directly ties to the Department’s efforts to extend bicycle and walking trails. This is also reinforced by the public’s desire for more trails and the recently completed Citywide Trails Master Plan.

Goal 3 ties to the Department’s efforts to be sustainable in the practices and in the development of new projects. The Department has the opportunity to be a leader in promoting sustainability related to the environment and to how they maintain their facilities.

The City also completed a Citywide Trails Master Plan in December 2012. This master plan included public input meetings on trails and pedestrian connections throughout the city. Meetings took place over a two-year period. The City has already started implementation of the plan. The plan was a direct result of public input that requested more trails in previous planning efforts including the last five-year master plan.

Wabash River Enhancement Corporation

The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) also has been active in the last five years in developing several plans and studies along the Wabash River which have incorporated public input. These include:

- Master Plan for the Wabash River Greenway- November, 2010
- Master Plan for the Wabash River Urban Corridor - November 2011
- Watershed Management Plan for the Region of the Great Bend of the Wabash River - May 2011

WREC continues to pursue grants and development opportunities along the Wabash River.

QUESTIONNAIRES

The Department staff created two questionnaires. One on all facilities and programming and the other to determine specific issues related to Loeb

Stadium. The questionnaires allowed another opportunity to gain additional public input. Questionnaires were available on-line and were also available at the department's office, McAllister Center, and Tropicanae Cove from June 27, 2013 through August 31, 2013 to gather more public input. Over 300 hard copies of the questionnaire were printed and available with an original to print more. Since it was also available on line, we are unable to determine how many were distributed. 375 people returned their questionnaires for the Facilities and Programs. The Loeb Stadium questionnaire had 641 responses. Not every participant answered each question. The questionnaires were heavily promoted in The Daily Journal, and on local radio and television interviews with the Mayor and Park Director.

Department Five Year Master Plan Questionnaire

Below is a summary of the responses from the questionnaires.

1. How often during the year do you use the parks?

1- 5 times: 71 (19.1%)
 6-10 times: 64 (17.2%)
 11-20 times: 82 (22.0%)
 21 or more: 155 (41.7%)

2. Which Parks do you frequent most? 370 answered, 5 skipped

323 (87.3%) Columbian	22 (5.9%) Lybault
147 (39.7%) Armstrong	16 (4.3%) Hanna
99 (26.8%) Munger	7 (1.9%) Arlington
99 (26.8%) Murdock	6 (1.6%) Linnwood
62 (16.8%) McCaw	6 (1.6%) Darby
36 (9.7%) McAllister	2 (0.5%) S. Tipp
33 (8.9%) Trailhead	2 (0.5%) Stockton
32 (8.6%) Shamrock	1 (0.3%) Kennedy
22 (5.9%) CAT	1 (0.3%) Hedgewood
22 (5.9%) Centennial	

3. Which of these describes the parks now? (367 answered, 8 skipped)

Response Count	Response Percent	
282	(76.8%)	Playgrounds
257	(70.0%)	Picnicking/shelters
164	(44.7%)	Natural Areas

140	(38.1%)	Playfields
127	(34.6%)	Organized Sports
103	(28.1%)	Quiet, solitude environment
102	(27.8%)	Trails
97	(26.4%)	Family Programs/Events
77	(21.0%)	Special Events
53	(14.4%)	Health & Wellness
33	(9.0%)	Concerts/Entertainment

4. How do you receive information about programs and park facilities at city parks? 366 answered, 9 skipped

Word of mouth - 218 (59.6%)	Radio -48 (13.1%)
Social Media - 149 (40.7%)	Other - 22 (6.0%)
Newspaper - 120 (32.8%)	Mailings - 16 (4.4%)
Website - 94 (25.75%)	Program Guide - 13 (3.6%)
In-park visits - 88 (24.0%)	Call Park office - 8 (2.2%)
TV -85 (23.2%)	

5. Check the recreational facilities/services that you think are important to community and to you. 374 answered, 1 skipped

	Important to Community	Important to You
Aquatic/pool	98.0% (336)	51.9% (178)
Develop existing and undeveloped land	93.5% (244)	51.0% (133)
Leisure/Active Recreation	91.0% (304)	77.2% (258)
Playground facilities	95.8% (322)	44.3% (149)
McAllister Recreation Center	97.0% (191)	21.8% (43)
Sports Fields	97.7% (300)	37.8% (116)
Trail Connections	88.5% (262)	67.9% (201)
Senior programming	95.6% (241)	21.0% (53)
Adult programming	95.1% (215)	39.4% (89)
Youth(teen) programming	97.2% (274)	28.7% (81)
Children's programming	94.2% (277)	47.3% (139)
Zoo	94.8% (294)	72.6% (225)

6. What should be the top priority the Parks Department should focus on within the next 5 years?

Develop new park sites/facilities	35
Expand trails and pathways	160
Develop additional playgrounds	22
Expand or add picnic shelters	12
Expand open space and passive areas	41
Others	100

Comments:

(Note: Comments that were repeated are listed once with the total times it was mentioned listed)

- Develop bike and pedestrian trails (16 times)
- None of the above maintain and upgrade existing facilities (14 times)
- Zoo (12 times)
- Recreation programs (12 times)
- Skateparks! They are more popular now than ever.
- Loeb stadium (6 times)
- Disc golf courses (3 times)
- Turn the old city golf club into a biking/walking park
- Rides for older children
- Add safety/security to decrease delinquents
- Add ride to the park
- Upgrade current locations.
- Update and clean up the playground equipment, become more green efficient. The McCaw park playground looks awful
- A place for girls to play softball
- Need deeper water area with pier and/or add diving boards
- I think concentrating on existing areas and making them as great as they can be is very important.
- There are areas in Columbian near the ponds that could use some maintenance and rehabilitation. Are the games/ "rides" operating? If not, they should be removed and replaced with new amenities.

-
- I don't go in the evening to Armstrong because I witnessed a drug deal and the teenagers use horrible language that's not appropriate for my little kids. Same with Columbian park.
 - I think there should be a thoughtful plan of development and improvement.
 - Build a lake
 - Re-open the Lafayette Golf Course as an affordable and convenient place to play
 - Plant more trees in Columbian Park near the train depot
 - Update park equipment and facilities, revitalize current picnic areas, development of community gardens, and expand character-building activities for teens.
 - A REAL swimming pool - For SWIMMING, Not playing.
 - Update park equipment and facilities, revitalize current picnic areas, development of community gardens, and expand character. Building activities for teens.
 - Safe for everyone. Patrolled.
 - Public relations
 - Less recreation and more landscaped parks like Europe. More street trees.
 - Provide facilities for teens (skate park, basketball)
 - Creating a bicycle polo court, one that will attract regional players to Lafayette and allow for regular skirmish
 - Expand the pools. We have one big slide. Most other communities are getting bigger aquatic centers and wave pools. We need to keep up. And Columbia Park pool has no lap swimming area for athletic purposes.
 - Review the history of Columbian Park, and return the park to that former glory. The park is currently lacking the excitement and amusement-park vibe it used to have. It's also showing a lot of age.
 - Paying musicians to have a summer concert series.
 - A skateboard park
 - Activities for teens
 - Increase safety at our parks, Columbian Park is a dump and needs a complete overhaul. No longer the crown jewel of the park system. It's embarrassing to show visitors when they come to town.
 - Communicating what is available. Making things clearer and visually interesting on the website. I've lived in Lafayette for a long time and have never even heard of many of these parks. Recently, I have

noticed an improvement and have been learning about events and programs more through Facebook. A calendar or seasonal email newsletter might be nice though.

7. What should be the top priority the Parks Department should focus on completing within the next 5 years? (*Programs and Services*)

Education/interpretive programs - 23 (6.3%)
Arts and crafts programs - 6 (1.7%)
Sports and fitness programs - 49 (13.5%)
Children's programs - 38 (10.5%)
Youth/Teen programs - 52 (14.3%)
Adult programs - 7 (1.9%)
Senior programs - 15 (4.1%)
Leisure recreation - 49 (13.5%)
Additional entertainment events - 12 (8.8%)
Online program registration - 11 (3.0%)
Existing resources: i.e. staff training, operations, etc. - 21 (5.8%)
Other - 60 (16.5%)

Comments:

- Zoo (6 times)
- Pickelball court - (3 times) It is rapidly growing among retirees who can't move about easily, so tennis and other sports are out for them
- Enhance the community by building a skate park
- Fishing
- Upgrade current parks
- Municipal golf course into disc golf courses and trails
- I think all are important- more affordable events-
- A place for girls to play softball
- Utilizing the Columbian Park stage for shows & music events.
- Concert/event venues
- I feel we need to focus on improving the health of our city through our parks. Maybe a year round program for every age group. Like the book club at the library. You might have a card with a check list. Each activity gets checked as you do it. If you complete the year, you get a free pool pass for the summer or something? It

could include ping pong at McAllister, water walking at the Lazy River, something at the zoo. Could be partnership between Lafayette and West Lafayette and include skating. I'm just brainstorming how to get everyone out and active! Don't go into debt don't raise taxes we don't need more stuff done by government

- More running/biking/walking friendly. Connecting more of the trails.
- Build a lake
- Re-Open the Lafayette Golf Course as an affordable and convenient place to play
- Clean up the lagoon at Columbian park & either repair or remove the walls
- Park security
- Awareness of park safety, awareness of nature preserves.
- Bicycle access and trails (5 times)
- Awareness of park safety and awareness of nature preserves
- Landscaped parks, open space, park benches under shade trees, connect Munger trail around pond by Duke.
- Bike polo court
- Trails and paths education maps to help people navigate through town by foot or bicycle.
- Pools
- Family programs
- Fix Columbian park and clean things up. The parks are dirty and a disgrace. Lafayette should not be proud of our parks they are dirty.
- Take a look at what other cities are doing and improve what we already have.
- After-school program for kids
- Park upkeep and staff training; children's programs

8. Do you have any other suggestions for improving the Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department?

- Loeb stadium
- Keep it clean and safe walking area sidewalk around Columbian Park

-
- Amusement rides, while initial expense and maintenance is very costly they have been the largest draw to Columbian Park. Possibly have them at another park.
 - An aquatic area pool where you can actually swim is much needed. We have glorified kiddie pools in Lafayette. Closing the basketball courts at Columbian park is not a good solution. Kids will find things to if we don't provide them and they won't be all good. Movies at the Pavilion in Columbian Park would be nice.
 - Use portable basketball goals
 - Movie nights in the park
 - More activities, advertise and transportation points for children to come to things at the park. Not every parent/kid has access to internet or paper
 - Disc golf course using the old golf course for multi purpose
 - Properly designed multi-use facilities. McAllister could become a disc golf complex similar to Lemon Lake
 - Fundraiser for Loeb Stadium Wave pool near Tropicane Cove
 - Development of Sterling Heights park
 - Develop on Lafayette south side
 - More programming
 - Please build us a few skateparks. Lafayette and West Lafayette are so big they each need a skatepark. The State of Indiana has passed the proper legislation, it is PAST DUE time to add skateparks into the Lafayette community.
 - Pools that you could actually swim in would be great. The only one left is Vinton Pool.
 - There are virtually no classes for babies, tots and preschoolers. Also, in Lafayette in general, there are no secular preschools. It would be nice for the community to have some non religious options.
 - Have swings for those in wheelchairs, have the history of intellectual disability for those that still think its right to say the r-word.
 - Give teens more to do
 - I wish we had more/nicer bike trails and walking/jogging trails.
 - I wish there were more information available without having to go directly to the site. I don't really know too much about the programs offered and I don't know anyone that participates in them, so I assume they don't know either.

-
- The quality of some parks has decreased. The tables & grills are old. But the biggest issue is not having park security/staff monitor area parks to increase safety & maintain cleanliness.
 - More "woody" trails
 - I would like to see some art classes for families.
 - Demolish Loeb Stadium. Don't rebuild. Make it a parking lot and expand Tropicana Cove.
 - More lighting within the parks and of course more disc golf locations
 - Add pro baseball
 - Clean up and fix the existing facilities
 - More trees. More trees around the trails. There are miles and miles without any shade.
 - Have a facility for kids to use their skate boards, roller blades etc.
 - Add remote monitored cameras at all of the parks
 - I think it is important to add tennis courts and basketball areas. There are very few places left to participate in either of these two sports. Is there a possibility of adding skate boarding areas for the youth who enjoy this? I think we need to start looking at adding things for teens and young adults.
 - Create a trail system like they have in West Lafayette which would be bike and hiker friendly.
 - Tap into more events at parks. It would be nice to see more music at some of these venues
 - Invest more into Columbian Park
 - A place for girls to play Softball, there are a number of good facilities for boys to play baseball, but trying to hold a girls softball tournament in Lafayette is almost impossible, and the sad thing is that of all the places we travel to in Indiana, Lafayette is by far the best city to be in.
 - Add pickleball courts to Armstrong Park
 - Develop more of the zoo
 - Updating certain play equipment and checking it more. Especially at Shamrock Park. Keeping things safe.
 - I would like to see a more complete network of pathways connecting the parks. Right now I can access one park by bike or walking and it would be nice to be able to bike around town to other parks without having to drive a car.
 - Keep parks maintained

-
- We could use an additional disc golf course or two. Murdock Park gets very crowded.
 - Expand the zoo - we come up specifically to visit the zoo I think expanding the zoo is very important. Keeping natural areas as close to nature as possible is very important. Expanding features at the dog park at Shamrock Park would also be amazing.
 - I wish there was a wooded area with trails, like Happy Hollow or Tapawingo parks. If there is one in Lafayette. I don't know about then I wish there was more advertising for the different attractions of each park.
 - Keep working on the zoo!
 - I've completely stopped visiting your pools as I find your restrictions on bringing in items as simple as a float to be absolutely ridiculous.
 - Prevent unruly/rude/profane/obnoxious types by their actions and presence from intimidating and discouraging legitimate/worthwhile use of parks. Those most adversely affected by this kind of action are children and women, especially, with young children.
 - Bike paths make transportation safer for the kids who want to use the parks. More bike paths would be wonderful to keep the kids out of the street. The parks are there, but they need to be accessible.
 - More budget; use local planning firms when possible for park, greenway and trail design and grant applications; purchase and conserve what little natural areas are left in City limits.
 - I think there needs to be more bike and walking trails
 - I am an older citizen of Lafayette, but have children and grandchildren that also enjoy the benefits. Here are a few things I would love to see. I like to go to McAllister to do weights. Could there be a list of personal trainers available that I could hire to help me with a program? I know we have pool, but how about a water park? (Carmel has several). They are open as soon as it is warm and don't close until late summer. We go to the fountain at Purdue more than we do the pools in Lafayette. It is free! And I don't have to put on a swim suit! Please keep the hill at Murdock Park snowed whenever the temp is lower than freezing. It is so much fun! Please plant trees for shade at the playground at Columbian Park. Whoever designed a playground in the full sun was stupid! Sorry. To use any of the equipment when it is sunny is dangerous to any exposed skin. Either plant trees or put up a tent or awning. Or both. I love trails, but can you add benches (wouldn't it be nice to still have the old glider swings from old Columbian park?) along the way just to sit and rest here and

there...in the shade. What happened to the Carousel? Will it ever be back? More older kids rides? If you fix the lagoon, how about the pedal boats? Good Exercise! I have been to the park in the summer and no one is there. Why? I know you need to hire people and it costs, but how about appealing to senior citizens to volunteer to do it.... Those are just some thoughts.

I really think that if you could have a campaign to improve the health of Lafayette/West Lafayette through exercise at the parks, you might find a grant, or maybe even the taxpayers would be willing to cough up some money. I would donate to a fund to help defray the costs if I could see the benefits. You just have to PR it. Get Out and Get Fit! Choice of landscaping material should be better thought out. The huge clumps of invasive prairie grass along Munger Trail are a prime example. If they are wet, I am wet. The old steel cable and posts that were once a fence at Munger Trail and Shenandoah Drive need to be removed. This is a major eye sore. The gang situation needs to be better addressed. Yes, there really are gangs in the parks.

- The trails are fantastic. We see so many people using them. Great for kids on bikes. But please reconsider landscaping. Stay with low plants and shrubbery. The ornamental grasses planted along Munger Trail are too tall and now growing out into the trail.
- Don't go into debt don't raise taxes we don't need more stuff done by government
- Please develop a phase-in plan whereby Loeb Stadium can be completely renovated over 4-7 years, similar to what Purdue did for Ross-Ade Stadium. Location is key, don't change THAT!
- Don't take away sporting equipment because of a few loud people.
- Walking, running and biking areas would greatly help our growing community.
- Keep park area clean and well supervised. Including restrooms.
- Focus on guided, monitored, engaging teen activities for teens and pre-teens.
- Keep it safe and a place that families like to go
- Update Tropicane Cove
- Wind blocks around some of the tennis courts
- Providing large open spaces where people can create their own recreational activities is the most important, focus less on organizing events for people...they can do this on their own.
- Please open Lafayette Golf Course cart paths to bikers.

-
- Connect all parks by bicycle and walking trails
 - Publicizing what's already available would be helpful - such as a column every week on one of the parks and what is special about it. Also, promoting natural areas for all to enjoy for nature study, peaceful walks, birding. Provide more pickleball courts as this sport becomes more and more popular with seniors, and all ages!
 - How about pickleball line at more courts?
 - More pickle ball and tennis courts. Why aren't the Jeff high school tennis courts available for public use?
 - Have security visibly present during summers; schools vacations and after school.
 - Keep up the good work!
 - Staff that shows concern about the park's mission. They take active interest/participation in recreation and leisure activities!
 - Enlist community volunteers to help maintain some of the existing facilities
 - As Lafayette's population ages, I think developing a strong pickleball program would benefit those of us who want to stay fit but can no longer play tennis but still want to!
 - Open Loeb stadium to alcohol sales. To bring in a minor league baseball franchise.
 - Lyboul Park ballfields are a joke! They are in terrible shape and in a terrible location to be used by this community. It doesn't matter if it is right along the trail when the trail gets flooded every time it rains! This city should have a nice 4-plex (or more) in a nice location which would be used ALL the time if someone would take care of them. Lyboul is terrible!!
 - Doing great! Zoo is amazing for this size city. Water park is a bit expensive and closes too soon in the year. Compare to Prophetstown.
 - I feel that Lafayette needs to think about making more pickleball courts. The three that are now at McCaw Park are all being used three to four times each week. Rarely do I ever see tennis players on any of the many park courts, so it would be nice to see them utilized by a new and upcoming sport.
 - The utilization of old railroad corridors for potential paved bike/pedestrian traffic seems like a good idea. The more there are trails that encourage people to get out of their cars and view the city, the more people in the community will feel invested in the area around them.
 - Re-open the Lafayette Golf Course as an affordable and convenient place to play

-
- Increase grant writing for more low cost/free programs for low income children and their families
 - Make parks a fun and desirable place to go, especially for families
 - Armstrong park needs additional swings/play equipment
 - I had contacted a few people connected to the city about bringing a college summer league team to Loeb Stadium. I know the city doesn't want to pay for it, but I am going to start fundraising to get that team in the near future and would still love to use Loeb Stadium for the team.
 - Set up more volunteer programs for cleaning parks/facilities/community areas.
 - Recycling at all parks and programs to teach children how to recycle and why it is so important.
 - Put back the basketball hoops at Columbian Park.
 - I honestly do not enjoy the Lafayette parks. There is always trash on the ground, things like playground equipment need to be fixed and maintained, and there needs to be a larger variety of stages and acts performing at the parks. Many of the parks have teenagers so maybe department could have a karaoke night once a month or have more music that teenagers enjoy.
 - Hook up with existing trails like Wabash Heritage Trail.
 - Get rid of the baseball stadium that is falling apart and outdated.
 - Set up more volunteer programs for cleaning parks, facilities and community areas
 - Add new features to Tropicanoe Cove
 - Just make it safe for people to use. Police presence.
 - Developing a sound financial status to support appropriate staff insufficient numbers with appropriate pay. Ensure appropriate financing for department. A staffing and salary study
 - More landscaping, sculptures. Art works, water fountains, less playgrounds, more passive parks, good turf, pathways, benches, trees, attractive flower beds, unique features.

9. Please indicate your age group? 374 answered, 1 skipped

17 and under: 3	36-50: 124
18-25: 22	51-65: 65
26-35: 150	over 65: 41

10. How many children or teenagers are in your household? 375 answered

None: 176

Three: 33

One: 60

Four or more: 17

Two: 88

11. What is your zip code? 371 answered, 4 skipped

<u>Zip</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Zip</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Zip</u>	<u>Count</u>
47993	1	47933	1	47901	23
47989	1	47923	1	47900	1
47974	1	47920	1	47460	1
47971	1	47909	99	46940	1
47966	1	47906	55	46071	1
47960	1	47905	121	46058	1
47955	1	47904	51	46057	1
47941	2	47903	1	46052	2

Loeb Stadium Questionnaire

A feasibility study was completed in early 2013 to determine a range of costs for remodeling or long range renovations. The Board decided to develop a questionnaire that addressed this specific need. The questionnaire had 641 responses and the majority of respondents indicated they would like to see a renovation of the stadium.

1. Which option would you choose?

5.6% (36) Spend \$400,000 for repairs that will last 3-5 years

19.8% (127) Spend \$1.5 million for remodeling that lasts 10-15 years

47.1% (302) Spend \$2.9 - \$4.5 million for renovation that lasts
minimum of 25 years

19.2% (123) Demolish/rebuild the stadium at cost of \$10-30 million

8.3% (53) None of the above

2. What events do you attend at Loeb Stadium? 496 answered, 180 skipped

High school baseball games	28.4%	141
Legion baseball games	4.6%	23
Colt World Series	66.9%	332

3. How often do you attend events at Loeb Stadium? 461 answered, 180 skipped

Every event?	7.4%	34
Once a week?	10.2%	47
Once a month?	19.5%	90
Once a year?	62.9%	290

4. What types of events would you like to see scheduled at Loeb Stadium in the future? 588 answered, 53 skipped

Soccer	27.9%	164
Concerts	82.1%	483
Professional baseball	70.6%	415

Meeting Summaries:

Park Board Meeting - June 10, 2013

At a regularly scheduled meeting, the master plan process was reviewed for the park board. Additional input meetings with staff, stakeholders and the public will be held during the summer months. The Board and those in attendance were invited to attend any and all meetings. An online questionnaire will also be made available for public input. It will be online thru the end of August. Meetings and the questionnaire will be advertised thru social media, email, newspaper articles, and radio and television interviews. There were no comments from the general public during the open comment time. Meeting was attended by four members of the general public.

Stakeholder Meeting #1 - June 27, 2013

The stakeholder meeting was attended by twelve people. Attendees were representatives from different park user groups. The meeting began with a discussion and overview concerning why and how a five-year master plan is created. Including a discussion of state requirements from the Department of Natural Resources for eligibility for state and federal grants and for proactive planning for the department. The five-year plan will review the demographics of the area, their impact on the department, the physical aspects of the park facilities, gather public

input on needs, and then create an action and priority plan for the next five years.

A summary of that discussion follows:

1. What are the Department's strengths to build on for the future?

- Great partners/responsive
- Great variety of facilities and programs
- Helpful events
- Maintenance crew stays on top of things
- Facilities in great shape
- Looking for ways to make facilities better and engage others to solicit input
- Dedication and expertise of staff
- Talent of staff and their ability to multi-task
- Reciprocal cooperation between W. Lafayette, County and Lafayette

2. Key issues facing the department?

- Demand for more green space
- Demand for more multi-purpose fields and athletics: youth soccer, softball, and turf
- Green open useable space
- Trails
- Parks needed in growth section of city: east and south - share with those outside city limits
- Upkeep on existing softball fields
- Need more parking in Columbian Park
- Increased programs and facilities have created high expectations of public and quality of programs need more staff to maintain, maintenance to keep up
- Rely too much on information in program brochure. Get word out about programs and outreach
- Need more winter activities/programs

3. Overall desired changes for the Department over the next 10 years.

- More open space
- Riverfront development
- Berlowitz Woods - develop
- Opportunities for partners with hospital
- Super slide carousel created old Columbian park
- Skate board park - are there still skate park users?
- Wi-Fi in all parks - would help stakeholder groups: programs, users, security

-
- Security opportunities
 - Webcams education apps
 - Tourism
 - Par 3 golf course

The group was encouraged to complete the questionnaires and spread the word about the five year master plan.

Staff Input Meeting - June 27, 2013

The staff meeting was attended by 10 people. Attendees were all staff members. Additional input was provided after the meeting by some who could not be in attendance for the entire meeting. The meeting began with a discussion and overview concerning why and how a five-year master plan is created. The group brainstormed and a summary of that discussion follows:

1. What are the Department's strengths to build on for the future?

- Great experienced staff who multi-task; are efficient, and high quality
- Parks valued by community
- Zoo
- Tropicanae Cove
- Variety of programming
- Great value @ great price
- Great active facilities and passive recreation increasing
- Department is leader in sustainability, educator
- Facility and maintenance staff great job
- Good management
- Award winning Dog park
- Economic development

2. Key issues facing the department?

- More trails and green space
- Funding challenges: less funds for staff, equipment, maintenance, projects and vehicles
- Low morale
- High expectations of public for little. "I pay taxes so why do I have to pay."
- Public programs
- Public respects grounds and facilities
- Need education campaign to educate public on parks and resources
- Volunteer groups- lack of staff to lead volunteers

-
- Park resources and staff extended to other departments and that uses up budget
 - Communication between City Department
 - Respect of other Departments
 - Others Departments really don't understand what parks do and all we do. Not just seasonal
3. Overall desired changes for the Department over the next 10 years.
- Programs continue to grow. Need more staff and facilities to continue growth, i.e. multi-purpose gym, classrooms at zoo.
 - Natural Resources: more green space, education, programs, nature center: embrace
 - More trails
 - Wabash River impact: Golf Course closed, dog park, cloud jockeys, trails
 - Small parks - minimum 10-acre park policy adopted by Park Board years ago to avoid having small parks that are difficult to maintain
 - Finish Columbian Park Master Plan
 - Slide at Tropicanae Cove
 - Berlovitz Woods
 - Loeb Stadium - develop new stadium and add green space to Columbian Park.
 - McAllister - multipurpose facility meeting rooms to handle larger groups
 - Jenks remodel- need more rental meeting space
 - Formal Garden

Park Board Meeting - July 8, 2013

At a regularly scheduled park board meeting held at Rush Pavilion in Columbian Park, a master plan update was provided to the board. The public input meeting schedule was reviewed and an opportunity for public comment was available. Questionnaires are available both online at the department website and in hard copy at park facilities. There were eight members of the general public in attendance who were eager to fill in questionnaires.

Public Open House - July 22, 2013

The general public and the mayor attended this meeting held at Rush Pavilion in Columbian Park. A brief presentation was made by Cornerstone reviewing the various parks in the park system, trends in

the industry, comments received from the public input to date; and opportunities for growth within the department. The meeting began with a brief explanation of the master plan process as the public walked in. The format for the meeting was more of an informal open house which allowed citizens to talk directly with staff and Cornerstone. The group individually wrote down their thoughts and comments on the following issues. A summary of those comments are listed below. Attendance was 32 people and represented a diverse cross section of the community from teenagers to senior citizens. A summary of comments is provided below:

1. What are the Department's strengths to build on for the future?

- Dedicated staff members
- Build on the increasing sense of community. The Parks Dept. has a healthy inventory of property throughout the area.
- Our youth need a place to go and have healthy interactions and be constructive
- Columbian Park is and has been a great park for a town of our size. Keep up the good work.
- Sense of community Getting the community out to help maintain and monitor park use
- Improvements in trails through town are much appreciated
- Zoo - towns our size do not have one, yet alone as nice as ours.
- Green space, passive recreation trails

2. Key issues facing the department?

- Maybe there should be basketball courts in a central location in Columbian park, so that security and Police could more easily protect it.
- An aquatic area with a large swimming area as opposed to a water park like Tropicanae Cove or Prophetstown Aquatic Center and a diving board is much needed.
- Family activities are great, need more teen and young adult activities.
- Economy and funding has been reduced
- Loeb Stadium 1940's Art Deco Style should be preserved. Please renovate.
- Increasing amount of youth of all backgrounds needing recreational areas.
- Need for more teen-friendly activities.
- Programs

3. Overall desired changes for the Department over the next 10 years.

- Increase trails and green space

-
- Could there be any trails eventually to connect up with those in other areas - Wabash Heritage Trails in West Lafayette and Tippecanoe County
 - Bring back the rides
 - More multi-use parks with walking and biking trails and disc golf courses
 - Make Columbian Park a 'gem' in the city that acts as an economic engine to the surrounding community. State of the Art facilities, zoo parks, Wi-Fi, and pool will bring people to the area
 - Bring back the slides. Have contest for the kids, talent shows, use the stage more
 - Have fishing tournaments
 - Spelling contest on the stage - all these events raise money for parks.
 - Bring the Gus Macker 3 on 3 Basketball tournament here
 - Host the Colt World Series here at Loeb. This will bring more tourists to our area and funding money to community and park department.
 - Have EMTs volunteer in the park. We have several retired firefighters, EMT's, police officers that would volunteer their time if they more aware.
 - Put up portable basketball hoops. Take them down during peak problem hours
 - Wide open space for kids to play.
 - Regarding Loeb Stadium: don't do upgrades on the cheap. It's a Lafayette institution. Cost benefit analysis for attracting a minor league baseball team should be taken into consideration. Baseball is popular here and our population has grown significantly since 1998.
 - Softball fields at Lybault needs upgrades - fields are uneven and in some places unsafe.
 - A newly built Loeb Stadium, possibly in the same style as the current one. A really nice quality one would be best. Maybe we should start a huge community fund raising campaign. Dedicate a weekend or two to a festival whose money goes specifically to the rebuilding of the stadium.
 - Build a new Loeb Stadium on the old Golf Course site. Need more parking and there is limited room at Columbian Park. Cooperative effort between all 3 municipalities to build new stadium.
 - Park land development should not be developed, redeveloped with cash flow as motivation some uses tennis courts are heavily used but have no cash flow.
 - Have a movie in the park night. It is cheap and uses the theater area.
 - Turn old golf course into native forest/wetland. Flooding too frequent to build anything else there.

Public Input Open House - July 24, 2013

The general public and the mayor attended this meeting held at McAllister Center. A brief presentation was made by Cornerstone reviewing the various parks in the park system, trends in the industry, comments received from the public input to date; and opportunities for growth within the department. The meeting began with a brief explanation of the master plan process as the public walked in. The format for the meeting was more of an informal open house which allowed citizens to talk directly with staff and Cornerstone. The group individually wrote down their thoughts and comments on the following issues. There were five people in attendance. A summary of comments is provided below:

1. What are the Department's strengths to build on for the future?
 - Department doing great work.
 - Lots of programs
 - Staff is great
 - Daily rate for fitness area is great
 - Green space, passive recreation trails
2. Key issues facing the department?
 - Add trails
 - Fix Loeb Stadium
 - More for youth
3. Overall desired changes for the Department over the next 10 years.
 - Build new Loeb Stadium at old golf course site. Build a lake if not stadium at golf course site
 - Trail connections
 - Youth programming

Park Board Meeting - August 5, 2013

At a regularly scheduled park board meeting held at Rush Pavilion in Columbian Park, a master plan update was provided. A public open house will follow the park board meeting. Staff and board members will be available for general comments. Questionnaires are available online and in hard copy. There were four people in attendance.

Public Open House - August 5, 2013

The public open house was held at Rush Pavilion in Columbian Park. A brief presentation of the master plan process was provided. Staff and board members will be available for general comments. Questionnaires are available online and in hard copy. There were three people in attendance besides staff. A summary of their comments is provided below:

1. What are the Department's strengths to build on for the future?
 - Communication with staff is responsive and fantastic
 - Logistics great
 - Working together with Empowers disc golf club
 - Green space, passive recreation trails
 - Facilities
2. Key issues facing the department?
 - Murdock Park heavily used overcrowding.
 - Parking always a challenge at Loeb Stadium.
 - Multi-use programming at Loeb - doing nothing is not an option.
 - Lafayette Streets are not bike friendly.
 - Connectivity of trails
 - Keep up with programming for all ages
 - Fix Loeb Stadium
3. Overall desired changes for the Department over the next 10 years.
 - Add trails
 - Better bike lanes
 - Connect across Wabash River with pedestrian bridge and bike lanes.
 - Build second disc golf course: different style and location. Maintenance is minimal
 - Create destination disc golf courses to bring tournaments to town like Bowling Green, Kentucky - Largest amateur tournament in US which is a weekend event 60-70 people on a course at a time. Need quality baskets and concrete tee pads for higher end disc golf course.

Park Board Meeting - August 19, 2013

At a regularly scheduled park board meeting held at Rush Pavilion in Columbian Park, a master plan update was provided. We have had 300 responses on the questionnaires. A public open house will follow the park board meeting. Staff and board members will be available for questions. Questionnaires are available online and in hard copy. There were three people in attendance beside staff.

Public Open House - August 19, 2013

The general public attended this meeting held at Rush Pavilion in Columbian Park. Six people were in attendance.

1. What are the Department's strengths to build on for the future?
 - Lots of programs
 - Appreciate all the trails
 - Great events and activities
 - Green space, passive recreation trails
 - Zoo
 - Variety of park facilities
2. Key issues facing the department?
 - Fix lagoon
 - Maintenance
 - Add trails
 - Loeb Stadium
 - How to use old golf course site.
3. Overall desired changes for the Department over the next 10 years.
 - Renovate Loeb Stadium
 - Trail connections
 - Youth programming
 - Maintain existing facilities.
 - Old golf course site development

Public Open House Loeb Stadium - August 21, 2013

The general public and the mayor attended this meeting. Tours were provided of Loeb Stadium by staff, and park board members. KJG Architecture and Cornerstone were available to answer questions regarding renovation work of the stadium and the five year master plan. The mayor was also available for questions.

There were 24 people who took tours and completed questionnaires. They were unanimously in favor of renovation Loeb Stadium. Other comments included the following:

- Renovate Loeb Stadium
- Loeb Stadium is a historic landmark
- Various thoughts on how much should be spent to save it
- Develop programming beside baseball that could utilize the stadium to generate more income such as concerts, festivals, etc.
- Need more parking for stadium events

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- Would it make sense to pursue a minor league team to play in stadium like Ft. Wayne did? Do not spend money to build a brand new stadium though.
 - Renovate stadium, but do not spend more than \$5 million.

Park Board Meeting/Public Input - September 15, 2013

At a regularly scheduled Park Board meeting at Rush Pavilion in Columbian Park, a presentation on the entire master plan including existing demographics, trends in the industry, community history, existing park facilities, questionnaire results, priorities and action items. Staff and the Board will continue to review and discuss the action items. An opportunity for public input was provided. There were five people in attendance. They had no comment.

Park Board Meeting/ Public Input - October 20, 2013

At a regularly scheduled Park Board meeting at Rush Pavilion in Columbian Park, a master plan update was provided. Staff is reviewing the action plan with City Council and the Mayor to obtain any additional comments. There were six people in attendance. No additional public comments on the master plan have been received at this time.

Park Board Meeting/ Public Input - November 18, 2013

At a regularly scheduled Park Board meeting at Rush Pavilion in Columbian Park, Cornerstone gave an overview of the entire master plan and reviewed the priority action plan developed through the master planning process. The Park Board will continue to review the plan and advise staff of any comments. There were 10 people in attendance. Their only comments were encouragement to keep up the good work and they appreciated the department's efforts to plan for the future.

Park Board Meeting - December 18, 2013

At a regularly scheduled Park Board meeting at Rush Pavilion in Columbian Park, a general end of the year update was provided to the Park Board. An update will be provided at the January meeting due to the packed agenda for this meeting.

Park Board Meeting - January 13, 2013

At a regularly scheduled Park Board meeting at Rush Pavilion in Columbian Park, Cornerstone provided update of the Comprehensive Five-Year Park Master Plan and was available to answer questions. The Park Board will continue to review the plan and advise staff of any comments. There were XX people in attendance.

Park Board Meeting - February 17, 2013

At a regularly scheduled Park Board meeting at Rush Pavilion in Columbian Park, the Park Board passed a resolution to adopt the Comprehensive Five-Year Park Master Plan. There were xx people in attendance.



❖ Section Six: Priority Action Plan & Funding

❖ Community Needs and Issues

After careful analysis of the issues identified by the Park Board, staff and general public, major needs were categorized into the following list:

- Loeb Stadium renovations
- Youth and teen programs
- Columbian Park Zoo
- Columbian Park - repair lagoon
- On-going maintenance
- Golf Course Re-use master plan
- More seasonal staff
- Riverfront development
- Trails

Overall, the Department continues to strive to meet the needs of the citizens through working with other city departments and creating partnerships to leverage city budget dollars to improve and enhance the facilities and programs for the citizens of Lafayette.

Budget challenges continue but the Department has continued to have support from the Mayor and City Council to maintain their current level of service. Consequently, there are many challenges to balancing the need for new programs, upgrading facilities and maintaining the parks with minimal resources.

The staff and the Park Board are committed to finding ways to provide funding for the variety of needs that have been listed by the public and staff. The Department will continue to focus on maintaining all facilities at a high level and increasing programming opportunities for all citizens.

The action and priority list on the following pages demonstrates a road map for the next five years. The action plan is meant to be flexible in order to maximize the Board's ability to take advantage of future funding and partnering opportunities as they become available.

Action and Priority Plan 2014-2018

YEAR	SITE	DESCRIPTION	COST	SOURCE
2014	Loeb Stadium	Locker Rooms	\$150,000	TIF
	Columbian	SIA Playground 2-5 age replace equipment	\$28,000	TBD
	Columbian	Old animal barn roof	\$17,000	Budget
	Centennial	Replace basketball court	\$20,000	Grant
	Shamrock	Replace color coating at roller hockey rink	\$16,400	Grant
	Lybault	Softball field lighting: replace electrical	\$ 7,800	Budget
	South Tipp	Renovation	\$275,000	Grant
	Admin	Review and assess existing programs	NA	Budget
	Admin	Staff training and development	NA	Budget
	Admin	Review future programming options	NA	Budget
	Admin	Identify grants/donors for park development	NA	Budget
	Admin	Review maintenance practices	NA	Budget
	Admin	Evaluate equipment needs	NA	Budget
	Golf Course	Re-use master plan	Unknown	WREC
	Durkees Run	New trail (part of DPW infrastructure project)	NA	DPW
	Twyckenham Blvd	New trail (part of DPW project)	NA	DPW
	Various Facilities	ADA compliance improvements	TBD	Budget
	Admin	New trails in conjunction with DPW	TBD	DPW
2015	Sterling Heights	Renovation	\$40,000	Grant
	Zoo	Expansion	\$400,000	Grant
	Loeb Stadium	Identify grants and donors	NA	Budget
	Columbian	Zoo - Identify grants and donors	NA	Budget
	Golf Course Site	Implementation of golf course re-use plan	Unknown	WREC
	Admin	Review equipment needs	NA	Budget
	Admin	Update equipment and facilities plans	NA	Budget
	CAT	Expansion	\$200,000	Grant
	Berlowtiz Woods	Site development	TBD	Grant
	McCaw	Move and replace playground	\$75,000	Grant
	Admin	New trails in conjunction with DPW		DPW
	Various Facilities	ADA compliance improvements	TBD	Budget
2016	Loeb Stadium	Design Fees: stadium renovation	\$200,000	TIF
	Golf course	Implementation of re-use plan	Unknown	WREC
	Admin	Staff training and development	NA	Budget
	Admin	Update equipment and facility maintenance plans	NA	Budget

YEAR	SITE	DESCRIPTION	COST	SOURCE
2016	Loeb Stadium	Identify grants and donors	NA	Budget
	Various Facilities	ADA compliance improvements	TBD	Budget
	Columbian	Memorial Island -Identify grants and donors	NA	Budget
	Zoo	Zoo expansion	\$400,000	Grant
	Admin	New trails in conjunction with DPW	TBD	DPW
2017	Columbian	Memorial Island and lagoon renovation	\$1 million	TBD
	Zoo	Finish expansion	\$800,000	TBD
	Tropicanae Cove	Add 2nd slide	\$300,000	TBD
	Loeb Stadium	Construction Major Renovation, new turf	\$5.5 million	TIF
	Loeb Stadium	Establish maintenance fund	NA	Budget
	Various Facilities	ADA compliance improvements	TBD	Budget
	Admin	Update equipment and facility maintenance plans	NA	Budget
	Admin	Staff training and development	NA	Budget
	Admin	New trails in conjunction with DPW	TBD	DPW
2018	Admin	Five Year Comprehensive Master Plan	\$25,000	Budget
	Admin	Review equipment and facility maintenance plans	NA	Budget
	Zoo	Establish maintenance fund	NA	Budget
	Admin	Staff training and development	NA	Budget
	Admin	New trails in conjunction with DPW	TBD	DPW
	Various Facilities	ADA compliance improvements	TBD	Budget

TBD - To be determined
DPW - Dept. of Public Works
NA - Not Applicable
WREC - Wabash River Enhancement Corporation

Funding Opportunities

A variety of funding opportunities are available through grants and not-for-profit organizations to assist in the development and planning of programs and facilities.

Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT)

- Transportation Equity Act (TEA 21) Federal grant administered by INDOT.
Transportation systems: i.e. trails, sidewalks and street improvements are typical projects. Funds 80 percent of construction cost with 20 percent match by applicant.

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- Safe Routes to School Fund (SRTS) Federal grant administered by INDOT. Non-infrastructure activities will be limited to a cost of \$75,000. Infrastructure projects will be limited to a cost of \$250,000. SRTS activities and projects must be programmed in the statewide transportation improvement program to receive federal funds. School must be within two mile radius of construction improvements project.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) -Division of Forestry

- Arbor Day Grant: \$500 - \$1000 grant. Any activity that assists in promoting Arbor Day.
- Urban Forestry Grants: \$2000 - \$20,000, Community projects target program development, planning and education.

IDNR Division of Outdoor Recreation

- Recreation Trails Program: funded as a part of TEA-21. Provides funds for motorized and non-motorized trails and trails related projects. Program provides 80/20 percent reimbursement/match assistance for eligible projects (\$10,000 to \$100,000 maximum available).
- Land and Water Conservation Fund is matching a 50 percent reimbursing federal assistance program. Program provides a minimum of \$10,000 to \$200,000 maximum available for one project per year. Maximum amount may be increased dependent on current budget at Federal level.

Other municipal funding sources:

- Cumulative Capital Improvement Funds
- Non-reverting account funds
- Lease purchase
- General Obligation Bond
- Gifts
- Donations (land, cash, labor, materials and equipment)

Resources utilized for this report:

U.S. Census 2000, 2010

Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Indiana University Business Research Center

Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau



❖ Section Seven: Appendix

For future use

