

1800 S. Grant Street
Muncie, IN. 47302
(765) 747-4858
cityofmuncie.com

muncieparks@cityofmuncie.com

Superintendent: Carl Malone

Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

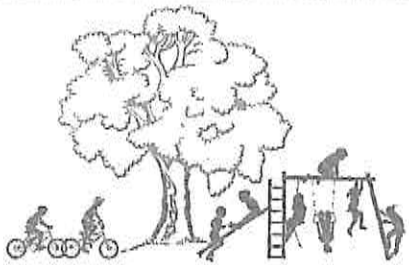
Tuesday, January 19, 2021

City Hall Auditorium

- (1) Call to Order
- (2) Pledge of Allegiance
- (3) Roll Call
- (4) Approval of the minutes from (October 2020) Park Board Meeting
- (5) Nomination of new Board Members
- (6) Superintendent Report – Carl Malone
- (7) Park Facility Request – George Foley
- (8) Prairie Creek – Dustin Clark
- (9) Old Business – Park Department Update
 - Update on Cooley Park – Carl Malone
- (10) New Business
 - Open Gym @ Harvest South Church
 - Rough Draft of 5 Year Plan
 - Program Director Job Position
- (11) Other Business – This is a call to the audience that may have items that need approval from the Park's Board.
- (12) Action Items – None
- (13) Public Input – (3) minute limit - Please state your name and address.

Remember to please call the Park Office or the Park Board President (Yolanda Carey) if you have an item that needs to be placed on the agenda.

*** Next Park Board Meeting – Tuesday, March 16, 2021 (6:00 p.m.) - City Hall Auditorium**



1800 S. Grant Street
Muncie, IN. 47302
(765) 747-4858

cityofmuncie.com/parks-department-muncie.htm

muncieparks@cityofmuncie.com

Superintendent: Carl Malone

Superintendent Report

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Muncie Parks and Recreation Department finished 2020 Park Season on a strong note. We were able to complete the entire year without having any COVID cases reported to date. The Parks Department was able to report no major injuries during the year.

Highlights

- The Parks Department was able to beautify 28 Parks throughout the year.
- Purchased (2) Heavy Equipment Trucks
- Implemented a Program Department for Parks and Recreation
- 1 Year Master plan
- Working on the 5 Year Plan. We will submit a rough draft at the January 2021 Parks Boards Meeting.

If the Board would have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the Park Office (765) 747-4858 or cell (765) 749-8490.

Carl Malone
Superintendent
Muncie Parks and Recreation

Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

Tuesday January 19, 2021 6p.m.

City Hall Auditorium

1. CALL TO ORDER –President Yolanda Carey call meeting to order at 6pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – All stood for the Pledge

3. ROLL CALL-Present was President Yolanda Carey. Absent was Vice President Bev Kelley, Adrian Leavell Mark Erving Brad Marshall.

4. Approval of Park Board minutes for Oct. 2020 – A vote was taken by all Park Board members present. First Motion was by Brad Marshall. Second was Adrian Leavell. Vote was taken to approve the minutes and all agreed. Motion carried.

5. Nomination of new Board Members- Mark Erving nominated Brad Marshall for President. Adrian Leavell seconds the motion. Brad Marshall made a motion to nominate Vice President Brad Marshall second the motion. Took a vote for President and Vice President. Motion carried. Brad Marshall is new Parks Board President and Adrian Leavell is Vice President.

6. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT-Carl Malone introduced newly appointed Board member Dr. Shannon Powers by our Mayor Dan Ridenour. She comes from Ball State with a lot of experience with a degree in Exercise Science. The vote will be taken next Park meeting. For Dr. Shannon Powers. Mayor Dan Ridenour has not sworn her in yet.

So 2021 and 2020 we were able to get through the season without any medical setbacks. We had no one test positive for Covid and no major injuries.

We were going to have an employee appreciation tonight but a lot of them could not make it. The second part of the Superintendent report will be given by Dustin Clark of Prairie Creek.

We are still wrapping up things from 2020. It was a very good year for us a Park. Attendance was up because people needed a clean safe place to come to. We did a lot of revitalization to buildings. Put on a lot of new roofs. Fixed a lot of things made ADA compliance we paved slash mille done hundred percent of the roads. We added parking. We had meetings. We developed a to do list from the campers and the dock holders on what they would like to see fixed or changed. We are finishing up those items. We are working on a long term Park rules and procedures plan in which we hope to bring to you soon. That will be a complete list of Park rule of thing we will allow and not allow in different areas. No questions at this time from the Board. See Superintendent report

7. Park Facility Request-

George Foley - There are three events. First one is for Catfish tournament at Prairie Creek. It will be at the Boat ramp. Time will be 8 pm to 8 am on May 15th, 2021. They are expecting about 80 people at this event. They will not be any food vendors and no security at this time. They do not need anything from the Parks dept. Brad Marshall asked if this was in conflict with any other event and George stated there is no other event taking place. Adrian Leavell asked if this was called a Catfish tournament. George stated yes. Brad Marshal asked if boats and peers were going to be in before this. Dustin Clark shaking his head yes.

Mark Ervin made first motion for the Catfish tournament. Adrian Leavell made second motion. Took a vote and Motion carried to have the event.

The second one is a Trail run/hike at west side of Prairie Creek put on by American Multi Sport. The purpose of this event is for fitness in the form of a trail run hike. Adrian Leavell asked for the name of the company putting it on and George stated American Multi Sport. Yolanda asked what exactly this is. George stated it is a trail run hike. Time will be 5 am to 5 pm. June 19th, 2021. Nothing needed for this event. No security needed unless over two hundred people.

Brad Marshall asked where they will be parking their vehicles. George stated at the west side of the Park and trail system. Mark Ervin asked about insurance for this event and Steve Tomboni was in the audience and George turned to him and asked him. He stated yes they have insurance for this event.

Adrian Leavell made the first motion to prove the event. Yolanda Care second motion Board voted and it was unanimous. Motion carried.

Last request for an event is put together by Forward Vision. It's called Black Music Month celebration on June 26, 2021 from 12 to 8 pm. They will bring local bands in. They are expecting around three to four bands for this event. It will be outside at McCulloch Park. They did this event in 2019 and had a great turnout. They wanted to do this in 2020 but could not because of Covid. They do have sponsorships for this event and they want to do this every year partner with the Parks dept. They are expecting over 500 people for this event so there will be security and they do have insurance for this event. They are requesting bleachers and sound system from the Parks dept. Muncie Music sound will help with setting that up and running the sound for the event. Adrian Leavell asked if there will be food vendors and George stated yes. They don't have food vendor list yet but they are working on it and they know about vendor fees to the park. They are expecting about five or six food vendors for event. Dr. Sharon Powers asked about the time of the event. George stated it was from 12pm to 8 pm and she also asked about the fee for the bleachers and George stated they have a partnership with the Parks No fee required. There is no money generated because it is free to public. Anyone can come to this event. Money raised through sponsorship is given to the bands. Also with the sponsorship money they will have five scholarships for youth that want to play music instruments. It's \$500.00 each. The kids can use the money for music lessons or to buy instruments. Part of the money also goes to the bands. Yolanda Carey made a motion to approve the event with the understanding that they follow through with the food vendor portion. Adrian Leavell second the motion. Took a vote Board approved the event. Motioned carried.

8. Prairie Creek- We really don't have any additional info at this time .We will continue to work on finishing thing from 2020 and working on thing in 2021. Shannon Powers requested a copy of the Community needs list Prairie Creek has been working on. Dustin stated he would e-mail it to the Board members. Dustin also stated he would add the 2021 proposal for the budget of things they have paid for and what they expect to pay for in the future and also the 2021 projects. No more questions from the Board.

9. Old Business- Park Department Update

Brad Marshall state he wanted to hear an Cooley Park update. Carl Malone stated thing are moving along with Cooley Park. The completed time is in 2021 for Cooley Park to be finished .Due to the weather it has stopped the project but will pick it back up as soon as the weather allows. Carl also stated Phase one done and part of Phase two is started. The basketball court and walking trail has been steaked out. It should be completed by early

spring of this year. The splash pad and the ADA handy cap accessible restrooms to be completed as well. No questions from the Board.

10. New Business- Open Gym

Dr. Shannon Powers hooked the Parks dept. up with Harvest South Church on 26th street for kids to come and play basketball free of charge every Saturday from 9am to 1pm. It's a great opportunity for gathering with friends and to meet new ones. It also helps kids get exercise instead of sitting around their house and doing nothing. We also practice Covid precautions. It started Jan 9th 2021. We have been averaging around twenty kids. We are going to add skills development to this program. If our numbers pick up, we will start doing time frames for different ages because of Covid. We are also going to reach out to Centrals couch and Burriss couch for the skill development part to see if they are interested in helping with this part. We also want to use the Church for sign up purposes for other activities for Parks. It's a great facility to help the youth of this area. Question was asked how much it cost. George stated it's free. They come in with masks on check their temps. Spray down before and after the events. Brad Marshall asked about the age. George stated its from ages seven to thirteen.

Rough Draft of Five Year Plan- Dustin Clark

Dustin wanted to thank Carl and the team for starting the 5 yr. plan draft. Mayor Dan Ridenhour had a chance to review it briefly today. He was very pleased and wanted to make sure the Board know that. Dustin also stated that there are things that will need to be added and taken out as they go through the draft for this 5 year plan.

This five year plan will help us get some financing behind it. Last year we were barred from getting any financial help because no one perused it last year and that is one of the stipulations for getting any financial help. We have to get it ready to submit it in April for the Indiana department of natural resources. Brad Marshall said all members has a paper copy and wants an electronic copy as well. Brad also asked where to send any questions they may have about the f year plan. Dustin stated send questions to Carl and he can take care of getting them to proper answers Board members. Brad Marshall stated the Board members will review them and go from there. Dr. Shannon Powers stated the DNR will be providing feedback as well The DNR read through it two weeks ago and were good with the first draft. It will be harder moving forward because we will be collating feedback from the Parks Board and documented. Provide public

participation which we will do in a survey. This currently has eleven hundred Delaware residents response which is incredible. We will also have Pars administration feedback. The last two chapters of the plan are probably the most difficult to wright. We also have to remember the plan itself is for us not the DNR. It's for the residents of Muncie and what we need for our guidelines and our mission statement. No other questions asked.

Program Director Job Position- Carl Malone

Carl stated He would like to get together with the Parks Board and go through ideas about the f year plan before April submission.

On behalf of the Program Directors job description and the One year plan and in the five year plan we talked about in the 2009 and 2014 plan to reestablish the Parks directorship. It's very important to have a Program directorship. Carl stated he has talked to the Mayor about this and he wants the support of the Bard members as well. George Foley has bene acting as the director and would like to recommend him for the job. He will be very vital to the team. Brad Marshall asked if the job description was finished. Carl stated he gave it to personal to review it and has not gotten it back yet. Brad stated he would like to review it and the other Board members as well. We need to take a vote on it providing they look at the job description after Personal is finished with it. Mark Erving made a motion to approve the Parks director position pending the description of the job. Adrian Leavell made second motion. A vote was taken and the Board approved it pending the draft of the job description.

11. Other business- This is a call to the audience that may have items that need approval from the Park's Board -none

12. Action Items - None

13. PUBLIC INPUT- Three minute limit- Please state your name and address Audie Barber address is 610 w. 11 street.

He is concerned about the moving of the handicap pier and where it's going to be moved. He thought it was going to be moved toward the road. He wants to make sure that the putting in of the handicap pier won't interfere with the spring fishing because he stated it takes so much time putting it in.

He is concerned about the parking. He also wants to make sure nothing else goes into that spot. He's concerned about the time the gates are open because it's a public park. He also stated there is no bank fishing out there.

He stated the only place to bank fish is at the dump site where they dump trash off the boats. Brad Marshall asked for Dustin to clarify these issues. Ashley Wright Operations manager and Dustin Clark stated when they take out the piers to get the handicap pier out they have to put them back. They are just switching the piers. The piers they take out are piers someone is paying for. There not going to put any extra piers there. Dustin stated they have no intention of adding any dock spaces for 2021. They are planning on putting in floating docks. They are mainly to replace the docks they have now. We did state last year in September they want to increase bank fishing. There are places people fish like the bridges and other areas.

As for the arms, they are intended for security for the south shore north shore. They are down at eleven just like all other parks that close at eleven.

We will try to inform people when the times are different around the holidays. They are for safety of the public. The times can be found on face book and the city web site as well. We can put the schematic on the web. The new city web site has just been launched and we plan to put updates on it as we get them for the public to use. Ashley stated there is a map that was presented at the Board of Works meeting. You can view that s well.

Brad Marshall had Audi come back up to the mic. Audie asked about the new pier park space on April 1st. Ashley stated they are getting quotes on it. It depends on the weather when they do the paving. The ADA pier gets used 365 days a year fishing and in the past it only was used twenty to twenty five weeks. After it gets put in its place this time it will never have to be moved again. Mid May is the target date for putting the pier in. Audie asked how much the paving is going to be and how big of an area. Ashley stated we will have the ramp itself and a few spots.

Dr. Shannon Powers asked if the handicap spaces are first come first serve. Dustin stated yes. Shannon asked how far is the pier from the parking spot Ashley stated it's right in front of it.

Brad Marshall stated he received an e-mail from the Holtaman neighborhood president and they plan to be at the March meeting. They are working as nonprofit. Carl is shaking his head in agreement so he is aware of it. They are trying to raise funds for the park to fix it up. Brad stated he thinks it's going to be a good thing for the parks. Brad Marshall stated he is the treasurer for Holtaman neighborhood association.

Shannon stated once you have the five year plan you will be able us that to tap into more grants.

Carl wanted to give the Board an update on Tuhey. He is meeting with the YMCA February the third and at that meeting they will talk about 2021 partnership with the Muncie Parks and YMCA. We will get to the legal team and then to the Board. Marlene did a great job last year. She has been in contact with Nancy from personnel about hiring process for this year and thing we can do to improve. We are getting life guards in place before we open up.

Dustin Clark asked if we can move the Parks meeting to once a month during the season Brad Marshall stated that is something we need to review. It has been brought up before. During the winter months we do not need to but in the busier months we should

Remember to please call the Park office or the Park Board President if you have an item placed on the agenda.

Next meeting Tuesday March 16, 2021 6 p.m. City Hall

Park Board Meeting Public Input Sign In Sheet

Date: 1/19/21

Name (Please Print)

Address

1. AUDIE BARBER

610 W 11th

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

Approved by Board Jan 19th 2021

pg.5

AGREEMENT FOR USE OF CITY PARK PROPERTY

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into between the City of Muncie ("Muncie") and CATFISH PERATES (Per A. Dytine Jr) ("User").

The parties mutually desire to reach an understanding that will result in making a city park facility available for use by User. It is mutually agreed between the parties as follows:

1. The City will make its facility, particularly Boat Ramp, available for use by User on the 15TH day of MAY, 2021 from 8pm to 8 AM, for the following purpose: CATFISH TOURNAMENT.

2. User hereby agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Muncie from any and all claims and demands for damages and expense, including Court costs and attorneys' fees, suffered on account of any faulty or omission by User, or arising from the use and occupation of the City facility, whether due to the City's negligence or not.

3. User agrees to use the facility only for the purpose set forth above, and to maintain the facility in as good a condition as User finds it.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties hereby execute this Agreement by their duly authorized representatives.

Per A. Dytine Jr 12-26-2020

USER Signature and Date

Muncie Park and Recreation Department
Application for Special Use Permit

1. Name of Individual or Group responsible for the activity.

2. Location requested BOAT RAMP / WEIGH IN TOURNAMENT PARKING

3. Date and Time for activity MAY 15TH, 2021 8pm TO 8AM

4. For what purpose is this activity being planned?

CATFISHING TOURNAMENT (CATFISH PRIZES)

5. How many people do you expect to attend this activity? 80

6. Security will be provided, at organizer expense, by:

NO SECURITY WILL BE NEEDED

Attach a brief description of security arrangements, listing the agency providing the security, number of security workers, and times security will be scheduled.

7. List any food or other vendors included in the planned activity? If vendors are included, list the type of materials to be sold and the names of the vendors. (See vendor section for details)

NO FOOD VENDORS & NOTHING WILL BE SOLD!

8. Please list any additional materials or services which you are requesting for the event, (such as bleachers or stage sections---there are fees for all delivered park equipment).

WE DONT REQUEST ANY MATERIALS OR SERVICES

WE DONT REQUEST ~~PRIVATE~~ PRIVATE BOAT RAMP ACCESS!
WE ONLY ASK THAT THE TOURNAMENT IS APPROVED & WE
CAN USE THE TOURNAMENT WEIGH IN PARKING. WE WILL ALSO
BE PROVIDING A SHOWER HOUSE FOR A SHOWER THAT DAY
12:00 PM TO 1:00 PM. THANK YOU!

Muncie Park and Recreation Department
Application for Special Use Permit

Signature of Applicant Roger A. Dytmar Jr
Title FOUNDER OF CARTER'S POATES
Print Name Roger A. Dytmar Jr.
Address 9513 E. JACKSON, MUNCIE IN 47302
E-Mail Dytmarjr@aol.com
Phone 765-729-2046
Date 12-26-2020

Attach copies of necessary permits as explained on attached sheets.
Submit application to; Superintendent of Parks
1800 South Grant Street
Muncie, IN.47302

Phone: 765-747-4858

Fax: 765-747-4727

Office use only: Date application received:

Approved: _____

Approved by Board Jan 19th 2021

AGREEMENT FOR USE OF CITY PARK PROPERTY

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into between the City of Muncie ("Muncie") and America multi-sport ("User").

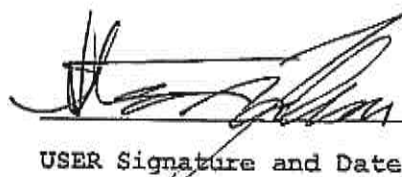
The parties mutually desire to reach an understanding that will result in making a city park facility available for use by User. It is mutually agreed between the parties as follows:

1. The City will make its facility, particularly PCP westside park available for use by User on the 19 day of June, 2021 from 5Am to 5pm, for the following purpose: Trail Run/Hike

2. User hereby agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Muncie from any and all claims and demands for damages and expense, including Court costs and attorneys' fees, suffered on account of any faulty or omission by User, or arising from the use and occupation of the City facility, whether due to the City's negligence or not.

3. User agrees to use the facility only for the purpose set forth above, and to maintain the facility in as good a condition as User finds it.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties hereby execute this Agreement by their duly authorized representatives.

 1.13.21
USER Signature and Date

Muncie Park and Recreation Department
Application for Special Use Permit

1. Name of Individual or Group responsible for the activity.

America multi-sport, INC / Viking Dash Trail/Run LLC

2. Location requested PCR West side Park and Trail system

3. Date and Time for activity June 19, 2021 5 AM - 5 PM

4. For what purpose is this activity being planned? Health and Fitness

focused activity in the form of a Trail Run/Hike

5. How many people do you expect to attend this activity? 200

6. Security will be provided, at organizer expense, by:

Self supported without security needed unless over 200

Attach a brief description of security arrangements, listing the agency providing the security, number of security workers, and times security will be scheduled.

7. List any food or other vendors included in the planned activity? If vendors are included, list the type of materials to be sold and the names of the vendors. (See vendor section for details)

None at this time

8. Please list any additional materials or services which you are requesting for the event, (such as bleachers or stage sections---there are fees for all delivered park equipment).

None

Muncie Park and Recreation Department
Application for Special Use Permit

Signature of Applicant

Title


Print Name

Address

E-Mail

Phone

Date



Pres/CEO

Steven N. Tombroni

7411 50. Co. Rd. 475 East m/f 47302

stombroni@comcast.net

765-215-0582

1.13.21

Attach copies of necessary permits as explained on attached sheets.
Submit application to; Superintendent of Parks
1800 South Grant Street
Muncie, IN. 47302

Phone: 765-747-4858

Fax: 765-747-4727

Office use only: Date application received:

Approved: _____

Approved by Board Jan 19th 2021

General Regulations for:
Special Events, Tournaments and other large gatherings,
In the Public Parks

The City of Muncie Parks is open to the public for a variety of recreational opportunities. Any individual or group wishing to utilize Public Park land for a privately organized special event must first obtain permission from the Muncie Board of Parks and Recreation. There are some general regulations which must be followed for these special uses. These regulations are in no way intended to discourage or hinder public use of public property. The regulations are intended to insure public health and safety and to insure that the integrity of the parks will be preserved.

Any individual or group wishing to organize a special event that requires the use of park facilities should first contact the Superintendent of Parks (1800 S. Grant St.) at least thirty days in advance of the desired date. All facilities use is granted on a "first come, first served" basis. Applications for special use must be submitted with all information complete including the waiver of liability to Park Office. Application for special use will be accepted only at the Park Office (1800 S. Grant St.) and must be turned in no later than the Wednesday preceding the Park Board meeting. The Board of Parks and Recreation meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the Auditorium of the Muncie City Hall (300 N. High St.) at 6:00 p.m. Failure to comply with the regulations will result in the denial of the special use application. Small or large event will have a \$25.00 fee per day, long with a refundable damage deposit. Must be paid before event.

Bleachers, Stages, Benches, Table Tops

The Park Department has portable bleachers, stage sections, benches, and table tops which may be utilized for special events. There is a charge for renting this equipment. An event organizer will be responsible for any overtime wage costs associated to moving equipment for the event. There is high demand for the equipment so it shall be necessary for the Department to reserve this equipment of a first come -first served basis.

Security

The Park Department recognizes that each event is different. The need for on site security is dependent on several factors. The application for any special event, complete with details of type of security planned, will be submitted to Park Office. If it is deemed that police security is necessary, each Police Officer will cost approximately \$25.00 per hour. The Park Department will assist any group with security arrangements but it shall be the responsibility of the event organizer to pay any fees for security services.

Restroom Facilities

It shall be the responsibility of an event organizer to provide adequate restroom facilities for the expected attendance. The Park Department will do all that it can to keep existing Park facilities in good working order but will take no responsibility for the placement or maintenance of temporary or portable facilities.

Vendors

All vendors who wish to sell any product on Park property at any time must obtain permission from the Superintendent of Parks. Limited term vendor permits may be purchased at the Park headquarters. Copies of all appropriate city and county permits must be filed at the Park office before a Park Vendor permit will be issued. A \$25.00 fee is charged for each permit requested and the permits will be issued for individual events only, not for the entire season. Vendors wishing concession rights for the entire season must request such permission from the Board of Park and Recreation.

Fee, Size of Event, and Refundable Damage Deposit

pg.2

Small Event: \$25.00 fee per event. Refundable Damage Deposit \$100.00. Any event lasting more than one day will be considered a Large Event.

Large Event: \$25.00 fee per day. Refundable Damage Deposit \$200.00 for a one day event and add \$50.00 to deposit for each additional day. Max deposit of \$500.00.

Above information aside, the Superintendent, or designee, will define, mostly by anticipated size and scope, whether an event will be considered small or large.

Any event that intends to bring in any kind of mechanized rides will need to supply the Park Office with proof of liability insurance.

Any basketball court or baseball field maybe requested, at no charge, by the event organizer.

If a court/field exists in the location of the event, the Parks Dept. will grant the request if the facility is not previously spoken for.

Part/all of the damage deposit will be kept if damage occurs. Examples of what might constitute damage are: trash/debris, damage to sod /grass (parking on grass is not allowed), damage to park property, damage to trees, spills that leave stains or smells. The Superintendent, or designee, will evaluate the event space/property/supplies to ascertain if anything was damaged. The Parks Dept. will be under no obligation to leave trash strewn about or broken equipment in the parks just to justify the loss of all/part of the deposit to an organizer. The Park Dept. will make every effort to communicate effectively with any organizer that will lose part/all of the deposit. Damage Deposit should be on file by noon on the last business day before the event. If the damage deposit is not paid, the event will be considered cancelled and the organizer should not host the event.

Prairie Creek Large Scale Events

Due to the high impact on property and manpower of large events at Prairie Creek, a daily event fee will be required of each large event organizer. As events vary greatly in size and purpose, each event will be assessed a daily event fee as decided by the Parks Board. The Parks Board (with close collaboration with the Assist. Supt. of Prairie Creek) will be transparent in their discussions and welcome input from event organizers.

Muncie Park and Recreation Department
Application for Special Use Permit

pg. 3

1. Name of Individual or Group Organizing activity, please list names and phone numbers of the people responsible for the activity.

Black Music Month in the Park-Hosted by
Forward Visions, Inc. Contact Person: William McIntosh-
President of Forward Visions. (765) 729-0752

2. Location requested McCulloch Park and Cabin

3. Date and Time for activity Saturday, June 26, 2021

4. Nature of event To bring the community together
and also be a support to the community

5. For what purpose is this activity being planned? is to utilize
our parks

6. How many people do you expect to attend this activity? 500

7. Security will be provided by Yes

Attach a brief description of security arrangements, listing the agency providing the security, number of security workers, and times security will be scheduled.

8. List any food or other vendors included in the planned activity? If vendors are included, list the type of materials to be sold and the names of the vendors. (See vendor section for detail.)

because of this early date we are still in the
process of contacting vendors, we will make sure they follow all rules.

9. Please list any additional materials or services which you are requesting for the event, (such as bleachers or stage sections).

We will need stadium bleachers, (2) stadiums
speakers, sound system, amps

Muncie Park and Recreation Department
Application for Special Use Permit

pg. 4

Signature of Applicant William B. McIntosh Sr.
Title President Forward Visions, Inc.
Print Name William B. McIntosh Sr.
Address P.O. Box 594 Muncie, IN 47308
E-Mail forwardvisionsmuncie@gmail.com
Phone (765) 729-0752
Date January 8, 2021

Attach copies of necessary permits as explained on attached sheets.
Submit application to; Superintendent of Parks
1800 South Grant Street
Muncie, IN. 47302

Phone: 765-747-4858 Fax: 765-747-4727

Office use only: Date application
received: _____

Approved: _____

AGREEMENT FOR USE OF CITY PARK PROPERTY

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into between the City of Muncie ("Muncie") and Forward Visions ("User").

The parties mutually desire to reach an understanding that will result in making a city park facility available for use by User. It is mutually agreed between the parties as follows:

1. The City will make its facility, particularly McCulloch Park available for use by User on the 26th day of June, 2021 from 8:00 am to 11:00 pm, for the following purpose:
To celebrate Black Music Month (Diverse Community).

2. User hereby agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Muncie from any and all claims and demands for damages and expense, including Court costs and attorneys' fees, suffered on account of any fault or omission by User, or arising from the use and occupation of the City facility, whether due to the City's negligence or not.

3. User agrees to use the facility only for the purpose set forth above, and to maintain the facility in as good a condition as User finds it.

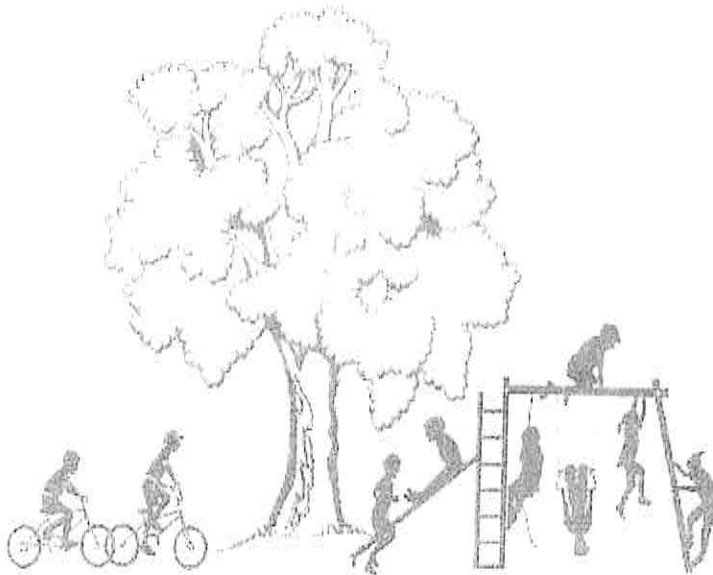
IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties hereby execute this Agreement by their duly authorized representatives.

CITY OF MUNCIE,
BOARD OF PARKS & RECREATION

USER Signature and Date

City of Muncie 2021-2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

City of MUNCIE



DEPARTMENT OF
PARK & RECREATION

MUNCIE

City of Muncie

Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2021-2025

Main Office location:
1800 S. Grant Street
Muncie, IN 47302

Phone:(765) 747-4858

Board Members

Yolanda Carey (2019-2021, Democrat)

Mark Ervin (Term Dates, Republican, School Board Appointee)

Adrian Leavell (2021-2023, Republican)

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I. Introduction

About the City of Muncie Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Muncie has a city-wide parks system managed by the City of Muncie Parks and Recreation Department (MPRD). The nonprofit Trust for Public Land recognizes 50% of Muncie residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park (2018). The urban forestry branch of the parks department has maintained membership as a Tree City USA member since 1998. The City and its parks department is a member of the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association. The City is recognized as a “Bicycle-Friendly” Community by the League of American Bicyclists.

There has not been a strategic plan since 2014. This *2021-25 Parks & Recreation Master Plan* builds on the 2014 plan with an overall intent of positioning the community to improve upon and support active and passive recreation opportunities.

This plan was completed with the assistance of Dr. Shannon Powers and includes both original information and new information as appropriate. This plan was guided by the City of Muncie Parks and Recreation Board, with input from MPRD employees.

Before any recreation plan is adopted and enacted, it is first important to understand the needs of the residents, what recreational opportunities already exist, and what sort of projects are relevant for residents based on age, ability, population, density and the availability of recreational opportunities in neighboring communities. This plan has carefully considered input and suggestions via active communication from area residents, city officials and other community stakeholders. This input is a critical component to this plan, and, together, the voices of Muncie have united to develop a recreation plan to enhance the quality of life for everyone.

Methodology of this Planning Process

The foundation for the development of this plan is based on the following goals, which were initially developed by MPRD staff and a planning committee focused on creating the 2021 plan:

- Involve the community in the process;
- Identify and map existing Muncie recreational facilities;
- Build common ground among Muncie stakeholders in addressing the future recreational needs and priorities of the City;
- Enable Muncie to be eligible for financial assistance through grants – including the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (INDNR), Division of Outdoor Recreation;

- Facilitate interagency collaboration in establishing recreation goals, objectives and actions; and,
- Continue to support and implement improvements for barrier-free, Universal Access to City parks and recreation programs.



Broadly speaking, Muncie officials intend to use this plan to guide their work on all future recreational parks projects within the City. It is also a strategic document that articulates specific goals to various agencies and organizations that fund local recreational and parks improvement projects. Specifically, this plan is developed in accordance with the guidelines for *5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plans* published by the INDNR. A five-year, INDNR - approved recreation plan is necessary for the City of Muncie to pursue INDNR - administered grants.



II. Park Board/Department Information

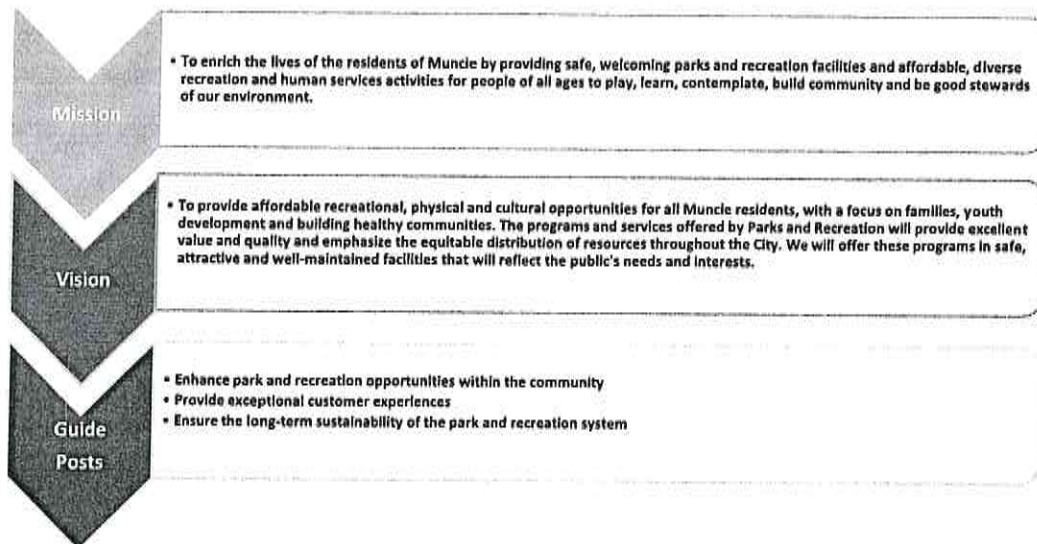
About Muncie's Parks & Recreation Department

Administrative Structure- Park Board, Superintendent, Department Information Park Board, History-

The Muncie Park Board was established in 1909. In the 1930's, "the Muncie Community School Corporation and the City of Muncie created a Recreation Department... In 1948, a full-time recreation director was appointed cooperatively by the school corporation and the city. In 1958, further steps were taken to consolidate the recreation program, when the Recreation Department merged with the Muncie Park Department, and left the Recreation Board as an advisory body to help in the development of a community-wide recreation program." Due to "increased demand for additional recreation programs, the Recreation Department was made a separate unit in 1964 with the recreation director being made primarily responsible to the Muncie School Corporation, while still receiving partial financing from the city."

Vision, Mission, and Guide Posts

The following outlines the foundational framework for the Muncie Parks and Recreation Department:



Park Board

The MPRD and Board of Parks and Recreation were established in April of 1982. The board is comprised of five members; four members are appointed by the mayor, one member is an ex-

Muncie Parks Recreational Organizational Chart

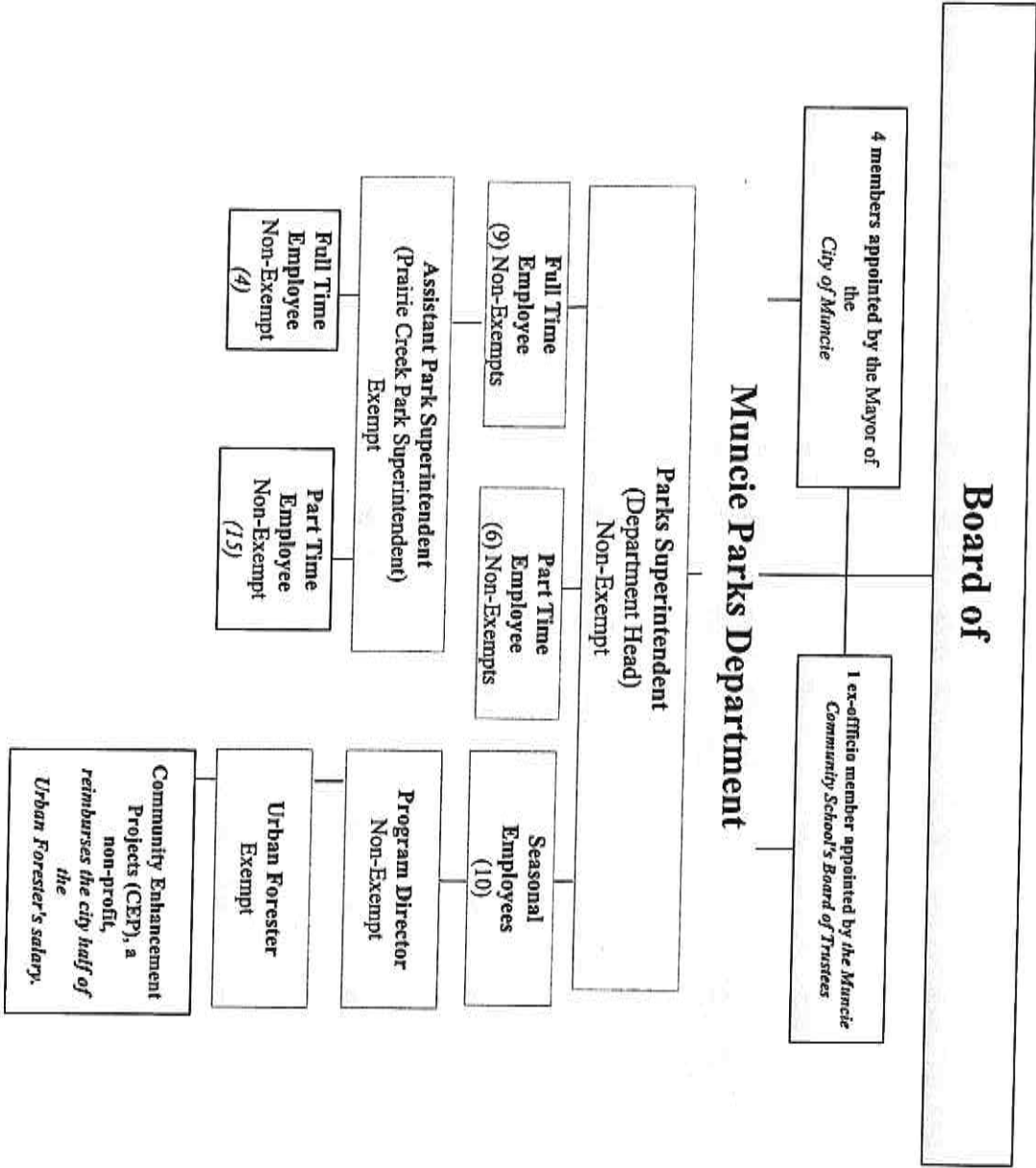


Figure 1- City of Muncie Parks & Recreation organizational chart

officio member appointed by the Muncie School's Board of Trustees. An organizational chart is presented in Figure 1.

The Muncie Parks Department has a Superintendent of Parks as the department head and an Assistant Superintendent who is the Superintendent of Prairie Creek Park. In 2020, there were 17 full-time employees, five part-time employees, and 12 seasonal employees that managed the 24 parks within Muncie's city limits. Muncie's Urban Forester was brought into the department; half of this position's salary is supported by Community Enhancement Projects (CEP), a local non-profit organization. She has worked 18.5 years in Urban Forestry and has served the department for 12 years. The Urban Forester supervises up to 2 part-time employees of the department. Prairie Creek Park has an additional full-time employees and also employees a maximum of six part-time/seasonal employees.

Urban Forestry

Muncie's urban forest is a fundamental part of the City's infrastructure, including the park system, contributing to the community's health and aesthetic appeal. Trees are known to increase air and water quality, reduce impacts upon storm water controls, recharge groundwater, stabilize soil and reduce erosion, reduce noise pollution, promote energy efficiency by reducing heat-island effects and providing windbreaks, promote economic development by increasing the value of real estate and providing benefit to the tax base, increase motorized traffic and pedestrian safety, provide wildlife habitat, and increase the mental health of the community's citizens by reducing people's stress and blood pressure.

The City of Muncie employs an Urban Forester, a certified arborist, who enforces the city's tree ordinance and cares for all trees located within the right of way and on city property with the help of a few part-time laborers. The Urban Forester has been based in various departments but has been operating from the Park Department for over 12 years.

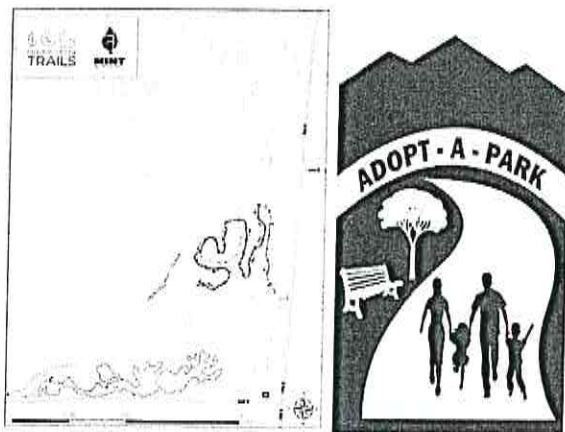
The last Urban Forestry Management Plan was created for the City of Muncie in 2004 and updated in 2005; this plan appears to have been only partially followed. Funding for a new plan was approved recently. Muncie's street tree inventory is currently 11,000 public trees; this inventory is maintained in the Delaware County G.I.S. and is regularly updated by the Urban Forester. These trees reside along public streets, islands and medians in the middle of streets, in the single public cemetery, one public campground at Prairie Creek Reservoir, and inside all 28 parks.

Staff Summary	Full-Time Employees	Seasonal Employees
<u><i>Parks Division</i></u>		
Parks Superintendent	1	
Assistant Parks Superintendent	1	
A Mechanic	1	
Facilities Maintenance	12	
Senior Utility Person		
Urban Forester	1	
PT/Seasonal Workers		31
<u><i>Recreation Division</i></u>		
Recreation Director	1	
Seasonal Workers		0
Office Secretary	1	
	Full-Time	Part-Time/Seasonal
	17	31

With the Commission and Parks & Recreation staff in place to accept public input, manage general operations and oversee planning activities, it is the City Council that makes the final decisions regarding parks and recreation.

Volunteer Assistance

At present, MPRD partners with many organizations and individuals to enhance the City's parks and recreation offerings. The Adopt-A-Park and Adopt-A-Project Programs match groups and organizations with volunteer opportunities at particular parks to assist the Parks Division in cleaning, maintaining, and even creating new features in our parks. The annual Summer Youth & Employment program started in 2019, where teens volunteered for eight weeks. At Prairie Creek Reservoir, the Mid-Indiana Trails Group (a local chapter of the International Mountain Biking Association serving East-Central Indiana) has created approximately nine miles trails since 2008. The Redtail Conservancy is also active in providing/preserving natural habitat and building recreational trails in the planning area. Funds were raised through annual membership and grants \$600,000. FlatLand Resources designed, managed, and implemented the trail projects. The MPRD maintains the multi-trek trail and Mid-Indiana Trails Group maintains the single trek. Over 150 volunteers have helped since 2012 maintaining the trails and picking up trash.



Cardinal Greenways, a non-profit organization, had approximately 100 volunteers paint over graffiti on walls and fences along Jackson Street. The City supports multiple Boy Scout and Girl Scout projects annually to enhance parks with benches, bird houses, play equipment, and numerous other projects. Community garden clubs volunteer to plant and maintain large landscape areas throughout the City.

Relationships with Other Agencies Involved in Recreation

The City of Muncie has a variety of relationships with other agencies to enhance recreational opportunities available to the community.

- The City Streets Department cooperatively with MPRD to share equipment and labor on special projects, which helps both agencies to get jobs done in-house in a timelier and less expensive manner than hiring contractors.
- The City has a strong relationship with the Downtown Development Authority, providing assistance with set up and clean up for musical and cultural events.
- The City partners with the Muncie Public Schools to share facilities and sports fields as needed.
- The City consults regularly with Minnetrista and the DNR on conservation, natural resources and horticulture-related matters to educate and train city staff on current trends/issues.
- The City consults regularly with the John Frank league football staff on field issues and shares supplies/equipment as needed.
- The City partners with the Muncie YMCA, Purdue Extension – Delaware County to provide equipment, facilities and services to support events for these groups.

These partnerships allow MPRD to enhance and improve its services and programming. MPRD staff track the activities of these and other community recreation providers to avoid duplication of services.

III. Goals and Objectives

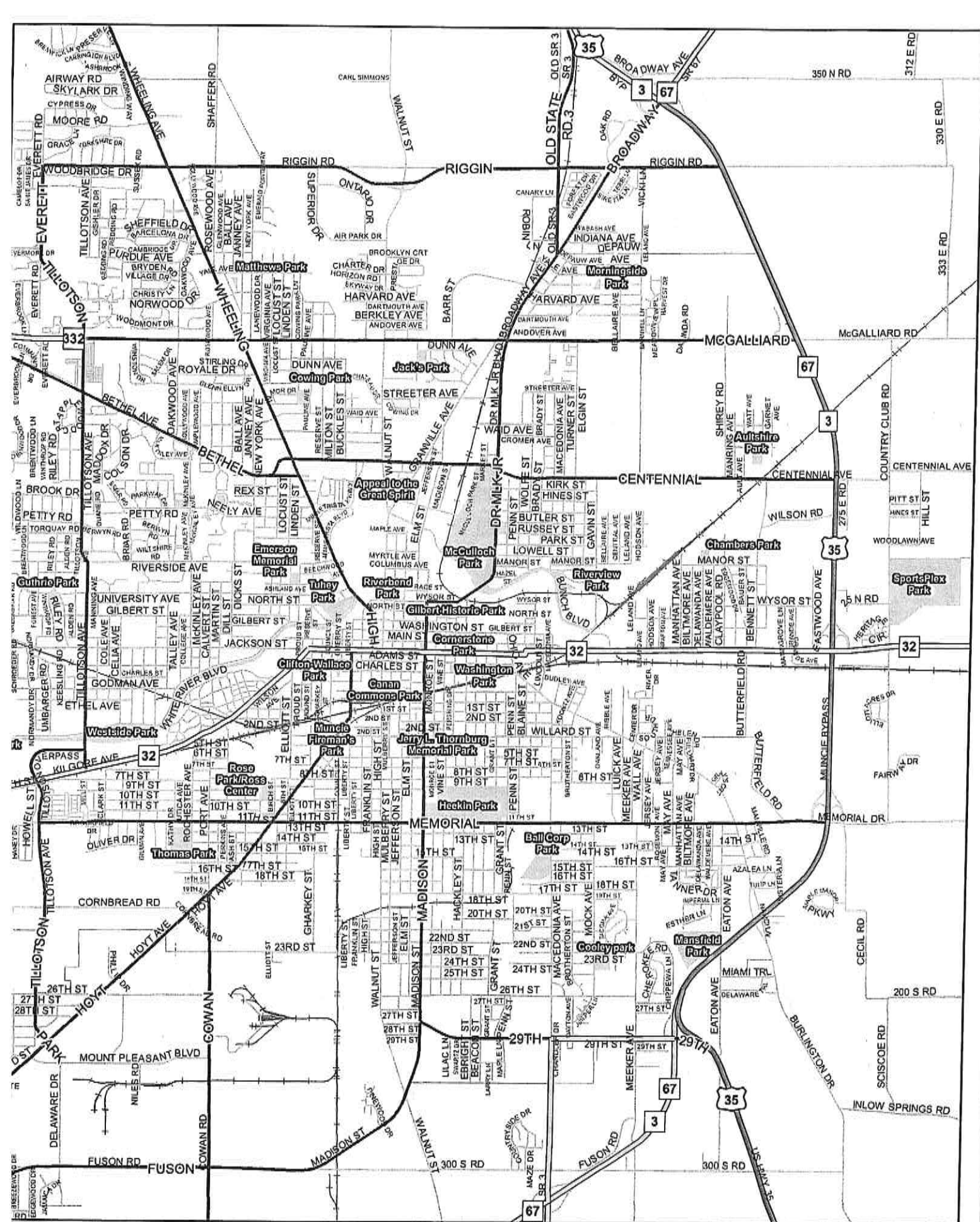
Introduction

Definition of Planning Area

The planning area for this Master Plan includes all areas within the boundaries of the City of Muncie and expands to Prairie Creek Reservoir. While this plan recognizes that the actual service areas of some MPRD parks, facilities, and programs may extend beyond the defined boundaries of the planning area, the primary purpose of this plan is to first and foremost identify and address the park and recreation needs of Muncie residents. The following map depicts the planning area and location of MPRD parks (Figure 2).

The corporate limits of the City of Muncie are the primary study area for the purposes of this master plan. Muncie's Park and Recreation Department (MPRD) manage 28 parks. Outside the city limits of Perry Township, Muncie's Park Department manages Prairie Creek Park. Perry Township is located in the southeast corner of Delaware County. Prairie Creek Park is leased from the Indiana American Water Company Inc. by the Park & Recreation Board of the City of Muncie until 2072.

This plan focuses on all park properties and the City's need for parks and recreation. While there is anecdotal evidence that Prairie Creek Park is frequented by rural residents more than any other City park; currently any impact of visitation by rural residents is not seen as a burden. All the parks are frequented by rural visitors within a 30 mile radius from Winchester, Portland, Hartford City, and New Castle as Muncie is the closest hub of larger retail superstores.



City of Muncie Parks

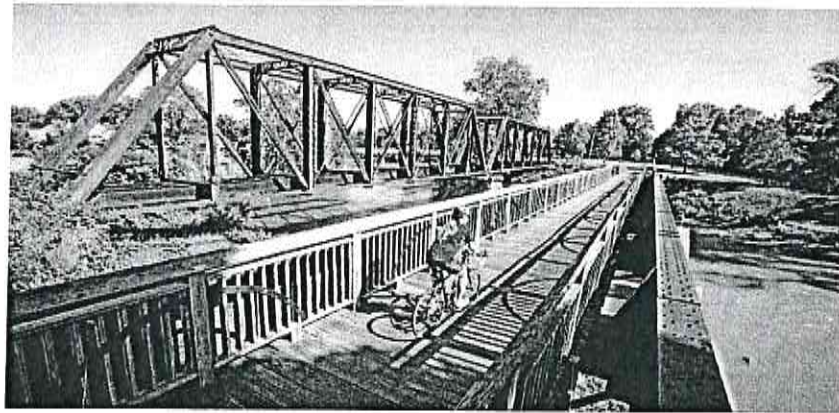


Goals of this Plan

For many years, Muncie's park system has existed in a "maintenance" mode. The parks were mowed, the trash picked up, trees planted, minor upkeep occurred, and in general that was the extent of the attention that the parks had seen for several decades due to limited budgets. The MPRD is currently operating without a master plan (approved by INDNR) or evaluation tool, which makes the City ineligible for state grants. This plan identifies the current and future needs of the community, updates level of service standards, assesses MPRD's financial strength, and provides an action plan with a 5-year strategic implementation of goals and objectives. The Master Plan represents MPRD's continued commitment to providing a quality park and recreation system for the City of Muncie.

This version of the MPRD Master Plan builds on the 2014 plan and addresses changes to the community, evolving recreation trends, remodeling of parks and facilities, and the advent of new recreational programming. Certainly the 2020/2021 Covid-19 pandemic experience, while not a focus of this plan, will be integrated into long-term thinking of how parks and programming can provide diverse options for recreation for all sectors of the community.

The draft goals of the Master Plan are presented below. They were developed by MPRD staff and a planning committee established to support development of this plan. They will be refined as necessary through the planning process and the needs assessment that is yet to be conducted.



Goal Number 1

Develop outdoor and indoor recreation and environmental educational programs into core services.

Objectives:

- a. To provide inclusive and innovative recreation programs.
- b. Renovate and enhance existing sports facilities to support such programs.

Goal Number 2

To provide Universally Accessible recreational facilities for persons of all abilities both mentally and physically.

Objectives:

- a. To develop new facilities, and renovate existing facilities, that will meet or exceed the Americans with Disabilities Act, (ADA) in keeping with the principals of Universal Accessibility.
- b. To develop new facilities that integrate ADA accommodations in such a way that they are seamlessly used by all residents within the community and to not cause separation of users based on abilities.
- c. Conduct an Access Audit and create an ADA compliance Transition Plan.

Goal Number 3

Provide diverse, attractive, and inspiring parks and greenways that enhance the quality of life and economic vitality of the community.

Objectives:

- a. To acquire additional cultural, recreational, and natural parklands as appropriate to balance the existing park system.
- b. Update and assess current tree inventory.
- c. To develop opportunities, alone or in partnership with other agencies, to educate citizens about the area's natural resources.

Goal Number 4

Expand partnership opportunities to provide signature community events that highlight the park and recreation system

Objectives:

- a. Hold more cultural events that bring revenue to the city.
- b. Host a variety of youth and seniors events.
- c. Partner with environmental and sporting agencies on events.
- d. Create a volunteer management system in partnership with stakeholders

Goal Number 5

To continue the discussion of the greenway systems within the City for the purpose of providing for healthy lifestyles through exercise, enjoyment of the environment, and as a transportation system linking homes, schools, parks, cultural facilities, and commercial areas.

Goal Number 6

To seek cooperative efforts with adjoining governmental units in providing the public with parks, recreation facilities, and programming.

Objectives:

- a. To continue to seek new, and support existing, cooperative agreements with adjoining local governmental units for the development and operation of parks and recreation facilities.
- b. To seek grant funding to support new initiatives and operational costs.

Goal Number 7

To expand marketing efforts of the MPRD.

Objectives:

- a. Continue to develop promotional brochures, City website, social media platforms, and materials which inform the public on the parks and recreational programming.
- b. Enhance the MPRD image and “brand.”

Goal Number 8

Provide quality outdoor leisure time activities with special consideration given to activities that improve health and wellness.

Objectives:

- a. Maintain and encourage additional partnerships with schools and other recreational groups to further enhance and diversify the programs, leagues, and special events available to residents.
- b. Provide both passive and active programming for a variety of ages and abilities of the population all year long.

Goals and objectives of the master plan

The development and implementation of the 2021-2025, Five -Year Master Plan then starts with those goals in mind. Specifically, the Parks and Recreation Board and the Department staff set out to find ways to achieve those tasks as well as create a realistic plan that could be implemented in the foreseeable future. To achieve each of these objectives the planning committee adopted a draft schedule and timeline. The timeline is as follows:

	October	November	December	January	February	March	April
Demographics	X						
Land Inventory			X				
Public Survey			X	X			
Our needs Assessment		X					
Financial Cost Analysis						X	
Overlay of Data					X		
Public Meeting				X		X	
Board Approval/ Submission to INDNR							X

Table 1: Timeline of master plan process

IV. Scoping

Natural & Landscape-

The City of Muncie is generally flat to gently rolling with elevation ranging from 900 to 1002 feet above sea level. The highest elevations are found on the east side of Muncie and the lowest elevations are found on the west side of Muncie along the White River and York Prairie Creek/Hiatt Ditch.

The majority of the land in Muncie has been developed. According to State land-use-codes, the majority of Muncie's land-use is residential, followed by commercial, government, agriculture, industrial and finally vacant land. The 28 parks of Muncie's park system that are within the corporate boundaries of Muncie consist of about two percent of the land in the City of Muncie.

Natural Regions

Natural regions delineate landscapes where cohesive combinations of natural features. Muncie is in Indiana's Central Till Plain Natural Region, the largest natural region in the state. "The Central Till Plain is largely a level to gently undulating, somewhat monotonous landscape that was formerly heavily forested. Its deep, fertile glacial soils supported great forests of beech and maple, oak and ash and elm."

Muncie contains two of the three sub-regions that make up the Central Till Plain Natural Region. The northern half of Muncie is in the Bluffton Till Plain section while the southern half of Muncie is in the Tipton Till Plain section. Both of these sub-regions contain flatwood communities. According to IDNR, Central Till Plain Flatwoods are significant because they are a high quality natural community that is categorized as imperiled in the state and rare to uncommon globally. The Bluffton Till Plain contains end moraines while the Tipton Till Plain is noted for flatwoods and mesic upland forests.

Eco-regions

Eco-regions delineate areas that contain similar ecosystems, including their type, quality, and quantity. There are three eco-regions in Muncie that are all a part of the Eastern Corn Belt Plains- the Clayey, High Limit Till Plains, the Loamy, High Lime Till Plains, and the Whitewater Interlobate Area

The Clayey, High Lime Till Plains eco-region is characterized by slightly less productive soils than less swampy Maumee Lake Plains. While it was once beech forest and scattered elm-ash swamp forest, this area is now predominantly farmed. No exceptional fish communities exist in the turbid, low gradient streams of this eco-region.

The Loamy, High Lime Till Plains eco-region was once beech forest, oak-sugar maple forest, and elm-ash swamp forest. However, this eco-region has been mostly replaced with agriculture due to more naturally fertile soils that typically drain well.

The Whitewater Interlobate Areas eco-region has distinctive cool water, coarse-bottomed streams that are perennial and fed by abundant groundwater. The redbreasted dace, northern brook stickleback, and banded sculpin occur: they are absent or uncommon in eco-regions. Unique Ozarkian invertebrates also occur in other eco-regions. Dolomitic drift and meltwater deposits are characteristic and overlie limestone, calcareous shale, and dolomitic mudstone.

Geology

Muncie's geology originates from the Middle Paleozoic Era. This includes sedimentary rocks from the Silurian period (443-416 million years ago), Devonian period (416-359 million years ago), and Mississippian Epoch (359-318 million years ago) of the Carboniferous period (359-299 million years ago). The majority of rocks stemming from these periods are limestone, dolomite, and shale.

Soil

Consisting of 44 different soil types, Muncie is predominantly made up of Blount, Miami, and Urban Land soils. Fox, Pewamo, Sloan, Eel, Crosby, Glynwood, Treaty, and Udothent soil types are marginally represented. All other soil types are minimally represented.

Miami soils, the soil series of Indiana, are moderately well drained fertile soils used for crops including corn, soybeans, and winter wheat. Blount somewhat poorly drained, slowly permeable soils. Urban Land soils refer to "built-up" land. When reviewed for building site development, the soils found in Muncie range from the classification of "not limited" to "very limited". Most soils classified as "very limited" are soils that have a shallow depth to the saturated zone (which is not conducive for basements with septic systems) and have a high potential to shrink-swell; "very limited" does not mean that the area is unbuildable.

Some soils in Muncie are hydric, which is characteristic of wetland areas. The hydric soils are found mostly around the perimeter of Muncie, with a greater percentage to the northwest. Most areas in Muncie with hydric soils are areas abutting creeks and ditches and areas that are currently used to cultivate crops. Properties with hydric soils may be good to convert to parks as they would lend well to naturalized parks with trails for enjoying native wetland habitats. As there is a strong trend of people promoting walking trails and native habitats, this would be a great opportunity to provide both.

Watersheds

Muncie is located in the Upper White River Watershed of the Patoka & White River Basin of the Wabash River Basin of the Ohio Region. Watersheds are identified by their designated proper name and Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC), a set of numbers ranging from two to 16 digits long - the longer the HUC number, the smaller the area that is being identified.

The corporate boundaries of Muncie include 6 14 digit watersheds - White River-Muncie Creek, White River-Truitt Ditch, Buck Creek-Macedonia Creek, White River-Buck Creek (lower), White River-York Prairie Creek, and Jakes Creek-Eagle Branch. Prairie Creek Park is located in the

The White River Watershed Project (WRWP) is a community project established in 2001 to clean up non-point source water pollution at the level of 14 digit watersheds. The Buck Creek-Macedonia Creek watershed and the Prairie Creek-Cunningham/Carmichael Ditches watershed are 2 of the 3 watersheds that were initially included for study by the WRWP. The Buck Creek-Macedonia Creek watershed was included due to the variety of land uses represented and because it is listed with IDEM as a waterway with impaired water quality. The Prairie Creek-Cunningham/Carmichael Ditches watershed is mostly agricultural but also provides a rare amenity for this region, being Prairie Creek Reservoir. The White River Management plan created by the WRWP recommended that a strategic master plan be developed for this watershed. This recommendation in concert with a similar recommendation in the 2000 Muncie-Delaware County Comprehensive Plan led to the creation of the Prairie Creek Master Plan. The Prairie Creek Master Plan provides goals and objectives for enhancing and protecting the entire watershed, including the Prairie Creek Park.

Beginning in 2009, the WRWP added both White River-Muncie Creek and White River-Truitt Ditch watersheds to further benefit water quality in this area. These additions made approximately 44% of the land in Muncie available to participate in cost-share projects for cleaning up non-point source water pollution.

Hydrography

Muncie's major waterway is the White River. Feeding the White River within Muncie are Hamilton Ditch, Holt Ditch, and Truitt Ditch, all feeding into the White River northeastern quadrant of Muncie. Buck Creek runs through the south side of Muncie, feeding into the White River on the western edge of the Town of Yorktown. Buck creek is unique due to its high-quality biological ecosystem and its potential as a cold water trout stream. York Prairie Creek/Hiatt Ditch runs through the northwest quadrant of Muncie, joining the White River between Yorktown and Daleville in the western park of Delaware County.

The White River is Muncie's primary drinking water source with Prairie creek reservoir as a backup drinking water source. As Muncie's only major natural feature, White River runs approximately 9 miles through Muncie. Bank fishing is permitted along most of the river, downstream from the East Jackson Street Bridge.

Residents also have access to 5.5 miles of river frontage by means of the White River Greenway. Additional access to White River is available at McCulloch Park and Westside Park, while Heron Overlook, Riverview Park, Riverview Overlook, Appeal to the Great Spirit Park, Oakhurst Overlook, White River Cantilever, Riverbend Park, Tuhey Park, Bicentennial Overlook, and West Point Overlook offer views for enjoying the river.

Wetlands

Not including the White River, within Muncie there are 90 areas comprising 240 acres identified as wetlands by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. However, only two areas are protected- The John M. Craddock Wetland Preserve and the Donald E. Miller Wildlife Area. Several of the inventoried wetland areas have structures on them. Wetlands are some of the Nation's most ecologically and economically important habitats, and provide benefits for fish, wildlife and people.¹⁰

Wetlands clean our water, recharge groundwater aquifers, provide protection from flooding, control erosion, provide wildlife habitat, and educational and recreational opportunities. As previously mentioned, 24% of Indiana was once covered by wetlands. Wetlands not only provide environmental benefits, they are also a part of our natural heritage.

Due to the importance of protecting and perpetuating wetlands, identified wetland areas would be prime locations for establishing protected naturalized areas (a park classification).

Prairie Creek reservoir is a man-made reservoir consisting of approximately 1,275 acres of water that functions as the backup drinking water source for Muncie. The majority of the reservoir and surrounding property are leased to Muncie as parkland - Prairie Creek Park. It is home to nature conservation and community clubs.

Climate

Muncie's climate is mild with distinct seasons. Muncie receives the majority of its precipitation during May through July, though December and January are months with the highest relative humidity. Fall and spring tend to have strong storms, including tornadoes, due to the transition between hot and cold fronts. January is the coldest month with an average low of 19 degrees Fahrenheit and an average high of 34 degrees Fahrenheit. January has the most days with a temperature under 0 degrees Fahrenheit, with an average of 1.6 days under 0 degrees F. July is the hottest month with an average high of 85 degrees Fahrenheit and an average low of 64 degrees Fahrenheit. July has the most days above 90 degrees Fahrenheit, with an average of 6.1 days above 90 degrees F.

As previously discussed, most of Muncie's native flora was replaced by agriculture and then again by development. Muncie has been designated as a Tree City USA for over a decade now. This is a program sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. With the street tree inventory complete, most street trees in Muncie are silver maples: sugar maple, apple, green ash, honey locust, Bradford pear, Norway maple, Siberian elm, catalpa, and Sycamore are also well represented among the 100+ species found in Muncie. The Bradford pear, an invasive tree that once goes wild, is a detriment to animals because of their thorny ends. Conversely, most wooded areas in Muncie are plagued by invasive species; primarily 3 species of bush honeysuckle and garlic mustard. Other invasive plants in the city include Reed Canary grass (found along the river), Canada Thistle, and Crown Vetch.

than 100 species of insects in Muncie. In recent years there have been regular sightings of various hawks, falcons and herons demonstrating the extent of improvement in the environment for Muncie to once again be home to these species. Deer, raccoon, opossum, squirrel, rabbits, bats and robins are just a few of the common species that make Muncie their home.\

Analysis

Muncie's mayor, Dan Ridenour, has an ambitious agenda of planting 1000 new trees in the city by 2026, which is approximately 250 per year and removing 500 old or diseased trees. Invasive plants are also a detriment. Using the public to help the Urban Forester identify invasive plants would help the process. Public notices will also assist in communication methods. Incentive programs will also help garner the public's help.

Our natural resources are at risk. These invasive species are a recurring problem and demand annual spraying. These activities portend continued conservation and environmental protection along the White river and in conjunction with partner agencies like the Red-Tail Conservatory and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The MPRD should consider the impact of additional volunteers in this area of the county as there has been and continues to be concern.

Man-Made, Historical, and Cultural

Historic & Cultural-

As one of 14 established towns inhabited by Delaware Indiana in the 18th century, Muncie was incorporated under the status of "town" in 1854. In 1865 Muncie's citizens voted to have their town incorporated as a city. Serving as the county seat of Delaware County, Muncie is the only second-class city in the county.

Growing from the natural gas boom of the late 19th century, Muncie was a thriving city until the late 20th century when factories began closing down. Muncie's parks have a rich history stemming back to the beginning of the 20th century. In May of 1901, "Mr. George F. McCulloch informed the Common Council of the City of Muncie by letter that he would make a gift of the grounds known as McCulloch Park to the City of Muncie, the only condition to said gift being that the City of Muncie hold the real estate in trust as a public park for the free use of all inhabitants of the city." Located on the site of the burned down Whitely Harvesting Co., McCulloch Park became the home of deer, a bear, monkeys and "McCulloch Field" a baseball field where semi-pro baseball games were played.

In 1906 Muncie fielded its first professional baseball team, the Muncie Fruit Jars, playing in the class C Interstate Association. The team returned for the 1908 season in the class D Indiana-Ohio League folded on June 8 with the team in last place.

Over the following years the McCulloch diamond was home to numerous semi-pro clubs. In 1931 a permanent wooden grandstand was erected. Following this a local team named the Muncie Citizens was founded and enjoyed many successful seasons, especially during the depression years. During the 1930s several Major League teams visited the ballparks and on one occasion the St. Louis Browns suffered defeat at the hands of the local squad.

people, more than the population of the entire city. They came for an Independence Day church

gathering, a baseball double-header, along with what has been described as the greatest fireworks display in the history of the park.

During World War II, as part of an effort by Major League Baseball to reduce travel expenses the Pittsburgh Pirates came to Muncie for spring training. The National League club would call McCulloch Park its spring home from 1943 to 1945. During this era the Pirates were led by manager Frank Frisch and Coach Honus Wagner, both Hall of Famers, who gained many fans for the team. These spring training years brought several other big league teams to the park for exhibition games. It is said that Detroit Tiger Rudy York hit the longest home run ever out of McCulloch Park.

Following the war, professional baseball returned to McCulloch Park in the form of the Muncie Reds, a class D team, who called the park home from 1947 to 1950. During these years the team was an affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds.

After the Reds disbanded in 1950, the field went back to being used by Amateur and semi-pro clubs. On Friday, June 13, 1952, fire struck the grandstand, completely destroying it. While the grandstand has never been replaced, the field was refurbished and has been maintained throughout the years.

Westside Park is one of the first parks that hosted baseball games played by teams in the Negro League including the Indianapolis ABCs. Westside Park was also home to a skating rink and a rollercoaster known as the Triple Figure Eight during the early 20th century. While this park is still popular, it lacks the facilities that it once supported.

The National Register of Historic Places includes nearly 40 structures and districts in the City of Muncie. The most relevant properties for this master plan are the William Henry Luick Farmhouse and Beech Grove Cemetery. Both of these properties offer amenities that park departments often maintain although neither property is overseen by Muncie's Parks & Recreation Department. At a minimum, the Urban Forester should be consulted for care of these properties' trees.

Man-made Features

With the majority of Muncie developed, there are numerous man-made features in the area. For the purposes of this plan, only major features and those relevant to parks and recreation will be highlighted. One highway and two state roads (US 35, SR 67 and SR 3) provide north-south regional access, while SR 332 brings travelers into Muncie on the Northwest side and SR 32, running east-west, brings travelers right through the middle of the city. Muncie also has two railroad operations (CSX and Norfolk Southern) which have multiple railroad lines that traverse the city.

Muncie has over 30 bridges with the majority spanning the White River and others spanning Muncie Creek, Hiatt Ditch, and Buck Creek. Only a few bridges are overpasses to mitigate railroad and vehicular traffic. The majority of bridges crossing ditches and streams do not include sidewalks which creates a safety concern for pedestrians. The majority of bridges crossing the White River include sidewalks. As bridges are reconstructed, sidewalks are being included.

Large roads, bridges and railroads create age-specific boundaries. Many people do not want young children crossing large roads, bridges or railroads without supervision. This creates barriers to youth access to parks thus these boundaries are utilized in establishing the level of service to some parks. The DMMPC has engaged in an effort to create a "Safe Routes to Schools Program" through state funding.

Muncie has greatly benefited from the establishment of Cardinal Greenways, Inc. Cardinal Greenways, Inc has constructed two recreation trails in Muncie, the Cardinal Greenway, a trails-to-trails project, and the White River Greenway. Both trails are available for all types of non-motorized transportation and along both greenways are overlooks that provide spaces to rest and enjoy scenic views.

On property bought from CSX Transportation Corporation, the Cardinal Greenway provides 62 miles of paved trail from Marion to Richmond with an on-road section of ~15 miles between Gas City and Gaston; 51 miles of the paved trail are continuous from Gaston, IN to Richmond, IN (going through Muncie northwest - southwest). The Cardinal Greenway is named for the last passenger train to regularly run this trail line. The Cardinal Greenway provides connections to 3 of Muncie's parks- McCulloch Park, Ball Community Park and Prairie Creek Park.

The White River Greenway runs over 5.5 miles along the White River through the heart of Muncie joining seven city parks (Westside Park, White River Park, Tuhey Park, Riverbend Park, Appeal to the Great Spirit, McCulloch Park and Riverview Park), Muncie's downtown, Minnetrista Cultural Center, and Ball State University. At the east end of the greenway, an additional connection to the Cardinal Greenway is planned. Overlooks along the White River Greenway include Heron Overlook, Riverview Overlook, Oakhurst Overlook, the White River Cantilever, Bicentennial Overlook, and West Point Overlook. The White River Greenway was designed to create trail access to abutting neighborhoods providing enhanced access for bicyclists and pedestrians to cross major roads that intersect the river.

The White River has been dredged and a levee built along its southern shore through Muncie as a protective measure from flooding. With the amount of channeling conducted through the years, Muncie's streams could practically be added to the list of man-made features. The majority of the

channels instead of the winding paths and more gently sloped embankments that streams tend to be characterized by. And as previously stated, Prairie Creek Reservoir is a man-made reservoir created as a back-up drinking water supply for the city.

Cultural/Ethic Background, Festivals, Arts

- Black Music Month is held annually in June in McCulloch Park with Forward Visions.
- The Homecoming festival is held every four years in McCulloch Park in midsummer.
- Health fairs are held annually in Heekin Park.
- Movie in the Parks are held in multiple parks during the summer season.
- Arts in the Park is held with Cornerstone Center of the Arts and a variety of local artists.
- Juneteenth is celebrated in Heekin Park in June.
- Muncie Symphony Orchestra plays music at Westside Park in June.
- Carnival held at Westside Park in July.
- Christmas in the Park is held in Heekin Park throughout December. Trees and cabins are lit with lights.
- The Old Washington Street Festival takes place along east Washington Street in Muncie's historic Kimbrough District. This annual street festival, which has been happening for over 30 years, provides opportunities for visitors to tour some of the historic homes along the street while providing a multitude of vendors selling arts, crafts, and food.

Social & Economic

Muncie's development and growth were greatly shaped by its industrial based economy through the late 19th century and the majority of the 20th century. Years of industrial manufacturing left their mark upon Muncie. Indiana's Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has identified the following in Muncie:

- In the last 5 years, IDEM has identified 19 additional underground storage tanks, all leaking, making a total of 213 underground storage tanks (USTs), 126 that are leaking underground storage tanks.
- 35 industrial waste sites found predominantly in the southern half of Muncie.
- 36 EPA facilities (sites subject to environmental regulation or of environmental interest) including 8 sites with hazardous waste generators, 7 sites with hazardous waste handlers, 3 water discharge sites, and 18 air release sites.
- 12 brownfields, twice as many as 7 years ago (note- this does not mean that there are only 12 brownfields in Muncie, this merely means that 12 sites are identified as brownfields- sites that are abandoned or inactive in which redevelopment is hindered due to the presence of a hazardous substance or contaminants. Through the Muncie Brownfield Project other sites have been identified that are perceived to have contaminants, but additional research and testing are required to determine what is on the site before an official status of brownfield can be applied.)
- 3 permitted solid waste sites
- 4 petroleum wells; an increase of 1 well in the last 7 years. One additional well at Prairie Creek Park.

- 1 septic waste site
- 0 tire waste sites (5 years ago, there was 1)
- 11 locations are in a voluntary remediation agreement (VRA) with IDEM; an increase of 4 sites in the last 5 years.
- 1 corrective action site
- 26 clean-up sites
- 1 manufactured gas plant

Prairie Creek reservoir is a man-made reservoir that functions as the backup drinking water source for Muncie. The majority of the reservoir and surrounding property are leased to Muncie as parkland - Prairie Creek Park. This park offers unique recreational opportunities for Muncie and Delaware County residents.

V. Social and Economic Factors

All about the City of Muncie

Muncie, seat of Delaware County, is sometimes referred to as "America's Hometown." The famous "Middletown" studies were carried out by a team of sociologists, led by Robert and Helen Lynd, in 1929 and 1937. The Lynds were followed by numerous other sociologists and agencies, making Muncie one of the most studied communities in the world.

Muncie was originally part of the land reserved for the Delaware Indians, who had arrived from the east during the 1770s. They established numerous towns along the White River, including the Muncee town, which would later become the present-day city. Muncee was named in honor of the Muncee (Wolf) family, which was the dominant clan in the Indian community. The Indians were again forced off their land in 1818. The Treaty of St. Mary's Ohio called for them to move farther west. Having acquired this former Indian land, the federal government opened the region for white settlers. The first major trading post in the new settlement was established in 1823, by a merchant named Goldsmith Gilbert. With the arrival of new inhabitants, the settlement grew into a town, and the spelling of its name was changed to Muncie. The first railroad arrived in 1852, with the extension of the Indianapolis & Bellefontaine Railroad. Muncie was incorporated as a city in 1865.

Ball State Teachers College was founded in 1918 and has since become Ball State University. Ivy Tech Community College also has a campus in Muncie. The Ball family, which moved its glass manufacturing business to Muncie from Buffalo, NY in 1887, provided the principal funding for Minnetrista, a cultural center serving east central Indiana. Other museums include the Muncie Children's Museum and the National Model Aviation Museum. The Ball brothers also funded Ball

Memorial Hospital, which opened in 1929.

The City of Muncie is the largest municipality in Delaware County and comprises nearly sixty percent of Delaware County's population. (see Table 2). Located in the middle of the County, Muncie is 58 miles northeast of Indianapolis in the east-central portion of the state. The jurisdiction of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan is the City of Muncie. **According to the 2019 U.S. Census projection, the population of Muncie was 67,999.** This makes up approximately 60% of the population of Midland County at 114,135. It should be noted the population has decreased by 3% since the 2010 Census.

Muncie is approximately 27 square miles in size, making it as large as many cities in the state of Indiana. See Figure 3 for an aerial view of the City of Muncie. Major traffic carriers include I-69 which runs parallel of the city. State Road 67 carries traffic on the southern and eastern sides of the city (Figure 2).



Figure 3 - Aerial view of the City of Muncie

Age Distribution

While most park facilities can be enjoyed by people of any age, some facilities are preferred by different age groups; examples of the spectrum of interests would include skateboarding and shuffleboard. Whether a neighborhood is dominated by the elderly or children can affect what types of facilities, age demographics can help illustrate types of recreational programming.

The following table shows the age demographics for Muncie. By viewing table 2, the information quickly shows the young majority specifically with the 5-19 age group in 2019. Another large age group with a slightly higher percentage is the 20-24 range. This is caused by the large level of students at Ball State University.

Ethnicity and Race

The U.S. Census Bureau doesn't collect data reflecting people's ethnicity, so the varying ethnic backgrounds of the population are unknown. Identifying ethnic backgrounds would be important to recognize the potential interest in establishing ethnically based/heritage festivals and public art projects.

Until all people have equal opportunity, race information is useful for determining eligibility for some grants. Muncie's population is generally composed of White (Caucasian American), Black

(African American), Hispanic, Asian, American Indian or Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, and people of two or more races. Some people also identified themselves as “Other Race.” The majority of the population is White in Muncie. Eleven percent of the population is classified as Black or African American. Populations of people of two or more races, people of the Hispanic race and people of the Asian races are the next highest minorities. A detailed table of Muncie’s racial demographics and its recent changes is provided below.

Table 2 Demographic Indicators, Delaware County, IN

<i>Population</i>	Muncie city	Delaware County	Indiana
Population estimates, July 1, 2019	67,999	114,135	6,732,219
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010	70,206	117,670	6,484,051
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019	-3.1%	-3.0%	3.8%
<i>Age and Gender (2019)</i>			
Persons under 5 years, percent	4.9%	4.8%	6.2%
Persons under 18 years, percent	16.7%	18.2%	23.3%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	13.9%	17.5%	16.1%
Female persons, percent	52.1%	51.8%	50.7%
<i>Race (2019)</i>			
White alone, percent	83.1%	88.7%	84.8%
Black or African American alone, percent	11.1%	7.2%	9.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%
Asian alone, percent	1.7%	1.3%	2.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Two or More Races, percent	3.4%	2.4%	2.2%
Hispanic or Latino, percent	3.4%	2.6%	7.3%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	80.9%	86.6%	78.4%

Source: Census QuickFacts

U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: United States
downloaded Jan. 12, 2021

Economics of the entire area

Past growth, distribution, projection of future community growth

Muncie’s household income lags behind both the County and the State and Muncie’s unemployment rate is higher. The poverty rate is also considerably higher however it has decreased about six percentage points since the 2014 plan was completed, which was based on 2011 data (which was during the aftermath of the Great Recession). This is a positive sign but observations made in the 2014 plan remain largely true – “Having so many people living in poverty means that more people rely on parks for recreational opportunities yet also don’t have the ability to afford paying fees.” Located in a designated federal Opportunity Zone, 100% of the Muncie Community School district students participate in the Federal Free and Reduced School Meals and Milk Programs.

Table 3 Economic Indicators, Delaware County, IN

Employment & Income	Muncie	Delaware County	Indiana
Median Household Income (2019) \$	\$33,944	\$45,912	\$57,603
Poverty Rate (2019) %	30.9	21.5	13.4
Labor Force (2019)*	33,841	53,945	3,363,860
Employed	31,170	51,853	3,202,509
Unemployed	2,671	2,092	161,351
Unemployment Rate	7.9	3.9	4.8

*Note: Labor force includes employed persons and unemployed persons actively looking for work.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, latest 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

A new focus is on Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) households. They earn more than the US poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county. In Delaware County, 29% of households are ALICE households, compared to the state average of 22%. A majority of the poverty seen in Delaware County is generational (poverty lasting at least two generations) and is very difficult to address. The languishing economy has never recovered from the automotive industry's departure.

Based on 2019 County Health Rankings, Delaware County ranked 86th out of 92 counties in the state of Indiana for overall health outcomes. Delaware County had 23 out of 42 indicators ranked in the bottom half of Indiana counties. Of those, 16 indicators were in the bottom quartile, including: Health outcomes, length of life, premature death, quality of life, poor mental health days, low birth weight, adult obesity, food environment index, access to exercise opportunities, teen births, primary care physicians, mental health providers, children in poverty, children in single-parent households, injury deaths, and physical environment. Several of these factors are linked to high rates of inactivity.

Among the 10 ZIP code areas included within Delaware County, the city of Muncie's 47303 and 47305 have the highest community health needs based on Indiana University Ball Memorial Hospital's 2018 Community Needs Index of Economic and Structural Health Indicators. More than 42 percent of Delaware County, Indiana adults, adolescents, and children are overweight or clinically obese (County Health Rankings, 2019; State of Obesity, 2019). While African American people represent only 7.9% of the general population in the county, they represent 45 % of the obese population in Delaware County.

Major employers

Table 4 shows the major employers in Delaware County. Key industries include education, health care, advanced manufacturing, food processing, logistics and distribution, alternative energy, and information technology.

Businesses include Fortune 500 companies Concentrix, Progress Rail Services, and SuperValu. Keihin IPT Manufacturing (Honda Supplier) helps anchor the Airpark Industrial Park. Auto manufacturer Magna Powertrain (MPT-Muncie) continues to expand its operations in Delaware County in the Industrial Centre Industrial Park. Progress Rail Services, a subsidiary of

Caterpillar Inc., has located a locomotive assembly facility in Muncie. Automotive supplier Mursix Corporation has recently expanded its building footprint and workforce, and continues to invest as the business grows, currently occupying nearly a half-million square feet. Last, Navient has expanded its facility, adding hundreds of jobs for Muncie residents, making it the largest for-profit employer in Delaware County.

Ball State University, a public institution, employs 3,000 full-time employees, including tenure track and contract faculty; professional personnel; clerical, technical, and managerial staff; and service personnel. Ball State is Muncie's largest employer. In the 2021 edition of US News' Best Colleges and Universities, the university ranked #284. They offer 150 undergraduate, 80 masters, 20 doctoral, and 14 specialist degree programs. Total enrollment in 2019 was 22,500.

Another non-profit employer is Indiana University Health Ball Memorial Hospital. IU Health Ball strives to provide its patients with the highest quality of medical care and services. It serves as a tertiary referral center and teaching hospital for East Central Indiana and part of Indiana University Health. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission and maintains 1.2 million square feet of facilities. It is part of an elite group of hospitals with Magnet designation for nursing excellence. It is near the campus of Ball State University; which it shares multiple educational partnerships. The hospital was founded in 1929 and has more than 3,000 team members.

Muncie's household income lags behind both the County and the State and Muncie's unemployment rate is higher. The poverty rate is also considerably higher however it has decreased about six percentage points since the 2014 plan was completed, which was based on 2011 data (which was during the aftermath of the Great Recession). This is a positive sign but observations made in the 2014 plan remain largely true – "Having so many people living in poverty means that more people rely on parks for recreational opportunities yet also don't have the ability to afford paying fees."

Muncie Community Schools and a fairly even distribution of educational and private manufacturing and business interests make up the bulk of the larger employers. Many of the schools have playgrounds, tracks, and other facilities that are available to the public. Those facilities that are not available on a general basis should be evaluated for times they could be used. Examples may include the tracks at Ball State and Muncie Central and tennis courts at those and other locations which are generally locked.

As noted elsewhere in this report, the history of Muncie has consisted of a continuing evolution of cooperation between the private and public sector. Many of the businesses in the community had their origin with the gas boom, when the public sector basically used the availability of a free natural resource as a business incentive to attract employers. That cooperation should continue. Improvement of parks programming and facilities will make Muncie a better place, which should lead to economic enhancement and improved quality of life for all residents.

Table 4 Major Employers, Delaware County, IN

Employees	Company	Principal Officer	Industry	City
3,379	Ball State University	Geoffrey Mearns	Education	Muncie
2,613	IU Health Ball Memorial and Physician Practices Team Members	Dr. Jeff Bird	Medical Services	Muncie
650	Muncie Community Schools	Dr. Lee Ann Kwiatkowski	Education	Muncie
633	Navient	Dan Vipperman	Customer Service Center	Muncie
555	Concentrix	Sharon Bergen	Customer Service Center	Daleville
551	First Merchants Corporation	Scott McKee	Financial Services	Muncie
550	Meridian Health Services	Hank Milius	Behavior Health	Muncie
516	Youth Opportunity Center	Rick Rowray	Youth Services	Muncie
500	Progress Rail	Jim Shirvinski	Rail and Transit Products	Muncie
465	City of Muncie	Mayor Dan Ridenour	Government	Muncie
460	MPT Muncie/Magna Powertrain	Stephen Brand	Manufacturing	Muncie
452	Delaware County Government Offices	James King	Government	Muncie
392	Delaware Community Schools	Reece Mann	Education	Muncie
362	Lifetouch	Lori Boyer	Customer Service Center	Muncie
350	Hillcroft Services	Debbie Bennett	Social Services	Muncie
349	Yorktown Community Schools	Dr. Gregory Hinshaw	Education	Yorktown
323	Wal-Mart North	Beth Pea	Retail	Muncie
300	Mursix Corporation	Todd Murray	Manufacturing	Yorktown
295	DIY Group, Inc.	Denny Durham	Packaging and Distribution	Muncie
274	Wal-Mart South	Vic Warner	Retail	Muncie
273	Ontario Systems	Tim O'Brien	Software	Muncie
250	Maxon - A Honeywell Company	Diane LeDoux	Manufacturing	Muncie
247	Westminster Village	Dale Lindley	Assisted Living	Muncie
235	Terhunes, Inc./McDonald's	Robert Terhune, Jr.	Restaurants	Muncie
234	Ivy Tech Community College	Jeff Scott	Education	Muncie
220	North West Bank	Dave Heeter	Financial Services	Muncie
212	American Health Network, LLC	Sandy Dilts	Healthcare	Muncie
182	Meijer	Craig Hunter	Retail	Muncie
181	Exide Technologies	Kevin Carpenter	Manufacturing	Muncie
175	Keihin IPT Manufacturing	Kimberly West	Manufacturing	Muncie
167	R&L Carriers	Human Resources	Freight Shipping	Alexandria
160	American Electric Power	Ashley Savieo	Utility	Muncie
150	Mid-West Metal Products, Inc.	Steve Smith	Manufacturing	Muncie
143	Muncie Sanitary District	Bill Smith	Government	Muncie
125	Muncie Power Products	Ray Chambers	Truck Equipment and Mobile Power	Muncie
125	Liberty-Perry Schools	Bryan Rausch	Education	Selma
124	Wes-Del Community Schools	Kyle Mealy	Education	Gaston

Note: Employment numbers and information are always subject to change. Source: Muncie-Delaware County, Indiana Economic Development Alliance, Muncie-Delaware County Chamber of Commerce (Jan 2021); Muncie-Delaware County, Indiana Economic Development Alliance - Major Employers

Analysis

Looking at the City as a whole, if Prairie Creek Park is excluded the larger parks are generally in the eastern and southern portions of the City which is where lower income individuals tend to live. While this will be explored in more detail in the needs analysis sections of the plan, this fact suggests that recreational programming at lower cost may be a higher need than actual acquisition of new park land.

So, as noted in the 2014 plan, the Parks Department should continue aiming to continue minimizing fees as much as possible, maintaining current sponsorships and looking for new sponsorships to fund programs run through the parks department, increasing the number of staff dedicated to programming, and partnering with other organizations to enhance and expand already existing and positive programming. In particular, programs that are not fee intensive but can increase positive health outcomes (which directly improves quality of life for lower income individuals) is suggested.

The parks department has been innovative and proactive in the past several years with these types of activities (e.g., Be Heart). Finally, every opportunity should be taken to maximize use of existing facilities at the public schools and even the University levels to support these programs. The ongoing extensions of the trail network in the community (Riverside Avenue, Tillotson Avenue south) are examples of how the various governmental units are collaborating to improve the overall parks system.

VI. Supply Analysis

Inventory & Classification

Muncie's park system consists of 28 properties; 27 within the City of Muncie and 1 in Perry Township, located in the southeast quadrant of Delaware County. Muncie's park Department also maintained a handful of additional properties owned by public entities that are not officially a part of this department.

Classification

In order to plan for parks and recreation in the future, one needs to examine the types of facilities that currently exist in the City of Muncie. It is also helpful to compare the existing facilities to various standards as one measure of the adequacy of the parks and recreation facilities in the community. The inventory was completed by visiting the City's parks to update the inventory detailed in Muncie's previous Parks & Recreation Master Plan from 2014. Dr. Shannon Powers, MP2Planning, and City staff worked together to complete the needed updates and revisions. A review for accessibility was also completed for each of the parks.

Classifying parks into categories helps define their role in the overall system, demonstrates their relationship to each other, highlights deficiencies, helps to develop an action program, and assists in allocating funding. Muncie classifies parks into four groups: Major parks, Community parks, Special Use parks, Neighborhood parks and Park trailways. This classification system is adapted in part from the Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Open Spaces and Trails from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. It recognizes types of parks based on size, service area, facilities and use groups. The numbers preceding each park on the inventory list identifies the location of these facilities on each of the Parks Inventory Maps in Table 5.

These parks range in size from .3 – 1,890 acres and offer a myriad of active and passive recreational activities. While some of these parks are easily accessible on foot from surrounding neighborhoods, others require travel by vehicle or non-motorized transportation and have adequate parking facilities on site. See the Existing Facilities Inventory for a complete summary of available park amenities.

Parks managed by the city of Muncie were further classified based upon whether the properties were owned by the City of Muncie or leased to the City of Muncie for park use. Because leased properties are not permanent contributions to the park system, those properties are not included in the primary analysis of the park system's level of service (park acres per population, facilities per population). Instead leased properties are included in a secondary analysis of the park system's level of service in order to show the contribution that they make to the park system and the importance of maintaining those properties within the system. Leased properties are included in the Department's short term planning of budgets and operations because those leases are relevant for the next 5 years. Properties that are leases include Ball Corporation Park and Prairie Creek

Park. Since the last plan, Emerson Dog Park (formerly known as Emerson Memorial Greenspace Park) and Rose Park / Ross Center properties have been deeded to the City of Muncie.

Ball Corporation Park is leased from the Ball Corporation. The lease is missing- thus it is unknown how long the lease lasts or what other appropriations the lease includes. Contact with Ball Corporation suggested that they are interested in continuing or renewing a lease with the city.

City of Muncie is working with the Indiana-American Water Company, Inc to finalize an addendum to extend the lease until 2072.

Other properties were identified that contribute to the public's park and recreational opportunities in the City of Muncie. The primary factor defining if a property contributes to the public's park & recreational opportunities for this plan is whether or not the property is open to the public free of charge. The most relevant properties are the memorial parks. There are 3 memorial parks, of which the Parks & Recreation Department cares for two.

Table 5 Inventory and Assessment of Parks

Park	Address	Location	Size (Acres)	Type	Owner	Facilities	Condition	ADA
1. Appeal to the Great Spirit	1100 N. Granville Ave.	Walnut St. and Granville	0.3	Mini Park	City of Muncie	Sculpture, landscaping, concrete encirclement with seating, downtown parking	Good	No facilities
2. Aultshire Park	1901 N. Watt Ave. Muncie, 47303	South of Cromer Ave. on Watt Ave.	2	Small Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie Parks and Recreation	Playground equipment, shelter, basketball court, dirt/grass walking path, off-street parking	Medium to poor	Needs assessment
3. Ball Corp Park	2105 S. Macedonia Ave. 47302	Macedonia Ave. between 14th and 17th Streets	10.99	Large neighborhood park	Ball Corp.	Basketball court, picnic shelter and tables, crushed stone walking path, benches, fitness area, off-street parking, garbage enclosure	Medium	Needs assessment
4. Buley Center	1111 N. Penn St., Muncie, IN 47303	Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Highland Ave., Penn St., & Russey St.	1.8	Small Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie	Basketball court and playground, picnic shelter and tables, community center, off-street parking	Medium to poor	No facilities
5. Canan Commons Park	520 S. Walnut St., 47305	Walnut St., Seymour St., Mulberry St.	1.53	Small Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie	Stage, open space, benches, bike racks, downtown parking	Good	No facilities

Park	Address	Location	Size (Acres)	Type	Owner	Facilities	Condition	ADA
6. Clifton-Wallace Park	509 W. Charles St., 47305	Charles St., between Council St. and Cherry St.	0.34	Mini Park	City of Muncie	Minimal playground equipment, Little Free Library, picnic table, street parking	NA	Needs assessment
7. Cooley Park	2101 E 22nd St.	23rd St. and Mock Ave.	5.36	Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie	Baseball diamond, picnic table, basketball court (not in place as of Jan 21), playground equipment, walking path, major reconstruction project underway, off-street parking,	Medium to poor	Needs assessment
8. Cornerstone Park	101 S. Madison, St., Muncie, IN 47303	Corner of East Main and Madison	0.03	Mini Park	City of Muncie	Sculpture, landscaping, concrete encirclement with seating, downtown parking	Good	Needs Assessment
9. Cowing Park	2501 N. Pauline Ave., Muncie, IN 47303	Pauline Ave., Cowing Dr., Tillmore Dr., & Cowing Park Ln.	4.16	Small Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie	Open space, soccer goals, basketball and tennis courts, picnic tables, playground equipment, grill, street parking	Good	Needs assessment
10. Emerson Memorial Dog Park	901 W. Beechwood Ave., Muncie, IN 47303	Ashland Ave., Linden St., Beechwood Ave., & Pauline Ave.	1.45	Special Use	City of Muncie	Dog park, benches, street parking	Good	Needs assessment
11. Gilbert Park	401 E. Gilbert St. Muncie, IN 47305	Gilbert & Elm Streets	0.3	Mini Park	City of Muncie	Picnic table, benches, playground, street parking	Medium to poor	Needs assessment
12. Guthrie Park	3011 W. University Ave., Muncie, IN 47304	University Ave., Riley Rd., North St., & Winthrop Rd.	2.19	Small Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie	Open space, benches, street parking	Good	No facilities
13. Halteman Park	4205 N. Lancaster Dr., Muncie, IN 47304	Lancaster Dr.	3	Small Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie	Tennis court, basketball court, volleyball poles, small playground, closed swimming pool, open space	Medium	Needs assessment

Park	Address	Location	Size (Acres)	Type	Owner	Facilities	Condition	ADA
14. Heekin Park	1600 S. Hackley St., Muncie, IN 47302	Memorial Dr., Madison St., 9th St., Penn St., & Hackley St.	54.01	Large urban park	City of Muncie Parks and Recreation	Open space, cabins, dog park, picnic shelter, playgrounds, memorials, water fountain, basketball court, tennis courts, restrooms, water fountains, baseball diamond, horseshoe pits, park office, off- street and on-street parking	Medium	Needs assessment
15. I&M Park		Corner of Wysor and Wheeling	0.3	Mini-park	City of Muncie	Monument, benches, flagpole, crushed stone path leading to path over White River levee	Good	No facilities
16. Jack's Park	3000 N. Elm St., Muncie, IN 47303	Elm St. & Dunn Ave., south of McGalliard Rd.	2.11	Small Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie	Lighted basketball court, picnic table, playground equipment, street parking	Medium	Needs assessment
17. Kilgore Gateway Park		Kilgore and Jackson	0.03	Mini-park	City of Muncie	Landscaping, benches	Good	No facilities
18. Matthews Park	1513 W. Harvard Ave., Muncie, IN 47303	Harvard Ave. east of Wheeling Ave.	1.04	Small Neighborhood Park	No information available	Open space, trees, minimal access (no parking)	Good	No facilities
19. McCulloch Park	1200 Martin Luther King Blvd., Muncie, IN 47303	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd., McCulloch Blvd., Highland Ave., and Centennial Ave.	91.43	Large urban park	City of Muncie	Sledding hill, playgrounds, disk golf course, basketball courts, baseball diamond, Soap Box Derby track, picnic shelters, picnic tables, lodge, memorial, "safety town", off street parking	Medium	Needs assessment
20. Morningside Park	2100 E. Cornell Ave., Muncie, IN, 47303	Cornell Ave.	0.89	Mini Park	City of Muncie Parks and Recreation	Basketball court, picnic shelter and tables, playground, grill, footbridge for neighborhood access, off street parking	Medium to poor	Needs assessment

Park	Address	Location	Size (Acres)	Type	Owner	Facilities	Condition	ADA
21. Prairie Creek Park	7801 S. County Rd. 560 E., Selma, IN 47383	Windsor Rd., 575 E. - 544 E., 650 S., & 461 E. - 475 E.	1890.81	Regional Park	Indiana-American Water Co., Inc. & Hiatt, Brian & Charla	Boat launch, leasable piers, campground, bath house and beach access, restrooms, basketball court, model aircraft field, picnic shelters, picnic tables, playgrounds, rental lodge, horseshoes, volleyball court, disk golf, windsurfing access, dog-running area, bank fishing, ATV area, horseback riding trails, multi-use hiking trail, mountain bike trails, connection to Cardinal Greenway, Red-tail Conservancy Nature Preserve, park office, off-street parking	Playground equipment ranges from good to poor	New construction is ADA-accessible; overall Needs Assessment recommended
22. Riverbend Park	320 N. High St., Muncie, IN 47305	High St. & Wysor St.	0.42	Mini Park	City of Muncie	Platform, sculpture, benches, landscaping and screening hedges	Good	No facilities
23. Riverview Park	700 N. Bunch Blvd., Muncie, IN 47303	Bunch Blvd & Carver Drive	3.45	Small Neighborhood Park	No information available	Open space, baseball diamond (not maintained), basketball court, benches, playground equipment, picnic shelter and table, off-street parking	Medium to poor	Needs assessment
24. Rose Park/Ross Center	1110 W. 10th St., Muncie, IN 47302	10th St., Pierce St., 9th St., & Birch St.	3.21	Small Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie	Baseball diamond (not maintained), basketball court, playground, community garden, fenced playground, benches, picnic shelters, and picnic tables	Good	Needs assessment (Ross Center facility is ADA compliant)
25. Thomas Park	2001 S. Rochester Ave., Muncie, IN 47302	Rochester Ave., south of Memorial Drive	11.5	Large neighborhood park	City of Muncie	Baseball diamond, basketball court, tennis courts, playground equipment, picnic shelter and tables, openspace	Good to poor	Needs assessment

Park	Address	Location	Size (Acres)	Type	Owner	Facilities	Condition	ADA
26. Tuhey Park	500 W. North St., Muncie, IN 47303	White River Blvd. & North St.	8.43	Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie	Picnic table, benches, playgrounds, swimming pool, splash pad, openspace, sculpture, open space, off-street and street parking	Good	Needs assessment
27. Washington Park	305 S. Pershing Dr., Muncie, IN 47303	Adams St., Pershing St., & Charles St.	0.78	Mini Park	City of Muncie	Playground equipment, elegant park furniture, open areas	Medium	Needs assessment
28. Westside Park	2400 W. White River Blvd., Muncie, IN 47303	White River Blvd., Tillotson Ave., & Nichols Ave.	20.65	Small Community Park	City of Muncie	Baseball diamond, basketball courts, open space, picnic shelters and tables, grills, playground equipment, shuffleboard court, three wire-control airplane circles, off- street parking	Good to poor	Needs assessment
29. White River Park	No specific address	White River Blvd., Nichols Ave. to High St.	41.6	Linear Park	City of Muncie & Delaware County	Linear park with White River Greenway, picnic shelters and tables, benches, off-street parking	Good	Greenway complies with ADA guidelines
TOTAL			2,164.11					

Notes

1. Prairie Creek acreage includes 770 acres of land and 1120 acres of water
2. According to the 2014 Parks Plan, the park is leased to the City of Muncie until 2021.
3. Muncie SportsPlex and Mansfield Park owned and managed by separate entities.
4. The Prairie Creek Master Plan offers 27 recommendations, including extension of the City's lease

Source: 2014 City of Muncie Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Muncie Parks Department, and visual survey conducted January, 2021

The majority of the other contributing properties are grade school grounds- both Muncie Community School properties and private school properties; school buildings are not included. For the purposes of this master plan those properties have been identified as "school-parks".

Muncie is also home to Ball State University. Most of the campus and the properties Ball State University owns are open to the public. Recreational facilities are only open to members for a fee. Open spaces were selected to include in Muncie's assessment.

All of the previously identified properties have been classified according to their size in order to maintain uniformity for analysis.

The other primary contributing property type is greenways. Cardinal Greenway and White River Greenway are open to the public free of charge. The State of Indiana initially established the goal “of providing an easily accessible trail opportunity within 15 minutes or 7.5 miles of all Indiana

residents.” In 2013, the State updated their trails, greenways and bikeways plan is a progress report that includes a new goal of having a trail within 5 miles of all residents. Greenways have been included in this plan’s analysis using a 1 mile service area, or a 15 minute bike ride to the greenway. There are five trail systems in Muncie: Minnetrista, Oakhurst Gardens, Christie Woods, White River, and Connector Trails.

Minnetrista Cultural Center provides areas that are open to the public free of charge and areas that require an entrance fee. Areas that are open to the public free of charge have been identified and are included in the inventory of overall community resources.

Privately owned facilities that are open to the public for a fee are included in the inventory but are not included in analysis. While private parks/recreational facilities contribute to the overall recreational opportunities and greenspace for the public, they are not available to the public as a free amenity. This category includes public golf courses, putt-putt golf, indoor playground facilities, roller skating rinks, bowling alleys, Escapades, YMCA facilities, and Muncie’s SportsPlex.

VII. Accessibility

Accessibility

The designated ADA coordinator is Yvonne Thompson, Director of Human Rights Phone: 765-747-4854. Creating a park system that is safe, accessible and usable to all individuals, including those with disabilities, is essential. Accessibility is a primary goal for the 2021-25 plan. A grading system has been developed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to easily identify those parks and facilities which are most and least handicap accessible and usable, based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.

A review of ADA compliance of City of Muncie parks was supposed to be conducted based on the information contained within the previous City of Muncie Parks and Recreation Master Plan from 2014. At that time, an assessment of the parks was to be performed and consist of a visual inspection of each park with regards to access and circulation in relation to the park facilities (p.119). However, there is no such information available. Some of the parks do not meet all criteria for handicap accessibility. The City of Muncie is dedicated to continuing incremental improvements for accessibility at each of its parks. This includes accessible parking, paths, restrooms, activity areas, amenities and signage.

The new MPRD administration spent 2020 responding to immediate ADA issues. The focus was at Cooley Park. Lack of funding or formal assessment leads the current administration with a clean slate to evaluate and prioritize ADA compliance. Creating an ADA Transition plan in 2021 and then an implementation plan the following four years is achievable.

MPRD makes a good-faith effort to ensure all patrons, and the community at-large, are knowledgeable of the resources and opportunities available to them, which supports full and active participation within MPRD's parks, facilities, and programs. MPRD believes every individual has the right to participate in activities and programs that supports their physical, mental, social and emotional wellness, and therefore contributes to enhancing their overall quality of life. Based on this belief, and MPRD's vision and mission, MPRD is committed to the provision of services for individuals of all ages, skills and ability levels. This is achieved by incorporating accessibility for all new parks and facilities, identifying and removing barriers in order to serve individual and community needs, as well as provide quality programs and services accessible to all; such as the many recreational, leisure and education-based programs, volunteer opportunities and interactive public events.

Recreation Programming

MPRD acknowledges instructional activities can provide an abundance of programming to its

residents. Unfortunately, there has not been funding for a recreation coordinator or many programs. The few programs offered were: Preschool summer camp, Youth summer camp, Summer Youth Employment and Mentor Program that started in 2020. In the Action Plan section of this document, a menu of classes is provided through fall 2025. There have been a few

programs: Preschool summer camp, Youth summer camp, Summer Youth Employment and Mentor Program that started in 2020. These programs are important to the new mayor. Money from the Economic Development Impact fund in 2021 has been allocated to summer recreation programs.

Recreation Grant History

The City of Muncie has not received grants from INDNR-administered grant programs for the past seven years.

VIII. Public Participation

Gaining a clear understanding of the existing and projected demographic character of Muncie is an important component of the planning process. By analyzing population data, trends emerge that can inform decision making and resource allocation strategies for the provision of public parks, recreation amenities, and open spaces. Key areas were analyzed to identify current demographic statistics and trends that can impact the planning and provision of public parks and recreation services in Muncie. Community characteristics analyzed and discussed consist of:

- Existing and projected total population
- Age and gender distribution
- Ethnic/Racial diversity
- Household and housing information

Park and Recreation Influencing Trends

The provision of public parks and recreation services can be influenced by a wide variety of trends, including the desires of different age groups, community values, and popularity of a variety of recreational activities and amenities. Several local and national trends were reviewed that should be considered by the City when determining where to allocate resources toward the provision of parks, recreational facilities, and recreational programming for its residents and visitors. The results are incorporated into the analysis of this document, and should be continuously monitored by staff during the annual review of planning efforts.

*National Trends Maps here
More forthcoming*

Community and Stakeholder Input

Public input for the Resident Satisfaction Survey was gathered during December, 2020 and January, 2021. Methods used to engage with the community included a survey and a virtual public meeting. The goal of these sessions was to gather as much information that would guide the development of the Needs Analysis and Priorities.

Community Survey Summary

An online survey was advertised on the MPRD Facebook page and to the following groups: NAACP, YMCA members, Concerned Clergy, Ball State University's Community Engagement Facebook followers. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from individuals throughout Delaware County. The goal was to obtain a total of at least 400 survey responses. The goal was exceeded with a total of 1,056 responses and far exceeded expectations. Statistically, a sample of 1,053 responses provides a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent at a 95 percent

IX. Needs Analysis

A Needs Analysis will be forthcoming.

X.Priorities and Action Schedule

An action plan table will be forthcoming.

Working Hard for Results

Overview

With no formal goals and objectives in place for seven years, the Parks & Recreation staff developed One-Year Priorities in early 2020. The action program details the direction the City of Muncie wishes to expand upon over the next five years in order to maintain and improve the quality and diversity of its park and recreation opportunities.

Potential projects are shown on the following pages. Each action item on the project list relates to one or more of the goals from the Goals and Objectives section of this plan. The potential capital improvements that are described on the following page have been established to provide a framework for decision makers, and to enable Muncie to apply for grant funding for the proposed projects.

The project list is not a fixed element nor is it exhaustive. The project list reflects the results of the input received from the Parks & Recreation Board, City staff and the online survey. Future circumstances, especially availability of funding, may influence the order in which the projects are completed.

Appendices

A. Summary of the Planning and Public Input Process and Final Plan Adoption

Community Outreach

Muncie's Commitment to Strong Planning Principles

In an effort to provide quality recreational opportunities for its citizens, Muncie has developed this recreation plan as a tool to guide the development of park and recreational facilities over the next five years. This plan represents the ongoing commitment by the City to establish recreational goals and objectives for the community. The plan will also provide Muncie eligibility for grants from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to assist the City in reaching its recreational goals.

Data was collected about the City of Muncie, including demographics and an inventory of the facilities within the over 28 parks owned and operated by the City. This data was gathered from a number of resources including City staff, the 2014 Muncie Parks & Recreation Master Plan, the Parks & Recreation Board and staff, research of aerial images provided by Google Earth and through field visits.

Online Survey

An online public survey was used as the main tool to gather community input and was made available for a 21-day period. The online survey was advertised via social media, including the City's website and Facebook page. A link to the survey was distributed to the NAACP Muncie Chapter, The Concerned Clergy Organization, members of the YMCA, five various community partner organizations, The Concerned Community of Muncie Facebook page. The survey link was also provided to the Muncie Community School District to ensure distribution to residents representing the academic community. It is recognized that many people in the County use the park system, as four park reside outside of city limits. A total of X responses were received from a good cross section of Delaware County with regard to age and length of residency. Please reference Appendix A for the full results of the survey.

The Parks and Recreation Superintendent and Recreation Director attended a Healthy Community Alliance meeting on Friday, January 8, 2021 and met with over X residents. Each resident was encouraged to complete the online survey and was provided with the online survey link. Staff engaged in conversation about the parks as well and provided contact information to residents who wished to reach out with additional input.

A final opportunity for public input was provided via a virtual meeting hosted by the City via Zoom. This meeting was hosted in lieu of an in-person open house as the COVID-19

restrictions in place at the time prohibited indoor gatherings of over ten people. Six residents participated in the 1 ½ hour meeting which included a staff review of current park improvement projects intertwined with polling questions on each resident's favorite park, what improvements they would make if they had \$100,000 to spend, and questions about their use of Emerson Park as an introduction to an upcoming master planning session for this park.

Social Media Posts Promoting the Online Survey – Shared via Facebook, Instagram and

FACEBOOK

December 30, 2020 7:32 AM

Good Morning Facebook Friends. We are working on our 5 Year Parks Master Plan. Part of the document entails top priorities.

Residential satisfaction data is desperately needed to discover what the people want and need in their public parks and programs.

The MPRD would greatly appreciate your time in completing a 5 minute survey. Your valuable opinions matter. Use this link below to start the survey....

https://bsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5nIIUTrIRxFEtVf

We are asking for completed surveys before January 15th, 2021.

Online Survey Software | Qualtrics Survey Solutions

Email Sent to City of Muncie Recreation Users Email List on
City of Muncie Second Press Release promoting the Online Survey
& Zoom Online Input Opportunity

Goal Development

Based upon the existing data collected and the public input from the online survey, staff from the Parks and Recreation supervisory team and the Parks & Recreation Commission developed goals for parks and recreation in the City of Muncie. The Parks & Recreation Commission then assisted staff in developing an action program to accomplish these goals.

Draft Plan and Public Hearing

Staff, along with guidance from Dr. Shannon Powers., completed a draft recreation plan which was subsequently made available for review at the Municipal Service Center, Muncie City Hall and online at X The 30-day Notice of Review was posted on the City of Muncie's website on January __, 2021, and was published in the Muncie Daily News on February __, 2021.

At their February X, 2021 meeting, the Parks & Recreation Board passed a resolution recommending adoption of the 2021-2025 City of Muncie Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan by City Council. The final opportunity for community input occurred at an advertised public hearing held on March __, 2021 at the City Council meeting. This public hearing was advertised in the Star Press on February __, 2021.

Adoption and Distribution of Final Plan

As a final step, the plan was transmitted to the City Council for its review and approval. The City of Muncie approved a resolution to adopt the recreation plan at the City Council meeting on March __, 2021. Copies of the recreation plan were transmitted to Muncie County, the East Central Indiana Planning & Development Regional Commission and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources on April __, 2021. A completed "Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan Certification Checklist" was also transmitted to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources along with the final recreation plan.

Copies of the certification checklist, the notification of plan review advertisements, the resolutions from the Parks Commission and City Council, the public hearing minutes, and the transmittal letters to the regional planning commissions are included in Appendix B.