

CITY OF MUNCIE

City of Muncie 2021-2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan



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April 23rd, 2021

Brad Marshall
Muncie Parks and Recreation Board
1800 S. Grant St.
Muncie, IN 47302

Dear Brad,

The DNR Division of State Parks planning staff has reviewed the final draft of the 2021-2026 Muncie Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan meets the Department of Natural Resources' minimum requirements for local parks and recreation master plans. This letter certifies that your community **is eligible to apply for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants through this office in the 2021 grant year.** A new plan will be due on January 15th, 2027 at which time your current LWCF grant application eligibility will expire.

If you haven't already, we strongly recommend that you contact Mr. Bob Bronson, our grant section chief, as soon as possible about future grant applications. Bob and his staff can assist in your grant application process. He can be reached by phone at: (317) 232-4075 or by e-mail at: bbronson@dnr.IN.gov.

We support your planning efforts and encourage your participation in the grant programs administered by the Division of State Parks. If you require further information regarding planning, do not hesitate to call me at: (317) 232-4071 or by e-mail at: gbeilfuss@dnr.IN.gov.

Sincerely,

Greg Beilfuss
Chief Planner - IDNR Division of Outdoor Recreation

ECC – Dr. Shannon Powers, Muncie Parks and Recreation Board

Acknowledgements

The City of Muncie Dan Ridenour, Mayor

**“...We have a major focus in 2020 and beyond on parks. Parks are a major quality of life.” –
2021 State of The City Address, Muncie Mayor Dan Ridenour**

Board Members

Yolanda Carey (2019-2021, Democrat)

Mark Ervin (Term Dates, *Ex Officio*. MCS Board Appointee, 2018 - present)

Adrian Leavell (2021-2023, Republican)

Brad Marshall (2020-2024, Republican)

Dr. Shannon Powers (2021-2025, Democrat)

Principals

Brad Marshall, Board President, Phone: (765) 744-9332, Email: bkmarsha@gmail.com

Carl Malone, Superintendent, Phone: (765) 747-4858 Email: cmalone@cityofmuncie.com

Plan Preparation

This plan was developed by the Muncie Parks & Recreation staff with assistance from Dr. Shannon Powers, Mp2planning, llc, and the Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Foundational information for this plan was drawn from the 2014-2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan prepared by the Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Department Staff

George Foley, Recreation Program Coordinator

Dustin Clark, Director of Special Projects

Ashley Wright, Working Foreman, Prairie Creek Park

Kelly McClellan, Urban Forester

Phyllis Mills, Secretary

MUNCIE PARK BOARD RESOLUTION ACCEPTING FIVE YEAR PLAN

WHEREAS, the Muncie Parks and Recreation Board ("Board") is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the residents of Muncie, Indiana, and

WHEREAS, the Board realizes the importance of sound planning in order to meet the needs of its citizens,

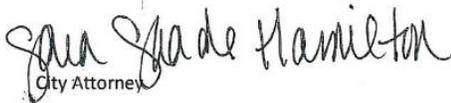
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MUNCIE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD, by a unanimous 4-0 declaration of those in attendance, does adopt the Park and Recreation Master Plan as its official plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreational opportunities in Indiana.

Passed and signed this 13th day of April 2021.

ATTEST:



Brad Marshall, Park Board President



City Attorney

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1. INTRODUCTION

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 percent of Muncie residents live within a ten-minute walk of a park (2018).¹ The urban forestry branch of the parks department has been a member of Tree City USA 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.

Parks are a major focus of the current mayoral administration. The overall department budget was increased by 16 percent in 2020. There are four park renovation projects underway or planned in the city. The city has purchased property for a 10-acre nature park and preserve in the southwestern quadrant of the city.

This 2021-25 Parks & Recreation Master Plan builds on the most recent 2014-2019 plan² with an overall intent of positioning the community to improve upon and support active and passive recreation opportunities. It has been developed with consideration for guidelines from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to allow the parks system and community to apply for Land and Water Conservation Funding program grants. This plan was developed with input and suggestions via active communication from area residents, city and county staff, and the Healthy Communities Alliance.

Methodology

The foundation for the development of this plan is based on building upon previous planning efforts and staff experience, conducting a community survey, and working with the City, The Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission, and private citizens. A planning committee of MPRD staff and a board member (Carl Malone, George Foley, and Shannon Powers) focused on creating the 2021 plan with the following general methodology:

- Involve the community in the process through a community survey;
- Meet with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission
- Identify, update, and map existing Muncie recreational facilities (mapping provided by Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission);
- Identify the future recreational needs and priorities of the City; and,
- Document all aspects of the efforts following Department of Natural Resources guidelines.

¹ The Trust for Public Land: <https://parkserve.tpl.org/mapping/index.html?CityID=1851876>

² City of Muncie’s 5-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2014, Muncie Parks Department and Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission, April 2014

Broadly speaking, Muncie officials intend to use this plan to guide their work on all future recreational and 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.



Parks Board/Department Overview

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. Further steps were taken in 1958 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.³

Vision, Mission, and Guide Posts

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

³ Open Space Plan. A Part of the Metropolitan Master Plan, Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Transportation and Urban Development Study. Barton-Aschman Associates, Inc. 1974. 4.



Parks Organization

The current Muncie Parks & Recreation Department 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 and one member is an ex-officio member appointed by the Muncie School's Board of Trustees. Figure 1 presents the organization.

Figure 1: City of Muncie Parks & Recreation Organization

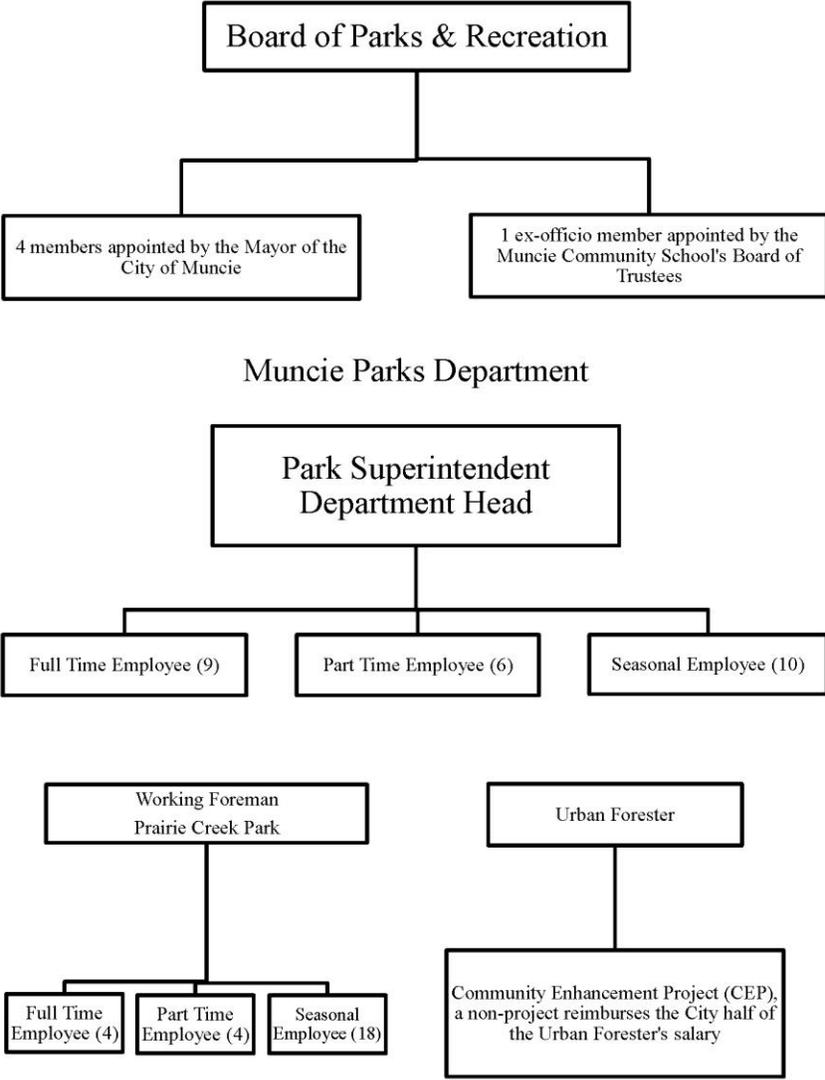


Figure 1 City of Muncie Parks & Recreation Organizational Chart

The Muncie Parks Department has a Superintendent of Parks as the department head and a Working Foreman who is responsible for Prairie Creek Park.

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 employee and also employs a maximum of six part-time/seasonal employees.

The challenge facing the parks department in regards to personnel and staffing lies in the fact that 31 parks require extensive labor and regular maintenance, especially during the months of April through November. With nine fulltime, 6 part-time, and 10 seasonal employees, most of their time is on mowing rather than making large improvements to parks, i.e., creating and gardening raised flower beds. The newly-formed recreation program has an ambitious year-around programming schedule that will require paying instructors for their time. Each class run for approximately 6-8 weeks and meets twice to three times per week. Relying on volunteers to coach and teach is unsustainable.

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.⁴

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 city has funded and plans to hire five additional certified arborists.

The last Urban Forestry Management Plan was created for the City of Muncie in 2004 and updated in 2005. Funding for a new plan was approved recently. Muncie's street tree inventory is currently 11,000 public trees; this inventory is hosted by the Delaware County G.I.S. Department in a web-based map database and is regularly updated by the Urban Forester using a mobile map application. 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 in the parks.

⁴ City of Muncie's 5-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2014, Muncie Parks Department and Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission, April 2014 (See the Tree Benefits section in the bibliography of the 2014 plan for a list of supporting references.)

Volunteer Assistance

The parks department 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 (which led the effort), Flatland Resources, and Linear Active have had a role in creating and maintaining trails in the park.



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.

The City is involved in development of trails that complement the existing Cardinal Greenway/White River Trail Development. New trails are being developed along Riverside Avenue between Tillotson Avenue and Jackson Street and along South Tillotson south of the Memorial Bypass.

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 parks department continues to explore relationships that can enhance the overall delivery of programming and services within the varied resources of the community. These include, but are not limited to:

- 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 Muncie Downtown Development Partnership, 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.
- The City works with MCS on various programming and activity initiatives.
- Cardinal Greenway Inc; they maintain the White River greenway that is within White River Park. This is why they had their volunteers removing graffiti along the greenway at Jackson St.
- Muncie Sanitary District. They maintain the levee that is throughout White River Park.
- MSD also hosts a camp for kids at Prairie Creek Park each summer (not in 2020 due to COVID-19), Camp Prairie Creek.
- Ross Community Center; they maintain a park and community center that are open to the public

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.

This plan update has been driven by the recognition by the parks board and staff that additional grant funding is available and should be pursued in the short-term to help accumulate resources for improvement of the system. Key to that was having a Five-Year Master Plan developed by the

guidelines of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) approved by April 15, 2021 to allow for applications in the next funding cycle. Table 1 presents a timeline for development of this five-year plan.

Table 1: Plan Development Schedule

	October	November	December	January	February	March	April
Demographics	X						
Land Inventory			X				
Public Survey			X	X			
Needs Assessment/Plan Development		X			X	X	
Public Meeting							X
Board Approval/ Submission to INDNR							X

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 1).

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) manages 28 parks, including Prairie Creek Park. Prairie Creek is located in Perry Township in the southeast corner of Delaware County. Prairie Creek Park, the largest park in the city’s park system, is leased from the Indiana American Water Company Inc. by the Park & Recreation Board of the City of Muncie until 2072.

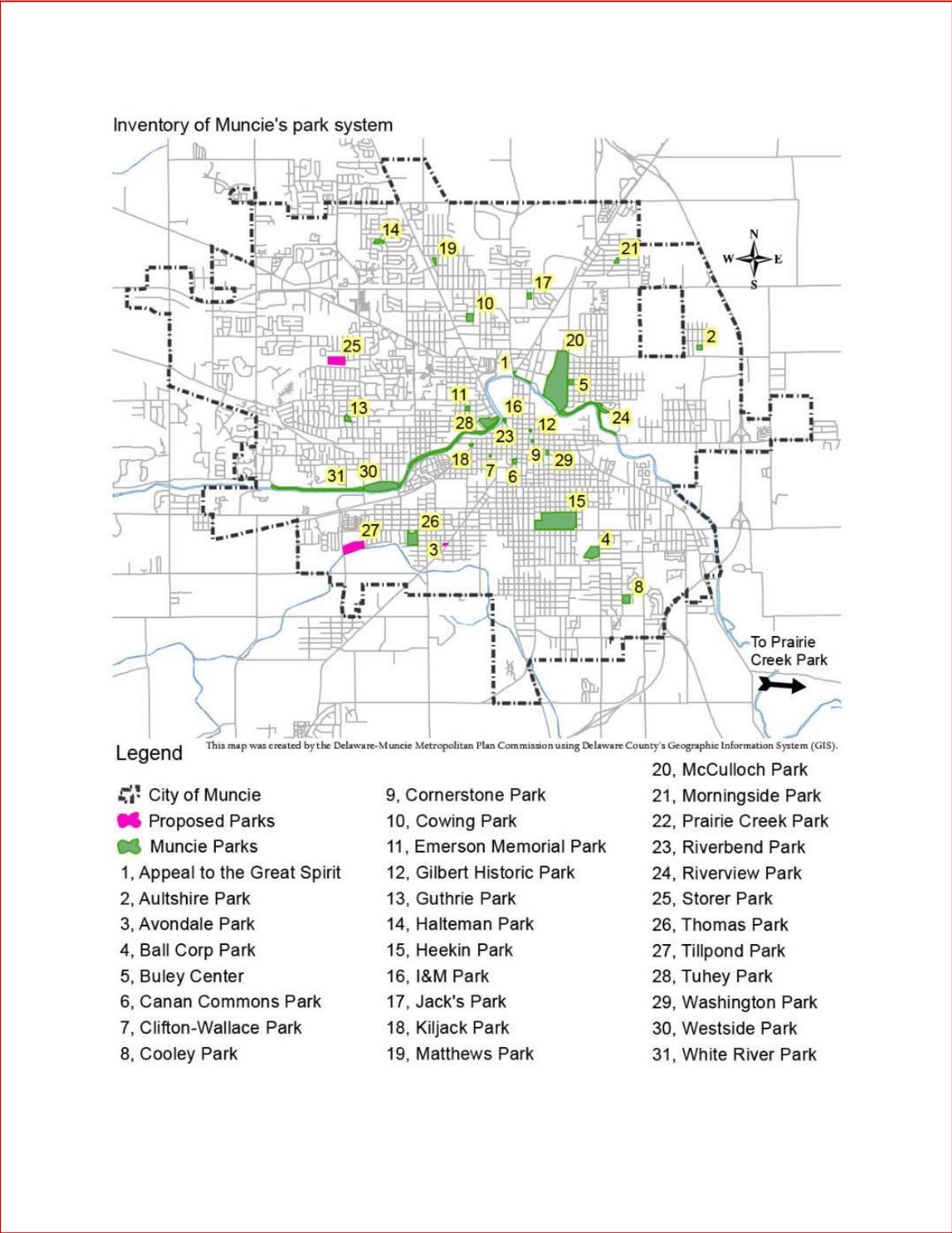
This plan focuses on all park properties and the City’s need for parks and recreation. While there is anecdotal evidence that Prairie Creek Park is frequented by rural residents more than any other City park; currently any impact of visitation by rural residents on any park is not seen as a burden. Rather, it is a positive sign. An attractive and frequently-used parks system is recognized as a critical quality of life indicator that can increase the attractiveness of a community to residential and economic development. That said, the commitment of the City towards greenway and trail

expansion, such as the recent trails added to Morrison Road and South Tillotson Avenue, as well as the Riverside Trail on the west side of the city which is currently in the works is clear evidence that the City supports these types of improvements. Similar projects within the main parks system (e.g., Cooley Park) further demonstrate civic commitment to park space. This commitment is part of what is driving this planning effort – to allow the City and the parks department to get the resources it needs to dramatically improve the quality of place in Muncie. The economic benefit of non-resident park draw is well proven. We believe the small increases in operating cost that may be intertwined with the added non-resident user burden is well worth the improved perceived value of the parks experience in Muncie.⁵



⁵ This last sentence paraphrases a comment from a DNR reviewer.

Figure 1: City of Muncie Parks



2. GOAL STATEMENT

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 has been developed to identify the current and future needs of the community and provides an action plan with a 5-year strategic implementation of goals and objectives.

The Parks Board and Parks Department with have embraced a goal of adding to the parks system overall number of parks and acreage and increasing and improving recreational programming opportunities.

The Master Plan represents MPRD’s continued commitment to providing a quality park and recreation system for the City of Muncie. This plan addresses adding new parks, 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.



Cardinal greenway crossing of the White River near downtown Muncie.



3. SCOPING

The information provided in Chapter 3 is largely drawn from the 2014-2019 parks plan.⁶

Natural Features and Landscape

Natural Regions

Muncie is in Indiana’s Central Till Plan 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 Whitewater Interlobate Areas eco-region has distinctive cool water, coarse-bottomed streams that are perennial and fed by abundant groundwater. The redbreast dace, northern stud fish, 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.

⁶City of Muncie’s 5-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2014, Muncie Parks Department and Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission, April 2014

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 Udorhent 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 six 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 Prairie Creek-Cunningham/Carmichael Ditches watershed.

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 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 was in concert with a similar recommendation in prior comprehensive and watershed planning efforts conducted by the County.

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.

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 characterized by distinct seasons. Climate conditions in Indiana have generally mirrored those in other parts of the nation with extremes in heat, cold, and some periods of drought being experienced over the past several years.

Flora

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. Delaware County is part of the Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) initiative that has been implemented statewide to deal with invasive species. This activity is known as the Delaware County Invasive Plant Project (DIPP) and is coordinated by the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Purdue Extension Delaware County. For further information on the concept refer to <http://www.sicim.info/cismas>.

Muncie's mayor, Dan Ridenour, has an ambitious agenda of planting 1,000 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

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. 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.

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.

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. Following is a description of the history of baseball in Muncie’s McCulloch park.

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.

On July 4, 1938, McCulloch Park was overwhelmed with an estimated crowd of 80,000 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 Pittsburg 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.

As part of the City and County efforts to create a multi-modal community, bicycle / pedestrian projects have been emphasized both in planning and physical construction. The Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Planning Commission conducted a Safe Routes to Schools program. The City has recently embarked on a number of new bike/ped trail projects including on Morrison Road and South Tillotson Avenue. There is a new section of paved trail linking the crushed stone trail on the White River levee adjacent to Muncie Central High School to the Cardinal Greenway. These are good examples of how there has been positive interaction among the agencies and government entities in the community. This plan supports that in every way possible.

Muncie has many 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.

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 rails-to-trails project, and the White River Greenway. Both trails are available for all types of non-motorized transportation and along both greenways there 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), downtown Muncie, Minnetrista Cultural Center, and Ball State University. 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 streams are now characterized by straightened waterways with steep, eroding embankments of 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

Festivals and community gatherings are an integral part of the fabric of many communities and are almost always economic drivers of some type. Muncie has several fairly long-standing festivals by which many residents mark their calendars. Some of these are:

- 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.
- Ron Bonham Day is held during the summer on or near the 4th of July holiday at Prairie Creek Park.
- The Old Washington Street Festival takes place along east Washington Street in Muncie's historic Kimbrough District in September. 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.

Environmental

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 over the years identified numerous concerns, including but not limited to:

- Additional underground storage tanks;
- Industrial waste sites found predominantly in the southern half of Muncie.
- EPA facilities (sites subject to environmental regulation or of environmental interest);
- Additional brownfields, permitted solid waste sites, septic waste sites, and cleanup sites; and,
- A number of locations are in a voluntary remediation agreement (VRA) with IDEM.

Broadly speaking, the environmental implications are that, while most of the existing Muncie parks have likely been vetted for environmental issues, any new projects (both redevelopment of existing parks and creation of new parks) should be carefully evaluated for environmental issues.

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. Prairie Creek is referenced often in this document and its role in the overall community cannot be overstated. It is likely outside the limits of the environmental contamination that exists in the city but any projects that are done at Prairie Creek park should include in their evaluation consideration of the fact that the reservoir could provide drinking water to the City.



4. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

Community Description

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 Delaware County (114,135). It should be noted the population has decreased by 3% since the 2010 Census.

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.

Demographics

Muncie's population profile mirrors that for much of small urban and rural Indiana. Negative growth has been occurring for decades and is expected to continue according to growth projections from Ball State's Center for Business and Economic Research and other population forecasts.

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

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 (2021)

Population	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%
Age and Gender (2019)			
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%
Race (2019)			
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, January 4, 2021

[U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: United States](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/)

Economic Profile

Muncie’s household income lags behind both the County and the State and Muncie’s unemployment rate is higher (Table 3). 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.

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. As noted earlier, the poverty rate is also considerably higher than that of the County or State, however it has decreased. This is a positive sign.

Muncie Community Schools is one of the largest 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.

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 of Demographic and Economic Factors

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. The City has identified three new parks to be built in the city with two on the west side (which, in part, addresses a concern identified in the 2014 plan of lack of parks in northwest Muncie). Given the fact that there is a relatively higher percentage of income-constrained households than other parts of the state and the City's generally poor rating in health outcomes, 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.

5. SUPPLY ANALYSIS

Muncie's park system consists of 28 established parks in its inventory as well as three planned parks at properties owned by the City. It provides administration, maintenance, and oversight of those parks as well as operating community programs. The parks department also maintains a handful of additional properties owned by public entities that are not officially a part of this department.

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, Mp2lanning, and City staff worked together to complete the needed updates and revisions. Support and graphics were provided by the Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission. A review for accessibility was also completed for each of the parks.

Classification

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, Open Lands parks, Mini-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

Parks Inventory

Table 5 presents an inventory of the current parks under the jurisdiction of the City parks department. This was based on an update of information provided by the parks department as well as assessments of each park as presented in the 2014 parks plan. A site visit was made to each park in early January to review overall conditions and compare them to the prior analyses.

Table 5: 2021 Muncie Parks Plan Inventory and Assessment

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	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. Avondale Park (PLANNED)	No specific address	15 th Street and Hoyt Street	Not defined	Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie	Planned park	NA	Will comply with ADA guidelines when developed
4. Ball Corp Park	2105 S. Macedonia Ave. 47302	Macedonia Ave. between 14th and 17th Streets	10.99	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
5. Buley Center	1111 N. Penn St., Muncie, IN 47303	Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Highland Ave., Penn St., & Russey St.	1.8	Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie	Basketball court and playground, picnic shelter and tables, community center, off-street parking	Medium to poor	No facilities
6. Canan Commons Park	520 S. Walnut St., 47305	Walnut St., Seymour St., Mulberry St.	1.53	Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie	Stage, open space, benches, bike racks, downtown parking	Good	No facilities

7. 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
8. 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
9. Cornerstone Park	101 S. Madison, St., Muncie, IN 47303	Corner of East Main and Madison	0.3	Mini Park	City of Muncie	Sculpture, landscaping, concrete encirclement with seating, downtown parking	Good	Needs Assessment
10. Cowing Park	2501 N. Pauline Ave., Muncie, IN 47303	Pauline Ave., Cowing Dr., Tilmore Dr., & Cowing Park Ln.	4.16	Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie	Open space, soccer goals, basketball and tennis courts, picnic tables, playground equipment, grill, street parking	Good	Needs assessment
11. Emerson Memorial Dog Park	901 W. Beechwood Ave., Muncie, IN 47303	Ashland Ave., Linden St., Beechwood Ave., & Pauline Ave.	1.45	Special Use Park	City of Muncie	Dog park, benches, street parking	Good	Needs assessment
12. 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
13. Guthrie Park	3011 W. University Ave., Muncie, IN 47304	University Ave., Riley Rd., North St., & Winthrop Rd.	2.19	Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie	Open space, benches, street parking	Good	No facilities

14. Halteman Park	4205 N. Lancaster Dr., Muncie, IN 47304	Lancaster Dr.	3	Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie	Tennis court, basketball court, volleyball poles, small playground, closed swimming pool, open space	Medium	Needs assessment
15. Heekin Park	1600 S. Hackley St., Muncie, IN 47302	Memorial Dr., Madison St., 9th St., Penn St., & Hackley St.	54.01	Community 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
16. 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
17. Jack's Park	3000 N. Elm St., Muncie, IN 47303	Elm St. & Dunn Ave., south of McGalliard Rd.	2.11	Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie	Lighted basketball court, picnic table, playground equipment, street parking	Medium	Needs assessment
18. Kiljack Park		Kilgore and Jackson	0.6	Mini-park	City of Muncie	Landscaping, benches	Good	No facilities
19. Matthews Park	1513 W. Harvard Ave., Muncie, IN 47303	Harvard Ave. east of Wheeling Ave.	1.04	Neighborhood Park	No information available	Open space, trees, minimal access (no parking)	Good	No facilities

20. McCullough Park	1200 Martin Luther King Blvd., Muncie, IN 47303	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd., McCulloch Blvd., Highland Ave., and Centennia l Ave.	91.43	Community 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
21. 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
22. 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	Open Lands 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	Playground equipment ranges from good to poor	New construction is ADA-accessible; overall Needs Assessment recommended

						Cardinal Greenway, Red-tail Conservancy Nature Preserve, park office, off-street parking		
23. 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
24. Riverview Park	700 N. Bunch Blvd., Muncie, IN 47303	Bunch Blvd & Carver Drive	3.45	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
25. Storer Park (PLANNED)	No specific address	W. Mansfield Road and N. Riley Rd	Not defined	Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie	Planned park	NA	Will comply with ADA guidelines when developed
26. Thomas Park	2001 S. Rochester Ave., Muncie, IN 47302	Rochester Ave., south of Memorial Drive	11.5	Neighborhood Park	City of Muncie	Baseball diamond, basketball court, tennis courts, playground equipment, picnic shelter and tables, openspace	Good to poor	Needs assessment
27. Tillpond Park (PLANNED)	No specific address	South Tillotson and Cornbread Road	10	Open Lands Park	City of Muncie	Planned park	NA	Will comply with ADA guidelines when developed

28. Tuhey Park	500 W. North St., Muncie, IN 47303	White River Blvd. & North St.	8.43	Neighborhood/ Special Use Park	City of Muncie	Picnic table, benches, playgrounds, swimming pool, splash pad, openspace, sculpture, open space, off-street and street parking	Good	Needs assessment
29. 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
30. Westside Park	2400 W. White River Blvd., Muncie, IN 47303	White River Blvd., Tillotson Ave., & Nichols Ave.	20.65	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
31. White River Park	No specific address	White River Blvd., Nichols Ave. to High St.	41.6	Park Trailway	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			2,164.95					

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

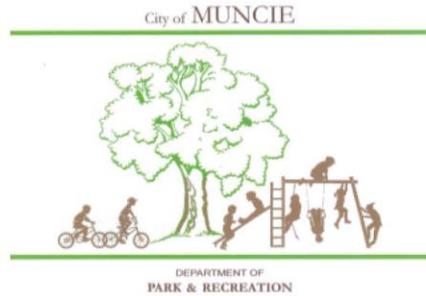
Note: Total acreage does not include 10 acres planned (and owned by City) for Tillpond Park.

Note: Classification definitions based on National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines

Recreational Programs

Table 6 provides a list of programming opportunities currently sponsored by the parks department.

Table 6: Existing Programs



Muncie Parks and Recreation Programs and Events 2021		
Sports	Date(s)	Location(s)
Flag Football	June 2021	Ball Corp. Park
Tackle Football	June 2021	Ball Corp. Park
Soccer	April 10 - May 15	Ball Corp. Park and Cowing Park
Tennis	May 2021	Cowing Park
Pickle Ball	May 2021	Cowing Park
Baseball League	September 2021	Lafferty Field
Basketball League	June 2021	Heekin Park
Track and Field Days	April - May 2021	Muncie Central High School
Summer Youth Employment & Mentor Program		
	Date(s)	Location(s)
Hire (200) Youth (Ages 12-16)	February - March 2021	Parks and Rec. Department
8 weeks of Employment	June 7 - July 16	Parks, Muncie YMCA, Various Muncie Businesses
Mentor Program every Thursday for 1 hour and work 8 hours every Friday	June 7 - July 16	Muncie Central High School
Science and Technology		
	Date(s)	Location(s)
Robotic STEM Program	July 2021	TBD
Mars Space Camp	July 2021	TBD
Senior Citizens		
	Date(s)	Location(s)
Diabetes Class and Cooking Demonstration	February 28 - March 18	Heekin Park Cabin #3
Heart Health Class	April 7 - April 28	Heekin Park Cabin #3
EVENTS		
	Date(s)	Location(s)
Black Music Month Celebration	June 16, 2021	McCulloch Park
Juneteenth	July 19, 2021	Heekin Park
Soul Bowl Basketball Tournament	July 10-11, 2021	Heekin Park
Youth Basketball Tournament	July 9, 2021	Heekin Park
Trunk or Treat Event	October 23, 2021	Heekin Park
Christmas Celebration for Seniors	December 4, 2021	McCulloch Park
Christmas in the Park	December 5, 2021	Heekin Park

6. ACCESSIBILITY

The designated ADA coordinator for the City of Muncie and the Parks and Recreation Department is:

Yvonne Thompson, Director of Human Rights
300 North High Street, Muncie 47305
Phone: 765-747-4854
Email: ythompson@cityofmuncie.com

The City of Muncie has an American with Disabilities Act Transition and Implementation Plan.⁷ This plan has specific transition plans in place for Heekin, Westside, and McCullough parks and has been implementing recommendations from that plan. 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 parks department recognizes from previous plans and inventories that much of the parks system has issues with accessibility. 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. Updating the 2011 transition plan to include all parks is a priority for the department.

The City has in place a resolution designating an ADA coordinator (Ms. Thompson) and a “Grievance Procedure” that provides a process for addressing complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits.

In addition, the City of Muncie has in place a process to post the required information regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, the City of Muncie Grievance Procedure under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other ADA related information on the city’s website and at other locations as may be determined from time to time.

A copy of a completed ADA/Rehab. Act (504)/ADA assurance of accessibility compliance sign-off sheet is included in Appendix A.

⁷ City of Muncie, Indiana Americans with Disabilities Act Transition and Implementation Plan, Muncie-Delaware Metropolitan Planning Commission, December 2011



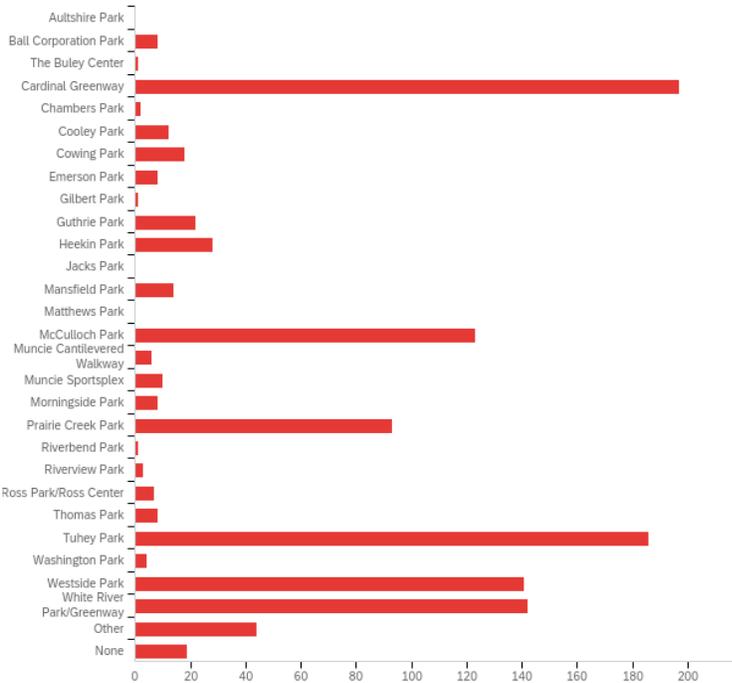
7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public participation component of this plan has been limited due to the various restrictions on community gatherings due to COVID-19 but meets all DNR requirements for the master planning process. The following public process has been followed:

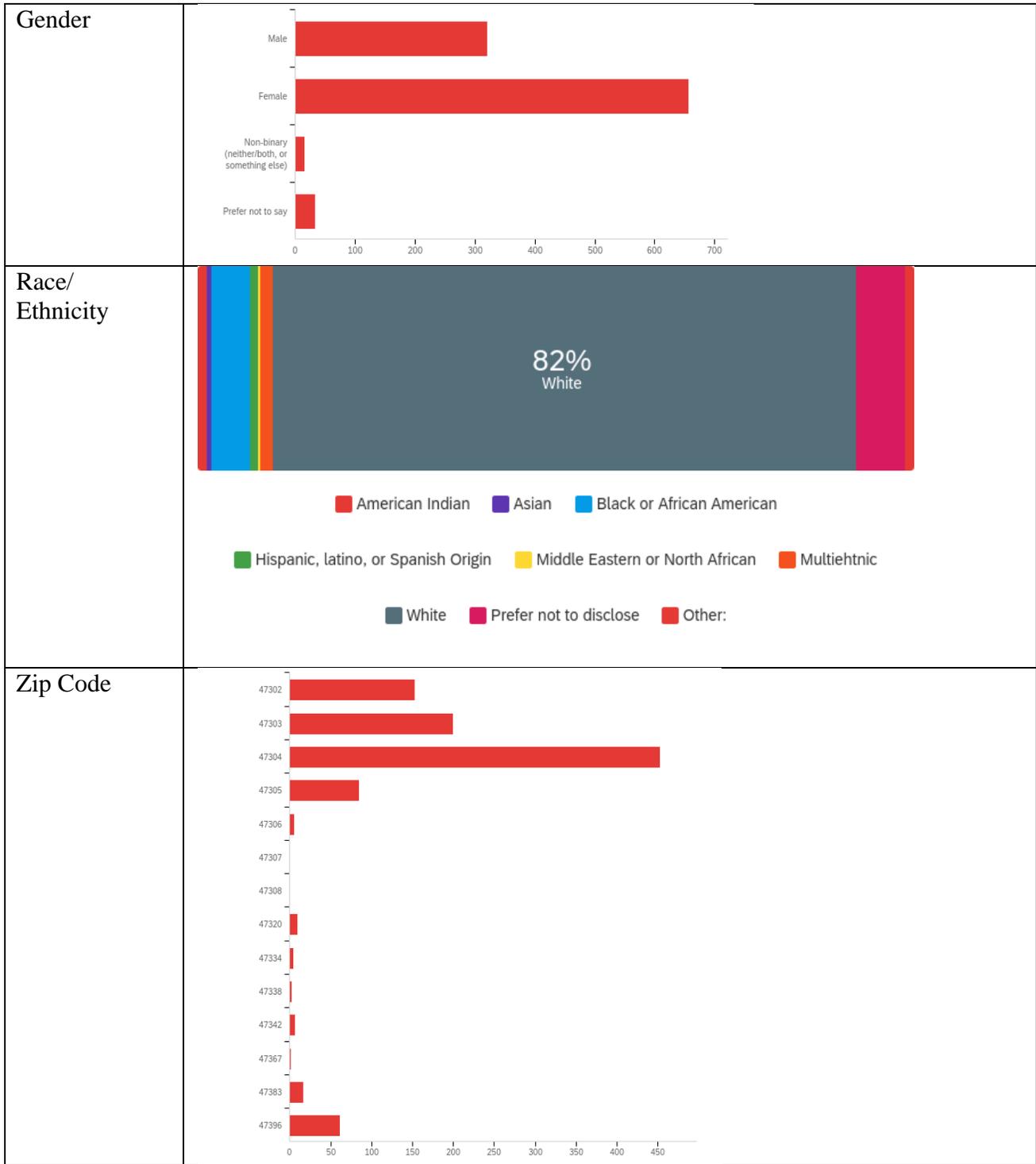
- Community internet random survey (December, 2020 – January, 2021)
- Publicly advertised parks boards meetings – March 16, 2021 and April 13, 2021 at which the parks plan was on the Agenda;
- Public meetings dedicated to park plan - April 1, 2021 (Sign-in sheets are in Appendix B.)

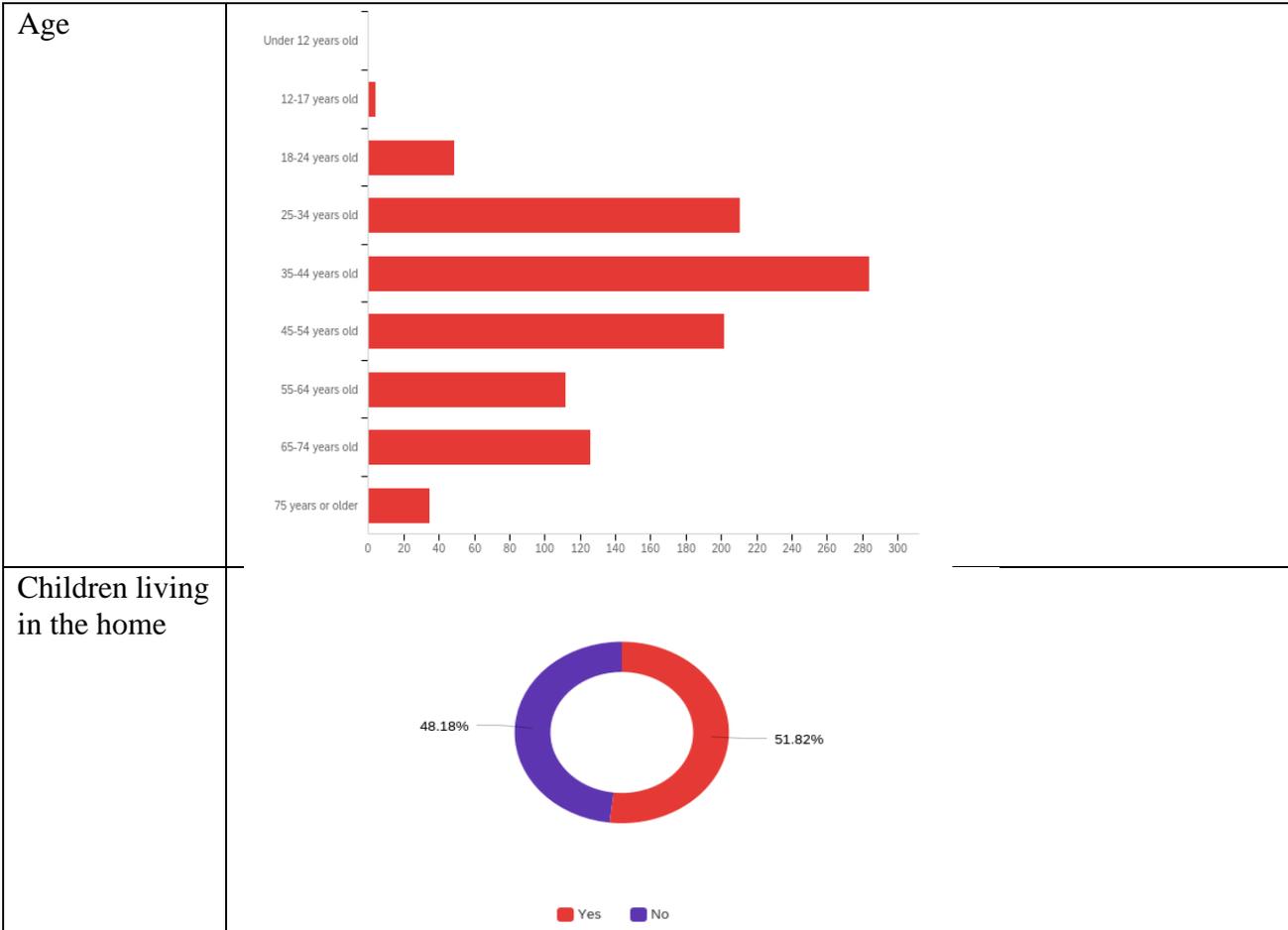
Public input for the Resident Satisfaction Survey was gathered during December, 2020 and January, 2021. The survey was conducted online and was advertised on the MPRD Facebook page and to the following groups: NAACP, YMCA members, Concerned Clergy, Ball State University’s Community Engagement Facebook 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. A total of 1,056 responses was obtained. Statistically, a sample of 1,053 responses provides a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. The following slides show some of the key findings of the survey. The complete survey results including statistical analysis can be obtained from the parks department staff. All responses to questions and open-ended comments are presented in Appendix C.

Park Usage



Demographics





Survey Questions	Responses
How important are parks, recreation services, and open space to the quality of life in Muncie?	83% Very Important 15% Important 2% Somewhat important
How familiar are you with the city's Parks and Recreation Department?	61% Slightly familiar 30% Very Familiar 10% Not familiar at all
How many times have you visited any of the city parks this past year?	15 or more visits 44% 5-15 visits 32% 1-5 visits 25%
How satisfied are you with the walking trails?	Somewhat satisfied 43% Satisfied 39% Neither satisfied or dissatisfied 15% Dissatisfied 4%
How satisfied are you with the playground facilities?	Somewhat satisfied 39%

	Neither satisfied or dissatisfied 27% Satisfied 20% Dissatisfied 4%
How satisfied are you with the picnic facilities?	Somewhat satisfied 38% Neither satisfied or dissatisfied 30% Dissatisfied 17% Satisfied 17%
How satisfied are you with the restroom facilities?	Dissatisfied 38% Neither satisfied or dissatisfied 34% Somewhat satisfied 22% Satisfied 6%
Would you like to see more wetlands, forests, farmlands and/or heritage sites?	Yes 82% No 18%
Would you like Muncie to adopt green infrastructure connecting our park system? (Green infrastructure could include trails, linear open spaces, or “green streets” - referring to streetscapes that include bike lanes, sidewalks, and green buffers?)	Yes 80% No opinion 16% No 4%
Did you participate in any outdoor recreation this past year? (i.e., gardening, outdoor games, walking)	Yes 93% No 7%
<p>What would you like to see more of in the Parks? Select all that apply.</p> <p>The highest rated were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Nature trails/boardwalks, 72%, 762 responses of 1,056 ✓ Music in the park, 62%, 655 responses ✓ Botanical gardens, 56%, 590 responses ✓ Spray parks/splash pads, 54%, 573 responses ✓ Outdoor play equipment/ADA accessible, 52%, 552 responses ✓ Accessible paved multi-purpose trails, 49%, 515 responses ✓ Additional recreational programming, 43%, 454 responses 	

Conclusions

Survey

Review of the responses to the questions includes a clear support for the trails network, that respondents use the parks, they don't have real strong feelings on the infrastructure except a negative response to the condition of bathrooms. There is also support for additional events and programming as highlighted by the 1,000's of comments received. The parks board should use

this survey and “mine” the results as it considers new projects and proposals that come before it. In summary, parks are important, the trails network is great, and we use the parks.

Public Meeting

At the public meeting held on April 1, 2021 (notice posting, sign-up sheet, and minutes are in Appendix B) several comments were made and are summarized here. Other comments were emailed to the parks staff and board and have been addressed in the plan. The meeting was advertised on the city website, through Facebook, and public notice.

1. Don't isolate Prairie Creek – it needs to remain part of the city operation and be explored for ways it can help enrich the lives of the residents of Muncie and the region.
2. Explore transportation options to get people from Muncie who don't drive to Prairie Creek Park.
3. In the inventory, change the classification of Tuhey Park to Neighborhood/Special Use Park
4. Build programming, particularly for youth; use the parks as an educational resource.
5. There were questions about having the entire survey available (it is in the current version of the plan) and about the inventory (the overall assessment provided in Table 5 is based on review of what is in the parks now (based on a site visit to each park conducted in January 2021).
6. At an earlier park board meeting, similar support for additional programming was presented along with a request for an overall approach to creating disc golf facilities at several parks and upgrading the existing course at Prairie Creek.
7. Request for consideration of a skate park (West side park has been identified as the ideal location by proponents).



8. NEEDS ANALYSIS

This section presents the methodology and results of the needs analysis task. Generally, per DNR guidelines, this section documents:

- Recreation behavior and need;
- Participation and user preference;
- Causes of nonuse or lack of public engagement; and,
- The needs of special populations.

The primary methodology used in this plan is an issues-based analysis (referred to as Issue Analysis) while we also looked at Level of Service (LOS). The issue-based approach was chosen because on based on early collaboration with staff and board members, emphasis in the five-year period (2021 – 2025) would be more on programming and expanding recreational opportunities rather than development of new parks (although these are not discounted as the City is currently building new trails and is in the process of planning a new nature area along South Tillotson Avenue. How Muncie fares under the LOS methodology is discussed next.

Level of Service (LOS) Analysis

The 2014 parks master plan included analysis and maps of the status of Muncie relative to the standards proposed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). These Level of Service (LOS) Standards for Parks and Open Space is developed by the NRPA to “...guide communities to set local standards based on expressed public need, values, and expectations, and is expressed in acres/1000 to measure and prioritize needs.” In general, the 2014 parks master plan stated: “...Muncie’s park system only meets the “core” recommendations when including the leased properties.” The basic premise is that Prairie Creek puts Muncie over the threshold required for acreage per population, but the basic system of core parks in the city remains deficient. It is also stated in the plan that “...when assessing how many acres Muncie should provide of the various types of parks, all park types except the regional park type are deficient.” Muncie has been active in park development where the opportunity arises and the current administration has placed emphasis on parks as a critical component of the community. Three new parks are planned and defined in this plan. The current parks system has a total inventory of about 2,165 acres. However, most of this is represented by Prairie Creek Park. The acreage without Prairie Creek is about 274. The DNR suggests a standard of 20 acres per 1,000 people (IDNR Level of Service recommendations; page 46, DNR Planning Guidelines for Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plans). Without including Prairie Creek, Muncie is deficient in park acreage by DNR standards. The new parks being developed will help address this deficiency. Improving access to Prairie Creek was identified as something that needed to be done during the public meeting held for the study. Improving access to Prairie Creek Park to all Muncie residents will move Muncie towards the goal set by the standards.

Issue Analysis

The issue analysis evolved from discussions held throughout the planning process with members of the parks staff and board, a community survey (discussed in Section 8), and through community input including that derived from past parks plans (especially the 2014 plan) to ideas and concepts resulting from meetings with outside agencies. As a result of these discussions, the following issues consistently emerged:

- Issue 1: Additional recreational programming;
- Issue 2: Upgrade playground equipment with modern equipment, safety considerations, and accessibility considerations;
- Issue 3: Continue to upgrade Muncie’s bike/ped system and make it truly multi-modal with enhanced public transportation linkages; and,
- Issue 4: Create an updated development plan for Prairie Creek Park that reflects its potential for the community as a regional and national attraction
- Issue 5: Additional staffing for additional parks and newly formed recreation programming

The following discussion briefly summarizes each issues and potential answers/next steps. This then will feed into the Priorities and Action Schedule defined in the next section. Figure 2 in that section presents a New Facilities Location Map which shows currently contemplated facilities currently being developed or which may come in place in the next five years.

Issue 1: Additional Recreational Programming

Background

Parks department staff have indicated this is a priority. An important part of this effort is to increase efforts to improve health outcomes for the City of Muncie and Indiana as a whole. Recreational programming for all ages can help achieve this goal.

Possible Solutions/Next Steps

- The parks department is exploring a number of programming opportunities in the next few years, but perhaps the most visible will be working to reinstitute the Gus Macker summer basketball tournament.

Issue 2: Upgrade playground equipment with modern equipment, safety considerations, and accessibility considerations

Background

Many of the parks have outdated and non-ADA compliant playground equipment. The parks department has been working to address this situation and it will continue that effort.

Possible Solutions/Next Steps

- Appropriation of \$2 million in parks budget for ADA renovations and or new construction.
- Include ADA renovations as required in all parks renovation projects and or new construction.
- Continue implementation of City's 2011 ADA transition plan and review information relative to existing parks and update as necessary.
- Multiple individual park renovation projects are underway or planned.

Issue 3: Continue to upgrade Muncie's bike/ped system and make it truly multi-modal with enhanced public transportation linkages

Background

Muncie has a visible trail network that includes paved bike trails, on-street bike markings, and signage relating to the various components of the network. This trail system, combined with the Ironman competitions held at Prairie Creek, is a great quality of community "identifier" that will help build Muncie as a great place to live.

Possible Solutions/Next Steps

- Continue coordination with Cardinal Greenway.
- Ensure that park renovation projects and new development plans consider multi-modal linkages.

Issue 4: Create an updated development plan for Prairie Creek Park that reflects its potential for the community as a regional and national attraction

Background

Prairie Creek Park is unique in its location (several miles southeast of the city in Perry Township) and its draw – the water. The park has a public beach and offers extensive boating and related outdoor opportunities. The park hosts a variety of athletic events and will be home to a national Ironman event in 2021, which is expected to draw thousands to the community.

Possible Solutions/Next Steps

- Update development plan for Prairie Creek Park

Issue 5: Additional staffing for additional parks and newly formed recreation programming

Background

The MPRD oversees a large amount of acreage for public use that our community expects to be well-maintained and attractive parks and facilities. With the addition of three new parks in Muncie, more seasonal employees will need to be hired from April – August.

Possible Solutions/Next Steps

- Create a Level-of-Service metric that measures the number and type of facility maintenance time be created for future growth.
- Hire coaches and instructors with suitable credentials to build a reputable and impactful recreation program. Temporary employees in the recreation program should be paid a fair and market rate.



9. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FIVE-YEAR MASTER PLAN

Goal 1: Explore enhancing and developing recreation and environmental education programs with special consideration given to activities that improve health and wellness

Objectives:

- a. Provide inclusive and innovative recreation programs;
- b. Continue to develop promotional brochures, City website, social media platforms, and materials which inform the public on the parks and recreational programming.
- c. Enhance the MPRD image and “brand.”
- d. Renovate and enhance existing sports facilities to support such programs.
- e. 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.
- f. Provide both passive and active programming for a variety of ages and abilities of the population all year long.

Goal 2: Following guidelines from the existing ADA transition plans, improve the park system’s recreational facilities to ensure accessibility in all parks for persons of all abilities both mentally and physically

Objectives:

- a. Continue to implement ADA transition plans for Westside, Heekin, and McCulloch parks;
- b. 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;
- c. 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; and,
- d. Conduct an Access Audit and create an ADA compliance Transition Plan.

Goal 3: Create a community with diverse, attractive, and inspiring parks and greenways that enhance the quality of life and economic vitality of the community and provide key multi-modal transportation linkages

Objectives:

- a. Acquire additional cultural, recreational, and natural parklands as appropriate to balance the existing park system (the city has plans for new parks along South Tillotson south of Memorial Drive and on the site of the former Storer Elementary school on Muncie's west side);
- b. Create individual development plans for each park;
- c. Update and assess current tree inventory;
- d. Develop opportunities, alone or in partnership with other agencies, to educate citizens about the area's natural resources.
- e. Ensure resources are available for short- and long-term maintenance of trails;
- f. Identify appropriate bus stops and amenities along the trails; and,
- g. Educate public on how to use the trail system.

Goal 4: Improve community recreation resources through cooperative efforts with agencies and adjoining governmental units in providing the public with parks, recreation facilities and programming

Objectives:

- a. Work with Muncie-Delaware Metropolitan Plan Commission and responsible parties in Yorktown, Daleville, and Albany to identify coordination opportunities
- b. Seek grant funding to support new initiatives and operational costs.
- c. Hold more cultural events;
- d. Host a variety of youth and senior/masters events;
- e. Partner with environmental and sporting agencies on events; and,
- f. Create a volunteer management system in partnership with stakeholders.

Goal 5: Update development plan for Prairie Park with emphasis on financial and organizational stability and recognizing the overall visibility it brings to the community through Ironman and related events.

Objectives:

- a. Update development plan for Prairie Creek Park; and,
- b. Allow for dedication of financial resources independent of city parks operation.

10. PRIORITIES AND ACTION SCHEDULE/NEW FACILITIES LOCATION MAP

The action program presented in this section details the focus of the parks department’s efforts to achieve the city’s goals for parks 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 priority action schedule for the five-year plan (Table 7). 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 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.

Table 7

5-Year Priority Action Schedule				
Year	Site	Action	Cost Estimate	Potential Source of Funds
2021*	Various Locations and Parks	Summer Youth Mentor & Employment program to hire 200 teenagers, Install new ADA compliant playground equipment at Morningside Park and McCulloch Park	Cooley Park - (\$80,000), Halteman Park - (\$150,000), Riverview Park - (\$20,000), Park Trees - (\$10,000)	Operating Budget, EDIT Grant
2022*	All Parks	Prepare development and ADA plans for each park in the system	Not defined	Staff time, operating budget, grants
2022*	Tillpond, Storer and Avondale parks	Develop new parks on city property	Not defined	EDIT funds, grants
2022*	Muncie Central High School Parking Lots, Various parks	Bring back the Gus Macker tournament, Renovation of Riverview Park, Cooley Park, and McCulloch Park (2021-2022), Install new ADA / playground equipment at Ball Corp. Park and Thomas Park, New practice shelters and	Riverview Park - (\$150,000), Westside Park - (\$100,000)	Sponsorships, EDIT Grant, Operating Budget

		football fields at Ball Corp Park (2021-2022)		
2023*	Heekin and Aultshire Park	Install new ADA compliant playground equipment Heekin and Aultshire Park	Southwest Park - (\$70,000)	Grants and Operating Budget
2024*	Muncie Central High School Parking Lots, Thomas Park	Host Gus Macker tournament (2022-2024), Total renovation of Thomas Park (2023-2024)	*Gus Macker - (\$50,000 a year), Thomas Park - (\$1,000,000)	Sponsorships, IU Ball Memorial Foundation
2021 – 2025*	Various Locations and Parks	Remove 500 dangerous trees (2021-2025), Plant 1000 trees (2021-2025), Expansion of Community Health initiatives and youth sports programs (2021-2025), Summer Mentor & Employment program (2021-2025), Implementation of parks exercise equipment (2021-2025)	Trees Streets - (\$25,000), evaluation of staffing levels, future planning	Operating Budget, Grants
<i>*Potentially eligible for LWCF funding</i>				

A primary funding source in Indiana for parks improvement projects is the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Projects eligible for funding are:

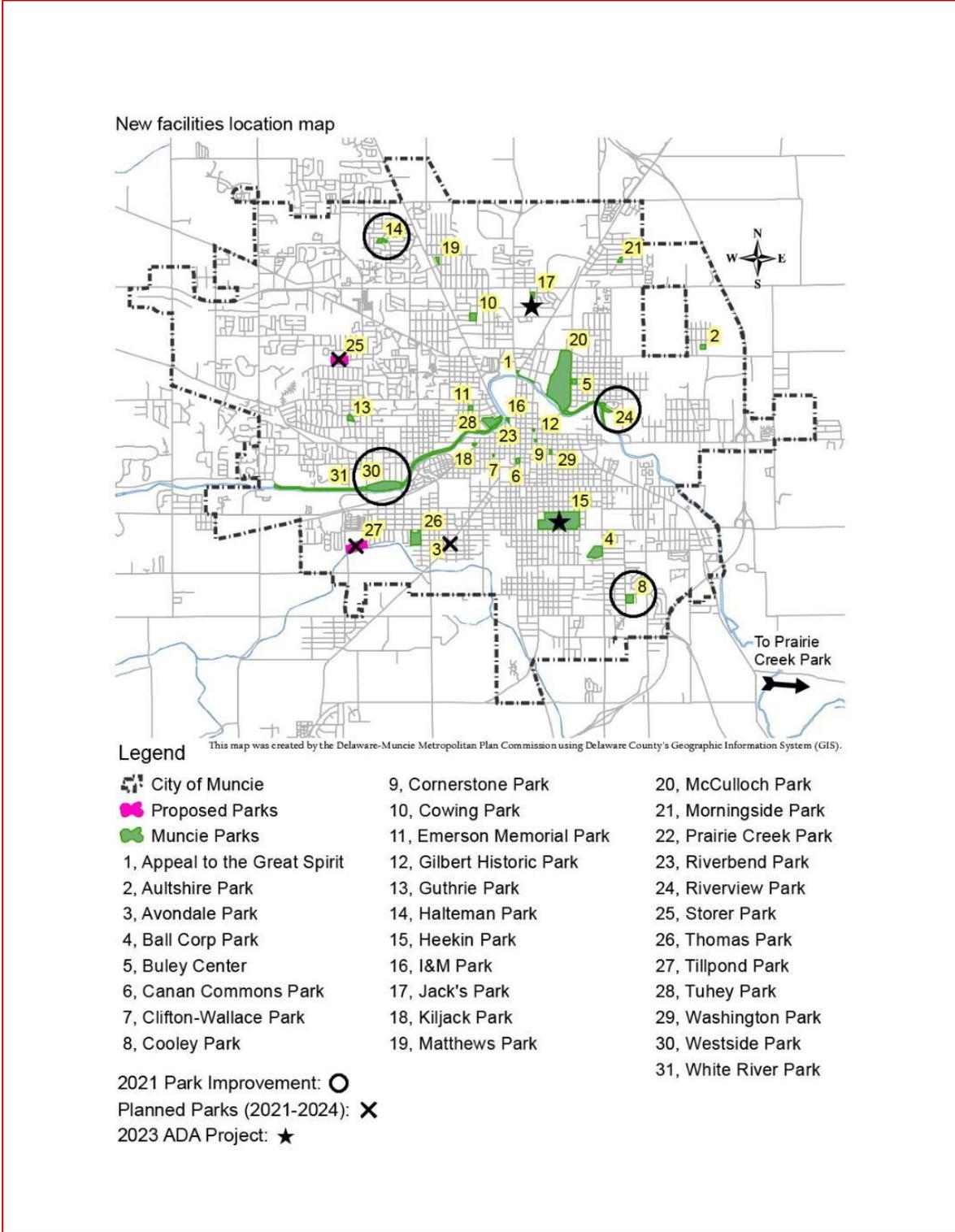
- Acquiring park or natural area
- Picnic areas
- Sports and playfields, such as playgrounds, ballfields, court facilities and golf courses
- Water oriented facilities for boating, swimming, and access to lakes, rivers and streams
- Natural areas and interpretive facilities

- Campgrounds
- Fishing and hunting areas
- Winter sports facilities
- Amphitheaters and bandstands
- Trails
- Roads, restrooms, utilities, park maintenance buildings
- Nature Centers

Parks departments are eligible to apply for funding if they have a Five-Year Master Plan approved by DNR. Applications are generally due June 1 and projects ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000 are eligible. The program funds 50 percent with the local agency providing the matching funds.

Figure 2 presents graphically the locations of the new projects identified in this plan.

Figure 2
New Facilities Location Map

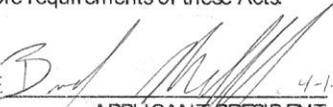


APPENDIX A: ADA COMPLIANCE SHEET

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**ASSURANCE OF ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE WITH:
ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT of 1968 (As Amended);
SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (As Amended);
AND TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990
(As Amended)**

The Muncie Park+Rec Board (Applicant) has read the guidelines for compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (As Amended); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (As Amended); and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (As Amended) and will comply with the applicable requirements of these Acts.

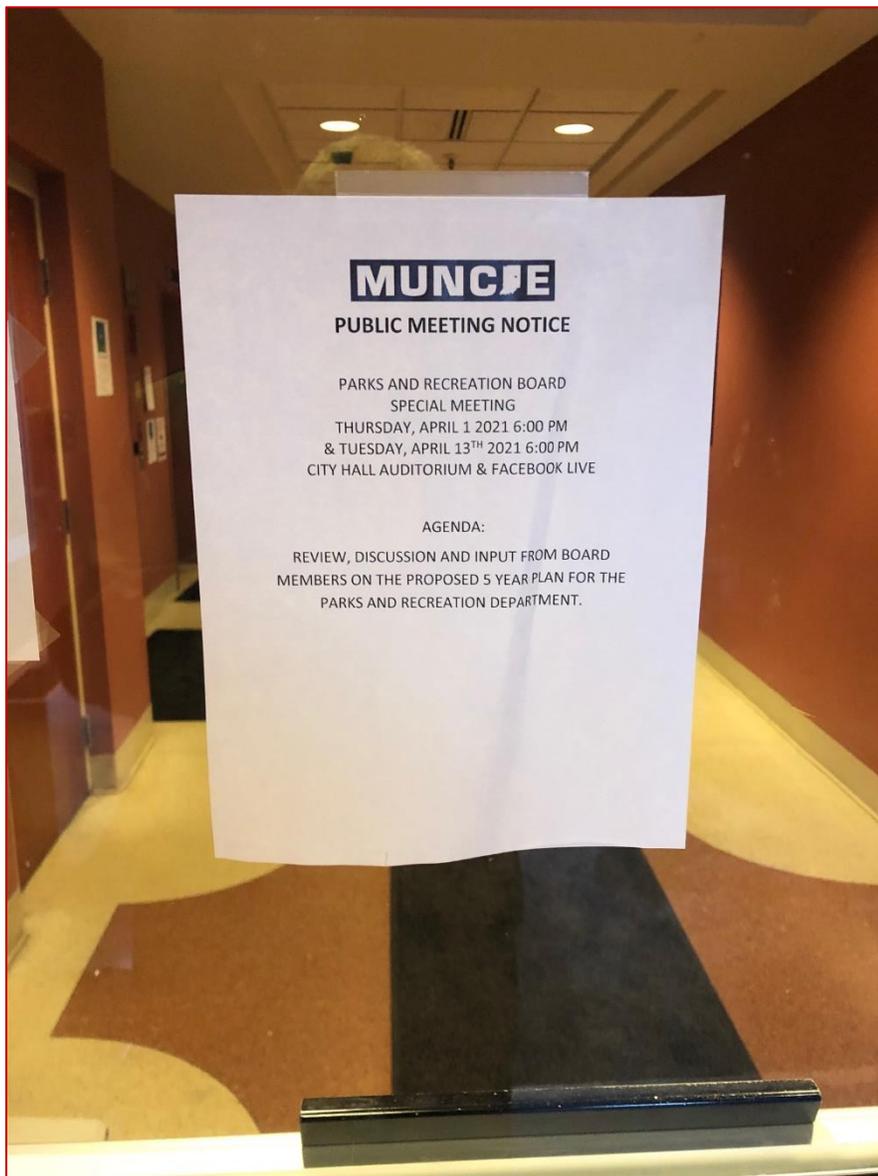
SIGNATURE  4-1-21
APPLICANT PRESIDENT
Brad Marshall
(President's printed name)

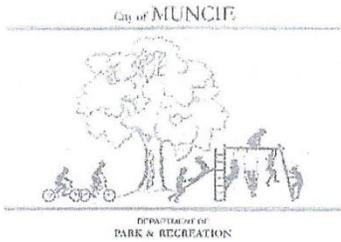
SIGNATURE _____

(Secretary's printed name)

DATE _____

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETING INFORMATION





1800 S. Grant Street
Muncie, IN. 47302
(765) 747-4858
cityofmuncie.com
muncieparks@cityofmuncie.com
Superintendent: Carl Malone

**Muncie Park & Recreation Special
Board Meeting (5 Year Plan Draft)**
Tuesday, April 1, 2021
City Hall Auditorium

- (1) Call to Order
- (2) Pledge of Allegiance
- (3) Roll Call
- (4) Approval of Mission & Vision Statement from 5 Year Plan Draft Plan
- (5) Opening Statement – Brad Marshall, Parks Board President
- (6) Superintendent Comments – Carl Malone
- (7) Comments – Muncie Parks & Recreation Board *none*
- (8) Public Comment – (3) minute limit - Please state your name and address.

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

*** Next Park Board Meeting – Tuesday, April 13, 2021 (6:00 p.m.) - City Hall Auditorium**

Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

April 1, 2021 6p.m.

City Hall Auditorium

1. CALL TO ORDER- President Brad Marshall called meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – All stood for the Pledge

3. ROLL CALL-Present was President Brad Marshall, Mark Erving, Shannon Powers. Vice President Adrian Leavell was late.

4. APPROVAL OF Mission & Vision Statement for 5 yr. Plan Draft. – Our mission is to enrich the lives of the recreation facilities and affordable diverse recreation and human service activities for people of all ages to play, learn and to contemplate, build community, and be good stewards of our environment. No questions from the Board on the mission statement.

A vote was taken by all Park Board members present. First Motion was by Mark Ervin. Second by Shannon Powers. Vote was taken and approved by all members present. Motion carried.

5. Opening Statements – Brad Marshall, Parks & Recreation Board President

Brad Marshall stated we are taking in everyone statements and consideration about the 5yr plan. We have had multiple meetings regarding this plan and where it's at today. It is a continued working document and to revise this even further. We have slides to show you this evening regarding our goals and plans.

A few things that have been changed from the plan; The lines in the opening paragraph have been removed regarding the YMCA and Tuhey discussion that is not referenced in the plan.

Updates to the appropriate references to the plan. Details have been regarding the thousand trees in a thousand days we saw that as an important plan.

We have included some additional details about the public input with the meeting attendance and comments and also some of the survey details updated those in the plan.

We made some provisions to the issue of number four regarding Prairie Creek.

6. Superintendent Comments- Carl Malone

He would like to say thank you to everyone involved with getting this 5yr plan draft started. We have really tried to put together the best plan for the community. We looked at the 2009 and the 2014 5yr plans and get some ideas of what to do. There was no 2019 plan done to go by. We also went out to the community and received some comments and got inventory of our parks from our records. Our Mayor has been a big supporter of our city parks. The Mayor has a plan for four of our parks which are Cooley, Halteman, River View, and Thomas park. All of the parks are important. We are working on grants to get help with all of our parks.

One thing we do know is that the inventory of all our parks needs to be replaced. We keep patching things and now we are at the point of needing to replace our playground equipment. It's old.

Our goal is to get to the place where we can replace the old playground equipment and put in new in all the parks. We want to put into effect an good vision team and have the Mayor to support that and move forward with the community input and have a final draft to send to the state and have them approve it. Again thank you to everyone involved with this draft of the 2021 five year plan. No questions from the Board at this time.

7. Comments- Muncie Parks & Recreation Board- Brad stated the Parks Board members and Carl along with others have work long and hard on getting this started. The next meeting will be on April 13, 2021 in advanced to our normal meeting to insure we can plan an get it submitted by the dead line. No comments from the Board at this time.

8. Public Comment- (3) minute limit-Please state your name and address.

Christopher Bilbrey 6505 N. St. Rd. 67. I want to say thank you to the Park Board for the great job that you do and for the steps you have taken in

removing the line about Tuhey and the YMCA in the draft. There has been a lot of confusion. I want it to go on record I plan to do the same at the City meeting. A lot of the confusion has not come from the park board it has come from the administration. It has been a lack of communication. There have been statements made about what the city was looking at, what the YMCA was looking at. The message by the administration was confusion I feel the administration needs to own that. I watched a community update the day after the most recent statement. He said the Mayor and the YMCA had come to an agreement in Feb. about the Tuhey and YMCA . It didn't match the statement on the 18th of March or the 25th of March. In the community update response the Mayor stated he said he had a promise with the YMCA and he needs to honor it. Before he made a promise to the YMCA he made a promise to the City. He needs to honor that more than the other.

Anitra Davis - Muncie City Council. Anitra wants to thank the Board and Carl and the whole staff. They do a wonderful job. She wants to know what the update was about Prairie Creek. Was it about them becoming their own business away from the Parks dept. Brad Marshall stated yes number four stated in referenced to Prairie Creek development. Brad will read issue four as it is in the most updated draft.

Create and updated development plan for Prairie Creek that reflex its potential in the community as a reginal and National attraction. She wanted to know the importance of allowing Prairie Creek to be its own entity for the city.

Anitra stated: that in the past Muncie citizens have had transportation issues and don't go to Prairie Creek as much. If you make it its own entity if would further segregate people from using Prairie Creek. We want to do the opposite. We want to permute it for all citizens. Anitra stated if it benefits the city by being its own entity she understands that as well.

Brad Marshall stated: the city thought we could get more grants if Prairie Creek was its own entity but that is not the case. There is no benefit of them being their own entity. It is important to keep them partnered with the Park dept.

Anitra Davis stated: she wants to encourage other people to get more youth out to Prairie Creek. Hopefully Mitz and the Parks can help with that happening.

Shannon Powers stated: it would be a wonderful thing to make happen with the kids sense we have a new recreation dept.

George Foley with the Parks dept: wanted to respond the Anitra Davis issue with Prairie Creek and transportation. Last year during the summer program we were able to send one hundred youth to Prairie Creek. He stated that a lot of the kids had never been out to the reservoir. They were out there to work but had down time to play basketball during their lunch break. We want to have more projects for the kids at the reservoir this coming summer. This year we will have two hundred kids in our summer program. We are working with Mitz bus and they will be picking the kids up and transporting them back and forth to their job sites.

Ro Selvey city council stated: She agreed with Anitra Davis about getting the kids out to Prairie Creek more. She stated that it needs to happen more often than just for events with kids. Transportation needs to be constant so when family's wanted to go to Prairie Creek they don't need an event to do it.

Ro came to speak on a skate board park for the kids in the five year plan. I read it and there is no mention of having a skate board park in the five year plan. It is important to me to have one. I would like to see something in the five year plan about a skate Board Park. It's hard to get funding for it if there is no mention of it ever happening.

Brad Marshall stated: He did get the plan a week ago and gave it to the board members a week ago and we have that on the agenda for the April meeting. Also Carl stated that the Mayor has had discussion about the skate board Park at Westside Park. There has been mention of one. They need to present a proposal for it in the next Park meeting. Carl stated he would also like to see more youth going to Prairie Creek and seeing the bike trails and the water and other things Prairie Creek has to offer. Carl would like to have family day.

Todd Swackhamer 6510 N. Morrison rd. Muncie.

He represents the Muncie Skate Board. We have met with Carl and the Mayor and have had great support. The study's we have done Westside Park would be the best park to have a skate board park. Brad stated we have it on the next Board meeting agenda. Shannon Powers is impressed with the proposal and also have the Mayors indorsement hold a lot of weight.

Richard Ivy Deputy Mayor speaking 1209 N. Bellaire Ave. Muncie stated: He wants to thank the Board and Carl and everyone involved in getting the five year plan started. I got to see everyone in action. The Mayor has put me in charge of the Skate Board Park proposal. I am at a point to where I can sit down with everyone and talk about this and get things started if we move forward with this. Shannon Powers wants Mr. Ivy to organize a zoom meeting for this. Mr. Ivy stated he will do that.

Josh Perkins 7808 W. Kennedy Pkwy Muncie stated:

He is speaking on the Skate Board Park. He has done research on this type of park. Seventeen City's in the state of Indiana larger than fifty thousand people do not have a Skate Board Park. Mayor York in New Castle loved it and there talking about expanding. They have one in Prue that is how Mayor Gabriel Greer got elected. It was such a positive impact on the city. Thanks for listening to me.

Heather Williams 637 W. University Muncie stated:

She wants Tuhey reclassified as a Neighborhood Park slash special needs park because it is the only pool in the city. In the survey section where are the results of the survey comments. They were not a part of the plan and they should be. How are you all determining needs and interests for the Parks. The survey didn't ask them for their recreational needs and didn't give a list of existing programs. This list can also show who is being served by these programs. Will there be a list so people can view them in the five year plan. Who is considered stake holders in this plan. The document stated stake holders in this several times but does not identify them. Heather gave a list of her questions to the board.

Seth Rawlings 1206 S. May Ave. Muncie Stated:

He had looked at the five year plan and there is no mention of the Cardinal Green way and White River Greenway. Is there any way you are going to partner with them on any specific things. Bread Marshall stated Cardinal Greenway is a part of our network of trails. We don't have any specific things going on with them at this time. We have identified them as a partner with the trail system at this time. Shannon Powers Stated that different entity's in the city on pg. 31 we have classified Parks into categories for the readers. We don't have any programs for the Greenway at this time with the Parks. He also appreciates Tuhey and YMCA is taken out of the five year plan

Melinda Messineo 3505 N. Park Ln. Muncie

She wants to thank everyone working on the five year plan. They have bench marks and this is how we are reaching our goal. The previous plan had how other parks compared to others. It's a bench mark comparison. When will the final draft of the five year plan be done?

Brad Marshall stated there will be other panaceas that will be included in this draft. All maps all survey data will be included in this as well.

Shannon Powers stated they are following the DNRS form mat and it has changed from six years ago. It is more streamlined. There are things we don't have to have in it. We think we have a good plan. It is simplified and it meets the requirements. In two years we have to have an implementation review to make sure we have addressed our action schedule and how its set up which is on page forty nine.

Carl Malone stated: we do care about everyone's comments. We are a part of the Indian State Parks Association in Noblesville. We are hosting the state conferences here in Muncie at the down town Convention Center. Dates are November the second through the fourth. It is a great opportunity for all organizations to come together with us. They have a lot of information and great ideas. The Board has been instrumental in give me leadership and guidance being the park superintendent.

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

* Next meeting April 13, 6 p.m. City Hall

Park Board Meeting Public Input Sign In Sheet

Date: 4-1-2021

Name (Please Print)	Address
1. <u>LARRY SONNICK</u>	<u>508 N BREWSTER LN</u>
2. <u>Ethan Hirt</u>	<u>113 N Martin St.</u>
3. <u>Grace Belangee</u>	<u>2709 W Beckett Dr</u>
4. <u>George Foley</u>	<u>1232 N. Hodson Ave.</u>
5. <u>Shannon Powers</u>	<u>701 S. Prestwick Ln.</u>
6. <u>Doss Singer</u>	<u>2925 N. Mansfield</u>
7. <u>Phyllis Mills</u>	<u>1701 S. Blaine St</u>
8. <u>Anita Davis</u>	<u>Muncie</u>
9. <u>Seth Rawlings</u>	<u>1206 S. May Ave</u>
10. <u>Ronald Wirth</u>	<u>Muncie</u>
11. <u>Brandon Forich</u>	<u>2029 S. Daly</u>
12. <u>Ashley Bandy-Garrett</u>	<u>2029 S. Daly</u>

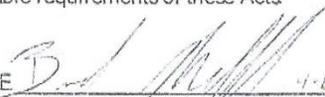
Park Board Meeting
Public Input Sign In Sheet

Date: April 11, 2021

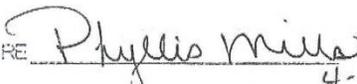
Name (Please Print)	Address
1. <u>Ro Selvey</u>	<u>2501 W. DeHy</u>
2. <u>Topo Swackhamer</u>	<u>6510 N MORRISON RD</u>
3. <u>Rick Joy</u>	<u>1209 N. Bellvue Ave</u>
4. <u>Melinda Messineo</u>	<u>205 N Lake Lane</u>
5. <u>Kristopher D. Bilby</u>	<u>6505 N SR 67 Munroe</u>
6. <u>HENNER WILKINS</u>	<u>637 W. University Ave.</u>
7. <u>Sarah Perkins</u>	<u>7808 W. Kennedy Pkwy</u>
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____
11. _____	_____
12. _____	_____

ASSURANCE OF ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE WITH:
ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT of 1968 (As Amended);
SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (As Amended);
AND TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990
(As Amended)

The Muncie Park+Rec Board (Applicant) has read the guidelines for compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (As Amended); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (As Amended); and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (As Amended) and will comply with the applicable requirements of these Acts.

SIGNATURE  4-1-21
APPLICANT PRESIDENT

Brad Marshall
(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE  4-1-21

Phyllis Mills
(Secretary's printed name)

DATE 4-1-21

APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

City of Muncie Parks and Recreation Satisfaction Survey
Conducted December 15, 2020 – January 15, 2021

1. How familiar are you with the city's Parks and Recreation Department?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Very familiar	28.37%	322
2	Slightly familiar	60.62%	688
3	Not familiar at all	11.01%	125
	Total	100%	1135

2. How many times have you visited any of the city parks this past year?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	1-5 visits	25.22%	286
2	5-15	32.19%	365
3	15 or more	42.59%	483
	Total	100%	1134

3. How satisfied are you with the walking trails?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Satisfied	38.31%	434
2	Somewhat satisfied	42.81%	485
3	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	15.00%	170
4	Dissatisfied	3.88%	44
	Total	100%	1133

4. How satisfied are you with the playground facilities?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Satisfied	20.18%	228
2	Somewhat satisfied	38.58%	436
3	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	27.52%	311
4	Dissatisfied	13.72%	155
	Total	100%	1130

5. How satisfied are you with the picnic facilities?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Satisfied	15.65%	177

2	Somewhat satisfied	37.58%	425
3	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	29.89%	338
4	Dissatisfied	16.89%	191
	Total	100%	1131

6. How satisfied are you with the restroom facilities?

1	Satisfied	5.42%	61
2	Somewhat satisfied	22.11%	249
3	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	34.55%	389
4	Dissatisfied	37.92%	427
	Total	100%	1126

7. Would you like to see more wetlands, forests, farmlands and/or heritage sites?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	82.27%	905
2	No	17.73%	195
	Total	100%	1100

8. What would you like to see more of in the Parks? Select all that apply.

#	Answer	%	Count
1	aquatic pool facilities (indoor and outdoor)	5.78%	432
2	fitness/exercise facilities	4.74%	354
3	botanical gardens	7.91%	591
4	off-leash dog parks	4.26%	318
5	walking/running track (indoor and outdoor)	5.46%	408
6	outdoor playground equipment (ADA accessible)	7.39%	552
7	spray parks/splash pads	7.67%	573
8	indoor playground equipment	3.56%	266
9	urban fishing areas	3.79%	283
10	golf courses	0.71%	53
11	bike/BMX course	2.22%	166
12	paved multipurpose trails	6.89%	515
13	nature trails/boardwalks	10.21%	763
14	environmental education center	5.26%	393
15	skateboarding parks	4.15%	310
16	disc golf course	3.10%	232
17	Cricket field	0.39%	29
18	youth recreation programs	6.56%	490
19	music in the park	8.78%	656
20	Other(s)	1.19%	89
	Total	100%	7473

Other(s) - Text

1. Bike lanes

2. indoor tennis courts
3. bocce ball !!!!
4. access to clean rivers for canoeing; kayaking and tubing
5. More benches in the parks and trails
6. Trees and plants and flowers
7. benches or just big logs or stumps scattered around to just sit and enjoy the outside and quiet.
8. Sculpture Parks
9. outdoor music arena & book artists
10. Green spaces like Tuhey park to be preserved
11. Handicapped accessible equipment/areas in all parks!!
12. Ninja Warrior type "playground" like in Huntington
13. Benches at Tuhey playground, trees
14. Larger, improved outdoor playgrounds. Also, with shade canopies
15. Tennis courts
16. More trash cans
17. Clean up river bank at McCulloch Park. It used to be a beautiful view. I welcome this type of tree growth, but not in the main part of the park
18. additional greenspace - open space for free recreation
19. Tennis and basketball courts and Gaga pit, 4-square
20. Community gardens and fruit trees
21. Excellent park maintenance. I have noticed improvements this year!!
22. Native plant species
23. Well maintained green space. Plant local varieties of flora to improve the overall health of our surroundings.
24. Native plants to promote native pollinators; remove invasive species like bush honeysuckle and autumn olive they are destroying the native plants that provide food for wildlife
25. Off Road Vehicle Trails at PCR
26. Pickle ball court
27. Family areas
28. Amphitheater
29. Not a YMCA
30. Nature play park (such as what's at Headstart)
31. Fences to keep put wild animals, like the coyote we saw and mean dogs. Security cameras to ward against creepers. Although I stay with my children, I would still appreciate it for the sake of the community.
32. More inclusive programs for children with special needs of different spectrums
33. Theatre in parks
34. Discovery spaces for children
35. A completely inclusive playground where my child in a whole hair has the same access as her baked siblings.
36. Free options run by the city, private closed access anything should not be in our parks
37. No YMCAs on park property
38. Camping
39. Green space
40. Definitely not a YMCA
41. Pickleball courts
42. Pickle Ball

43. Rock climbing
44. Green space
45. Green spaces
46. Whitewater parks / watercourses on the White River; green space
47. Pickleball
48. More sanitary and available water fountains and bathrooms
49. Pickleball Courts
50. Bocce ball and horseshoe
51. Sports fields, basketball hoops
52. Pickleball courts!!
53. Tennis courts
54. Connecting walkways from nearby neighborhoods. Many would use the park more if biking running trails to the parks existed!
55. pickleball courts
56. more family programs, picnics, music etc
57. Disability and wheelchair accessible playground
58. Kayak on white river
59. Theatre in the park
60. Nice bike trails
61. Kayak launches
62. More camping cabins at Prairie Creek
63. Info graphs pertaining to local Flora/Fauna
64. An exercise trail, as opposed to a "facility" - there are numerous cities which offer these to the public
65. Don't destroy our parks
66. Community farms
67. Tennis tennis tennis
68. I know I for sure do not want the YMCA to build on any part of Tuhey park.
69. Parkour and ninja warrior type environments
70. A park in the northwest part of the community.
71. Quiet areas for reflection
72. Pickleball Courts
73. Theatre
74. This might be included in ADA accessibility, but playground equipment especially for younger children

9. What would you like the Parks & Recreation department to do more of in Muncie?

1. More music
2. More musical events
3. Help restore neighborhood or pocket parks
4. We need to get the parts cleaned up some of the parts look very rundown in a zoo would be nice
5. Bike lanes
6. Build a better website with more information about all parks, trails, amenities that are available in Muncie; dog-friendly, stroller friendly, etc. A lot of the time I rely on Google for this information. (NOT Social media sites) The current website throws a 404 error.
7. Trail spurs, rugged along the river for mountain bike/trail runs

8. That there are parks on the White River
9. Create more options in larger neighborhoods like Halteman Village and create a community recreation center similar to many other towns in IN offer with indoor and outdoor swimming, playgrounds, gyms and workout areas.
10. Work on trails and natural habitats
11. Keep parks clean and updated
12. Native plantings
13. Cleaner parks & restrooms
14. Improve pedestrian access to parks, especially from nearby trails like the Cardinal Greenway and the White River Greenway
15. I would like an indoor pool for water exercise
16. Plan more for the older residents.
17. more tables and benches
18. Investing in current park assets, updating bathrooms. Bringing our parks up to the level of surrounding cities
19. Support live entertainment with inexpensive performance spaces
20. Spray pads
21. Do a better job of connecting existing bike trails
22. Keep playground equipment in excellent condition, have more dog off leash areas, more park community events.
23. Keep building more trails like the Cardinal Greenway. It's awesome.
24. Update the parks and they need to be more appealing for use.
25. More walking trails and interconnected trails, which would make them easy to get to
26. Skateboard park and more gardens and trails!
27. Gather input from neighbors and residents about master plan.
28. Expand recreational activities. I like the idea of music in the park, where people could gather and listen to music. Having more natural trails would be good too. More sidewalks to encourage people to bike and walk.
29. Keep up with mowing and trash.
30. Provide well maintained parks and recreation. Hire more staff and run department professionally.
31. Publicize the disc golf options. I think the quality of the disc golf courses in and around Muncie (namely McCulloch and Yorktown) is an underappreciated thing. If you look to online reviews of courses you will see that we have two highly rated courses that are complimentary to one another. They aren't pro-quality or anything but are amazing for the average disc golfer. I play courses frequently on vacation and our courses compare favorably and/or are flat out better than roughly 80% of the ones I play (and I am obviously looking to reviews in my selections). Just wanted to throw this out there because it is something that I don't think enough people know about or appreciate.
32. Make playgrounds that have walls or fenced areas that protect small children/toddlers from running into streets or traffic areas. When my child was small, I was very worried about taking her to the playgrounds that didn't have that.
33. Volunteering
34. Designate more areas for parks
35. Be more active and manage the parks and recreation services efficiently
36. Collaborations with other arts, cultural, educational, recreational organizations for programs and events

37. When we moved here 13 years ago (the age my girls would access playground equipment, I was shocked and devastated to find that it didn't exist. To someone coming in to a new city, it showed the lack of importance of family/children/exercise/play.

38. Place more art in the community and be able to maintain and expand outdoor offerings

39. More promotion

40. Better connections to the Cardinal Greenway. The Greenway is not a viable way to get around town on a bike, because there are few access points in the city. Look at the Constitution Trail in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois. It's easy to get on an off the CT and use it to bike to various places in town. Also, an admittedly expensive project, but some kind of bridge to take the Greenway over McGalliard and other thoroughfares would increase its usefulness.

41. To have one indoor facility (or several!) to help get us through the cold months would be so amazing. It would also be great to have a park with play equipment dedicated toward little kids. So much of the equipment is for kids 5 and up. If you have a toddler, that can be a challenge.

42. Can't think of anything else

43. Please protect Tuhey Park and plant many more trees in all parks.

44. Maintain the condition and cleanliness of the existing spaces.

45. Promote parks more, maybe host community cleanups

46. Pro it's parks, create new parks

47. More jobs for youth and more patrolling in the parks

48. Yes, I wish the ball Corp park on Macedonia had more playground equipment so kids could play while their parents walk

49. Promote park safety and all welcome

50. Please generate more awareness of the locations, activities, and events. It's hard to find a map of the parks, for example, or a list of upcoming events.

51. Indoor pool for year-round use

52. Keep the parks clean and up to date

53. Keep the parks clean and maintained

54. Update older equipment

55. Monitor areas for teenagers and young adults doing inappropriate things.

56. Teaching about outdoors, health, family activities, safety, expanding non-vehicle ways around town and between communities, beautify Muncie since you're doing such a great job with improving the parks

57. Beautify our current parks!!! And have playground equipment that is appropriate for toddlers.

58. Provide safer & convenient biking & walking options to parks; preserve parks for public use

59. More programming

60. Better maintenance of ballfields (as justified by use, of course)

61. Always consider the kids first

62. Would like to see more family friendly activities planned. Better shelters and picnic areas. More cleanup programs.

63. provide music/programs

64. Get a better police presence to possibly keep the criminal elements away. Certain criminals should not be allowed in our parks. They should lose the right if they commit violent crimes.

65. More walking trails; a plan for the future; don't give away Tuhey Park

66. Talk to citizens about what we want - this survey is a good start. Listen to citizens who oppose the YMCA development for Tuhey Park. Keep Tuhey Park a public park.

67. Maintenance

68. Don't use this information to support the BULLSHIT Tuhey/YMCA effort. Do not use my responses to justify features or offerings of the YMCA/Tuhey project.
69. Clean more and remove broken park benches and equipment.
70. Youth and adult programs
71. Youth programs, arts in the park, nature programs
72. The parks are not 'hands-on'. There should be classes for all types of people (young and old). We need more than just playgrounds; we have beautiful spaces that the city is not doing enough with.
73. Tennis courts!
74. I would really like to see a skate park
75. Add trash cans along green way and benches in shady spots, and don't let Tuhey park get bulldozed!!
76. Keep Junkies from hanging around and throwing down their needles. But logically make more appearances throughout area to maybe help keep them limiting their time at the park.
77. Take care of our parks and places better!! Clean them up!!
78. clean
79. Address the needs of smaller parks and parks in low-income communities first. Those kids/families really need the extra resources/support!!
80. City of Muncie needs to acquire more funds and park employees in order to even keep the existing parks clean and safe. Parks department does not seem to have the funding or manpower available now to maintain what we already have.
81. More updates and painting of playground equipment.
82. Programming. Bluffton Indiana has wonderful programming.
83. Fix Lafferty Field facilities
84. Free, community activities. NO YMCA TAKE OVER AT TUHEY!!!!!!
85. Yes
86. Community Sportsplex, Tennis and Volleyball courts, splash pads and pools, nature reserves
87. Get rid of the useless bike lanes
88. Plant more trees, community gardens (and engage inner city kids with this) build more benches around playground.
89. Be willing to keep the community green spaces GREEN and work toward getting more.
90. Walking trails in the existing parks, continue to replace & maintain play equipment which is ADA accessible.
91. Botanical Garden
92. Organized activities and sports leagues. Exposing kids to different sports through day camps or workshops; adult volleyball league; improved landscaping of outdoor areas, outdoor concerts; nature activities
93. More forested trails and another disc golf course would be amazing!
94. Connect with the schools to ensure students have access to parks and programs
95. Become visible! Spread the word of what you are doing.
96. Listen to what locals want
97. Not sell land to the YMCA.
98. coordinate programs and activities with schools, arts, and cultural organizations
99. Music festivals
100. Would like to see bathrooms updated to better sinks/water access/soap - better lit facility and power dryers
101. Create experiences that allow people to be outdoors more.
102. Have better park equipment and facilities. Muncie has a bad rep but the children need a fun and safe environment

-
- 103.Planned activities for families
-
- 104.Youth programs, family friendly events (after covid), updated playground equipment, baby/toddler friendly equipment at ALL parks
-
- 105.Celebrate the seasons/holidays. This could be done by setting up manned or unmanned displays for the holidays along with lights at the drive-through part of the parks. For example, St. Valentine's day is coming up, so why not have a "Lover's Lane" where people drive through to see framework of hearts or cupids, red/white fountains, etc. The same could be done for Easter with bunnies and Easter eggs to keep it non-secular. Fourth of July could have stars lit up with light shows. Halloween could be a drive-through "Haunted Park" with scary scenes and of course, Christmas/New Years could have the pine trees illuminated and/or various displays. I'm not for sure if a fee could be charged to help fund the electricity and purchase of lights, but if so, then this could be a money maker for the Parks & Recreation department to grow if they charge by the car/vehicle, maybe a \$2 or something nominal.
-
- 106.Rent park cabins for overnight stays
-
- 107.We need more parks west of Tillotson. Can you turn the green space from the old storer into a walking trail with fenced in dog park
-
- 108.Outdoor free events
-
- 109.Update equipment worse one is right across from your office!!
-
- 110.Maintain and upgrade park equipment and playground equipment
-
- 111.It would be beneficial to have restrooms located at all parks, even if they were Port-a-pottys.
-
- 112.Special events. Music, Civic Theater
-
- 113.More splash pads or swimming pools that are indoor as well. And more to offer on the north end of town.
-
- 114.Bike assistance regularly along the Greenway; clear trash in parks
-
- 115.Have a variety of free or low-cost events in the parks (bands, exhibits, special events, etc)
-
- 116.No comment.
-
- 117.Host activities to the kids
-
- 118.Regulate camping at reservoir.
-
- 119.Keep already existing park land as park land.
-
- 120.Parks are important to the total health of our citizens. Greater use should be encouraged. I don't know where all the parks are.
-
- 121.Collaborate with community groups to provide free activities in parks throughout the city, e.g., art fairs, flea markets, concerts.
-
- 122.Keep green space open and not give our parks to private businesses.
-
- 123.Bike Trails and more hiking trails, quality facilities at trailheads on Greenways, community sports & fitness programs, and definitely everything included in green infrastructure
-
- 124.We could definitely have much better outdoor playground equipment.
-
- 125.Disc golf upgrades
-
- 126.Connect River Rd trail to trail along White River Blvd
-
- 127.Disc Golf
-
- 128.Having experience hiking in southern Indiana it's difficult to say there's more than one single option for a long hike in the woods, which is the trail at the reservoir. Due to farming and actual park land it's hard to know if there's any more opportunity. For someone who loves nature and getting out of the city it's difficult to want to stay in the area. Maybe nothing we can do at this point but I thought I'd comment...
-
- 129.Make trail at wheeling on river safer from bicyclists. Have been almost hit twice in the last month.
-
- 130.There needs to be more parks for children and free splash pad areas
-
- 131.More attention to the security of parks.

-
132. Connect the walking/running paths from east to west
-
133. Keep parks mowed better
-
134. Concerts
-
135. Connect trails and better playgrounds I weekly drive to playground in another city. I also often spend money eating out/shopping. Many families do!!
-
136. Keep the Tuhey Park in the Parks Department, do not sell it off to the Y.
-
137. Connect trails, build destinations for children and families like a splash pad with a big new playground, build a new YMCA with indoor play area for children. Select areas that are wide open and not tucked away so they feel safe and inviting to go to.
-
138. Generally, update and plan for ongoing use as we fight the virus.
-
139. Do not lease parks for development. Why are you even asking about indoor recreational facilities? Is this directly related to the YMCA's plans to lease Tuhey? I do not support the City's plans to lease Tuhey Park to the YMCA for development. I want more playground equipment and green spaces for my children to play in. The YMCA is a private entity and can find their own land to develop.
-
140. Each park should have concrete where anyone could play Tennis/pickle ball, basketball, Gaga pit, and 4-square
-
141. DONT SELL OUT. KEEP TUHEY. WE NEED IT. PLEASE
-
142. Keep the parks safe from drugs and clean from this type of waste
-
143. Picnic tables throughout park area. More programs in parks. Movies in summer
-
144. The reservoir park with the rocket ship has a perfect playground. That is something we need at ALL of the parks. The park by united daycare needs a massive upgrade. That's the one my kids love the most because the shade is perfect for super super hot days a splash pad would be awesome, something like Daleville has. We can do this without tearing apart Tuhey.
-
145. Have movie nights. Have good currant movies.
-
146. Make more of the reservoir more accessible. There are so many restricted areas.
-
147. Leave parks as parks, not buildings.
-
148. Engage with the community. I discuss communication below, but there is little to no engagement with the department and the community that I am aware of. No programs, meetings, etc. Engagement would draw more people to the parks and ultimately draw support for the department as people have positive experiences at the parks.
-
149. Not sale our parks
-
150. More things for teens
-
151. Keep up with the parks. Update equipment. Would be nice to have a splash pad for the kids.
-
152. Cut weeds down so have more places to fish
-
153. Upgrade parks
-
154. Eliminate sex trolling! Provide better security. CLEAN UP trash!
-
155. Live music in the park areas
-
156. restrooms
-
157. Eliminate bush honeysuckle, autumn olive, and other non-native invasive species from around Prairie Creek Reservoir and other park lands. 2. Decrease the number of campers permanently parked at what seems to be a mobile home park at Prairie Creek Reservoir. 3. Limit the size of motors on boats at Prairie Creek, by imposing a registration fee associated with the horsepower of the motor; after all, this is a drinking water reservoir. 4. Ban motorized boats at Prairie Creek East of the bridge on SR 560E at Cunningham Ditch. 5. Ban the use of lead fishing tackle anywhere in any Muncie Park land.
-
158. Upkeep and beautification on current park areas, and along river.
-
159. Hire more full-time employees that efficiently work to keep the parks up

-
160. Don't give Tuhey Park to the YMCA.
-
161. Create more disc golf courses
-
162. Keep facilities and parks in good shape and keep them safe
-
163. Increase safety in parks
-
164. Refurbish the structures already built in the parks. Get the bathrooms up to code and looking nice.
-
165. Entertainment i.e., hands-on learning Leader events (math, reading etc); more outdoor concert series, summer theatre, science speaker/entertainment
-
166. First and foremost, ALL parks need to be safer. There are parks that playground equipment can't be used because it is dangerous. Park staff probably assume that since the park isn't being used, then equipment doesn't need fixed. Wrong! It is not being used because it is not safe. This applies to the smaller neighborhood parks specifically. Several larger parks have been greatly improved, so a big thank you for that. However, most of the smaller parks are just horrible. There is also very little playground equipment for the toddler age group and the children with varying abilities. Could we have a park or 2 that has toddler safe equipment? Could we have a park or 2 that has an abundance of varying ability equipment? Could there be an ice-skating park in one of the parks? Yes, I remember the one behind the convention center and that didn't last long. This one wouldn't need to be so elaborate. Restrooms. Can we talk about restrooms please? The parks that have restrooms, they are either locked, filthy, or unsafe. Many parks don't even have even a port a potty which is really terrible, but at least an option. There is so much more our Parks could be providing for every age group, we just need to work on it. So, you say the Parks Department needs more money to help operations, I have lots of ideas on how this can happen. You want a volunteer to just plan activities for the different parks and different age groups? Please call me! 765-749-4003.
-
167. Family-friendly and child specific programming would be great.
-
168. Prairie Creek Reservoir should be managed to protect water quality and native plant species. Instead, this is a year-round trailer park and multi-seasonal boat storage facility. The park is overrun with invasive plant species and the lake is inundated with invasive carp. Park employees should remove invasive plant species and reduce the number of motorized boats on the reservoir. There should be designated spaces for non-motorized boating and paddle boards, e.g., the cove near the Muncie Sail Club. .
-
169. Make the parks safer. More cop presence during the day. We desperately need an indoor playground and a couple splash pads.
-
170. Leave the PCR open to enjoy as it is meant to be. Too much regulation is a bad thing, within reason for safety
-
171. Not lease public parks to the YMCA! And put in facilities that help the community—e.g., public restrooms that are accessible to homeless 24/7.
-
172. More youth programs.
-
173. Maintain existing parks, in addition to developing new spaces.
-
174. Clean and fix stuff we have.
-
175. Work on the parks and restrooms
-
176. A botanical garden and an increase in green space, trees, in and wetlands
-
177. Save Tuhey Park
-
178. Maintain parks in have trash receptacles more available
-
179. Install more disc golf courses
-
180. Community Events in/centered around the parks
-
181. Have water there and rest rooms
-
182. Not sure
-
183. Better place to fish

184. A splash pad, more/ better bathroom facilities, updated playgrounds, indoor play options
185. SKATEPARK!
186. More youth rec programs and free indoor exercise opportunities
187. Modern facilities that are kept up
188. I would like the park on the South side of town, across the tracks on Walnut to be more frequently attended to and invested in. These parks are frequently used and are a blessing to our neighbors. We love Heekin Park and Thomas Park.
189. Sidewalks
190. Mow grass more.
191. Create a new set up for the beach at the res
192. Keep accessibility to the public a number one priority
193. I would like more upkeep of restrooms
194. Be aware of persons with disabilities and make all the facilities accessible
195. Do not give, sell, lease, rent, trade, or otherwise let an outside organization take over any "Underutilized greenspace".
196. Have more events, better farmers markets, and a more walkable city
197. Wetland restoration, nature walks, expanding park surface area, surveying residents
198. Educate people about nature
199. Programs for kids. Camp Prairie Creek is awesome. More things like that. Minnetrista and RedTail do a good job with nature education, but Muncie Parks are more accessible than those spaces and need to do that as well.
200. Keep up the conditions in our parks so that families feel safe and comfortable with facilities.
201. I'd like to see more summer rec programs, replace broken equipment in a timely manner, regrade and re-mulch several of the playgrounds. I'd love to see a splash pad or spray park like Daleville not Yorktown but doesn't need to have a concession stand just the water feature. Also, we need better nature related education please work with Redtail! Please also, install a good natural element playground something that will set Muncie apart from the surrounding area parks and benefit our children
202. Community runs
203. Park safety is of utmost importance. Especially at McCulloch Park.
204. Keep Tuhey pool and the adjoining park as it is!
205. Please more seating or covered shelters for people at dog parks. It's also very muddy or when it's dry it's so dusty. The water fountain is constantly broken there and the trash smells terrible. Please more dog parks. We love them and utilize both all year long.
206. Cleaner parks/updates as able with budgets
207. Improve existing parks and equipment.
208. I would like to see them complete the disc golf course out of the reservoir that could be one of the top 10 disk golf courses in all the state
209. Preserve existing parks do not reduce greenspace
210. Keep Tuhey Park as is. Do not destroy it for a facility that many in Muncie cannot afford.
211. Maintain the parks better.
212. I wish the playground equipment was updated and in better shape. Even with the recent update at west side park, there is still not much to do and it is not taken care of well. There are several smaller parks that are in desperate need of an overhaul. Cowan park has been in rough shape for years.
213. Deny the YMCA keep Tuhey
214. Outdoor programs such as youth sports/activities and music performances.

215. More events in the parks and do things with the river. Canoe races, art fairs, farmers market, volleyball courts, ball games, youth & adult sports. Keep Muncie parks, do not sell out or lease park, keep them public that anyone can use. No gates to keep them private. I pay taxes & that's my parks. I should be able to get to a handicap dock without a card. If a card is necessary then send a card to all taxpayers. If you want to privatize or lease taxpayers' parks sell all of the parks.
-
216. Outdoor community events
-
217. Free family events
-
218. Swim lessons
-
219. Clean up park areas
-
220. Clean the parks, they are always so dirty
-
221. Use more native plantings
-
222. Tell YMCA to go away
-
223. Keeping it safe and clean
-
224. Update playground equipment and add ADA playgrounds in all parks, link nature trails, install splash pad(s), install juvenile baseball diamond in Tuhey park for inner city leagues, skate/bike park(s), reinvent the small neighborhood parks, band shell for concerts and kid friendly festivals
-
225. Improve natural amenities while maintaining public control and access to our shared greenspace
-
226. More activities for children + families. Regular craft days throughout summer.
-
227. Learning opportunities like Spiral Scouts
-
228. Nature environmental classes. Adult fitness walking group
-
229. Disc golf
-
230. Encourage more citizen clean up days to keep trash minimized
-
231. Educational opportunities
-
232. Park programming, including arts and sports, plus a skate park, for all ages, plus outdoor education
-
233. Outdoor programs, and rehab/replace current dilapidated play structures.
-
234. protect Tuhey park!!! Keep public park space open and available for all of the public. The Y should stay downtown
-
235. Offer things for in the winter. Ice skating park, cross country skiing rental and trails
-
236. I don't know
-
237. Work with the YMCA and Maybe IU Health/Community Foundation and complete a new YMCA.
-
238. Natural areas. Less grass and mowing.
-
239. Hold community-involved events so the parks are a source of fun and entertainment for families of all walks of life, and have more options and experiences added to parks (see above responses).
-
240. Have more trails in wooded areas like mounds
-
241. Cut down dead trees and mow trim better MOWING JOB AT PRAIRIE CREEK IS THE WORST AS IT GETS
-
242. Some restroom facility at McCulloch would be a great addition. Even if it was a porta pot that was kept clean would be appreciated.
-
243. Make things more fun for family's
-
244. I like the parks. People can come and spread out.
-
245. Fix the security lights in all of the parks.
-
246. Clean up the existing parks and keep them cleaned up and in good condition (Thomas park for example needs serious maintenance)
-
247. Schedule programs for kids and adults to better engage with the parks and experience all they have to offer.
-
248. Retain the park spaces we have (don't give away Tuhey), reduce sewage smell on White River Greenway by train trestle

-
249. Grow sports and activity
-
250. Family friendly activities. Bathrooms available and in safe locations.
-
251. Have more handicap accessible equipment on now playgrounds
-
252. Maintain the facilities we have and invest in the lower income areas to give lower income neighborhoods nice, safe parks as well
-
253. Be funded properly to be able to keep up with mowing all the parks grass and also keeping it clean
-
254. More urban/ neighborhood parks.
-
255. Keep up the playground equipment. It's old and dilapidated in some parks.
-
256. Replace blight with landscaped and maintained green (not just a grass field). This wouldn't be a P&R task alone, of course.
-
257. Preserve more open green space, including Tuhey Park, and create more parks
-
258. I would like the Muncie Parks and Rec Department to travel more. The entire parks department needs to go on couple of field trips to visit the various parks in Hamilton County, Tippecanoe County, and Monroe County just to name a few to see firsthand the differences between the parks in those communities and the parks in Muncie. Well designed and maintained parks can be just as much an economic driver as anything else a community's economic development department can offer up and right now the parks in Muncie are neither well designed nor well maintained. McCulloch Park has two separate playground areas that appear disjointed and disconnect from each other because they are. The playgrounds themselves are poorly maintained with trash and litter being a common sight. The surrounding areas around these playgrounds are also poorly maintained. There is no landscaping and what little there is, is again poorly maintained. There is a picnic shelter, but it again looks as though it hasn't received any TLC since it was first constructed. There are no benches to speak of around these two playgrounds, so parents have nowhere to sit while their children play. (This is a problem at nearly every playground across the city). And rather than having trash cans placed throughout the park that would be emptied regularly (see how other communities keep their parks clean) there is a large trash totter that attracts more bees than actual trash. The totter is larger than the kids who play on the playground making it impossible for kids carrying trash to deposit it in said totter! These issues are not just isolated to McCulloch park but can be found at Westside Park, Heekin Park, and elsewhere. At Westside Park there is an entire area being underutilized near where the park meets Tillotson Ave. Please don't sell off this part of the park to the Boys and Girls Club or some other well-meaning developer. An under-utilized area of a park simply means that it has potential for something greater but that something greater MUST BE PARK RELATED! Finally, what I would like to see more of is more parks and more greenway paths. Muncie is falling behind rapidly in what has become the new community arms race. Communities such as Noblesville, Fishers, Bloomington, Kokomo, and Westfield have more parks and trails than us and it kills me! Yes, Muncie has a glut of vacant and abandoned properties, but this negative could be turned into a positive by turning these areas of the city into new parks and connecting all our parks via a trail system. Ah, but we have the Cardinal Greenway and White River Greenway! Yes, those were ahead of their time and are wonderful assets for our community, but their limitations must be recognized. For many residents neither are easily accessible and neither actually goes anywhere. Compare our trail system with the trail system in Boise, ID where their Greenbelt directly connects 12 parks and indirectly connects 5 additional parks together. In conclusion we need more parks, not less. They need to be taken seriously as the economic development tool they really are. And the parks department needs to look around to see what other communities are doing to see just how far behind we've fallen. Parks can be a source of pride for a community if the community has something to be proud of.
-
259. Work on safety, as I suggested in my comments. Make it beautiful! More flowers, gazebos, jazz music or Christian music (not rock or country).
-
260. more trees
-

-
261. Keep the trails clean & safe!
-
262. Better lighting at night when a park is not lit up is scary because there are always homeless drug addicts hanging out at the parks
-
263. Take care of Halteman Park
-
264. Maintenance/ mowing. Make some splash parks.
-
265. Update the playground equipment in neighborhood parks, such as Cowing Park.
-
266. Communicate better with the citizens before making decisions that affect us all
-
267. Adapt old brown fields or blighted land/property into parks
-
268. Keep the YMCA downtown. There is room for expansion there. Leave Tuhey Park as it is with green space.
-
269. More inclusive programs for children with special needs of different spectrums
-
270. Maintain and develop public access, free facilities with no leases to private third parties.
-
271. Pick up the trash
-
272. Save Tuhey from private interests.
-
273. Implement and maintain disc golf courses
-
274. No gated reservoir camp ground
-
275. Clean up. Stopped going to a few parks after finding needles
-
276. Rehab old equipment, or recycle and replace altogether.
-
277. Music in the park
-
278. Give youth more to do
-
279. Provide more green spaces, florals in parks. maybe even more community herb/veggie gardens
-
280. The children need more from their community. In terms of parks specifically, look at the Burriss school playground as a model. You invest in activities for children in the community and the city ultimately benefits from that investment. The kids need more from Muncie. There is very little here to offer them.
-
281. More trails that connect to each other (like the new Riverside Drive trail will do) and nature trails that promote conservation
-
282. Have indoor places for winter!!!
-
283. I don't come from here, moved from Minneapolis and this is the dirtiest town ever; you are lacking so much. Have pride in your city and make people want to live here. Horrible
-
284. Please make it a priority to protect our public parks and please do not sell the land to private businesses.
-
285. Music in the parks
-
286. Outdoor exercise stations, like the ones in Marrow's Meadow
-
287. No fees, not gated.
-
288. Make more parks throughout the City
-
289. More events in the parks, Lobby for the parks instead of kowtowing to the mayor
-
290. Cycling paths, paved and off-road trails.
-
291. Better playgrounds. Connect all trails.
-
292. Stop privatizing public parks
-
293. Creating more activities in all the parks
-
294. Create more disc golf courses, make Muncie a Mecca for disc golf.
-
295. Use Disc golf as a reason to visit Muncie. Upgrade and improve the existing course that we have I'm In Delaware Co
-
296. Build more picnic pavilions and public restrooms in parks that are maintained regularly.
-
297. Supervise play areas to keep vandalism controlled and make it safer
-
298. Golf Driving Range,

-
- 299.Safe and connective bike routes
-
- 300.Encourage Disc golf more
-
- 301.Put a state-of-the-art YMCA facility at Tuhey, it makes all the sense in the world.
-
- 302.Upgrade disc golf courses
-
- 303.More programming, more parks on north side of city
-
- 304.Maintenance of parks mowing restrooms playground
-
- 305.More trails where possible. Consider adding water features (creeks, ponds, etc.) to parks like Mccullough to increase interest
-
- 306.Reuse buildings that are vacant and areas like Warner gear that needs rehabilitation.
-
- 307.Organize activities, like kickball, baseball, soccer, flag football, reading circles, etc. - for kids in park space. Retrain our bloated police force to do this work.
-
- 308.Put additional or newer playground equipment in the parks
-
- 309.Advertise!
-
- 310.Keep and enhance our existing public greenspaces, offering more amenities that don't detract from the natural beauty
-
- 311.Avoid selling out to YMCA
-
- 312.Keep adding parks and trails. What we have going on here in Muncie is fantastic, we should be adding to that.
-
- 313.Create infrastructure for entertainment and cultural activities across the city in parks (not just Canan commons) partner with high school band/choir for performances and outside educational convocations and neighborhood-based experiences
-
- 314.Muncie has a great opportunity to become one of the states disc golf destinations. If we could have just a bit more of a push on it.
-
- 315.Tell the YMCA to ■■■ off
-
- 316.Take better care of current parks. We have a semi pro baseball field that is in poor condition.
-
- 317.Continue building Greenpeace, permaculture, spaces for youth of all economic ability
-
- 318.Do not let the YMCA build on Tuhey Park land.
-
- 319.Better maintenance, complex with pickle ball courts and restrooms, convert unused tennis courts to pickle ball
-
- 320.I think Park and rec. does a good job. Just build on what Muncie has.
-
- 321.Disc Golf
-
- 322.McCollough is the only park that has Disc Golf, I'd like to see Heekin, Ball and Westside have Disc Golf courses. It would definitely increase the flow in those parks.
-
- 323.More implementation of disc golf courses.
-
- 324.Concert venue with good headlining band bring money to Muncie
-
- 325.walk, observe nature, activities for youth skateboarding area, bike trails, basketball, soccer areas.
-
- 326.Do not take away our green spaces for YMCAs
-
- 327.Provide outdoor options for all economic and age classes.
-
- 328.Youth programming
-
- 329.Cultivate open green spaces and pocket prairie areas to add to the overall non-paved/undeveloped land in Muncie.
-
- 330.Work with the people, not corporations. Say no to the YMCA taking over our park!
-
- 331.clean, cut brush, weeds, trees along water at Prairie Creek
-
- 332.Ensure all outdoor venues have good working restrooms
-
- 333.Clean up the parks. More grooming, better equipment for kids, more basketball courts
-
- 334.Sponsor local club activities
-
- 335.Have better relations with the public and increase amount of acreage of public use availability.

-
336. More family friendly programming and outdoor concerts
-
337. Not turn Tuhey into a Y!
-
338. Continue to improve existing parks and plan programs for the youth.
-
339. Allow YMCA to build a new facility at Tuhey Park
-
340. Facilities for teenagers
-
341. More accessible playgrounds that are inclusive to ALL children.
-
342. High-quality paving and playgrounds
-
343. Maintain green spaces which include natural zones and make accessing them easier with adequate parking and wheelchair/stroller accessibility.
-
344. Keep Thomas park clean and mowed
-
345. Not lease public space to private groups for construction.
-
346. Natural areas with dirt paths.
-
347. I don't have young kids anymore, so I'm not really the person to ask.
-
348. Clean parks
-
349. Leave Tuhey park alone!
-
350. Halteman Park fill in abandoned pool and old water filter structure, pave/ fix tennis/ pickle courts, picnic structure, take down old bath house and concession buildings, plant trees, picnic tables, playground equipment...
-
351. Youth programs, ADA accessible equipment (indoor & out)
-
352. Get people outdoors in all weather
-
353. listen to and engage with our citizens more, and for-profit businesses less
-
354. I'd like to see more paved and safe pathways with security lights.
-
355. Upgraded playground equipment and a free splash pad for kids!
-
356. Summer outdoor youth sports clinics basketball, tennis, volleyball, track
-
357. Get rid of geese who poop on walking trails.
-
358. Take care Prairie Creek better as it is about the only revenue making park for the city of Muncie
-
359. Splash pad and water parks for all kids to have access to at all parks
-
360. I would like to see more youth recreational programs that as accessible to low- and middle-class families.
-
361. City increase parks and rec budget.... facilities additions and equipment, staff, etc
-
362. I would like to see more connections Between the parks and the trails.
-
363. Open access to indoor pool
-
364. Regular, easy access to lap lanes at swimming pool. Right now, there is very little access- at the YMCA, only 1 lane is usually open. Even when there are very few people in the pool, they don't put more lane lines in so it's very difficult to be able to actually swim there.
-
365. Get the public interested in again using the parks. we have parks that are "just sitting there" Bring back the joy of going to the park for fun. Interact with friends. We have to get that spark back, interest "need". Is the public afraid to go to park?
-
366. Get rid of attacking geese
-
367. Build more pocket parks in neighborhoods
-
368. Continue upkeep on cowing
-
369. Upkeep of current parks
-
370. Mountain bike trail
-
371. More inviting or options selected above
-
372. Pool it closes all of the time
-
373. More Children's programing free or at low cost to the underserved community
-
374. More summer programs

375. I would love something fun happening in the mall to draw families there with a food court around it -- an indoor playground like this would be AMAZING! -The Commons in Columbus, IN
<https://columbus.in.us/commons-playground/>
-
376. Awareness. Making our parks a place to meet and celebrate.
-
377. Before you even consider the above question, you need to discuss what is a comprehensive recreation program and what are their essential components that have to be put in place. The study that was completed in the late 90's was funded by Ball Brothers, the City of Muncie, Delaware County Council, and the Muncie Papers. A lot of effort was put into the preliminary things necessary to begin a planning process then was torpedoed by an election. It's not a case of doing more of the same old same old but if you are serious then you will do the necessary preliminary work needed to move a first-class program forward. Muncie had many resources to draw from (the Y's, the schools, the present Park department, various youth serving organizations, other activity-based programs both intellectual and recreational. If this is a true master plan then everything needs to be placed on the table to in developing structure from where a program can develop and grow. If not, the result will be what you have had for the past several years.... not much of anything that certainly does to meet the needs of the community.
-
378. Concerts
-
379. Connect walking trails to outlying areas
-
380. Parks can be a source of Revenue for the city. Using the greenways for a city-wide art walk or some type of festival that allows vendors to line the streets to increase traffic to the city.
-
381. Just make things appear fresh, clean & newer. Make them well-lit starting at sundown. Lots of nice trash cans. Nice clean bathrooms that are kept up daily. Water fill stations. Food Trucks allowed. Lots of different recreational things to do in a safe place.
-
382. Splash pads
-
383. None
-
384. Create more pickleball courts.
-
385. Need more parks in northwest part of Muncie, especially now that Storer playground is gone and other elementary schools closed
-
386. Create more community events like the Bridge Dinner.
-
387. Safe walking space from neighborhoods to rec or play space -sidewalks or multi use lanes; outdoor recreation space - lighted tennis courts, skate park
-
388. More walking trails
-
389. Renovations and updates
-
390. More playgrounds, entertainment areas, splash pads
-
391. Provide safe and clean recreation areas
-
392. Have a splash park. Continue fixing rough spots on the greenway. Build a connection biking trail on North Walnut and Riggins Road
-
393. Better restroom upkeep.
-
394. Bike trails
-
395. Larger parks with fields for the community, walking trails, nice playgrounds, and usable restrooms
-
396. More sidewalk
-
397. Youth summer programs
-
398. Build Pickleball courts
-
399. Block the YMCA from moving to Tuhey Park.
-
400. Listed above
-
401. Build more pickleball courts
-
402. Maintain clean, safe, equipment and facilities in the parks. More places to swim.
-
403. Indoor swimming for adults

-
404. Keep Tuhey as it is.
-
405. DON'T KNOW
-
406. Splash Pad
-
407. More treed spaces (Big trees! Oak, etc--think 100 years down the road)) with sculptures/gardens/fountains/etc--giant, open grass spaces have little to hold interest for long and are uncomfortable with hot blazing sun beating down on you
-
408. Open the downtown YMCA pool
-
409. Keep the grounds clean and weeded. Keep building trails
-
410. develop more pickleball courts in all parks and offer youth and adult learning / playing programs.
-
411. Maintain walkways along White River, free of debris.
-
412. Cleaner facilities, kayak access
-
413. More aquatics programs for all age levels
-
414. Create grant-funded programs for students after school or on weekends that teach/train them in skills and/or hobbies.
-
415. Add more connectors from neighborhoods to trails
-
416. Create programs for teens (not having much to do in the community)
-
417. Have more Youth Programs
-
418. Organized sports teams for each park.
-
419. Remember they were children once and put the children a number one options before deciding on a plan that one person discuss at one meeting
-
420. Fix up the parks that we currently have and look at creating a few more in areas where they are needed.
-
421. Have structured activities for Under-resourced families
-
422. Provide a fenced in area around the play structures to prevent some children from running off.
-
423. Work with non-for profits to provide high quality programming and safe activities for Muncie Youth.
-
424. Quit wasting money on areas that are not visited or take years of development.
-
425. Beautification of parks and connections to the fantastic trail systems in our community
-
426. Do not sell or trade parkland. Please save Tuhey! Also, I'd love to see more gardens and an indoor park. I have also seen parks with large fitness games that can be played and would love Tuhey love to see a park complex with a splash pad and those types of games
-
427. Have hunger skateparks build Muncie a skatepark!!!
-
428. Take care of the parks they have
-
429. Keep the parks as they are, but clean them up.
-
430. Not destroy parks for building ???
-
431. Planting more trees, garbage cleanup
-
432. Provide more diversified outdoor activities for all ages, e.g., bocce ball or horseshoe courts, sand volleyball court, and provide trash receptacles.
-
433. Work closely with MACC and other local creators to fill our parks with some more Muncie character.
-
434. Open park areas
-
435. Youth programs
-
436. Muncie absolutely needs an indoor aquatics facility in order to keep our swim teams. Current school pools are falling apart and it would be a tragedy to lose what access our youth have for such programs to places like Fishers or Pendleton. Up to date and accessible park equipment is paramount for families, and updated park trails would be great.
-
437. Keep Tuhey park and pool opened! It's the only outdoor pool in Muncie that low-income families have access to

438. Clean up the parks more
439. Outdoor parks, outdoor pools, safe clean bathrooms areas and outdoor programs planned for children 2yrs old and up.
440. Need more parks
441. Keep the established parks, like Tuhey Park, as they are.
442. Clean, grass mowed, clean restrooms
443. To preserve the parks, we have- not to trade, lease or sell for development!
444. The same! You guys are doing great.
445. PRESERVE GREEN SPACE IN TUHEY PARK - NO YMCA FACILITIES
446. SAVE TUHEY PARK
447. Fix up Heekin Park and build a new playground for the kids.
448. Make the parks safe and appealing to families
449. Clean up some of the picnic areas and have more defined walking paths in some areas (does not have to be paved)
450. Save Tuhey Park
451. Make the parks more beautiful with flowers, etc.
452. Adapt more green spaces
453. Create an actual park with facilities in the northwest part of Muncie
454. Regularly clean up parks. Get rid of the multi-color wood posts at McCulloch Park, and instead paint them a more neutral color.
455. Educate and emphasize the importance of outdoor recreation, no matter the cost, age, race or sex.
456. Increase safety, reduce illegal activity
457. Have safe family friendly parks and facilities.
458. Add group activities
459. Don't sell, lease, or otherwise distribute parks and land for private use in any capacity
460. LEAVE green space at Tuhey Park ALONE!! #saveTuheyPark
461. Don't know what they are capable of doing in the first place!
462. Maintain greenspace, routinely
463. Interact with the community
464. SAVE TUHEY PARK.
465. we need parks on the northwest side of Muncie!
466. Develop more parks
467. Stop giving away OUR parks to developers!!! Otherwise, you guys are cool.
468. Keep Tuhey pool open! Not all citizens of Muncie have access to pools!
469. Get groups to sponsor events in the parks. Yoga, Tai Chi
470. Keep the parks, don't lease it out
471. Protect existing parks and amenities.
472. NO YMCA IN THUEY PARK
473. No leasing, selling, or closing
474. Not remove public parks for private development.
475. Benches & shade trees
476. To keep Tuhey park and to offer more youth recreational programs.
477. Nature and wilderness areas
478. Install kayak canoe launches. Not just a gravel hill straight to the river.
479. No leasing, selling, or trading of our park land to private groups; save Tuhey for purely public use.
480. DO NOT SELL LAND TO DEVELOPERS PLEASE!

481. Yes, I would but not at just any cost.
482. Maintain integrity and keep green spaces green. Remember that this is public land, not intended to be sold, traded or leased.
483. Holiday events
484. Protect our parks and their land from being purchased by private enterprises
485. Please do not remove Tuhey park
486. Caring for the natural environment of the Delaware county area.
487. I think Muncie needs more forested areas that have trails through it. The Craddock Wetlands is a beautiful place, and one that provides a wonderful escape. I'd love to see more spaces like that, where individuals and groups can get out of the sidewalk and concrete and bask in some trees and greenery. I'm very encouraged by the city's purchase of land off Tillotson to curate such a space. I'd love to see more similar spaces throughout our city.
488. Not lease or sell Tuhey Pool/Park
489. Dog parks
490. I often take my children to Yorktown for their parks because ours are in I'll repair. Inevitably I buy lunch there, purchase gas, etc. I would love to keep my money in the community and not have to travel to another city for my kids to use safe and working play spaces.
491. They for sure need to NOT sell, lease or trade park land for development! Green space is very important and getting rid of it for a concrete monstrosity is asinine.
492. Not give up Tuhey park for a YMCA!!!
493. I do not want to see park land sold, leased or traded to development companies on the whim of whatever government runs Muncie at the time.
494. Bring nature closer to the crack houses and meth labs
495. Stop getting rid of parks for development
496. Don't take away green space for private facilities
497. Please do not reduce green space by leasing to YMCA
498. Police better for safety
499. Create new & maintain existing green space & nature areas
500. Preserve current parklands and increase more park/greenspaces. Don't sell or lease existing parks.
501. NOT lease Tuhey Park
502. Ensure that Park/outdoor space are never supplanted by indoor buildings.
503. Tennis-there are very few places for kids to play tennis-BSU and school courts that used to be available to the public are now locked
504. Partner with the Muncie Arts and Culture Counsel and Plyspace to have some cool programming. Maybe a sculpture park.
505. Community involvement
506. Trash containers, green spaces for creative playing,
507. Protect public land/green side and invest in free, accessible, modern park experiences. Don't privatize but invest deeper in what we have.
508. Not sell or lease park land out. Keep Tuhey park!
509. Be for the community
510. Regulate and maintain the dog parks. I am willing to pay the membership fee if that helps.
511. Take a more active role in developing higher density areas where I can live next to a park and walk there. To not build parks in random places in the community where I have to drive a car.
512. Do less. Sell some assets.
513. Keep the people informed of what is on the agenda.
514. Not sell, lease, or destroy historical parks (i.e., Tuhey!!)

-
515. Invest in more safe, adventurous, and modernized playground equipment for the kids. This could bring more kids out to the parks.
-
516. More walking trails in parks
-
517. Expand trails for hiking, biking, are least some that are ADA accessible; natural areas for wildlife & quietude
-
518. Keep parks well maintained
-
519. Programming
-
520. More playgrounds, splash pads, more green space. More water fountains.
-
521. Compost
-
522. Picnic tables trees without Poison Ivy
-
523. Community events to get people in the parks
-
524. More playground equipment for toddlers/younger age
-
525. Work with neighborhoods and community to gather input and work alongside them on improvements
-
526. Improve our parks without selling, trading, leasing or otherwise giving up parkland.
-
527. Expand parks in the city limits.
-
528. Events that gather the community together. Concerts, festivals, car shows, etc.
-
529. Actual programming. See the list of lessons and programs partnered between CMU students (central Michigan university) and the city of mt pleasant Michigan
-
530. To actually do their job, and make parks look nice.
-
531. I'd like them to get more funding, first of all, their budget isn't big enough to update or beautify the parks we currently have, so I have no idea how you expect them to do more.
-
532. Protect & improve what we have.
-
533. Parks & Rec should be viewed as advertisements for Muncie as a great place to live and work
-
534. Do not give away Tuhey Park
-
535. Take care of the parks, preserve the parks and build more parks and maybe act like the city of Muncie is proud of their parks?
-
536. Host music & educational picnic events
-
537. More security in the parks
-
538. Just more focus on spreading awareness of the importance of outdoor play and activities for everyone!!
-
539. Toddler size play equipment, paved walks near playground (so parents could walk laps while kids played but could still be seen), restrooms (clean/safe)
-
540. Not sell Tuhey to the YMCA, not turn Tuhey into a parking lot for the YMCA, not rent Tuhey to the YMCA
-
541. Do not give up Tuhey Park to a private entity! Create more trails for people to exercise safely outdoors.
-
542. I know they work very hard to keep the Parks and Recreation areas looking good and in good condition. While at a neighborhood meeting at Ross Center I was very impressed with the changes that are being made and the trees they planted and the very nice shelter area. My sisters and I would walk to Rose park a lot when we were growing up and I still live in the area.
-
543. Save Tuhey from the YMCA or any other invader
-
544. Create more friendly walking paths. I go to Anderson for longer nature paths such as Killbuck Wetlands.
-
545. Beautifying and improving existing parks. Adding amenities.
-
546. Mow grass, weed, remove dead trees.
-
547. More green space and sidewalks.
-
548. Save Tuhey!

549. I have been very impressed with our parks system. Some parks get a little more attention than others.

550. Do not reduce the amount of parkland by leasing, selling, or trading parks to private developers.

551. Website!!!!!!! The website needs to "sell" the parks. There are many amazing things about our parks, but no attractive digital representation of their beauty, amenities, events, etc. It needs to be separate from the City of Muncie website, which is seriously lacking. Website/marketing around Prairie Creek Reservoir. This is such an amazing resource that looks seriously lackluster online. Work with Shantanu Suman (Vis Comm, Ball State) to have his students design a new brand for Parks and Recreation. They have done award-winning designs for many Muncie neighborhoods. I also recommend partnering with other organizations (I think they are already doing this, but they should be more visible in those partnerships.) In connection to the question below, of course a green infrastructure sounds great. But at what cost? What would we have to give up to fund that?

10. Would you like Muncie to adopt green infrastructure connecting our park system? (Green infrastructure could include trails, linear open spaces, or "green streets" - referring to streetscapes that include bike lanes, sidewalks, and green buffers?)

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	80.82%	902
2	No	3.94%	44
3	No opinion	15.23%	170
	Total	100%	1116

11 - What CHANGES do you feel Muncie's parks need to occur?

1. youth activities
2. Update equipment
3. More outdoor greenspace
4. More lighting
5. Pedestrian friendly Prairie Creek
6. Update facilities (playgrounds, restrooms)
7. More safe options closer to our neighborhood
8. The "green trail" on Riverside involves chopping down about 20 trees, many of which were 50+ years old, to put in a trail that has NO use for cyclists rather than a sidewalk. There are so many safe ways to bike through that neighborhood and only "city ego" needs to destroy so much greenery to build a "green trail". There has to be much more sensitive awareness of the impact of suburban/exurban style trails in an urban setting.
9. Raise funding by donations not taxes
10. More accessible parks and play areas in ALL neighborhood
11. Better defined boundaries and gateways/entrances
12. Up signage on Cardinal Greenway
13. Leave Tuhey Park alone
14. Recreation for kids
15. Splash pads
16. I don't know whose job it is to build the bike trail on Riverside but it is needed
17. More parks and trails on the Southside

18. Keep expanding. Parks are great and I want to see more of them.
19. Parks need to be updated
20. More walking trails
21. Lighting or safety measures
22. More sidewalks and bike lanes
23. Better green spaces
24. Mowing
25. Expand and Develop Parks/Rec Department.
26. Make walking trails or tracks smoother and have fenced areas.
27. Security
28. More space especially on the west side
29. Mature trails and embedded gardens
30. More professional staff
31. Install updated playground equipment and splash pads
32. More walking/hiking trails
33. Groom, landscape to make them appealing
34. More places to access the Greenway.
35. More funding for upkeep
36. More trees
37. Cleaner and better maintained facilities
38. Cleaner restroom facilities
39. More parks
40. Organize to wash down the trails to remove goose waste
41. Some are in need of maintenance; I think it was Thomas park where I saw broken down playground equipment. Also power has never been restored to shelter at westside park
42. More disc golf maybe pickle ball courts and walking trails
43. KEEP TUEY PARK, GREEN SPACE & POOL (NO CHANGE)
44. Improve awareness
45. Make more handicap space and handicap accessible playground
46. Safety and security - I don't feel safe in some of the parks alone with my kids
47. Healthy activity availability and direction
48. Better playground equipment
49. Education on plants or the trees they are planting
50. Safe parks
51. Better maintenance and improvements to the parks the city already has.
52. Trash pickup and maintenance upkeep
53. Clean
54. Safer children's equipment; no metal
55. More Lighting
56. More space for parks
57. Maintenance
58. NOT A PROJECT WITH THE YMCA
59. Routine Maintenance/upkeep of play areas
60. DO NOT give Tuhey to YMCA
61. More classes
62. Tennis courts for public access
63. More green space

64. Promotion! We have great parks that a lot of people don't use or see value in
65. Add some color to landscaping.
66. Better equipment. Outside playground.
67. Expansion/improvement of smaller/low-income parks
68. Restrooms need more attention and cleaning, keeping hand soap stocked
69. Updates to equipment.
70. Some still need updated/cleaned up
71. Maintenance
72. Maintain current facilities & honor their history
73. Would love to see free splash pad areas in several parks throughout Muncie. Kids get hot when playing or just being in the sun and lots of families can't afford to take them swimming or a water park area
74. Newer equipment, keep perverts out of McCullough Park
75. Better leadership
76. Planting trees in green spaces (community gardens too)
77. Botanical Garden
78. Cleaner/nicer facilities. For sample-look how nice the Daleville Splash parks facilities are - we have nothing that comes close to that here in Muncie and we are a MUCH LARGER community
79. Public Park areas MUST remain FREE to the public!
80. I'd love for there to be more natural play areas, like the giant log area at Dutro Ernst.
81. This survey is a great idea
82. Splash parks
83. Program staff support
84. We need a skate park for skaters.
85. interactive signs identifying trees/flowers
86. Better and cleaner restrooms
87. See above
88. I love the updates made to many of the parks. Keep it up!!
89. See comment above
90. Aquatic pool facilities
91. Develop more pocket parks
92. Make safer with updated equipment
93. Upgraded park equipment
94. Better playground equipment
95. More upgrades to be more fun and inviting
96. Clean up river bank at McCulloch Park.
97. Access to a map of all Muncie parks
98. Funding for Urban Forester to better maintain trees, e.g., remove dead/dangerous trees, plant appropriate trees.
99. Update and ensure facilities are safe and plentiful.
100. We need the outdoor space for our kids and community.
101. Upgrade disc golf
102. Cleaner parks
103. A sustained anti-littering campaign - including organized volunteer trash pick-ups.
104. Updated playground equipment
105. Better equipment for children to play on. Keep parks cleaner. Pick up trash, etc..
106. Free splash pads for summer use and low-income families to enjoy

107. Improve the security
108. Have more visibility of police in park for the safety of our children
109. Better playgrounds
110. Construct more bike paths and walking trails.
111. General update
112. Trash pickup throughout the parks
113. Clean up existing parks
114. Skateboarding
115. Seek volunteers to help with maintenance
116. Upgraded playground equipment for smaller parks downtown.
117. Muncie needs many more green spaces. We're too crowded together.
118. Security
119. Better restrooms that don't have spiders and be maintained better.
120. More clean and well-equipped picnic areas
121. I really think Tuhey Park should remain a public park. It's a beautiful resource for all of Muncie.
122. Quality/sanitation of park facilities. I do not visit Muncie parks often, partially because the facilities (shelter areas, bathrooms) have not been clean or well maintained.
123. Maintenance and improvement of existing park space
124. Update playgrounds
125. Better lawn care
126. Make visitors feel safe!
127. Promotion of the small park areas in the city allowing groups to perform there at no cost
128. Remove non-native invasive species.
129. Bathrooms could be maintenance more often for cleanliness.
130. Leave Tuhey alone.
131. Safety
132. Refurbish structures already standing.
133. Garden groups for each park
134. See comments above-Safer equipment/more for varying abilities
135. More maintenance (cleaning, landscaping, mulching)
136. Control invasive plant species
137. Better cleaning of parks. I'm tired of finding used needles at the bottom of slides.
138. PCR needs to have the West side opened back up to, more than horseback riding
139. Saving Tuhey
140. Better upkeep and updating of the cabins.
141. Utilize neighborhood associations and municipal work programs for maintenance.
142. ADA play equipment! Or more options
143. Fix/clean/update what we have
144. Fishing
145. We need an indoor 50-meter pool
146. Better upkeep of bathrooms, making sure toilet paper and soap are available and restrooms are clean; additional bathrooms along walking paths
147. Skatepark
148. Splash park/spray pad
149. Attention to detail. They seem so outdated.
150. I think the parks could be better maintained, more frequent trash pickup and overall maintenance.

151. Clean up the trailer trash shanty town at the prairie creek campgrounds. No more year-round campers there!!!!!!
152. More lighting
153. Security
154. Clean up.... check them daily
155. More inviting
156. fully accessible playgrounds
157. More safe neighborhood parks.
158. Revamped playground equipment and better care of the grounds at all parks
159. Better playground equipment, all ages, accessible
160. Restrooms
161. More seating in Dog parks more maintenance there
162. Updated equipment
163. More green spaces!
164. Better restrooms
165. Clean safe public spaces and clean restrooms
166. Maintain the parks better, fix or replace the broken playground equipment.
167. Better playground equipment in every park.
168. Keep Tuhey
169. New playground equipment
170. Be able to get close to river at McCullough park with picnic table and benches
171. Improve restroom facilities
172. More personnel!!
173. More playground equipment and handicap equipment!
174. Clean
175. More natural areas with trails
176. Quit giving away park land
177. Better bathroom accessibility closer to child play areas
178. More safety
179. Keep all city owned parks available for all citizens to utilize, adding additional security measures where needed without enforcing a lock out.
180. Parkland should NOT be considered for lease to outside organizations
181. Making park areas updated and safe
182. More green space and areas to just be outside
183. Update equipment
184. Nicer parks in Muncie. We visit Morrow Meadows mostly because they're closer, but have a nice park with a walking path.
185. Park programming
186. Restrooms closer to disc golf parking lot at McCullough
187. Attention to Cowing Park
188. Protect Tuhey
189. Better picnic areas
190. Less parks and update the ones that are being used
191. More green space
192. New playground equipment
193. More park area
194. Do not turn any parks over to the YMCA

230. Restroom cleanliness
231. Security
232. More green space more parks
233. Please do not use Tuhey Park for the YMCA. There are many vacant lots that would be acceptable alternatives.
234. No restricted access at Prairie Creek
235. Make outdoor recreation a priority.
236. Improved playgrounds
237. Listen to the public opposing the YMCA plan
238. Stop selling off and leasing any park land
239. More free advertising
240. More foot traffic activities
241. Save Tuhey park.
242. Biking lanes and trails
243. Add another Disc Golf Course and help promote larger events. Disc Golf has been a fast-growing sport for years, and Covid brought literally millions more players to the sport. Tournaments bring people from all over the state and region and fill up quickly. A course is not only wonderful and affordable recreation for Muncie citizens, and also a pathway to bring in sports-tourism dollars to the city.
244. The path along Riverside Ave! Please finish by spring!
245. Better playground
246. More parks on north side
247. Update maintain improve expand grow
248. More and better basketball, tennis, handball courts
249. Leave Tuhey as it is! It's one of the bright parts of Muncie!
250. Clean functional restrooms
251. More organized recreation for kids.
252. Don't put YMCA where Tuhey is
253. Some playgrounds need trees to shade the playground equipment from the blazing sun
254. More trail connections
255. Stop making plans to give/sell the park to the YMCA
256. Add more of them.
257. Keep Tuhey Park intact and make it a cultural hub
258. Tell the YMCA to piss off
259. Keep Tuhey park
260. Do not let the YMCA build on Tuhey Park land.
261. Better maintained
262. A venue for headlining performers - bring in money
263. Concrete skatepark. Every town has added them to the parks and they're consistently bring out those from out of town and typically the most used area of a town's park
264. walking & Nature trails in Heekin Park
265. More city supported disc golf tournaments that will bring in additional players from other towns exposing more to Muncie amenities.
266. Stronger commitment from leaders to keeping park land public instead of leasing to private ventures for building development
267. Say no to the YMCA
268. Update restrooms

269. Better maintenance with existing park equipment. Broken tables, equipment in disrepair, restroom facilities, etc.
270. I would love a gated toddler playground. We went to one in Cincinnati Washington Park so nice and integrated space with turfs, so not muddy in winter.
271. More lights
272. Repair the big cabin in McCulloch Park so the fireplace can be used in the winter
273. More seating for parents near playground equipment.
274. More walking/bike trails
275. Better connections to trails and neighborhoods
276. High-quality design
277. Continuing to connect green spaces with accessible trails.
278. More ADA accessible updates to equipment and trails
279. Develop Halteman Park
280. ADA Accessibility
281. Safety
282. Parks could use buttons that notify emergency services.
283. Better bathrooms that are cleaned on a regular basis!
284. Summer outdoor recreation clinics for kids
285. Better restroom facilities
286. Better restroom facilities at Prairie Creek
287. More money and staff
288. I feel that here recently the parks department was more visible on social media which brought information about upcoming programs to the public's attention. Kudos!!
289. I visited Westside Park Several times during the pandemic to sit outside, read, eat lunch, just relax.
290. More swimming- let people swim in more areas at Prairie Creek too
291. Just a piece of property. Not enough! It has to be pleasing and useful to people in the neighborhood. Neighborhood parks that speak to the neighborhood. Prairie Creek serves a greater area. The trails a certain group. Walk bike...are our neighborhood parks doing their job...giving people a lovely place to walk exercise watch the children play and visit with neighbor's. Or is this of another time?
292. Finished paved trails
293. Rusty playground equipment needs to be replaced
294. Upgrade and expand the outdoor playground equipment
295. More inviting. More safety for women
296. Updated and clean restrooms
297. Recycling bags and bins out for public use
298. Updating facilities
299. Reorganize and become serious about developing a comprehensive recreation program.....and defining what that may be.
300. Safety
301. Hold the line
302. Better use of unused green space
303. Upkeep of greenway
304. Create more pickleball courts
305. Connection
306. More parks - especially NW Muncie

307. Clean out old equipment
308. Lights for recreation spaces like tennis and skateboarding
309. More outdoor security
310. Updated restrooms
311. More of everything besides cardinal greenway
312. Updated picnic / grill areas
313. More connection trails to greenway.
314. Make a restaurant or convenient store out of the old bait shop or entertainment facility at the Prairie Creek Reservoir.
315. Solicit input
316. More and better restrooms.
317. More upkeep of our parks. The reservoir, for example, needs more attention to the overgrowth around the docks.
318. Cleaner bathrooms
319. Build more pickleball courts. It's the fastest growing sport in America and sadly Muncie is way behind
320. Keep the YMCA out of Tuhey.
321. Keep parks drug and needle free.
322. Keep green spaces for recreation, walking, community events
323. More pickleball courts
324. Nicer and more opportunities to boat, hike, and play
325. Safety
326. Better playground equipment
327. Side walks
328. make rental choices affordable. a four-hour rental is 2 hours given 1 hour set up and 1 hour clean up
329. Make all parks ADA accessible
330. More natural play scales (large logs, mud kitchens, etc)
331. Focus on Programming & Youth learning
332. We have a lot of unused green space and parks. Quit managing and spending money on areas people do not frequent
333. Removal of parks administration from overview of dysfunctional city/local government
334. More accessibility for children with disabilities
335. We need more accessible parks, more accessible playground equipment. Something like Wicker park in Bluffton would be cool.
336. Skatepark
337. Let the Y build so they could help the community become healthier
338. Keep the parks clean. Patrol them. Don't take Tuhey!
339. more trees
340. Making it so no private company can ever lease or develop on public Muncie park land.
341. Spread out. Muncie should just be one big park.
342. Youth programs
343. Bathroom
344. Indoor aquatics - natatorium
345. Bigger spaces. Keep Tuhey pool and park!!
346. Cleaned up

347. Updated safe equipment, more kids' friendly areas, less adult areas tide to children play areas and locations in walking distance to all Muncie Communities
348. Better, bigger playgrounds
349. Perhaps beautify the spaces at the river by diversified plantings of bee friendly flowers and shrubs
350. Mansfield is an incredible park, that most people aren't aware of. Maybe find a way to market it'll expand availability (like with the trails/streets mentioned above)
351. Save TUHEY park
352. Updated and safer new playground for Heekin park
353. Keep Tuhey a park!
354. Save they because it's a community asset
355. Save Tuhey
356. Trash totes in parks
357. More youth programming
358. Creation of parks in central city locations in which buildings spaces have remained empty for a year or more.
359. Safe family friendly areas. Last visit to a park we had to leave because we felt unsafe.
360. Update bathrooms
361. More concerts in the park
362. Better restrooms
363. Updated and additional playground equipment, benches, picnic tables!
364. Updated and more playground equipment!!
365. Leave Tuhey Park alone
366. Focus on green energy
367. Keep what we have and expand upon our citizens' needs.
368. park on northwest side
369. Have more parks
370. Safety/lighting
371. Keep them cleaner
372. Walking/ biking trail through the parks (McCullough)
373. Do not give Tibet pool to the Y
374. Don't lease property in the parks to outside sources
375. Maintain resources to support existing parks
376. REMOVING PUBLIC GREENSPACES IS UNETHICAL
377. Cleaner restrooms
378. Add parks to meet NRPA level of service throughout Muncie, especially to the NW area of Muncie
379. Lap swimming hours in Tuhey
380. More youth recreational programs
381. Grass land without hazards
382. Any parks on the river need ACCESSIBLE kayak launches
383. Add an "ice rink"/ frozen space for winter exercise
384. Better/more restrooms
385. Better trash control
386. Not allow the YMCA to build on a well-used green space.
387. More botanical, florals, etc
388. Do not eliminate Tuhey Park.
389. More bathroom access

390. I love the idea of greener infrastructure that connects the parks! That would be really quite lovely and make the city more accessible to foot and bike transportation.
391. Better bathroom up keep
392. Do not rent, lease or sell Tuhey Park!!!
393. More handicap accessible facilities
394. Update and/or repair current facilities
395. Become a modern city and adopting green policies
396. Update playground equipment
397. Less Development, more open green space
398. Keep Tuhey park!
399. The parks seem devoid of activity. There needs to be more activities at the parks
400. Better restrooms.
401. They need to be cleaner - encourage visitors to help with this!
402. Not allow Tuhey Park to be partially paved & leased to the Y when other buildings & areas are available
403. Increase parks and green space
404. DON'T lease Tuhey!
405. More tennis courts
406. More trees.
407. More community events to encourage getting people utilizing our parks
408. Concerts in parks every park
409. The idea that Muncie parks should not be considered for sale or transfer to the private sector.
410. Quality equipment for a range of ages in all parks
411. Stop building parks in random places like by Memorial
412. Keep as a park
413. Updated playground equipment
414. Do not sell park land to private companies, like the YMCA.
415. Natural areas for quietude, wildlife
416. Crime monitoring.
417. More funding
418. Workers need to be respectful to public.
419. Stop selling out to major non profits
420. Integrate the arts into parks
421. The concrete outside and in Emerson Park need repairs. It is cracked and dangerous.
422. Increased transparency and public input.
423. Expansion.
424. Look at more cohesive design of the elements of the parks. Currently, I feel that the elements are separate in their uses, creating places that do not encourage members of our community to interact with each other very well.
425. more funding for programs, beautification
426. Clear non motorized connections between parks
427. More funding. Better upkeep and beautification in parks, especially those in underserved areas like Heekin and McCulloch. Old, run-down, or unused structures like the derby hill thing, the safety town village, and some of the older playground equipment at Heekin need to be removed and replaced.
428. Better restrooms
429. Facility upgrades to any structures

-
430. More community involvement
-
431. Muncie to actually acknowledge that they have parks.
-
432. More ADA accessibility
-
433. better maintained walking infrastructure in the surrounding neighborhoods to allow citizens to get to the parks
-
434. Do not give up Tuhey!
-
435. Better restroom facilities
-
436. More nature walking paths, 2 miles and up.
-
437. A real playground at the Ball Corporation Park. All it has is junk that no one uses.
-
438. Maintenance and beautification.
-
439. prioritize greenspace over new builds
-
440. Add dedicated staff to support programs and maintenance of the parks.
-
441. More green space. We love the open spaces at the parks!
-
442. Add more parks, start with Storer and then add a big one where Shidler Apartments are
-
443. Muncie needs more designated parks & green space.
-
444. Advocate for Tuhey instead of agreeing to lease to YMCA before getting any public feedback. That is my number one issue right now.
-
445. Smaller pocket or mini parks
-
446. More park benches and shaded seating
-
447. Website and promotion. I may be alone in this, but there are many ways to leverage this for greater exposure of what you are already doing. Ball State, IU Health, Forge ECI are all working hard to promote Muncie/ECI amenities, primarily through websites and social media. But we have nowhere to link to Muncie parks online that is attractive, welcoming.
-
448. Community/neighborhood projects
-
449. Clean up the parks
-
450. Better upkeep of existing greenspace
-
451. Splash pad
-
452. Increase green space
-
453. Community fitness center
-
454. I'd like to see the area around Jackson and the Greenway developed more into a multi-use park. Walking, biking, maybe skateboard park. Plant lots of trees.
-
455. More parks with restroom
-
456. Better, safer pedestrian/bike access
-
457. Fix Playground Equipment
-
458. Plan things for our older population
-
459. benches places to sit
-
460. Better lighting
-
461. At the end of the bike path on White River Blvd as you approach Yorktown, there is a gap and very dangerous area before you get to the Yorktown bike trail. this needs to be fixed!
-
462. People the parks with programs
-
463. Music in the park
-
464. Trash
-
465. Update restroom facilities and keep them clean and inviting.
-
466. Well maintained picnic area with restroom facilities
-
467. Increased funding
-
468. Monitor suspicious activities that occur at parks, we all know which ones
-
469. Availability of parks in safe locations

470. Have community events, like festivals
471. Bike paths/trails network that would allow people to bike to different parts of the city without having to deal with cars. Bike lanes ARE NOT the same as trail/paths because people in cars don't respect them and because all the tiny bits of glass and debris on the roads end up in the bike lane.
472. More public input
473. Better advertisement of available facilities
474. More advertising and publicity
475. More green spaces created from blighted areas in town
476. Work more with neighborhood associations
477. Make more accessible for people to get to
478. Continued beautification - you've made great progress
479. Keep them clean
480. A small garden or some native plants
481. Not getting rid of parks
482. I like the idea of an urban fishing area but the parks that already exist need maintenance. I think the current administration already knows this.
483. Safer
484. Strick Curfew with more patrols
485. Updated Basketball courts
486. Reach out to smaller surrounding communities in the county that do not have the quality of parks as Muncie has. Promote the sense of community and partnership by having summer programs for all the youth of Delaware county.
487. parks differing from one another to get people into more parks
488. Pools for fitness swimming
489. More environmental education
490. Upkeep- some of the parks need some serious TLC, like Heekin, this should be a priority for Muncie- there are some neighborhoods that have no green space and this is the city's chance to show that it cares about every neighborhood, not just BSU
491. Restrooms at Westside need seriously redone.
492. Up to date items.
493. More handicap accessible-accessibility!!
494. Needles found in play areas have been an increasing issue, this needs to be addressed
495. Programming
496. Outside basketball court repaired at Ross center park and others that are in need of repair
497. Revamp the Boys N Girls club
498. Benches at all playgrounds
499. More extension to the Greenway
500. More green spaces around Muncie
501. Our kids these days have a nature deficit...there are fewer and fewer forest/natural areas for them to explore, get off the path and get wet without breaking rules.
502. Upgrade play equipment
503. increased funds
504. More lighting.
505. charging stations in bathrooms
506. Cleaner parks
507. PLEASE do NOT build a YMCA at the Tuhey location!!!!
508. Better/cleaner bathroom facilities

- 509. Walking/running indoor track
- 510. Landscape and keep weeds away from equipment
- 511. Upgraded bathroom facilities with water bottle water fountains
- 512. Collaborate with local groups to provide & maintain beautification, e.g., colorful plantings at entryways.
- 513. Keep our green space.
- 514. We need better playground equipment for older kids.
- 515. Proper signage
- 516. Better taken care of the grass
- 517. More law enforcement patrols in and around parks - particularly Prairie Creek Reservoir.
- 518. Protect our parks, no leasing to YMCA or anything similar
- 519. Keep trail around river safer and cleaner. Trash has been left for several weeks last summer.
- 520. More parks with updated playground equipment there aren't park options on the north or north west side of town
- 521. ADA accessible park-wide
- 522. Connecting paths
- 523. More new play equipment
- 524. Increased lighting at night to ensure safety
- 525. Monitor crime and drugs and people doing illegal things in parks
- 526. BMX/ bike course
- 527. Programs in parks. Summer activities
- 528. A big splash pad for kids and parents both.
- 529. Community service program for clean up
- 530. Better Maintenance on shelters
- 531. Keep parks which receive significant traffic open. Among people I know, Tuhey park is the most visited of Muncie's parks and the most well-liked, making the possibility of it being turned into a YMCA very upsetting.
- 532. Development of new environmental spaces
- 533. More seating for bank fishers
- 534. Provide a family atmosphere!
- 535. Concessions in the park downtown
- 536. Decrease campers and boats at Prairie Creek.
- 537. Park perimeters should be clearly marked for safety of community.
- 538. Leave Tuhey alone.
- 539. Trails
- 540. Beautify grounds in all established parks.
- 541. See comments above-More/Better Restrooms in every park
- 542. Protect the water quality of Prairie Creek Reservoir by reducing motorized boat use and designating space for non-motorized boat use.
- 543. Splash pads!
- 544. PCR needs to have the annual camp tenants cycled out
- 545. Keep Tuhey pool as is, maybe create event center in building on site.
- 546. Better advertisement of what parks there are and what each one has
- 547. Offer new things
- 548. Updated playground equipment for both indoor and outdoor facilities, including splash pad that is free and open to public
- 549. Indoor exercise opportunities

-
550. Better police presence.
-
551. More swings
-
552. Cleaning
-
553. More programming
-
554. accessible, unpaved running surfaces
-
555. Provide cross country ski areas in parks.
-
556. The Muncie parks department website is lacking! Pictures & descriptions of what's available at each park needs to be included as well as an updated list of all the parks and their offerings!
-
557. More indoor options for inclement weather
-
558. Indoor activities for kids
-
559. More patrolling in McCullough park
-
560. Better picnic areas
-
561. Better police patrols, too many adult males hiding in bushes and hanging out waiting to meet up. It isn't safe for the kids.
-
562. Accessible playgrounds
-
563. More activities for youth and families to partake in together
-
564. Special events at all parks once a month
-
565. improve stability of docks at boot ramp -and thus safety
-
566. More connected trails/bikeways
-
567. Update
-
568. More native planting
-
569. Maybe not put YMCAs in parks
-
570. Keeping pervs away
-
571. Tuhey park needs to stay greenspace. It is a much-needed area for Muncie youth and should actually be updated with a splash pad, youth baseball diamonds, expanded picnic area and additional playground equipment including ADA certified equipment.
-
572. More paved trails and connections for our existing trail network
-
573. repair benches and tables
-
574. Add playground equipment to more parks.
-
575. Direct communication about park offerings to Muncie tax payers
-
576. Improvement of existing green space
-
577. Stop planting grass and put in natural habitat
-
578. More experiences/entertainment options
-
579. Have various programs for youth during the day, especially in the summer at parks throughout the community
-
580. STOP GIVING PUBLIC LANDS AWAY TO PRIVATE AGENCIES
-
581. Restrooms available
-
582. More swings
-
583. Repaint or new play equipment also more natural objects to climb on such as large logs or rocks
-
584. Install off leash dog areas
-
585. Trails everywhere. Folks don't like giving up the easement, but it's helpful in the long run.
-
586. Hand sanitizer stations
-
587. No private gym facilities (i.e., YMCA/YWCA) on public park lands
-
588. Muncie has the opportunity to be a regional destination for our parks but only if we want to be. Certain parks could and maybe should be resigned for more specific functions. Alternatively, existing features should be enhanced. First and foremost, the Tuhey Park/YMCA deal should be killed. This is a horrible idea that should have never been considered in the first place. The city has

paid thousands of dollars for multiple downtown studies that have all advocated for new infill in the downtown. If the YMCA wants to build a new building it should be located downtown. It wouldn't be that difficult to form a partnership with the City Administration and a developer to utilize HOME and CDBG funding to leverage Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) to build a mixed-use development downtown that would house new apartments, the new YMCA facility, new retail spaces, and a dedicated parking garage. But that's beside the point. Tuhey Park has the potential to be destination splash pad park, something incredible that would make national news. The space and infrastructure are already there and the desire for such a facility is already there by the citizens. The Frisbee Park course at McCulloch Park could be enhanced and better designed. As it stands it appears as though it was just stuck in there with little thought or planning. With a little work and design, it could be a premiere course. Finally, Muncie has an incredibly large and active gardening community. This is an untapped resource both for volunteers but also for revenue. One possibility for the future would be for the city to construct a botanical garden. This would this be a regional destination as gardening enthusiasts will travel hundreds of miles to visit a well-planned and designed botanical garden. It could also be a source of revenue for the parks department. A small gate fee could be charge and revenue could be generated through yearly plant sales.

589.Maybe some things need to be repainted.

590.Outdoor skate park

591.Security when in a park

592.Do better maintenance, ensuring the cleanliness of parks.

593.Better restrooms

594.Water fountains (for both humans and pets) at every park.

595.playground equipment for older youth and sensory based area for children with special needs

596.Development of more citizen owned playground and public use facilities

597.Updated equipment and water park

598.Youth need more than just basketball, skate parks

599.Make sure it is inclusive to all ability types

600.Hire someone with a background in conservation/environmental management

601.Indoor facilities

602.No selling of land to private businesses

603.Disc golf course

604.Security

605.A full ban on Dan Ridenour and his family from the parks

606.Fund outdoor recreation.

607.Work more with neighborhood and sponsor family friendly programming

608.Walking trail through McCulloch Park

609.Partner with organizations to create programming that will recruit "new, lifelong park goers"

610.Keep Tuhey Park as is!

611.Splash pads

612.More programs for kids

613.Interesting park features (water, trails, splash pads, etc.)

614.Trash free green spaces

615.Better maintained playground and park equipment.

616.Save Tuhey

617.Fix drainage problems.

618.Upgraded play equipment

619.A botanical garden.

-
620. Tell the YMCA to piss off
-
621. Continue to have protected green space
-
622. Do not let the YMCA build on Tuhey Park land.
-
623. security
-
624. An updated water park
-
625. Disc golf infrastructure. Better signs and baskets, also brings those from out of town on a daily basis.
-
626. City led summer programs for young people to learn arts, music, etc.
-
627. More parks with more walking trails
-
628. Develop additional disc golf courses
-
629. Security checks/drive thru
-
630. Update or upgrade all bathrooms
-
631. Bathrooms and drinking water stations
-
632. Better outdoor playground equipment
-
633. Update equipment
-
634. Splash parks and indoor playground
-
635. More green spaces
-
636. Parks could use modernized restrooms.
-
637. More playgrounds with better equipment for all ages!
-
638. 5k races
-
639. Several times during the pandemic to sit outside, read, eat lunch, just relax.
-
640. Finished Water play place
-
641. Parks need more benches
-
642. Allow water skiing at prairie creek park
-
643. Advertising on what the park and rec offers.
-
644. I miss bike rental on the greenway
-
645. Patrolling more
-
646. Appoint a task force of community citizens, engage a consultant and begin the planning process.
-
647. Better bathroom facilities
-
648. more modern playground equipment
-
649. create events to celebrate community and public spaces
-
650. Skatepark
-
651. Water fountains
-
652. Gas fire pits
-
653. Splash park
-
654. Better upkeep on the shelters, as far as making sure there are no wasps nest, insects, rodents, etc.
-
655. Destroy the Emerson dog park - give us our clean space back!!
-
656. More parking.
-
657. The Reservoir Pontoon Beach needs more supervision do that non-boat owners can't just walk up and cavity on the beach—plus take all of the dock owners' parking!
-
658. Outdoor concerts in the park
-
659. Speed bumps on streets that run through parks.
-
660. Do not sell off/rent park space for business development when vacant business spaces sit around town
-
661. Features to engage neighborhoods
-
662. Boating/kayak

663.Cleanliness
664.Better Basketball Courts
665.Activities for all parks
666.have other programs other than basketball
667.Newer playground equipment
668.More space for open exploration of the environment
669.Meaningful Community Partnerships
670.Plan to ensure stability of direction not tied to selfish city political leaders in the city council
671.More outdoor exercise games and activities built in
672.Why lease out land to other organizations? We have many areas without parks nearby. We need to keep what we have.
673.Skatepark
674.more drinking fountains
675.More activities other than playground equipment, e.g., bocce ball, volleyball, skate park, etc.
676.Safety in the parks
677.Updated accessible park equipment
678.More trees, stop cutting down healthy trees. Seek arborist not tree cutters
679.Increase the number of benches for seating
680.Sexual activity in McCulloch is a problem. I can't walk through without my wife without unwelcome advances
681.Don't sell TUHEY or any other park to land development companies
682.Update playgrounds
683.Dog waste receptacles
684.Botanical gardens
685.Creation of more green spaces on spaces that have remained empty remained empty for a year or more.
686.Update shelters
687.More community activities like Gus Macker....fishing contests, cooking competitions, group rummage sales. Horse shoes, baseball tournaments. Whatever it would take to get the ppl back into the parks doing things as a community.
688.More walking biking trails
689.More beds of flowers and shrubs, especially at Tuhey! Everyone drives by Tuhey and it has endless possibilities to look beautiful from all sides and bring families and friends together!!
690.Beautification...especially for Tuhey!!
691.Focus on community needs and accessibility, both financial, spatially, and for people with disabilities
692.Consider we host college students. Are parks available to them?
693.park on northwest side
694.Have more swimming pools
695.We need more city pools, not less!
696.Splash pads. Dog area.
697.Find ways to include volunteers including youth to keep parks maintained
698.DEVELOPING IN PUBLIC SPACES FOR PROFIT IS GENTRIFICATION
699.ADA equipment
700.work with neighborhood associations to get their input on what their neighborhood parks need
701.An indoor pool
702.Music in the parks

-
- 703.Safe places
-
- 704.Better cleaning and maintenance of the grounds and facilities.
-
- 705.Community events (clean-up days, outdoor youth/adult leagues)
-
- 706.Are the geese out of control? It seems like they don't have any natural predators so they are reproducing at an alarming rate. The geese droppings might not be the best thing for the grass along the greenway (nor for the walkway, but that's not too big of a deal). I would just like to know if there are ways to encourage the geese to move to a different part of the river, as they can be prone to attack people walking by.
-
- 707.Better upkeep of picnic areas
-
- 708.Keep Tuhey park a park. Please don't sell to the YMCA
-
- 709.Invite community programs to participate: theater in the park, storytime with the library, occasional market events, etc
-
- 710.Coordinate w police better to keep drugs/users/sellers out of park
-
- 711.We need more park space not less—especially in neighborhoods
-
- 712.Maybe a donation drive to fertilize and keep the Storytime softball fields
-
- 713.Updated equipment and signage.
-
- 714.Promote park histories more to increase awareness of park legacies
-
- 715.Don't pave Tuhey
-
- 716.More and better picnic and gathering places.
-
- 717.More opportunities to improve parks thru partnerships and events
-
- 718.More shelters to rent
-
- 719.Better cleanup/maintenance — they need to look great to project a sense of safety and family friendliness
-
- 720.Actually, follow standards in terms of scale and density of park
-
- 721.Maintain all of our current parks
-
- 722.An Amphitheater placed in the larger parks
-
- 723.Accessible trails, facilities
-
- 724.Better lighting for dark times of the year.
-
- 725.More support
-
- 726.Mow along the river at McCullough park.
-
- 727.Make more park land
-
- 728.More community input on what they would like to see
-
- 729.Keep playground repaired and in good condition.
-
- 730.increased ADA equipment
-
- 731.Actual youth programming, not just passive programming or making the YMCA / boys & girls clubs do it all
-
- 732.More seating and gathering spaces, better connections to nearby businesses.
-
- 733.Adopt a park campaign
-
- 734.Muncie to actually take care of the parks that they have.
-
- 735.Cleaner or present restroom options
-
- 736.better access from the Bus lines
-
- 737.Do not sell out Tuhey!
-
- 738.Updated equipment.
-
- 739.more green spaces on the southside
-
- 740.Tear down abandoned buildings and upgrade existing rental facilities.
-
- 741.Better restrooms

742. Park programs. Every city with a parks department actually has parks programs for kids and whatnot.
743. More walkability in town.
744. Install speed bumps in parking lots and drives that go through parks
745. Playgrounds that are appropriate for younger children. These are the children/parents who are at home most of the week and are looking for things to do. Once you get young families to the parks, they grow up knowing and utilizing the parks.
746. Networking between communities
747. Bathrooms update them
748. Bike lanes in and around BSU campus and connecting BSU campus to parks, trails, and downtown
749. Incorporate trails
750. Safe outdoor parks and trail similar to Yorktown's
751. Link trails
752. Take better care of Bunch Blvd. Overlook. The map on the table there is backwards. East and West are incorrect.
753. speed limits Heekin park is like a race track
754. Better playgrounds
755. I don't know what the trail around the new jail is supposed to be??? What does it connect to??
756. Events or Festivals to draw people in
757. more green spaces
758. Picnic & shelter facilities that are nice and usable.
759. Ponds and fishing area
760. Add lights, areas for parents to gather, aesthetically pleasing
761. SUPPORT them, they are a hidden gem in our community
762. Truss bridges to take Greenway over major thoroughfares.
763. More plants
764. More Sculpture parks and gardens
765. Expansion of available activities for all ages
766. Beautify them
767. Keeping equipment functional for usage
768. Upgrade programs/activities
769. quality resources on the North and South sides of town
770. More parks on the south side
771. More advertisement because I'm thirty and lived here my entire life yet haven't heard of most of the parks that are listed.
772. Cleaner!!!
773. Wider selection of equipment like some of the parks in other cities like Kokomo, etc
774. Programming
775. Skate boarding area set up
776. Bring Bike Rentals back
777. Upgrade to the outside equipment in some of the parks (Heekin, Whitely, McCullagh)
778. More family activities
779. certification
780. More aquatics and exercise equip.
781. Better equipment for parks
782. Nature trails
783. Paint shelters and tables in shelter areas

- 784.Splash pads/pool area
- 785.Keep public parks under city control and do not lease or sell the public park lands to any entity.
- 786.Expansion
- 787.Update structures and signs
- 788.Trails in town need to be repaired near river. Steps damaged at trail heads and large cracks.
- 789.Longer hours for Tuhey pool and stop closing it when schools open. Adults would use the pool.
- 790.embrace more protection of our green space
- 791.NEVER lease, sell, or trade public park land for development
- 792.Make the parks safer
- 793.Music in the parks
- 794.The only public pool to remain open. As any Muncie citizens grew up going to Tuhey to cool off for the summer, and the elderly who loved doing aquatic aerobics out in the sun.
- 795.Parking areas for more areas of the trails
- 796.Clear and timely communication. With both the Tuhey Park and Prairie Creek Reservoir changes, myself and most people I know were not aware of the proposed changes until right before they were voted on. There were few to no opportunities for the Muncie community to give input on these changes as far as I know. As part of the Muncie and BSU communities, I find it troubling that these significant local happenings are not being shared in a widespread fashion
- 797.Programming for community
- 798.More trash cans spreader out
- 799.Update playground and picnic equipment!
- 800.Increase enforcement for littering offenses
- 801.Parks, and access to park features, should be free to the community.
- 802.Skate park.
- 803.Education
- 804.See comments above-Tons more activities for varying age groups
- 805.plant native trees and flowers for pollinators
- 806.Clean the walking trails! Control the geese population and clean up after them!
- 807.PCR needs boat ramp dock improvements
- 808.Indoor play equipment
- 809.More places to sit
- 810.Modernization
- 811.More educational
- 812.Bathrooms upgrades. Heekin's is SCARY.
- 813.Splash pad/bike/skateboarding area
- 814.More ice/snow options (cross country skiing, tobogganing, ice rink)
- 815.More dog parks! McCullough please!
- 816.Safe and clean trails
- 817.Put porta pots at the smaller parks so the kids don't have to leave 15 minutes after getting there. And maintain them.
- 818.Addition of nature trails and outdoor education areas.
- 819.Make sure all parks are handicap accessible
- 820.continue to add and improve trail system -thanks!
- 821.Clean-this is very important
- 822.New mayor
- 823.Keep it clean
- 824.Provide better security measures in all public spaces and install restroom facilities

825. Enhance picnic areas and add more natural amenities that do not eliminate public access or greenspace
-
826. continue plans to develop the parks into community-friendly areas as selected above
-
827. Retain public access for taxpayers and so do not lease it to one entity, and if it is available privately take the time to offer it to all individuals and organizations, including nonprofits, using a transparent process
-
828. More outdoor choices for entire community.
-
829. More trees
-
830. Fundraising
-
831. An indoor playground area for use during the winter months
-
832. Benches
-
833. Rubber mulch instead of wood mulch.
-
834. Expand the greenway
-
835. Partner with Red-Tail Land Conservancy to enhance projects of both.
-
836. Connect the parks. Connect the city. Create a master plan utilizing the vacant and abandoned properties across the city and connect the parks together with the Cardinal Greenway and White River Greenway via a system of bike and pedestrian trails. New parks should be created as part of this process. Entire streets should be closed if necessary, to help quiet neighborhoods and lesson thru traffic. Key parts of the city should be part of this trail system as well. The Downtown, Minnetrista, Ball State, motivate our Minds, the Ross Center, etc. should all be connected.
-
837. I think safety should be of utmost concern, so the children can play without being hurt.
-
838. More parks with grills to cook out
-
839. In the larger parks have community gardens or greenhouses where neighborhoods could contribute time and talent to manage.
-
840. Most parks need more shading and seating
-
841. Development of parks programs which engage the public- music, theater, festivals, gardening activities, etc.
-
842. Drug free and pedophile free parks, no aggressive dog breeds
-
843. Environmental teaching classes
-
844. More spaces to be in nature, without disrupting nature/ecosystems. More beautification projects in general. The city is bleak.
-
845. Convert more lawn areas to habitat for wildlife
-
846. More monitoring
-
847. Security
-
848. More Programming in the parks, Music, events, tournaments, another disc golf course, ban on all private development
-
849. Managers experienced in outdoor recreation.
-
850. At least one disc golf basket at every park in Muncie
-
851. PR campaign to encourage outdoor park-going as alternative to indoor gatherings in these uncertain times re: COVID
-
852. Bike paths
-
853. More green areas
-
854. Smaller, neighborhood and pocket parks.
-
855. Save Tuhey
-
856. Enhanced landscaping/landscape design
-
857. More trails.
-
858. Tell the YMCA to ████ off
-
859. Develop economically open spaces for all

-
- 860.restrooms and water--not portolets
-
- 861.Increased park security
-
- 862.Hiring young people for summer positions painting, etc to help them take ownership in those assets.
-
- 863.Maintain safety
-
- 864.Add a miniature golf area or something other than basketball
-
- 865.Bike facilities
-
- 866.New playground equipment for toddlers
-
- 867.Tuhey Towers is awesome for my older kids who are 8 and 11! They enjoy it and we went there probably 50 times last year. We would be incredibly sad to lose that park because it's the only park geared towards their age group.
-
- 868.I was shocked at how poorly it was maintained. It needed mowing, cleaning up brush, trash pick-up, etc.
-
- 869.Clean, accessible restrooms would be ideal
-
- 870.Expand the mountain bike trails
-
- 871.More marketing on social media for events/opportunities
-
- 872.Hire a person specifically trained to run a comprehensive recreation program that take into account the resources that are available.
-
- 873.Greenspace, not blight
-
- 874.More outdoor events in the parks
-
- 875.Kayaking/ paddle board areas
-
- 876.Better playground equipment
-
- 877.Better security monitoring and better upkeep on the older parks such as Jack's, Cooley, Thomas, and the smaller one
-
- 878.Finish the riverside trail project- of course, start it!!
-
- 879.Keep playground equipment and green space areas in tip-top condition.
-
- 880.More outdoor playground equipment
-
- 881.Get the drug paraphernalia off of the Greenway.
-
- 882.Make park more accessible to citizens in Muncie, particularly citizens with disabilities.
-
- 883.Fishing ponds
-
- 884.Accommodating
-
- 885.Football facility
-
- 886.Start a chess learning program to motivate their learning and minds
-
- 887.More trails
-
- 888.Certified Staff with Customer Focus
-
- 889.More aquatics
-
- 890.Skatepark
-
- 891.Proper water fountain and bathroom improvement at Muncie Sportsplex. Consider playground equipment at the Sportsplex too.
-
- 892.Public bathrooms, cleaned daily
-
- 893.How about an interactive musical installation for kids to play - something creative?
-
- 894.Minnetrasta has done an incredible job esp in the wetland area.
-
- 895.Add more swimming options
-
- 896.More free running space
-
- 897.Splash parks
-
- 898.Emphasis for the care and concern for youth recreation.
-
- 899.Expand the trails and keep them safe

-
900. Focus on arts projects
-
901. Thomas Park is a disaster. There is plastic sheeting coming through the mulch, waving in the wind.
-
902. Park on northwest side
-
903. Keep them updated
-
904. Better lighting. Move McCullough statue back to original site where it is safe to view and read plaque and not stand in a busy street to view it. Who thought that was safe place in the first place?
-
905. Promote parks on social media and other ways
-
906. LET IMPOVERISHED FAMILIES HAVE ACCESS TO SAFE SPACES PUBLICLY
-
907. Develop a skate/BMX park
-
908. Pocket parks instead of parking lots downtown
-
909. Quiet zones
-
910. Safe spaces for wildlife
-
911. The trash and garbage situation at the parks can be really unfortunate. This isn't so much a parks thing--because you all do a terrific job!--but it's the people who use the parks, or who just dump their trash outside of garbage cans. I just see trash lying on the ground at all the parks I visit. I wish the city could spearhead something to encourage better use of our resources, and ways to protect the natural world from unnecessary waste.
-
912. Keep Tuhey Pool and park
-
913. Create a community steering committee that lives in the area and uses the parks
-
914. Where possible, allow for community gardening
-
915. DON'T LEASE TUHEY TO YMCA
-
916. Community garden help.
-
917. Businesses and attractions set up in or with access from parks and greenway
-
918. Organized water activities that we used to have. Like raft races
-
919. Updated facilities for gatherings, picnics, parties, and community events
-
920. Celebrate the private sectors programs in the county and don't duplicate services
-
921. Save the beauty of Tuhey and not destroy it!
-
922. More family-oriented programs.
-
923. further interconnection of trails
-
924. More programs
-
925. Repair disc facility's
-
926. Provide resources for homeless citizens
-
927. Focus on the importance of open green spaces
-
928. No smoking near playgrounds
-
929. more public art
-
930. Sustainable grasses along the levee at white river park - less mowing needed.
-
931. More things to do, like splash pads, art displays, interactive elements, snack bars, etc.
-
932. Don't sell the soul of the center of the city park to the Y
-
933. more hosting of farmers markets across the city
-
934. Keep Tuhey a public space only!
-
935. Additional amenities.
-
936. accessibility to nature for all residents
-
937. Uniform signage, branding,
-
938. The Mayor and the Y need to shut up about Tuhey
-
939. More bike paths.
-
940. Have volunteers pick up trash weekly

941.Creative options for winter utilization

12 - Where do you recreate the most in Muncie? Please select one location.

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Aultshire Park	0.00%	0
2	Ball Corporation Park	0.72%	8
3	The Buley Center	0.09%	1
4	Cardinal Greenway	17.81%	197
5	Chambers Park	0.18%	2
6	Cooley Park	1.08%	12
7	Cowing Park	1.63%	18
8	Emerson Park	0.72%	8
9	Gilbert Park	0.09%	1
10	Guthrie Park	1.99%	22
11	Heekin Park	2.53%	28
12	Jacks Park	0.00%	0
13	Mansfield Park	1.27%	14
14	Matthews Park	0.00%	0
15	McCulloch Park	11.12%	123
16	Muncie Cantilevered Walkway	0.54%	6
17	Muncie Sportsplex	0.90%	10
18	Morningside Park	0.72%	8
19	Prairie Creek Park	8.41%	93
20	Riverbend Park	0.09%	1
21	Riverview Park	0.27%	3
22	Ross Park/Ross Center	0.63%	7
23	Thomas Park	0.72%	8
24	Tuhey Park	16.82%	186
25	Washington Park	0.36%	4
26	Westside Park	12.75%	141
27	White River Park/Greenway	12.84%	142
28	Other	3.98%	44
29	None	1.72%	19
	Total	100%	1106

13 - Did you participate in any outdoor recreation this past year? (i.e., gardening, outdoor games, walking)

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	93.10%	1052
2	No	6.90%	78
	Total	100%	1130

14 - How important are parks, recreation services, and open space to the quality of life in Muncie?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Not important at all	0.44%	5
2	Somewhat important	2.29%	26
3	Important	15.05%	171
4	Very important	82.22%	934
	Total	100%	1136

15 - Are you...male/female

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Male	31.68%	351
2	Female	63.72%	706
3	Non-binary (neither/both, or something else)	1.53%	17
4	Prefer not to say	3.07%	34
	Total	100%	1108

16 - What is your age?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Under 12 years old	0.00%	0
2	12-17 years old	0.36%	4
3	18-24 years old	5.07%	56
4	25-34 years old	19.93%	220
5	35-44 years old	26.90%	297
6	45-54 years old	20.20%	223
7	55-64 years old	11.68%	129
8	65-74 years old	12.32%	136
9	75 years or older	3.53%	39
	Total	100%	1104

17 - Do you have children living at home?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	51.14%	563
2	No	48.86%	538
	Total	100%	1101

18 - What is your zip code?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	47302	15.13%	164
2	47303	20.11%	218
3	47304	45.85%	497
4	47305	8.03%	87
5	47306	0.83%	9
6	47307	0.09%	1
7	47308	0.00%	0
8	47320	0.92%	10
9	47334	0.46%	5
10	47338	0.28%	3
11	47342	0.65%	7
12	47367	0.18%	2
13	47383	1.57%	17
14	47396	5.90%	64
	Total	100%	1084

19 - Which category describes you? Please select all that apply:

#	Answer	%	Count
1	American Indian	1.06%	12
2	Asian	0.79%	9
3	Black or African American	5.19%	59
4	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	1.06%	12
5	Middle Eastern or North African	0.26%	3
6	Multiethnic	1.76%	20
7	White	81.53%	927
8	Prefer not to disclose	6.68%	76
9	Other:	1.67%	19
	Total	100%	1137