CITY OF MUNCIE
PARKS AND RECREATION

811 E. Centennial Avenue
Muncie, IN. 47303
(765) 747-4858
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Superintendent: Carl Malone

Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

City Hall Auditorium

(1) Call to Order

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Roll Call

(4) Approval of the minutes from (January 2026) Park Board Meeting

(5) Superintendent Report – Carl Malone

(6) Parks Programming & Approval of Events – Carl Malone

(7) Halteman Neighborhood Association Presentation

(8) Prairie Creek Report – Taylor Beard

(9) Old Business
- Tuhey Pool

(10) New Business

(11) Action Items

(12) Public Input – (3) minutes limit – Please state your name and address.

*** Next Park Board Meeting – Tuesday, March 17, 2026 (6:00 p.m.) - City Hall Auditorium**

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www.muncie.in.gov
Superintendent: Carl Malone

Superintendent Report

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Muncie Parks and Recreation Department has been busy removing three (3) shelters from several parks. Aultshire Park, McCulloch Park and Ball Park. These shelters were removed due to safety concerns. We have three ordered and will be installed in the coming weeks. Our Tuhey Pool shade structures arrived last week. They will be installed in early spring. We also have been busy cleaning and painting inside our park building.

Muncie Parks Program Department

- Program delivery T.B.D. (May)

Westside Park

- Playground renovation (Adam Leach)
- Baseball diamond renovation (Parks Dept)
- Basketball Court – City of Muncie

Riverview Park

- Play zone – complete
- Restroom – complete
- Mulch – needed (Parks)
- Kickball field maintenance - Parks

Heekin Park

- Basketball Courts lights install - Parks
- Restroom doors install - T.B.D.
- Park signs – T.B.D.
- Tennis Court Renovation – T.B.D.

Aultshire Park

- Play zone renovation - Early Spring (Parks)
- Basketball Court renovation – Spring 2026
- Shelter installation T.B.D.

If the Parks Board have any questions, please feel free to contact Carl Malone at the park office (765) 747-4858 or cell (765) 749-8490.

Carl Malone
Superintendent
Muncie Parks and Recreation

MUNCIE PARKS PROGRAM REPORT

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

.

SUMMER PROGRAM Funding

Due to budget constraints we are activily looking for grants and sponsors for our summer programs. Shannon, Carl, and Mark met with Ball Foundation last week for potential funding to help with summer sports programming. We will not know if we will receive funding or not receive funding from Ball Foundation until the middle of May. Also, soccer and flag football have been removed from our potential programs list due to budget constraints. We have informed a representative from both programs.

Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

February 17, 2026 6 p.m.

City Hall Auditorium

1. CALL TO ORDER- Brad Marshall called meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – All stood for the Pledge

3. ROLL CALL- Present were Brad Marshall, Shannon Powers, Mark Ervin, and Ashley Wright. Brad notified everyone Chandra Parks has resigned from the board and thanked her for her years of service.

4. APPROVAL OF JANUARY BOARD MINUTES

Shannon motioned for the approval of the January minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Mark.

Vote was taken by all Board members present. Motion carries. Motion approved by all members present.

5. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Carl Malone, Superintendent

Carl stated last month he discussed some unsafe shelters at three of our parks, Aultshire, Ball and McCulloch. On the few warm days we've had and have been able to get the truck out on the ground so our team has been out taking down the unsafe shelters so the ones we've ordered can be installed in the coming weeks. We've also been doing a lot of general cleaning around our building, inventory at several of our areas and making repairs to picnic tables.

Westside Park playground renovations will be completed by Adam Leach and his team. The baseball diamond renovations will be handled by Parks Department. We started in the Fall and as soon as the weather breaks we will get the scoreboard and lights up, renovate the dugouts and drag the field so it can be used as we've been getting requests to use it. The basketball court renovations will be handled by the City of Muncie. He has had some conversations with the Mayor about it. We did get some painting done at the end of the year and Flatland has received the approval to do the work over there as the court holds water and doesn't look inviting. That's an area of concern.

Riverview Park installations of the play zone and restrooms is complete. He has spoken with the Whitely Neighborhood Association about the grand opening of the parks which is supposed to take place as soon as the weather allows. We are getting pricing on mulch for the play zone as it is pretty expensive but that will complete the play zone area. The kickball field which is used by the daycares will continue to be maintained by our team.

Heekin Park will have lighting installed. We've already got the pricing for it. Chris and Travis are looking into have the doors replaced to ensure security at the restrooms. The framework and some of the brick work was impairing the ability for the doors to close securely. Heekin has the only bathroom that stays open year room as it is heated and is used when we have cabin rentals. Them being open sometimes allows for individuals to come in and partake in activities that may not be safe to others. Sometimes they lock themselves in the bathroom and it becomes unsafe for others and the police have to be called. We're getting quotes for the park sign at 9th and Hackley so it can be replaced. He has met with the neighborhood association about the tennis courts and what they would like to see done at that location.

Aultshire we have to work on the play zone as well. We need to add mulch and some playground equipment. We did paint some last year and we have removed the shelter which will be replaced shortly. The basketball court needs to be renovated as well in early spring.

Carl stated that was all he had as far as park activity and asked if anyone had any questions. Shannon asked where the tennis court in Heekin was located and Carl replied it is by 9th and Hackley by the playground.

Brad asked if there were any other questions for Carl and there were none.

6. PROGRAMMING REPORT – Carl Malone, Superintendent of Parks

Carl stated in regards to summer programming, he, Mark and Shannon had a meeting with the Ball Foundation to discuss some opportunities and hopefully blessings that will help with funding for our summer programming due to some budget constraints. It was a good conversation and they are looking over the paperwork we provided them and we should hear something back around the middle of May. That's kind of late into our year but if we have to cancel any activity we will make that call based on funding.

Carl asked if anyone had questions and Ashley asked if the Program Director would be attending the meetings and Carl replied he will but tonight he had his obligations with Monroe Central High and their season is about to end in the next two weeks or so and he will attend after that.

Brad asked if there were any additional questions for Carl and there were none. Shannon informed the board there are some other grants they will be submitting for specifically for recreation to try and help with the budget constraints.

PARKS EVENT APPROVALS:

Brad asked if Carl had any events for approval and he did not. He stated last month we did have some discussion about Park partnerships with groups we work with throughout the summer. Muncie Black Expo is the main partner we will have this year. They are overseeing our intern summer work program and we will also work with them on some of our park activities to help create a hub of volunteers and assisting us with our tournaments and events throughout the summer.

Last month we talked about dates and we had approved a date but it conflicts with another event. Zion Strong had his event approved last year pending no other event. When we looked at the calendar his event falls on the same date as Muncie Black Expo. There are two other weekends we can discuss with him. He isn't sure how Zion feels about it right now but we always support Black Expo Week with the luncheon, and parade that leads to the park for the basketball tournament and park events for the day.

Brad asked if there were any questions for Carl and there were none.

Brad announced in the packets for the board there was a Save the Date for National Kids to the Parks Day on May 16th at Westside Park and a reminder that sign-ups are open for the Muncie Teen Internship Program running from June 3rd – July 17th. Applications will be accepted until March 13th. Shannon asked if the posting was on Facebook and Nikki replied it is and we've already received 70 applications. Brad asked Carl how many spots we have this year and Carl replied 50. We had 110 last year and we're down over half. Shannon interjected hopefully next year we can get back to that number as we have time to seek grants.

Brad asked if there was anything else for Carl and there were no additional questions.

Carl introduced Chris Meadows who has worked for the Parks Department for 19 years in several areas. He started off as part-time and is now our Assistant Parks Superintendent.

Chris introduced himself to the board stating he started off part-time and worked his way up to a Utility Worker, Utility Worker CDL, Heavy Equipment Operator to Asst Urban Forester to Mechanic to Assistant Superintendent. Brad asked if there were any questions for Chris and there were none. Brad thanked him for coming in so they could put a face to the name and Ashley congratulated him on the promotion. Shannon asked what Chris is overseeing and he replied the team and the out in the field work, the day to day operations. Shannon inquired if the tree work moved departments and Chris replied it is still in Parks. Shannon asked if Chris meets with that board and he replied he does not but Dave does.

7. HALTEMAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION – JP Hall, President & Pete Gipman

Brad stated the Halteman NHA has done a lot of work over at Halteman Park and they have some additional initiatives in place. They wanted to give an update of where they

are and what the next steps are, ask for our approval and give us a chance to ask questions.

JP gave a background on how the park came about and the work that has been completed there. In 2017 The Halteman Swim Club closed and the property became abandoned. People in the neighborhood came together to discuss what could be possible there. That lead to us becoming a 501(c)3 with the intention of repurposing that property. We've done many things throughout the neighborhood but the park has been our main focus. In 2018/19 we worked with the City and the Parks Department to try to vision something for that space. There were numerous meetings which resulted in the City agreeing to take possession of that piece of property and turn it into a public park.

There have been multiple phases. Phase 1 was fundraising for the removal of the pool from the site. We partnered with Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority to do a crowdfunding campaign, we've actually done two. At last count we've secured around $200,000 of private money which has leveraged close to $300,000 in public money over the last seven years. We've installed playground equipment and a trail by working with the Parks Department. Carl Malone has been a fantastic individual to work with and the City has been fantastic to work with. We've planted numerous trees, sponsored numerous neighborhood parties, done some programming at the neighborhood level to increase usage there.

One thing that has been a challenge is the building for the bathroom. About five years ago the City helped us update the bathroom located on the property, it was the former concession stand for the pool. We have some ways to go and have fundraised this last year to improve the interior of the building and a public art piece that will have interactive elements. He provided some information to the board on how that will look. The concession stand building was improved tremendously by the pergola. They want to enhance the exterior of the building by do some painting and then improve the interior which is pretty much a white box.

The art piece has been a great collaboration with an architecture studio that Professor Rod Underwood runs which is centered around hands on steel, giving students the ability to work with their hands to create things. He did a project a few years ago on campus where Neely Avenue and McKinley intersect which is pictured. We're hoping to do what is on the last page which pays homage to our logo which references Mitchell Elementary School which was an anchor of the neighborhood.

JP stated they are really excited and can't thank enough Carl Malone and the Parks Department, the Mayor and the Board for all their support over the years. He thinks it's a fantastic model and they've learned a lot along the way. They started during Covid and it has been a learning experience. He asked if the Board had any questions and Shannon asked if the second phase is the art installation and JP replied that's more like the fourth phase. The first phase was the fundraising, the second phase was the crowdfunding campaign, he isn't sure what he would label the third phase and the fourth phase is what they are in now. Shannon asked if they are still fundraising and JP replied they are always fundraising but the art piece is being created inhouse so labor will be next to

nothing. They have some money to put towards it but will fundraise if there is a gap. Shannon asked if they need to seek a permit from the state and JP replied he doesn't believe so.

Brad stated he knows in the first phase there was a strong partnership and that was when the City was initially redoing the park. They kind of rode the coattails of that which is why I asked them to come in so the board can see what they're doing and what their vision is and ask for approval to continue making improvements as they are not asking for any money at this time.

Mark asked what the impact has been on the neighborhood and Pete replied participation has been extraordinary. We've had our picnic there for the last three years despite rain two years ago. The waste trucks come by and the kids like seeing them. The pickleball courts are slammed morning and evening. He addressed Carl stating his team does a great job of keeping the landscaping up and the trash doesn't get out of hand. They do have some thoughts about the mechanics for the splash pad which are exposed. The area that was the kitchen they would like to turn into a casual meeting space that people can get a key to once we put a locked door up so the mechanics for the splash pad can't be tampered with the air conditioner can't be turned on. They would like to put up the locks and give keys to the Parks Department so they can have access. He stated they've been pretty lucky when it comes to vandalism as they only had a little bit of nonsense in the beginning but it stopped once they put in better doors.

PJ added he drives by on his way home from work everyday and it's been very rewarding to see how this phase has been activated, it's multi-generational with elderly walking on the trail, youth on the playground equipment, multi-generational people playing on the pickleball courts and as it's warming up it's amazing to see the activation taking place there. We put in ten benches last year as part of the last phase. People were using them almost instantaneously.

Brad stated he wanted to highlight to those watching at home that may be confused because of the history, this is a city park, a city managed and funded park. It is not a private park like it was before when it was the pool. PJ added they are proud of taking a fenced off green space and opening it up to everyone. Everyone is using it and we meet people from all over the city. It's not just a neighborhood park, it's a City park and we're really proud of that. When we tore the fencing down because it was fenced for decades, it was a good moment and one that he was happy to be a part of.

Brad asked if there were any additional questions for JP or Pete and Shannon added we might need to recruit them for other neighborhood partnerships and they replied they already have been. They've had several talks with other associations. JP added this is the last phase. Shannon added she likes the collaboration with the neighborhood association added with the Parks Department it goes so much further and JP added it's a perfect public/private partnership. The City has been a great partner and he thinks it is a model that can work.

Brad stated he knows we talk a lot about the Halteman Neighborhood Association but we have Southside and Whitely as well. There are a lot of neighborhoods that are doing similar things. He thinks we can all continue to build off each other and make these public spaces better.

Brad stated with the presentation it is probably best for the board to go on record that we want them to continue on with the partnership working through Carl and his team.

Mark presented a motion for approval for Halteman Neighborhood Association to move forward with Phase 4 and continue working with the Parks Department and Shannon seconded the motion.

Vote was taken by all Board members present. Motion carries. Motion approved by all members present.

Brad asked JP if there was anything he needed from Carl and his team and JP replied they will just need access to the building so they can start work. He stated they will get with Carl to get access and will keep the board posted. They'll come back after things are done and provide an update.

8. PRAIRIE CREEK REPORT – Taylor Beard, General Manager

Taylor introduced himself to the Board stating he's been in Muncie his whole life and attended Ball State. He spent many years at Prairie Creek, is very passionate about it and wants to turn it into the park that it deserves to be.

Taylor stated he had some updates, projects and plans that he is working on in the next couple of months. The biggest update is he's the new General Manager and this week that have completed interviews for the Administrative Coordinator role. He thinks they picked a good candidate. She begins onboarding tomorrow with her first day being March 1st. Hopefully she will be at the next Parks Board meeting.

As for projects he has been quoting lumber to begin dock repairs and is hoping to have a shipment from Carter by the end of the week. He's had the maintenance team working on sanding and staining walk boards. Salvaging the ones that we can reuse and getting rid of the ones we can't. The are also counting and organizing tires to be recycled. He's working with Shannon on getting a grant for that.

He's also working with Sam at Security Pros on putting the key card system and camera at the campground bathroom. He knows there won't be campers there this season but he still thinks that's going to be a valuable resource to deter unauthorized entry and damages, which have happened in the past. He's hoping by the end of the year to get a camera in the maintenance area and update the cameras at the boat launch.

We've been receiving a lot of extensions for the campground and he estimates there's about half the campers left. He's been spending his weekends at the office from about 9 to 3 pm to unlock the gates and assist campers if they need any help removing their

items. He has three or four that said they would be out this week. Other than that, there have been a lot of requests for extensions. He thinks he's probably filed about 30 or so since starting.

Taylor stated the other plans for this month and next, he would like to explore the possibility of adding more dedicated bank fishing areas without disturbing the shoreline. He's waiting on the weather to break so he can actually be boots on the ground and see what we've got.

Before boats are in the water and after piers are in he would like to have the boat launch area upgraded. He has some concerns about the state that it's in. Some fixes he hopes to implement be patching holes, adding garbage bins, restriping the lot, adding more lighting, adding some safety features to the docks like grip tape and hopefully add another pier to help with congestion in that area. We're kind of working with the space that we have so that might be difficult, but that's something he's had quite a few people suggest.

He's also working on getting their boat seaworthy. It's in ok shape but one of the tunes is punctured so he will need a TIG welder to work on that. He's got some price quotes and the next step is to transport the boat into town to get patched.

He'd also like to work on a monthly newsletter. There's been some concerns about transparency at Prairie Creek and people not knowing what's going on. Last week he had two people state they didn't know the campground was closing and that was kind of concerning. So, he would like to get a monthly newsletter going to distribute to park guests.

Brad asked if there were any questions for Taylor and there were none.

Brad welcomed Taylor again and thanked him for his report. He asked if there were any event approvals and Taylor replied not at this time.

9. OLD BUSINESS – Brad Marshall, President

Tuhey Pool operations for this next year is the first bit of old business. There's still ongoing discussions with the YMCA with some meetings scheduled this week to hopefully get a resolution to figure out what the operation is going to look like this year and moving forward.

Flatland – Brad stated he received an email from Flatland regarding projects they are working on include the pond at Tillotson. They are still working through the planning phases and continue to work with the City and the DNR. They have not received any negative feedback from any parties involved so everything's moving forward. They're looking to have a site walkthrough with the State and local reps in March and are planning to have construction scheduled in the fall.

Carl spoke earlier about the Westside basketball courts and Flatland has been helping there.

Flatland has been working with the MLK Dream Team Walk of Fame there at Heekin Park. They've got some signage that's scheduled to be installed in the spring. They're working with the Ziegler Foundation on some grants and are also looking at an art piece for that area as well.

Prairie Creek Reservoir Trail Phase 3 is 30% through the design phase. They're coordinating with working with the City, County and the Sail Club. All the parties are involved in the trail path and they're scheduling work near the end of the year. They did also call out that there was a Ball Brothers Foundation community stakeholder meeting for Prairie Creek, the waterway and the rural area in that area. A lot of people that are interested and involved. He stated he was not at the meeting so he doesn't know all the details but that's something that he knows the Ball Brothers Foundation is interested in continuing to support and are trying to vision. On the other note we do have the Five-Year Plan coming up and that RFQ has been placed out for that. He assumes Flatland has some interest in being involved in that process. The RFQ is out and he thinks those are due in a couple of weeks.

Shannon asked if the Board can request the meeting minutes from the convening that the Ball Brothers oversaw for Prairie Creek Reservoir since nobody from the Board was there and Mark replied he was there and thinks they would be glad to provide that. It was a lot of general discussion and feedback but he thinks they would be glad to provide that. Brad added he thinks the Board can surely get some minutes or general overview. He doesn't know that it was a formal meeting that they recorded minutes but somebody's probably got enough notes that we can put some together. Mark added it was kind of more just a discussion than anything but thinks they would certainly have that. They might even have a recording. Brad asked Taylor if he attended the meeting and Taylor replied he did not. Brad stated he received the email from Flatland that morning so he doesn't know that he could answer any questions if anyone had any. He added David is pretty responsive if you have questions for him directly.

Shannon asked about Tillpond and if our park staff will be responsible for the maintenance of the park this summer and will they need to be cutting down brush or how much of a time commitment are putting towards it. Carl stated he was given some paperwork by the Mayor that outlined the areas to be cut as far as the Parks Department. It's not a lot, just in and around the pond area. Outside of that it's just mowing and upkeep with the trash and things of that nature. He didn't see anything major at this time but we'll have to see how that goes as the rest of the landscaping gets put in and then we can go back and revisit it. In his office he has a drawn out lined out area of where we're going to be mowing for the upcoming season. Brad added it was his understanding as well it's to be general low maintenance and site tidiness and not actually what he would call park maintenance or usable maintenance. Keep it mowed and trimmed and free of trash. Shannon interjected trash isn't really on us anymore as that will be Sanitation to pick up the trash and Brad replied they will pick up the toters. Carl added he wanted to make sure they know if calls are coming in about trash, we have made that transition from City Parks to Sanitation. There's been quite a bit of calls to our office about lack of pickup. It's on Sanitation to work those kinks out, so if you get calls or hear about calls, you're seeing trash in and out around the parks, Sanitation is the one trying to work that out. Shannon said so they're responsible for the toters and

Carl replied yes. He added when he spoke with Jason he was talking about putting dumpsters in some sites that would allow for more trash to be put in. He mentioned the Boys & Girls Club and Tuhey's because it's going to get busy down there during the warm months. That's going to be quite a bit of runs that need to be taken care of there. He talked about a few other locations as well as that's who's running the truck as they have our truck. They're the ones responsible but we are still getting calls from people in the community because there's been quite a few totes that have been full throughout our parks.

10. NEW BUSINESS –

Brad asked if there was any other new business from the board and there was none.

11. ACTION ITEMS

Brad asked if there were any action items from the Board or event approvals from the public and there were none.

12. PUBLIC INPUT – Please limit time to 3 minutes.

Brad asked if there was anyone for public input and there was one name on the list.

Erin & Steve Craig – Erin Craig, Vice President of Southside Neighborhood Association stated they have been in talks with Scott McNeil, the representative for Gus Smacker and they are planning on having the event at Southside Middle School parking lot on July 17th – 19th. Registration will be held on the 17th and the tournament will be on the 18th & 19th. The have been in communication with Sanitation to get toters out there. Erin had a list of items she wanted to request from the Parks Department which included bleachers, tents, 22 eight-foot tables and a possible financial contribution. Brad stated we could check the calendar for availability of items and Erin also inquired about speakers and sound system and Brad directed her discuss that with Carl. She stated Pastor Matt at Northside Church of God said they could use his portable PA system but we're expecting to need to expand that a little further than what the PA may be able to handle. She doesn't know all the specs as her sound person is dealing with that but it was a thought as she goes through the paperwork.

Shannon stated the school may have a better sound system than we have, so she suggested they inquire with the Athletic Director or maybe the band. Erin replied they will be meeting with Mr. Craft there at Southside and she knows they have some equipment as well and that is why she thinks she might have to spread this along several different entities. Shannon said she wasn't sure about 22 tables, we may have 20 and Brad added he wasn't sure if the tables are 6 or 8 footers but that would be a question for the team. Nikki interjected due to cabin rentals that weekend in July we will not have 22 tables available as three out of four cabins are already booked. Brad stated we've talked about the bleachers before and how we may be able to partner with them on that and will see what options there may be.

Brad asked if there were any questions for the Gus Macker team and there were none.

Steve stated they have a sponsorship packet they could give the board and Brad asked if they have an electronic copy and Steve said he could send it electronically. Brad stated that would be easier and Steve stated he would get that to them. He added that it is now 70% youth teams which he thinks is really big. It has also been projected the number of people to attend will be 10,000. They project we will have 200 teams and we think each person's going to spend between $300 to $500 here on food, gas and lodging. That's between $3 – 5 million in economic impact. Shannon asked if they've reached out to Destination Muncie and Steve replied they keep trying to attend their meetings. Ashley who is on their board stated Destination Muncie thinks they will end up working with them to create something on Bandwango with discounts from local places to put together for people while they're here. Steve added the board mentioned the Five-Year Plan and bringing back Gus Macker was part of the last one with $50,000 for it. Shannon replied we did look into doing that and met with them in 2021. He stated they're excited to be back and this is a three-year run contract. If it goes well, it's one year out, but if we do well this first year, it renews for three years. If we do well the second year, they'll present you with another three years.

Brad asked if there was any additional public input and there was none.

Brad stated he appreciated everybody for being here tonight, welcomed our new team members that are here and stated he would entertain a motion to adjourn.

Shannon motioned for the meeting to be adjourned and Ashley seconded the motion. Motion was approved by all members present.

*** Next Park Board meeting is currently scheduled for March 17, 2026 at 6 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium.**

Halteman Park

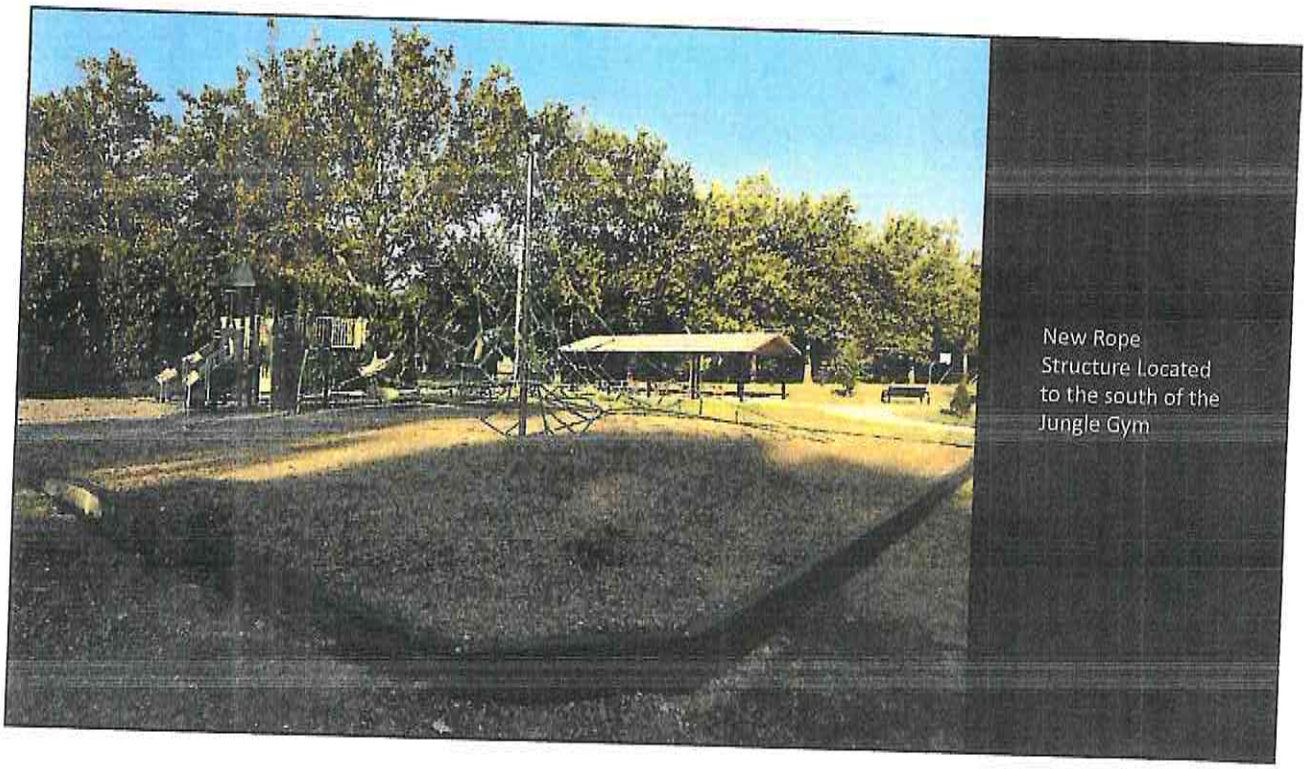
Spring 2026

CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA 1865

Halteman VILLAGE

Phase 2

- Pickleball Courts
- Seating Pickleball Court
- Benches and Outdoor Seating
- Play Equipment
- Bike Racks
- Equipment Installation
- Shade Structures



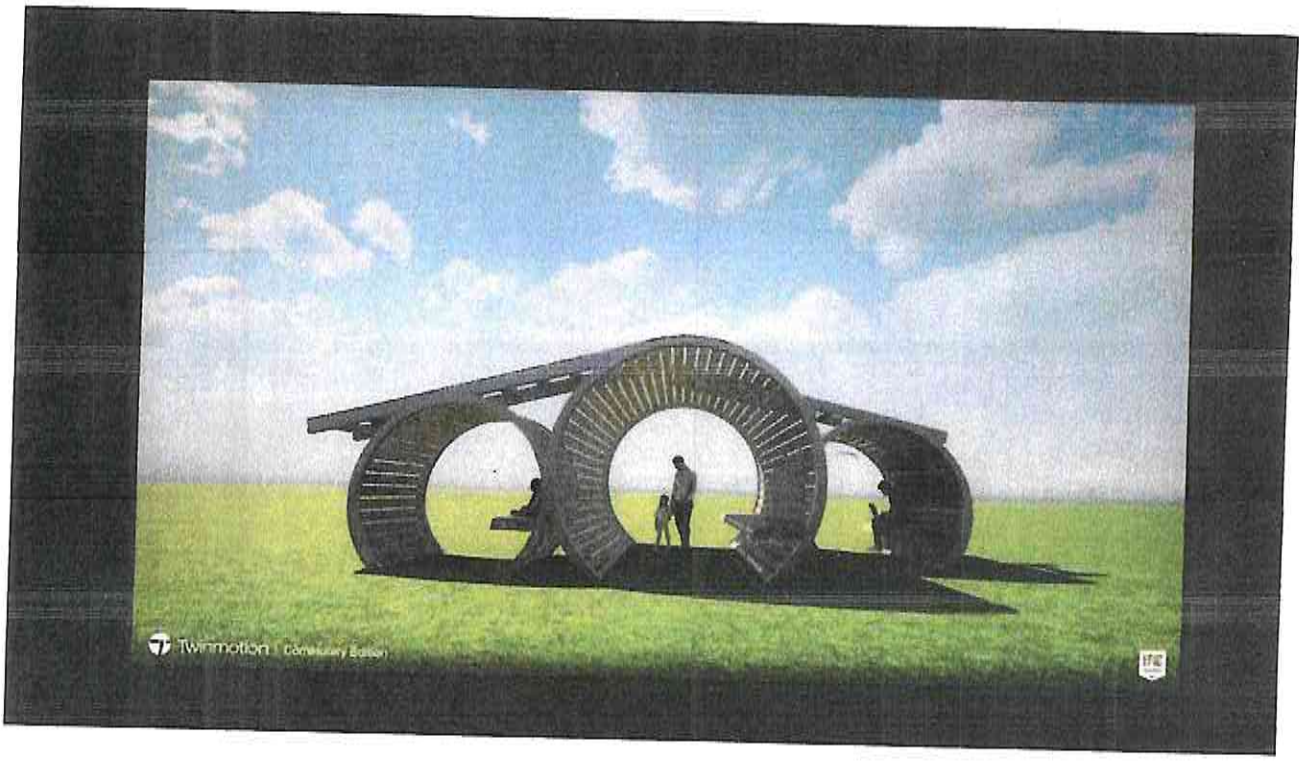
New Rope Structure Located to the south of the Jungle Gym

Shade and Seating Near Pickleball Courts

Ten (10) New Benches

The Halteman Gateway Project

Partnership between HVNA and Hands on Steel Course in the College of Architecture and Planning. Led by Professor Underwood.



THANK YOU!

Halteman
VILLAGE

Park Board Meeting
Public Input Sign In Sheet

Date: 2/17/2026

	Name (Please Print)	Address
1.	Erin Craig & Steve Craig	Muncie Southside
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