



Johnson County Parks & Recreation **5-Year Parks Master Plan 2020-2025**

Johnson County, Indiana
April 2020

Prepared by:



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Johnson County Board of Commissioners

Brian Baird	District 1 (2019 Chairman)
Kevin Walls	District 2
Ron West	District 3
Shena Johnson	County Attorney
Sarah Haefner	Assistant County Attorney
Barbara Davis	County Coordinator & ADA/Title VI Coordinator
Amy Briggs	Executive Administrative Assistant/Paralegal

Johnson County Council Members

Pete Ketchum	District 1
Rob Henderson	District 2
Jonathan T. Myers	District 3
James Ison	District 4
John Myers	At-Large
Josh McCarty	At-Large
Josh Turner	At-Large
Shena Johnson	County Attorney, Council Attorney
Amy Thompson	Council Secretary

Johnson County Parks and Recreation Board

Jeremy Fisk	President (expires December 2022)
Sarah Hanson	Vice President, Purdue Extension of Johnson County Representative (no expiry)
James Kirkham	Secretary (expires December 2020)
Suzanne Findley	Boardmember (expires December 2021)
Michael List	Boardmember (expires December 2020)
Tim Edsell	Boardmember (expires December 2022)
Dale Donohue	Soil and Water District Representative (renewed annually, expires Dec. 2020)
Roger Young	Parks Board Attorney (no expiry)

Johnson County Parks & Recreation Team

Megan Bowman	Superintendent
Kevin Leonard	Assistant Superintendent
Gwen Rainwater	Office Manager
Codi Cline	Administrative Assistant
Bradley Wisner	Maintenance Supervisor
Paul Phelps	Maintenance
Dave Shepherd	Maintenance
Jeff Cummings	Maintenance
Cole Bell	Maintenance

Mader Design LLC - Consultant

Jeff Mader, ASLA
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INTRODUCTION

In 2019, Johnson County Parks & Recreation decided to develop a 5-Year Parks Master Plan for the parks of Johnson County Parks & Recreation. This master plan is the department's first parks master plan to be submitted to the DNR.

The following master plan represents the thoughts and ideas garnered through public surveys and meetings, conversations with various stakeholder groups, and discussions with the park board and staff. This master plan is the first step toward realizing the vision for Johnson County Parks.

Master Plan Process

The underlying focus of the Johnson County Parks & Recreation 5-year Parks Master Plan is to provide amenities to the community and special interest groups that will preserve greenspace and create recreational opportunities throughout the county. This Parks Master Plan provides the unique opportunity to establish a framework that will influence and guide the development of the existing and future parks of Johnson County Parks & Recreation. The master planning process provides an exciting opportunity for the park board, staff, and county residents to set goals for the parks in Johnson County and plan for their development and improvement.

The following planning methodology was utilized for the development of this 5-Year Parks Master Plan:

- Evaluation of past planning efforts in the area.
- Determination of the characteristics, perception, and desires of the existing and potential park user population and the identification of real and perceived needs/gaps in recreational and open space resources relative to that population. This was completed by analyzing existing conditions, resources, and opportunities, and collecting public and stakeholder input.
- Evaluation of the appropriateness of current resources, objectives, and plans to meet the needs of the user population.
- Conceptualization of park system components, linkages, and improvements that builds upon the achievements to date, and supports the department mission.

The vision for the future is to develop, operate, and maintain parks that enrich the quality of life for residents and visitors alike, and preserve greenspace for future generations in Johnson County. Working in partnership with other parks departments throughout the county, county agencies, community groups, and park partner groups, the Johnson County 5-Year Parks Master Plan 2020-2025 can become reality.

Shareholders

- Johnson County Commissioners
- Johnson County Soil and Water
- Johnson County Council
- Johnson County Parks and Recreation Board
- Johnson County Planning & Zoning Department
- Johnson County Highway Department
- Johnson County Museum of History
- Johnson County Public Library

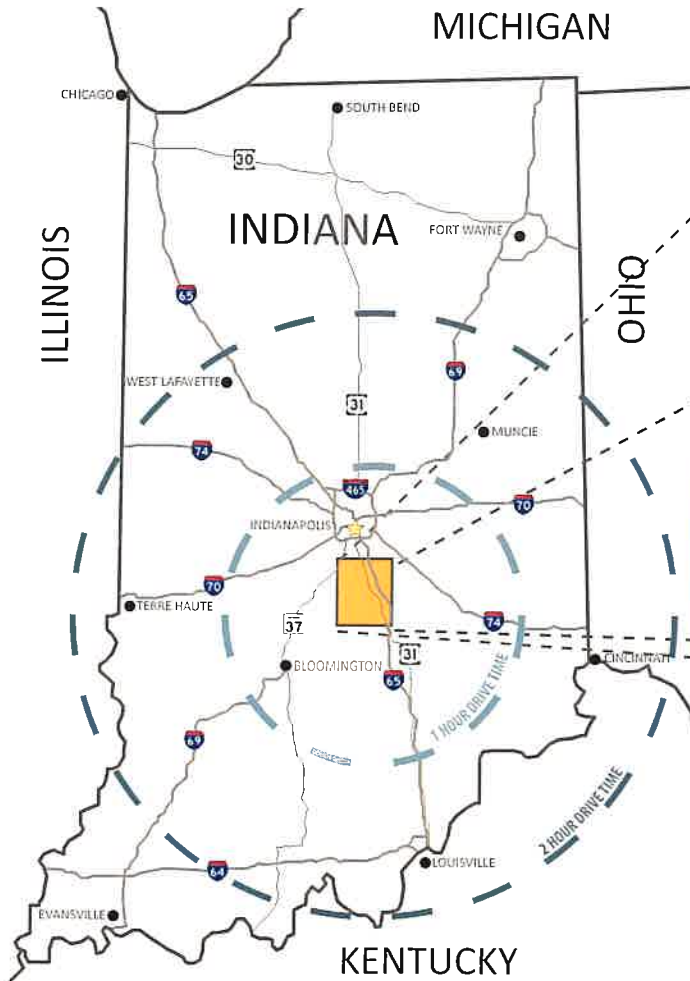
Stakeholders

- Columbus Area Railroad Club
- Nineveh Senior Center
- Johnson County Radio Control Flyers
- Rural Smiths of Mid-America
- Johnson County Antique Machinery Association
- Indiana Live Steamers
- Johnson County Disc Golf
- Festival Country
- Franklin College
- Native Plant Partnership
- Purdue Extension
- Scout Groups
- Camp Hosts
- Heartland Region Pony Club
- Indiana Barrel Racers
- Indiana Dressage Society
- Indiana Eventing Association
- Indiana Futurity Barrel Racers
- Indiana High School Rodeo
- Indiana Horse Council
- Indiana Hunter Jumpers
- Indiana Paint Horse Association
- Indiana Whips and Wheels
- National Drive
- National Barrel Horse Association
- Indiana Saddle Horse Association
- Harmony In The Park
- Indiana Half Arabians
- Other Indiana Horse Organizations

DEFINITION OF PLANNING AREA

Location and Planning Area

Johnson County is located in the central section of Indiana directly south of Marion County and the state capital, Indianapolis. It is bordered by Shelby County to the east, Bartholomew County to the southeast, Brown County to the southwest, and Morgan County to the west.



Location map of Johnson County

The planning area for Johnson County Parks & Recreation is Johnson County. Several communities make up the nearly 322 square-mile county. The largest are Greenwood, Edinburg, Bargersville, New Whiteland, Trafalgar, Prince's Lakes, and the county seat, Franklin. Several of these communities have their own park departments/boards, planning boards, and commissions; the county park board has the duty to plan for parks and recreation opportunities for the entire area. Having locally established park departments/boards throughout the county enables both the local and county park boards to better plan and provide parks and services for the whole community. Municipal park boards typically provide services for those close to home, allowing the county park board to

concentrate efforts on serving the wider population base.

Johnson County Parks & Recreation operates two parks totaling 635 acres of park land. The two parks are extremely different from one another. Johnson County Park, located at 2949 North St, Nineveh, IN 46164, is a large park in the more rural southern part of the county adjacent to Camp Atterbury and the Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area. Independence Park, located at 2100 S. Morgantown Road in Greenwood, is a small park located in a very suburban area of Johnson County's largest city, Greenwood. Independence Park is a popular park with an all-accessible playground area; the first of its kind in Indiana. Independence Park is just up the street from Center Grove Schools.



Evident from survey results, park visitors regularly come from nearby within the county, and also from outside the county and even the state. Out-of-state visitors are almost exclusively coming to the Hoosier Horse Park (some even from outside of the country!) Actual visitor counts are difficult to determine given the parks are not staffed. With a larger draw than just the county footprint, and longer travel times for many visitors, it is important to plan for park amenities and programs and features to sustain longer park visits including overnight options for park users where appropriate.

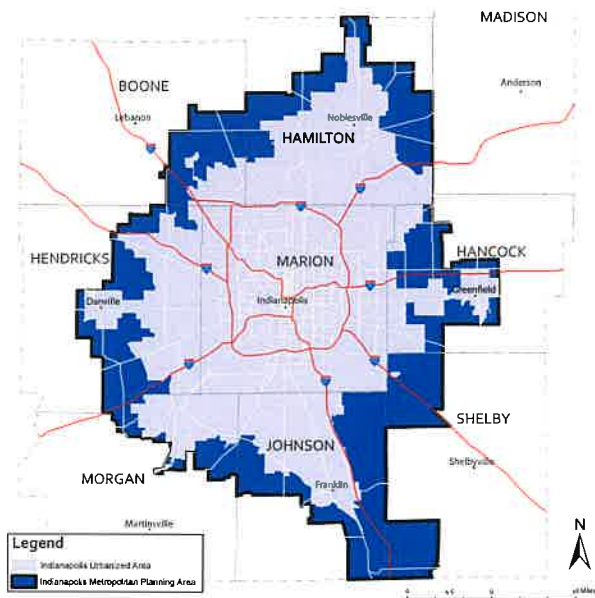
The northern third of the county (closest to Indianapolis) is more developed, while the southern portions remain mostly rural. According to the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) there are approximately 29,900 commuters travelling from Johnson County to Marion County for work. Hamilton County and Hendricks County are the only counties with greater numbers of commuters heading to Marion County.

Johnson County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state, with its population growth putting it as the fifth fastest growing county in Indiana. It is one of the best places to live in Indiana (ranked eighth according to Niche.com). In Johnson County, most residents own their homes. Many families and young professionals live in the county and tend to be conservative. The public schools in Johnson County are also highly rated. Johnson County is the fifth

healthiest county in the state and ranks seventh in the state for outdoor activities.

The county has great economic, transportation, and land use opportunities due to its location within the growing Indianapolis Metropolitan Area. Opportunities will

The Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the regional entity that plans and programs federal transportation funds for highways, transit, non-motorized transportation, and other means of moving people and goods. The MPO works within federal transportation requirements to guide the development of a multi-modal transportation system within the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) - an area that includes the urbanized area plus areas expected to urbanize over the next 20 years.



Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Area

continue to increase with the upcoming transition/upgrade of State Road 37 into Interstate 69 in the northwest corner of the county.

The transportation network in Johnson County includes US 31, Interstate 65, and State Roads 37 and 135 (slated to be converted into the continuation of Interstate 69 in the starting in 2020) running north/south and several State Roads (144, 44, and 252) running east/west. Nearby Interstate 465 and Interstates 69, 70 and 74 are easy to access from Johnson County. This road network brings travelers and commerce to this central region.

Johnson County is within a one to two-hour drive from Louisville, Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio. Multiple world-class universities including Butler University in Indianapolis, DePauw University in Greencastle, Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana State University and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, and IUPUI in Indianapolis making it an easily accessible regional destination. Franklin College, the #1 National Liberal Arts

College in Indiana, is located in the county.

Two short-line railroads (Louisville Indiana Railroad and Indiana Rail Road) provide north-south cargo rail accessibility throughout the county. Rail passenger trains, Amtrak, run out of nearby Indianapolis. The county has one small airport, Indy South Greenwood Airport. The Indianapolis Airport (IND) is a 25-35-minute drive from Johnson County. Indianapolis' public bus system, IndyGo, has local routes from Greenwood to downtown Indianapolis. Access Johnson County provides on-demand, door-to-door, wheelchair-accessible public transportation to local residents throughout the county. Greyhound and Megabus, travelling to destinations across the country, depart from Indianapolis.



Access Johnson County Bus

Most of Johnson County's growth, development, and population can be found in the northern third of the county closest to Indianapolis. Most urban areas in the county are fairly centralized and isolated but are beginning to sprawl out into the rural county. These communities are beginning to assert their influence on the surrounding lands as they grow, many with their own parks departments.

In addition to the urban versus rural dichotomy, there are significant natural differences throughout the county. The large farms and open fields that characterize much of Johnson County are bordered to the south by land with deep ravines, extensive woodlands and finger lakes lined with homes. Most of these are private homes and were developed as second homes for Indianapolis residents wanting to vacation nearby. This limits recreational access to Prince's Lakes.

Camp Atterbury, a major (historically significant, but now inactive) military installation in southern Johnson County, continues to influence surrounding land use, economic stimulus and housing needs.

Johnson County is growing and its park's department is ready to grow with it.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Johnson County Parks & Recreation Mission Statement:

Johnson County Parks and Recreation Department will develop, operate, and maintain parks that enrich the quality of life for residents and visitors alike, and preserve greenspace for future generations.



The Johnson County Parks & Recreation Department continually strives to achieve this through:

- *Providing unique community oriented recreation opportunities.*
- *Providing educational programming and events.*
- *Encouraging interaction with the outdoors, while promoting conservation and stewardship.*

The goals of this 5-Year Master Plan are to:

- *Create the first DNR Plan for Johnson County Parks and Recreation.*
- *Review and refresh the action plan developed in the 2017 Parks Master Plan.*
- *Engage the community and stakeholders through meetings and surveys while relying on the extensive input gleaned from the 2017 planning effort.*
- *Update the master plan and provide guidance for future opportunities.*
- *Explore opportunities for additional park land acquisition.*
- *Explore under-served areas in Johnson County to focus future efforts.*
- *Work toward growth of existing features and amenities within the parks.*
- *Explore future staffing needs and organizational structure based on anticipated growth.*

PARK BOARD / DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Johnson County Parks & Recreation Board

Park Board meetings are regularly held at 6:00 PM on the first Thursday of every month in the Johnson County Park Office Conference Room (subject to change, with public notice given 48 hours in advance).

MAILING ADDRESS

Johnson County Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 246
Franklin, IN 46131

Department Overview

Johnson County Parks & Recreation is a nine person department that is responsible for the operations of Johnson County Park (including Hoosier Horse Park) and Independence Park. Communication and cooperation between the Johnson County Parks & Recreation Department and the Johnson County Parks & Recreation Board is excellent and has resulted in great improvements in the parks.

MAILING ADDRESS

Johnson County Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 246
Franklin, IN 46131

PARK OFFICE ADDRESS (Do not send mail here)

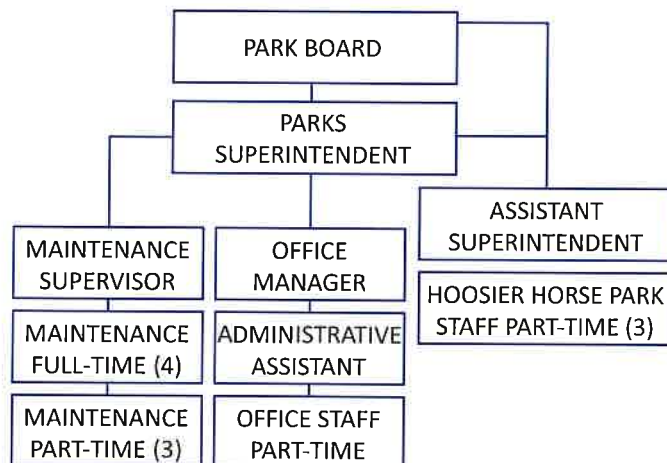
2949 East North Street
Nineveh, IN 46164

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JOHNSON COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
BOARD/STAFF HIERARCHY



Department History and Accomplishments

The Johnson County Parks & Recreation Department began in 1977 when an estimated 561 acres of land (once part of Camp Atterbury) were deeded to the county by a grant from The U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. This became Johnson County Park. An additional 80 acres were added in the 1980s bringing the total acreage of the park to 622. The land deed reserves the use of this land for parks and recreation use only. The Parks Department now operates two parks (totaling 635 acres), Johnson County Park (including Hoosier Horse Park), and Independence Park.

Johnson County Park has developed somewhat haphazardly since its founding. The Hoosier Horse Park was spurred by the 1987 Pan Am Games where it hosted the Equestrian Events. Other developments have come as department stakeholders have requested use of space within the park (Indiana Live Steamers, Antique Machinery, Franklin College, Mineveh Senior Center, RC Flyers, etc.). Some have come and gone over the years, like the golf course and RC off road facilities.

Much of the development has occurred to keep up with Equestrian Programming and ever-increasing popularity of camping in the park. As many of the facilities in the park were built as part of Camp Atterbury in the 1940s, significant ongoing maintenance is required to keep facilities up to par. Historically, the county and the department have been very conservative when it comes to funding park needs. With changes in elected officials and the park board, along with increasing public desire to improve parks and facilities, the department has made significant strides recently to catch up on decades of deferred maintenance.

Independence Park was developed as part of a land acquisition when a cell tower was installed in Johnson County Park. It was developed with the first all-inclusive playground in the state, and set the status quo for many years. Much of that equipment lived well beyond its lifecycle, and is in the process of being replaced as this plan is being written.

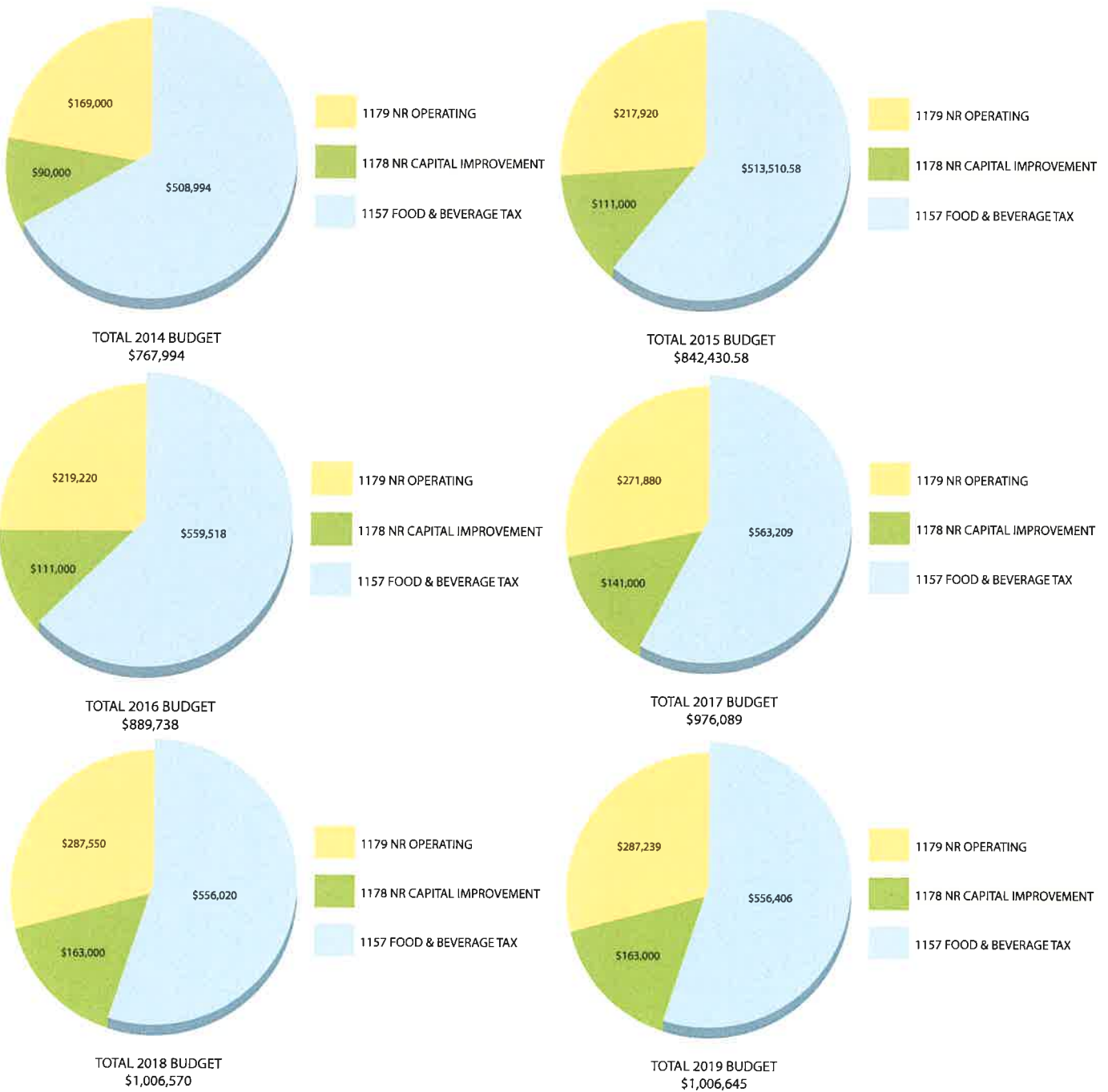
Over the last five years, the Johnson County Parks & Recreation Department has made its best effort to repair, replace and maintain facilities at their two properties. They have also made changes to policies and procedures to meet their higher standards. This has all been accomplished through establishing their priorities, budgeting appropriately, planning for current and future projects, utilizing the skills of their maintenance staff,

contracting work outside of their staff when appropriate, and strong leadership within the Parks Team and Park Board. Strengthening and building up partnerships within the county has also helped us them move forward.

Some improvement highlights include: remodeling several existing announcer booths within Hoosier Horse Park, removing vinyl siding on all buildings and replacing with metal siding, complete re-model of the Maples Building rental facility, complete re-modeling and enclosure of Baker Arena in Hoosier Horse Park, expansion of Dressage Warm-Up arena, the creation of Coyote Trace Disc Golf Course, correction of electrical and safety hazards within the parks, replacement of Independence Park playground and the campground playground in Johnson County Park, remodeling all bathroom and shower facilities in both parks, cleanup of old building remnants (concrete slabs and old infrastructure) from Camp Atterbury Military Base, and much more. Construction is set to start in summer of 2020 on a permanent military obstacle course, in partnership with Festival Country, in the location of the closed golf course at Johnson County Park. Every year offers a new and exciting time for expansion and learning opportunities.

Johnson County Parks & Recreation Budgets

The department operates on an annual budget of about \$1 million. The Parks Department budget is made up of 2 sources: A portion of the county's Food & Beverage tax collections, and money generated by park services like rental fees, campground fees, etc. Occasionally grants, bonds, and other outside monetary sources supplement the budget by providing capital for land acquisition, capital improvements, maintenance, and special opportunities.



NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPE

Natural Features

Johnson County lies in the central part of Indiana, immediately south of Marion County and comprises nearly 322 square miles. Like much of central Indiana, Johnson County has relatively level topography, consisting mainly of large, flat plains.



Aerial view of Johnson County Park

There are several waterways located within the county including Honey Creek, Nineveh Creek, Sugar Creek, Young's Creek, Flatrock River, and the two largest, the White River in the northwest, and the Big Blue River in the southeast. Fishing is a popular activity in Johnson County, especially on Sugar Creek at the DNR: Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area. The 6 1/2 acre fishing pond, Cottonwood Lake at



Fishing at Lake Cottonwood

Johnson County Park, Stone Arch Lake, Pisgah Lake, and Beaver Bottom Lake among other small lakes in the county are popular for fishing. Lamb Lake is the largest water body in the county. It is a 270-acre private lake with many homes along its edges. Prince's Lakes includes 14 private lakes. Water recreation at these private lakes is restricted to residents.

Generally, opportunities for outdoor recreation rely upon the natural features of a region. Natural features are very important, especially to a developing area like Johnson County. With such broad expanses of flat, easily developable land, very little is left over for parks

and recreation sites. Rapid residential, industrial, and commercial developments quickly eat up available tracts. This usually means the 'less desirable' parcels are all that is left for public spaces. Unfortunately, those characteristics that make the land undesirable for development (floodplains, steep slopes, and poor soils) are the same characteristics that make it difficult for park departments to improve sites for active and passive recreation. While every area needs to preserve river corridors and wooded tracts in their natural states for passive enjoyment, it is also important to supply community members with open spaces appropriate for organized team field sports and neighborhood pick-up games. Local municipal park departments generally focus on the more active, organized activities and spaces.

Historically, agriculture has played a large role in the development of the area. Past agricultural practices included ditching waterways, adding artificial drainage tiles, and converting large forested acreage into agricultural fields. Current residential and commercial development has continued this trend, leaving the county with fewer and fewer natural areas to preserve. The board should keep in mind that, as less land becomes available, it will become more costly, and therefore it makes sense to acquire land near where the population pressure is predicted.

According to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is also available for these uses. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce economically sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods, including water management. In general, prime farmlands have an adequate and dependable water supply from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. They are permeable to water and air. Prime farmlands are not excessively erodible or saturated with water for a long period of time, and they either do not flood frequently or are protected from flooding. Prime farmland soils are considered to be the best or most productive of all soils. Soil, and its productive capacities, is a critical natural resource that can not be replaced, and therefore must be protected. Prime farmland is of major importance in meeting the Nation's short- and long-range needs for food and fiber. Because the supply of high-quality farmland is limited, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes that

responsible levels of government, as well as individuals, should encourage and facilitate the wise use of our Nation's prime farmland. With 16% of Johnson County categorized as prime farmland, 49% as prime farmland if drained, and 7% as prime farmland if protected from flooding during growing season, only 28% of the land in Johnson County should be available for development.

Ecologically, existing natural areas and park lands in Indiana are experiencing multiple pressures. The Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive exotic insect which has been detected in all 92 Indiana counties, continues to affect ash trees on both public and private properties. Although Indiana's EAB Quarantine was lifted in October 2016, the pest has significantly impacted Ash Tree populations in the county. EAB has impacted the department's parks, requiring the removal of more than 100 trees in Johnson County Park, and a few in Independence Park.

Another invasive specie, Eurasian Water Milfoil has been found in lakes not far from Johnson County. It has not yet been reported in the county. Lake Cottonwood at Johnson County Park is tested regularly and undergoes vegetative management to control algal issues. Other bodies of water throughout the county should be regularly monitored to check for this invasive plant and control it early.



Eurasian Water Milfoil

There is still a long way to go in managing Indiana's top invasive species such as honeysuckle and garlic mustard while continuing to connect natural spaces through wildlife and habitat corridors. The department continues to battle invasives at the parks through park staff and volunteer efforts.

Recent drought and flooding cycles are pressuring ecosystems and flood plain areas, along which many parks are located. The planned growth of the trail network throughout the county, including potential park growth along riparian corridors will help connect habitat fragments throughout the county.

Climate

Johnson County has a humid climate, influenced somewhat by the Great Lakes. Cool and warm air masses converge in Indiana, making for a wide seasonal range in temperature and moisture. Climate plays an important role in outdoor recreation opportunities. People like to play outdoors year-round but, if the weather won't cooperate, there are fewer opportunities available. Johnson County enjoys a relatively mild continental climate, characterized by winter temperatures cold enough to support snow cover, with warm temperatures typical of tropical climates in the summer. The county sees the various conditions of four distinct seasons (spring, summer, autumn, winter). Winter is the most unpredictable season, as precipitation can take any form (rain, sleet, freezing rain, snow, and/or hail).

- Average precipitation per year is 44.85 inches
- Average July temperature is 85 degrees high/ 63 degrees low (Fahrenheit)
- Average January temperature is 36 degrees high/ 18 degrees low (Fahrenheit)

Overall, the summers are long enough and warm enough for people to enjoy plenty of outdoor recreation, and springs and falls are mild enough to extend the play seasons for a few months on either side of summer. Winters are the most problematic. Central Indiana does not get a great deal of snowfall accumulation which limits the availability of outdoor winter sports such as cross-country skiing and sledding. The Park Board may need to consider investing funds into creating outdoor activities in winter. The technology to create snow for ski/sled hills and for artificial ice is certainly available should the public demand these activities.

Water Resources

Three bedrock aquifer systems are identified for Johnson County. They are, from west to east and youngest to oldest: Borden Group of Mississippian age; New Albany Shale of Devonian and Mississippian age; and Silurian and Devonian Carbonates.

The Borden Group (Mississippian) aquifer system is mostly siltstone and shale, but fine-grained sandstones are also common. Lenses of discontinuous interbedded limestone can be found in the upper part. Depth to bedrock is typically 20 to 70 feet. The Borden Group in Johnson County is up to 600 feet thick and generally thins as it dips to the southwest beneath younger rock formations. Depth to bedrock is typically 20 to 70 feet. Well depths in the Borden Group Aquifer System range from 10 to 375 feet. However, wells are typically completed at depths of 55 to

125 feet and typically penetrate 10 feet or less of bedrock.

The Borden Group is generally not very productive and it is typically used only where overlying deposits do not contain an aquifer. Many wells, however, are able to produce sufficient water for domestic purposes by relying on extra well-bore storage by drilling larger diameter and deeper wells. Typical yield of most domestic wells is less than 10 gpm with some dry holes reported. Yield may be greater in areas where thin outwash deposits overlie the bedrock. Static water levels are typically between 10 and 35 feet below surface.

The Borden Group is composed primarily of fine-grained materials that limit the movement of ground water. In areas where overlying clay materials are present, the Borden Group Aquifer System is at low risk of contamination from the surface or near surface. However, in some areas the bedrock is overlain by outwash materials that may be capped by thin deposits of silt, lacustrine silt, or colluvium. These areas are at moderate to high risk of contamination.

The New Albany Shale (Devonian and Mississippian) aquifer system consists of mostly brownish-black carbon-rich shale, greenish-gray shale, and minor amounts of dolomite and dolomitic quartz sandstone. Depth to bedrock is typically 25 to 130 feet.



HUB Watersheds of Indiana - Johnson County outlined

The Silurian and Devonian Carbonates aquifer system includes middle-Devonian age carbonates (limestone and dolomite) of the Muscatatuck Group and the underlying carbonates of Silurian age. Typical depth to bedrock is 80 to 250 feet.

The eastern two-thirds of Johnson County falls into the Driftwood Watershed in the East Fork White River Basin. The western third is in the Upper White watershed of the West Fork White River Basin. In the West Fork White River Basin, groundwater flow is west towards the White River, and to the east-southeast towards Sugar Creek and the Big Blue River for the East Fork White River Basin. These watersheds are both part of the larger Wabash River watershed.

The aquifer subsystem in Johnson County Park is New Castle Till. Typical well depths range from 50 feet to 90 feet. Potential outwash aquifer materials include thin, intratill sand and gravel deposits that range from 1 to 8 feet in thickness. The outwash aquifer deposits are capped by till generally 45 to 80 feet thick. Static water levels are generally 10 to 35 feet below land surface. The New Castle Till Aquifer Subsystem is generally not very susceptible to surface contamination because its intratill sand and gravel units are overlain by thick till deposits.

The aquifer subsystem in Independence Park is Till Veneer/ Dissected Till and Residuum. This is the most limited ground water resource of the unconsolidated aquifer systems in Johnson County. Unconsolidated deposits of this aquifer system consist mostly of till with thin layers of stratified drift. Thickness of these deposits typically range from less than 5 feet (where only residuum is present) to 50 feet. Because this aquifer system is generally thin and unproductive, most wells are completed in the underlying bedrock aquifer. The low permeability of the surface materials makes this aquifer system not very susceptible to contamination from surface sources.

Geology

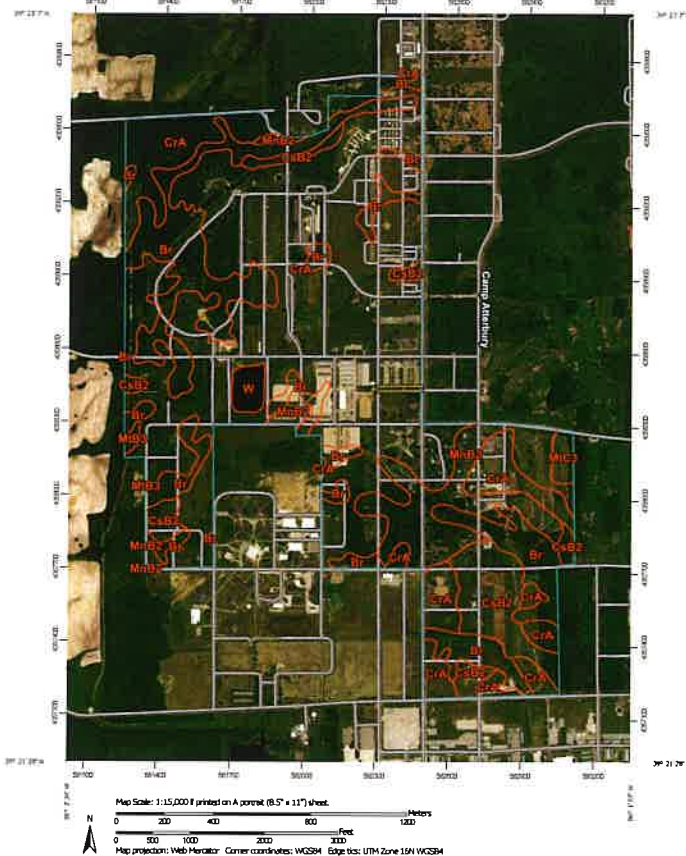
Borden Group (Mississippian) at surface, covers 34% of Johnson County. It is mostly siltstone with lenses of crinoidal limestone in the upper part. There is a great deal of cherty and silty limestone and dolomite in the northwest.

New Albany Shale (Devonian-Mississippian) at surface, covers 34% of county. It is black and greenish-gray shale.

Muscatatuck Group (Devonian) at surface, covers 14% of the county. It is made up of limestone and dolomite.

Soils

The soils in Johnson County fall into 12 major soil associations, the majority of which are poorly drained. The Crosby-Brookston association soils comprise the majority of soils in the county, with Miami-Crosby soils being the next most common. These soil types have some limitations on construction due to their wetness and potential for erosion. These soils are typically poorly drained and have severe to moderate limitations for recreational uses, including campgrounds, picnic areas, play areas, and paths and trails. These limitations are based on the soils' restrictive features such as flooding, wetness, and slope. It should be noted that these limitations might be overcome through appropriate site design, intensive maintenance, limited use of the site, or a combination of measures. Crosby-Brookston soils are used mainly for farming. Corn and soybeans are the principal crops in Johnson County. Small areas of this soil association are used for small grains and meadows. Cash-grain farming, hogs, and feeder cattle are the major farm enterprises in the county.



Soil map of Johnson County Park - from Web Soil Survey NRCS

The soils in Johnson County Park include seven minor soil associations, all of which are poorly drained. Crosby silt loam, with fine-loamy subsoil with 0-2 percent slope

comprises the majority of soils in the Park, with Brookston silty clay loam 0-2 percent slope being the next most common soil.

These soil types pose some limitations to construction due to their inability to drain water efficiently and for their high erosion potential. They also have moderate to severe limitations for recreational uses, including campgrounds, picnic areas, play areas, and paths and trails. Both of these soil types are classified as potential prime farmland, if drained. However, the history of the park site as a military base precludes that use.



Soil map of Independence Park - from Web Soil Survey NRCS

There are also seven minor soil associations within Independence Park. The majority of the site is Miami clay loam with 6-12 percent slopes, severely eroded. Miami silt-loam Urban land complex is the next most common soil type. It is soil with 2-6 percent slopes, eroded. The area where the playground is located falls into the Crosby silt loam, fine-loamy subsoil-Urban land complex with 0-2 percent slopes. The rest of the site is previously urbanized and shows evidence of erosion.

MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL, AND CULTURAL

Man-made features also play a big part in outdoor recreation supply. Johnson County has a fairly efficient and accessible roadway system. As mapped out in the Johnson County Trails Master Plan completed in 2019, there are many opportunities for a multi-use trail system to mirror the roadways and connect communities and sites throughout the county. Due to the conversion of SR 37 into I-69 in White River Township in the northwest corner of the county, current traffic patterns within the area will change. This includes a significant reduction in access points along the interstate. This reduction of access will greatly affect the way people move about the northwest portion of the county.

According to the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Johnson County is forecasted to increase in population to 167,899 by 2035. Additionally, White River Township's population is expected to increase by over 22,000 individuals between now and 2035. The majority of the growth White River Township has experienced is a result of significant residential growth in the northern half of the township. Future growth will be driven by both continued growth of unincorporated areas, as well as future development activity in the town of Bargersville and the southwest portion of the city of Greenwood.

This growth has been a benefit to the county in many ways however, infrastructure and transportation corridor improvements have not kept up with the pace of development, which has created traffic challenges throughout the township. The increase of additional traffic and development has created the need for load capacity improvements to serve existing traffic and future projected traffic increases.

The I-69 Corridor Plan, completed in December of 2018, studied the effects this interstate expansion project will have on the area. The expansion project is slated to start in 2020. Guidelines on how to mitigate any issues the expansion may cause are laid out in detail. This includes the widening of many suburban major and minor arterial and connector roads, and rural roads. Pedestrian sidewalks or multi-use trails are included in all typical road improvement guidelines. Adopting a Complete Streets policy is recommended to improve connectivity for the county. This policy guides the desired location and helps the community achieve its overall goal of providing corridors for all types of transportation, including biking, walking, running, driving and commuting that is suitable for all ages and abilities. This policy also identifies the importance of connectivity throughout the community. Complete Streets policies can require development to

include elements of alternative modes of transportation and reduce limitations to walk, bike or commute.

The corridors throughout Johnson County provide opportunities to serve both local and regional transportation needs. Corridors bridge connections between areas of the community.

From a local standpoint, connectivity and traffic flow should be enhanced throughout the community. Regionally, the I-69 corridor provides exposure, viability and efficient access to Johnson County. The I-69 corridor allows for growth of commercial, advanced manufacturing technology industry and residential sectors.

The I-69 Corridor will result in multiple fragmented parcels. Many will be unsuitable for residential, commercial, or industrial development due to size, road access, or soil type. These leftover parcels have the potential for development as parks in an area that desperately needs more greenspace.

Historic Landmarks, Facilities, and Places

Those Recognized by the Indiana Historical Bureau with Historical Markers:

- Whetzel Trace (1818-1823)
- Underground Railroad Station
- Birthplace of Paul Vories McNutt
- Birthplace of Roger D. Branigin
- William Merritt Chase

National Register of Historic Places in Johnson County Indiana:

- Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church 499 W. Madison St., Franklin
- Edinburgh Commercial Historic District Roughly bounded by Thompson and Main Sts., the alley north of Main Cross St., and the former Conrail railroad tracks, Edinburgh
- Franklin College Library (Shirk Hall) 600 E. Monroe St., Franklin
- Franklin College-Old Main 600 E. Monroe St., Franklin
- Franklin Commercial Historic District Roughly E. and W. Court St. and Jefferson, Monroe, and Main
- Franklin Senior High School 550 E. Jefferson St.
- Furnas Mill Bridge Pisgah Rd. over Sugar Creek-Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area, northwest of Edinburgh, Blue River Township
- Greenlawn Cemetery 100 W. South St., Franklin

- Greenwood Commercial Historic District 172-332 W. Main St. and 147-211 S. Madison Ave., Greenwood
- Greenwood Residential Historic District Roughly bounded by Meridian, McKinley, Perry, and Main Sts., and Euclid and Longdon Aves., Greenwood
- Heck-Hasler House 6612 N. 575E, northeast of Franklin
- Herriott House 696 N. Main St., Franklin
- Hopewell Presbyterian Church 548 W. 100 N., west of Franklin
- Johnson County Courthouse Square



Historic photograph of Johnson County Courthouse in Franklin, IN

- Martin Place Historic District north and south sides of Martin Pl. between Graham Ave. and Water St., and 500, 498, and 450 N. Main St., Franklin
- Masonic Temple 135 N. Main St., Franklin
- South Walnut Street Historic District roughly both sides of S. Walnut St. from Thompson St. south to 507 and 514 S. Walnut, plus the 100 block of W. Campbell, Edinburg
- Toner Historic District E. Main Cross from the CSX tracks to White Oak Ln., Edinburg
- Van Nuys Farm State Road 144, northwest of Hopewell, Franklin Township
- August Zeppenfeld House 300 W. Jefferson St., Franklin

Historical Markers in Johnson County:

- First Cabin in Greenwood 1823
- First Church, School, and Cemetery 1826
- Polk Community House 1920
- Birthplace of Banking in Greenwood 1892
- Pioneers Rest Here
- JT Polk Canning Company 1872
- Glade-Dobbings Cemetery 1832
- Whetzel Trace 1818
- Stone's Crossing
- Providence 1835

- Bargersville School 1912
- Two Cent Road and Three Notch Road
- The Hopewell Flag 1861
- Big Spring 1831-1931
- Big Spring Hopewell Community 1824
- Hopewell Academy 1855-1884
- Hopewell Academy Boarding House 1870
- Toll House on Hopewell and Union Village Gravel Road 1887
- Donnell's Knoll
- Young's Creek Christian Church 1829-1942
- Smiley Mill School (1839), and Cemetery (1822)
- Second Mount Pleasant Baptist Church 1835
- Howard Prince 1896-1962
- William Merritt Chase b 1849
- Camp Atterbury 1942
- Thompson Mill 1826 – supplied all flour for the civil war.
- Edinburg Interurban Station – Madison-Indianapolis R.R.
- Edinburg 1822 (First town of Johnson Co. 1976 known as Black Walnut Veneer Capital of the World.)
- First Settlement in Johnson County 1820
- Historical Blue River Township
- Nancy Kerlin Barnett 1793-1831 – grave in middle of road 1912
- First Buckner Family Home
- Johnson County Museum of History 1922 (Masonic Temple)
- Furnas Mill 1875-1913
- Anita Station 1906
- Province Hospital 1906-1946
- Johnson County Court Houses 1823-1881-present
- First Cabin in Franklin 1823
- Booker T. Washington School 1873-1951
- Birthplace of Paul Vories McNutt (Indiana's 33rd Governor)
- First Fair in Johnson County 1838
- P.W. Payne School 1870
- Birthplace of Roger D. Branigin (Indiana's 42nd Governor)
- Kittie Palmer School (South School) 1887
- Columbus Horatio Hall (Home of) 1846-1926
- Holloway Hall 1923-1976

- Indiana Masonic Home 1916
- William Watson Wick 1796-1868
- Franklin 1823

Education System

The public schools in Johnson County are rated thirteenth best in the state. There are 37 public schools in Johnson County, 7 private schools, and two colleges. Despite having only one 4-year college, Johnson County is the seventh best educated county in the state.

Public Schools

- Center Grove Community School Corporation – The district has six elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. “All students receive an exceptional educational experience.”
- Clark-Pleasant Community School Corporation – The district has one preschool, six elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. “We provide learning experiences that ensure all students reach their potential.”
- Edinburgh Community School Corporation – The district has one elementary, one middle, and one high school. It also partners with Simon Youth Foundation. “Empowering and encouraging all students through Education.”
- Franklin Community School Corporation – The district includes one preschool, five elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school “Together, we empower greatness in all learners through collaboration, dynamic partnerships, and rich experiences that develop a world-class learning environment.”
- Greenwood Community School Corporation – The district includes four elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. “To continuously improve the system of teaching and learning that results in increased achievement in all students.”
- Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson United School Corporation – The district includes one elementary school, one intermediate school, one middle school, one high school, and an online academy. “Our faculty and staff challenge and help all of our students soar to new heights, harness the power of learning and be the best they can be.”

Private Schools

- Greenwood Christian Academy
- Ss. Francis & Clare Catholic School
- Our Lady of Greenwood School
- Greenwood Christian School

- St. Rose of Lime School
- Center Grove Montessori School
- Risen Lord Montessori School

Colleges

- Franklin College
- Ivy Tech Community College - Franklin

Libraries

Since 1911, Johnson County Public Library has worked toward improving the quality of life for all citizens of Johnson County, Indiana. The Johnson County Public Library is made up of four branches and the JCPL Services Center. All JCPL locations are wheelchair accessible.

- Clark Pleasant Branch in New Whiteland
- Franklin Branch in Franklin serves the residents of Needham Township.
- Trafalgar Branch in Trafalgar serves the residents of Nineveh Township
- White River Branch in Greenwood serves White River Township

The Johnson County Public Library has studied the need for libraries in the district and determined that the Clark-Pleasant area needs a new library due to consistent overcrowding at the current Clark-Pleasant branch (Daily Journal article by Magen Kritsch, dated 4/23/19).

The areas of Greenwood and Edinburgh are served by independent libraries and are not part of the Johnson County Library network.

The Greenwood Public Library actively enriches lives, promotes discovery, and fosters personal growth. This library district includes incorporated Greenwood only.

Edinburgh Wright-Hageman Public Library serves Edinburgh exclusively.

Hospitals and Health/Family Services

Johnson County is served by multiple hospitals, healthcare facilities, and other health related organizations providing a range of health and family services to the local community. Johnson County is home to Johnson Memorial Hospital in Franklin, Masonic Hospital in Franklin, and Valle Vista Health System in Greenwood, IU Health Urgent Care in Greenwood, Franciscan WorkingWell in Greenwood, St. Thomas Clinic in Franklin, Edinburgh Family Health Center, Trafalgar Family Health Center, and Adult and Child Health in Franklin among others.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

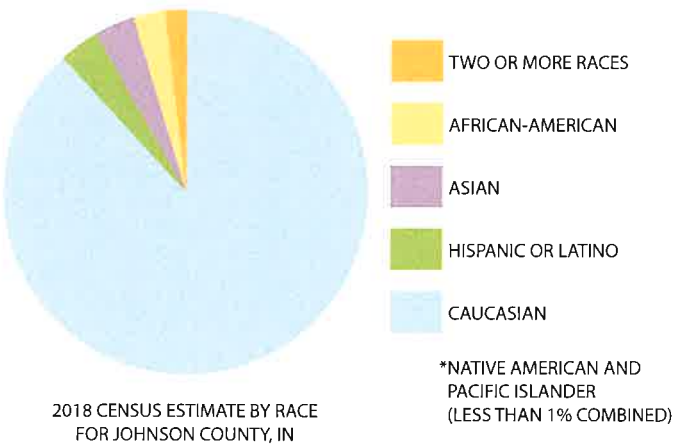
Johnson County Demographics

The population of Johnson County is approximately 156,200 and has seen an increase of 11.7% over the past ten years (United States Census Bureau). According to the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the population density of Johnson County increased by 61% between 2000 and 2013. The overall population of Johnson County is predicted to increase to 167,899 by 2035.

Implications of a growing population for parks and recreation:

- New residents may not be aware of park locations or recreational opportunities.
- Many new residents relocate from Indianapolis and are accustomed to highly developed park districts, facilities, and programming.

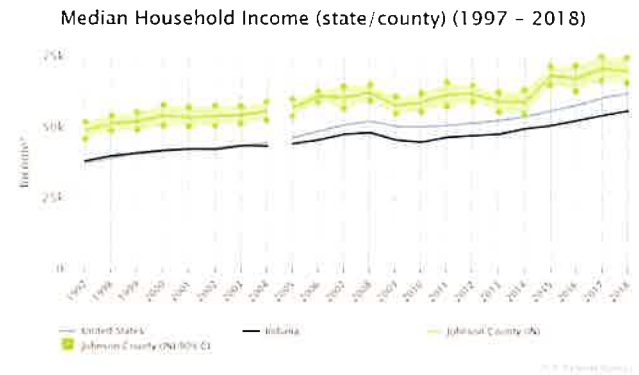
The population of Johnson County is 51.3% female and 48.7% male. According to the 2018 Census estimates, the population of Johnson County is predominantly Caucasian (88.7%), with the rest of the population made up of Hispanic or Latino (3.6%), Asian (3.5%), African-American (2.4%), two or more races (1.8%), and Native American and Pacific Islander (less than 1% combined). This is somewhat less diverse than the state as a whole, which also has a primarily Caucasian population (78.9%).



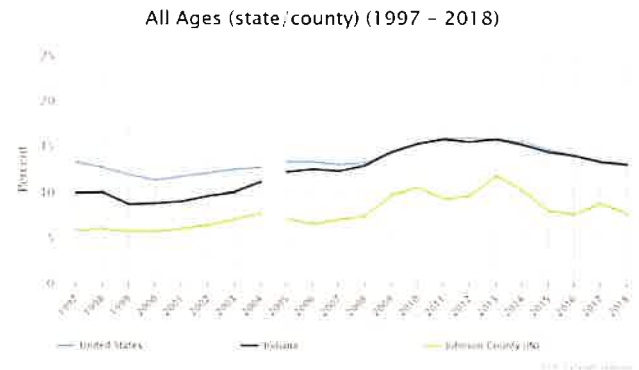
Minority Population implications for parks and recreation:

- The growing minority population (in Edinburg, population 4,200, 20% of the population are hispanic) may require changes in programs and amenities to meet their cultural needs (for example soccer and cricket are very popular).

Johnson County has a low unemployment rate of 2.9%, relatively high median household income of \$70,690 (versus the state median household income of \$54,181). This indicates that most households have some disposable income to put towards recreational activities.



The poverty-rate in Johnson County is 8.8% (10.1% among children 18 years of age or younger) which is considerably lower than the national and state percentages. Regardless, as a public service, recreational programming and opportunities should be available to all people.

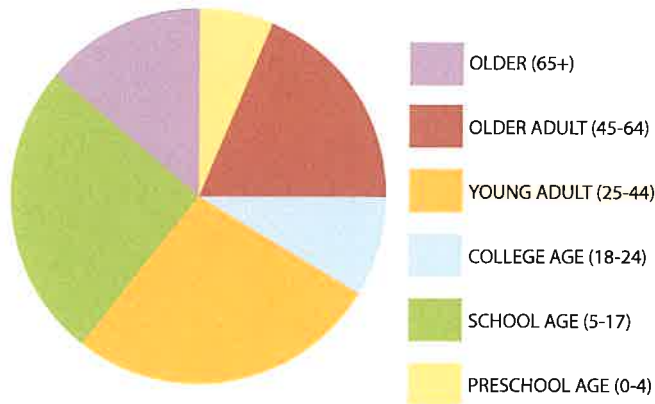


More than 91% of adults 25 years of age or older have a high school diploma or more, with 31% having a bachelor's degree or more.

The majority of housing in Johnson County is owner-occupied (71%). Most households, 72.3%, are family households. Of those, 32.4% are married without children, and 24.6% are married with children. Only 9.2% are single parent households. Housing and family structure implications for parks and recreation:

- With a large percentage of employed people living in Johnson County with children, there may be an increased demand for after-school and summer youth programs.
- Providing evening and weekend family and youth programs is important to meet the needs of families in which both parents work.

According to the American Community Survey (2018) the median age in Johnson County is 37.1 with 14.5% being 65 years and over, which is up from 11.9% in 2007. Just over 25% of the population is under 18 years of age. With these factors in mind, it is important for the Johnson County Parks & Recreation Department to continue to plan facilities and programs for the aging population, while continuing to provide great opportunities for families and children.



2018 CENSUS ESTIMATE BY AGE FOR JOHNSON COUNTY, IN

Age-related implications for parks and recreation:

- The senior population has unique exercise and recreational needs that vary considerably from those required for younger populations. Walking and sitting areas are very important, especially in conjunction with areas that provide interesting activities to observe.
- Demand for senior and adult programming will increase as the population continues to age. Seniors enjoy activities with a social aspect and the Nineveh Senior Center could be a good partner in providing additional functions and programs of interest to this age group.
- Aging in place is defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as “the ability to live in one’s home and community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level.” Parks and recreation is a vital part of creating an age friendly community (NRPA).
- Johnson County will need to provide activities for young adults and children to attract and keep young families.

Johnson County Economy

According to Stats Indiana, Johnson County has grown by more than 95,950 people, from 43,704 people in 1960 to 156,200 people in 2020. This steady and consistent growth is also reflected in the 2035 census population projection for Johnson County (167,899 individuals). Many factors impact this growth, including proximity to Indianapolis, great schools, municipal growth within cities and towns of Johnson County and an overall strong quality of place.

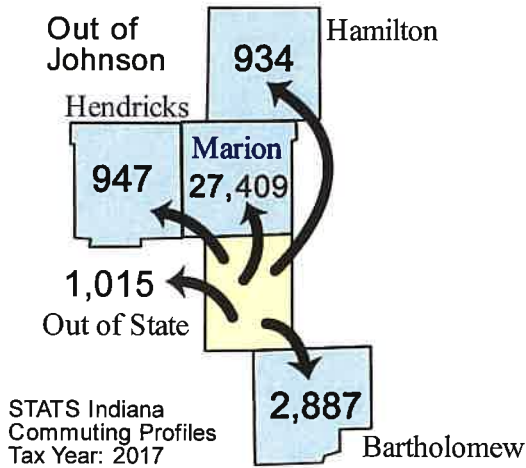
Indiana is one of many mid-west states undergoing the predicament of losing many of its best-educated citizens. While the population is steadily growing, more and more people with higher education are moving to other states. Johnson County is no exception to this trend, although it is faring better than many other Indiana counties. Job opportunities, schools, and health care are central factors when deciding where a person chooses to live. Equally important, however, is quality of life.

The county as a whole is more developed in the northern portion and is somewhat less developed in the southern region. This growth pattern presents the Johnson County Parks & Recreation Department with some challenges. While the park systems of some smaller less developed communities within the county are fairly well developed, due to their largely rural locations, more land can usually be acquired to provide alternative outdoor recreation opportunities as populations increase. While it may be more cost efficient to acquire large tracts in the less developed south and east regions at the present time there may not yet be the population base to support developing park activities or facilities there within the next five years. Land could (and perhaps should) be acquired now and banked for later development. In the more developed areas, the Park Department must compete with a variety of other land uses for available space.

Historically, unincorporated Johnson County experiences a healthy annual number of building permits and is projected to experience increased permit activity as developers of single-family residential, multi-family residential, and commercial projects target this area for new development.

In a 2014 CNNMoney article, Johnson County was listed as a place where the middle class thrives. Due to its low unemployment (2.9% in 2019 down from 5.3% in 2014), good quality of life and decent incomes. The county’s varied mix of industries supports a diverse local economy. Greenwood, the closest town to Indianapolis and largest in the county, is a retail and dining center for the south

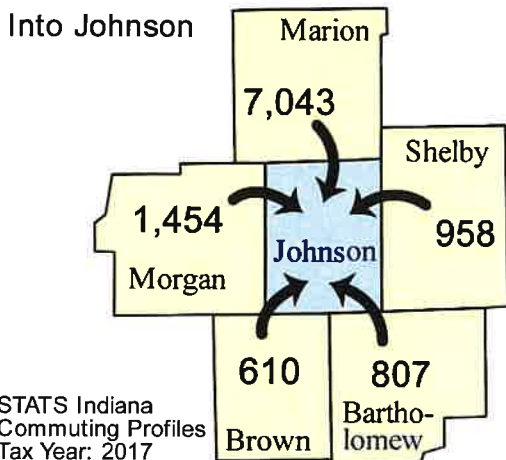
central part of the state. It's also a bedroom community for commuters. With over 33,000 residents of Johnson County working outside of the county, it is clear that its central location and transportation network make this possible.



Franklin has a solid manufacturing base including many auto related plants. Franklin's agricultural sector still thrives from its days as a farming town.

Johnson County offers a unique mix of suburban and historic neighborhoods as well as a wealth of rural land for country living. The incorporated communities of Johnson County include Bargersville, Edinburgh, Franklin, Greenwood, New Whiteland, Prince's Lakes, Trafalgar, and Whiteland.

Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance drives economic development and business success in Johnson County, Indiana and southern Indianapolis. They lead the area's business community by leveraging community development opportunities and providing comprehensive member services for entrepreneurs, small businesses and large corporations. The current businesses successfully attract a sizeable labor force from outside the county.



There are multiple industries that drive the economy of Johnson County. These include international companies that are leaders in the advanced manufacturing, defense, health and life sciences, international business and distribution sectors. Many businesses and industrial parks are located on interchanges in Greenwood, Whiteland/ New Whiteland, Franklin, and Edinburgh.

One of the fastest growing communities of Johnson County is Bargersville. Past growth has been mainly north of the Greenwood in the Center Grove area. More recently however, Bargersville has been at the center of the most growth. It has grown over 29% (the most in the county) since 2010. Bargersville's rate of growth is higher than that of Carmel (17.2%) and Fishers (20%) in booming Hamilton County. Greenwood's population has grown more than 15% since 2010 and Trafalgar's has grown by 14% (May 29, 2019 Daily Journal article by Magen Kritsch).

All of this growth will only increase as the expansion of I-69 comes to the area in 2020. Available housing is already at a premium which is directing development toward new home construction. Johnson County led central Indiana with the greatest increase in home sales in 2018, as compared to the previous year. In January of 2019 in a Daily Journal article by Andy Bell-Baltaci, Mutual Savings Bank President and CEO David Coffey said, "Johnson County is one of the hottest markets in Central Indiana. It has great school systems, a great environment where you can relax and spend time. Companies around here are great places to work."

Future Land Needs

Land use needs for 2030 were projected based on the Indiana Business Research Center, the official Indiana state data center, population projection for 2030 (170,000 people). If land continues to be consumed at the current per capita rate, an additional 6,500 acres of development would be required by 2030 to accommodate those uses (commercial, industry, transportation, etc.) that support the added residential population, resulting in 72,000 acres of development throughout Johnson County. This would leave approximately 132,000 acres in undeveloped, natural resource and agricultural, land. Applying current per capita ratios of these non-residential land uses to the projected population growth, Johnson County would need additional development of:

- 850 acres of commercial land
- 510 acres of industrial land
- 3,500 acres of institutional land

-
- 316 acres of recreational land
 - 1,280 acres of transportation facilities

The amount of actual land needed for residential development will depend on household size and density of development.

Key considerations relative to the future land use map are:

- Preservation of riparian corridors and other key environmental features;
- Transition of density between suburban areas and rural areas;
- Continued industrial development in the I-65 corridor, the planned I-69 corridor, and other comparable locations;
- Commercial development and mixed-use development opportunities at key intersections; interstate interchanges; and locations to serve growth;
- Suburban residential development focused in the northwest corner of the county; and
- Opportunity for rural residential to accommodate preferences for rural lifestyle.

According to the APA, the suburbs of a many urban areas have failed to add park land to meet their own needs, and have tried to rely on the older parks of the central city. Johnson County has the chance to avoid this outcome if they act now.

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Creating accessibility throughout a park system is no small task. Accessibility encompasses so many different aspects, from people with temporary disabilities to people who lack financial resources. Each person, regardless of physical, mental, emotional, or financial ability must be considered and included in all facets of facility and program design. In 2015, Johnson County completed an ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. In performing this self-evaluation, only areas open to the public were assessed at the County facilities identified by Johnson County as having programs/services provided. Areas of these facilities open to the public generally included parking lots, walks, park amenities, and areas within buildings that are not restricted to employees. The ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan is available on the county website, www.co.johnson.in.us. Barbara Davis is the ADA Coordinator for the County. She can be contacted by phone at (317) 346-4329, email at bdavis@co.johnson.in.us, or by mail addressed to County Coordinator, ADA Coordinator, 86 West Court Street, Franklin, IN 46131.

The 2018 estimates from American Community Survey (by the U.S. Census Bureau) estimated that over 10% of the population in Johnson County has a physical or mental disability, and that 14.5% of the total population is over 65 years old. Given the notable percentage of residents with a disability and a sizable aging population, particular attention should be paid to acquiring appropriate training to meet the challenge of appropriate universal design and access. Board members and staff should either receive such training, or ensure that any outside contractor is conscious of the importance of providing parks and programs for all users.

In order to meet the recreation needs of county residents and visitors with disabilities, it is the goal of Johnson County Parks & Recreation to offer barrier-free facilities, and programs and services that are inclusive for all users whenever feasible. Any new park properties will be sure to meet all accessibility standards.

Accessible Parking

Accessible parking at park locations is vitally important to ensure people of all abilities can utilize the provided recreational opportunities.

There is ample parking in Johnson County Park but, not all of it is dedicated full-time parking. During large events, visitors park along the old deteriorating military roads and in lawn areas. Johnson County Parks & Recreation delineates temporary accessible parking spaces during events. As facilities and their dedicated parking areas are

repaired/maintained, efforts are being made to bring them up to current standards.

Independence Park is an all-access park and the parking is no exception. There are barrier-free routes from all parking areas to all areas within the park and multiple accessible parking spaces. The number of parking spaces in the park is limited and all spaces are frequently full.

Facilities

Many buildings at Johnson County Park are not currently accessible since they were built such a long time ago. As facilities are repaired/maintained, efforts are being made to bring them up to current standards. The department makes accommodations as needs arise or requests are made.

The playground, shelters, maintenance building, and rest rooms at Independence Park are all accessible.

All future park facilities shall be designed to meet or exceed accessibility requirements.

Trails

The existing surface materials of the nature trails and the intended use (equine) of some of the Johnson County Park facilities may be restrictive and make meeting ADA requirements challenging. The existing roads throughout the park are available for use as accessible trails. This is not ideal however, since many of them are in need of repair and do not connect destinations logically.

The trails at Independence Park are paved asphalt trails with minimal slope providing multiple accessible trails for public use.

UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY/COMPLIANCE

WHEREAS, the Johnson County Parks and Recreation Board is aware of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended (Public Law 101-336); and,

WHEREAS, The Johnson County Parks and Recreation Board desires to provide the highest level of accessibility reasonably practical for all residents of Johnson County, regardless of ability and consistent with the responsibility to conserve and protect natural and cultural features; and,

WHEREAS, The Johnson County Parks and Recreation Board recognizes the responsibility to provide a quality leisure and outdoor recreation experience for everyone,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE JOHNSON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD will work to provide said experiences and to resolve any and all complaints pertaining to these Acts.

Passed and signed this _____ day of _____, 2020

JOHNSON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

SECTION 504 COMPLIANCE

**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 _____ (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 _____
APPLICANT PRESIDENT

(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE _____

(Secretary's printed name)

DATE _____

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Community Survey



TELL US ABOUT OUR PARKS
 We are looking for your input on how we can improve our parks and recreation programs. Your input is important to us. We are looking for your input on how we can improve our parks and recreation programs. We are looking for your input on how we can improve our parks and recreation programs.

[TAKE OUR SURVEY](#)

Post on jocoparks.com

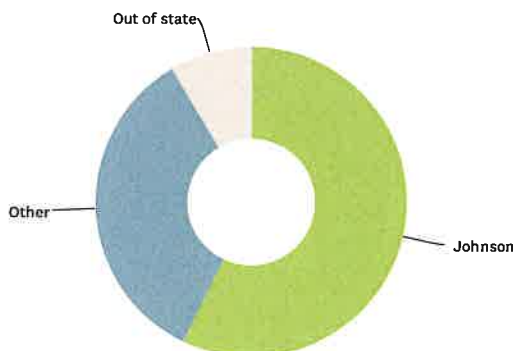
A public survey was developed to gather input including current opinions and thoughts about the future of the parks in Johnson County. The 36-question survey was made using SurveyMonkey, an online platform for creating surveys, and collecting and analyzing the gathered data. The survey posed detailed questions about the Johnson County Parks & Recreation Department, facilities, parks, trails, programs, recreation needs, and demographic information. The survey was formatted in a variety of multiple choice, ranking, and open-ended style questions.



Instagram post about public survey

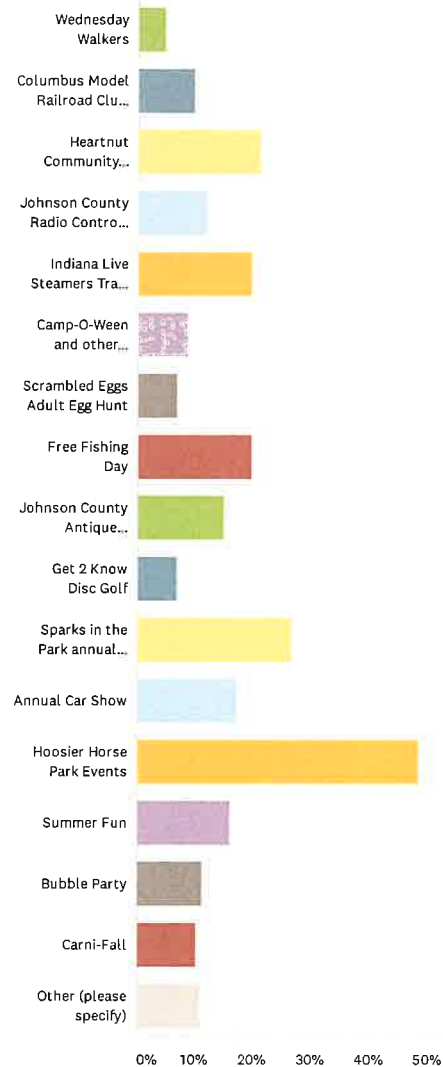
Johnson County Parks & Recreation advertised the survey in the newspaper, on their website (jocoparks.com) and their social media platforms. The survey went live on November 13, 2019 and was available until December 23, 2019. Hard-copies of the survey were also made available to the public at the Park Office at Johnson County Park and the Johnson County Public Library - Trafalgar Branch.

Over the five and a half weeks the survey was active, 304 people responded online. No hard-copies of the survey were returned. Fifty-seven percent of the respondents were residents of Johnson County with the majority hailing from White River Township. Thirty-four percent of respondents were from out outside of Johnson County, and nine percent were from out of state.



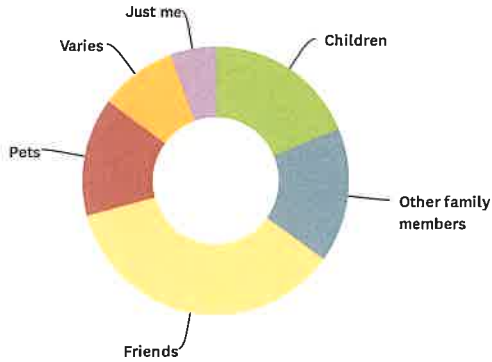
Seventy-three percent of survey-takers visited Johnson County Park in the past year, while only forty-two percent visited Independence Park. Most people visited multiple times a year, especially during the warmer months.

According to the survey, the Hoosier Horse Park is the largest draw to Johnson County Park. The most popular events/programs offered at Johnson County Park are Sparks in the Parks, the Heartnut Festival, Free Fishing Day, Live Steamer rides, and the Annual Car Show.

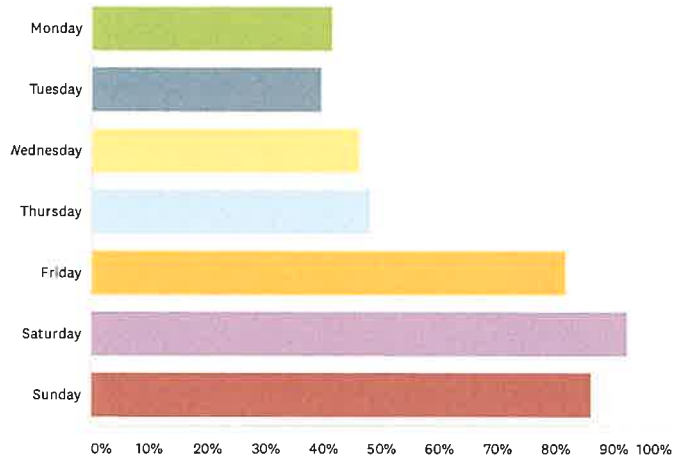


Survey respondents were asked what factors, if any, limited their use of the parks. Lack of time is the largest restricting factor, followed by location of parks. Other restricting factors that came up about park use include communication about events/programs, park availability (many horse events), park office hours, and the lack of tent camping.

Thirty-six percent of respondents visit the parks with friends while eighteen percent visit with their children, sixteen percent visit with other family members, fifteen percent visit with their pets, nine percent said who they visit with varies, and six percent visit alone.

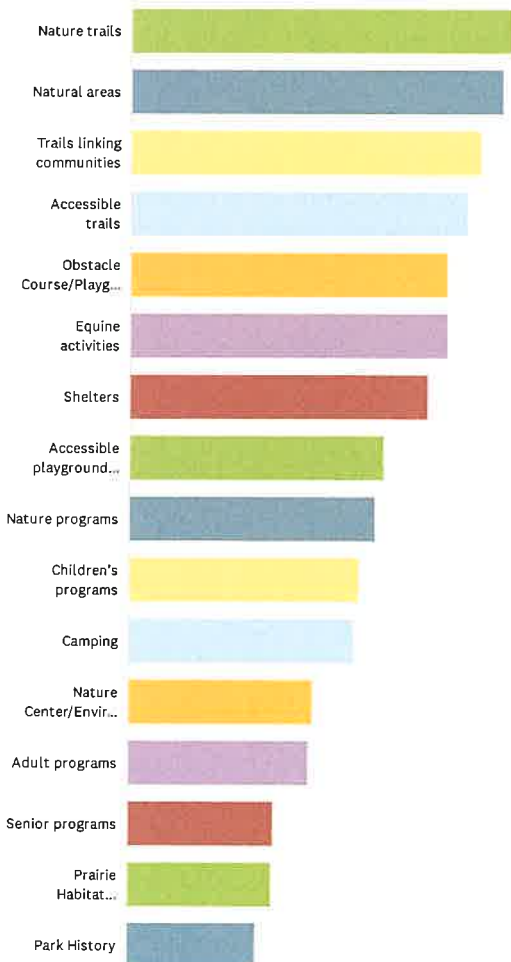


Weekends are clearly the most popular days for visits to the parks and more programs should be scheduled thusly.

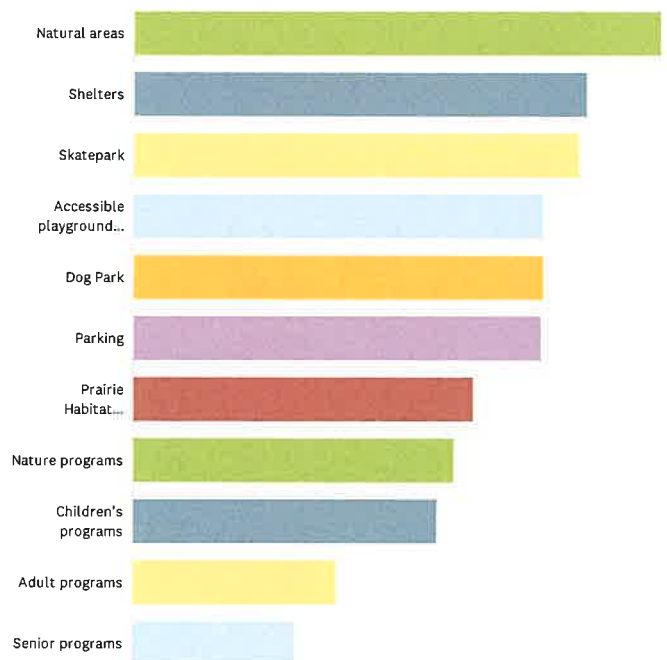


For each park under the care of Johnson County Parks & Recreation, survey takers were asked to rank the types of improvements they would like to see.

Johnson County Park Rankings:



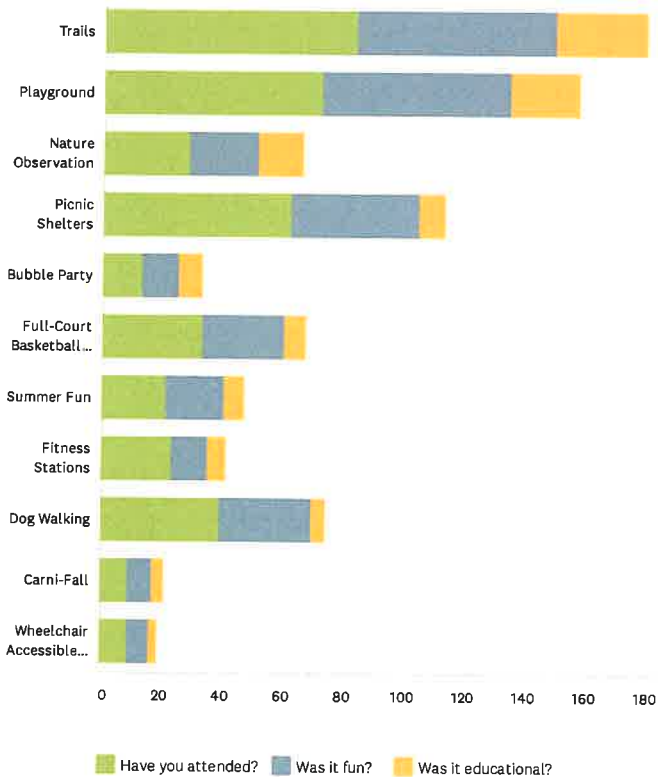
Independence Park Rankings:



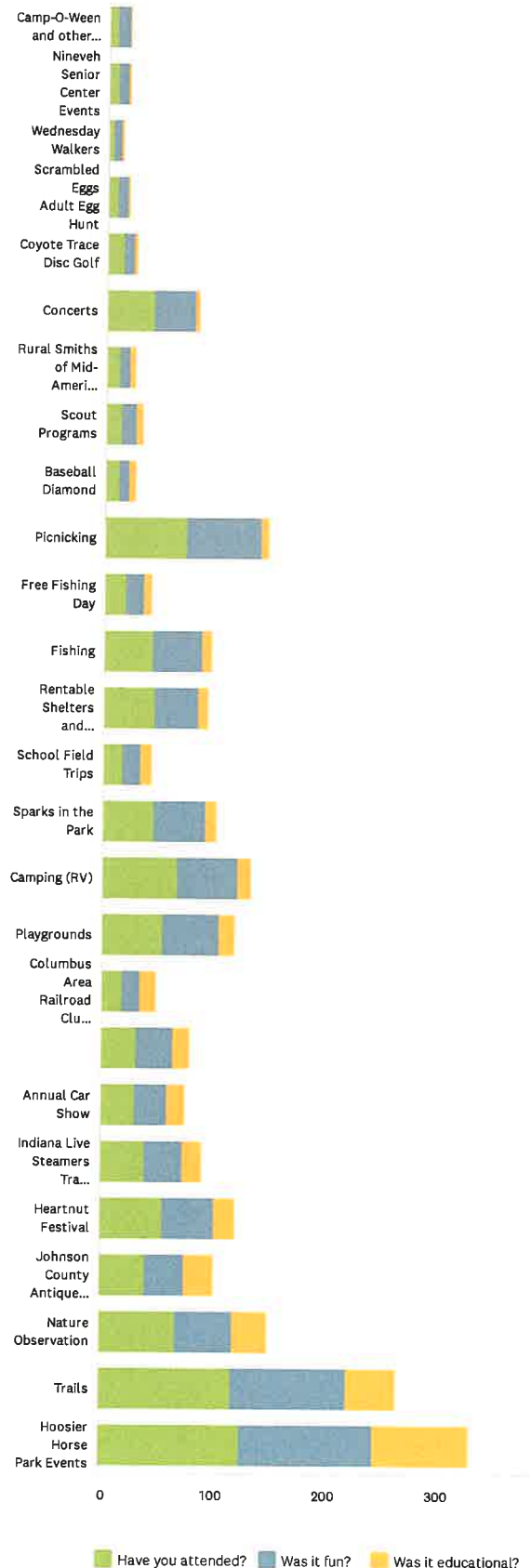
The top three program types currently offered by Johnson County Parks & Recreations are equine events/programs, recreational programs, and fitness programs. The top three program types respondents would like to see, are skatepark events, nature programs, and equine events/programs.

To get a feel for the attendance and quality of existing events/programs/features at both parks, respondents were asked if they have attended, if it was fun, and if they found it educational.

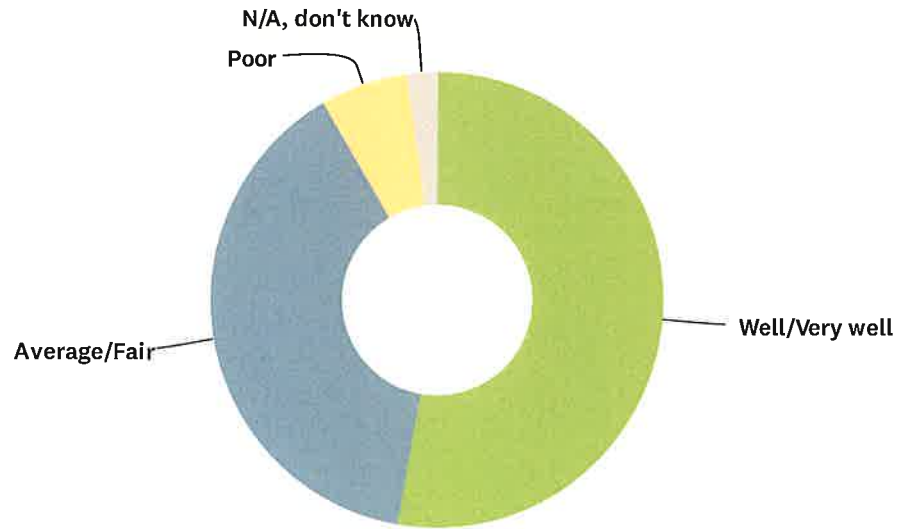
Responses for Independence Park:



Responses for Johnson County Park:

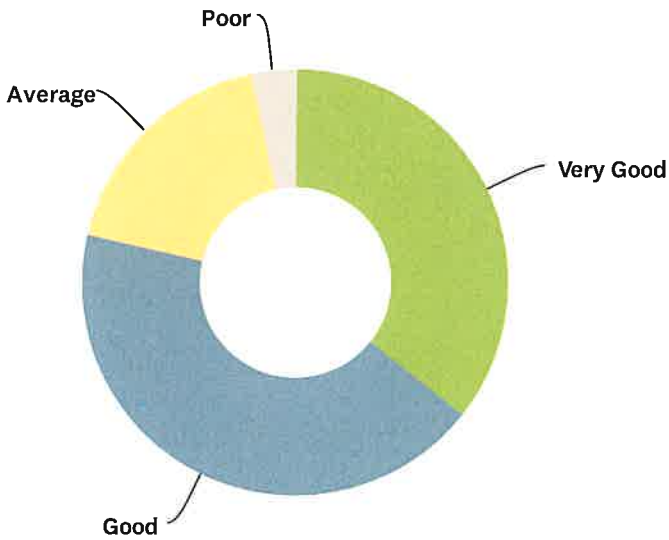


Survey respondents were asked to rate how well the grounds and facilities cared for by Johnson County Parks & Recreation are maintained overall. The majority responded with well or very well. Only seventeen respondents rated overall maintenance as poor.

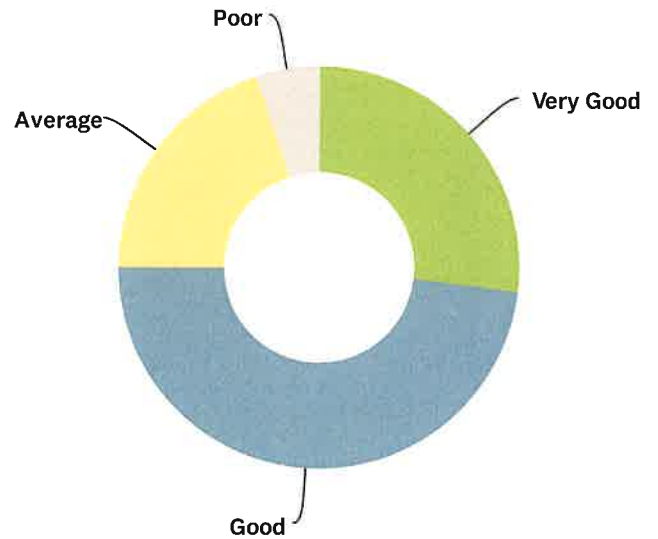


The same was asked for each park individually.

Johnson County Park:

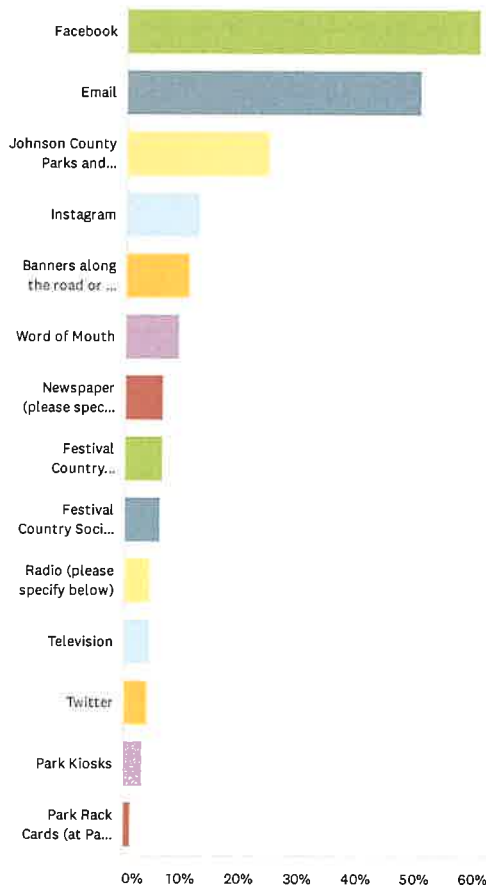


Independence Park:

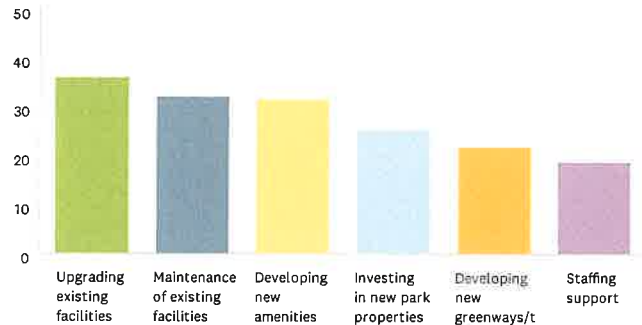


Nearly eighty percent of survey takers said either they, or a family member are involved in passive outdoor recreation. Hiking, trail walking, and nature observation were the top responses. These include photography, bird-watching, and dog-walking.

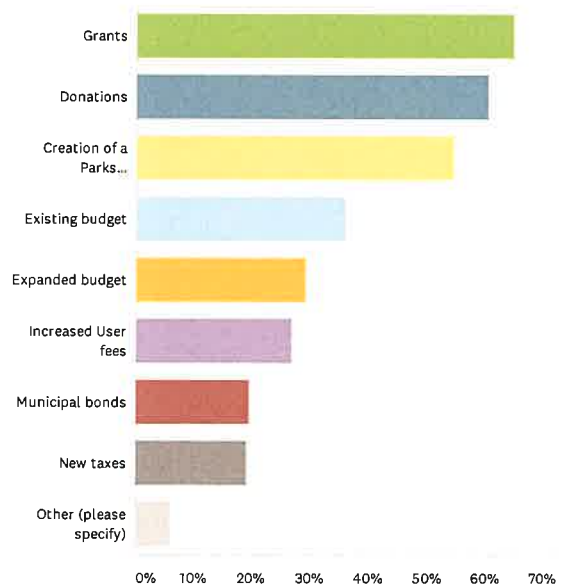
Survey respondents were asked what their preferred method of communication top be notified about Johnson County Parks & Recreation programs and events. Over sixty percent listed Johnson County Parks & Recreation's Facebook page as their preferred source.



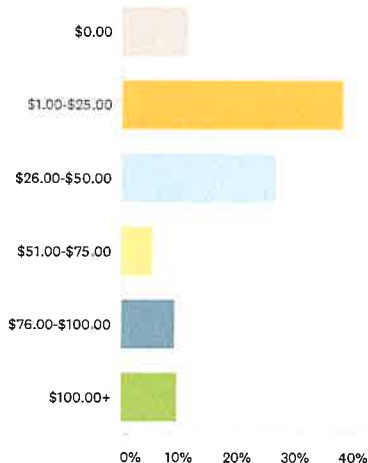
Survey takers were put in the shoes of the parks department and asked how they would allot funds if they were in charge. They had a budget of \$100.00 for this exercise to split among upgrading facilities, maintenance of existing facilities, developing new amenities and programs within existing parks, investing in new parks properties, developing new greenways/trails throughout the county, and staffing support.



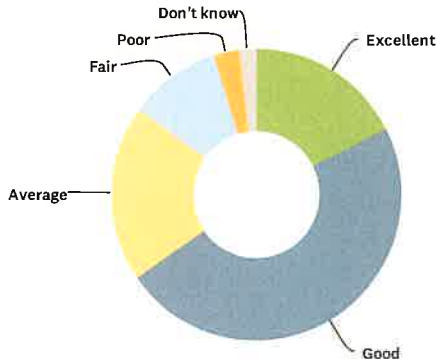
Johnson County Park and Independence Park are primarily funded by county appropriations (Food & Beverage Tax Fund) and revenue generated from Park activities. Survey respondents were asked what they feel would be reasonable funding sources to pay for new amenities in the parks. Sixty-five percent said grants would be the most reasonable. New taxes was the least popular funding source.



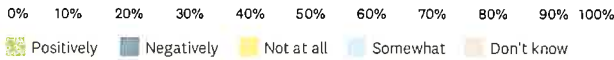
When asked how much more per household per year they would be willing to pay to support park facilities and programs, the majority of respondents said an additional \$1.00-\$25.00.



Respondents were asked about the overall state of parks and recreation throughout the county. First they were asked how they feel the county is doing in respect to parks and recreation. Seventeen percent feel the county is doing excellent. Only three percent feel it is doing poorly.



Survey takers responded about the impact current Johnson County Parks & Recreation parks have on their quality of life. Over ninety percent said the parks impacted their quality of life positively.



To help guide future park planning and make sure all areas of Johnson County are being served, respondents were asked if there were any areas of the county that are under-served. Sixty-four percent feel all areas are well served. The main area that is under-served is the northern part of the county including all of White River Township.

Complete survey/responses can be found in Appendix H.



Concert at Johnson County Park Amphitheater

Stakeholder Meetings

Johnson County Parks & Recreation invited multiple stakeholders from area organizations, departments, and businesses throughout Johnson County to participate in stakeholder meetings regarding the master planning process. On December 3, 2019, the stakeholder meetings were held at the Franklin County Courthouse Annex in Franklin, Indiana. Seven stakeholders attended the meetings. Multiple discussion sessions were held throughout the day with representatives present from Johnson County Soil and Water, Festival Country, Johnson County Park Partners, the Town of Edinburgh, and other community groups. The stakeholders provided valuable input concerning the future of Johnson County parks.

The stakeholders who attended the meetings were enthusiastic and optimistic about the future of Johnson County Parks. Their contributions included suggestions on how to make the existing parks better and directions to take for new parks in the future. The majority of the discussion revolved around Johnson County Park and future parks since Independence Park is already in the process of being updated and is well-attended.

“Let people know you exist and what you offer.”

Communication is the biggest issue the stakeholders identified. The different facets of communication that need addressed include:

- Signage with wayfinding directions at Johnson County Park (make sure signage allows for future additions)
- Signage to Johnson County Park (make sure signage allows for future additions)
- Awareness of the parks’ existence and their amenities and programs (marketing and promotion)
- Coordination/cooperation/collaboration/connection with willing community partners (other parks departments, schools, Town of Edinburgh, Soil and Water Conservation District, Festival Country, Camp Atterbury)
- Trail signage including location, distance, trail type, and what the trail looks like

The number one “big idea” recommendation for Johnson County Park was the addition of a Welcome/Nature Center to serve as the central congregation point near main road for easy access. The Center would house educational nature/history programs, information about the park, and

the park department offices.

Making physical and contextual connections between Johnson County Park and other area attractions was another common suggestion.

- Pedestrian/Bicycle path over/across US 31 connecting Johnson County Park and Edinburgh
- Connection to other attractions/events in the county through cross-promotion (for example, providing coupons to campers for shops and eateries in nearby Franklin or Edinburgh)

“People today are looking for a unique experience.”

The stakeholders also gave multiple programming recommendations to increase patronage to the parks. These included:

- Competitions (cook-offs, disc golf, runs/walks etc.) with earned/accomplishment-based prizes to encourage involvement
- Events such as rodeo, polo, new unique festival
- Bringing in an outside vendor/company to run an aerial challenge or similar attraction

Suggested additions to Johnson County Park included:

- Large indoor venue for hosting events year-round
- Camp store for the campground
- Improving and/or moving the amphitheater location to provide a music venue in the area

“Create traditions – program continuity will bring people back year after year. Reconnect the community to the park and public memory.”

Complete Meeting Notes can be found in Appendix D.

Staff Meeting

The following day, nine staff members of Johnson County Parks & Recreation met at the Johnson County Park Office. They were asked for their input about the future of Johnson County Parks & Recreation. There were many ideas and concerns raised by the staff members. All agreed that the department is heading in the right direction and that great improvements have already been made on the current path.

Staff had more detailed concerns and suggestions for the

parks. Again, Johnson County Park naturally became the main focus of discussion.

Dunn Arena at the Hoosier Horse Park is the top priority for the Johnson County Park Board. The arena is to be upgraded. One third of the arena is to be used for horse shows; one third is to be new bathrooms and showers; and one third is to be used for public events with a provided catering kitchen.

Communication is a top priority issue according to the staff as well. Camping facilities are very nice but, the camping community does not know about them – they are a well-kept secret. Wayfinding signage is needed throughout the park. Stop signs at 4-way stops are needed, too. The Hoosier Horse Park is the economic engine of Johnson County Park but, the staff worry that it overshadows the rest of the park and what else it has to offer. People need to be made aware of what is available at the park besides the Hoosier Horse Park. “Where’s the bathroom?” is a question heard by staff members regularly. More bathrooms and signage to help locate them is needed.

Top issues according to staff:

- Stall maintenance improvement is a high priority for staff. The quick turnaround between events makes stall maintenance difficult.
- Bathrooms and infrastructure need to be upgraded throughout the park to provide high quality facilities.
- Lake Cottonwood should be fishable.
- Desire to maintain the large open spaces at the park. Consolidation of the necessities should occur to preserve the open feel of the park. Large open areas are used for sports and by pets.

Suggested additions to the park:

- More recreation opportunities need to be made available for families visiting the Horse Park. Needs to be a regional park with regional draw. Stay the day, the weekend!
- A playground at the shelter area would increase the utility of the shelters there. As it is, the Welcome Shelter, with its playground nearby, is the most-rented shelter.
- Demand of softball/baseball fields in the area is high. More fields would definitely be used and possibly bring more campers to the park. Maintenance of fields

however, may be too intensive.

- Four-season shelter would be a benefit to the park.
- New more exciting/picturesque and “official” horse trails (not just riding on the crumbling old base roads).
- A trail connecting the different hobby group (park partner) locations to encourage participation.

Things the staff feels they do well:

- Maintenance in the parks
- Communication (up and down the chain of command)
- Well-managed horse shows

What they feel they can do better:

Control invasive plant species (honeysuckle, garlic mustard, autumn olive, and thistle)

Old military base roads need improved/repaired

Campground security. Limiting park entry points could help with this.

What the staff hears from park visitors:

- Improvements at parks and Hoosier Horse Park have been nice
- Staff is quick to respond to issues
- Parks are cleaner

Big dreams for the park:

- Better building design including stalls and doors
- New barns with internal fencing and concrete
- Add warm-up arena
- Extra help in summer for repairs
- Upgrade lighting, wiring, ventilation at Hoosier Horse Park
- Greatly increase native prairie in size
- New gate and sign at Independence Park

What brings staff members to parks (other than their job):

- Camping
- Fishing
- Horse Facilities/trails
- Playgrounds
- Sport fields
- Hiking
- Archery
- Wildlife-watching

- History
- Geology
- Botany
- Grill/Campfire

Additional comments from meeting:

- Trash can locations could be consolidated to reduce public using receptacles for household garbage along main road.
- Mountain biking was mentioned but, horses and bikes do not mix well on trails. Since Johnson County Park has such a flat topography and is regularly occupied by horses, mountain biking could perhaps be accommodated in a future park instead. It can be a good source of revenue.

Community Meetings



Community Meeting post on jacobparks.com

MASTER PLAN PUBLIC MEETING



Facebook event post

The first community meeting was held at the Johnson County Public Library - Trafalgar Branch in Trafalgar, Indiana on December 12, 2019 from 5:30 PM-6:30 PM. The meeting was advertised on the Johnson County Park website, the Daily Journal newspaper, and Johnson County Parks & Recreation's social media accounts.

While there was not a big turn out, only three people, for the first public meeting, those who attended all participated and provided helpful input. A short presentation about the master plan process, its goals, and its progress got everyone up to speed before discussion began.



Public Meeting - December 12, 2019

Johnson County Parks & Recreation shared some key things they have planned:

- Move the Park Office near the entrance to the park
- Increase native prairie
- Reforest areas of the park
- Decrease needs for mowing
- Improve the health and usability of Cottonwood Lake
- Improve ADA accessibility

Public-Identified Strengths at Johnson County Park:

- Location of Johnson County Park, next to Atterbury Fish & Wildlife Area
- Nearby to kids' summer/day camps in Edinburgh and Franklin
- Antique Machine Show is interesting and popular event at the park
- Openness at park is great! Get lost and enjoy it!
- Nice to stumble upon something else interesting when visiting the park, you didn't know was there!
- Want people to know about it, but do not want it to become too crowded
- Fishing at Lake Cottonwood is good for beginners

Suggestions from the public for Johnson County Park:

- Re-do campground layout. It is not good. (Based on old military base road layout)
- Make Dunn Arena a large gathering area, activate it for multiple uses
- Expand camping throughout
- Events and Park Partner activities/events should be shared/aligned to attract more people, keep them entertained at the park longer, and encourage outdoor recreation
- Re-use or re-purpose the amphitheater. Won't be viable venue if it can't be used consistently
- Turn conservation officer are into an art piece (paint it?)
- Update infrastructure
- Build traditions with events to keep people coming back
- Camp store as single place to get firewood/supplies and register

-
- Add more trails
 - Make trail connecting hobby/event areas
 - Add fishing pier, address the vegetation, depth, and stocking issues at Lake Cottonwood

Public-Identified Strengths at Independence Park:

- Great location – quiet, feels like country, out in nature, but close to Center Grove School
- Park is used by all kinds of people
- Always being used, very popular park

Skateboard Club (Center Grove) uses park once a week, use hill for skateboarding. Provides great alternative to being indoors playing video games. Helps kids connect with nature, sit in grass, GREAT RESOURCE!

Suggestions for Independence Park:

- More trails
- More prairie
- More parking
- Skatepark
 - Built for kids to use. Build from scratch, no pre-fab. Build for safety, longevity, not the quick-sell. Concrete skatepark – requires little to no maintenance. Topography in Independence Park lends itself to ramps, etc. “Company Hunger” Nashville, IN makes skateparks that look like art, integrate nicely with the area.
- Important to plan and prepare, not wait and complain!

Complete Meeting Notes can be found in Appendix D.

The stakeholder meetings, community survey, and public meetings, in conjunction with the results of the park system inventory and analysis, were used to develop a base set of community needs and desires.



PLANNING IN JOHNSON COUNTY

Previous Planning Efforts

Johnson County Parks & Recreation has completed comprehensive parks master plans in the past but, has not submitted them to DNR before. The county has previous county-wide planning efforts that impact this plan. The following identifies some of the key goals and objectives from each of these plans that influenced the analysis and findings of this master plan.

Johnson County Parks & Recreation Marketing Plan, 2019

In July of 2019 a marketing plan for Johnson County Parks & Recreation was completed. After engaging stakeholders, researching the market and reviewing best practices, a plan strategy and recommendations were developed to improve the parks brand and public awareness of the parks.



impacts on the existing transportation network as a result of projected growth as well as identify necessary priority transportation projects. This plan should be used as a planning tool to approach INDOT and the Indianapolis MPO for support on immediate and future infrastructure projects and to manage the projected long-term growth in the area.

Key goals of the plans are to:

- Ensure future interchanges serve as appropriate gateways into the community by establishing necessary development guidelines
- Ensure thoroughfares provide pedestrian connectivity to neighborhoods and critical assets within the county
- Enhance traffic flow and transportation safety by widening roadways and improving key intersections
- Plan for appropriate land uses along key corridors
- Connect current and future land uses with the transportation needs of today and tomorrow
- Manage primary arterial corridors within White River Township
- Manage cross county east/west corridors as they impact White River Township
- Enhance multi-jurisdictional coordination for transportation planning
- Improve access management along key corridors

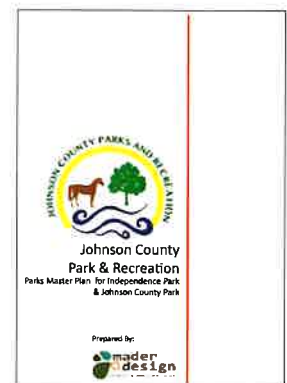
Johnson County Trails Master Plan, 2019



The Johnson County Trails Master Plan was completed in 2019. It is a county-wide tool that will be used to improve non-motorized accessibility, promote safety for bicyclists and pedestrians, and make Johnson County a more enjoyable place to live and visit. The approved final trails master plan map can be found in the appendix.

Johnson County Parks & Recreation Parks Master Plan for Independence Park & Johnson County Park, 2017

In 2016, the Johnson County Park Board embarked on an important step in the evolution of the Johnson County Parks & Recreation Department through the development of a master plan for both Johnson County Park and Independence Park. With a goal to set forth a reasonable and responsible vision for each park, the Department focused on creating a master plan to give them a target that can be implemented over time as resources become available. With the background of the Department's Mission Statement, the planning team, consisting of park staff, board members, and the



Johnson County I-69 Corridor Plan, 2018

This plan focuses on White River Township in Johnson County, mostly in the town of Bargersville and the city of Greenwood. It provides a guide to deal with the growth impacts. This corridor plan will address the reduction of access points, potential issues created by those reductions, and transportation



consultant team set forth several goals:

- Become more inviting to the general public by activating the park.
- Efficiently use Capital Resources.
- Focus on holding high standards for facilities within the park, and address areas that could lead to safety and liability concerns.
- Move beyond the patch and fix/make-due attitude toward a more proactive facility improvement and maintenance plan.
- Provide opportunities for Special Interest groups to buy into the overall vision for the parks and the Department.
- Find ways to be more efficient through routine maintenance.
- Understand and make decisions for the master plan based on revenue and maintenance costs related to activities, events, and new facilities and amenities.
- Find an appropriate way to phase the master plan, considering ongoing functionality of the park throughout implementation, as well as funding/ resources.

These goals were revisited for this planning effort, and were affirmed as ongoing goals for the Park Board and Department. With these goals in mind, the consultants reviewed information from past master plan documents, as well as current documentation provided by park staff. The planning team toured the facilities at each park and provided broad evaluations for the public facilities and equipment throughout the parks.

Johnson County, Indiana: Americans with Disabilities Act Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, 2015

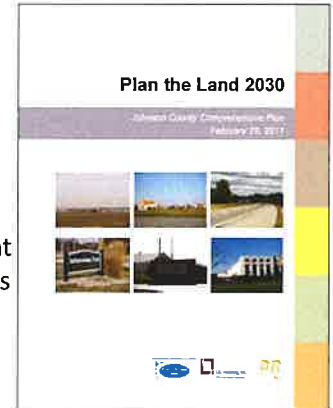
This Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan includes evaluation of the county policies, services, activities, and programs. Pedestrian facilities with the right-of-way detailed inventory of the areas within Johnson County Park that did not meet the accessibility requirements of the ADA. Recommendations on ways to fix the issues were given and improvements are on-going as



the facilities throughout the park continue to be repaired.

Plan the Land 2030: Johnson County Comprehensive Plan, 2011

The Johnson County Comprehensive Plan, Plan the Land 2030, is a guide for the future. It's the result of years of study, debate, input and refinement. The plan is a vision of the desired future to make the county the place that current residents, local officials and others want it to be.



The vision of this plan is: In 2030, Johnson County will be a distinctive place where we honor traditions and plan for tomorrow...by creating a comfortable quality of life with connected unique communities and cooperative and efficient governments.

The goals set forth to accomplish this vision are:

- Protect the farmer's right to farm while preserving rural character.
- Support quality development in Johnson County.
- Support Johnson County's culture/history.
- Encourage intergovernmental coordination.
- Improve the general public awareness of Johnson County government programs, authority, and responsibilities and increase public involvement in county activities.
- Protect the environment and natural resources within the county.
- Provide opportunities for recreation.
- Increase walk-ability and bike-ability.
- Improve and require roads of quality.
- Support mass/public transit.
- Ensure quality non-transportation infrastructure.
- Support a diverse economy.
- Promote a healthy lifestyle.

Policies and actions, along with future land-use and thoroughfare maps guide the recommendations for the future.

EXISTING JOHNSON COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION PARKS

Johnson County Parks & Recreation provides programs and activities aimed at a variety of ages, user groups and interests. New, revised, and additional programs and recreational activities respond to changing community needs and interests. Many of the programs offered by Johnson County Parks & Recreation are free to participants, while others are offered at a low cost. Many programs are focused on interpretation of nature and history.

Programs are conducted by Park Department Naturalists/ Interpretive Staff, as well as volunteers, and park partners. The largest events hosted by Johnson County Parks & Recreation the Heartnut Festival, Sparks in the Park, and the Annual Car Show.

Programs are generally focused on the following categories:

- Nature Camps
- Scout Programs
- Family Programs
- Historical Programs
- Guided Nature Walks
- School Field Trips
- Special Events
- Concerts

The department provides information on all programs, activities, and park news on its website and social media platforms. It can be found in print as well at the park office at Johnson County Park.

Current or near future changes to Johnson County Park and Independence Park:

Johnson County Park is in the process of getting new cinderThe following pages provide detailed history and inventory of the existing facilities, amenities and programs available at the two existing parks cared for by Johnson County Parks & Recreation; Johnson County Park, and Independence Park.



Nature Program at Johnson County Park during the Heartnut Festival

JOHNSON COUNTY PARK

Johnson County Park History

Camp Atterbury, once a premier military installation with a large hospital/convalescent center, and internment camp, was discontinued as a Department of the Army installation in 1968. The Indiana National Guard then began overseeing Camp Atterbury. From the 1970s through the 1990s, the primary mission of Camp Atterbury was to support the Indiana National Guard and its various missions, including support with the conflicts in Vietnam, Desert Shield, and Desert Storm. In 1977, an estimated 561 acres of land (once part of Camp Atterbury) were deeded by a grant from The U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. An additional 80 acres were added in the 1980s bringing the total acreage to 622. The land deed reserves the use of this land for parks and recreation use only. The remainder of Camp Atterbury continues to serve as a training facility run by the National Guard.



Aerial view Johnson County Park

In 1986, the horse community banded together and developed a facility, known as the Hoosier Horse Park, that hosted 50 International Riders during the 1987 Pan American Games. The facility has continued to provide show grounds for multiple horse organizations ever since. For the past 30 years the facility and its amenities have been under the care and supervision of the Johnson County Parks & Recreation Department.



Campgrounds at Johnson County Park

Recreational Amenities of Johnson County Park

The 622-acre park, located at 2949 North St, Nineveh, IN 46164, includes an 18-hole disc golf course, approximately five miles of wooded hiking trails, picnic areas, large open fields, a softball field, playgrounds, a 6 1/2-acre fishing lake (Lake Cottonwood), a nut grove, and the Hoosier Horse Park.



Horse riding at Hoosier Horse Park in Johnson County Park

There are five rentable shelters (Beech, Cedar, Fireside, Heartnut, and Welcome), two rentable buildings (Maples and Scout), a historic cabin, the park office building (with rentable room), a maintenance compound, multiple roads and building foundations leftover from the military days, a cell tower, amphitheater, and two RV campgrounds.

Johnson County Park Partners

The following community groups are Park Partners and operate autonomously out of Johnson County Park: Johnson County Antique Machinery Club, Indiana Live Steamers, Columbus Area Model Railroad Club, Nineveh Senior Center, Johnson County Radio Controlled Flyers, and Rural Smiths of Mid-America. These Partners hold events that attract visitors to the parks.



EXISTING FACILITIES & PROGRAMS AT JOHNSON COUNTY PARK

Johnson County Park

- Pedestrian trails
- Park Office Building
- Scout Building
- Maintenance Compound
- Maples Building
- Cedar Shelter
- Beech Shelter
- Fireside Shelter
- Heartnut Shelter
- Welcome Shelter
- Cottonwood Lake/Fishing Dock
- Disc Golf Course
- Amphitheater/Ticket Booth
- Baseball Diamond
- Cell tower
- Dunn Arena
- Baker Arena
- Stall barns with 384 stalls
- Equestrian arenas
- Equestrian trails/cross country course
- Equestrian water jumps
- Equestrian jumps
- Nineveh Senior Center
- Columbus Area Model Railroad Club
- Indiana Live Steamers
- Johnson County Antique Machinery Club
- Johnson County Radio Controlled Flyers
- RC Car Outdoor Track
- Nut Grove
- McClain Historic Cabin
- Franklin College Prairie
- Vacant Clubhouse
- Picnic Areas
- RV Campgrounds with 128 campsites
- Playground Equipment

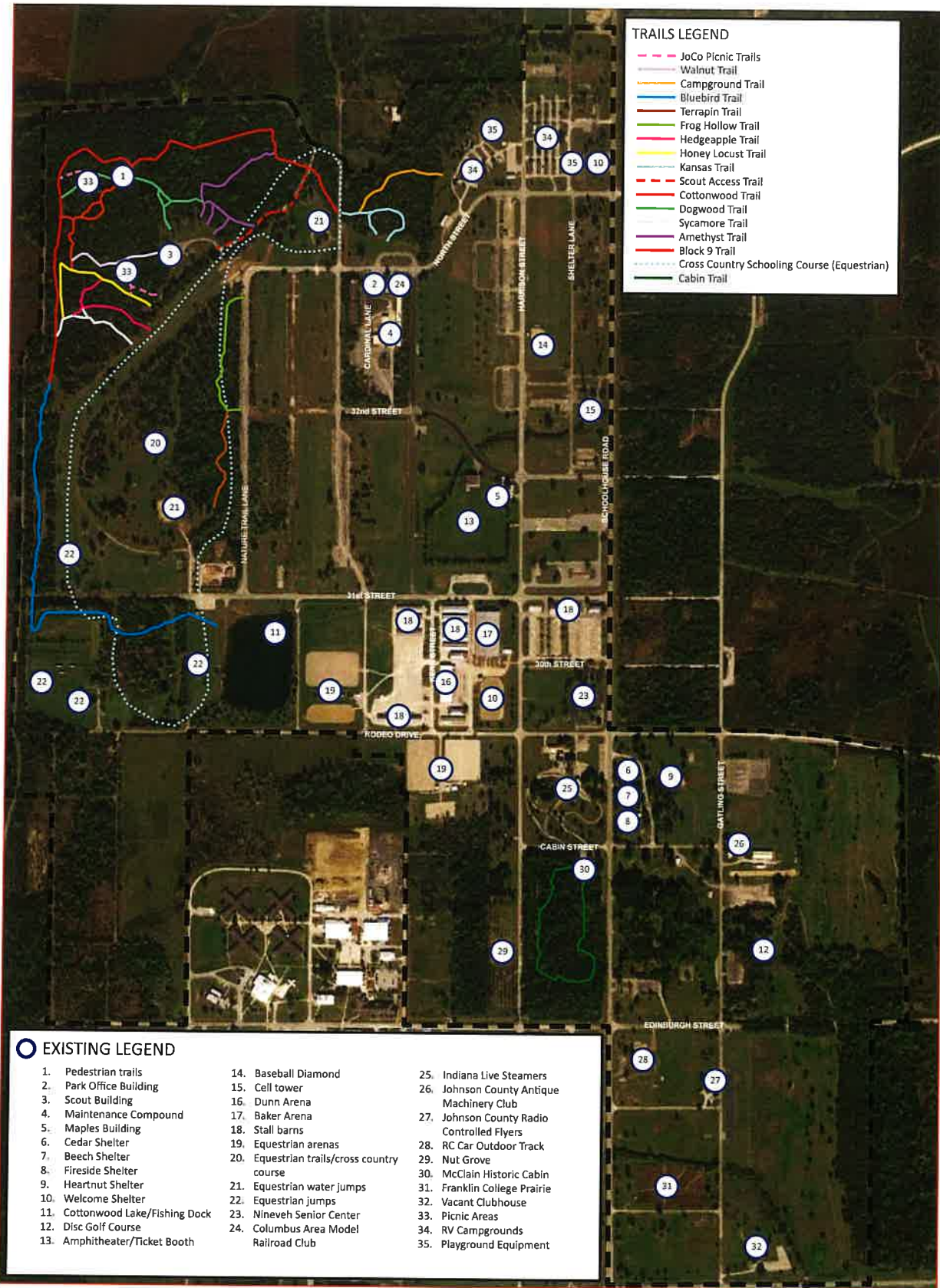
Trails

- JoCo Picnic Trails - 0.10 miles
- Walnut Trail - 0.12 miles
- Campground Trail - 0.13 miles
- Bluebird Trail - 0.60 miles
- Terrapin Trail - 0.14 miles
- Frog Hollow Trail - 0.18 miles
- Hedgeapple Trail - 0.21 miles
- Honey Locust Trail - 0.20 miles
- Kansas Trail - 0.16 miles
- Scout Access Trail - 0.16 miles
- Cottonwood Trail - 0.24 miles
- Dogwood Trail - 0.27 miles
- Sycamore Trail - 0.16 miles
- Amethyst Trail - 0.29 miles
- Block 9 Trail - 0.74 miles
- Cross Country Schooling Course (Equestrian)



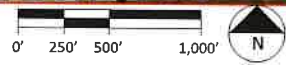
Programs

- Wednesday Walkers
- Columbus Model Railroad Club Open House/Swap Meet
- Heartnut Community Festival - handmade crafts, commercial food, beer, and wine vendors, bounce houses, live music
- Johnson County R/C Flyers Heartnut Fly-In
- Johnson County R/C Flyers Warbird Fly-In
- Indiana Live Steamers Mini Train Rides
- Camp-O-Ween and other campground events
- Scrambled Eggs Adult Egg Hunt
- Free Fishing Day
- Johnson County Antique Machinery Annual Show
- Get 2 Know Disc Golf
- Sparks in the Park concert and fireworks show
- Annual Car Show
- Hoosier Horse Park Events



- TRAILS LEGEND**
- JoCo Picnic Trails
 - Walnut Trail
 - Campground Trail
 - Bluebird Trail
 - Terrapin Trail
 - Frog Hollow Trail
 - Hedgeapple Trail
 - Honey Locust Trail
 - Kansas Trail
 - Scout Access Trail
 - Cottonwood Trail
 - Dogwood Trail
 - Sycamore Trail
 - Amethyst Trail
 - Block 9 Trail
 - Cross Country Schooling Course (Equestrian)
 - Cabin Trail

- EXISTING LEGEND**
- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Pedestrian trails | 14. Baseball Diamond | 25. Indiana Live Steamers |
| 2. Park Office Building | 15. Cell tower | 26. Johnson County Antique Machinery Club |
| 3. Scout Building | 16. Dunn Arena | 27. Johnson County Radio Controlled Flyers |
| 4. Maintenance Compound | 17. Baker Arena | 28. RC Car Outdoor Track |
| 5. Maples Building | 18. Stall barns | 29. Nut Grove |
| 6. Cedar Shelter | 19. Equestrian arenas | 30. McClain Historic Cabin |
| 7. Beech Shelter | 20. Equestrian trails/cross country course | 31. Franklin College Prairie |
| 8. Fireside Shelter | 21. Equestrian water jumps | 32. Vacant Clubhouse |
| 9. Heartnut Shelter | 22. Equestrian jumps | 33. Picnic Areas |
| 10. Welcome Shelter | 23. Nineveh Senior Center | 34. RV Campgrounds |
| 11. Cottonwood Lake/Fishing Dock | 24. Columbus Area Model Railroad Club | 35. Playground Equipment |
| 12. Disc Golf Course | | |
| 13. Amphitheater/Ticket Booth | | |



INDEPENDENCE PARK

Independence Park History and Recreational Amenities

Independence Park, located at 2100 S. Morgantown Rd., Greenwood, IN 46143, was built in 2000 through the cooperation and support of multiple local businesses, civic organizations, and individuals. The popular 13.5-acre park includes a wheelchair accessible 1/4-mile trail, 1/2-mile asphalt hiking trail with fitness stations and pet-waste stations, 3 picnic shelters, a full-court basketball court, wheelchair accessible basketball court, 8,000 square foot playground area, a sensory playground, large gazebo with benches, and a StoryWalk trail.



Johnson County Parks & Recreation is in the process of replacing the playground equipment at Independence Park to update and revitalize the park.



Entrance Sign at Independence Park



Kids at Summer Fun event, Independence Park



Basketball court and walking trail at Independence Park



All-Accessible Playground at Independence Park



All-Accessible swings and basketball goal at Independence Park



Accessible Gazebo at Independence Park

EXISTING FACILITIES & PROGRAMS AT INDEPENDENCE PARK

Independence Park

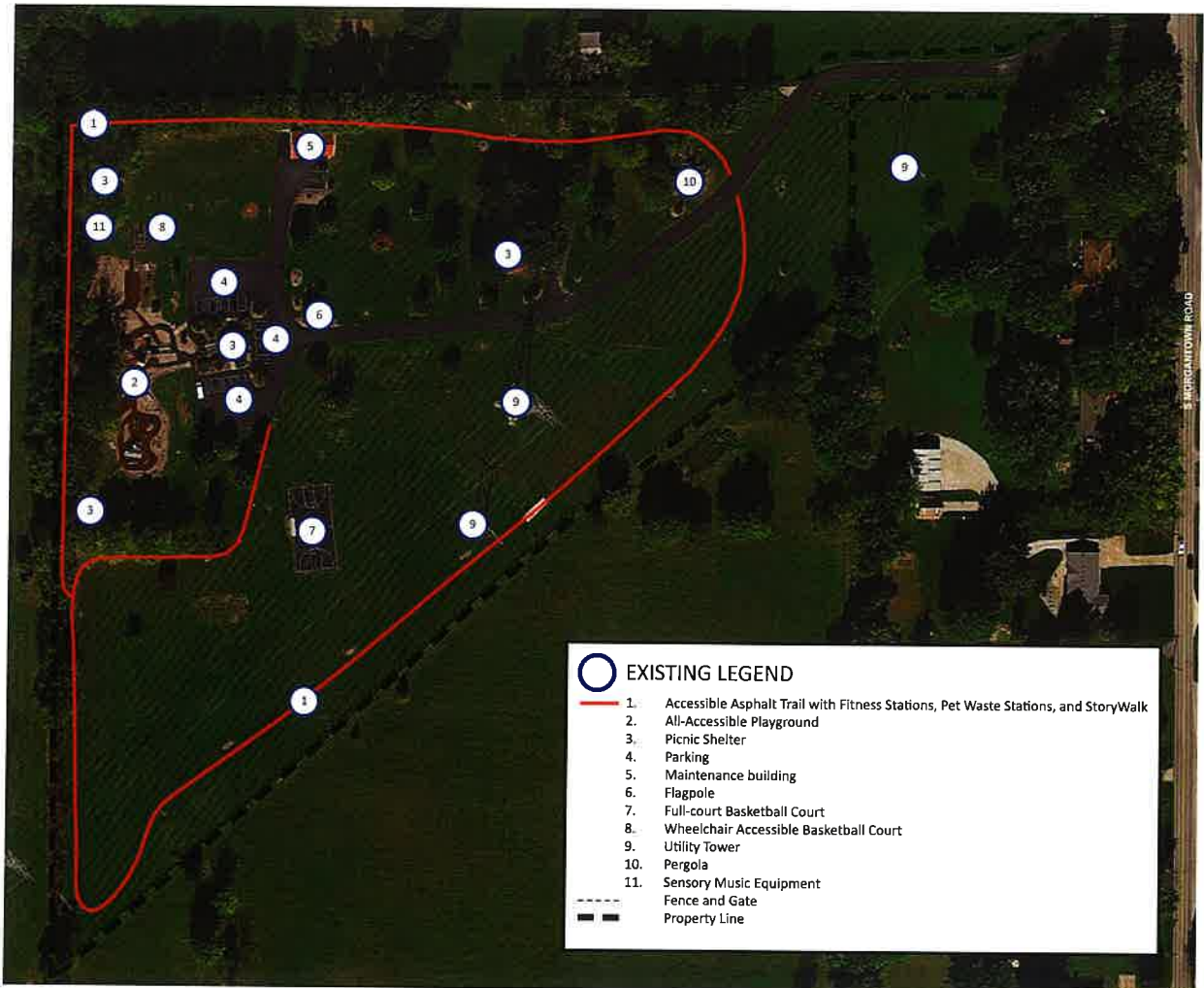
- Accessible Asphalt Trail with:
 - Fitness Stations
 - Pet Waste Stations
 - StoryWalk
- All-Accessible Playground
- 3 Picnic Shelters
- Maintenance Building
- Flagpole
- Full-Court Basketball Court
- Wheelchair Accessible Basketball Court
- Utility Tower
- Pergola
- Sensory Music Equipment
- Fence and Gate

Programs

- Summer Fun
- Bubble Party
- Carni-Fall



Bubble Party at Independence Park



RECREATION FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN JOHNSON COUNTY

There are more than 1,200 acres of parks for leisure and recreation throughout Johnson County. There are a few existing trails but, the Johnson County Trails Master Plan, completed in 2019, calls for an additional 164 miles of walkable trails connecting the communities and neighborhoods throughout the county.

The Convention, Visitor and Tourism Board (CVT), which markets the county as a tourism destination using the brand name Festival Country Indiana, is the official destination management organization for Johnson County.



JUST SOUTH OF INDY
festivalcountryindiana.com

development, contributing to the economic vitality of Johnson County and helping to make Johnson County a better place to live and visit.

There are several private and public recreation facilities available to Johnson County residents. These include private, semi-private, and municipal golf courses as well as private facilities. Additionally, there are numerous elementary, middle, high school and college facilities that offer at least some part-time public recreation opportunities.

Throughout the county there are seven public park departments operating within their local jurisdiction, as well as some trail development and advocacy groups.

Other departments and groups include:

- Edinburgh Parks & Recreation
- Franklin Parks & Recreation
- Greenwood Parks & Recreation
- New Whiteland Parks & Public Grounds
- Bargersville Parks & Recreation
- Trafalgar Park Advisory Board
- Johnson County Trails Group

Johnson County Parks & Recreation endeavors to coordinate and complement the other local parks with the county parks, trails, amenities, and programs.

Notable Nearby Outdoor Recreation Destinations

- Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area
- Laura Hare Nature Preserve at Blossom Hollow
- Prince's Lakes
- Morgan-Monroe State Forest – 40 minute drive
- Yellowwood State Forest – 50 minute drive
- Brown County State Park – 40 minute drive
- Big Oaks National Wildlife – 1 1/2 hour drive
- Hoosier National Forest – 1 1/2 to 2 hour drive

Aquatic Centers

- Edinburgh Aquatic Center – Edinburgh
- Franklin Family Aquatic Center – Franklin
- Freedom Springs Aquatics Park – Greenwood
- Splash Pad at City Center Park – Greenwood

Family Recreation Attractions

Franklin

- Franklin Skate Club
- Hi-Way Lanes
- Urban Air Trampoline Park

Greenwood

- Indy Paintball Battleground
- Kid City
- Orchard Golf Center
- Otte Golf and Family Fun Center
- Southern Bowl

Whiteland

- Rascal's Fun Zone
- Whiteland Raceway Park

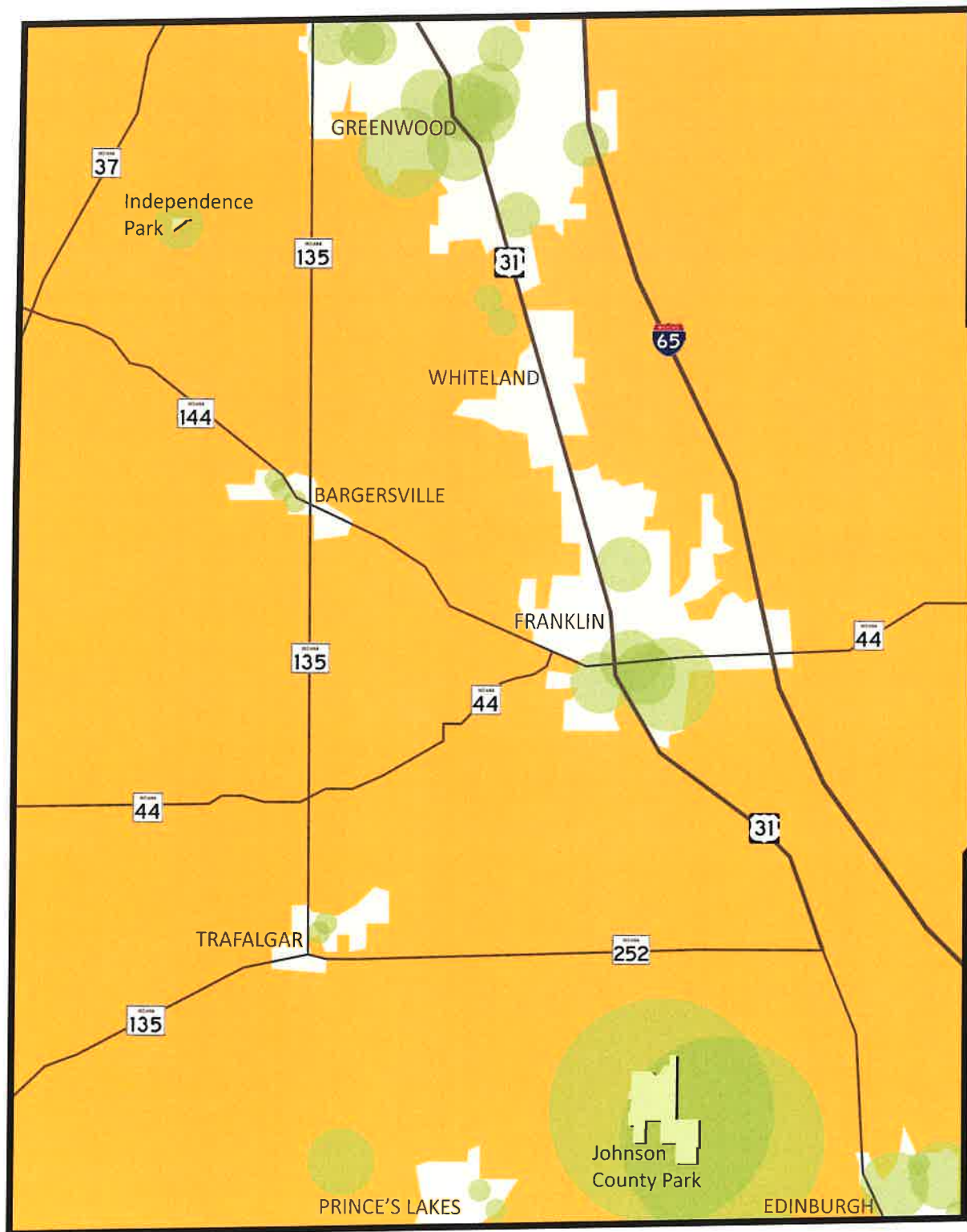
Community Parks & Gardens and their Amenities

Edinburgh

- Irwin Park
 - + 3 rentable shelter houses with picnic tables/grills
 - + 12 RV campsites
 - + Playground
 - + Trails/paved track
 - + Soccer Field
 - + Public access to Big Blue River
 - + Ample space for parking

- Prosser Park
 - + Shelter house with grill
 - + Basketball Goal
 - + Small playground
 - + Parking at roadside

RECREATION FACILITIES MAP



Heat map of recreational resources available throughout Johnson County.

- Bryan Park
 - + Basketball Goal
 - + Small playground
 - + Picnic tables
 - + Parking at roadside

Franklin

- Blue Heron Park
 - + Playground
 - + 1 Full Basketball Court
 - + 18-Hole Disc Golf Course
 - + Wetland Area with Boardwalk
 - + 1 Rentable Shelter
 - + Restrooms Available
 - + Park Benches
 - + Picnic Tables & Grill
 - + Connection to Historic Greenway Trail
 - + Contains Blue Heron Challenge Course
 - + Paved parking lot in front of park
- Branigin Woods Park
 - + Shelter
 - + Wooded Trail
 - + No parking
- Depot Park
 - + Gazebo
 - + Park Benches
 - + Limited Parking on Street
- Jack & Elsinore Morgan Park
 - + 2 Practice T-Ball Fields
 - + Connection To Historic Greenway Trail
 - + Parking Available at Community Park across the Street
- Palmer Park
 - + Playground
 - + Park Benches
 - + Picnic Tables & Grill
 - + Parking is Limited to the Surrounding Streets
- Payne Park
 - + Small Shelter House
 - + Picnic Tables
 - + Park Benches
 - + Playground
 - + 1 Full Basketball Court
 - + Shuffle Board Court
 - + Horseshoe Pit
 - + Ample Parking
- Province Park
 - + 4 rentable shelters

- + Rentable Rose Garden
- + Rentable Gazebo
- + Province Park Dog Park
- + Restrooms
- + Picnic Areas all containing grills
- + 2 large Playgrounds
- + Horseshoe Pits
- + Franklin Family Aquatic Center (containing Olympic-sized swimming pool with waterslide, high dive, and zero depth pool with working water features
- + Connection to Historic Greenway Trail
- + Parking available all over park
- + Next to Recreation Center and Aquatic Center

- Community Park
 - + 2 Tennis Courts
 - + 1 Full Basketball Court
 - + Picnic Tables & Grills
 - + Park Benches
 - + Playground
 - + Connection to Historic Greenway Trail
 - + Limited parking available in gravel lot running beside park
- Robert C. Schmidt Memorial Park
 - + Playground
 - + Park Benches & Grill
 - + 1 Full Court Basketball Court
 - + Parking is Limited to Street Along Edge of Park
- Scott Park
 - + Home of Franklin Little League, Franklin Girls Softball, & Franklin Boys & Girls Club T-Ball
 - + 4 Little League size diamonds
 - + 1 Senior/Softball size diamond
 - + Playground
 - + 1 Full Basketball Court
 - + Ample Parking
- Temple Park
 - + Playground
 - + 1 Rentable Shelter
 - + Open Green Space for Athletic Practices
 - + Parking Available in Gravel Lot in Front of Park

Franklin Urban Forest

Greenwood

- Craig Park
 - + Restrooms
 - + 2 Picnic Shelters
 - + Playground
 - + 2 Softball Diamonds

- + 5 Tennis Courts
- + Volleyball Court
- + Park Benches
- + Open Play Areas
- + Gazebo
- + Natural Area
- + Picnic Tables
- + Cross Country Skiing
- + Pathways
- + Grills
- Community Garden
 - + Garden Plots available for public use
 - + Connected to Northwest Park via paved trail
 - + Minimal on-site parking
- Independence Park
 - + Restrooms
 - + 3 Picnic Shelters
 - + Gazebo
 - + Basketball Court
 - + Wheelchair Accessible Basketball Court
 - + Accessible Playground
 - + Accessible Paved Trail
 - + Minimal parking on-site
- Freedom Park
 - + Restrooms
 - + Picnic Shelter
 - + Playground
 - + Open Play Areas
 - + Soccer/Football Fields
 - + Park Benches
 - + Picnic Tables
 - + Grill
 - + Basketball Courts
 - + Tennis Courts
 - + Disc Golf
 - + 1.5 Miles Of Walking Trails
- Children's Garden Park
 - + Gazebo
 - + Park Benches
 - + Ornamental Fountain
 - + Ornamental Landscape
 - + Children's Artwork
- Greenwood Amphitheater
- Old City Park
 - + Restrooms
 - + Picnic Shelter
 - + Playground
 - + Football Field
- + Open Play Areas
- + Park Benches
- + Grills
- Summerfield Park
 - + Restrooms
 - + Playground
 - + Open Play Areas
 - + Picnic Tables
 - + Cross-Country Skiing
 - + BMX Area
 - + Softball
 - + Soccer
 - + Basketball Court
 - + 2 Shelters
- Surina Square Park
 - + Walking Paths
 - + Open Play Area
 - + Gazebo
- Trails Park
 - + Picnic Tables
 - + Grills
- City Center Park
 - + Splash Pad
 - + Fully Accessible Playgrounds
 - + Walking Trails
 - + Shade Structures
- Northeast Park
 - + Restrooms
 - + 2 Picnic Shelters
 - + Picnic Tables
 - + Playground
 - + 4 Soccer Complex
 - + Softball Diamond
 - + Basketball Court
 - + Park Benches
 - + Grills
 - + Open Play Areas
 - + Skate Park
- Northwest Park
 - + Restrooms
 - + Picnic Shelter
 - + Playground
 - + Basketball Courts
 - + 1/2 Mile Paved Exercise Trail
 - + Nature Trails
 - + Gazebo
 - + Grills
 - + Picnic Tables

- Northwest Park Annex
 - + Restrooms
 - + Playground
 - + Picnic Shelter
 - + Picnic Tables
 - + 1/2 Mile Paved Exercise Trail
 - + Nature Trails
 - + Cross Country Skiing
 - + Basketball Courts
 - + Grills
 - + Park Benches
- University Park
 - + Restrooms
 - + Picnic Shelter
 - + Playground
 - + Basketball Court
 - + Nature Area
 - + Walking Trails
 - + Picnic Area
 - + Open Play Areas
 - + Pathways
 - + Grills
 - + Four Paws Dog Park
 - + Reflections Plaza Pavilion
- Westside Park
 - + Restrooms
 - + Picnic Shelter
 - + Playground
 - + Picnic Tables
 - + Grills
 - + Softball Diamond
 - + Basketball Courts
 - + 2 Tennis Courts
 - + Nature Trails
 - + Park Benches
- Woodmen Park
 - + Restrooms
 - + Picnic Shelter
 - + Playground
 - + Open Play Areas
 - + Softball Diamond
 - + Soccer Field
 - + Sand Volleyball Court
 - + Park Benches
 - + Picnic Tables
 - + Grills
- Grassy Creek Park
 - + Open Nature Area

- + Pond
- + Accessible Parking Lot
- + Connected to multi-use trail along E 750 N

New Whiteland

- Country Gate Park
 - + Shelter House
 - + Playground
 - + Paved Walking Trail around lake
- West Park
 - + Hilly Wooded Acreage
 - + Creek
 - + Playground
 - + Disc Golf Course
 - + Ample parking
 - + Picnic Tables
- East Park
 - + 2 Basketball Courts
 - + Playground
 - + Disc Golf Course
 - + Ample parking
 - + Picnic Tables
- Tot Park
 - + 1/2 Basketball Court
 - + Small Playground
 - + Limited parking (residential park)
- Proctor Memorial Park
 - + 2 Shelter Houses
 - + 2 Playgrounds
 - + Picnic Tables
 - + Park Benches
 - + Stocked "Catch & Release" Pond
 - + Paved Trail around pond
 - + Parking available in park

Bargersville

- Witt Park
- Switzer Park
- Windisch Park
- Founders Fountain Park

Trafalgar

- Laura Hare Preserve at Blossom Hollow
- Liberty Park

Nineveh

- Johnson County Park

Trails

Edinburgh

- Irwin Park Trail

Franklin

- Franklin Greenway Trails
- Westview Drive/Main Street
- Franklin Community High School Trail
- Franklin College Trail

Greenwood

- Independence Park Trail
- Center Grove Trail
- Northwest Park Trail
- Northwest Annex Park Trail
- Westside Park Trail
- Freedom Park Trail
- Tracy Trail
- Main Street Trail
- Surina Square Park Trail
- University Park Trail
- Craig Park Trail
- Smith Valley Road Trail
- Emerson Avenue Trail

Trafalgar

- Blossom Hollow Trail

Bargersville

- Windisch Trail
- Whiteland Road Trail
- Whiteland Road Sidepaths

Nineveh

- Johnson County Park Trails

Golfing

Edinburgh

- Timbergate Golf Course

Franklin

- The Legends Golf Club
- Cypress Run Golf Course
- Deer Valley Golf Course

Greenwood

- Bluff Creek Golf Course
- Hickory Stick Golf Club
- Orchard Golf Center
- Otte Golf and Family Fun Center
- Valle Vista Golf Club

Trafalgar

- Tameka Woods Golf Course

Footgolf

- FootGolf at The Legends – Franklin

Disc Golf

- Blue Heron Park & Disc Golf Course – Franklin
- Freedom Park & Disc Golf Course – Greenwood
- Grassy Creek Disc Golf Course – New Whiteland
- Coyote Trace at Johnson County Park – Nineveh

Non-Motorized Watercraft

- Blues Canoe Livery – Edinburgh

Fishing

- Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area - Edinburgh
- Proctor Park – New Whiteland

Skateboard Parks

- Franklin Action Skate Park – Franklin
- Northeast Park & Skate Park – Greenwood

Skydiving/Paragliding

Franklin

- Explore Freefall Skydiving
- Highly Dangerous Skydiving Center
- Midwest Powered Paragliding

Flying

- Jeff Air Pilot Service – Greenwood
- Trammel Air – Greenwood
- Radio Controlled Flyers – Nineveh

Archery and Shooting

Edinburgh

- Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area
- Atterbury Shooting Complex

Greenwood

- Shoot Point Blank
- The Outdoorsman Sports Shop

Bargersville

- Honey Creek Tackle

Camping

Edinburgh

- Blues Canoe Livery
- Irwin Park Campsites
- Whitaker Place Campground

Franklin

- Johnson County Fairgrounds

Trafalgar

- Camp Allendale
- Indiana FFA Leadership Lodge and Cabins

Nineveh

- Johnson County Park

Exercise/Recreation/Sport Facilities

Edinburgh

- Edinburgh Sport Complex
- John R. Drybread Community Center

Franklin

- Recreation & Fitness Center
- Active Adult Center
- Indiana Grand Slam Baseball/Softball Center
- United Way of Johnson County
- Boy and Girls Club of Franklin
- Warehouse Gym
- Indiana Gymnastics Center
- Johnson County CrossFit
- Jazzercise
- AnyTime Fitness

Greenwood

- Campbell Field
- Harry McNabb Memorial Field
- Smith Valley Community Center
- Greenwood Community Center
- Mount Pleasant Community Center
- Pilsung ATA Martial Arts
- Exercise, Inc.
- CrossFit Sworn
- Indy South CrossFit
- UFIT, Inc.
- Pure Barre
- LA Fitness
- The Gathering Place
- JMH Crossfit
- IXF CrossFit - Indy X Fitness
- Orangetheory Fitness
- Martin Nutrition & Fitness
- Studio 317 Fitness and Cycling
- 148 Wellness
- Bicycle Garage Indy & BGI Fitness
- Studio You Yoga & Pilates
- Club Pilates
- Healthy Nut

- 9 Round Fitness
- Victory Strength and Fitness
- School of Strength
- Favrell's Extreme Body Shaping

Bargersville

- Anytime Fitness
- Bargersville Basketball Court
- CGX Crossfit
- District 135 Fitness

JOHNSON COUNTY PARK INVENTORY



Legend

- # Park Buildings/Activity
- Public Shelters
- △ Camping Sites
- Restrooms
- P Designated Parking
- ⊠ Unused Existing Building Foundations
- ⊙ Hoosier Horse Park
- ⊞ Park Administration/Activity
- ⊕ Special Purpose Interest Group
- ⊖ Designated Camping Sites
- Existing Paved Roads
- - Drainage Swale

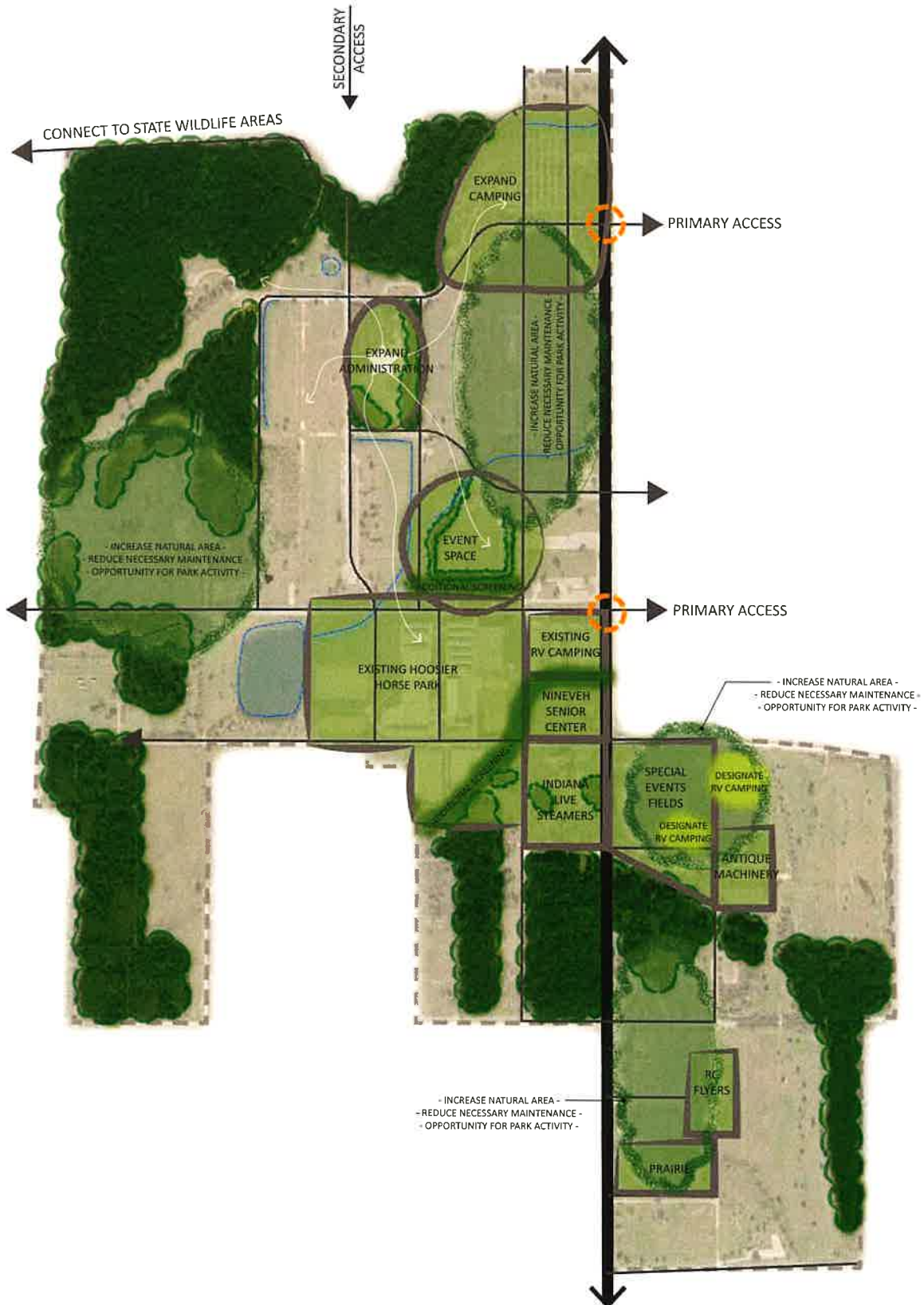
Camping Site Inventory

- A. Scout Camping
 - Tent camping
 - Need more bathroom access
 - Swings and playground need updated
- B. RV Camping
 - Possibility for expansion
 - Updated electrical
 - Accessibility issues
 - Need more bathroom access
 - Swings & playground need updated
- C. RV Camping
 - Camping at the Horse Track
 - All camping located on old foundations
 - Old and outdated wiring. Electrical not in conduit. Options are either no electricity so visitors must use generator or to rework the entire system
 - Located on old, rough foundation - exposed metal sticking up, holes in foundation
 - Very little vegetation/shade

Building/Activity Inventory

1. Park Office & Front Room
 - Overall condition of the Park Office is good. Currently share the space with Columbus Area Model Railroad Club who has their own access and open hours. The space is also currently used by A.K.
 - Old building has some character and interest in the details. Space could be renovated to be used as rental/revenue space.
 - Additional space is needed.
 - Building accessibility needs to be addressed. Current deck is in disrepair; each door does need ADA access.
 - Needs more designated parking for employees and visitors.
2. Maintenance Compound
 - Storage for current park operations.
 - There is enough space, but some buildings need repaired or rebuilt (i.e. metal siding).
 - Opportunity for existing Old Warehouse - south half in bad condition, but north half in good condition. Could be used as historical interpretation area of what this area used to be.
 - The goal is to eventually tear down Maintenance Barn.
 - Storage haphazard - many park users store things in this area. Need to address for liability reasons.
3. Amphitheater
 - This area is a great addition, but doesn't make a lot of sense. Could be a great source of revenue, but needs to be updated and have issues addressed. Potential to hold around 30,000 people.
 - Existing ticket booth in good shape - can be used to regulate entrance.
 - Ramp into amphitheater is rotting and warped - needs replaced.
 - Current location doesn't jive with surrounding activities. Because the sound carries so much, there cannot be events at the amphitheater and horse park at the same time.
 - All electrical needs updated in order to hold larger events.
 - Bathroom needs updated.
 - Need an option to enclose a portion of the stage for and provide some shade/block the sun.
4. Maples Building
 - The accessory building is a raised warehouse. This is the nicest rental building on campus used for Weddings, Birthdays, and Reunions.
 - Great location on site - easy access for renters
 - Not ADA accessible.
 - Not easy to heat (Chimney is in the middle of the building).
 - Water source issue - always wet in lawn.
 - Existing tree stumps are very close to foundation.
5. Baseball Diamond
 - Rarely used - mostly for pick-up games.
 - Could be used as a better source of revenue if updated and combined with other uses
6. Old Horseshoe Pits
 - Remove old storage shed
7. Scout Area
 - Outdoor Chapel & Rental building
 - Building separate access as to not run into horse traffic
8. Pond & Fishing Dock
 - Both pond and fishing dock are well used.
 - Strictly fishing
 - New storage facility.
 - Current issues with where people are parking - need to provide designated spaces
9. SBA Cell Tower
 - Revenue source
10. Hoosier Horse Park
 - Overall
 - Additional bathrooms
 - Drainage solutions for all areas - especially at current wash stations
 - Camping
 - Old and outdated wiring. Electrical not in conduit. Options are either no electricity so visitors must use generator or rework the entire system
 - Located on old foundation that is in very bad shape - metal sticking up as well as foundation holes.
 - Very little vegetation/shade
 - Existing Storage Barns
 - Used for overnight storage
 - Roof leaks and chimney is disintegrating
 - One barn is used as storage for the DOC files.
 - Horse Barns
 - Drainage issues
 - Need to re-lay stone/dirt every year
 - Barns A & K need new roofs
 - Dunn Arena
 - Indoor non-heated building currently used for storage
 - Overall goal to be used as rentable/storage/large dining area
 - Attached to closed restaurant/kitchen/showers
 - Need to address existing paint so as to be used/Metal has already been redone on one end.
 - Existing windows have fallen in
 - Drainage issue in parking lot
 - Registration Building
 - Currently rotting
 - Can easily be redone similar to practice ring viewing building
 - Dressage Rings
 - Need to add footing and expand
 - Jumping & Stadium Warm-Up
 - Goal is to have wash station with drainage at this location
 - Baker Arena (Outdoor Arena)
 - Standard Maintenance updates
 - Jump Course/Competition Area
 - Create stronger connection between Park and Jump Course
 - Include solutions for two-way horse traffic (other than berm)
11. Nut Grove
 - Open to public for harvest.
 - Goal would be to have more education/interpretation
12. Indiana Live Streamers
 - Revenue (Rent)
 - Built and maintain their own storage building
 - Doubles as meeting room
13. Historic Cabin
 - Co-owned with Soil & Water
 - Has been neglected
 - Goal would be to have educational tours
14. Ninewash Senior Center
 - Revenue (Rent)
 - Outsource maintenance
 - Rent out for activities on their own - do their own thing
15. Johnson County Antique Machinery Club
 - Parking lot is a disaster
 - Built their own buildings
 - Bleachers for tractor pull spectators
16. Special Events Fields
 - Rentable Shelters, Cedar, Beech, Fir/side, Heartnut
 - Bathrooms in bad shape - needs many updates
 - Poor access to water
 - Heartnut Shelter
 - Largest & most popular
 - Need more activities/programs in this area
17. Wooded walking area
 - Nice, full coverage
 - Need to clean up some dead trees (mostly Ash trees)
18. Johnson County Radio Controlled Flyers
 - Used often
 - Bathrooms only accessible during events
 - People dump junk at the end of the runway (looks like junkyard)
19. Area previously used by Radio Controlled Cars
 - Closed Permanently
 - Dangerous Structure
 - Installed all electric on their own - not sure if it's code
 - Needs demolished
20. Prairie - Franklin College
 - Needs more informational signage
 - Great opportunity for education/interpretation
21. Area previously occupied by Whispering Pines Golf Course
 - Closed permanently
 - Clubhouse in good condition. Currently vacant.

JOHNSON COUNTY PARK ANALYSIS



INDEPENDENCE PARK INVENTORY & ANALYSIS



NEEDS ANALYSIS / METHODS AND RESULTS

This information has been analyzed after reviewing existing programs, facilities, the public survey, public and stakeholder input, and park department and park board input.

Along with considerations for national standards, neighboring and overlapping park departments, needs for each of the department's properties and facilities, with special attention to needs of the user population have been identified.

The stakeholder meetings, community survey, and public meetings, in conjunction with the results of the park system inventory and analysis, were used to develop a base set of community needs and desires. Park and Department needs have been identified on the following Action Plan. **When determining what parks and programs are needed, it is common to compare the total number of park acres available to the total population. This type of model has been used for a number of decades and provides a good basis to begin analysis. Through NRPA's standards and per the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Johnson County is considered Critically Deficient in the amount of park land available to the population. Without National Parks and only one State Wildlife in the area, the population of the county depends on county and local park departments to provide park land for recreation.**

Johnson County will perpetually fit in this category given its rapidly growing population.

Obviously there is a need for park acres to be added, and the extension of I-69 may provide opportunities to acquire property near the White River in the western portion of the county that is currently underserved. Other opportunities should be investigated if funding and political will are sufficient to tackle this effort.

Johnson County Parks & Recreation is continuously looking for reasonable opportunities to add to the available park land and have land acquisition policy in place to guide its search. This is one of the main motivations for submitting a 5-Year Parks Master Plan to the DNR; to be ready to make decisions about and attain funding/grants for future park land acquisition.

Another opportunity to improve the county park system is to continue to develop and enhance existing properties with improvements or new amenities that fall within the community's and the department's needs.

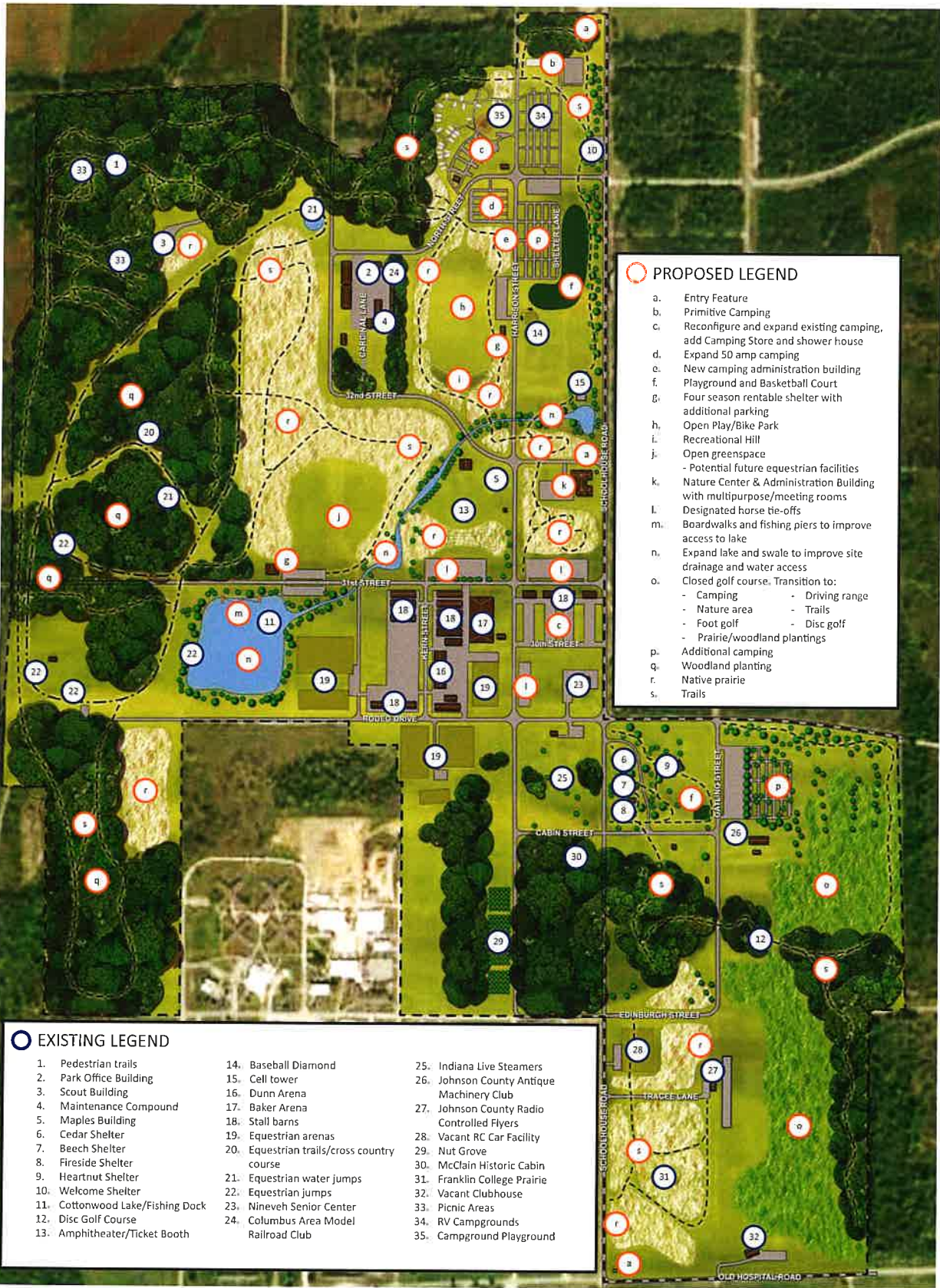
In keeping with the department's vision and mission, the Action Plan assigns a priority of 1 through 3 for each of

the Needs listed, indicating importance to the community, stakeholders, staff, and board. Funding and opportunity will be key in how much of the Action Plan can be accomplished.

The Action Plan is intentionally a stretch goal for the Department, providing a guide for operation and development for the next 5 years. All relevant input from stakeholder meetings, community meetings, surveys, and staff has been evaluated and the data was incorporated into the action plan. Items were prioritized and assigned a budget to allow for ongoing reference and planning.

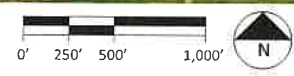
The Action Plan, Chart is organized according to year, facility, planned improvement, estimated cost, and potential funding source(s).

JOHNSON COUNTY PARK MASTER PLAN

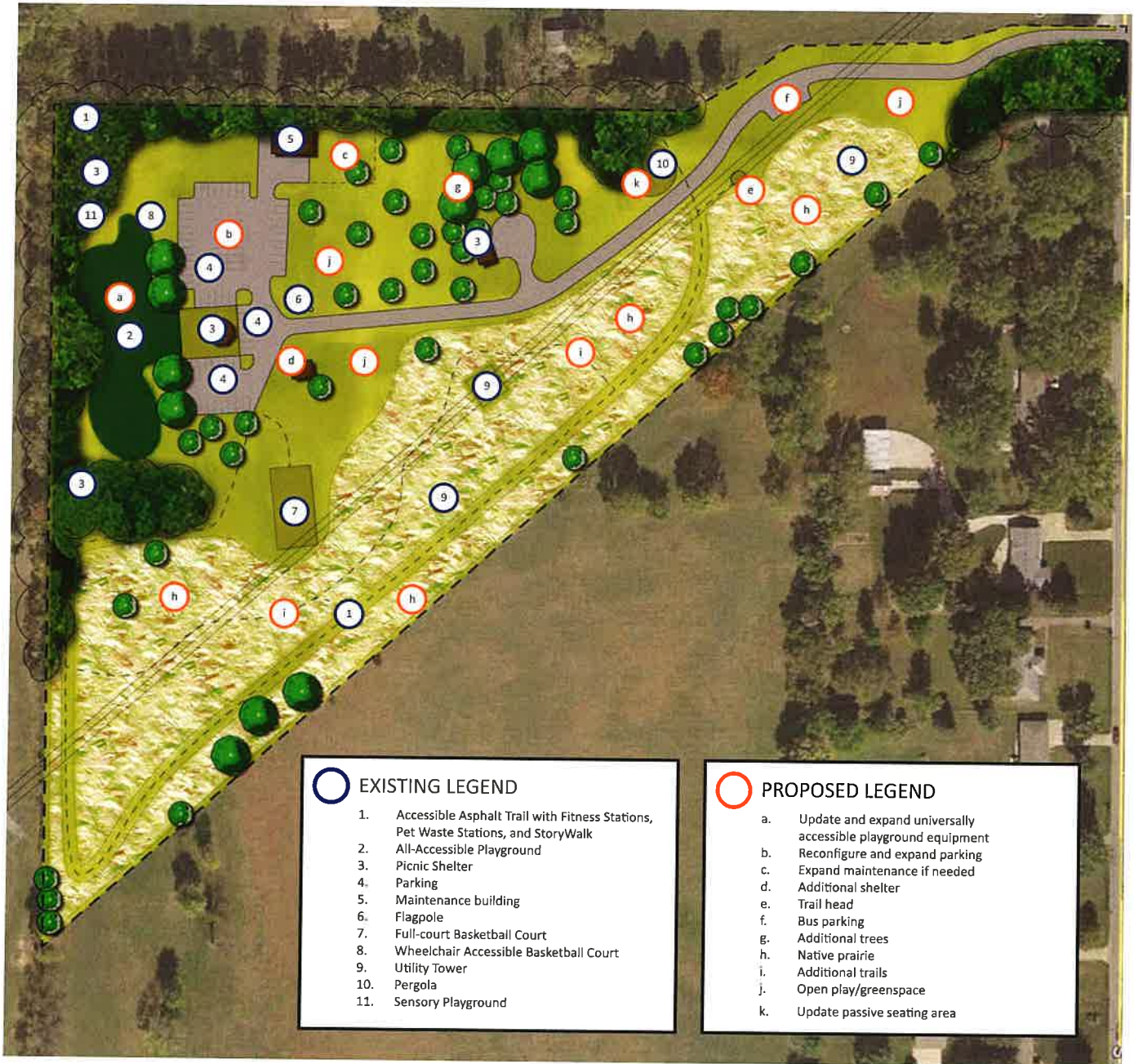


- PROPOSED LEGEND**
- a. Entry Feature
 - b. Primitive Camping
 - c. Reconfigure and expand existing camping, add Camping Store and shower house
 - d. Expand 50 amp camping
 - e. New camping administration building
 - f. Playground and Basketball Court
 - g. Four season rentable shelter with additional parking
 - h. Open Play/Bike Park
 - i. Recreational Hill
 - j. Open greenspace
 - Potential future equestrian facilities
 - k. Nature Center & Administration Building with multipurpose/meeting rooms
 - l. Designated horse tie-offs
 - m. Boardwalks and fishing piers to improve access to lake
 - n. Expand lake and swale to improve site drainage and water access
 - o. Closed golf course. Transition to:
 - Camping
 - Nature area
 - Foot golf
 - Prairie/woodland plantings
 - Driving range
 - Trails
 - Disc golf
 - p. Additional camping
 - q. Woodland planting
 - r. Native prairie
 - s. Trails

- EXISTING LEGEND**
- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Pedestrian trails | 14. Baseball Diamond | 25. Indiana Live Steamers |
| 2. Park Office Building | 15. Cell tower | 26. Johnson County Antique Machinery Club |
| 3. Scout Building | 16. Dunn Arena | 27. Johnson County Radio Controlled Flyers |
| 4. Maintenance Compound | 17. Baker Arena | 28. Vacant RC Car Facility |
| 5. Maples Building | 18. Stall barns | 29. Nut Grove |
| 6. Cedar Shelter | 19. Equestrian arenas | 30. McClain Historic Cabin |
| 7. Beech Shelter | 20. Equestrian trails/cross country course | 31. Franklin College Prairie |
| 8. Fireside Shelter | 21. Equestrian water jumps | 32. Vacant Clubhouse |
| 9. Heartnut Shelter | 22. Equestrian jumps | 33. Picnic Areas |
| 10. Welcome Shelter | 23. Nineveh Senior Center | 34. RV Campgrounds |
| 11. Cottonwood Lake/Fishing Dock | 24. Columbus Area Model Railroad Club | 35. Campground Playground |



INDEPENDENCE PARK MASTER PLAN



ANALYSIS RESULTS

Using the results of the survey, public meetings, and experiences of the Parks Board and Parks Department, it was possible to determine potential areas of improvement, expansion, or notable success within the system. Recurring themes included:

- Connectivity between parks and community - continue to develop features that make the parks easier to access, such as bicycle and walking paths, open space corridors and greenways
- More cultural opportunities - create more opportunities for cultural and community-based events through park facilities.
- More recreational programming - expand recreational programs for all age groups
- More activities and programs for families - offer programming on weeknights and weekends
- Marketing and Public Information - providing information to the public is important to ensure residents and other potential visitors are aware of parks programs and facilities and are able to take full advantage of park offerings. Johnson County Parks & Recreation currently maintains a website with information on its parks, events, programs, and facilities. Social media platforms Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are also used to provide information and updates about the parks. The use of social media to announce programs and events has increased awareness and participation. Park Board meeting times, location, and minutes are available through the park department website.

The most important issues for Johnson County Parks & Recreation to address have been identified and the long-term vision developed. The Action Plan establishes how to prioritize and address these issues over the next five years, taking into account considerations of revenue, funding, and timing. Actions have been prioritized according to need and available resources. The Action Plan prioritizes specific projects and identifies estimated costs and potential funding sources. As is true for government entities across the state and the nation, tight budgets challenge Johnson County Parks Recreation to maintain appropriate staffing levels, perform routine maintenance, replace aging equipment, and provide new programming and amenities. Increased efforts to secure funds will be critical to accomplishing the projects identified in the Action Plan.

Potential Funding Sources/Mechanisms

Potential sources of funding for action plan items include:

- User Fees - Fees for shelter reservations, camping, and events at Hoosier Horse Park are important sources of revenue to cover the costs of programs and maintenance of facilities.
- Private Donations/Organizations - The Department of Parks and Recreation should seek out private donations of materials and funds to aid in the maintenance and improvement of the parks system. In addition, local organizations can become an integral part of the park system by organizing fund-raisers, park maintenance outings, or by sponsoring new park features. Corporate sponsorships are another potential source to pursue for needed improvements. Maintain and strengthen current relationships with Park Partners.
- Grants - Grants are available from the State of Indiana and the Federal Government. Most parks and recreation grants are highly competitive and require the receiving agency to secure matching funds to prove they are capable of undertaking the project. Listed below are some of the relevant grants that are available to projects recommended in this report.

Federal Grant Programs

- Land and Water Conservation Fund (50/50) The LWCF is a matching assistance program that provides grants for 50% of the cost for the acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities.
- Recreational Trails Program - The Recreational Trails Program is a matching assistance program that provides funding for the acquisition and/or development of multi-use recreational trail projects. Both motorized and non-motorized projects may qualify for assistance. The assistance program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

State Programs

- Next Level Trails (NLT) is designed to incentivize collaborative efforts to accelerate trail connections.
- President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust Fund works to acquire and protect lands that represent outstanding natural resources and habitats, or have recreational, historical or archaeological significance.

PRIORITIES AND ACTION PLAN

Action Plan - Johnson County Parks

	Priority	Timeline			Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
		2020-2021	2022-2023	2024-2025		
Parks & Facilities						
Johnson County Park						
Nature Center/Park & SWCD Office/Park Hub	1		x	x	\$3.5m-\$4m	A, C, G, P
Development of wetland stream from pond to east	2		x	x	\$100k-\$300k	G, B, I
Camping Expansion at North (50-amp, full hook-up, tent camping)	1	x	x		\$400k-\$650k	G, B, I
Park Wayfinding Signage	1					
Campground Store	1	x	x		\$550k-\$650k	G, B, C, A
Bike Playground	1	x			\$400k-\$575k	G, B, I, A
Rental Shelters (4 Season)	2	x	x	x	\$40k-\$250k each	G, B, A
Obstacle Challenge Course Development	2	x	x			
Softball Field Expansion and Improvements	3	x	x		\$50k-\$250k	I, B, G
Playground Additions	3		x	x	\$100k-\$300k	G, B, A
Reduce/Remove Surplus Paving/Roads and Degraded Infrastructure	1	x	x	x		I, B, P
Lake Improvements (control weeds)	3	x	x	x	\$10k-\$25k	B, I, M
Fishing Access/Boardwalks	2		x	x	\$150k-\$300k	G, I, B
Snow/Recreation Hill	2		x		\$250k-\$550k	G, B, M, A
Reforestation	2	x	x	x	\$4k-\$8k/acre	G, I, B
Prairie/Habitat Development	2	x	x	x	\$2k-\$5k/acre	G, I, B
Trail Development	1		x	x	\$200k-\$500k	G, I, B
Trail Planning Map	3	x			\$1k	V
Trail Signage	1	x			\$5k-\$15k	I, B, P
Invasive Species Control Management Plan	1	x			\$1k	I
Formalize Parking Areas and Maintain Parking Areas	1	x	x	x	\$50k-\$250k	I, B, P
Improvements to Large Lawn Areas for Multi-sport/Rec. Activities (Soccer, Cricket)	1	x	x	x	\$30k-\$100k	I, B, P, G
WiFi Availability in Core Areas	2		x	x	\$10k-\$20k	I, B, P, G
Security Cameras	2		x	x	\$10k-\$20k	I, B, P, G
General Maintenance/Improvements	1	x	x	x	\$	I
Hoosier Horse Park within Johnson County Park						
Dunn Arena	1	x	x		\$4.5m-\$5.5m	A, C, G
Camping Expansion (50-amp, full hook-up)	1	x	x		\$400k-\$600k	G, B, I
Stall Improvements	2	x	x	x	\$100k-\$300k	I, B, G, A
Additional Stalls	3			x	\$250k-\$500k	A,G,C,F,S
Covered Practice Arena (future?)	2		x	x	\$1m-\$2m	A, G, C, F
Footing Replacement/Maintenance Stadium Warm-up and Arena 5	1	x	x	x	\$150k-\$250k	I, B, P, G
Update Manure Management Plan as needed	2	x			\$1k	I
General Maintenance/Improvements	1	x	x	x	\$	I, B
Independence Park						
Implementation of new playground equipment	1	x			\$300k-\$500k	G, B, A
Parking Expansion	1	x			\$50k-\$100k	G, B, A
Trail Expansion & Updates	3		x	x	\$50k-\$150k	G, B, A
Prairie/Habitat Development	2	x	x	x	\$2k-\$5k/acre	G, B, A, M
Skate Park	2		x	x	\$50k-200k	G, P, F, A, V
WiFi Availability Throughout Park	2		x	x	\$10k-\$20k	I, B, P, G
Security Cameras	2		x	x	\$10k-\$20k	I, B, P, G
New Entrance Gate	1	x			\$5k	I, B

	Priority	Timeline			Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
		2020-2021	2022-2023	2024-2025		
New Shelter	3		x	x	\$50k-\$85k	G, B, A
General Maintenance/Improvements	1	x	x	x	\$	I, B

	Priority	Timeline			Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
		2020-2021	2022-2023	2024-2025		
Property Expansion						
Acquisition						
Develop a focused property acquisition plan considering areas of need, land value, and future development opportunities, especially considering potential land opportunities related to the expansion of I-69	1	x			\$500 - \$2k	I, B
Explore opportunities to acquire any properties that meet the highest need for the community, as determined by the land acquisition plan to be developed	2		x	x	\$1k-\$5k	C,G,M,A
Master planning for future acquisitions <i>(Future Implementation considered but likely beyond 5-year scope)</i>	2			x	\$20k-\$50k	B, G, P
Programs						
Marketing & Publicity						
Continue implementation of Marketing Plan developed in 2019	1	x	x	x	\$1k-\$3k	I
Continue to encourage and enable cross promotion between various usergroups within the park	1	x	x	x	\$500 - \$1k	I, B
Develop community relations plan	1	x	x	x	\$1k-\$3k	I, B
Programs						
Focus on building traditions with current and ongoing programs and events	1	x	x	x	\$1k-\$3k	I
Explore and implement opportunities to engage more field trips, and environmental education for youth and families	1	x	x	x	\$1k-\$5k	I, P, F, S
Develop, and annually review, a comprehensive recreation programming plan	1	x	x	x	\$1k-\$3k	I, B
People & Policy						
Staff						
Develop Staff through ongoing training and continuing education	1	x	x	x	\$1k-\$3k	I
Explore efforts to formalize county-wide park group with local departments	2	x	x	x	\$	I
Maintain and integrate seasonal staff and volunteers engagement with full-time staff	1	x	x		\$	I, B
Develop Volunteer Program/Database	2	x	x	x	\$1k-\$3k	I, B, F
Continue Community Partnerships (Service hours, DOC labor efforts)	1	x	x	x	\$1k	P
Board						
Continue progress with regular Board Member engagement with elected officials	1	x	x	x	\$	I
Update Board annually with MP Progress. Update priorities and 'to do' items as needed	2	x	x	x	\$	I

	Priority	Timeline			Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
		2020-2021	2022-2023	2024-2025		
Policy/Operations						
Establish a Naming Rights Policy	1	x	x		\$	I
Further engage Community Foundation in planning and operations, and explore opportunities for dedicated Park Foundation	1	x			\$	I
Review staffing requirements and current policies to find consistency and formalize Park Board's objectives and desired level of service for the community	2	x	x		\$	I
Explore balance of accessibility for park users and natural park environment to develop a policy for future park development related to ADA outdoor recreation guidelines	1	x			\$	I
Annually evaluate a comprehensive revenue and strategy to help maximize the services provided while maintaining a level of service to all socioeconomic levels	1	x	x	x	\$1k-\$3k	I, B
Habitat and Prairie Maintenance/Controlled Burn Plan	2	x			\$	I
Evaluate operational opportunities/success of amphitheater. Make recommendations for improvement, relocation, or removal	3	x	x		\$	I
Update operations manual (policies, rules, regulations, and procedures)	1	x	x	x	\$2k-\$4k	I, B
Ongoing implementation of maintenance and operations standards for key elements of all facilities.	1	x	x	x	\$2k-\$4k	I, B
Develop a natural resources management plan and procedures	1	x	x	x	\$2k-\$4k	I, B
Funding Key						
A	Alternative Funding Source/Financing					
B	Operating Budget					
C	County Funding - Appropriation/Bonds					
F	Foundation					
G	Grants - Federal or State					
I	In-House work (consider staff hours)					
M	Mitigation Funding					
P	Partnership					
S	Fee for Program/Service					
V	Volunteer					