



Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028





**T
A
B
L
E
O
F
C
O
N
T
E
N
T
S**

Chapter 1 Plan Area Overview

Overview and Purpose	09
Planning Area Overview	11
Natural Resources and Landscape	14
Historical, Cultural, and Man-Made Resources	16
City Structure	22

Chapter 2 Existing Conditions

Community Profile	25
Existing Parks & Recreation Assessment	33
Accessibility	54

Chapter 3 Needs Assessment

Public Engagement	59
Community Survey	64
Public Meetings	66
Summary of Public Input	70
Benchmark Study	72
Level of Service Analysis	74

Chapter 4 Recommendations

Priority Recommendations	77
Additional Recommendations	78
Existing Parks	80
Potential Parks	88

Chapter 5 Implementation

Action Plan	97
Funding Opportunities	98
Action Matrix	100

Appendix

Inventory Forms
Steering Committee Meetings
Community Survey
Website Comments
Focus Group Meetings
Public Open House #1
Public Open House #2



Acknowledgments

It is with gratitude that we acknowledge the many individuals from the Boonville community who helped develop this plan:

City of Boonville

135 South Second Street
Boonville, IN 47601
812.897.1230

Office of the Mayor

Charlie Wyatt, Mayor
Sara Heerdink, Administrative Assistant

Parks Department

Ed Harper, Superintendent
Carolyn White, Pool Director
Michelle Johnson, Golf Director

City Council

Sherrie Sievers, District 1
Shawn Russell, District 2
Mike Webb, District 3
Jim Miller, District 4
Chad Pryor, At-Large

Parks Board

Cyndi Saltzman, President
Danielle Russell
Heather Haynes
Joe Sievers
William Smith

Steering Committee

Charlie Wyatt
Jim Miller
Sheila Lacer
Tammy Boruff
Jim Hendrickson

Consulting Team

RUNDELL ERNSTBERGER ASSOCIATES
MIDWESTERN ENGINEERS

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

SIGNATURE Cyndi Sutzman
APPLICANT PRESIDENT

Cyndi Sutzman
(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE Danielle Russell

Danielle Russell
(Secretary's printed name)

DATE 7/15/24

CHAPTER ONE

Plan Area Overview

Overview & Purpose

Welcome to Boonville!

Boonville is a growing community in southwest Indiana that serves as the county seat for Warrick County. Boonville's population has held steady between 6,000 and 7,000 residents since the 1980s, while Warrick County's population grew significantly. This population stability was a result of sewer expansion limits set by a consent decree due to prior violations. That consent decree is fulfilled, and now Boonville is poised for future growth and economic development.

The City of Boonville began this planning process in March 2023 to create an adopted five-year park and recreation master plan. The plan will ensure that the city continues its work prioritizing community park and recreational needs, responsibly maintaining the natural and man-made recreational resources of the city, assuring that the greatest benefit is achieved from each dollar spent, and exploring multiple funding opportunities. This plan will document

the current baseline of parks, their future desired state, and create a structure to achieve goals and monitor accomplishments.

The proposed recommendations will serve as a guide for the development of recreational resources and amenities for the next five years and will prioritize improvements to the park facilities and recreation programs that will most benefit the citizens of Boonville. The plan has been prepared in compliance with the Planning Guidelines for Parks and Recreation, published by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IN DNR).



Goals and Objectives

After gathering community and stakeholder input, inventorying the existing parks facilities, and reviewing recommendations with city staff, the following goals and objectives emerged:

- Make Boonville a regional destination for parks and recreation. The population of Warrick County is growing. As the county seat, Boonville is poised to capitalize on the recreation needs of all residents.
- Provide an action plan for implementing improvements. Priorities were determined via public input and implementation steps are presented in this plan.
- Improve (or replace) existing facilities such as playgrounds, sport courts and fields, and the pool. Modernize and maintain facilities before investing in all new improvements.
- Identify land areas for parks expansion. The existing parks in Boonville are well developed. In coming years, there will be a need to expand beyond the current parks properties.
- Capitalize on the economic impacts of parks and recreation. People are more selective than ever before when choosing to live in communities with parks and recreation amenities.

How To Use This Plan

This master plan should be used as a guiding document for the future of the parks and recreation system. The recommendations of the plan are outlined in the implementation chapter. As with all planning documents, this master plan should be reviewed by staff on an annual basis to identify shifts in public needs and changes in funding sources. The plan should be viewed as a flexible document that can respond to opportunities as they arise, including new funding sources, financial and land donations, and private/public partnership opportunities.



Planning Area Overview

History Of Boonville

The land along the Ohio River that is currently Warrick County has been continuously inhabited by humans since at least 8,000 BC. Indigenous groups that have inhabited the area over the centuries include the Miami, Shawnee, Kaskaskia, Quapaw, and Kickapoo. There are numerous archaeological and cultural sites throughout the region, the most notable being Angel Mounds State Historic Site, located southwest of Boonville on the Warrick/Vanderburgh County line. Angel Mounds was inhabited until about 1450 AD, shortly before the arrival of Europeans.

Boonville was founded in 1818 to be the county seat of Warrick County following the redrawing of the county lines. It is named for local politician Ratliff Boon (or possibly Jesse Boon, Ratliff's father). Ratliff Boon was Lieutenant Governor of Indiana from 1819-1822, was acting Governor briefly in 1822, and was elected to Congress in 1825-1827 and again from 1829-1839.

President Abraham Lincoln is known to have studied law in Boonville. The Lincoln family moved from Kentucky to Indiana in 1816. The future president traveled to Boonville to borrow law books from local attorney John Brackenridge and to watch court cases be argued, thus earning Boonville the distinction of being "where Lincoln learned the law." The Lincoln family moved to Illinois in 1830.

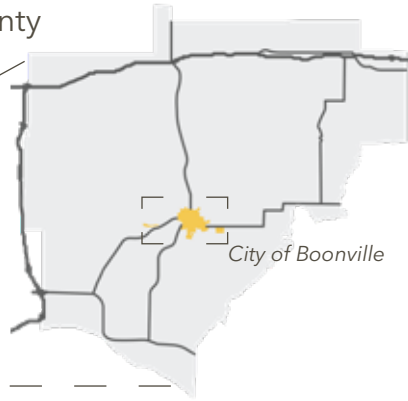
Boonville was incorporated as a Town with a board of trustees in 1858, 40 years after its founding. The current county courthouse was completed in 1904. In 1906 Boonville was reorganized as a city governed by a mayor and common council.



State of Indiana

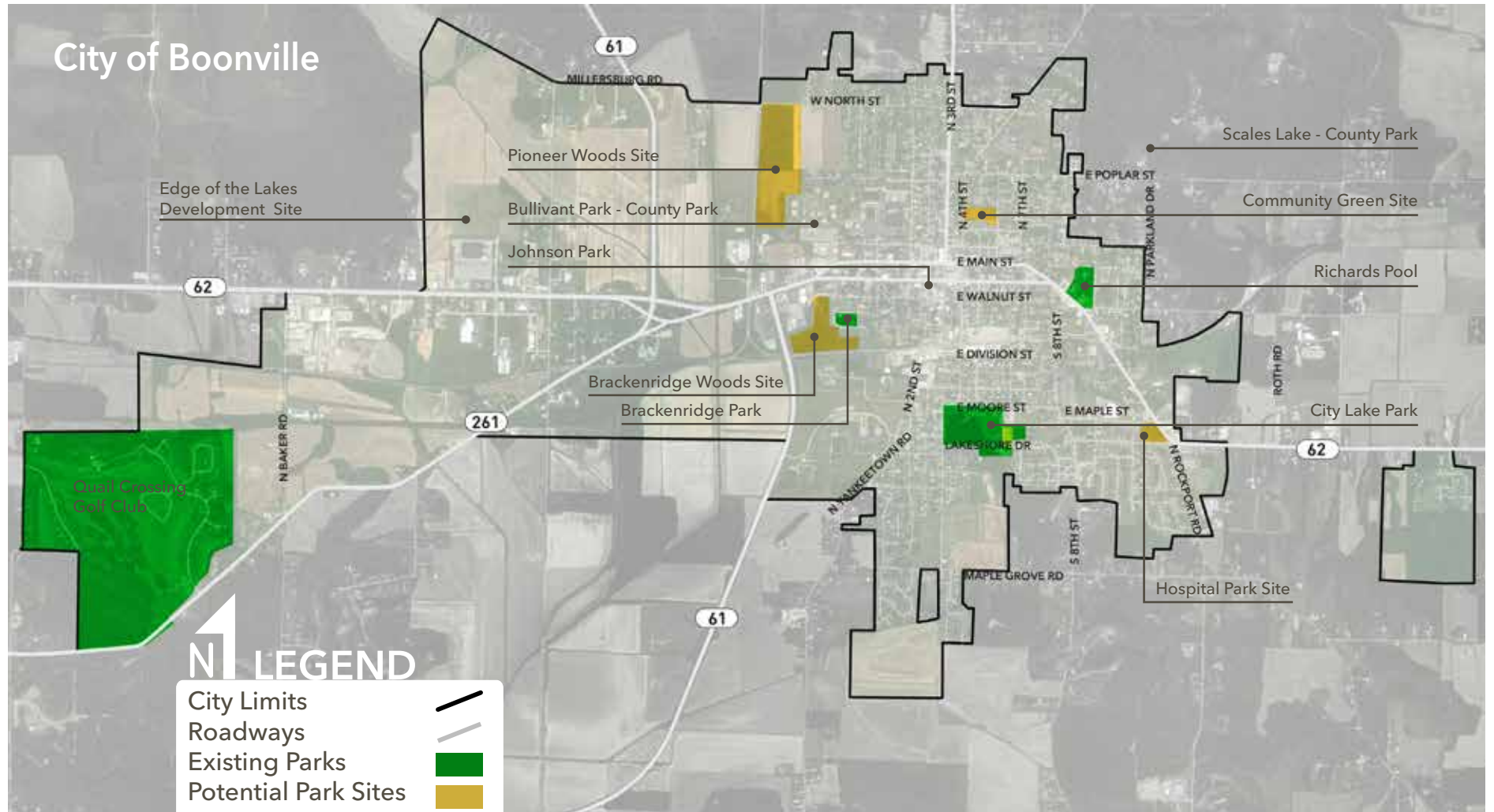


Warrick County



City of Boonville

City of Boonville



Planning Area Description

The City of Boonville is located in Boon Township in central Warrick County in southwestern Indiana near the Ohio River. It is the county seat of Warrick County and part of the larger Evansville Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Boonville is located approximately:
170 miles southwest of Indianapolis, IN
100 miles west of Louisville, KY
15 miles east of Evansville, IN
30 miles northwest of Owensboro, KY

The city limits of Boonville contain 5.73 square miles of land with a population of 6,712 persons according to the 2020 U.S. Census.

The planning service area for Boonville Parks is all of Warrick County. Although the focus of this planning effort is on the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Boonville, the plan has sought and received input from residents of Warrick County and beyond. 38 percent of the community survey respondents (n=14) were from areas outside the city limits. Regional recreation facilities located near, but not within, the planning area include Angel Mounds State Historic Site, Blue Grass Fish and Wildlife Area, Interlake State Recreation Area,

Lincoln State Park, and Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. Two county parks are located within or adjacent to city limits. Scales Lake Park is northeast of the city limits and Bullivant Park is inside city limits on the northwest side of the city. All these facilities were mentioned during the public engagement process.

Economic Impact of Parks and Recreation

Over the last decade, the economy of the State of Indiana has shifted from one where people followed jobs to one where increasingly people are locating where they want, and jobs are moving to follow the people. This trend has expanded since the pandemic and the growth of remote work. As a result, people are moving to places with high quality of life, and businesses are following.

Places with high quality recreation and wellness amenities - such as trails, parks, playgrounds, and programs - are attracting more young people to live. Increasingly, young people are choosing lower wages paired with a high quality of

life, compared to higher wages and low quality of life. A 2022 survey by Project for Public Spaces found that about 80% of respondents would sacrifice salary for an ideal community. This same survey found that 70% of business owners found their community first, then created their business. More than ever, quality of place, including recreation and wellness infrastructure, determines where people are moving.

Cities throughout Indiana are investing in recreation and wellness amenities to spur private investment. A 2017 study by the Americans for the Arts estimated up to a \$7 return-on-investment for each municipal dollar spent on quality-of-life improvements. A 2022 report by the Brookings Institution posits that civic leaders should prioritize improving their quality-of-life strategies - not offering business tax incentives and lax regulation - as the best path for Midwestern rejuvenation. Boonville could benefit economically and socially from increased quality of life spending.

Natural Resources and Landscape

Topography

As defined by the U.S. Geological Survey, Boonville is located within the Southern Wabash Lowlands physiographic region, which is part of the Interior River Lowland Region of Indiana. The Southern Wabash Lowlands is an area of undulating and rolling terrain in the southwestern corner of Indiana, located between the Wabash River and the Ohio River.

This region is one of the few areas of Indiana that has never been glaciated. It is characterized by undulating to rolling terrain and wide shallow valleys with low-gradient stream channels. The bedrock of the area is predominantly shale and sandstone. Surface coal mining is extensive throughout this region. There was underground shaft coal mining on the east and southeast edges of the city.

The city is generally bisected by the Cypress Creek floodplain, with the historic downtown being on the east side of the creek and the newer suburban development being west of the creek. Several facilities are within this floodplain, including Bullivant Park (Warrick County Parks) and the Boonville High School athletic fields.

Soils

The dominant soil types in Boonville are the Hosmer and Stendal soil series. The Hosmer series consists of very deep, moderately well drained silty loam soils on uplands. The Stendal soil series, located along Cypress Creek, consists of deep, poorly drained, moderately permeable soils. Surrounding areas of Warrick County include Zanesville, Dubois, Wellston, and Alford soil series.

Silt loams in general are characterized as having smaller particle sizes and slower permeability rate than sands but larger particle sizes and faster permeability rate than clay. When considering sport fields and building sites, silt loam's moderately-to-slow permeability rate could provide drainage challenges, however, should still perform better than most clay type soils.

Silty loam generally has low bearing capacity, requiring more extensive foundations for any building construction and undercut with stabilization for any athletic courts or pavements. Drainage is typically handled via swales and ditches that retain stormwater.

Vegetative Resources

Beech forests and oak-hickory forests were the predominant upland ecosystems in the Ohio River and Cypress Creek watersheds before European settlement. Bottom-land swamps once dominated the poorly-drained near-level floodplains.

Today, extensive surface coal mining and corn, soybean, and livestock farming have removed most of the natural vegetative communities. Most areas of extensive tree canopy in Warrick County are reclaimed mining land that has been reforested, such as Scales Lake.

Boonville's city parks are well maintained mown turf fields with shade trees. Overall tree health is good at City Lake and poor elsewhere. All city parks have lost notable tree canopy over time as mature trees died off and were not replaced. There is a notable lack of shade trees smaller than 12" caliper throughout the city parks. All parks could benefit from more shade trees.

Warrick County has a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) volunteer program. CISMA works actively with County Parks to remove invasive species from county parks, but not currently with city parks.

Water Resources

Drainage in and around Boonville is defined by man-made lakes and engineered ditches. There are two major watersheds. The Cypress Creek watershed drains the vast majority of the city, while the Little Pigeon Creek watershed drains the eastern edge of the city. Cypress Creek is a channelized ditch which floods regularly and presents a risk to city infrastructure and several parks. There are several areas in the city, particularly along the railroad south and east of downtown, that are not in a flood plain but still suffer from poor drainage and intermittent flooding.

For water-based recreation opportunities, residents can fish at City Lake Park, fish, swim, and boat at Scales Lake Park (Warrick County Parks), or drive to one of two boat ramps that provide access to the Ohio River: Angel Mounds Boat Ramp (City of Evansville) or the Newburgh Boat Ramp.

Climate

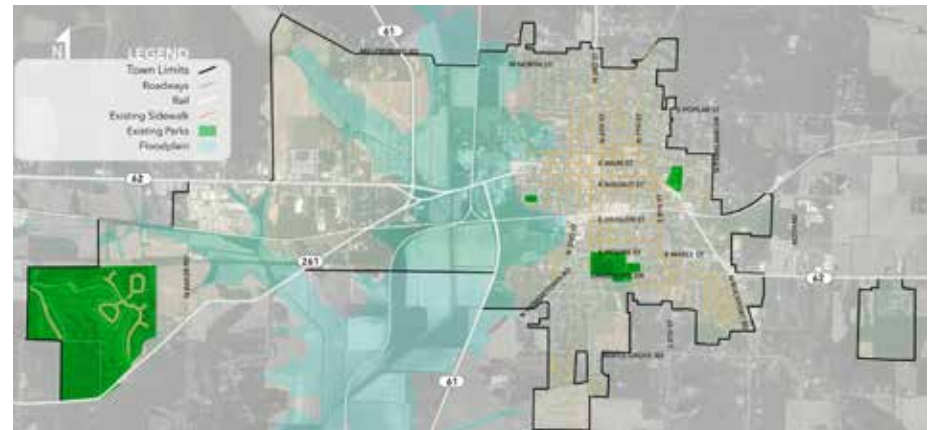
The climate of Boonville is characterized by hot humid summers and mild to cool winters. The summers are long enough to enjoy plenty of water play and summer sports. Spring and fall are mild enough to extend the outdoor play season for several months on either side of summer. Peak season for outdoor recreation programming is typically five months long, from May to September (Memorial Day through Labor Day). On average, July is the hottest month of the year and January the coldest.

Mean Annual Temperatures:
July: Low 65, High 91 degrees F
January: Low 25, High 45 degrees F

Boonville averages 48 inches of rainfall per year, and 12 inches of snow in winter. Cold temperatures paired with

low snowfall make winters difficult for outdoor recreation programming. There is not enough snow to ensure consistent viability of outdoor winter sports like cross-country skiing and sledding.

Changes in climate, such as reduced snowfall and increased ice accumulation in winter, increased high-intensity short-duration rainfall in summer, and higher average temperatures year-round will require the city to adjust planning efforts and maintenance efforts and schedules. Additional focus should be placed on creating new tree canopy to reduce urban heat island effect, replacing lost tree canopy due to storm damage, and reducing stormwater runoff to reduce flooding and prevent combined sewer overflows.



Historical, Cultural, and Man-Made Resources

Industries and Employers

The primary industries in Warrick County are service industries (including healthcare and education) manufacturing, and retail. The Warrick County School Corporation employs 1,370 people. The county is home to several hospitals, including Deaconess Women’s Hospital, Signature Health, and Newburgh Health Care, who combined employ over 800 people. Several of the largest extraction and manufacturing employers are Alcoa, Wild Boar Mine, Fibertech, and Eri Installations. These employers account for over 1,000 jobs.

School Corporation	1370
Alcoa Warrick Operations	660
Wild Boar Mine	215
Women’s Hospital	600
Signature Health	145
Newburgh Health Care	135
Fibertech	130
Eri Installations	100

Landmarks, Historical Buildings, and Museums

The City of Boonville has several cultural and historic assets.

Public Square Historic District

The first courthouse was built in 1851 in the center of the Boonville Public Square Historic District. The current courthouse was built in 1904. This Historic District reflects a rural Indiana city’s 19th century urban, architectural, and civic development. Since 1818, the public square has been a symbolic center of Boonville and Warrick County. Boonville Public Square has been registered as a Historic District since 1987.

Old Warrick County Jail

Old Warrick County Jail is a historic jail located in Boonville, Indiana. This jail was built in 1877 and registered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. This two-story Italianate-style structure was used as a jail until the mid-1960s. The Warrick County Senior Citizens used the structure from 1970 until 2006; the jail has been vacant since.

Warrick County is home to several museums and cultural facilities.

Angel Mounds State Historic Site

Angel Mounds was built between AD 1000 and 1450. The site is located

on the Ohio River on the county line between Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties. The site is one of the best-preserved pre-contact indigenous sites in North America. The Mississippian culture settlement was occupied by more than 1,000 people and includes eleven human-made earthen mounds, and a palisaded village.

Warrick County Museum

The Warrick County Museum was previously the Ella Williams School, serving the community’s children from 1901 to 1976. This historic building now provides interactive programming on the county’s history and citizens. It offers a wide variety of exhibits pertaining to the cultural history and natural history of Warrick County.

Museum of the Coal Industry

Perhaps no other entity has influenced Warrick County as much as the coal industry. The Coal Industry Museum in Lynnville was founded in 1985 with the mission to serve and educate the public on the history of coal mining. The museum was built on land previously mined for coal and serves as an example of how land can be put back to use after mining and reclamation.



Festivals and Events

Below is a list of festivals and events held annually in Boonville. While they are not all sponsored by the city itself, a number of community organizations contribute to their planning and success. Festivals and events include:

- Boo in Boonville (on the Square)
- **Christmas in Boonvillage** (on the Square)
- **Concerts in the Park** (summer, Johnson Park)
- **Picnic in the Park** (summer, City Lake)
- Pioneer Days
- Rockin' Around the Clock Car Show (spring, on the Square)
- Square Flare (autumn, on the Square)
- Warrick County 4H Fair
- Warrick County Farmers Market

Events in bold text above take place in parks or partly within parks.

The pandemic temporarily halted most outdoor events held in parks. The number of events being scheduled in parks is now increasing year after year. There are expanding opportunities for events to take place in parks, including but not limited to concerts, food truck lineups, cookoffs, movie nights, festivals, theater performances, farmers markets, and art/craft fairs.

Public Library

The Boonville-Warrick County Public Library serves the residents of Boonville and Warrick County. The library offers lending of books, audio books, DVDs, music CDs, and Magazines The library runs 10+ programs and initiatives annually, including a Summer Reading Program, Craft Nights, and Tai Chi. Additionally, the library offers meeting rooms for community use and has computers with internet access for public use.

In addition to the main library, there are branch locations in Elberfeld, Lynnville, and Tennyson.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Road Network

Boonville is located at the intersection of three state highways and near two interstate highways. A network of local streets and county roads provides easy access to these major thoroughfares as well as all the city's neighborhoods, businesses, parks, and cultural and historic amenities.

Interstate 69, providing a connection to Indianapolis, IN, is located approximately 10 miles west of downtown Boonville. It currently terminates at US 41 in Evansville, but construction of an extension and new bridge over the Ohio River is underway. The current completion date is estimated to be 2030. Interstate 64 is located 10 miles north of downtown Boonville, providing connections to Louisville, KY and St. Louis, MO.

State highway 61 serves as the primary north-south highway through Boonville, running north to Lynnville and I-64, and south to Alcoa Warrick Operations and highway 66. State highway 62 is the major east-west route through Boonville. IN 62 extends east to Dale and Santa Claus, and west to Evansville and New Harmony. Highway 261 also connects to Boonville to Newburgh.

Bicycle Network

The City of Boonville recently began developing their bicycle trail network. The city's first Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan is underway and will be completed in 2023. The city's current Bike Score is 47, which is "Somewhat Bikeable," but there is growing momentum for trail development. The Walnut Street Connector, the city's first dedicated multi-modal trail, opened in 2023, connecting the historic street grid to the nearer western suburban edge. Portions of SR 62 west of SR 61 are marked with a dual bike lane/shoulder.

The greatest potential trail development opportunity in Boonville is the abandoned Norfolk-Southern Railroad that runs east-west through town parallel to SR 62. This presents a high-value rail-trail connection within the city and beyond to Evansville and Dale.

Sidewalk Network

Significant amounts of the city are connected by a sidewalk network, providing connections between neighborhoods, schools, parks, and other city amenities. Recent sidewalk and curb ramp improvement projects along Main Street and Locust Street have improved walkability. The city has a Walk Score of 76, which is rated as "Very Walkable". This applies only to areas east of SR 61 though. West of SR 61, there is virtually zero pedestrian infrastructure.

There are still gaps within the sidewalk network. Sidewalks on Fifth Street end abruptly approximately 100 feet from City Lake Park, as an example. All schools are nominally connected, but sidewalks leading to and from schools often do not extend beyond collector streets onto residential streets.

City Lake Park has a one-half-mile paved walking path loop around the lake. This path is ADA compliant and illuminated, but it is only five feet wide, so does not meet the recommended minimum width for multi-modal use. Quail Crossing Golf Club has over three miles of cart paths, but they are not open to the public.

Transportation Barriers

Boonville is a car-dependent city overall, but the eastern (historic) half of the city is very walkable. Generally, the most walkable neighborhoods are those surrounding the historic downtown, and the least walkable neighborhoods are on the west suburban edge of the city. There are several notable physical barriers to walking and bicycling in Boonville. Cypress Creek and the highway 61/62/261 interchange are the physical features that most disrupt non-vehicular transportation, effectively separating the east and west halves of the community. Only Main Street and Millersburg Road cross Cypress Creek, and neither have pedestrian facilities.

In addition, the abandoned Norfolk-Southern railroad serves as a pedestrian barrier along the south side of the city. Sidewalks end prior to the railroad, and sometimes, but not always, resume on the other side of the tracks. If this facility could be redeveloped as a rail-trail it could become a vital pedestrian and bicycle thoroughfare by establishing a pedestrian connection over Cypress Creek.

Park Facility Conditions

City Lake Park is generally accessible by sidewalk, though on several streets the sidewalks stop short of reaching the park. There are three paved parking lots, all well striped with accessible parking. The north lot is poorly organized, and should be reconfigured to flow more efficiently. Sidewalk and parking lot conditions in this park are good. Shelters vary in age, but all in are fair to good condition. Play equipment throughout the park is in poor condition overall and need replacement, though there are a few newer pieces at the southeast play area which are in good shape. There were numerous public comments about the poor condition of the play equipment.

Brackenridge Park currently lacks both parking and a connection to the city sidewalk network. Extending sidewalks one block north on Pine Street and Cypress Street could connect this park to the city network. Play equipment here is in poor condition and past the end of its useful life. The basketball court has drainage issues and the pavement is in poor condition. There were many public comments about the poor condition of this park and its lack of amenities. Adjacent land has been acquired for a small parking lot and new play equipment is planned.

Richards Pool is connected to the city sidewalk network on SR 62. Sidewalk and parking lot pavements here are in fair condition, but most are slated for demolition and replacement with the development of the new pool facility. The pickleball courts and adjacent sidewalks are new and in excellent condition and will be maintained. The existing shelter and pool house are in good condition despite their age and should be renovated and maintained if possible.

Quail Crossing Golf Club is currently accessible only by vehicle, but the city and county have plans to connect it with trails to Victoria Woods and the west side of Boonville. The parking lots, structures, and cart paths here are all accessible and in good condition. There are some isolated minor drainage problems, but there are plans to address them as funds are available.

Education

It is important to understand the makeup of education facilities in the community, not only for what they offer in terms of recreational facilities, but also because of their connections to neighborhoods. Often, the trail network that is created for the parks network ends up being utilized by children commuting to and from school and for various school activities, including educational and athletic programs.

Public schools within Boonville are operated by the Warrick County School Corporation. The schools are spread throughout the community with all being accessible by sidewalk from adjacent neighborhoods. Of note, the sidewalk at Boonville Middle School extends to the neighborhood with a crosswalk at Lake Street, but not into the neighborhood, forcing children to walk on the local streets. Adding sidewalks to Lake Street and Hammond Street should be a city priority. In addition to the public schools there are a few private schools for ages K-12.

Schools offer a variety of sports, activities, and amenities. While the school's facilities may not be open to the public, the playgrounds and outdoor recreation amenities do receive regular use by the students.

The School Corporation and Parks Board are currently reviewing a shared-use agreement which would potentially allow local children access to school recreation and play equipment during non-school hours.

A few of the school amenities that complement the Parks & Recreation facilities include:

- Baseball/Softball
- Basketball
- Cross Country, Track, and Field
- Football
- Golf
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Playgrounds
- After-School Programs

Local Schools

Loge Elementary School
915 N Fourth Street

Oakdale Elementary School
802 S Eighth Street

Boonville Middle School
555 N Yankeetown Road

Boonville High School
300 N First Street

Higher Education

Boonville does not offer any higher education opportunities within the city. Regional four-year degree higher education opportunities include the University of Evansville and University of Southern Indiana, both in Evansville, and Oakland City University in Oakland City. Owensboro, KY offers Brescia University, Kentucky Wesleyan College, and Daymar College.

There are several two-year associate degree and technical programs in the region as well. Ivy Tech Community College offers locations in Evansville and Princeton. Across the Ohio River in Kentucky there are offerings at Owensboro Community and Technical College and Henderson Community College.



City Structure

Mayor's Office

The government of the City of Boonville is divided between the Mayor's Office and the City Council. Indiana has a "strong mayor" government system, so the mayor has most of the executive and administrative power over the city's daily operations. The mayor appoints or removes department heads and has veto power over ordinances passed by the council.

MAYOR
Mayor Charlie Wyatt

City Council

The City Council of Boonville is the legislative and fiscal body for city government. The council's five members are made up of one representative from each of the city's four council districts and one at-large member. Members are elected officials who serve four-year terms.

As the legislative body, the council has the responsibility of passing or changing local laws (known as ordinances), resolutions, orders, and motions for the city's government. As the fiscal body, the council has the authority to levy certain taxes and it has the responsibility of adopting a city budget each year.

Regular council meetings occur on the first Tuesday of each month at 4:00 pm at City Hall. All business before the council must be filed with the City Clerk. The clerk is the keeper of the record for the council and maintains the City Code of Ordinances.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

District 1	Sherrie Sievers
District 2	Shawn Russell
District 3	Mike Webb
District 4	Jim Miller
At-Large	Chad Pryor
City Clerk	Tammy Boruff

Parks Board

The City of Boonville Parks Board is made up of five citizens appointed on a bipartisan basis by the Mayor for overlapping four-year terms. The Park Board oversees the Department of Parks & Recreation. The board establishes policies, decides financial allocations, and approves special projects. The board meets the third Monday of each month at 6:30 pm at City Hall.

PARKS BOARD	Apmt Year
Cyndi Saltzman, President	2004
Danielle Russell	2018
Heather Haynes	2023
Bill Smith	2024
(vacant seat)	

Parks Department

Staffing

The Parks & Recreation Department has zero full-time and three year-round part-time employees. The Department is responsible for managing 38 acres of developed park land, lakes, picnic shelters, sport courts, and playgrounds. Quail Crossing Golf Club has its own management and maintenance staff.

Ed Harper, Superintendent
Carolyn Whyte, Pool Director
Michelle Johnson, Golf Manager

Budget Overview

The Parks & Recreation Department funds are generated by taxes and allocated by the city council as part of the budget process. Funds are used to build new improvements and for maintenance and repairs of existing parks and trails. In 2023 the adopted expense budget for Parks & Recreation was \$214,631 and the adopted budget for Quail Crossing was \$852,500.

Improvements can also occur through monetary donations or donations of land. Additionally, the Parks Board can request additional funds from the city council on an as-needed basis to cover the costs of improvements.





CHAPTER TWO

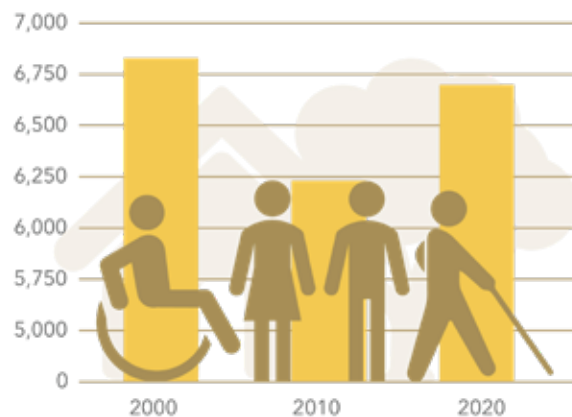
Existing Conditions

Community Profile

Methodology

The demographic and lifestyle analysis was created to better understand the characteristics and trends of Boonville and to compare it's demographic makeup to the County and State. This demographic analysis is quantitative and provides insight into Boonville and the County based on data obtained from the U.S. Census for 2020 and the American Community Survey (ACS).

Population Change



Population

Between 2000 and 2020, Boonville's population experienced a slight decline of 2%, which is a loss of just over 120 persons. Despite this slight change, the city's population has held steady between 6,000 and 7,000 people since the 1980s. This flatline is partially the result of prior sewer expansion limits which have now been corrected, allowing for future city growth and expansion. For comparison, Warrick County's population increased by over 22,000 persons over the same 40-year period. Of note, the birth rate in the county has been declining relative to the death rate, meaning that the increase in population is due to people moving to Warrick County from outside its boundaries.

Boonville Population per U.S. Census:

2000	6,834
2010	6,246
2020	6,712

It is probable, but not verified, that the abrupt dip in the 2010 census is the result of a one-time under-count.



Population Distribution

The City of Boonville has a generally even split of ages when split into 10 year bands. The two highest bands are those aged 60-69 and 0-9. This, coupled with generally low numbers of residents aged 20-29, hints that Boonville has an aging-in-place population given that many children do not stay or return to Boonville after graduating high school and/or going to college.

Boonville's median age has increased by six percent in the last decade, from 37.9 in 2010 to 40.2 in 2020. The median age for county residents is higher still at 41.5 years. Both the city and the county are older on average than the state median age of 37.9.

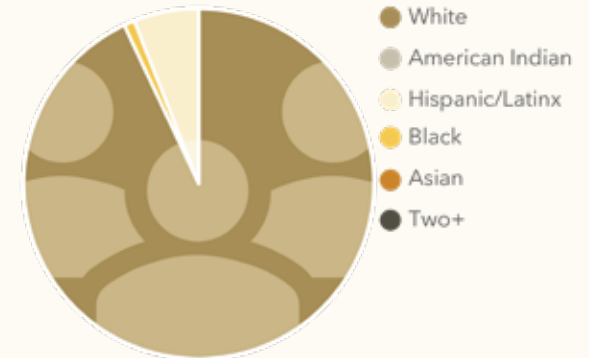
This increase in median age of the population supports an increasing need for adult and senior-oriented programs, amenities, and services. Example programs and amenities include, but are not limited to: pickleball, paved walking paths within parks with frequent benches, outdoor social spaces, bocce courts, and more passive nature parks and recreation. This increase in median age can be expected to continue for the next ten to twenty years.

Race

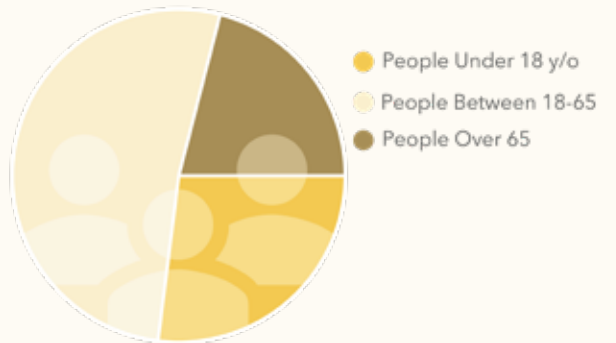
The majority of Boonville's population is white, about 93%, which is 10% higher than Evansville and 20% higher than the state of Indiana. This figure has fallen since the 2010 census, reducing by 4.7% from 97.7% highlighting an increase in community diversity. The next leading group are residents who are Hispanic or Latinx, making up approximately 6% of the total, a number up by 4.8% from the 2010 Census. These percentages are comparable to Warrick County. Of note, Warrick County has notably higher Asian/Pacific Islander and Black or African American population percentages. The County has more diversity with these population groups.

While the increase in diversity is a positive indicator of the overall health of the community, the increasing age of the population remains a concern.

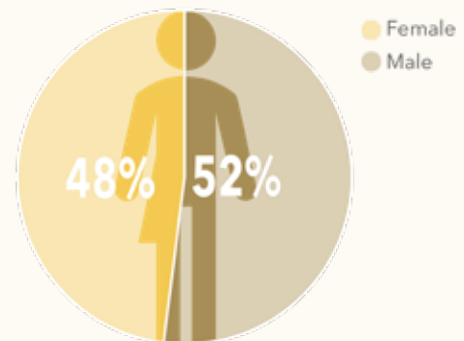
Racial Breakdown



Age Composition



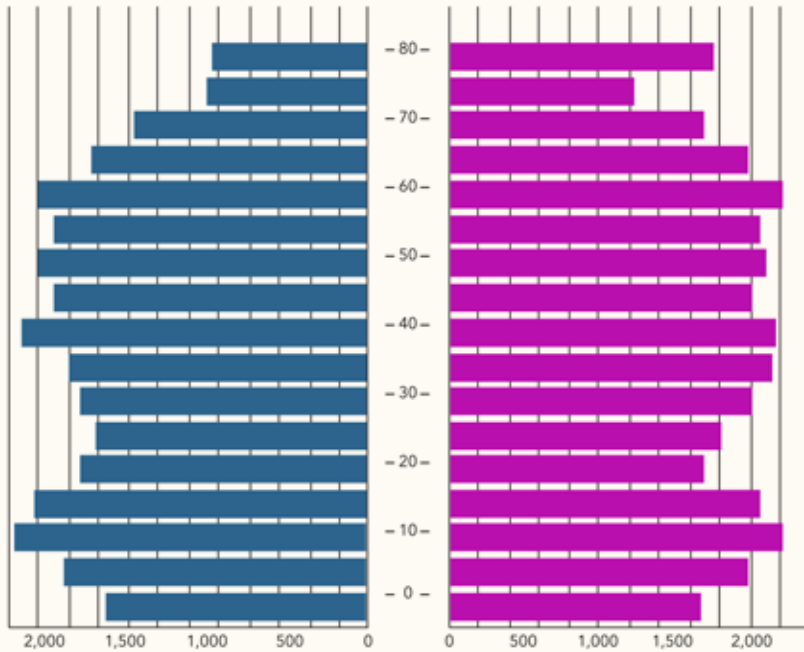
Gender Breakdown



Warrick County Population Pyramid - 2022

■ Male

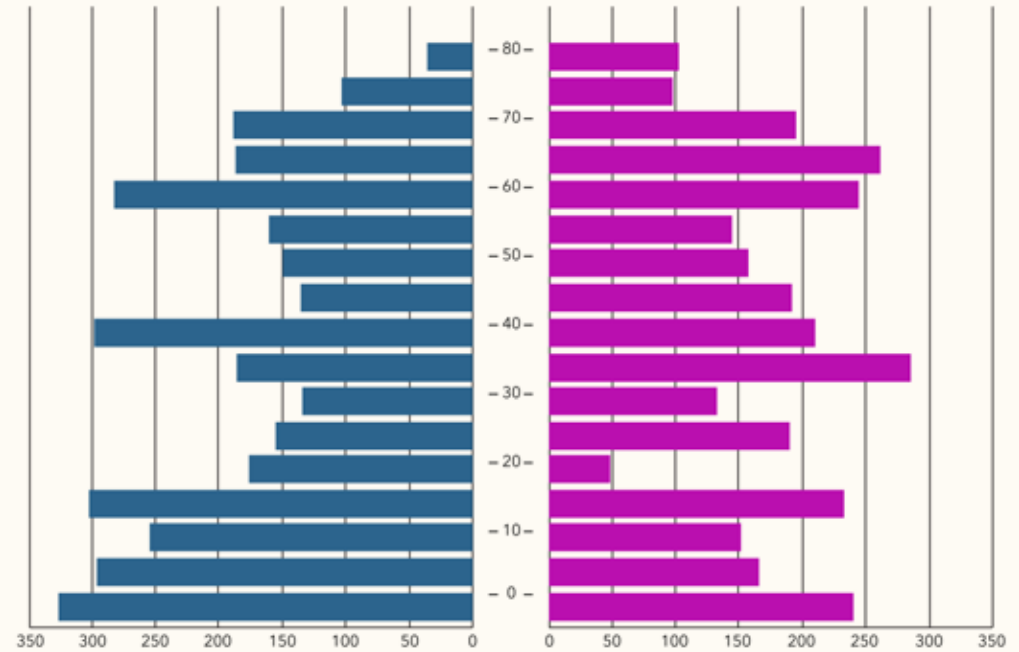
■ Female



Boonville Population Pyramid - 2022

■ Male

■ Female



Health and Wellness

Boonville and Warrick County are rated highly in terms of health and wellness. The 2016 Indiana Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise Index ranked Warrick County in the fourth, and ideal, quartile for their Health Index. This study ranked overall health by measuring fifteen indicators to construct a model of community health. Warrick County received a score of 74 out of 100 points, a great score compared to the state's average of 52 out of 100 points.

The county rates better than the state averages in many categories including obesity, child mortality, and physical inactivity. 13% percent of persons in Warrick County are rated as being in fair or poor health, as opposed to 19% statewide. Almost 11% of Boonville residents under the age of 65 have a disability, higher than the Indiana State number of 9.9%.

The 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment prepared by Deaconess Health and five health partners identified four priorities for Warrick County:

- COVID-19 Response (increasing vaccination rates and decreasing impacts of COVID-19 on chronic health conditions)
- Mental/Behavioral Health (includes mental health and substance abuse)
- Access to Care (ensuring residents are connected to care within the service area)
- Obesity and Healthy Food Access (includes food insecurity as well as promoting healthy lifestyles)

While Boonville and Warrick County are healthier than state average, there is a need for mental health services, increased access to health care, as well as improved access to healthy foods and areas for recreation to aide in lowering rates of obesity.



Educational Attainment

Boonville is part of the Warrick County School Corporation. This school district is comprised of one preschool, eleven elementary schools, four middle schools, three high schools, one education center, and one career center.

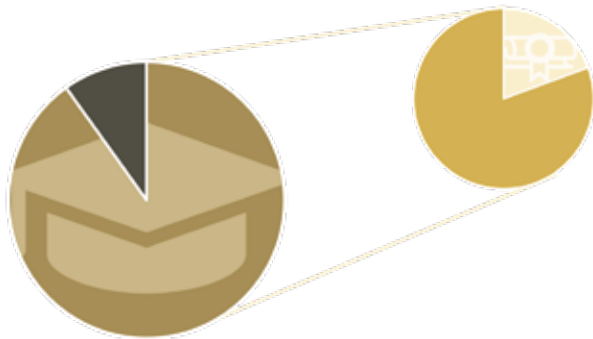
Warrick County Schools are ranked in the top 10% of all 391 school districts in Indiana. Furthermore, the school corporation has math and reading proficiency scores well above the Indiana statewide average, 54% versus 36%, and 59% versus 43% respectively.

Boonville's high school graduation rate of 90% is on par with neighboring communities and slightly above the state average of 87%. 19% of high-school graduates go on to attain

degrees in higher education, helping secure differently skilled jobs and boosting the local economy. Despite higher than average graduation rates and attainment, Warrick County still ranks lower in both white collar and blue collar jobs per capita than the state and surrounding communities. This is likely due to a lack of large business employers and a declining manufacturing sector. A significant and increasing percentage of the population is commuting to work outside Warrick County.

The 2016 Indiana Healthy, Wealthy, Wise Index ranked Warrick County at 70 out of 100 points (in the third quartile) on their Wise Index.

Boonville Education



Collegiate Degrees

- Those who have a Bachelors Degree or Higher in People 25 yr. or Older
- Those who do not have Higher Education

High School Graduates

- Those who have a High School Education or Higher
- Those who do not have a High School Education



Housing

Both the City of Boonville and Warrick County have more owner-occupied housing units than rental housing units. Within the city, the percentage of rental units has increased while the number of owner-occupied units has decreased over the last ten years. Now, only 65% of housing in Boonville is owner-occupied compared to a state average of 70%.

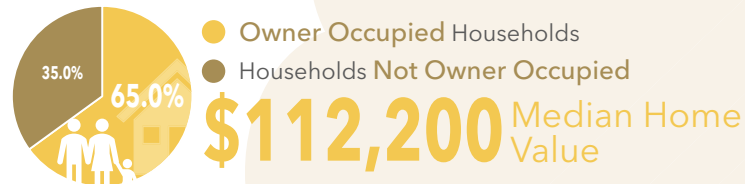
Overall, the total number of occupied units increased across both the county and city from 2010-2020. The number of vacant housing units decreased in both over the same period. Vacancy rates are consistent between the city and county, averaging 90% occupied and 10% vacant, +/- 1%. These rates are higher than in surrounding counties and communities, but identical to the state average of 10% vacancy.

The majority of the housing structures in the city were built in 1960 or earlier. Demand for new owner-occupied housing, especially affordable housing, is exceeding supply throughout the region.

A 2019 report by US HUD estimated a demand of 500 new housing units per year for the foreseeable future, but on average only 240 are being built annually. Most new construction is happening in the county outside of city limits. The same report estimates rental demand of 215 units annually, with an average of 60 new units completed annually.

HOUSEHOLD DEMOGRAPHICS

Household Owner Occupancy Rate



\$112,200 Median Home Value

2.40 People Per Household

\$775 Median Monthly Rent

2,701 Total Households

Employment & Income

According to the US Census, Boonville has a total labor force participation rate of 55.7%. The largest industries by workforce include:

- Production Occupations (378 jobs)
- Sales & Related Occupations (299 jobs)
- Office & Administrative Support Occupations (289 jobs)

The average commute for workers in Boonville is about 20.5 minutes, similar to neighboring communities, such as Evansville, Indiana.

Since the 2010 Census, median household income has increased in Boonville. In 2010, the median household income was \$42,156; as of 2021, was \$54,174 which is a 28.5% increase in eleven years without being adjusted for inflation. Both of these numbers are lower than the State of Indiana's median household income, which as of 2021 sits at \$61,944.

Per capita income increased from 2000 to 2020 for the City of Boonville. In 2000, the city's per capita income was \$15,869. This number has risen by about 75% in the past twenty years to reach a new per capita income of

\$27,743 without being adjusted for inflation.

Boonville has a poverty rate of 13.3%, a rate higher than the State of Indiana's rate of 12.6%. This number is comparable to its Hoosier neighbors but significantly lower than that found in the City of Evansville, which sits at 19.9%.

With a 13% poverty rate and lower than average household incomes, it can be surmised that the City of Boonville is struggling to collect revenue to pay for parks maintenance and improvements. This can also create an issue with providing grant match money and initial payments for reimbursement-type grants.

The city has a Bond rating of A+ and plans to utilize a major new bond to fund the construction of the new aquatic facility. The city is also pursuing both READI and Stellar Communities funding opportunities to use for park improvements. The Warrick County Community Foundation and the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership have also indicated their willingness to participate in parks and recreation investments in Boonville.

Common Industries



\$54,174
Median Household
Income 2016-2020



\$27,743
Per Capita Income
in Past 12 Months



13.3%
Poverty Rate

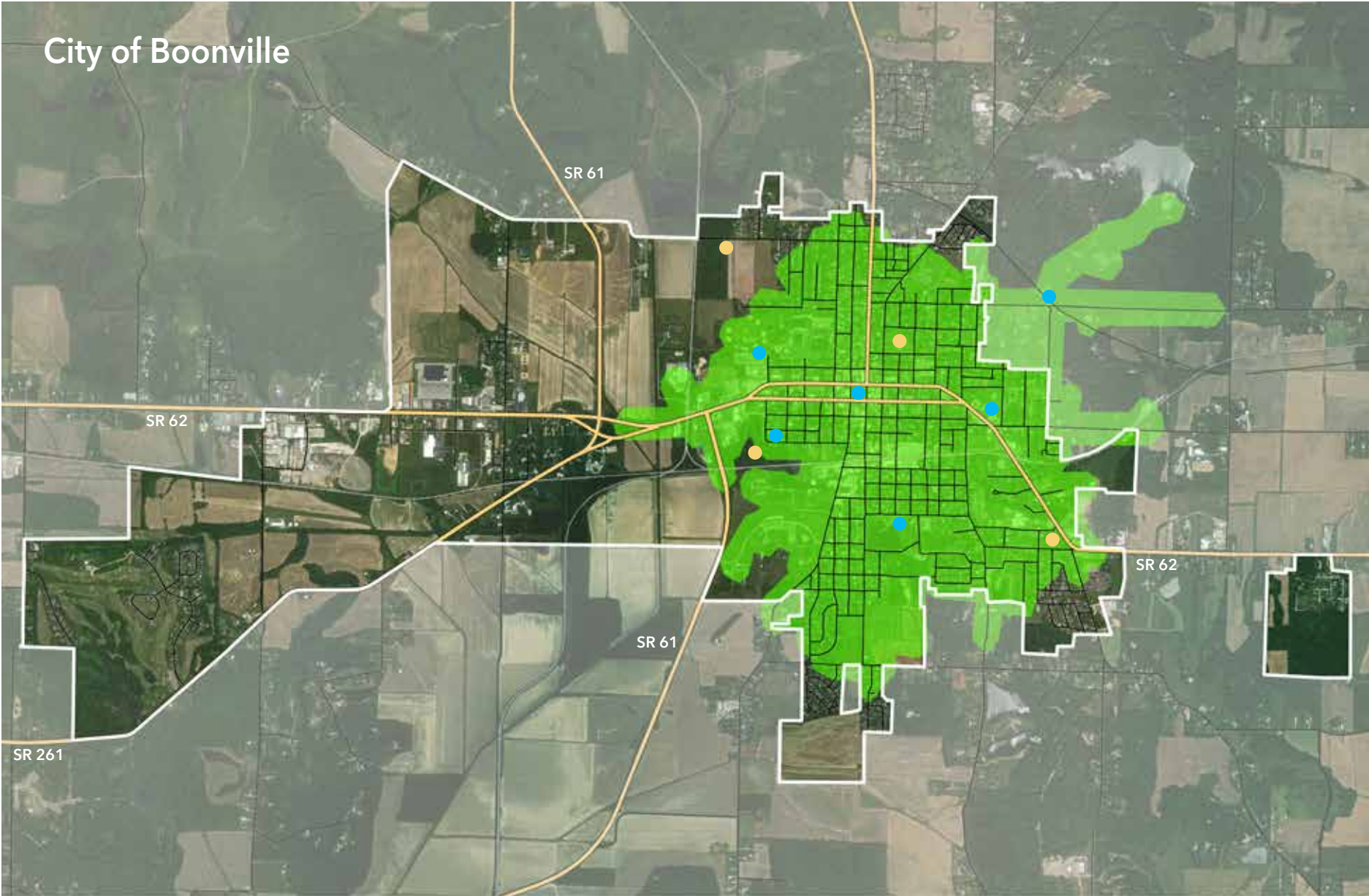


Diagram illustrating a 15 minute walk surrounding existing parks (city and county).

- Existing Park Location
- Potential Park Location

Existing Parks and Recreation

Boonville Parks and Recreation currently maintains and operates three municipal parks - City Lake Park, Brackenridge Park, and Richards Pool - and Quail Crossing Golf Club, an 18-hole golf course. These facilities occupy 280 acres of land. Additionally, the City of Boonville owns several additional parcels, some of which are developed as parks and managed by others. Johnson Park on the square, managed by Boonville Now, is open to the public and hosts ticketed events. City Lake Number Two is leased to the Warrick County Fraternal Order of Police, with no public access. Bullivant Park and Scales Lake Park - both Warrick County Parks - are located within or adjacent to the City of Boonville. Parks and Recreation oversees a small variety of programming and events including: aquatics, exercise and fitness, and golf.

Condition of Facilities

The consultant team visited every facility to understand the current facilities, assess their condition, identify the potential for possible improvements, and evaluate and address any issues related to accessibility to and within the parks. This chapter contains an assessment summary of each of the facilities.

Condition Ratings:

Excellent: equipment and facilities in like-new condition.

Good: equipment and facilities show some wear and tear.

Average: equipment and facilities show noticeable wear and tear; repairable.

Poor: equipment and facilities have missing or broken components; need replacement or rehabilitation.

Bad: equipment and facilities display health and safety concerns and are a liability risk.

The overall condition of the built facilities in Boonville's parks is good to average. Some noticeable outliers include the condition of play equipment and aquatic facilities which rated poor. As with most parks departments, there is a deferred maintenance backlog due to limited budget. Several amenities have not seen significant investment since the 1990s, including the playgrounds at Brackenridge Park and City Lake Park, as well as the mechanical equipment at both Richards Pool and the splash pad at City Lake Park. During the public input process, much of the feedback received was regarding maintenance and upkeep of park amenities. There was a strong desire to reinvest in existing facilities and upgrade them to modern standards.

Park Classifications

The assessed parks and facilities were categorized using a nationally recognized standard published by the National Recreation and Parks Association. This classification system provides a simple grouping of parks and facilities based on their size, service area, and/or special amenity offerings. The five categories include:

- Pocket Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Regional Park
- Special Use Facility

POCKET PARK

Pocket parks, also called mini-parks, are small outdoor spaces, typically no more than two acres in size. They are usually found in older urban environments that previously had little or no public open space. These parks offer localized places for people to gather, socialize, and enjoy the outdoors. They offer amenities usually affiliated with families and small community groups such as playgrounds, flexible green space, picnic areas, and limited athletic facilities, most commonly horseshoes and basketball. Because of their size, pocket parks typically do not have dedicated parking and rely on foot-traffic from a limited service area of one-quarter mile.

Johnson Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Neighborhood parks have many of the same characteristics as pocket parks, but serve a larger area and offer more amenities. Neighborhood parks typically draw visitors from up to a one-mile service area, and are anywhere from one to ten acres in size. Neighborhood parks will normally contain playgrounds, picnic shelters, flexible green space, and a few athletic facilities. The most common facilities include basketball, tennis, soccer, and softball. Still situated within walkable neighborhood streets, these parks rely on on-street parking but sometimes have small parking lots.

Brackenridge Park

COMMUNITY PARK

Community parks are sized and programmed to serve a greater percentage of the city's population. They often house facilities and amenities for community-wide activity and/or specific uses that may only be available at a limited number of locations within the city. These parks are typically 10 to 25 acres in size and have a service area of up to three miles. Community parks often house one or more athletic complexes, aquatic facilities, public restrooms, passive open space, and other site-specific amenities such as lakes or a riverfront. Because programs and amenities at these parks are geared for larger audiences, these parks should be easily accessible by road, sidewalk, and multi-use trail.

City Lake Park
Richards Pool

REGIONAL PARK

The largest parks in any municipal system, regional parks serve the recreational needs of the entire community, and also often serve the needs of surrounding smaller communities. These parks are normally 25 acres or more in area, often encompassing maintained lawns, natural areas, forests, lakes, and creeks. In addition to all of the amenities offered at community parks, regional parks often offer nature centers, concession buildings, multiple athletic complexes, and significant natural areas.

Scales Lake Park (Warrick County)

SPECIAL USE FACILITY

As indicated by the name, a special use facility is a locale or amenity that provides a unique opportunity or setting for a specific activity that is not located anywhere else within a park system. These are not classified by size, but rather by intended use. They may be stand-alone facilities or located within parks. Examples include skate parks, ice rinks, nature centers, and golf courses.

Quail Crossing Golf Club



Johnson Park

Park Type: Pocket Park
Acreage: 0.2
Address: 134 Locust Street

Amenities:

- Benches/seating
- Historic marker
- Decorative fountain
- Gazebo
- On-street parking

Summary:

Johnson Park is a recently completed pocket park on the courthouse square in downtown Boonville. Built in three terraces connected by steps, the park is fully accessible via separate sidewalk access points to each terrace. The park is maintained and operated by Boonville Now, the local business advocacy group and Indiana Main Street proponent. Johnson Park is in excellent condition overall.

Johnson Park hosts frequent concerts in the park during summer and fall. Concerts feature a beer and wine garden area for adults and a kids' play area. In winter the park is part of the decorated courthouse square festivities.





Brackenridge Park

Park Type: Neighborhood Park
Acreage: 2.0
Address: 610 W Elm Street

Amenities:

- Playground
- Swings and slide
- Basketball court

Summary:

Brackenridge Park is a one-city block park characterized by rolling topography. A water tower is located at the northwest corner of the property. A playground, swings, slide, and basketball court occupy the eastern edge of the property.

All the playground equipment is in bad condition and in need of replacement. No safety surfacing is present at the slide and swings. The basketball court is in poor condition, with some erosion washouts occurring at the south end.

Brackenridge Park is not connected to the city sidewalk grid, which ends one block north and one block east of the park. There are no accessible routes to the play equipment of basketball court. There is no parking currently, though the city has purchased additional property to the north.





Richards Pool

Park Type: Neighborhood Park
Acreage: 5.9
Address: 800 E Main Street

Amenities:

- Pool and pool house
- Pickleball courts
- Shelter house
- LED park sign
- Parking lot

Summary:

Richards Pool is a 25 yard, five lane pool built in 1974. The pool house building was built prior to the ADA. While some retrofits have been made, the facility is in poor condition and in need of replacement. The facility suffered a critical mechanical failure in summer 2023 and was forced to close.

Near the pool are the Brickyard Pickleball courts, built in 2021. The facilities are accessible and in excellent condition. The site sits at the end of the existing city sidewalk network and could be easily connected.

The Studio Bee Community Youth Center, operated by G.E.M. Ministries, is located on the back of the property. The indoor facility contains a game room, two classrooms, kitchen, and gymnasium.





City Lake Park

Park Type: Community Park
Acreage: 29
Address: 200 E Moore Street

Amenities:

- Shelter houses
- Playgrounds
- Splash pad
- Basketball court
- War memorial
- Paved walking path
- Maintenance building
- Parking lots

Summary:

City Lake Park is dominated by a 15 acre lake. The lake is stocked with fish and surrounded by an accessible walking path with lights. The many park amenities are located in the northeast side of the park. Generally the park is very flat, with abrupt slopes at the perimeter to meet street grade.

City Lake Park is recently connected to the city sidewalk grid along its north edge. Most of the amenities in the park are fully accessible, but the playgrounds are not.

The buildings and structures in the park are well maintained. Most playground equipment is in poor condition, but there are some newer play elements that are in good condition. Most play equipment has pea gravel safety surfacing. The spray pad pump equipment has reached the end of its life cycle and needs to be replaced.





Quail Crossing

Park Type: Special Use Facility
Acreage: 206
Address: 5 Quail Crossing Dr #8466

Amenities:

- 18-hole golf course
- Event venue

Summary:

In 2017 the city acquired Quail Crossing, a residential golf community built across 320 total acres. The links-style course is built to capitalize on topography, including several tees played from abrupt elevation changes. Fairways are flanked by little bluestem and other prairie grasses which provide habitat for wildlife.

The Covey Room at Quail Crossing is an indoor banquet and event facility with a full kitchen. The event center can be rented for \$800 for a five-hour event. Catering is offered.

Rates for golf vary from \$18 for a 9-hole walking day-pass, to \$2,000 for an all-inclusive family annual membership.





Brackenridge Woods

Park Type: Potential Neighborhood Park
Acreage: 17.7
Address: 700 W Elm Street

Summary:

Brackenridge Woods is an undeveloped wooded tract of floodplain land owned by the City of Boonville. It sits south and west of Brackenridge Park, and abuts the abandoned Norfolk Southern railroad line along the south edge. The recently completed Walnut Trail is at the northern edge of the property.

Access could be provided from the Tractor Supply parking lot in addition to the two city-owned parcels that provide potential direct linkage to Brackenridge Park.

In addition to being in a floodplain, several power line easements cross the property. These factors limit large-scale development of the property. Low-impact improvements such as a wooded disc-golf course, soft-surface walking trails, paved connections to the future rail-trail, and a shelter near the north end of the property are potential improvements.





Pioneer Woods

Park Type: Potential Community Park
Acreage: 30.7
Address: 600 W North Street

Summary:

Pioneer Woods is an undeveloped woodlot and agricultural field west of Boonville High School and Bullivant Park (Warrick County Parks). A small retention basin is located in the southwest corner of the property. Most of the property lies in the floodplain of Cypress Creek. The City of Boonville owns the property.

Walking access could be provided from Bullivant Park. Vehicular access would need to come from North Street at the north edge of the property.

Potential improvements include athletic fields such as baseball/softball, football/soccer, basketball and pickleball. By balancing cut and fill, a new restroom and shelter building could be built above flood elevation in conjunction with a larger retention pond. Trails could be developed around the retention pond(s) and through the woodlot.





Community Green

Park Type: Potential Neighborhood Park
Acreage: 3.5
Address: 300 E Gum Street

Summary:

There are 3.5 acres of underutilized green space north of the Warrick County School Corporation Administration Center. While the city does not own this land, an agreement could be reached with the school corporation to allow development of community resources on the property.

The land was once a school track and field, so a quarter-mile walking loop and multi-use field could be built for minimal investment. Community gardens, pollinator habitat, and a skate park to replace unused basketball courts are other potential improvements.





Hospital Park

Park Type: Potential Neighborhood Park
Acreage: 3.5
Address: 1310 Maxville Road

Summary:

West of the intersection of Highway 62, Rockport Road, and Maxville Road are 3.5 acres of gently rolling turf owned by the local hospital corporation. While the city does not own this land, an agreement could be reached with the hospital to allow development of community resources on the property.

The property is a documented shaft-mine site, which would make building /structure development expensive. A neighborhood park on this property would address a need in the southeast quadrant of the city where there are currently no parks.

A playground, picnic shelter, parking lot, and walking loop are potential improvements.





Accessibility

The City of Boonville values each individual's civil rights and wishes to provide equal opportunity and equitable services for the citizens of this city. As a recipient of federal funds, the City of Boonville is required to conform to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) and all related statutes, regulations, and directives, which provide that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance on the grounds of race, color, age, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, religion, or income status.

Grievances

The City of Boonville has established a grievance procedure for anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, programs, or benefits by the City of Boonville.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

Michael Dennis
Title VI / ADA Coordinator
Boonville City Hall
PO Box 508, 135 S Second St
Boonville, IN 47601
812-897-1230
ada@boonville.in.gov

ADA Transition Plan

The City of Boonville does not have an ADA Transition Plan. Warrick County completed an ADA Transition Plan in 2018. The plan was focused primarily on public right-of-way and civic buildings. Little information or guidance on city parks can be found therein.

The plan did provide an ADA assessment of Scales Lake Park and Friedman Park in Warrick County. The assessment was thorough and could be used as a basis for future assessment of city parks.

It is strongly recommended that the City of Boonville complete an ADA Transition Plan. ADA Transition Plans are required and should be updated periodically until all identified barriers are eliminated. Several ADA standards related to swimming pools, fishing piers, golf courses, and play areas were updated in 2010, so past compliance is not a guarantee of present compliance.

Self-Evaluation

The Parks Department has not previously performed an ADA self-evaluation of their programs, services, and facilities. There was no knowledge of the need previously. The site assessment portion of this plan provided a baseline assessment of physical facilities and incorporates accessible route improvements into the recommendations.

Further self-evaluation is needed with regard to programs and services. Completing the self-evaluation should be a priority goal of the early years of the five-year plan.

Similarly, public notice of ADA requirements, and public information about accessible facilities, amenities, programs and services in the park system have not previously been made. As new park improvements are made and the self-evaluation is completed, public notice should be given both in traditional formats such as newspapers and through online outlets such as the city website and social media.

Accessibility Review

The consultant team visited every parks facility of the City of Boonville to understand the condition of current facilities, assess any shortcomings, and identify the potential for possible improvements related to accessibility to and within the parks.

The most commonly observed deficiencies were lack of accessible routes to certain amenities in parks, such as playgrounds. Most playgrounds also utilize pea gravel safety surfacing, which can meet impact attenuation requirements for falls, but cannot ever be an accessible surface. Generally, accessible parking requirements are being met or exceeded.

Public Input and Comments

In the Community Survey we asked respondents to rate the accessibility of Boonville parks. 88% of those responding stated that facilities were average or good. 12% responded that the facilities need improvements.

In the survey we asked “What physical barriers prevent you from visiting and utilizing the parks?” 12% responded “A lack of accessible play equipment”. Several write-in comments on the project website and at open houses also indicated a desire for more accessible play equipment.

30% of survey respondents stated that they would like to see more accessible and inclusive play equipment.

Accessibility Assessment Recommendations

Accessible Parking

When parking is developed at Brackenridge Park, accessible parking must be included. An accessible route must then be provided from the accessible space(s) to the main elements of the park, including shelters and playgrounds.



Accessible Route

The most common deficiency observed was lack of accessible routes connecting the various amenities within parks. Most often there is no accessible paved walk from the main walk to a playground, bench, grill, or other amenity.



Companion Spaces

There are many instances of sidewalks with affixed benches nearby, but the bench is not connected to the pavement. Benches should be located on paved accessible routes and 25% of benches in a given park should have companion spaces for persons in wheelchairs.



Sidewalk Maintenance

As accessible routes age, elevation gaps greater than 1/4" can appear, causing accessible routes to fall out of compliance with ADA regulations. The department should monitor accessible routes and develop a schedule for regular replacement of these hard surfaces as they age.



Playground Surface

Most of the playgrounds have pea gravel as a safety surface. While this material can meet impact attenuation requirements for fall heights, it can never be an accessible material. This material should be replaced with ADA compliant surfacing. Several pieces of stand-alone play equipment have no safety surfacing at all. This is a safety and liability risk.

Last, many of the playgrounds have timber containment edging. This material does require ongoing maintenance as it is prone to heave, deterioration, and can break loose over time. Moving forward, new play equipment should have PIP safety surface with concrete containment edging.



CHAPTER THREE



Needs Assessment

Hearing from the Community

The needs assessment process is necessary to better define and understand the needs and priorities of a community. Through a series of evaluation and analysis processes, including public input, the needs and priorities of the community are identified and become the foundational framework for the recommendations of the plan.

This chapter includes a summary of the public engagement process, level of service study, and benchmark analysis for the City of Boonville Parks and Recreation. Information can be found in the appendix for full results of the public input meetings and community survey.

Public Engagement

Recommendations must reflect the needs and expectations of the public to remain current. Engagement is also important to show the intentional planning of the Parks Department and to share the goals and vision for future improvements. Public outreach efforts build trust and show that the public has a stake in park planning and that their opinions and perspectives are valued.

Delivering a community-oriented system of parks and recreation programs requires that the plan is well supported by the community. Public engagement strategies are executed to gain an understanding of what the community perceives as important to improve the system. Several methods of outreach were complete to involve the community in the process. These included:

- Project Website
- Steering Committee Meetings
- Focus Group Meetings
- Community Survey
- Public Open House #1
- Public Open House #2





Welcome to the project Website! Check back often for project updates.

The City of Boonville has begun the process of creating a Five-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The Plan will look at the city's park and recreation facilities and amenities, and will engage residents and community leaders to provide recommendations that seek to improve the current parks system. The plan's recommendations will include physical improvements for the parks but will also include recommendations for new programs and activities, maintenance and operations, funding sources, and long-term planning that will address the life-cycle of existing park elements. The recommendations will provide an action plan for the Parks and Recreation Department to utilize over the next five years and beyond. The planning process will include a review of existing conditions and documents, public input, and recommendations for infrastructure improvements and policy changes.

On this website you will find information to keep you up to date with where we are in the process. You will find information on meetings to attend and interactive exercises that allow you to provide your input. Thank you for taking the time to visit our website and learn more about this exciting project!



Community Events

Stay up to date with upcoming meetings and events.

[Click Here!](#)



Virtual Open House

Continue to let us know your thoughts and ideas for improving the parks system.

[Click Here!](#)

Steering committee

A Steering Committee of five community members was formed to guide the master plan process. Meetings were held throughout the process to update the committee and gather input on topics.

The primary focus of this group was to share their knowledge and experience with the parks system. Discussions centered around what was most valued and what elements or programs were missing in the parks system. This group was also charged with reaching out to members of the community to share the planning process but also to gather opinions on what improvements are needed for the parks system. This group was responsible for helping get the word out into the community for the project, including where they could provide feedback and information on the community survey and public meetings. The Steering Committee was involved in developing and prioritizing plan recommendations later in the plan process.

Meetings:

Meeting #1 - April 20, 2023

Zoom Meeting, 9am CST
Discussed plan purpose, schedule, community survey content, focus group attendees, and plan goals.

Meeting #2 -- May 25, 2023

Zoom Meeting, 9am CST
Discussed community survey and open house #1 results and key takeaways.

Meeting #3 - June 29, 2023

Zoom Meeting, 9am CST
Discussed number of facilities and acreage, benchmark study, level of service standards, and open house #2 materials.

Meeting #4 - July 27, 2023

Zoom Meeting, 9am CST
Discussed community engagement, system-wide recommendations, open house #2

Agendas from Steering Committee meetings are included in the Appendices.



Focus Group Meetings

Small group, or focus group, meetings were also used to gather input. The focus groups were conducted over the course of one day through a series of meetings at the Warrick County School Corporation Central Services building. A variety of community members were invited to participate. These meetings included several community members and five individuals from the following community groups: Boonville Now, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Evansville Regional Economic Partnership, and Warrick County Grants Development.

Those invited to participate in the meetings received the following questions in advance:

What do you like about the existing park system in terms of facilities and programs? (Strengths)

Imagine for a moment what your ideal park would look like and have in it. What would that park include? (Opportunities)

What improvements, if any, are needed at any of the parks? (Weaknesses)

What types of community activities do you participate in at the parks? What kinds of community activities would you like to have in the parks?

Meetings:

All meetings were held May 31, 2023 at the Warrick County School Corporation Central Services building.

Meeting #1 - 10am-11am

Discussed the need for a new pool, desire for a dog park, hopes for future of Warrick County, and need to promote trails and parks better.

Meeting #2 - 11am-noon

Discussed Warrick County five-year parks plan, regional trail connectivity, more recreation opportunities for youth and seniors.

Two afternoon meetings were offered but no one attended.

Notes and sign-in sheets from Focus Group meetings are included in the Appendices.

Community Survey

The community survey was administered online through the project website. It was advertised on social media, fliers in local businesses, and distributed through email lists. Signs with QR codes that took users directly to the survey were used at the public open houses.

In addition to the online advertising, physical copies of the community survey were available at Public Open House #1 for guests to complete. These results were collated with the online responses.

The survey received 37 responses with 62% of those respondents living in Boonville and the rest from Warrick County residents. A wide range of age groups participated in the survey with 33% between 31 and 50 years old. The survey included questions asking participants what facilities they perceived as needing improvement along with what new facilities and programs are desired. A summary of survey results is provided here with the full survey results available in the appendices.

Survey launched April 1, 2023
Survey closed October 11, 2023

Full reporting from the Community Survey is included in the Appendices.

Condition of Existing Parks

When asked how often participants visit Boonville parks, 46% responded weekly, with 33% visiting parks 2-3 times per month.

The most visited parks were:

City Lake Park	83%
Scales Lake (Warrick County)	78%
Johnson Park	56%
Richards Pool	28%
Quail Crossing Event Center	22%
Brackenridge Park	14%

The majority of respondents (44%) thought the physical condition of parks is average, with a significant percentage (33%) viewing the condition of parks as good. Accessibility was similarly rated as being average (56%) to good (32%).

Respondents identified the facilities they most utilized in the parks as:

Walking Paths	60%
Shelters	43%
Playgrounds	43%
Splash Pad	26%
Basketball	23%

Demand for New Facilities

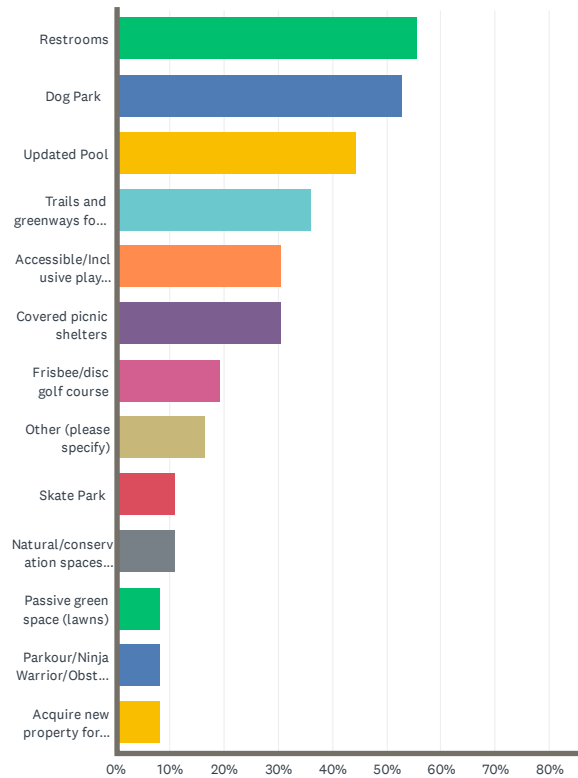
When respondents were asked what they would like to see added to the parks network, restrooms received the most responses with 56% of survey respondents. A dog park was the second most requested new facility at 53%.

A new or updated pool and trails/greenways were the next most requested amenities. New play equipment and covered picnic shelters were viewed as desirable by 30% of survey respondents. To meet these needs, the Department should focus on facility types that do not currently exist in addition to adding more of those facilities that are in highest demand.

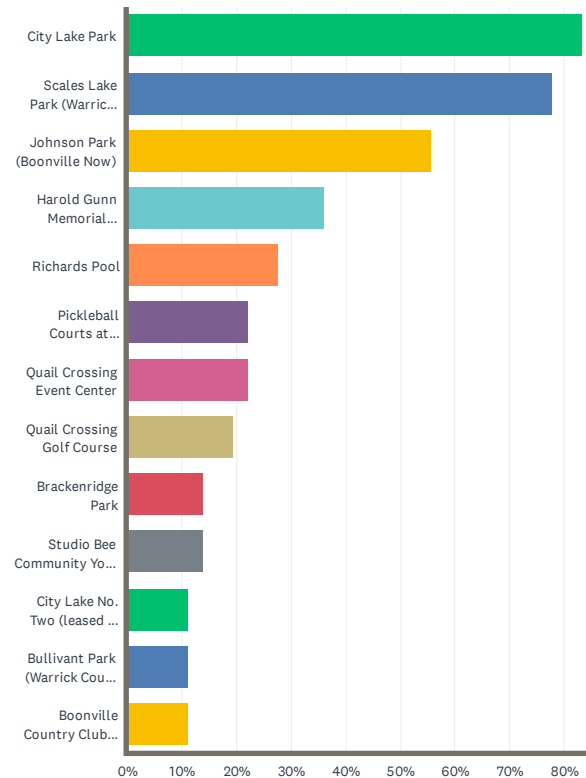
When respondents were asked what activities they would like to see added to parks programming, community events received the most responses with 62%. After that there was a sharp drop, with teen/tween programs, outdoor fitness and wellness classes, arts and crafts programs, and outdoor adventure programming receiving nearly equal interest.

A resounding 100% of respondents support more capital investment into Boonville's parks and recreation.

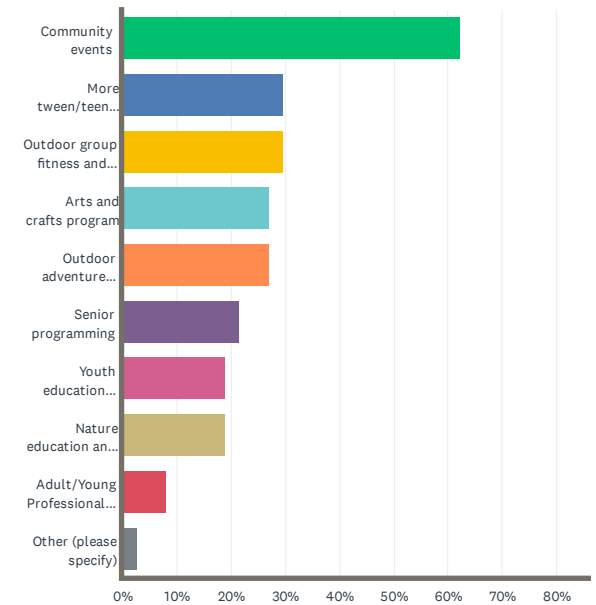
I would like to see Boonville add the following park amenities:



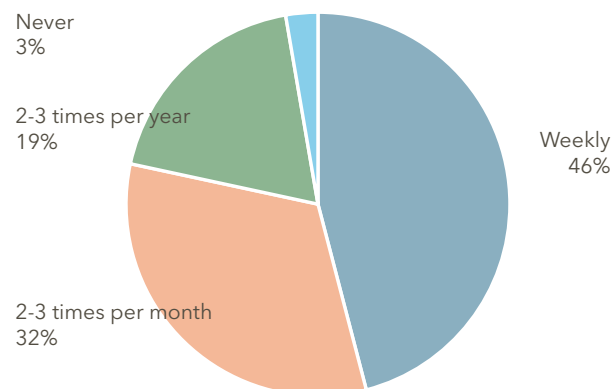
Which local parks facilities have you visited in the last 12 months?



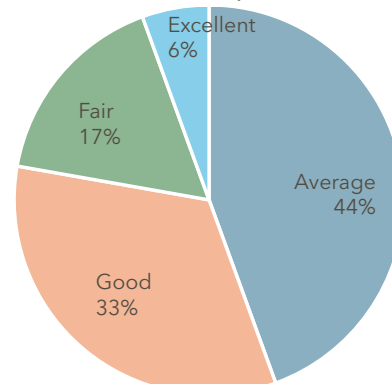
What programs or activities would you like to see Boonville add?



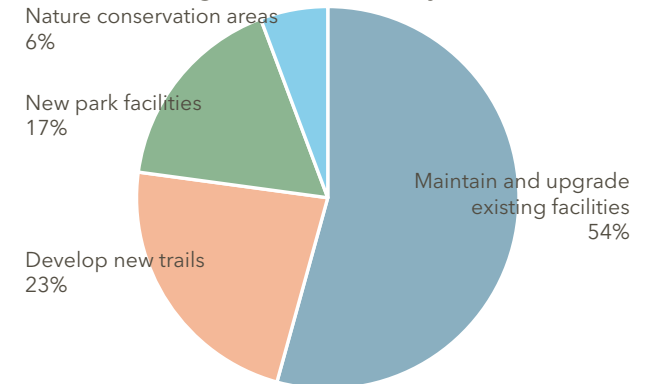
How often do you visit Boonville parks?



How would you rate the physical condition of Boonville parks?



If Boonville could invest in only one of the following, where would you invest?



Public Meetings

Public Meeting One

Date: May 31, 2023

Location: Warrick County School Corporation Central Services

Time: 4:00 to 7:00 pm

Attendees: 12 signed in

A public open house was held on May 31, 2023, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Warrick County School Corporation Central Services in Boonville.

Announcements for the public meetings were distributed through the project website, email lists compiled by the steering committee, flyers in local businesses on the square, and social media. The open house was attended by over a dozen community members and elected officials (not included in attendees above).

The open-house format was utilized for the first public meeting and included several exercises to engage the public. The focus of this public meeting was to determine existing parks that might

need improvement, proposed facilities that were missing or lacking in the existing network, and ideas for new recreational programming. Existing conditions, including aerial maps and photographs for each park, were utilized at stations. Project staff engaged with residents to gather input on how residents viewed the current parks system.

A voting station was utilized to ask attendees to spend their “coins” to fund different parks priorities. In addition, comment sheets were provided for residents to record their individual comments. Two “white board” exercises were utilized to ask for other ideas or priorities that might not have been shown in the exercises.

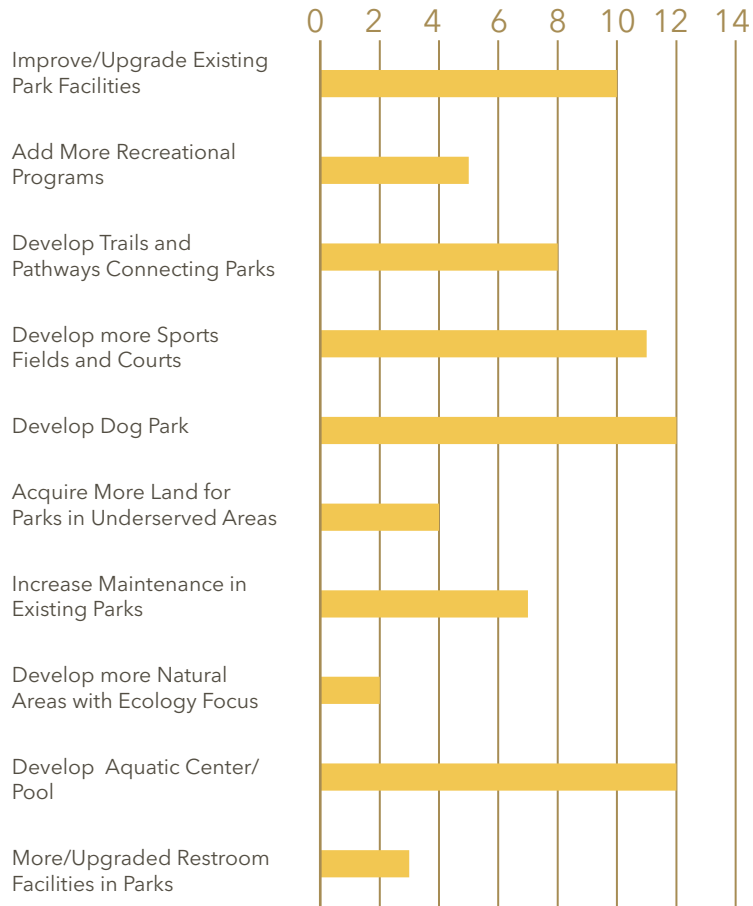
Overall, enthusiasm for the plan was very high. There is a desire from the public to see the City of Boonville invest more in parks and recreation. Comments from

the public open house correlated closely with the comments that were heard at the Stakeholder and Focus Group meetings including:

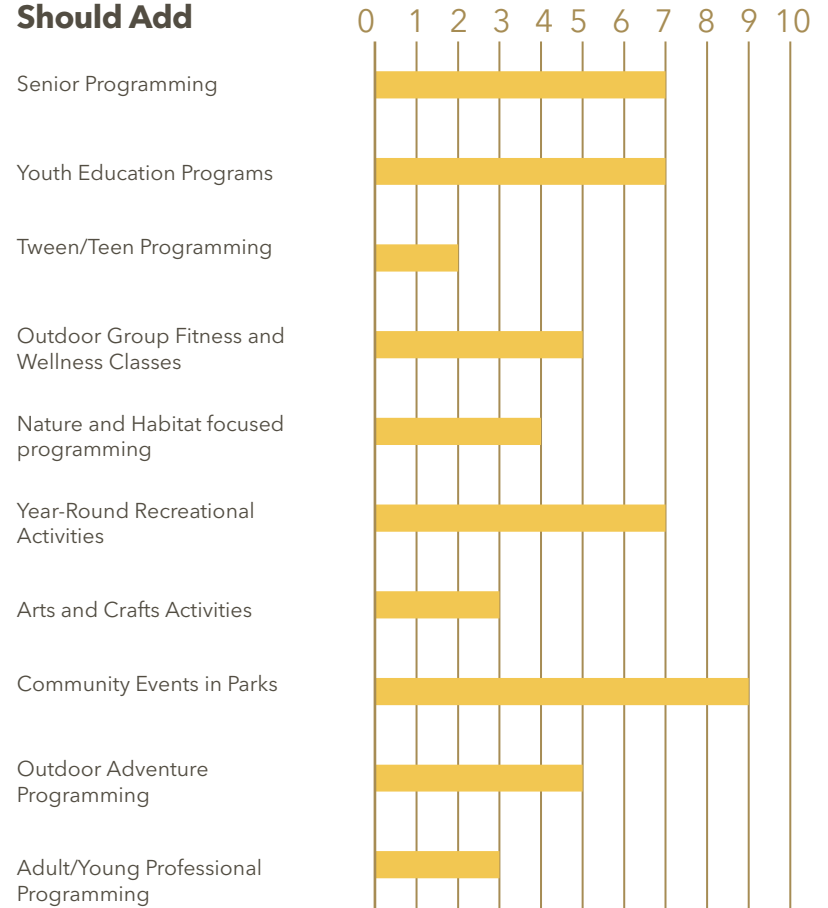
- Need for a new larger pool with additional amenities to replace Richard Pool
- Re-invest in what currently exists - less emphasis on expansion
- Need to upgrade play equipment at City Lake and Brackenridge
- Desire for additional restrooms in parks
- A dog park was the most requested new facility
- There is a desire for more community events in parks
- Disc Golf and Community Gardens were unexpected requests from the public

Full reporting from the Public Open House is included in the Appendices.

Where to Focus Future Investments



Programs and Activities Boonville Parks & Recreation Should Add



Public Meeting Two

Date: August 30, 2023

Location: Boonville Now office

Time: 4:00 to 7:00 pm

Attendees: 10 signed in

A second public open house was held on August 30, 2023, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Boonville Now office on the courthouse square. The open-house format was utilized again for the public meeting, allowing people to come and go anytime during the time period. Interactive exercise stations were again set up around the room to engage residents.

The focus of the second open house was to gather input on proposed recommendations for the parks network. Recommendations for the entire parks system and all individual parks were on display. Conceptual illustrations showing potential improvements to all existing city park facilities were provided. Additionally, conceptual plans for several undeveloped city properties and potential parks were on display.

Existing Parks

City Lake Park
Brackenridge Park
Richards Pool
Quail Crossing Golf Club

Potential Parks

Brackenridge Woods
Pioneer Woods
Hospital Park
WCSC Community Green

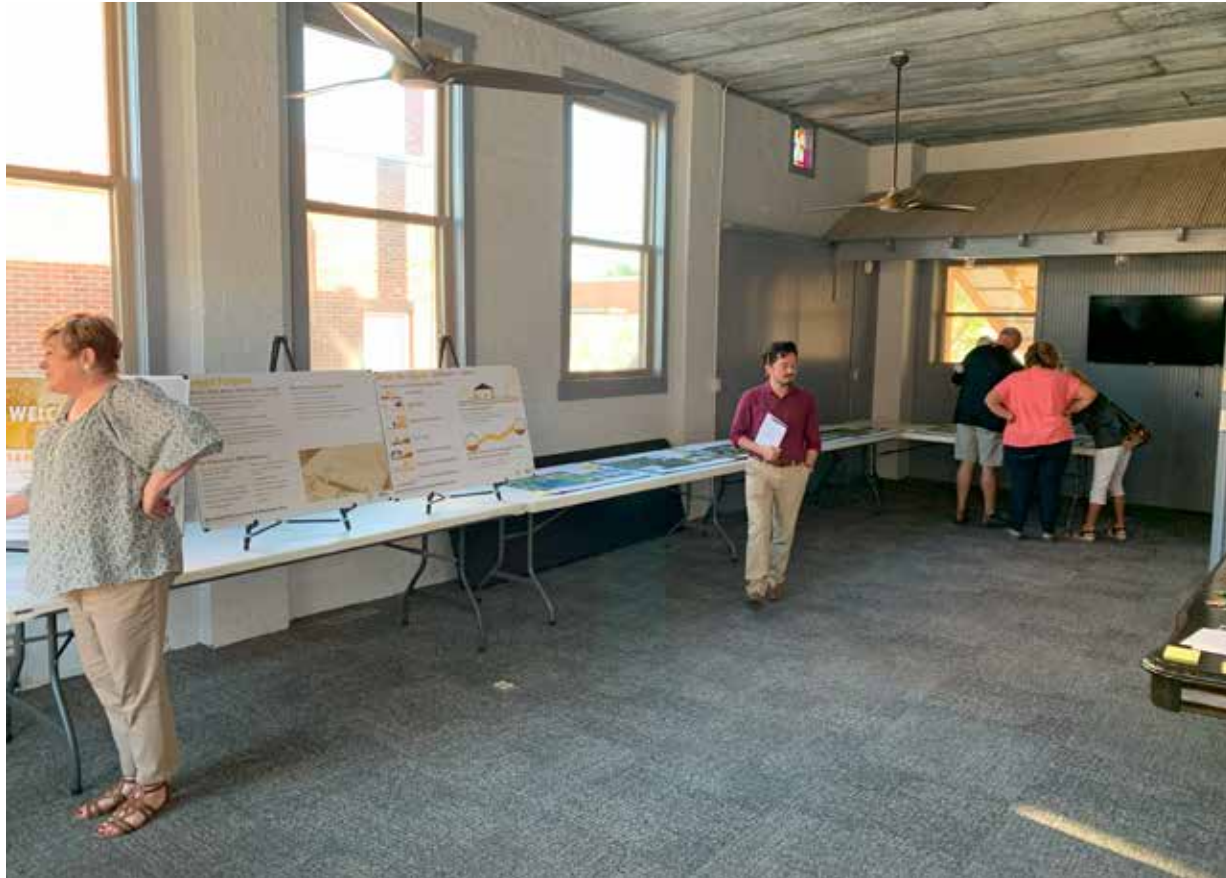
Attendees of the meeting provided input for the improvements in individual parks while also commenting on the typical illustrative plans. A “white board” station was again provided for additional comments or impressions of the recommendations illustrated at the public meeting.

Overall, the public agreed with the proposed accessibility and facility improvements and were enthusiastic about the potential changes to existing parks. The response towards the proposed recommendations was positive, with only a few comments

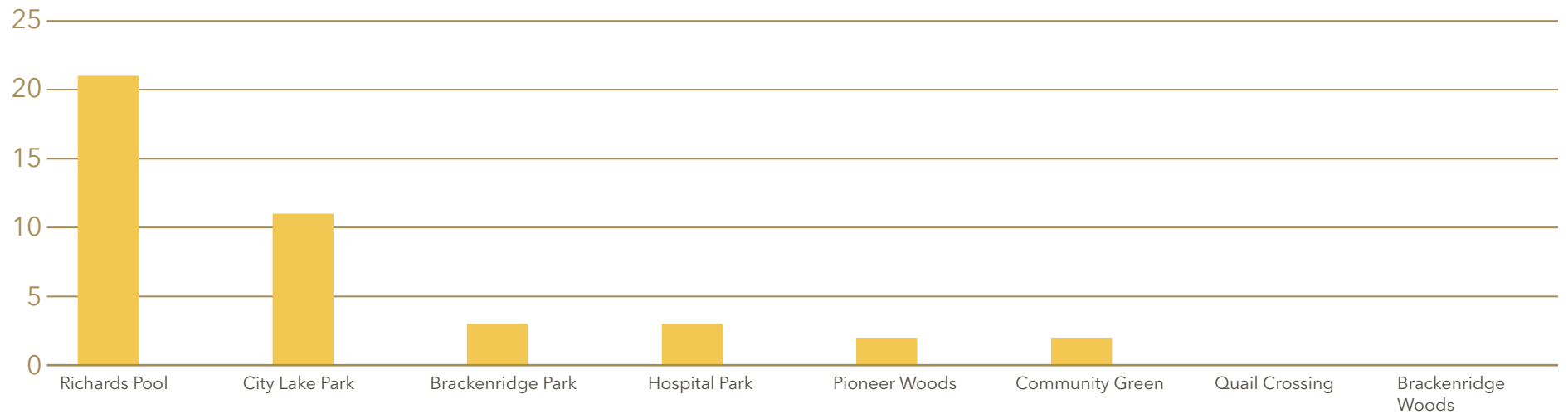
indicating that certain improvements were not needed. These comments were limited to expanded facilities and additional land development, reinforcing the previously noted desire to re-invest in what exists before expanding the parks system.

A voting exercise was used to gauge public desire for the proposed facilities and establish priorities for implementation and scheduling. Improvements to Richards Pool was unsurprisingly voted the highest priority, with nearly double the votes of the next facility. City Lake Park was the second highest priority and Brackenridge Park was third. This exercise does need to be taken in context with prior exercises which established that the proposed dog park at Brackenridge Park was more desired than any proposed improvements at City Lake Park.

Full reporting from the Public Open House is included in the Appendices.



Parks Priority Voting Exercise



Summary of Public Input

Two major priorities and six secondary priorities emerged from the public engagement process. These priorities were heard from residents of all ages and across different input methods. The themes listed here and on the adjacent page guided development of proposed recommendations for the park system over the next five years.



New Aquatic Facility Plan, August 2023

New Pool Facility

Richards Pool, the existing city pool, was built in 1974. By modern standards the pool is quite small and dated. The pool pumps suffered a catastrophic failure in summer 2023 and the pool had to be closed for the season early.

During the community survey in spring 2023, 44% of respondents voted that the city needed to replace the pool. At the first public meeting, support for the new pool had grown to 50% of the public in attendance. By the time of the second public meeting in August, after the pump failure, support for the new pool had outstripped all other proposed improvements and garnered more than twice as many votes as any other facility improvement.

In fall 2023, the city engaged a professional design team and is currently planning a new aquatic center to replace Richards Pool. The new facility will feature a competition pool, zero-depth entry play zone, dual water slides, new pool house, public meeting rooms, public restrooms, storage space for the parks department, a flat deck sprayground and small inclusive play area.

Modernize Playgrounds

Public support for playground updates was widespread through every input channel. 30% of community survey respondents voted for new play equipment. At public meeting #1, multiple write in comments noted the need to replace play equipment. At public meeting #2, the attendees voted to make improvements to City Lake Park and Brackenridge Park - where play equipment exists today - the number two and three priority locations for improvements.

Playgrounds are typically the most visible and well-used amenity within a park. Playgrounds within Boonville's park system are showing their age and are not in optimal physical condition. All existing park playgrounds use pea gravel mulch as a safety surfacing.

Moving forward, all new playgrounds should be installed with PIP or PAT safety surfacing in order to meet ADA guidelines as well as lower long-term maintenance. Play equipment at Brackenridge Park and older equipment at City Lake Park should be replaced with priority to keep children safe and healthy, and to increase accessibility.

New Dog Park

Demand for a dog park clearly exists in Boonville. It was the most requested amenity at public meeting #1, the second most requested new amenity in the community survey results, and a frequent topic of write-in comments at every meeting and survey opportunity. The public voted overwhelmingly to update and modernize existing facilities before adding new amenities, but a premier dog park should be the first major new amenity planned.

Community Events

Parks programming is always in demand. The most frequently requested program element according to the community survey and the first public meeting was for more all-ages family-friendly community events in parks. Some examples cited included music in the park, movies in the park, and holiday themed events in the park. Many of these activities are already happening, but there is demand for more.

Trails and Connectivity

More than 1/3 of survey respondents voted for trails and greenways as a desired amenity. Developing new trails and walkways was the second highest priority vote after upgrading existing park facilities. Trails also received strong voting preference at both public meetings, always in the top five most requested amenities, regardless of the format. Connecting city trails to county trails and a regional rail-trail is a priority for Boonville residents.

Community Gardens

Community gardens were an unexpected request from the public input. There were multiple requests for community gardens as write-in comments in the survey. At public meeting #1, community gardens were a widely selected desired amenity from a board of options. Given the relatively low cost investment, community gardens could be a low-impact addition to an existing park as a trial.

Restrooms

Restrooms were the second most requested new and expanded facility type identified in the community survey. Currently, only City Lake Park has restrooms which are open to the public seasonally. Richards Pool and Quail Crossing have restrooms that are available to those who have paid admission to the respective facility. There is a public desire for more clean, open, accessible restrooms at all parks.

Disc Golf

Disc golf received about 20% support in the community survey and numerous comments at public meeting #1. One write-in comment mentioned a proposed tournament facility which was previously planned at Quail Crossing Golf Club as a compliment to the existing golf course. Other commenters mentioned a preference for a more rustic or natural course.

Benchmark Study

The benchmark study was used to compare the City of Boonville parks system with other Indiana communities which have similar population and park system characteristics. In addition, National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) 2022 Agency Performance Review national averages, where available, were utilized. The results of the benchmark study are shown on the next page.

The results of the benchmark study indicate that the City of Boonville is lagging behind peer communities with regard to number of parks and total developed park land acreage. The city already owns two large floodplain parcels - Pioneer Woods and Brackenridge Woods - which should be developed as parks in the future. This plan looks at potential options for those parcels. This plan also looks at two additional parcels - Hospital Park and Community Green - which could be developed through partnerships or shared-use agreements, if land acquisition is not possible. Developing this available land into usable park facilities should be a secondary priority after updating existing park facilities.

Annual Operating Budget

Boonville spends \$31.98 per capita annually on their parks and recreation budget, which is significantly less than the national average of \$93.01 per capita. Peer communities are consistently spending more per capita on their parks departments. In order to meet national averages, Boonville would need to budget approximately \$625,000 annually for its parks and recreation department, not including golf.

The city will need to increase its annual spending for parks as new facilities are developed, including the new pool and additional park facilities. Numerous economic studies have shown that increased spending on parks and recreation leads to higher quality of life for all residents and thus increased economic investment in the community.

The city also spends \$127.01 per capita annually for the Quail Crossing Golf Club. While Quail Crossing was operating at a loss when the city acquired it in 2017, operational changes have consistently increased profit year after year. The golf course became profitable in 2023 and if current trends continue, it should continue to operate with an increasing annual profit.

Staffing

Based on the NRPA's national average index, a city with Boonville's population should expect to employ four full-time equivalent parks and recreation employees. With only 1.5 full-time equivalent employees, Boonville parks is currently under-staffed. Moving forward, the city will need to add additional staff to cover operations of the new pool facility and more employees to keep up with maintenance and operations. The city should also consider adding a Parks Director position to oversee the entire expanding department. This position could also be responsible for developing and providing programming in the city parks.

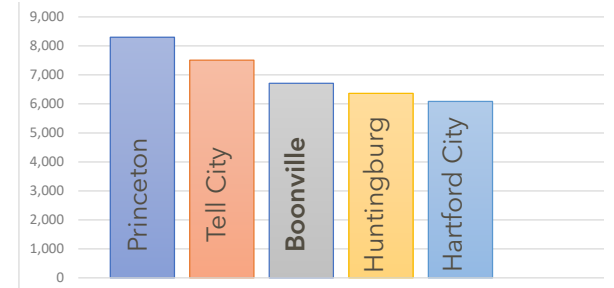
On average, operations and maintenance accounts for about 50% of full-time equivalent staffing in most parks and recreation departments. The current low level of staffing is contributing to a lack of maintenance which is increasing the need for existing parks upgrades. It is vital for the city to increase ongoing parks spending to keep up with maintenance and operations of the new pool facility, spraygrounds, and playgrounds.

Benchmark Study of Comparable Cities

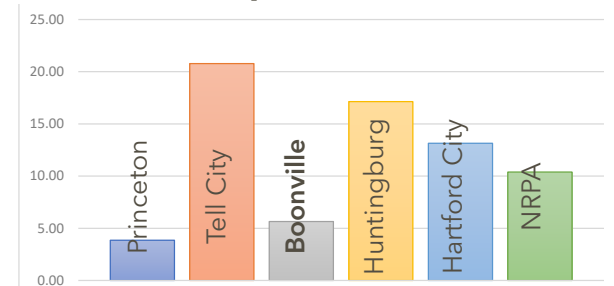
	Princeton	Tell City	Boonville	Huntingburg	Hartford City	NRPA Averages
Population (2020)	8,301	7,506	6,712	6,362	6,086	
Population Growth (2010-2020)	-3.97%	3.22%	7.50%	5.04%	-2.15%	
Total Land Area (square miles)	5.48	4.65	5.73	5.27	3.88	
Total Land Area per 1,000 population	0.66	0.62	0.85	0.83	0.64	
Number of Parks	4	7	4	5	5	
Total Park Acreage	32	156	38	109	80	
Total park Acreage per 1,000 population (1)	3.85	20.78	5.66	17.13	13.14	10.40
Residents per Park	2075.25	1072.29	1678.00	1272.40	1217.20	2,323.00
Full-Time Employees			0	6	1	
Part-Time Employees			3	2	5	
Total Employees	0	0	3	8	6	
Full-Time Equivalent	0	0	1.5	7	3.5	4.10
Number of FTE per Acre of Parks	-	-	0.04	0.06	0.04	
Number of FTE Employees per 10,000 Residents	0.00	0.00	2.23	11.00	5.75	8.90
Annual Parks Operating Budget	\$ 541,530.00		\$ 214,631.00	\$ 1,061,238.00		
Operating Budget per capita	\$ 65.24	\$ -	\$ 31.98	\$ 166.81	\$ -	\$93.01

(1) The 2021-2025 Indiana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan lists a desired goal of 20 acres per 1,000 persons.

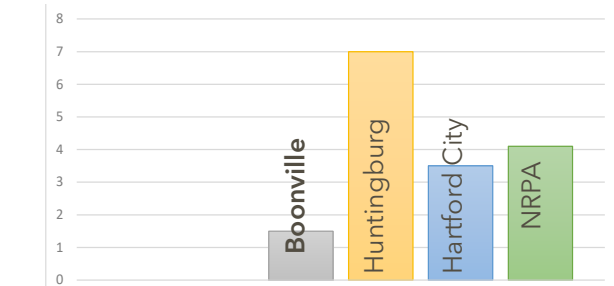
Population



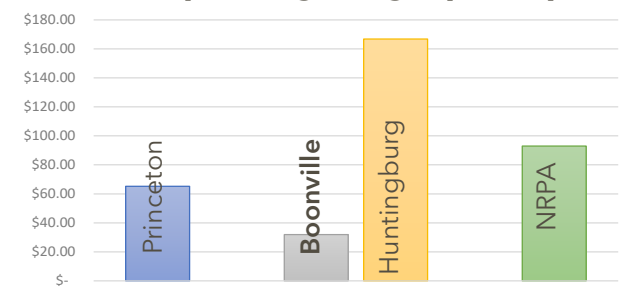
Park Acres per 1,000 Residents



Number of Parks Employees



Parks Operating Budget per Capita



Level of Service Analysis

The Level of Service (LOS) Analysis was developed to determine standards for Boonville to strive for in serving the community's recreational needs. Although this study can be helpful in determining the LOS for Boonville, it should only be one of the considerations. Parks and recreation facilities are very specific to each individual community. Determining the wants and needs of the community is a large part of developing LOS standards. Updating the parks plan on a regular basis allows the LOS standards to also be updated to meet the changing needs of residents.

National Recreation and Park Association offers data standards and insights for park and recreation agencies. Based on the 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review and NRPA Park Metrics, the typical park and recreation agency in the USA offers:

- One park for every 2,323 residents served
- 10.4 acres of park land per 1,000 residents
- Operating expenditure per capita of \$93.01/year
- Revenue to Operating Expenditure of 23.6%
- 8.9 full-time equivalent employees per 10,000 residents

Level of Service standards can be developed using a variety of metrics, including land per capita, facilities, and access. The LOS standards utilized in this plan include land per capita and permanent outdoor facilities and amenities. Parks within the city are well distributed, but the LOS Study alone cannot determine if a given neighborhood is being adequately serviced.

It is important to keep in mind that Level of Service is a guideline, not a fixed rule for expansion. It does not account for local preferences, nor for facility distribution within the community.

Acreage LOS

Acreage LOS is one of the most commonly utilized metrics in parks and recreation planning. It is generally thought that the higher the amount of acreage, the higher the quality-of-life for the community's residents. However, this doesn't take into account the amenities that are provided throughout the community, or the location of the parks in relation to residents. As with the amenity LOS, the acreage LOS should take into account the needs of the citizens and should be reviewed on a regular basis.

The Indiana State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) recommends a goal of 20 acres of outdoor recreation land per 1,000 local residents. The current LOS for Boonville is 5.66 acres per 1,000 residents, meaning the city has about 1/4 of the developed park land that the state recommends. As the city develops additional park land such as Brackenridge Woods, this gap will close.

The 2022 NRPA Park Metrics determined the national average Acreage LOS to be 10.4 acres of developed park land per 1,000 residents. The current LOS for Boonville parks is 5.66 acres per 1,000 residents, meaning that by this metric, Boonville has about half as much park land as the national average for a city its size.

The 2022 NRPA Park Metrics determined the average number of residents per park to be 2,323 residents. The current LOS for Boonville parks is 1,678 residents per park, meaning the parks system has a good number of total parks in comparison with the national average. However, peer communities in Indiana consistently have more parks per resident than Boonville.

Boonville Population 2020:

6,712

Outdoor Amenities	Current Inventory	NRPA Index Average	Target Number	Surplus / Deficit
Playground *	2	1,986	3	-1
Skate Park	0	11,100	1	-1
Dog Parks	0	11,100	1	-1
Golf Course, Regulation 18 Hole	1	9,183	1	0
Outdoor Performance Venue	0	9,291	1	-1
Community Garden	0	8,773	1	-1
Basketball Court	1	3,750	2	-1
Tennis Court	0	2,723	2	-2
Volleyball Court	0	5,400	1	-1
Pickleball Court	6	3,446	2	4
Baseball Fields **	0	3,107	2	-2
Softball Fields **	0	5,339	1	-1
Soccer Fields ***	0	3,504	2	-2
Football Fields ***	0	8,004	1	-1
Trails - 8' Paved (Miles)	0	3	3	-3
Splash Pad (stand alone)	1	8,637	1	0
Swimming Pool (outdoor)	1	8,637	1	0
Indoor Amenities	Current Inventory	NRPA Index Average	Target Number	Surplus / Deficit
Community Center	0	8,504	1	-1
Nature Center	0	11,821	1	-1
Senior Center	0	12,935	1	-1
Teen Center / After School Center	1	14,426	0	1

* Does not account for multiple facilities in a single park.

** Does not include Bullivant Park (County Park).

*** Does not include WCSC facilities.

NRPA Index Average is the median number of residents per facility.

This analysis is based on national averages compiled in the 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review. It does not account for local preferences and trends, only national averages.

Amenity LOS

The Amenity LOS is outlined on this page. Target number ratios were developed utilizing data from the benchmark study and the 2022 NRPA Park Metrics.

Boonville as a whole appears to be slightly under-built for most facility types. There is a current surplus of pickleball courts, but given that the Brickyard Pickleball facility is brand new and the popularity of pickleball continues to increase annually, this is not an issue.

Boonville has a slight deficit of playgrounds and most outdoor sports facilities: basketball, tennis, volleyball, baseball, softball, soccer, and football. It must be noted however, that all of these facilities exist within local school properties and county parks.

The greatest deficit is paved trails, which was identified as a priority by public input. Boonville currently lacks any dog parks, skate parks, community gardens, and outdoor performance venues.

These amenities with deficits should generally receive higher priority for future funding and development.

CHAPTER FOUR



Recommendations

Introduction

The recommendations included in this plan are a direct response to the public input and the analysis phases of the process. They provide a phased and feasible approach for the city to achieve its goals for the next five years. However, as with any planning document, this plan should remain flexible as opportunities arise and as needs change. The plan should be reviewed and updated on an annual basis by the staff.

The capital improvements recommended on the following pages are a direct response to the input received from the public and in response to the needs assessment for the parks network. The proposed improvements include improvements to existing parks, new amenities within existing parks, and plans for new parks. Creative funding and public/private partnerships will be needed to bring the following projects to life. Further detail concerning project phasing and potential funding sources are included in the following implementation chapter.

Priority Recommendations

Recommendation One New Pool Facility

Richards Pool, the existing city pool, was built in 1974. By modern standards the pool is quite small and dated. The pool pumps suffered a catastrophic failure in summer 2023 and the pool had to be closed for the season early.

During the community survey, 44% of respondents voted that the city needed to replace the pool. By the time of the second public meeting in August, after the pump failure, support for the new pool had outpaced all other proposed improvements and garnered more than twice as many votes as any other facility improvement. A new pool is the city's number one priority.



Recommendation Two Modernize Playgrounds

Playgrounds are typically the most visible and well-used amenity within a park. Playgrounds within Boonville's park system are showing their age and are not in optimal physical condition. All existing park playgrounds use pea gravel mulch as a safety surfacing.

Moving forward, all new playgrounds should be installed with PIP or PAT safety surfacing in order to meet ADA guidelines as well as lower long-term maintenance. Play equipment at Brackenridge Park and older equipment at City Lake Park should be replaced with priority to keep children safe and healthy, and to increase accessibility.



Additional Recommendations

Recommendation Three New Dog Park

Demand for a dog park clearly exists in Boonville. It was the most requested amenity at public meeting #1, the second most requested new amenity in the community survey results, and a frequent topic of write-in comments at every meeting and survey opportunity. The public voted overwhelmingly to update and modernize existing facilities before adding new amenities, but a premier dog park should be the first major new amenity planned.

Brackenridge Park was previously discussed as a site for the dog park. According to experts, a dog park should have two or more fenced areas, each one acre or larger in size. Brackenridge Park is not large enough, so this plan offers two alternative locations - Pioneer Woods or Community Green.



Recommendation Four Public Restrooms

Restrooms were the most requested new and expanded facility type identified in the community survey. Currently, only City Lake Park has restrooms which are open to the public seasonally. Richards Pool and Quail Crossing have restrooms that are available to those who have paid admission to the respective facility. There is a public desire for more clean, open, accessible restrooms at all parks.

This plan recommends that two unisex restrooms be added at Brackenridge Park, and that two unisex restrooms be added near the pickleball courts at Richards Pool. Additional restrooms could eventually be added to the southeast corner of City Lake Park near the large shelter. All new park facilities should have public restrooms.



Recommendation Five Trails and Connectivity

More than 1/3 of survey respondents voted for trails and greenways as a desired amenity. Developing new trails and walkways was the second highest priority vote after upgrading existing park facilities. Trails also received strong voting preference at both public meetings, always in the top five most requested amenities, regardless of the format. Connecting city trails to county trails and a regional rail-trail is a priority for Boonville residents.

Boonville has recently completed a Trails and Pathways plan, and Warrick County has a Trails Initiative as well. The city should advocate to advance the projects identified within these two plans, and utilize city parks resources where possible to make additional trails and increased connectivity a reality.



Recommendation Six Disc Golf

Disc golf received about 20% support in the community survey and numerous comments at public meeting #1. One write-in comment mentioned a proposed tournament facility which was previously planned at Quail Crossing Golf Club as a compliment to the existing golf course.

A layout for a tournament disc golf course has already been laid out for Quail Crossing. This facility, when implemented, could bring additional users and revenue to the golf club which would in turn drive more food and beverage sales.

In addition to the tournament facility, a rustic disc golf course is proposed for Brackenridge Woods. This course would be free to the public.



Recommendation Seven Community Gardens

Community gardens were an unexpected request from the public input. There were multiple requests for community gardens as write-in comments in the survey. At public meeting #1, community gardens were a widely selected desired amenity from a board of options.

Given the relatively low cost investment and minimal area needed, small community gardens could be implemented as a trial at either City Lake Park or Brackenridge Park. If successful, more permanent community gardens could be constructed and a garden club started. There are opportunities to partner with the school corporation for hands-on gardening as well.



Recommendation Eight Community Events

Parks programming is always in demand. The most frequently requested program element according to the community survey and the first public meeting was for more all-ages family-friendly community events in parks. Some examples cited included music in the park, movies in the park, and holiday themed events in the park. Many of these activities are already happening, but there is demand for more.

A part-time or full-time program director for the parks department would be responsible for developing and organizing more events. Other potential events which could occur in parks include: food truck lineups, chili cook-offs, family dance party, touch-a-truck, scavenger hunts, trail of lights, and many more.



Richards Park and New Aquatic Facility

Proposed Improvements

- **50-meter Competition Pool**
- **Zero-Depth Entry Play Area**
- **Dual Water Slides and Plunge Pool**
- **New Pool House with Rental Rooms**
- **Renovate Existing Pool House**
 - **Party Room**
 - **Parks Dept Storage**
 - **Public Restrooms**
- **Stand-alone Sprayground**
- **Stormwater Retention under Parking**

Richards Pool, the existing city pool, was built in 1974. By modern standards the pool is quite small and dated. The pool pumps suffered a catastrophic failure in summer 2023 and the pool had to be closed for the season early.

During the community survey, 44% of respondents voted that the city needed to replace the pool. At the first public meeting, support for the new pool had grown to 50% of the public in attendance. By the time of the second public meeting in August, after the pump failure, support for the new pool had outstripped all other proposed improvements and garnered more than twice as many votes as any other facility improvement.

In fall 2023 city engaged a professional design team and is currently planning a new aquatic center to replace Richards Pool. The all-new facility will feature a competition pool, zero-depth entry play zone, dual water slides, new pool house, and public meeting/party rooms.

The existing pool house will be renovated to provide public restrooms, an additional rental room, and storage space for the parks department. The existing pool and deck area will be replaced with a flat deck sprayground and small inclusive play area. The sprayground will not have an entrance fee and will have a longer season than the main pool. The city has also acquired several adjacent parcels on Mulberry Street to expand the size of Richards Park.

Character Images:





SR 62

City Lake Park

Proposed Improvements

- **New Inclusive/Accessible Playground**
- **Refurbished Basketball**
- **Refurbished Splash Pad**
- **Reconfigured North Parking Lot**
- **Renovate Parks Dept Building**
- **Lake Boardwalks**
- **Widen Walking Path around Lake**

City Lake is Boonville’s largest park. The former reservoir has three play areas, two shelters, two gazebos, a splash pad, basketball court, memorials, a walking loop, and of course the lake, which takes up about half of the park area. Due to the lake, the park has a very high water table, which limits areas of new construction.

The goals for City Lake are to maintain and enhance the facilities which already exist. Older play equipment which does not meet modern safety code should be removed. Improvements can be made in the short-term and long term.

The splash pad will be renovated into a flat-deck sprayground with new mechanical equipment concurrent with the new pool project. The existing north play areas will be renovated and replaced to a new modern inclusive/ accessible play area with multiple play

zones and activities for children of all ages and abilities.

The Moore Street parking area will be renovated to provide a more functional parking area with a turn-around. The basketball court will be rebuilt with proper recovery zones around the court and new seating.

Long-term improvements include widening the lake walking loop to be an eight-foot wide accessible trail, adding boardwalks to the old beach area along the north side of the lake, and adding fishing piers at select locations around the lake. Public restrooms could be added in the southeast park area.

Character Images:





Brackenridge Park

Proposed Improvements

- **New Inclusive Playground**
- **Replace Basketball Court**
- **New Parking Lot**
- **New Shelter / Restrooms**
- **Statue of Abraham Lincoln**

Brackenridge Park is named for John Brackenridge, a Boonville attorney from whom young Abraham Lincoln borrowed law books in the 1820s.

The neighborhood park currently contains a dated playground, basketball court, and some older freestanding play equipment. All elements are in need of replacement. There is currently no parking and no sidewalk. The park is completely inaccessible.

Proposed renovations to Brackenridge Park include a new shelter and restroom building, new playground equipment, a new basketball court, picnic areas, a parking lot north of Elm Street, and on-street parking and sidewalks. The park will also contain a statue of Abraham Lincoln with a plaque detailing his ties to Boonville.

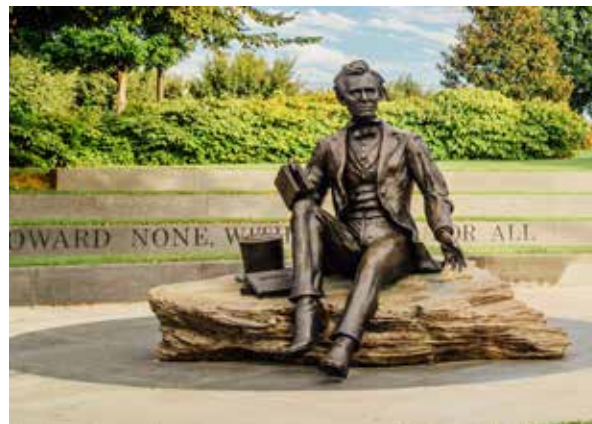
The shelter and restroom building should be large enough to contain two unisex restrooms and a shelter large enough for four picnic tables.

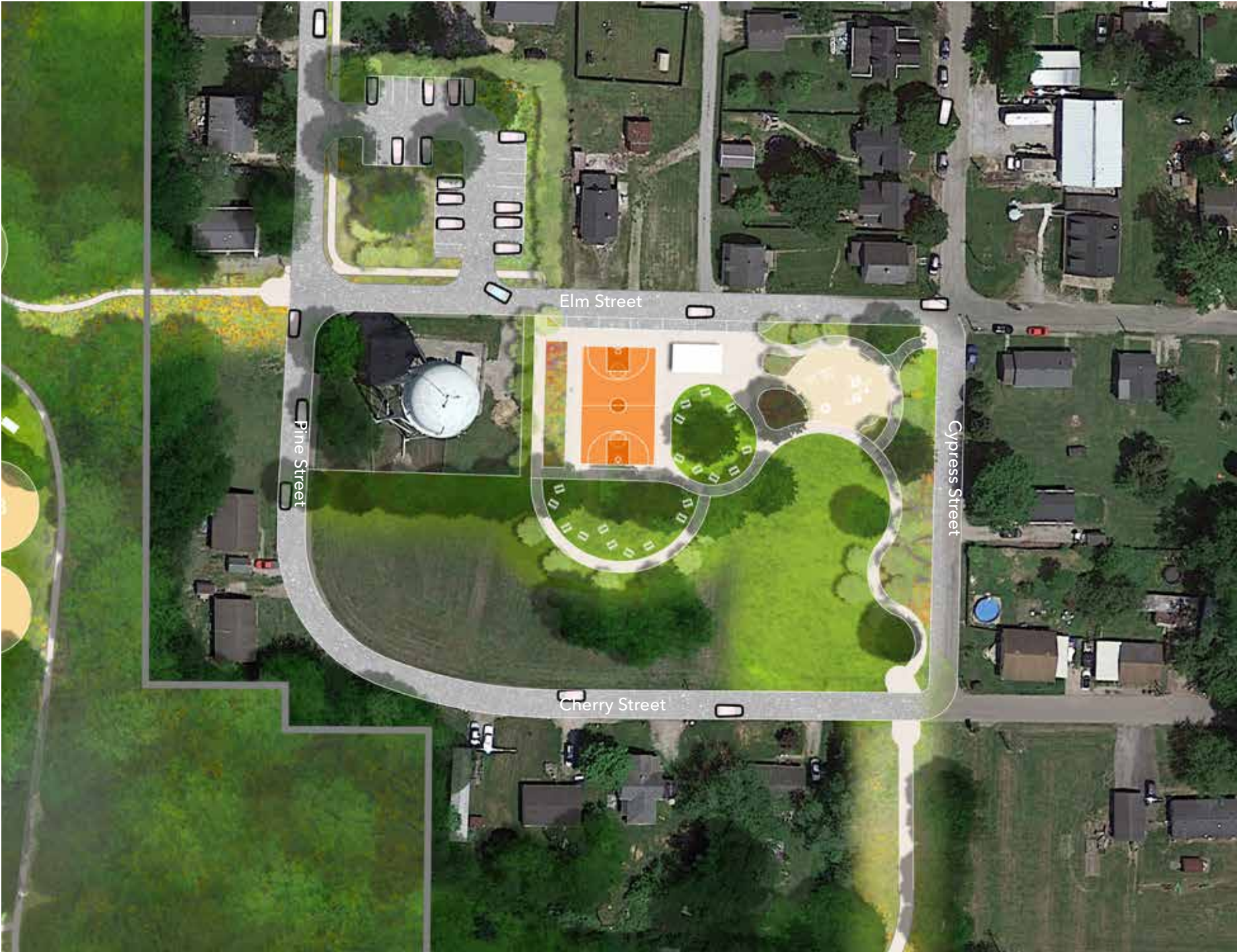
The new basketball court is located on the north flat portion of the park with recovery zones and seating.

Sidewalks are added to Elm Street and Cypress Street. A long-term goal is to make a connection extending south from Cypress Street to connect to the proposed regional rail-trail to the south.



Character Images:





Quail Crossing Golf Club

Proposed Improvements

- **18-hole Disc Golf Course**
- **Expand Use of Events Center**
- **Increased Use and Events**

Quail Crossing Golf Club is an 18-hole links-style golf community located three miles from downtown Boonville on SR 261. The course has a pro shop, driving range, and an event center.

A layout for a disc golf tournament facility was previously planned at Quail Crossing as a compliment to the existing golf course. The disc golf tees and baskets would run parallel to and across the golf fairways. There are now several examples of disc golf courses being added to existing golf courses successfully.

The addition of a disc golf course at Emporia County Club in Kansas brings an additional \$35,000+ revenue annually to the golf club. Tournaments held there have had an estimated economic impact to the community of \$1 million.

Long term goals include linking Quail Crossing to Victoria Woods and Boonville with multi-use trails.

Character Images:

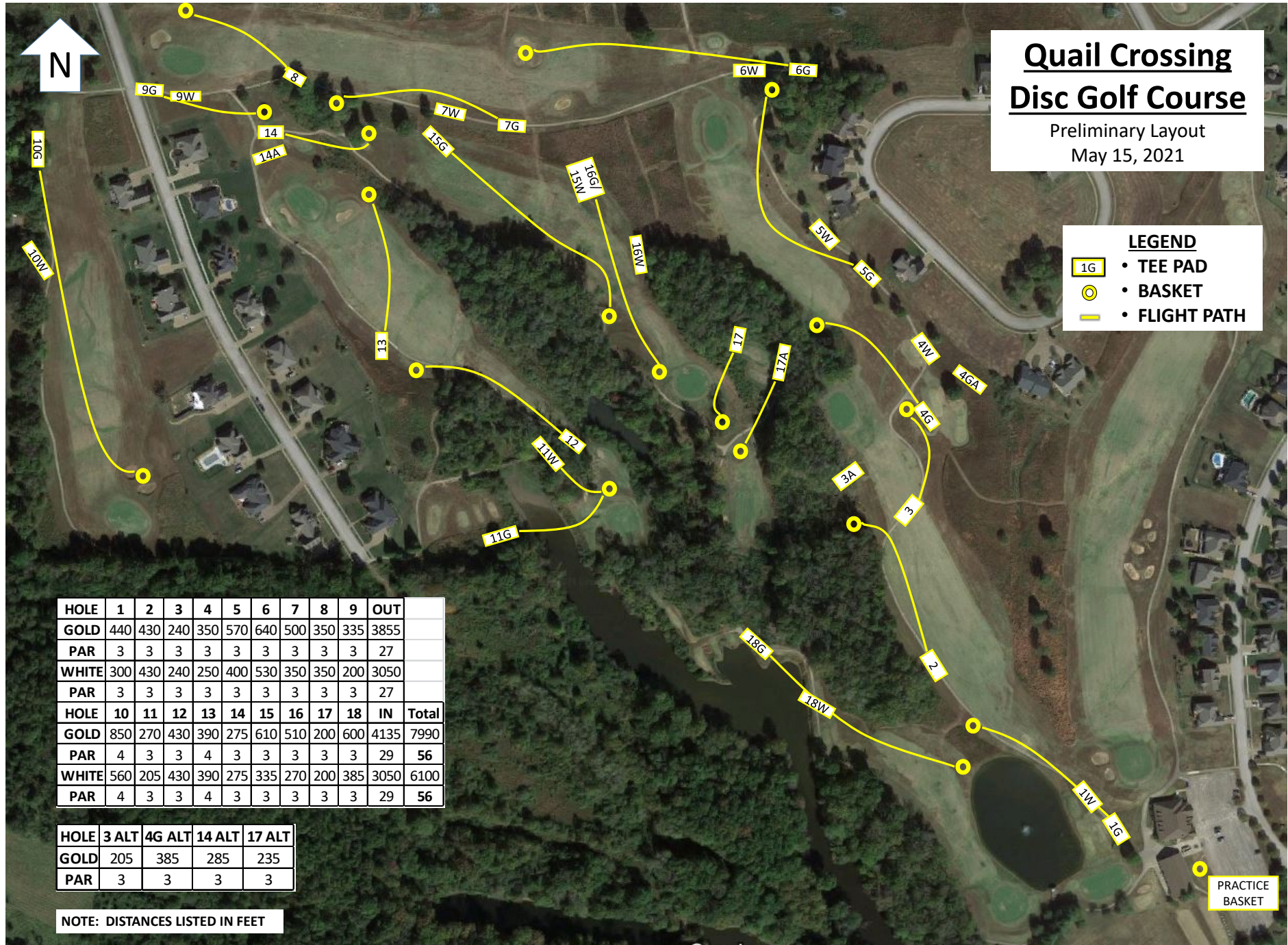


Quail Crossing Disc Golf Course

Preliminary Layout
May 15, 2021

LEGEND

- 1G • TEE PAD
- • BASKET
- • FLIGHT PATH



HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	
GOLD	440	430	240	350	570	640	500	350	335	3855	
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	27	
WHITE	300	430	240	250	400	530	350	350	200	3050	
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	27	
HOLE	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	Total
GOLD	850	270	430	390	275	610	510	200	600	4135	7990
PAR	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	29	56
WHITE	560	205	430	390	275	335	270	200	385	3050	6100
PAR	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	29	56

HOLE	3 ALT	4G ALT	14 ALT	17 ALT
GOLD	205	385	285	235
PAR	3	3	3	3

NOTE: DISTANCES LISTED IN FEET

Pioneer Woods - Proposed Park

Proposed Improvements

- **Dog Park**
- **Baseball / Softball Diamonds**
- **Multi-Use Sports Field**
- **Basketball Court**
- **Pickleball Court**
- **Restroom / Shelter Building**
- **Picnic Grove**
- **Cross Country Trails**
- **Access Road and Parking Lot**
- **Retention Pond**

Built on floodplain land already owned by the city, this new community park will be an active recreation park with athletic fields, sports courts, running trails and boardwalks, shelter(s) and restrooms.

This facility is one of the potential locations for a dog park. The dog park should have at least two fenced areas of one acre each. Each area should have a shade canopy, seating, and drinking fountains with dog bowl inside the fence.

The retention ponds at the south of the site will be excavated and expanded to create fill material to raise the restroom and shelter building in elevation, making them a high point on the property.

Character Images:



Pioneer Woods conceptual site plan with dog park (right) and with baseball/softball diamonds (below).



Brackenridge Woods - Proposed Park

Proposed Improvements

- **Future Rail-Trail Connection**
- **Soft-Surface Hiking Trails**
- **9-hole Disc Golf Course**
- **Nature Play**
- **Tree house**

Brackenridge Woods will be a low-impact natural park, in contrast to Boonville's other developed parks. Existing vegetation should remain to the greatest extent possible, save for the removal of invasive species. Large open turf areas should be converted to prairie or other native vegetation.

A low-impact development might include such amenities as soft-surface trails, nature play, a rustic disc golf course, and built structures such as tree houses and wildlife blinds.

In addition, Brackenridge Woods will have a connection to the regional rail-trail which will eventually connect to Evansville, Lincoln State Park, and beyond.



Character Images:



Community Green - Proposed Park

Proposed Improvements

- **Dog Park**
- **Multi-Purpose Sports Field**
- **1/4 Mile Walking Loop**
- **Community Gardens**
- **Skate Park**

The Community Green is located on land owned by the Warrick County School Corporation, immediately north of the administration center (Clarke School fields). This land could be developed as a neighborhood park under a shared-use agreement with the school corporation or after land acquisition.

Community Green is envisioned as a healthy living hot-spot with community gardens, a paved 1/4 mile walking loop, and a skate park which takes advantage of existing site topography (where local skaters already skate). The central green space could be either a fenced dog park or a multi-purpose athletic field.



Community Green conceptual site plan with dog park (right) and with multi-use sports field (left).



Character Images:



4th Street

6th Street

Warrick County School Corporation
Administration Center

Hospital Park - Proposed Park

Proposed Improvements

- **Accessible Paved Trail**
- **Inclusive Playground**
- **Picnic Shelter / Restrooms**
- **Parking Lot**

Hospital Park - AKA Maxville Road Park - is located on land owned by Ascension St. Vincent Hospital, where SR 62 enters the city on the east side of town. This land could be developed as a neighborhood park under a shared-use agreement with the hospital or after the city acquires the land.

This previously mined site with rolling hills could be developed into a neighborhood park to serve residents on the southeast side of the community. Extended sidewalks to the northwest could connect to the hospital and apartments for the elderly and disabled. Proposed amenities include a paved walking trail, inclusive playground, a shelter and restroom building, and a small parking lot. Some of the large turf areas could be replaced with native grasses or pollinator prairies to create habitat and reduce maintenance.



Character Images:



Millis Avenue

SR 62

Maxville Road



CHAPTER FIVE

Implementation

Action Plan

The priority action plan on the following pages has been developed to guide the City of Boonville over the next five years. Recommendations include administrative actions, along with physical improvements and land development goals. The recommendations presented are attainable but will require the support of the Mayor's Office, City Council, Redevelopment Commission, Parks Board, and community partners.

Recommendations include a planned timeline for projects to begin. However, as donations and grant funds are made available these priorities may shift. The Action Matrix is intended as a guide and should not limit the ability of the city to take advantage of opportunities such as grants or targeted donations.

It is important for the city to review the Action Matrix on a regular basis. As funding opportunities become available, priorities may rearrange. This review is also important in terms of keeping future projects relevant and in the minds of city leaders to continue to have

adequate funds dedicated to the Parks Department for improvements.

Potential funding sources have been included in the Action Matrix. Projects will likely require a combination of public and private revenue sources. Public/private partnerships will be key to implementing the projects and programs included in this master plan update. Potential key partners include, but are not limited to:

- Warrick County Parks Department
- Warrick County Trails
- Evansville Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Evansville Regional Economic Partnership
- Warrick County Community Foundation
- Warrick County School Corporation
- CenterPoint Energy Foundation
- Deaconess Foundation
- Clubs such as Rotary and Lions
- Private program providers and sports leagues

Funding Opportunities

The projects included in the following Action Matrix will require traditional funding typically used by the city to build, maintain, and operate parks. These funds should be supplemented with other funding mechanisms through partnerships, grants, and bonds. The following provides a summary of alternative funding sources.

Partnerships

Creating new partnerships is more vital than ever. Public/private partnerships are arrangements between government and private sector institutions. These usually involve initial private funding and long-term payoff from revenue.

Philanthropy

Private gifts from individuals, corporations, or endowments are still a common method for people and organizations to give back to their community.

Recreation Impact Fees

Sometimes called Park Impact Fees, these are fees paid by developers to the city to help cover the added costs of providing infrastructure and services to the new development.

Volunteer Programs

Volunteer activities bring enthusiastic public helpers into parks and recreation programs to assist staff. Trained, passionate volunteers can free up paid staff to work elsewhere and accomplish more for less labor cost.

Bonding

A bond is a debt security issued by a municipality that is typically used to finance large-scale capital improvements. The financing cost of the bond is then paid for over a predetermined time period by the city's tax-paying residents. Bonding is the most common form of funding used by municipalities to fund capital projects.

There are two primary types of bonds commonly used for parks and recreation improvements, each differentiated by its means of guarantee. General obligation bonds, which are issued by governmental entities, are not backed by revenue funds from a specific project, but instead by the credit and taxing capacity of the issuer. In contrast, revenue bonds are guaranteed by a specific revenue source (such as utilities, TIF funds, etc.) generated by the issuer.

Grants

Applying for and managing grants can require a significant amount of time. The applications often require lengthy justification rationales. This master plan update can help with the application process by utilizing the goals and vision that have been established within the plan. In addition, graphics can be removed from the plan and submitted along with grant applications.

Following is a list of grant sources which are commonly used by parks and recreation departments. This list is not comprehensive. Grants opportunities change frequently and will require additional research from the city to determine specific requirements and deadlines for each. The city might also consider working with a grant writer to assist in grant applications.

Indiana Trails Program

The Indiana Trails Program (ITP) replaced the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) in 2021. Previously RTP funds were provided through federal dollars. The new Indiana Trails Program will include state funds but will otherwise be very similar to the RTP program. The ITP will provide a minimum of \$100,000 and maximum of \$400,000 in grant assistance with a 20% local match requirement. Projects will include construction of trails, development of trailheads, construction of bridges and acquisition of easement or property for trails.

Next Level Trails

The Next Level Trails (NLT) program was initiated in 2019 and included three rounds of funding with the final round awarded in 2022. Although this program is not currently funded beyond 2022, the program has seen wide popularity and support and has the potential to return for additional rounds of trail funding.

Community Development Block Grant

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) are intended to support enhancement and improvement to neighborhoods. The requirements for eligible projects change from year-to-year but can support public facilities.

Projects eligible for CDBG funds will focus on impacts to the surrounding community and schools.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a grant program that will reimburse up to 50% of the cost for acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation facilities for approved projects. The municipality must fund 100% of the cost initially. Amenities that are potentially eligible include, but are not limited to: sports fields and courts, playgrounds, picnic areas, natural areas, shelters and restrooms, and trails. LWCF Grants range from \$50,000 to \$500,000. Applications are typically due on June 1st each year.

Next Level Conservation Trust Fund

The Next Level Conservation Trust (NLCT) replaced the Indiana Bicentennial Nature Trust. The program provides funds only to acquire land for conservation, recreation, and historic preservation. Property acquired with this fund will become part of the public trust to ensure that the land is protected for future generations. Each project requires a 3:1 match (\$3 NLCT funds to \$1 local match). The minimum project size is \$100,000 for the NLCT portion.

AmeriCorp Grants

AmeriCorp is a federal agency that funds organizations to make positive impacts in communities. Typically these funds include partnerships with local nonprofit organizations providing employment opportunities. Seasonal employment can be provided through the nonprofit which is funded through the AmeriCorp grant. Training is usually included in grant funding.

SAFETULU and Safe Routes to Schools

Safe Routes to Schools and SAFETULU funds can be used for trail improvements which create connections to schools. Safe Routes to Schools requires no match and SAFETULU funds require a 20% match.

Action Matrix for Existing Parks

Site	Action	Timeline (year)					Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Source
		1	2	3	4	5+		
Brackenridge Park								
	Build new parking lot on acquired land north of Elm Street.		•				\$120,000-\$200,000	Operating budget
	Build new shelter / restroom building.		•				\$300,000-\$500,000	READI, Stellar Communities, Operating budget
	Replace basketball court with adequate recovery zone.		•				\$60,000	READI, Stellar Communities, Operating budget
	Replace existing playground equipment.		•				\$250,000-\$500,000	READI, Stellar Communities, Operating budget
	Install sidewalks on Elm Street and Cypress Street. ADA compliance.		•				\$80,000-\$120,000	LWCF, Trail Grants
	Install Abraham Lincoln statue and information plaque.	•					\$100,000	Operating budget, Donations
	Plant more shade trees to enhance tree canopy.		•				\$0-\$5,000	DNR Program, Donations
City Lake Park								
	Replace existing splash pad with flat-deck sprayground.	•					\$500,000-\$600,000	BOT/Bonds
	Replace existing playground equipment at north play area with new zoned play equipment.	•					\$500,000-\$600,000	BOT/Bonds
	Refurbish basketball court with adequate recovery zone.	•					\$60,000	BOT/Bonds
	Rebuild north parking lot to improve function.	•					\$150,000-\$250,000	BOT/Bonds
	Widen walking path around lake to 8' width. ADA compliance.			•			\$300,000-\$500,000	Trail Grants, Operating Budget
	Install boardwalks along old dam area over lake.			•			\$1,000,000-\$1,500,000	Operating Budget
	Plant more shade trees to enhance tree canopy.			•			\$0-\$10,000	DNR Program, Donations

Site	Action	Timeline (year)					Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Source
		1	2	3	4	5+		
Richards Pool								
	Build new competition pool and pool house.	•					\$12,000,000	BOT/Bonds
	Renovate existing pool house and pool into shelter/restroom/storage building and flat-deck sprayground.	•					(inc. above)	BOT/Bonds
	Install new small play area, ages 2-12.	•					(inc. above)	BOT/Bonds
	Renovate existing shelter: new roof, new paint.	•					(inc. above)	BOT/Bonds
	Build new entrance road and parking lots with underground stormwater retention to reduce flooding.	•					(inc. above)	BOT/Bonds
	Install sidewalks on SR 62, Walnut St, Flint St, and Mulberry St. ADA compliance.	•					(inc. above)	BOT/Bonds
	Plant more shade trees to enhance tree canopy.	•					(inc. above)	BOT/Bonds
Quail Crossing Golf Course								
	Develop 18-hole disc golf course for tournament play alongside traditional golf.				•		\$50,000-\$75,000	READI, Stellar Communities, Operating budget

Action Matrix for Potential Parks

Site	Action	Timeline (year)					Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Source
		1	2	3	4	5+		
Brackenridge Woods: city-owned land, new nature park								
	Build sidewalk connections to Elm Street, Walnut Street, and adjacent shopping center parking lot. ADA compliance.					•	\$90,000-\$130,000	READI, Stellar Communities, Operating budget
	Develop rustic 18-hole disc golf course for casual play.					•	\$50,000-\$60,000	Volunteers, Operating budget
	Develop soft surface walking trails through property.					•	\$100,000-\$150,000	Volunteers
	Install trail connection from Cherry Street to future regional rail-trail. ADA compliance. Regional connectivity.					•	\$90,000-\$150,000	Trail Grants, Operating Budget
Community Green: School Corporation owns land, potential neighborhood park								
	Option 1: develop multi-use sports field.					•	\$250,000-\$500,000	Operating Budget
	Option 2: develop fenced dog park.					•	\$450,000-\$600,000	Operating Budget
	Develop paved 0.5 mile walking loop around field.					•	\$225,000-\$350,000	Operating Budget, Trails Grants
	Develop community garden space along 4th Street.					•	\$250,000-\$350,000	Volunteers, Operating budget
	Develop skate park along 5th Street.					•	\$400,000-\$600,000	Operating Budget
	Build ADA ramp from existing parking lot to field-level. ADA compliance.					•	\$50,000-\$75,000	Operating Budget

Site	Action	Timeline (year)					Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Source
		1	2	3	4	5+		
Hospital Park: Ascension St. Vincent owns land, potential neighborhood park								
	Build new parking area at intersection of Stratford Drive and Maxville Road.					•	\$150,000-\$300,000	Operating Budget
	Build new shelter and playground area.					•	\$300,000-\$500,000	Operating Budget, LWCF
	Install accessible paved walking path. ADA compliance.					•	\$250,000-\$400,000	Operating Budget, LWCF, Trail Grants
	Plant more shade trees to enhance tree canopy.					•	\$0-\$5,000	DNR Program, Donations
Pioneer Woods: city-owned land, new community park								
	Build new access road from North Street and parking lot.					•	\$1,000,000-\$1,500,000	Operating Budget
	Build new shelter / restroom building.					•	\$400,000-\$600,000	Operating Budget
	Build new multi-use sports field: soccer, football.					•	\$250,000-\$350,000	Operating Budget, LWCF
	Build new sports courts: pickleball, tennis, basketball.					•	\$200,000-\$250,000	Operating Budget, LWCF
	Build new baseball/softball diamond(s).					•	\$700,000-\$900,000	Operating Budget, LWCF
	Build new dog park(s).					•	\$250,000-\$300,000	Operating Budget
	Expand existing retention pond for flood control.					•	\$100,000-\$150,000	Operating Budget
	Build new paved walking path and boardwalks at south of property. ADA compliance.					•	\$500,000-\$750,000	Operating Budget, Trails Grants
	Build new soft-surface walking trails through existing woods.					•	\$100,000-\$150,000	Operating Budget, Trails Grants
	Plant more shade trees to enhance tree canopy.					•	\$50,000	DNR Program, Donations

Action Matrix for Planning

Goal	Action	Timeline (Term)		Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Source
		Short	Long		
Programming and Staffing					
	Add a full-time Aquatics director position that will manage new competition pool and aquatic center.	•		Salary TBD	Operating budget
	Add a full-time Parks Director position that will develop additional programming for community groups and events.		•	Salary TBD	Operating budget
	Review community survey participant responses regarding programming and determine how to meet those needs.		•	\$0	Parks Director
	Enhance partnerships with School Corporation, Library, and County Parks to plan programs for youth and seniors.	•		\$0	Volunteers, Parks Director
ADA and Accessibility					
	Hire consultant to conduct an ADA Transition Plan for city properties including parks. Make available for public review.	•		\$50,000- \$75,000	Operating Budget
	Conduct ADA self-evaluation of programs, activities, policies, and practices to determine what barriers exist and what actions need to be taken. Make available for public review.	•		\$0	In-house effort repeating every 2.5 years in sync with Five-Year Plan.
Trails and Connectivity					
	Develop rail-trail on Norfolk-Southern corridor through the city to connect to county trails and eventually to Evansville and Lincoln State Park.		•	\$4,000,000 (\$1 million per mile)	Operating budget, NLT Grants, ITP Grants, Warrick County
	Implement the Boonville Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.		•	--	Operating budget, ITP Grants, NLT Grants
Other Planning					
	Hire consultant in Jan 2028 to begin planning for 2029-2033 Parks and Recreation Five-Year Plan.		•	\$60,000- \$80,000	Operating Budget

