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***Goshen Parks  
5 Year Master Plan***

*2024-2028*

*MARCH 2024*

# DRAFT



## **City of Goshen**

<https://goshenindiana.org/>

Gina Liechty, Mayor  
202 South 5th Street, Goshen, Indiana 46528  
574-533-9322  
[mayor@goshencity.com](mailto:mayor@goshencity.com)

## **Goshen Parks & Recreation Department**

<https://goshenindiana.org/parks-rec>

Tanya Heyde, Superintendent  
524 East Jackson Street, Goshen, Indiana 46526  
574-534-2901  
[goshenparks@goshencity.com](mailto:goshenparks@goshencity.com)

## **Parks and Recreation Board**

Roger Nafziger, President  
Jennifer Shell, Vice President  
Jenni Samuel, Secretary  
Megan Hessel, Member  
James Wellington, Member  
Jennifer Olvera-Morgado, Youth Advisor

## **Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee**

Jim Wellington (resident) Parks Board Representative  
Brittany Short, Community Foundation of Elkhart County, Trails Advocate, Partner Agency  
Brianna Brenneman (resident), Redevelopment Commission, Goshen College, Young Adult Advocate  
Launa Leftwich, Boys and Girls Club, Youth Advocate  
Ray Caldwell, Community Foundation of Elkhart County, Placemaking Advocate, Partner Agency  
Jon Hunsberger, Elkhart County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Placemaking Advocate, Partner Agency  
Shannon Oakes, Elkhart County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Placemaking Advocate, Partner Agency  
Rossa Deegan (resident), City of Goshen Planning Department  
Darin Holsopple, Goshen Community Schools  
Jennifer Olvera-Morgado (resident), Parks Board Youth Advisor

This plan was prepared by



**Abonmarche Consultants**

303 River Race Drive  
Goshen, IN 46526



# DRAFT

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# Introduction

The City of Goshen is a thriving community with a strong economy and quality of life that makes it attractive to businesses and residents alike. The city has continued to see sustained growth over the past decades and is a highly desirable location for both residential and business investment. One significant aspect of the city's success is its focus on providing a vibrant community with many attractive assets including a strong and well managed system of parks and trails.

Known as the Maple City for its many Maple Trees, the community has pledged to continue that legacy into the future through its Tree Canopy Goal. In 2019, the City of Goshen adopted the goal of having 45% tree coverage by 2045. The public land under the Parks and Recreation Department will continue to play a significant role in achieving this goal.

It is now widely recognized that parks and public spaces are critical to the economic development strategy for communities. Well maintained and safe public spaces for passive and active recreation, social interaction, events, and places to gather are required if a community expects to retain and attract residents and businesses. The city is fortunate to have an excellent Parks and Recreation Department that manages and maintains over 541 acres of property, 447 of which are in the City's 28 parks. The Department also maintains more than 94 acres in the over 34 miles of trail in the active transportation network. These physical assets, along with a wide variety of public programs and events have helped to create the thriving arts, culture, and recreational opportunities that are available in the city. As Goshen continues to prosper, its public spaces will play an important role in the economic success of the community. As survey results indicate below, the community identifies the benefits of the Goshen Parks system.

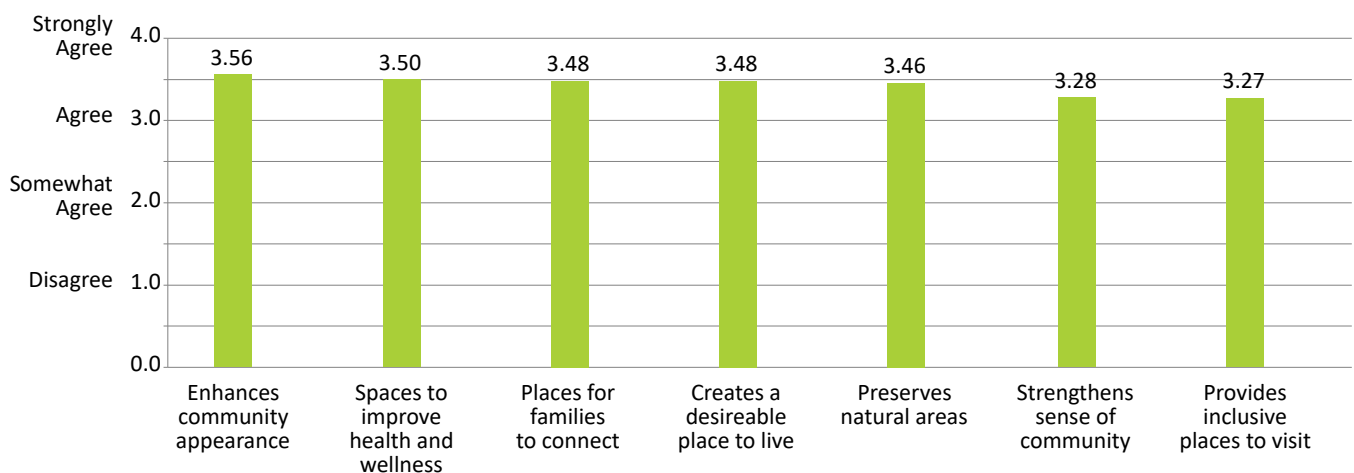
## PLANNING AREA

The planning area for the City of Goshen Parks and Recreation Master Plan is the City of Goshen and the Ox Bow County Park (adjacent to the city limits). The city has 28 parks and over 34 miles of trails. When evaluating proximity to a park for Goshen residents, the Ox Bow County Park was included in this plan as it serves the city residents that live near it. The map on the adjacent page highlights the Plan Area.

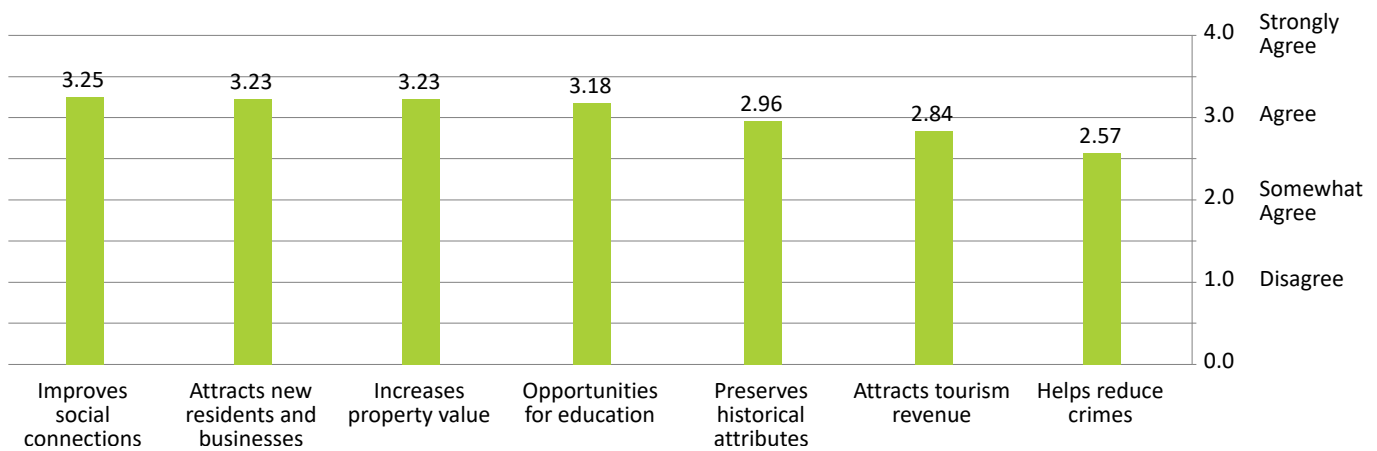
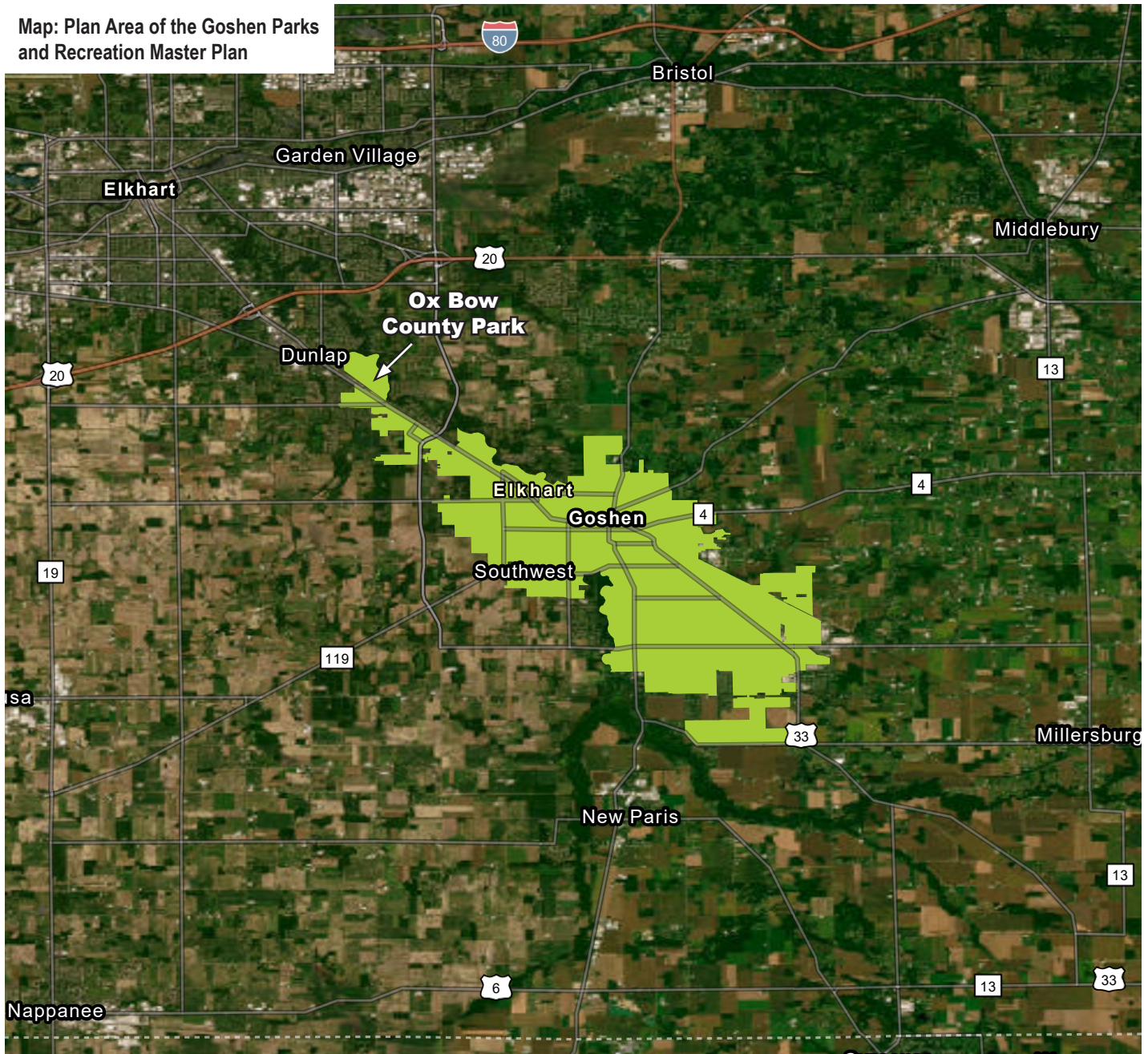
In addition, residents from the rest of Elkhart County and visitors to the community often enjoy the city parks and facilities. The Department does not have mechanisms in place to monitor visitation to the parks as they are free and open to the public. The Elkhart County community recognizes the Goshen Parks and Trails system as an asset and an important component of the local quality of life. A list of County partners are identified on page 29.

### Do you agree that Goshen Parks and Trails provides these benefits to your community?

(Weighted Average)



Map: Plan Area of the Goshen Parks and Recreation Master Plan



## PURPOSE OF THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan process provides the community with the opportunity to actively engage in directing the future recreational opportunities in Goshen. The purpose of the 2024-2028 Master Plan process is threefold:

1. To review and analyze the existing City of Goshen Parks and Recreation programs and facilities (including trails).
2. Gather feedback from the public on the current system and determine what additional programs and facilities are desired by the community.
3. Maintain eligibility for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Land and Water Conservation Fund and other potential grants and program funds.

According to the community survey conducted as a part of the 2024-2028 Goshen Parks and Recreation Master Plan process, 95.6% of respondents indicated that protecting natural open space and providing recreational opportunities in parks and via trails and waterways in the City of Goshen was either very important (81%) or important (14%).

In addition, when asked if they agree that the Goshen Parks and Trails provide benefits to the community, respondents overwhelmingly agreed that they did.

With this very strong support in the community, the City of Goshen will continue to strive to provide a quality experience for those who utilize the city's parks, trails, and programs.

## PROCESS SUMMARY

The 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan was undertaken by the City of Goshen Parks Board with assistance from the City of Goshen staff and Abonmarche Consultants. Parks Board member information is provided in the appendix of this report.

The planning process engaged a dedicated group of community volunteers that acted as the steering committee. The steering committee provided guidance and a community member's perspective on the planning process from developing a public engagement strategy to reviewing proposed goals of the master plan. They also played a significant role in promoting and championing the planning process and community outreach events. They are recognized on the acknowledgments page at the beginning of the plan.

During this process we analyzed existing conditions, natural features, social and demographic factors, and many other contextual elements that impact the usage and goals for Goshen Parks and Recreation Department. In addition, public engagement provided information on how people currently use the parks and how they would like to use the parks in the future. Results of the public input survey were used to develop the goals and actions outlined in this plan and are included in the appendix.

The actions and activities of the planning process were organized in the four phases outlined in the table on the next page.

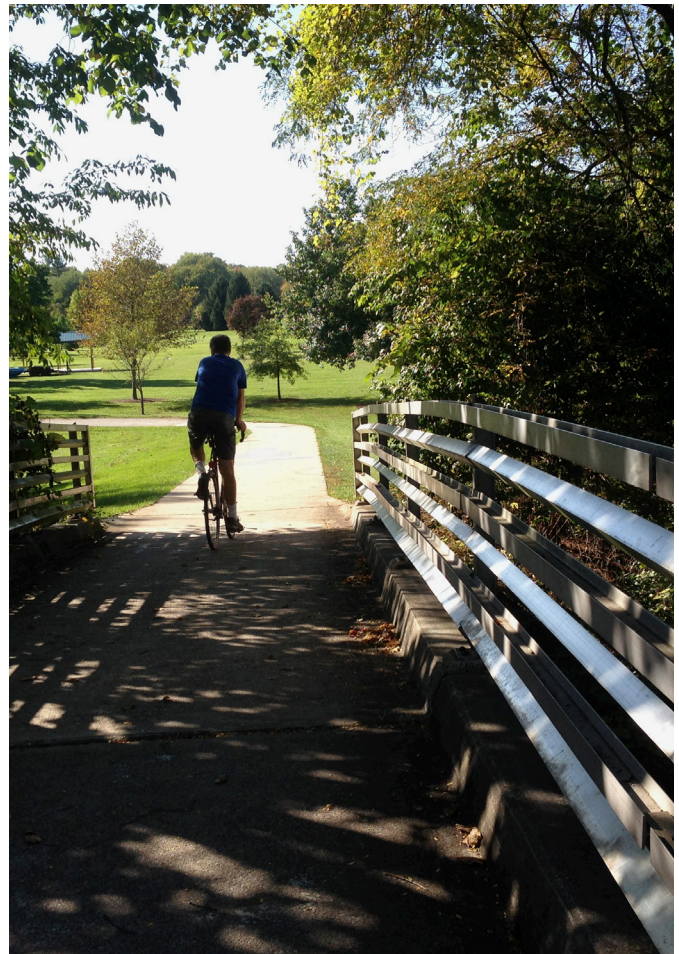




## HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

This Master Plan will be used to guide the actions and priorities of the Goshen Parks and Recreation Department over the next 5 years. The existing conditions review, public engagement, and needs analysis was used to establish the goals, and action plan for the Parks and Recreation Department. The Needs Analysis section provides a summary of potential projects while the priorities and action section including proposed projects, and potential costs associated with improvements over the next five years.

This Master Plan is also intended to meet eligibility requirements for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant. The LWCF grant can be used for a variety of projects including land acquisition and developing new parks or to make needed improvements to existing parks. In addition, the Master Plan can increase Goshen's ability to obtain other grants from other public and private entities. Many of these funders want to ensure they are investing in projects that will be used and championed by local leaders and residents.



## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

A critical component of the Goshen Parks Master Plan process was consultation with the community. We did this through a series of actions and events. A full description of those efforts are provided in a chapter dedicated to the topic, but a summary of the efforts are listed here as well.

**Parks and Recreation Board Meetings** to identify needs, goals, and actions for the Master Plan.

**Parks and Recreation Staff Meetings** to gather information on current operations, public needs, and departmental goals from the dedicated and professional team that manages the daily operations and management of the system.

A **10-member Steering Committee** made up of residents, partner agency representatives, a City of Goshen Planning Department staff member, a Park Board member, the Parks Board youth advisor, and a Goshen Community Schools representative.

A **Community Survey of 595 responses**, was designed to collect information from the public about the Goshen Parks and Recreation system regarding needs, usage, and suggestions. A summary of survey results can be found on page 44 and included in each of the appropriate Needs Analysis sections (Programming, Trails, or Parks). The full survey is included in the appendix.

A **Community Workshop** provided participants the opportunity to review the park and trails map to identify issues or concerns as well as discuss programs and events. This event also served to promote the community survey and a computer was available for attendees to use to complete the survey on-site.

The community survey and workshop were promoted through:

- Flyers, posters, and conversations (Spanish and English) at events,
- The City's website was updated during this process to promote the survey and the workshop,
- Social media posts on the Goshen Parks Facebook page,
- City of Goshen Parks and Recreation email contact list, and
- Goshen utility bill notices.

There were 16 community members in attendance in addition to 1 council member who is a resident, 1 planning staff member who is a resident; and 4 parks staff.

A **Community Open House** offered attendees a chance to review and comment on the proposed Master Plan's:

- Mission & Vision Statements,
- Community Values,
- Master Plan Goals, and
- Preliminary Inventory & Needs Analysis.

The Open House was promoted through:

- Flyers and Posters (Spanish and English)
- City's website was updated to promote the open house
- Social media posts on the Goshen Parks Facebook page
- City of Goshen Parks and Recreation email contact lists

There were 13 community members in attendance at the open house in addition to the City of Goshen Mayor, 2 council members who are residents, and 3 Park staff.

A second community survey (**Goals Survey of 17 responses**) was designed to get specific feedback on the proposed Master Plan Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Community Values, and Master Plan Goals. Response statistics are provided on page 10 and 13, and the full survey is included in the appendix.

The Goals Survey was promoted through:

- Flyers and Posters (Spanish and English)
- City's website was updated to promote the Goals Survey

A **Photo Survey** is a fun way to get the public directly involved in the planning process and plan development. Participants were asked to upload photos that represent what they love about Goshen Parks and Trails. The survey is in English and Spanish and is available September 1 through the spring of 2024.

The Photo Survey was promoted through:

- Flyers, Posters, and Conversations (Spanish and English) at First Fridays
- City's website was updated to promote the Photo Survey
- Social media posts on the Goshen Parks Facebook page.

**Final Plan Presentation** was held on March 21, 2024 at the Schrock Pavilion at Shanklin Park.

## RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

TO BE ADDED AFTER ADOPTION

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# Master Plan Goals

During the Visioning Phase of this process, the Parks Board and Steering Committee reviewed the Mission and Vision Statements from the current Parks Master Plan. As a result of that process, some minor changes were made to reflect the important contributions of the parks system to the health and wellness of the community.

After the Parks Board and Steering Committee agreed on the updated language, the community was asked to comment on these statements. This was done during the Community Open House on October 18, 2023 through discussions with participants at a large poster where both statements were provided.

In addition, a Goals Survey was created to gather input on the respondents' level of agreement with both statements. This survey was promoted on the Parks Department web page and through flyers provided at the Open House.

Of the 17 respondents that completed the survey, 94% strongly agreed or agreed with the Mission Statement, 6% had no opinion.

Of those same respondents, 88% strongly agreed or agreed with the Vision Statement, 12% disagreed. Comments received related to the Vision Statement were that superior was a strong word. We recognize this but as this statement is aspirational in nature we believe it is still a laudable goal to pursue.

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The Goshen Parks & Recreation Department shall provide high-quality and effective recreation programs and special events, facilities and parks that benefit area residents and contribute to Goshen's economy, environment, wellness and sense of community.*

## VISION STATEMENT

*We are a superior park and recreation department linking the Goshen community to its historical, cultural, natural and human resources in order to enhance the quality of life through the preservation of open space, provision of recreation activities, stewardship of resources, development of trails, parks and facilities, and maintenance of these community resources.*



From the Mission and Vision Statements and community input, four core values were identified for the City of Goshen Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

## COMMUNITY VALUES

### INCLUSIVENESS

Goshen's Parks, Programs, and Trails should be open and inclusive for all residents.

### CONNECTIVITY

Goshen's Parks, Programs, and Trails should offer and promote both physical and social connections in the community.

### ENGAGEMENT

Goshen's Parks, Programs, and Trails should provide opportunities for residents to actively participate in their community.

### SUSTAINABILITY

Goshen's Parks, Programs, and Trails should be established, operated, and maintained in a manner that is sustainable in terms of fiscal investment and environmental stewardship.

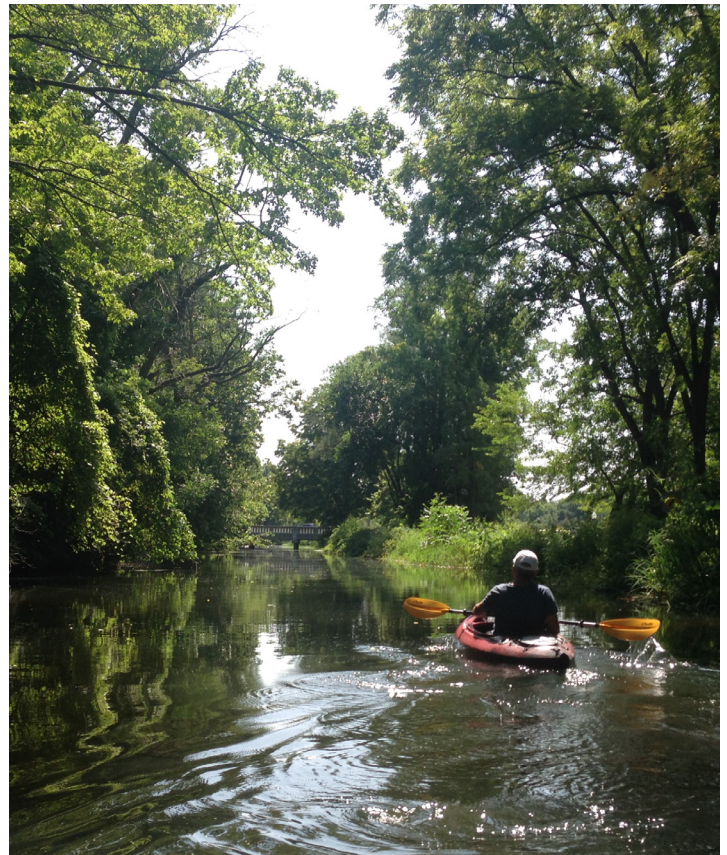
The Goals Survey also requested feedback on their level of agreement with these community values.

**INCLUSIVENESS:** 100% of the respondents strongly agreed or agreed that this is a community value

**CONNECTIVITY:** 100% of the respondents strongly agreed or agreed that this is a community value

**ENGAGEMENT:** 100% of the respondents strongly agreed or agreed that this is a community value

**SUSTAINABILITY:** 88% of the respondents strongly agreed or agreed that this is a community value





Using the identified Community Values, reviewing existing community plans, goals of the 2019-2023 Master Plan, and incorporating public feedback, the Parks and Recreation Board and Master Plan Steering Committee developed the following Master Plan Goals.

## MASTER PLAN GOALS

**INCLUSIVENESS:** Provide inclusive, high-quality recreational programming and facilities that embrace the community's diversity in age, abilities, and interests.

**INCLUSIVENESS:** Strive for the equitable distribution of parks, programs, and trails throughout the city to ensure that public amenities are available to all residents.

**CONNECTIVITY:** Promote the use of parks and trails to build and strengthen physical and social connections to promote improved physical and mental health and well-being in our community. Physical connections include trails, pathways, and parks in proximity to neighborhoods. Social connections include welcoming public spaces and programs.

**CONNECTIVITY:** Create and maintain welcoming and open public spaces where people can meet and interact whether at an event or through casual interactions.

**ENGAGEMENT:** Engage the community to build a sense of ownership, civic pride, and attachment in OUR parks and trails system.

**SUSTAINABILITY:** Manage and grow the parks and trails system in a manner that is physically, environmentally, and financially sustainable.

The Master Plan Goals will set the agenda and priorities for the next Master Plan as well as guide the more specific goals of the Parks and Recreation Board and the Parks and Recreation Department.



The Goals Survey also requested input from the community on how to prioritize the Master Plan Goals. 17 surveys were submitted with the following results. The weighted average is based on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is “very low priority” and 5 is “very high priority.”

**INCLUSIVENESS:** Provide inclusive, high-quality recreational programming and facilities that embraces the community’s diversity in age, abilities, and interests.

Very High Priority	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Very Low Priority	No Opinion	Weighted Average
70.6%	11.8%	11.8%	0.0%	0.0%	5.9%	4.35

**INCLUSIVENESS:** Strive for the equitable distribution of parks, programs, and trails throughout the city to ensure that public amenities are available to all residents.

Very High Priority	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Very Low Priority	No Opinion	Weighted Average
76.5%	17.7%	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.71

**CONNECTIVITY:** Promote the use of parks and trails to build and strengthen physical and social connections to promote improved physical and mental health and well-being in our community. Physical connections include trails, pathways, and parks in proximity to neighborhoods. Social connections include welcoming public spaces and programs.

Very High Priority	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Very Low Priority	No Opinion	Weighted Average
58.8%	29.4%	0.0%	11.8%	0.0%	0.0%	4.35

**CONNECTIVITY:** Create and maintain welcoming and open public spaces where people can meet and interact whether at an event or through casual interactions.

Very High Priority	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Very Low Priority	No Opinion	Weighted Average
29.4%	58.8%	11.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.18

**ENGAGEMENT:** Engage the community to build a sense of ownership, civic pride, and attachment in OUR parks and trails system.

Very High Priority	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Very Low Priority	No Opinion	Weighted Average
29.4%	47.1%	11.8%	11.8%	0.0%	0.0%	3.94

**SUSTAINABILITY:** Manage and grow the parks and trails system in a manner that is physically, environmentally, and financially sustainable.

Very High Priority	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Very Low Priority	No Opinion	Weighted Average
47.1%	41.2%	11.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.35



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# Goshen Parks & Recreation

## BOARD & DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The City of Goshen Parks and Recreation Board was established through Ordinance 1399 on June 3, 1957. The City began offering a summer playground program and activities for children and youth earlier in that decade. From that time and through the 1960s, the Goshen Parks system continued to grow. With the opening of the Shanklin Pool in 1969 and the growing inventory of park assets, by 1973 the City determined that there was a need for a professional Parks Department. In that year, they hired the first Parks Superintendent and staff. Today, the Parks and Recreation Department consists of 13 full-time professionals and 2 part time employees. From April 15-October 15 they also employ up to 93 temporary, intermittent and seasonal staff. This dedicated team manages over 541 acres of property including 28 parks, additional park-like properties, and more than 34 miles of trail. The department also develops, manages, and promotes a variety of programs and public events through the year.

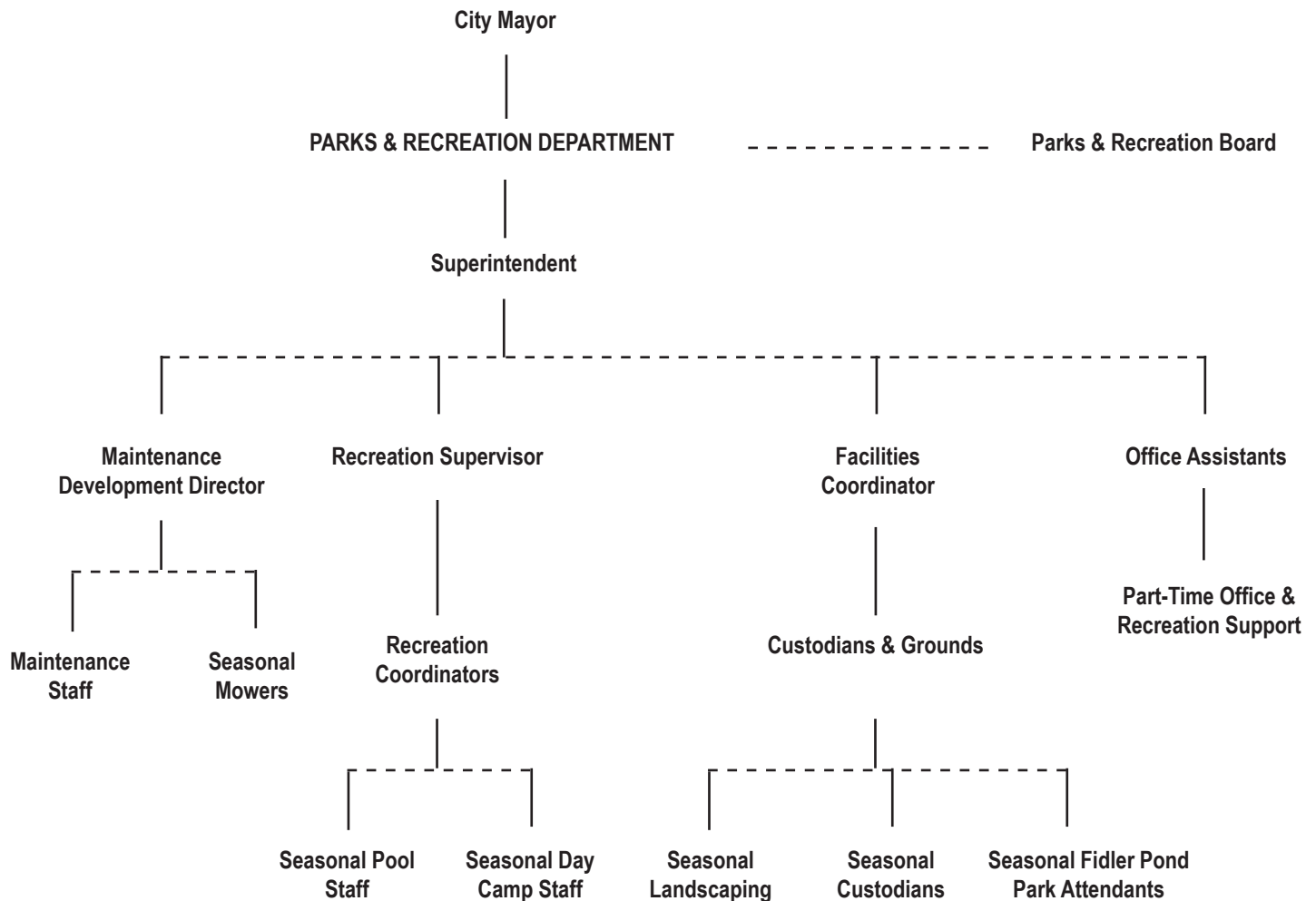
The current Ordinance guiding the Goshen Parks & Recreation Board is 4969 and was adopted July 3, 2018. The ordinance is compliant with Indiana Code 36-10-3-4. Four members are appointed by the Mayor on the basis of their interest in and knowledge of parks and recreation; and one ex-officio member of the Board of School Trustees of the Goshen Community School Corporation or an individual who resides in the Goshen Community School Corporation selected by the Board of School Trustees. Mayoral appointments are four-year terms. School Board appointment is annual. The ordinance does not include political balance requirement (removed by General Assembly).

In the 2019-2023 Master Plan, Urban Forestry was a division of the Parks and Recreation Department. In 2019, as part of the City Administration's efforts toward sustainability, the Environmental Resilience Department was established and began operations in 2020. The Urban Forester was appointed as the Resilience Department Director and the Forestry Division naturally continued operations with the newly formed Resilience Department.

The Parks and Resilience Departments work closely together as illustrated in the Ashley VanVurst Sensory Trail project that is highlighted in this Plan. The trail mobile application and content are provided and managed by the Department of Environmental Resilience while the trail is maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department. These inter-departmental projects allow for each department to bring their expertise to collaborative and innovative programs.



## DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## BUDGET SUMMARY

The City of Goshen Parks and Recreation Department is funded through the annual budget through a dedicated Parks Fund. The department strives to be self-supporting but additional funds from grants, donations, and Tax Increment Financing funds from the City's Redevelopment Commission have been used to capital improvements and projects. Any future bonds would only be used for capital improvements, not for maintenance or operating expenses. The table provides recent annual budget information. As indicated, both income and expenses have been increasing for the Parks Department since 2020.

Income		Expenses	
2020	\$2.71 million	2020	\$1.77 million
2021	\$2.78 million	2021	\$1.93 million
2022	\$3.13 million	2022	\$2.53 million
2023	\$3.14 million	2023	\$3.80 million*

\* 2023 Expenses include encumbrances

2024 budget was adopted on XXXX for \$xxx

The following tables provide the Master Plan Goals for both the Parks Board and the Parks and Recreation Department. Each goal identifies which of the community's value it addresses.

Addresses the following Community Values:				
Parks Board Goals	Inclusiveness	Connectivity	Engagement	Sustainability
Support welcoming and open public spaces where people can meet and interact whether at an event or through casual interactions.		X		
Promote the use of Parks and Trails for overall wellness through the local health system and nonprofit networks.			X	
Encourage partnerships with key stakeholders, volunteers, businesses, and organizations in the community.			X	
Guide the development of the Parks and Trails system as outlined in the City of Goshen Comprehensive Plan.				X
Cultivate opportunities for all park users to participate in programs, amenities, and park facilities in the most convenient ways possible while treating them as respected citizens of the community.	X			
Participate in the annual reviews of the master plan and adjust as necessary to continue the goal of meeting the park and recreational needs of the community.			X	
Review and adopt Park and Recreation Department procedures and policies.				X
Support the pursuit of funding, grants, and plans to expand the recreational opportunities to the community and update current features. Identify funding for park operations, programs, ongoing maintenance, and deferred maintenance items such as a capital campaign or Friends of the Goshen Parks and Trails organization.				X
Advocate for adequate resources to preserve the high quality of the Parks and Trails system that Goshen has come to expect.				X





Addresses the following Community Values:				
Parks and Recreation Department Administration Goals	Inclusiveness	Connectivity	Engagement	Sustainability
Provide efficient and effective direction, coordination, leadership, and quality leisure services throughout Goshen.			X	
Explore funding, grants, and plans to expand the recreational opportunities to the community and update current features.				X
Allow all park users the opportunity to participate in programs, amenities, and park facilities in the most convenient ways possible while treating them as respected citizens of the community.	X			
Promote Community involvement in the planning and operation of all facets of Park and Recreation Department operations.			X	
Incorporate within the department and its programs, new technologies and processes that will make activities and services more cost effective.				X
Periodically assess and evaluate the recreational needs of the citizens of Goshen.			X	
Parks and Recreation Department Park Facilities Goals	Inclusiveness	Connectivity	Engagement	Sustainability
Offer a wide variety of amenities and programs to meet the diverse needs of the community.	X			
Protect, preserve, and enhance natural areas and important cultural and historical resources within the Goshen Park system.				X
Add new park amenities while maintaining the existing parks, park facilities, and equipment at the highest quality allowable.				X
Parks and Recreation Department Programming Goals	Inclusiveness	Connectivity	Engagement	Sustainability
Offer comprehensive, quality recreational programming aimed at satisfying the needs of varying age levels, physical abilities, and special interests.	X			
Continue to expand the number of programs that serve our senior population.	X			
Develop effective methods for communicating activities and programs through a variety of means including social media, news, and advertisement.	X			
Make Park and Recreation participation as simple and convenient as possible to clientele and treat patrons like valued customers.			X	
Parks and Recreation Department Trail Goals	Inclusiveness	Connectivity	Engagement	Sustainability
Work to expand trails and sidewalks to fill gaps in the existing bike and pedestrian network.		X		
Review dawn to dusk policy for trails that run through parks to allow for full access to trails for transportation after part open hours		X		
Investigate an adopt a trail program to recruit volunteers to assist with maintenance of trails			X	
Parks and Recreation Department Maintenance Goals	Inclusiveness	Connectivity	Engagement	Sustainability
Ensure there is adequate staffing to preserve the high quality of the Parks and Trails system that Goshen has come to expect.				X
Maintain and improve the appearance of parks and existing facilities throughout Goshen at a high standard of quality on a systematic and scheduled basis.				X

## 2023 PROGRAMS INVENTORY

= New program or event since 2019!

Programs & Special Events	Park Location	Offered
Abshire Winter Activities	Abshire Hill	December–February
Adult Basketball League	Goshen High School	November–March
Adult Co-Ed Sand Volleyball	Pringle Park Courts	May–August
Adult Co-Ed Volleyball League	Goshen Community schools	November–March
Adult Men's Basketball	Goshen High School	November–March
Adult Men's Open Gym	Goshen High School	December
Adult Softball	Shanklin Park Fields	May–September
Adult Triathlon	Fidler Pond	August
Art Camp	Schrock Pavilion and Office Studio	July
Athletic Field Rental	Shanklin Park Fields	April–October
Ballet	Park Office Studio	January–December
Basketball Open Gym	Goshen High School	November–March
Brazilian Jiu Jitsu	Instructors Studio Chicago Avenue Goshen	September–October
Canoe Rental	Fidler Pond	April–October
Canoe Rentals	Administrative Office Rentals and boat launches	May–October
Community Gardens	Multiple Park Locations	April–October
Daddy-Daughter Dance	Elkhart County 4-H Fair Grounds	February
Discovery Day Camp	Schrock Pavilion	June–August
Dive-In Movie Night at Shanklin Pool	Shanklin Pool	May–August
Fall Softball	Shanklin Park Fields	September–October
Fantastic Fishing Derby	Fidler Pond	June
Fidler Pond Boat Rental	Fidler Pond	April–October
Goshen Nights of Lights	Shaklin Park	November–December
I Try Sailing	Shanklin Pool	June–July Wednesdays
I Try Scuba	Shanklin Pool	May–July
Kerry's Kids' and Teens' Triathlon	Shanklin Park	July

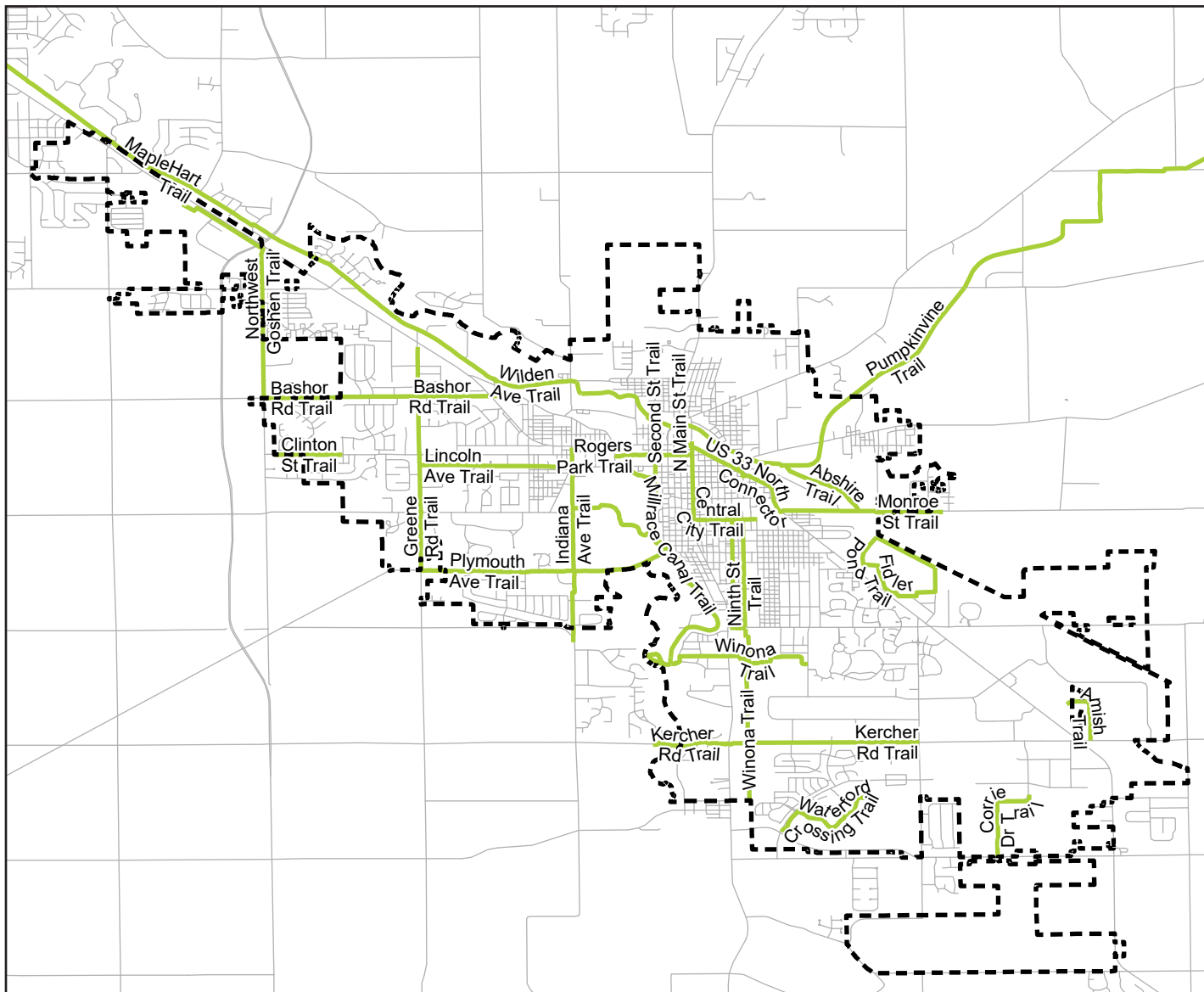




Programs & Special Events	Park Location	Offered
Letters from Santa	Goshen Public Library	December
Maple City Walk	Pumpkinvine Trail	September
Mother-Son Dance	Elkhart County 4-H Fair Grounds	May
Movies in the Park	Neighborhood Parks	May-August
Park to Park Program	Neighborhood Parks	June-July
Pickleball	Modle Elementary School Courts	January–December
Ping Pong	Shrock Pavilion	Fall and Winter
Pop up Water Park	Pringle Park	June
Pound Fit	Pringle Park and Office studio	January–December
Sailing Camp	Fidler Pond	June
Scuba Classes	Shanklin Pool	June–August
Shanklin Pool	Shanklin Pool	May–August
Soccer Camp	Pringle Park Soccer Fields	July
Splash-Tastic Weekend	Abshire Hill	July
Story Time in The Park	Rieth Interpretive Center	June
Story Walk	Rieth Interpretive Center	January–December
Summer Swim Lessons	Shanklin Pool	June–August
Touch-a-Truck	Shanklin Park	August
Trunk-or-Treat	Shanklin Park	October
Walk with a Doc	Pringle Park and Goshen College	January-December
Young Champions Cheerleading	Schrock Pavilion and Office Studio	November–March
Youth Basketball	Goshen Community schools	January–March
Youth Basketball Camp	Goshen Community schools	January
Youth Flag Football	Pringle Park	September–October
Youth Soccer League	Pringle Park Soccer Fields	September–October
Zumba	Pringle Park and Office Studio	January-December



# TRAILS INVENTORY



In addition to trails within city parks, the Maple City Greenway provides connectivity throughout the city.

Trail Name	Miles	
Abshire Trail	0.7	Crushed stone surface, 10 feet wide, connects Pumpkinvine Nature Trail along Rock Run Creek to Monroe Street.
Amish Trail	0.5	
Bashor Rd. Trail	1.6	
Central City Trail	2.2	Brick-edged sidewalk linking Goshen College, Goshen Public Library, Goshen High School, Elkhart County Courthouse and the downtown area.
Clinton St. Trail	0.4	
Corrie Dr. Trail	0.7	
Fidler Pond Trail	1.7	Crushed-stone surface, 8 feet wide, is a walking and biking track that follows the perimeter of Fidler Pond.
Greene Rd. Trail	1.9	
Indiana Ave. Trail	1.7	
Kercher Road Trail	1.8	
Lincoln Ave. Trail	1.0	
Mill Race Canal Trail	2.6	Crushed-stone surface, 8 feet wide, follows the hydraulic canal and connects Shoup-Parsons Woods, Shanklin Park and the Elkhart County Courthouse.
Monroe Street Trail	0.6	Paved surface, 10 feet wide, connecting Goshen High School, Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds.
Ninth Street Trail	0.9	Concrete surface, ranging from 8 to 10 feet wide, connects Goshen College at College Avenue with Water Tower Park and the Goshen Parks & Recreation Administrative Office, linking to Central City Trail and Goshen High School at Purl Street.
North Main St. Trail	0.2	
Northwest Goshen Trail	2.0	
Plymouth Ave. Trail	1.7	Connects Shanklin Park with Goshen Middle School over the Elkhart River and continues to Hay Park and Greene Road. Paved surface, 10 feet wide.
Pumpkinvine Nature Trail	2.7	Crushed-stone surface, 10 feet wide, that runs along Rock Run Creek and Abshire Park, continuing to CR 28, connecting to Middlebury and Shipshewana.
Rogers Park Trail	0.3	
Second St. Trail	0.2	
Shanklin-Mullet Trail	0.9	
US 33 North Connector Trail	1.0	Concrete surface, 10 feet wide, connects Bashor Road (C.R. 30) to Reliance Road (Old C.R. 17), continuing north to U.S. 33 and to Market Centre shopping area.
Waterford Crossing Trail	0.9	
Wilden Ave. Trail	3.3	Paved surface, 8 feet wide, connects MapleHart Trail, Ox Bow County Park and City of Elkhart.
Winona Interurban Trail	2.6	Paved surface, 10 feet wide, connects Bethany Christian Schools, Waterford Elementary School and Goshen College campus, along with a pedestrian/bicycle path that provides connectivity to Greencroft.
Total Miles:	34.1	





	Park Facility	Acreage	Park Type	Address
1	Abshire Park	75.5	Community	1302 E. Lincoln Avenue
2	Bakerfield Park	0.5	Special	1302 Baker Avenue
3	Burdick Park	0.5	Neighborhood	125 W. Burdick Street
4	Church Park	0.4	Special	504 N. 8th Street
5	Dorothy McFarland Park	0.2	Special	125 Vinson Court
6	Dr. Larry Beachy Classified Forest	34.5	Special	Located between the Elkhart River and the Millrace Canal
7	Dykstra Park	1.7	Block	1500 E. Lincoln Avenue
8	Fidler Pond Park	100	Special	1424 Lincolnway East
9	Five Points Pedestrian Park	0.1	Special	Located at the intersection of W. Lincoln Avenue, Indiana Avenue, and Dewey Avenue
10	Hay Park	5	Special / Community	1414 W. Plymouth Avenue
11	Lafayette Triangle Pedestrian Park	0.5	Special	1424 S. Main Street
12	Linway Lake	1	Community	South of Linway Plaza Shopping
13	Mill Street Park	11.08	Special	212 Prospect Avenue
14	Millrace Park	17	Special	410 W. Plymouth Avenue
15	Model School Park	4	Block	310 S. Greene Road
16	Mullett Park	15	Neighborhood	512 S. Indiana Avenue
17	Oakridge Park	3.5	Neighborhood	715 N. 1st Street
18	Powerhouse Park	1.06	Neighborhood	324 W. Washington Street
19	Pringle Park	14	Neighborhood	1912 W. Lincoln Avenue
20	Rieth Park	1.3	Block	1508 S. 13th Street
21	Riverdale Park	1.5	Neighborhood	W. Wilkinson Street
22	Rogers Park	12	Neighborhood	102 Chicago Avenue
23	Shanklin Park	90	Community	411 W. Plymouth Avenue
24	Shoup-Parsons Woods Park	17	Community	Westwood Road and Fair Oaks Drive (Adjacent to Goshen Dam)
25	Sprocket Dog Park	0.32	Neighborhood	119 S. Ninth Street
26	Walnut Park	1.8	Block	224 E. Oakridge Avenue
27	Water Tower Park	3.4	Block	E. Plymouth Avenue at S. 9th Street
28	Waterford Park	27.95	Community	Located on the southeast side of the City
	Total Acreage	446.81		



# DRAFT

# Natural Features

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The City of Goshen has developed in a long, narrow band due, in part, to the area's natural features such as soils, elevation, floodplains, and wetlands.

When asked in the community survey the importance of protecting natural open space and providing recreational opportunities in parks and via trails and waterways in the City of Goshen, nearly 96% indicated it was Very Important (81%) or Important (15%).

Following the massive flooding in 2018, the City of Goshen conducted the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for Stormwater (CCVAS) report. This report highlights the vulnerability of Goshen's population to the effects of climate change. The CCVAS report evaluates natural features such as elevation, soils, and floodplains to discuss the impact to the city based on those factors. The results of that analysis are important factors for the city to consider when determining what areas should be developed and what areas should be retained as natural areas for uses such as parks and trails.

## NOTABLE NATURAL FEATURES

This plan outlines notable park-specific natural features in the Needs Analysis section as a part of the introduction to each facility.

## SOILS

In urban areas such as Goshen, soil characteristics that are most important to local decision making are related to drainage classification and suitability for construction. According to the Indiana Soil and Landscape Evaluation Manual, Elkhart County and the Goshen area is part of the Northern Moraine and Lake Region and part of the St. Joseph Drainage Ways and Plymouth Morainal Complex. The soil regions for Goshen are predominantly alluvial and outwash deposits and loamy glacial till. Alluvial and outwash deposits (Fox, Genesee, Warsaw, Wheeling) which are medium- and fine-textured, wet soils on lake plains; mainly Aqualfs, Aquolls, and Aquepts, used for row crops. Loamy glacial till (Riddles, Miami, Crosier, Brookston) are rolling, loamy, moist soils on Wisconsinan end moraines; mainly Udalfs and Aqualfs, used for forage crops (largely for dairy cattle), and row crops.

## ELEVATIONS

The CCVAS reports that approximately 13,600 years ago, melting and retreating glaciers formed the landscape in and around Goshen. As the glaciers retreated, deposits of clay, silt, sand, gravel, and boulders were left behind forming the hilly regions surrounding the present-day City of Goshen. In contrast, the deposition of sediment on the outwash plain (floodplain) of a glacial river, now occupied by the Elkhart River, formed the flatter areas within City limits where most development has occurred. Understanding the elevation can assist in identifying areas that might be considered sensitive due to flooding or erosion concerns. These areas may be better utilized for low-impact open spaces and trails.

## VEGETATION

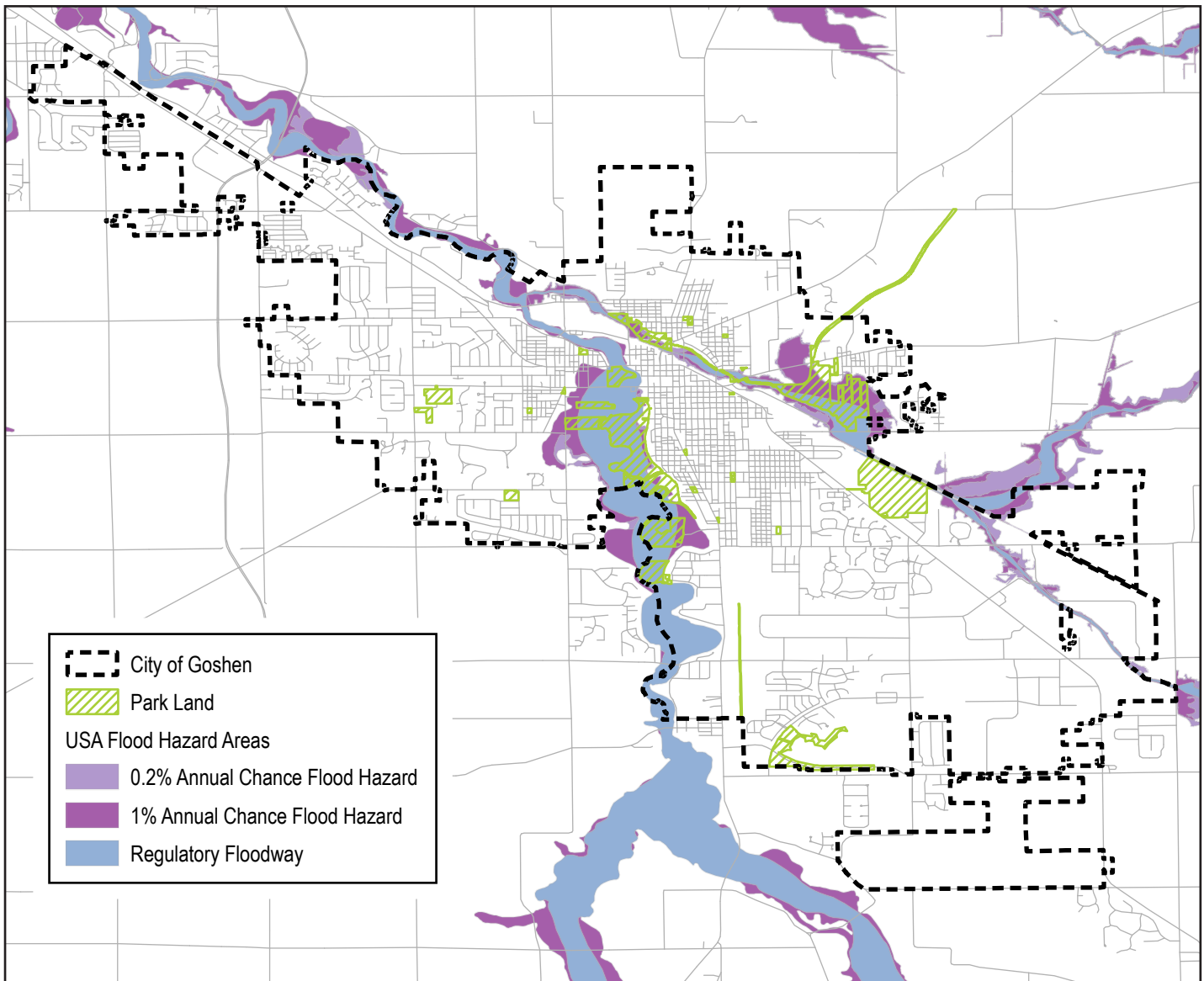
The City of Goshen has a robust Tree Canopy Goal of 45% tree coverage in Goshen by 2045. The park system is a critical place to be able to focus on developing and maintaining the city's canopy. The city plans on meeting this goal by finding small spaces that can be reclaimed for canopy as well as opportunities for large scale plantings. As important as planting new trees is, maintaining the existing canopy is also key to meeting this goal. The plan does not include conversion of programmed spaces such as playgrounds or sports fields, but could enhance those areas with trees to offer shade for users. The desire for additional shade in parks was mentioned during the public engagement process and is provided by park in the Needs Analysis section.

As mentioned in the Parks Department overview, since the 2019 Master Plan, the Forestry Division has been established into the new Environmental Resiliency Department (ERD). This shift and establishment of the district responsibilities for the Parks and ERD are still in process and the two departments work closely to ensure the parks system is attractive and well maintained. The ERD has 3 staff to manage the city's tree canopy including 2 urban foresters and the City Forester who is also the director of the department. The ERD manages all tree planting for the city, including in the parks system, in addition to the initial care for the newly planted trees, which includes watering for 2 growing seasons, mulching, follow up with pruning every 3 years for 4-5 cycles until

Properties and qualities of major soil types found in Goshen	Slope	Depth to restrictive feature	Drainage class	Runoff class	Depth to water table	Frequency of flooding	Frequency of ponding
BaaA—Bainter sandy loam	0 to 1 percent	40 to 70 inches to strongly contrasting textural stratification	Well drained	Very low	More than 80 inches	None	None
RopB—Riddles-Oshtemo fine sandy loams	1 to 5 percent	More than 80 inches	Well drained	Low	More than 80 inches	None	None
UdeA—Urban land-Bainter complex	0 to 1 percent	40 to 70 inches to strongly contrasting textural stratification	Well drained	Very low	More than 80 inches	None	None
UhbA—Urban land-Volinia complex	0 to 1 percent	18 to 32 inches to strongly contrasting textural stratification	Well drained	Low	More than 80 inches	None	None
VolA—Volinia loam	0 to 1 percent	18 to 32 inches to strongly contrasting textural stratification	Well drained	Low	More than 80 inches	None	None

Soil information from Websoil survey – <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

#### River Corridor Impact Areas: Parks Located in Flood Hazard Areas



the trees are established. The ERD also has a budget for maintaining larger trees, including removals if needed, in manicured areas of the parks while Parks Maintenance staff manage trees in other areas, such as forested parts of the parks and along trails.

The ERD manages a small nursery at Dykstra Park. Currently, the nursery provides roughly 70 trees per year or about ¼ of annual demand. This nursery produces larger trees of 1-2 inch diameter that are mechanically balled and planted. These trees are planted around the city including in the parks system.

In 2023, the City received a grant from the USDA for forestry programs. This grant will allow the city to establish a nursery on the new municipal wellfield site. The new nursery will focus on smaller trees that will be started in pots and planted out by hand. This two-nursery system offers the ability to plant different sized trees based on need.

Another innovative component of this grant is the development of Pocket Orchards or food forests in areas around the city that are currently being mowed. These areas will host trees that will produce fruit, nuts, and berries with a focus on native species. The locations of the Pocket Orchards have not yet been determined. A few options of park managed properties are suggested in the Needs Analysis section for the appropriate parks and in the Trails Needs Analysis as a general suggestion.

## FLOODPLAINS

The CCVAS report indicates that the City of Goshen has historically located dumps and park infrastructure in the floodplain. This historic filling of floodplains, low-lying and wetland areas defined the banks of the river and is a contributing factor to today's flooding. On a positive note, the report concludes that today these areas are increasingly being made into open, natural spaces that can flood with minimal infrastructure damage. Many of these dumps were converted to parks and are no longer used for the disposal of waste.

Today, there are many preserved natural areas along the City's waterways from the Elkhart River and the Millrace—encompassing Shanklin Park on the east side of the River and Mullet Park on the west and extending from the Goshen Dam Pond on the south to Lincoln Avenue on the north. These areas experienced significant flooding during the 2018 flood event, but minimal infrastructure damage due to their undeveloped nature.

However, the Parks Department did have a few costly repairs to facilities and infrastructure (e.g. paths and ball diamonds) in the area. The park administration office was

moved to a new location outside the floodplain area to avoid future damage.

At the time of the CCVAS report, the park maintenance building was still located along the edges of the floodplain. In late 2023 the department relocated to its new location outside the floodplain. The CCVAS report concludes the chapter on natural areas with the following statement: Overall, the urgency and need for protecting natural areas along the floodplain is being increasingly recognized for the ability of these areas to “slow down, spread out, and soak in” floodwaters and thus help alleviate some potential downstream flood impacts.

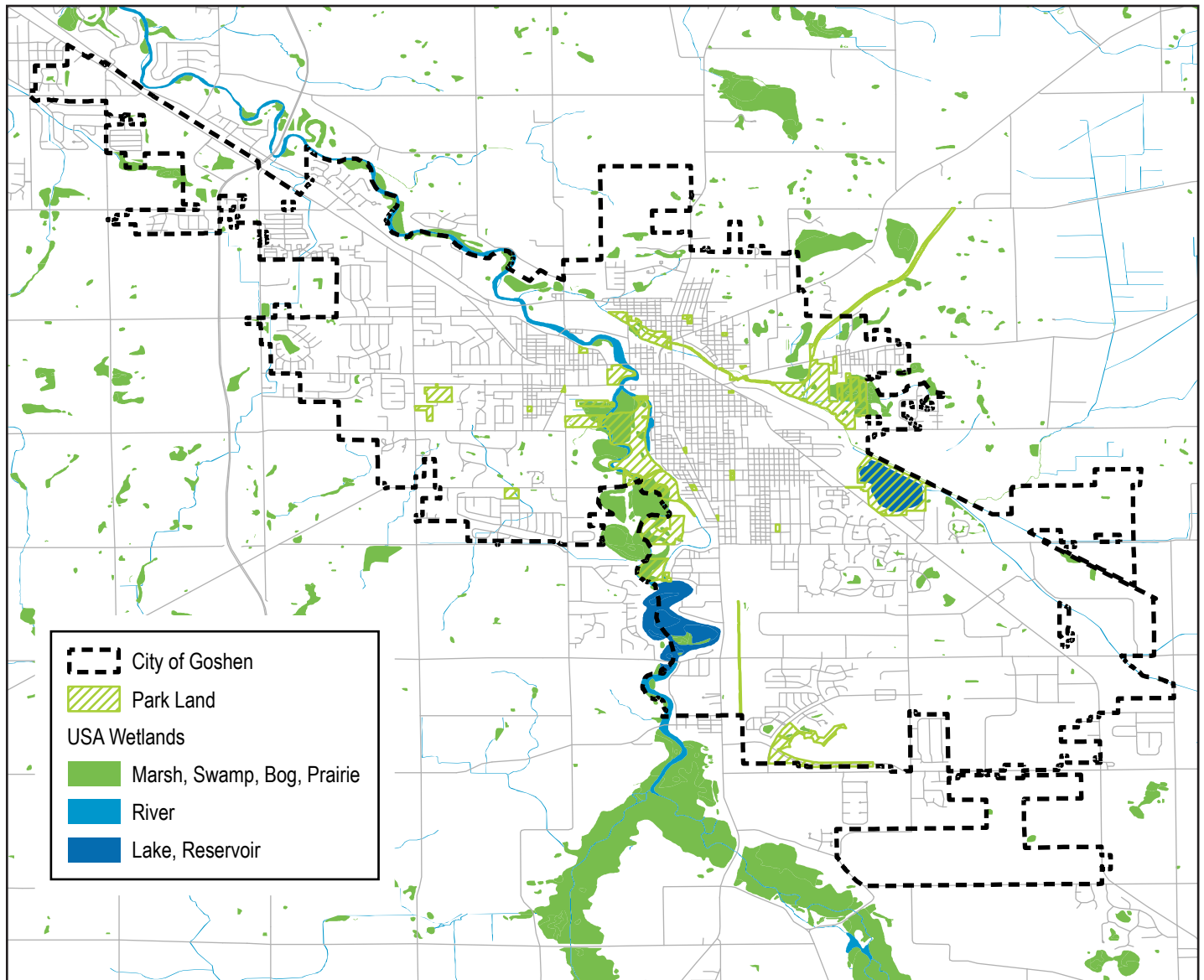
In 2021, the City of Goshen adopted the Flood Resilience Plan which identifies smart growth strategies to improve flood resilience in the City of Goshen. The plan identifies policies and projects that are designed to protect public and private resources by direct growth, economic development, and capital improvement projects to areas that are less vulnerable to flooding. The plan identified the need to protect undeveloped land in the River Corridor Impact Area. The plan indicates that for this area to function and provide critical conveyance for floodwater and stream movement, it should remain undeveloped. This includes encroachment from structures, infrastructures, and utilities, as well as any land disturbance activities including parking areas, land clearing, excavation, and grading.

The City of Goshen has done a great job acquiring land in the floodplain and using it as parkland. In the river corridor, 31% of the land is owned by the city; 82%, of which, is designated as parks. Along the Elkhart River, the amount of city-owned parkland is even greater; much of the land in the river corridor impact area between Lincoln Highway (US 33) and Goshen Dam Pond is a city owned park. The report recommends that when land and funding become available, the city should continue to acquire properties within the river corridor impact areas to allow for critical conveyance for floodwater and stream movement. By using these areas in the project evaluation process, the city can target future capital improvement and development incentives in areas with lower risk and continue to build its passive recreational areas and trails in more sensitive areas in a manner that allows for seasonal inundation.

Flooding is an ongoing issue in the parks due to their location in and near floodplains. Maintenance staff is familiar with processes and procedures for cleanup and restoration of facilities related to major events and seasonal water fluctuations.



## River Corridor Impact Areas: Parks Located in Wetlands



## WETLANDS

Wetlands are also environmentally sensitive areas that need to be identified and protected during the development analysis process of a city. According to the National Wetlands Inventory, wetlands provide a multitude of ecological, economic, and social benefits. They provide habitat for an array of fish, wildlife, and plants; recharge groundwater; reduce flooding; provide clean drinking water; offer food and fiber; and support cultural and recreational activities. Unfortunately, more than half of the nation's wetlands have been lost since 1780, and wetland losses continue today. This highlights the urgent need for geospatial information on wetland extent, type, and change (<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/about-us>). The map to the right identifies wetlands in the City of Goshen in relation to local parks areas. A goal of the Parks Board is to protect natural areas, reviewing existing mapped wetlands may be an opportunity to grow the park system in a manner that offers additional public open spaces while protecting environmentally important areas.

# DRAFT

# History & Culture

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The City of Goshen is located in the center of Elkhart County in northern Indiana. The city covers approximately 16 square miles and had an estimated population of 34,188 in 2023 (ESRI). It is the second largest city in the county and serves as the county seat. Goshen was founded in 1831 on land previously inhabited by the Miami, Peoria, and Potawatomi peoples who had been removed from the area by the US government through the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

The new settlers were primarily descendants of English Puritans from New England. Today, residents of the city identify with many cultural backgrounds, including a large Hispanic/Latino population and people of the Mennonite and Amish religious faiths. To ensure the community has access to the city's parks, trails, and programs, the Parks and Recreation Department has and will continue to make efforts to engage with these communities.

The City of Goshen has a significant percentage of the population that identify as **Hispanic/Latino** (see Social & Economic Factors section). The Parks and Recreation Department regularly shares information and has some parks signage in both English and Spanish, including throughout this planning process as well as other events and programs when possible. It is important to the Department to increase its capacity to serve the Spanish-speaking residents of the city.

As the **Mennonite and Amish** communities are somewhat separate from the general population by choice, the parks staff have made efforts to share information and programming through a variety of media, such as the printed Activity Guide, to make programming and event details available in a way that this population will utilize. Like the public at large, this community does utilize the parks system for passive recreation and social gathering, as well as the trail system for non-motorized transportation and recreation.

The **Goshen Historic District** was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983, encompassing 751 buildings and 1 site in the central business district and surrounding residential sections of the city. Notable structures include the Elkhart County Courthouse (built 1870), Goshen Carnegie Public Library (built 1902), and Jefferson Theater (built 1907). This area continues to provide a cultural and retail center for the city and is the location of many of the city's events and festivals.

Many festivals and events take place throughout the year that draw both residents and visitors. Since 2007, downtown Goshen has become renowned for its monthly **First Friday** events, which feature themed activities for visitors of all ages and interests. The festivals highlight the arts, restaurants, and small businesses that make Goshen so unique for a city its size. The Parks and Recreation Department sponsors or is involved in many of the events throughout the year. The table to the right shows a list of events in which the Department partners with other local organizations.

The **Elkhart County 4-H Fair** is hosted in Goshen at the end of July and is one of the largest fairs in the state of Indiana and one of the largest county fairs in the country, hosting over 200,000 people during the week-long event. In addition to the July fair, the fairgrounds hosts numerous trade shows, RV rallies, corporate events, and private receptions year-round.

Since 2000, the **Goshen Farmers Market** has been located in the historic Mill Race Center, close to downtown. The market provides space for 25 vendors of local produce, meat, cheeses, baked goods, and



artisan crafts on Saturdays (year-round) and Tuesdays (May through October). On market days, people of all ages and backgrounds shop and listen to live music. As a community attraction, the planning team visited the farmers market to share information and solicit participation in the planning process.

**Goshen College** is a private Mennonite liberal arts college, founded in 1894. The main campus is located south of the downtown district on 135 acres with enrollment of approximately 950 students in 2022-2023. The college was formally designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution in 2023, defined by the US Department of Education as having enrollment of undergraduate full-time students that is at least 25 percent Hispanic students. The college emphasizes “global education” and diversity among its students, having been named by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top 5 colleges nationwide for most students studying abroad and one of the top liberal arts colleges for the most international students. The college also offers many opportunities for the general public to enjoy Grammy-winning performance artists through its annual

Performing Arts Series, as well as numerous student-led musical, theatrical, and intramural sports events. A representative of the college was a member of this plan’s steering committee.

Below is a table of local organizations that work in **partnership with the Parks Department** to provide the events and programs enjoyed in the community. Three of these agencies and their relationship to the department are:

County-wide agencies such as the Elkhart County Convention and Visitors Bureau (ECCVB) and the Community Foundation of Elkhart County (CFEC) provide marketing and financial support for the Department. This support is important to the department and a recognition by these organizations of the importance of the Goshen Parks system to the city residents but also the entire county population and visitors.

The Goshen Parks and Recreation Department enters into agreements annually with the Goshen Schools for specific facilities and schools to co-locate or co-sponsor programs and events.

#### Parks and Recreation Department Partners

	MACOG	Downtown Goshen	ECCVB & CFEC	Goshen Schools	Health Groups	Historical Society	Public Library	Neighborhood Associations
Neighborhood Picnics/Events								✓
Dog Park								✓
Dykstra Windmill								✓
First Friday Events		✓						
Kerry’s Kids and Teen Triathlon					✓			
Project/Event Support			✓					
Quilt Garden & Tours			✓					
Riverdale Park								✓
Rotating displays						✓		
Run the Halls					✓			
Shared Facility Use				✓				
Storybook Trail							✓	
Storytime events							✓	
Summer Lunch Program				✓	✓			
Touch-a-Truck				✓	✓		✓	
Trail Counters	✓							
Trunk-or-Treat					✓		✓	
Community Collaboration								✓
Vibrant Communities			✓					
Youth Advisor				✓				
Walk with a Doc					✓			
Zumba					✓			

The City of Goshen has developed as an **employment center** for Elkhart County and Indiana. With over 30,000 jobs in the city, the influx of workers significantly impacts the community's economy and land use decisions. Many of the current jobs in Goshen and in Elkhart County are in manufacturing. There have been gains in other industry types, but the region is very reliant on manufacturing jobs. The community has shown interest in diversifying the local economic mix and future development projects could further that goal. In addition to an appropriate mix of land uses that allow for industrial and commercial development, economic development strategies also need to include housing and quality of life components such as parks, trails, and recreational programs. As resident preferences change to focus on community assets and less on the proximity to their job, Goshen is proactively working to ensure the housing and community assets needed to attract and retain residents and workers are in place to grow and support the community.

In 2022, the City of Goshen undertook a planning process call the **Goshen Growth Strategy** to review land use and growth patterns to help guide development in and around the city in the future. This plan was based on the city's existing Comprehensive Land Use Plan with updated demographics, public input, and analysis. In the Community Service and Facilities chapter, the current land use plan has established its goal C-3 which is to *"Provide and expand parks and recreational activities for all citizens"*. The findings from the Goshen Growth Strategy that impact the Parks system are listed below.

#### Goshen Growth Strategy Key Findings:

- Goshen has made investments in placemaking and public spaces.
- As the city continues to grow and develop, the community would like to ensure that the amount of land available for parks and recreation also grows to accommodate additional demand.
- There is a desire for all residents to have the ability for a short walk to an area park and recreational facilities.
- Additional parkland should be accounted for with new residential development.
- Coordinated planning for the use of natural areas such as floodplains and wetlands for passive recreation and opportunities for users to engage with nature could provide community assets while protecting these sensitive areas.
- Incorporating a review of park connectivity into the evaluation for residential development would help ensure Goshen continues to provide excellent service and quality parks for residents.

The public comments and plan themes of the Goshen Growth Strategy process are consistent with those of this Master Planning process and reinforce that the Parks and Recreation system in Goshen is valued and considered a critical component of the community's identity and quality of life.

## COMMUNITY AMENITIES (MAN-MADE)

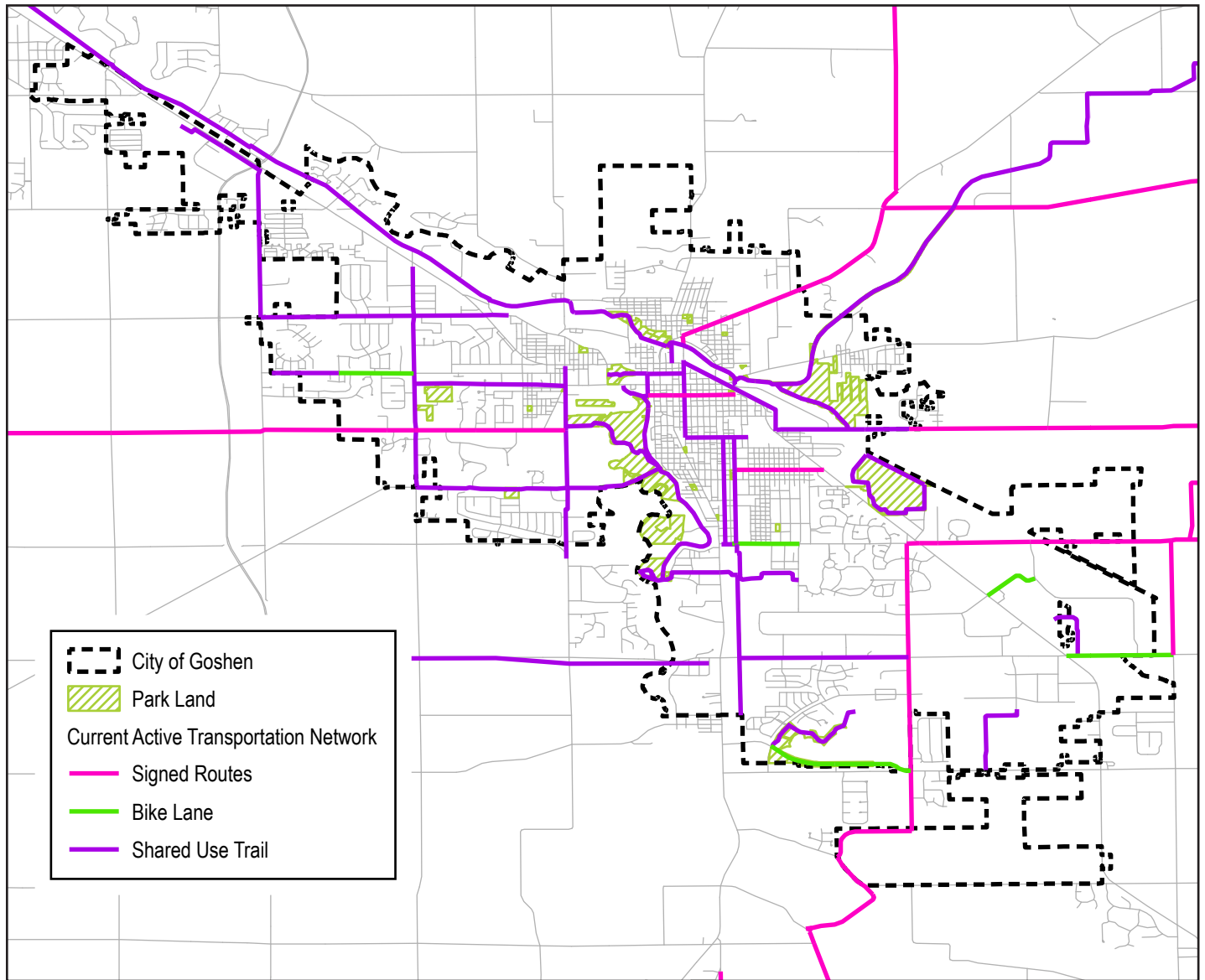
The Parks Master Plan Community Survey asked respondents to rate the quality of each of the parks and the trails system. The rating for each individual park is included in the Parks Needs Analysis section by location. The overall rating for the trails system is provided in the Trails Needs Analysis section. In addition, any comments received through the survey or at any of the public engagement activities are included in these sections of the plan by each park or in the summary for the Parks and Trails. These comments include those related to concerns and issues regarding the physical aspects of the park and trail system, including items such as additional trail linkages.

To support the community's residents and businesses, the city has an **extensive transportation system** that involves neighborhood streets, highways, a municipal airport, and a major rail line. In addition, Goshen is seen in the area as being bike and pedestrian friendly due to its sidewalk and trail system. This inclusive transportation system provides the ability for residents, visitors, and workers to navigate to and around the city. The city's existing sidewalks network is very important to accessibility and connectivity of the parks system. The City does not currently have its sidewalk system in a GIS map but is working to complete this project to assist with future analysis and identification of gaps in the system including connections to local parks.

The City of Goshen is a recognized **Bike Friendly Community** by the League of American Bicyclists. The city first achieved this designation in 2011 and has recently been awarded a continued Bronze designation through 2027. "The Bike League's Bicycle Friendly America program provides advocates and change makers with a roadmap and hands-on assistance to build places more welcoming to people who bike. The BFA program is a tool for states, communities, business and universities to make bicycling a real transportation and recreation option for all people and it recognizes those doing it well." <https://bikeleague.org/bfa/>



## Active Transportation Network

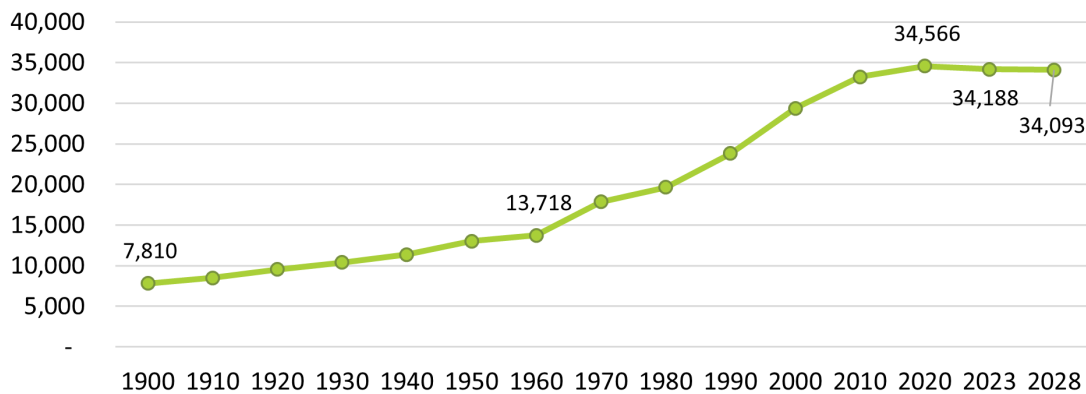


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# Social & Economic Factors

City of Goshen Total Population 1900-2028

U.S. Census Bureau & ESRI Business Analyst 2023



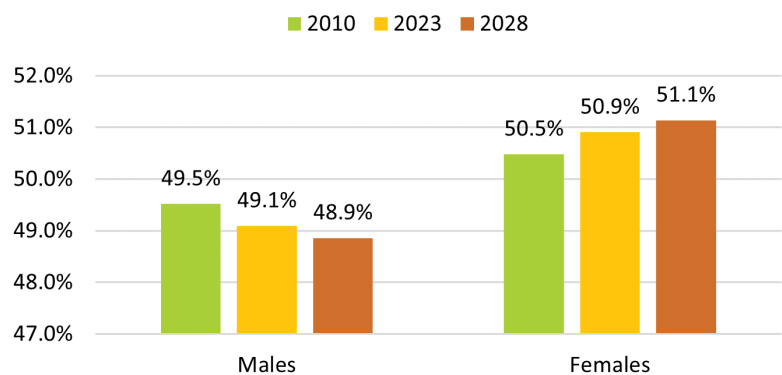
The population of Goshen has increased every decade since at least 1900. The largest growth years were in the 1960s, 1980s, and 1990s. The 2020 U.S. Census recorded the population at 34,566, which is a 4.0% increase from 2010. ESRI Business Analyst, a commonly used professional market analysis tool estimated the City's population at 34,188 in 2023 and projects a slight decrease to 34,093 by 2028.

## SEX

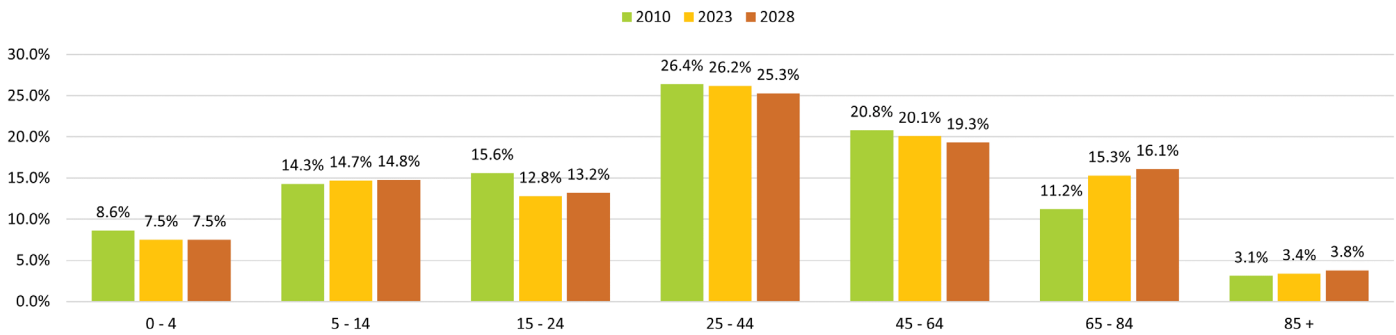
The ratio of males to females is projected to diverge slightly from 2010 to 2028. ESRI Business Analyst projects that by 2028, females will make up 51.1% of the population of Goshen and males will make up 48.9%, while in 2010 the split was much more even at 50.5% and 49.5%, respectively. This is not a trend seen in the broader Elkhart County.

City of Goshen Population by Sex

ESRI Business Analyst 2023



City of Goshen Population by Age  
ESRI Business Analyst 2023



## AGE

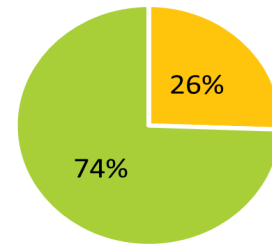
In 2010, 14.3% of Goshen's population was age 65 or older. By 2028, that age group is expected to grow to 19.9%. During the same time, those aged 25-64 are expected to decrease from 47.2% in 2010 to 44.6% in 2028. This trend is not new in the community and the Parks Department has identified facilities and programs that are attractive and accessible to seniors as a priority. The Programming Needs Assessment includes a table of parks programs and events that identifies the population those programs serve including pre-school, teen, senior, and family.

## DISABILITY

The American Community Survey estimates that more than one-quarter (25.5%) of households in Goshen include at least one person with a recorded disability. The park facility assessment in the Master Plan includes a review of the park facilities for ADA compliance. Any upgrades or modifications identified during this process are provided in the individual park data sheets in the Needs Analysis chapter of this plan. The City of Goshen and the Parks and Recreation Department are committed to making its facilities accessible to all residents regardless of physical abilities. More details on this topic are included in the Accessibility and Universal Design section of the plan.

City of Goshen Households  
by Disability Status

2017-2021 ACS 5-year Estimate



- With 1+ Persons w/Disability
- With No Person w/Disability

Population by Race/Ethnicity

	2010	2020	Percent Change 2010-2020	2023 (Est.)	2028 (Proj.)
White Alone	79.4%	63.8%	-19.6%	63.2%	59.2%
Black Alone	2.7%	3.3%	22.2%	2.8%	3.0%
American Indian Alone	0.5%	1.1%	120.0%	1.2%	1.3%
Asian Alone	1.1%	1.4%	27.3%	1.5%	1.7%
Pacific Islander Alone	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Some Other Race Alone	13.7%	18.3%	33.6%	19.0%	21.2%
Two or More Races	2.5%	11.9%	376.0%	12.3%	13.5%
Hispanic Origin	26.6%	33.7%	26.7%	34.7%	37.9%
Diversity Index	60.3	74.7	-	75.3	78.0

ESRI 2023

RACE & ETHNICITY

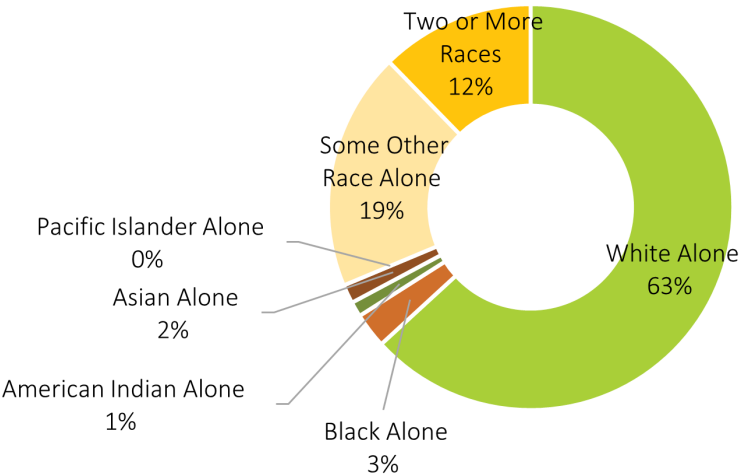
The population who identifies as “white alone” decreased by 19.6% between 2010 and 2020. That trend is projected to continue with less than 60% of the population identifying as “white alone” by 2028. (ESRI) Every other racial and ethnic identity has increased since 2010, and is projected to continuing increasing.

This has resulted in an increasingly diverse population, as indicated by the Census Bureau Diversity Index (DI). The DI is a measure of the probability that two people chosen at random will be from different racial and ethnic groups. A value of 0 indicates that everyone in the population has the same racial and ethnic characteristics. A value close to 1 indicates that almost everyone in the population has different racial and ethnic characteristics. Goshen’s diversity index has increased from 60.3 in 2010 to 74.7 in 2020 and project to continue to increase through 2028.

A major component of that diversity is residents of Hispanic origin. This population has been an important part of Goshen’s population for many decades. As a result, Latin American culture has integrated into the culture of the city through numerous restaurants, grocery stores, retail shops, churches, and community events.

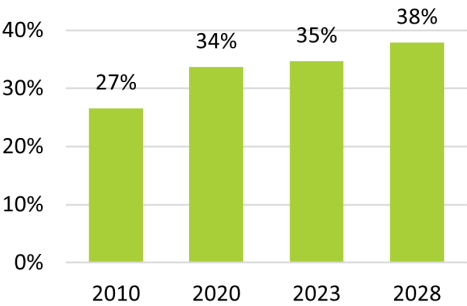
City of Goshen Population by Race: 2023

ESRI Business Analyst 2023



City of Goshen Hispanic Origin: 2010-2028

ESRI Business Analyst 2023



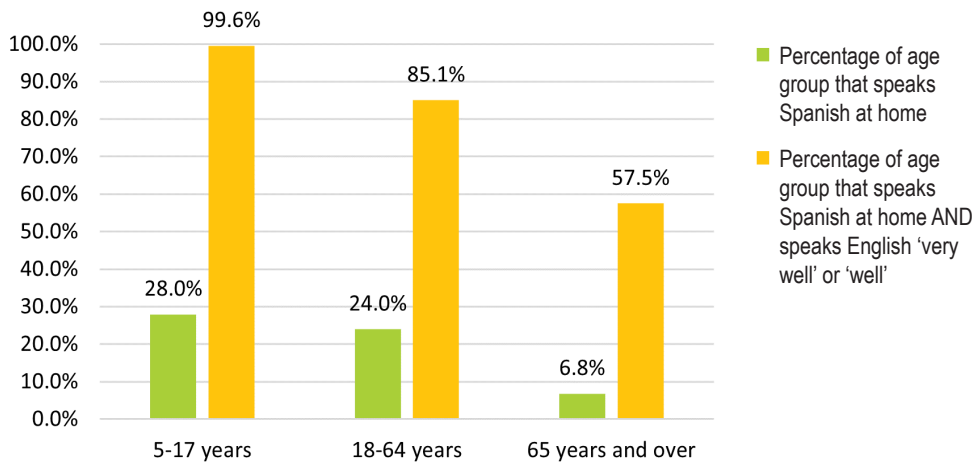


The American Community Survey (ACS) estimates that 7,120 individuals (approximately 21.8% of the population) speak Spanish at home in Goshen. However, youth Spanish-speakers are more likely to also speak English well than their elder counterparts. The ACS estimates that 28% of 5- to 17-year-olds in Goshen speak Spanish at home, and nearly 100% of them also speak English “well” or “very well.” For Spanish speakers who are 65 years old and older, though, less than 58% speak English well. This has led to some difficulty with communication in the community between those who only speak English (an estimated 74% of the total population) and those who only speak Spanish (0.5% of the population).

The Parks and Recreation Department is committed to finding ways to breach language barriers for our Spanish speaking residents. The annual Activity Guide is printed and available on the website in both English and Spanish. This planning process is another example of those efforts. We provided event and survey promotion and the community survey in English and Spanish. In addition, a bi-lingual staff member was present at all public events to facilitate conversations and engagement. The department continues to consider ways of providing information in both English and Spanish as a goal and has identified steps in the Priorities and Actions to be taken as part of this Master Plan.

## City of Goshen Spanish Speakers, by Age Group

2017-2021 ACS 5-year Estimate

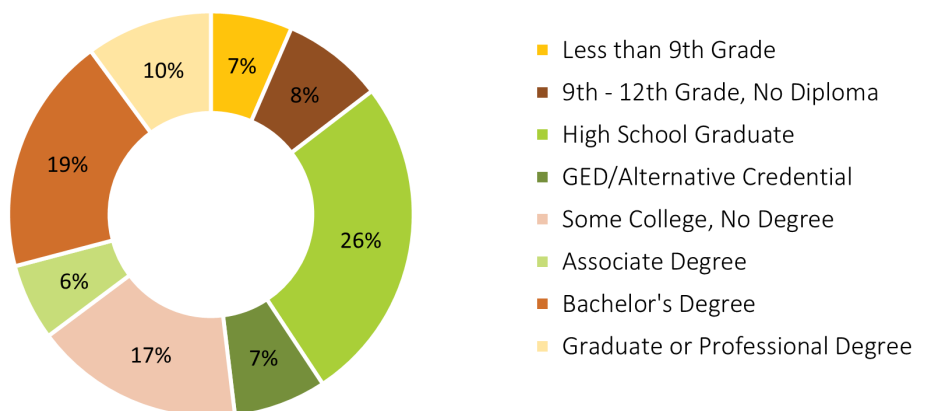


## EDUCATION

A high school degree or GED/ alternative credential is the highest level of education for over one-third (33.5%) of Goshen's population age 25 and older. An additional 14.6% have not completed high school. More than one-third (35.2%) have completed a higher degree, such as Associates, Bachelor's, or other professional degree. (ESRI 2023)

## City of Goshen Population 25+ by Educational Attainment: 2023

ESRI Business Analyst 2023



## INCOME

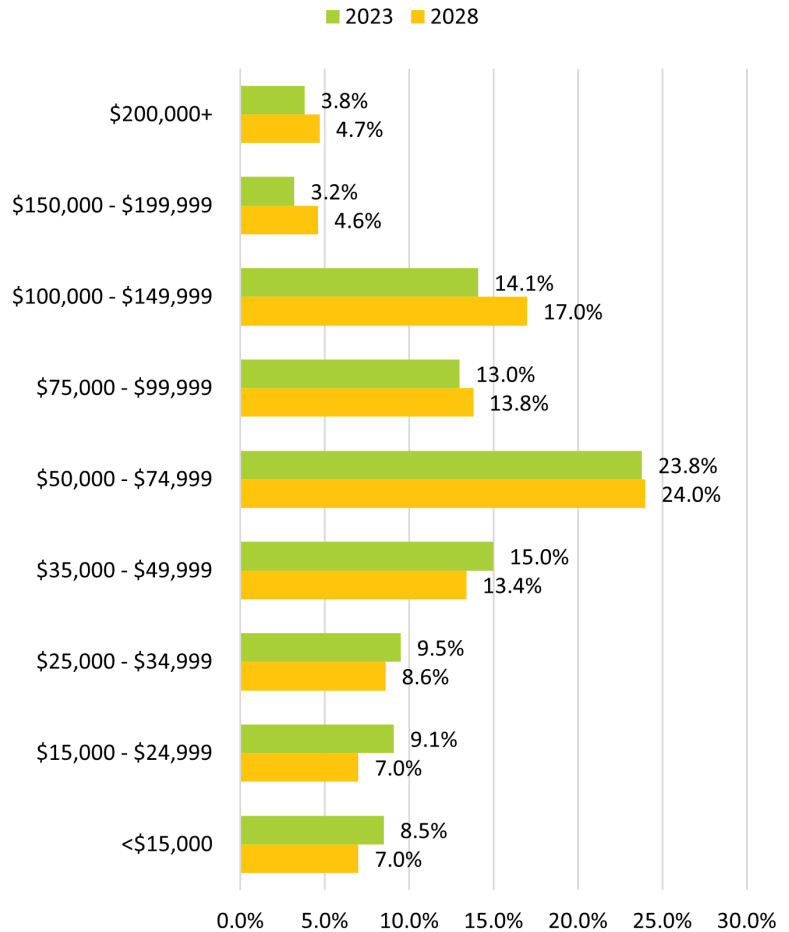
The median household income for residences in Goshen is \$55,898, with a per capita income of \$28,902 (ESRI 2023). Both are lower than incomes for the broader Elkhart County, which are \$61,968 and \$31,632, respectively. Approximately 15.4% of Goshen's population is living in poverty (i.e., their income is lower than the poverty threshold set for their household size by the Census Bureau). (ACS) Of the households with income below the poverty level, the majority (77.3%) are single householders.

In addition, ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) statistics indicated that for Elkhart township of the 12,993, 49 percent are below the ALICE threshold. This means that they are earning more than the Federal Poverty Level, but not enough to afford the basics where they live. ALICE households and households in poverty are forced to make tough choices, such as deciding between quality child care or paying the rent — choices that have long-term consequences. They are also very likely unable to participate in programs and events that require a participation fee.

Providing quality facilities and programs at a reasonable cost is a priority for the Parks and Recreation Department. Efforts have been made to keep program fees as low as possible. This topic is highlighted in the Needs Assessment section under Programming.

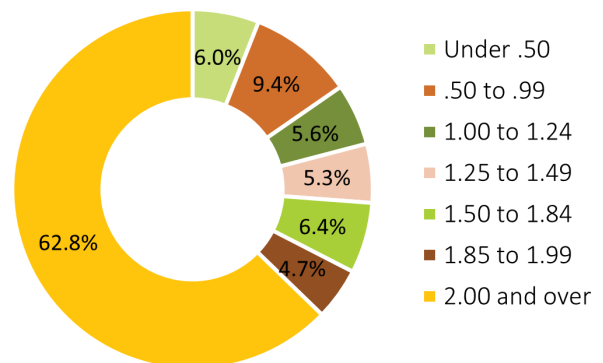
City of Goshen Population by Household Income

ESRI Business Analyst 2023



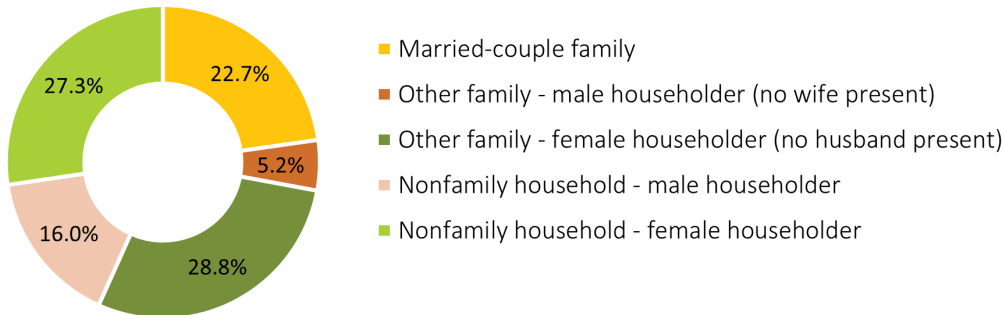
City of Goshen Population by Ratio of Income to Poverty

2017-2021 ACS 5-Year Estimate



### City of Goshen Population Income in the Past 12 Months Below Poverty Level

2017-2021 ACS 5-Year Estimate



## ECONOMICS

In 2023, employers in the services and manufacturing industries employed the largest shares of Goshen's population, with over 73% of the population over age 16 working in these two industries alone.

There is an opportunity to work with our local business community to provide outreach and marketing as well as possible sponsorship and partnership for park events and programming.

Two of the largest employers are the Goshen Community Schools and the Goshen Health System. These companies are logical partners to work with the Parks and Recreation Department as they have similar interests in youth, sports, education, and health and wellness.

#### 2023 Employed Population 16+ by Industry

Services	42.5%
Manufacturing	30.7%
Retail Trade	9.0%
Construction	5.4%
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	3.9%
Transportation/Utilities	3.7%
Information	1.7%
Public Administration	1.3%
Wholesale Trade	1.2%
Agriculture/Mining	0.5%

ESRI 2023

#### Large Employers in the City of Goshen

	Estimated Number of Employees in Goshen
H-C Liquidating Corp.	1,753
Goshen Community Schools (and associated company names)	1,309
Dmi Holding Corp.	1,200
Goshen Health System, Inc. (and associated company names)	1,126
Keystone Rv Company	771
Forest River, Inc. (and associated company names)	752
Dutchmen Manufacturing, Inc.	751
Zieman Manufacturing Company	608
Everence (and associated company names)	583
Greencroft Retirement Communities, Inc. (and associated company names)	547

Economic Development Corporation of Elkhart County 2023

DRAFT

# Accessibility & Universal Design

The Goshen Parks and Recreation Department strives to serve the entire community through its programming and facilities. The department is dedicated to ensuring that all those who visit the city parks and trails can enjoy the benefits of their amenities. According to the American Community Survey Data (2017-2021 5 year estimates) 26% of Goshen's population had at least one household member with a disability. In addition, the community feels very strongly about providing facilities and programming that meet the needs of the entire population, including those with disabilities.

During the Master Plan process, a shared community value was established that the "Goshen's Parks, Programs, and Trails should be open and inclusive for all residents". From this shared value, a Master Plan Goals was developed that states Goshen will "provide inclusive, high-quality recreational programming and facilities that embraces the community's diversity in age, abilities, and interests." With this clear mandate from the public, an evaluation of currently accessible and inaccessible facilities and programs was conducted along with a review of communications practices.

In general, all of the Goshen Parks and Recreation public buildings, playgrounds, and trails are accessible. The results of the individual park evaluations can be found in the Needs Analysis section of this plan. Many of the city's trails and paths are crushed stone. These facilities meet the ASTM F1951-99 "Firm and Stable Specifications. The only exceptions are where temporary repairs have been made due to utility installations or damage caused by vandalism. The maintenance staff repair and make reasonable attempts to address deficiencies to the crushed stone paths so that they meet or exceed the ASTM Standards. This is a continual maintenance item that is addressed if notified or noticed by park staff during the routine maintenance / inspections. The Priorities and Action section of this plan provides a proposed timeline for improvements, estimated costs, and potential funding sources for a variety of projects.

Since the adoption of the 2019-2023 Master Plan, the City of Goshen has built or updated several facilities with ADA-compliant accessible features. Some notable projects include:

**Hay Park:** New fully-inclusive playground

**Dorothy McFarland Park:** New accessible playground equipment

**Millrace Park:** New wheelchair glider

**Ashley VanVurst Sensory Trail:** A downloadable app to facilitate access to nature. More information is in the Trails Needs Analysis.



Photo credit: The Goshen News



*"Universal Design is a concept in which products and environments are designed to be useable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or special design."*

U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)  
<https://www.section508.gov/develop/universal-design>

As with many Parks and Recreation Departments, Goshen has an ongoing need to improve existing facilities and make them compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) Guidelines. Although the City of Goshen has made notable efforts to improve accessibility, there is still a deficit in the current supply of accessible amenities and accessible routes to and between amenities. As improvements are made to existing facilities and new amenities are installed, the department is committed to ensuring access. Each time a new project is proposed, the following steps will be undertaken during the planning phase to further the city's goals of improving accessibility.

1. Perform reviews of park sites, facilities, and programs for compliance;
2. Implement accessible transitions into all sites and facilities; and
3. Provide accessible parking and routes to amenities, shelters, and facilities.

In addition to the review of physical improvements, the communication practices and policies of the department were also evaluated. The current Parks and Recreation Website has a list of facilities with a helpful summary and link to a mapping tool for directions and location of the facility. What is missing from this information is a description of accessible facilities. The department has identified the need to update this information as an action they plan to complete during the next Master Plan cycle. By adding this information to the website they can assist users in identifying what facilities offer accessible features without having to visit the site to find out. This will also be helpful for those planning a visit or renting a facility. The addition of facility accessibility for the events and programs in the Activity Guide will also help share information with prospective participants.

To ensure the Community Workshop and the Open House were accessible, both were held at the Shanklin

Park Schrock Pavilion. This Pavilion has an entrance ramp and accessible bathrooms. Some of the comments received during the public engagement process related to accessibility include the following:

- "Ensuring accessibility for wheelchairs on the trails is one of the most important issues facing Goshen parks."
- "Accessibility and options for people with disabilities."
- "Handicap accessibility and inclusion for all kinds of people is one of the most important issues facing Goshen parks."
- "Handicap accessibility is important to my family."
- "Making sure there are places for motorized scooters, ramps, and smooth surfaces is critical."
- "Need more activities for disabled and/or senior citizens."

The City of Goshen updated its ADA Transition Plan in 2019. There were specific actions identified in that plan for several parks and facilities. Progress towards making those changes will be identified in the park specific evaluation in the Needs Analysis section of this plan. By incorporating the transition plan review into the parks planning process, the city can better manage and track efforts towards improved accessibility.

The following facilities were identified in the 2019 updated City of Goshen ADA Transition Plan:

- Pringle Park Fidler Pavilion
- Millrace Power House
- Shanklin Park Riverside Pavilion, Warming Building, and Kiwanis



Photo credit: The Goshen News

## *"New Fully Inclusive Playground Now Open to Public"*

*The Goshen News (October 13, 2019)*

*The City of Goshen's first-ever fully inclusive playground at Hay Park, 1414 W. Plymouth Ave., is now open to the public.*

*The City, donors and the community celebrated the opening of Kerry's Kids Playground with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday, Oct. 3.*

*With ramps and special-equipment features, every part of the playground is accessible to residents of all ages, regardless of mobility or developmental challenges.*

*"We know this park will be a park all ages and all abilities will be able to enjoy together," Mayor Jeremy Stutsman said at the ceremony. "We have been working on this park for three and a half years, and it warms my heart to know that it has been completed."*

*At the event, special thanks were given to Laura Elliott, a Goshen High School student who wrote to Mayor Stutsman suggesting the addition of a fully inclusive playground, as well as donors who contributed to bring the project to life.*

*Two dedications were made during the ceremony: A plaque was placed on a bench near the playground's entrance in honor of Rusty A. Elliott, Laura's father, who passed away while the design planning process was ongoing. Goshen Hospital dedicated an accessible drinking fountain in honor of having received their fourth Magnet recognition for providing the highest quality of nursing care to patients.*

*This playground became a reality thanks to a committee made up of residents and City staff who worked on its design, as well as funding from the Kerry Finnigan Rupright Foundation, the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, BraunAbility and the Indiana Housing and Development Authority (IHCD).*

*The IHCD, through its CreatiNG Places program, provided a matching grant of \$50,000 for a crowdfunding campaign via Patronicity. Thanks to the community's support, the Goshen Parks & Recreation Department was able to raise nearly \$75,000, exceeding the original goal of \$50,000.*

## GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES FOR ADA COMPLAINTS

The City of Goshen has established grievance procedures for ADA complaints. The procedures are posted on the city website.

The procedures established in this policy, set out a system for resolving complaints of disability discrimination in a prompt and fair manner. Anyone wishing to file a grievance complaint can obtain the grievance form from the Goshen Human Resource Manager at 574-534-8475 or through the City website at [www.goshenindiana.org](http://www.goshenindiana.org). Instead of submitting the grievance form, a written grievance may be submitted which includes the following:

- 1.) Name, address and phone number of the person filing the grievance.
- 2.) Name, address and phone number of the person alleging the ADA violation, if different than the person filing the grievance.
- 3.) Description of the alleged violation and the remedy sought.

The City of Goshen Human Resource Manager will acknowledge the receipt of the grievance within ten (10) working days.

The Human Resource Manager will forward the complaint to the City of Goshen's legal department which will conduct the investigation necessary to determine the validity of the alleged violation. The legal department may contact the grievant to discuss the matter as part of the investigation. The legal department will submit a written findings and a proposal resolution within forty five (45) calendar days of receiving the complaint from the Human Resource Manager. If a resolution of grievance is reached during this investigation, the resolution will be documented in the ADA Coordinator's file.

If the grievance is not satisfied with the legal department's determination, the grievant may request a hearing before the Goshen Board of Public Works and Safety. The hearing will be scheduled within thirty (30) days of the request unless the grievant and City agree on a different date. The grievance request for a hearing before the Board of Public Works and Safety must be requested within fifteen (15) days of receiving the legal department's written findings and proposal resolution. At the hearing the grievant may appear with or without legal counsel. The grievant will be given the opportunity to present evidence, and/or witnesses and will be given the opportunity to question any witnesses that the City presents at the Board of Public Works and Safety hearing.

At any time during the process, a grievant may file a complaint directly with the U.S. Department of Justice or other appropriate state or federal agency.

The resolution of any specific grievance will require consideration of the specific nature of the disability, the nature of the access to services, programs, or facilities at issue, the essential eligibility requirements for participation, the health and safety of others and the degree to which an accommodation would constitute a fundamental alteration to the program, service, or facility, or cause undue hardship to City. Accordingly, the resolution of any grievance does not create a precedent for any future grievance.

### CITY RESOURCES

The City of Goshen provides the following resources on their webpage related to American Disabilities Act 1990.

<https://goshenindiana.org/ada-resources>

- Grievance Procedures for ADA Complaints
- City of Goshen Grievance Procedure
- Grievance Form for ADA Complaints
- ADA Transition Plan
- ADA Transition Plan update (December 19, 2019)
- Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act

### ADA COORDINATOR

The City of Goshen has designated the Human Resource Manager (Rita Huffman) as the ADA Coordinator for the city. The ADA Coordinator can be contacted at [humanresources@goshencity.com](mailto:humanresources@goshencity.com), (574) 534-8475, or at the City office (202 S. 5th Street).



# Public Participation

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Community engagement was a critical component of the Goshen Parks and Recreation Master Plan and sought to achieve the following:

1. To engage the public in an important planning process that will set the agenda for the Parks and Recreation Department for the next five years.
2. Collect valuable information on the Parks system for the Needs Analysis component of the plan.

Comments received during any of the events or through the community survey, workshop, or open house are incorporated into this plan. These comments have informed the Needs Analysis section and guided the development of the goals and actions outlined in this plan. This input can be found in a variety of places based on the type of feedback. General information will be found in this section, such as details on the outreach strategy, demographics on who completed the survey or system-wide comments while programming, trails, or park-specific input is found in the Needs Analysis section.

As outlined in the introduction, a series of actions and events served as the outreach strategy for this plan.

## PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETINGS

## PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF MEETINGS

## 10 MEMBER STEERING COMMITTEE

## MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

## DRAFT PLAN COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

## GOALS SURVEY

## PHOTO SURVEY

## FINAL PLAN PRESENTATION

## PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETINGS

As part of the Master Plan process, the Parks and Recreation Board included tasks on their August, September, and October board meeting agendas to identify needs, establish the Mission and Vision Statements, and review goals and actions for the Master Plan. They also reviewed the draft plan prior to submission to IDNR in November 2023. They were also involved in the final plan development through a review of the plan based on IDNR comments and a final plan community presentation in Spring 2024. After the Master Plan received the final review by IDNR, the board passed a resolution adopting the final Master Plan.

## PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF MEETINGS

The professional staff for the Parks and Recreation Department have the most practical knowledge regarding the parks, trails, and programs offered by the City of Goshen. They spend countless hours in maintaining the parks system amenities, as well as researching, planning, and conducting a variety of events and programs throughout the year. This hands-on experience made them a very valuable resource during the planning process. The staff met to discuss current operations, public needs, and departmental goals. This team developed the community survey questions and assisted with promotion at regular parks events that were held during the planning process. Follow-up conversations and many emails were exchanged to collect information on maintenance, facilities, programming, and communications. This team assisted in developing, promoting, and hosting of the community workshop and open house.



## 10 MEMBER STEERING COMMITTEE

A volunteer Steering Committee was formed of residents, partner agency representatives, a City of Goshen Planning Department staff member, a Park Board member, the Parks Board youth advisor, and a Goshen Community Schools representative. This group provided valuable insight from a resident or system user's perspective, as well as that of their particular interest. This group met in advance of the community workshop to finalize the event's format and materials. Committee members attended the workshop to assist and facilitate conversations and gathering of feedback.

The committee met to review community comments from the survey and workshop to develop the Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals for the plan. These were then shared with the Parks and Recreation Board for final review and inclusion in the draft plan.

The committee received a copy of the draft plan and held a meeting to discuss and review the document prior to submission to IDNR in November 2023.

This group then reconvened to review and refine the final plan after comments were received from the IDNR. They helped with the planning, promotion, and hosting of the final plan presentation in Spring 2024.

Meeting presentations are included in the appendix of this plan.

## MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Goshen Parks Master Plan Community Survey was designed to collect information from the public about the Goshen Parks and Recreation system regarding needs, usage, and suggestions. The survey was provided in both English and Spanish along with the promotional flyers and posters. Questions ranged from very specific questions regarding respondents' use and satisfaction with programs and facilities to more open-ended questions allowing for written comments such as "What is your favorite thing" or "What could be improved with programs, trails, and parks?" The survey was open from August 9 - September 22 and promoted the Community Workshop on August 29, 2023, from 4-6pm at the Shanklin Park Pavilion. There were 595 surveys collected during this process.

Relevant survey responses related to Programs and Events, Trails, and Parks are provided under each Needs Analysis section header in this plan. The entire survey along with all written comments are provided in the appendix.

The survey also provided the opportunity for respondents to leave their email address in the last question to be added to the communications list for notification of additional public engagement opportunities.

### Government

### Living

### Business

### Visit

## Welcome

Welcome to the City of Goshen, Indiana. This comprehensive resource provides residents of our community and visitors quick access to information about local government, community planning, recreational activities, upcoming events and more.

"Everything comes together in Goshen...or more precisely, everybody. There's a special spirit that has always been here and it's wonderfully contagious. You'll see it all over town, from neighbors who help the new family on the block get moved in, to volunteers who help at a school. People here are committed to working for the common good, which has helped make Goshen an uncommonly great place to live, work and visit. We're a richly diverse community of folks, making this a place where you're as likely to live near young professionals as retirees, and as apt to meet friends at First Fridays as at a concert...at the college or just strolling downtown."

## Parks Survey

What amenities would you like to see in our parks? Answer our survey by September 22, 2023.

[Parks Survey - English](#)

[Encuesta de Parques](#)

Explore the stunning parks of Goshen and share your photos with us!

## Goshen 311

 [REPORT AN ISSUE](#)

 [FREQUENTLY ASKED](#)

 [DEVELOPER RESOURCES](#)

 [PARKS & RECREATION](#)

 [BIDDING OPPORTUNITIES](#)

 [POLICE DEPARTMENT](#)

 [JOB OPPORTUNITIES](#)

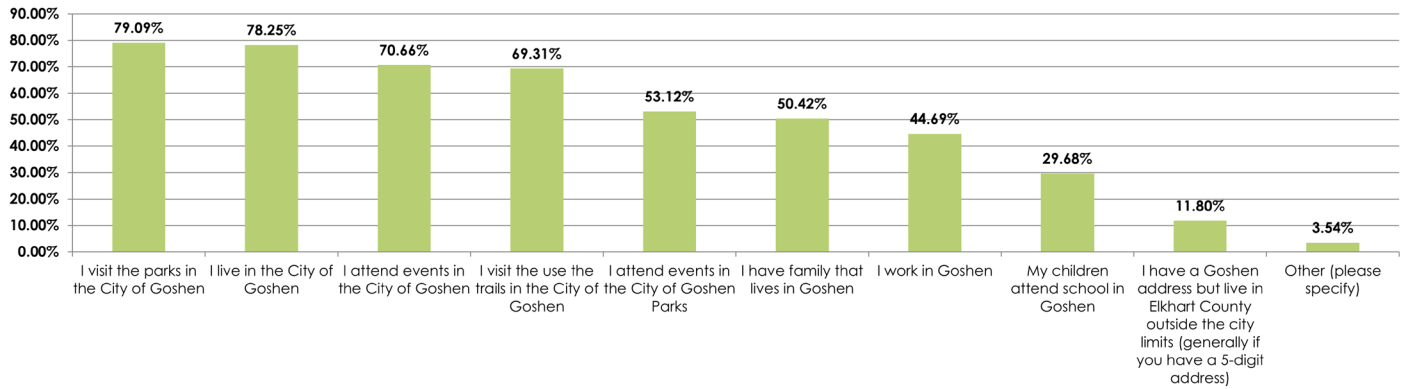
 [GALLERY](#)

 [PAY CITY FEES](#)

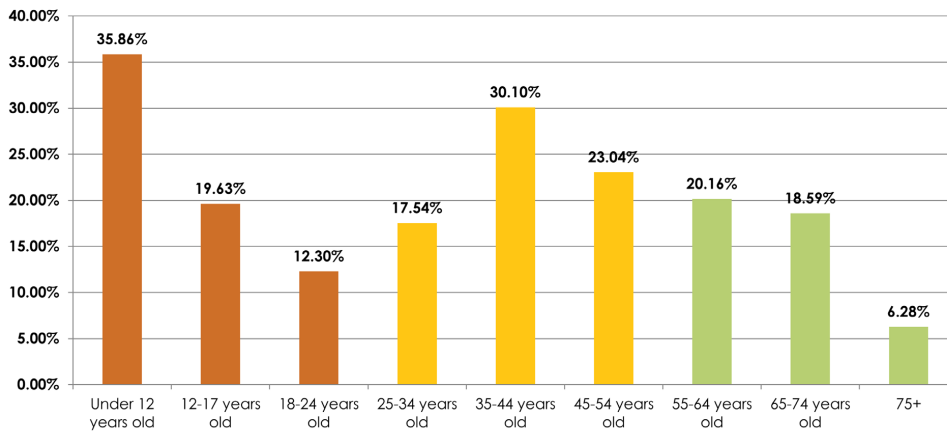
 [CITY NOTES](#)

## WHO TOOK THE SURVEY?

Please tell us what your interest is in Goshen. (Check all that apply)

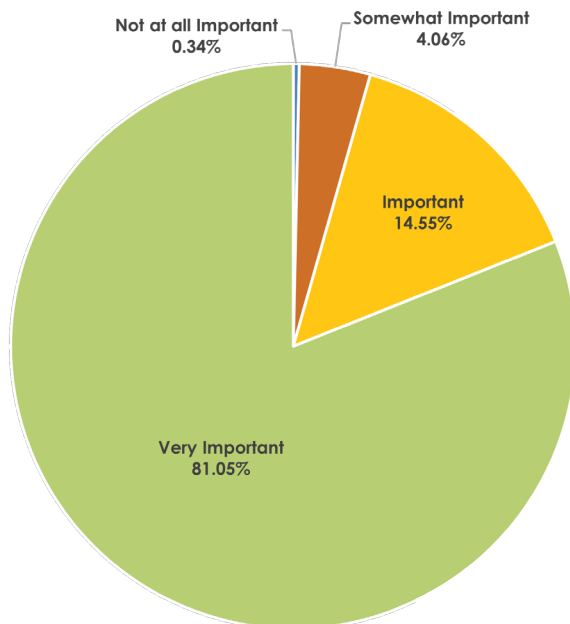


What ages make up your household? (select all that apply)

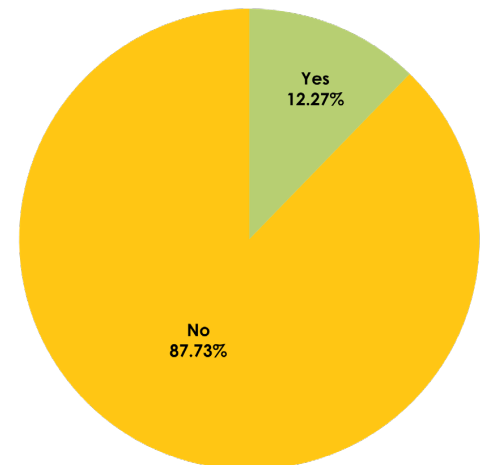


**49**  
Average Age of Respondents

How would you rate the importance of protecting natural open space and providing recreational opportunities in parks and via trails and waterways in the City of Goshen.



Does anyone in your household have a disability or mobility needs?



## COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

This workshop provided participants the opportunity to review the parks and trails map to identify issues or concerns. The workshop was held on August 29 from 4:00-6:00 PM at the Shrock Pavilion at Shanklin Park, which is accessible for those with limited mobility. The event was set with three main areas to facilitate discussions about the parks system.

One table provided information on parks programs and sheets that ask what amenities they would like to see and to identify the location for those amenities and programs. These same sheets were provided at the City's September 1 First Fridays event to collect additional information.

Another table provided the currently available GIS-based trail map. There were some concerns that the City's trails data was not accurate, so participants were asked to identify any discrepancies in the current map and what they have experienced while using the trail system. To gather public input on current service gaps in the trail system, a map with a buffer of 5-, 10-, and 20-minute walk times to a trail access point was provided. This map illustrated the coverage and availability of trails in the city. In addition, the public could leave general or trail-specific comments directly on the trails map or on sheets provided.

The last table had two parks maps, one was a simple map of the parks in the city and the other identified a buffer of 5-, 10-, and 20-minute walk times to a park's access points. These maps provided participants with a visual reference to discuss availability and distribution of the parks throughout the city and help to identify areas of Goshen that might be underserved with parks and facilities.

This event also served to promote the Community Survey and a computer was available for attendees to use to complete the survey on-site.

There were 16 community members in attendance in addition to 1 council member who is a resident, 1 planning staff member who is a resident; and 4 parks staff.

The exhibits, comments, and sign-in sheets for the workshop are provided in the appendix. A sample of comments received at this event are:

- Provide more activities for disabled and/or seniors
- Need more parking at Abshire and Fidler Pond
- More connections from the Pumpkinvine to Millrace and Powerhouse Parks
- Add a trail head at Mullet Park

## COMMUNITY SURVEY & WORKSHOP PROMOTION

The survey and workshop were promoted through:

- Flyers, posters, and conversations (Spanish and English) at events including the Triathlon, Free Family Movie Night, the Farmers Market, Goshen Dam Beer Run, Group Cycle Ride, Touch-a-Truck, and First Fridays.
- The City's website was updated during this process to promote the survey and the workshop.
- Social media posts on the Goshen Parks Facebook page on August 11, August 22, and September 20.
- City of Goshen Parks and Recreation email contact list of approximately 4,000 recipients on August 22 and September 20.
- City of Goshen blog post and newsletter.
- Good of Goshen community calendar and newsletter of upcoming events.
- Goshen utility bill notice. The following message was included on 4,211 bills sent on August 28 and an additional 5,595 bills sent on September 11 to Goshen utility customers:

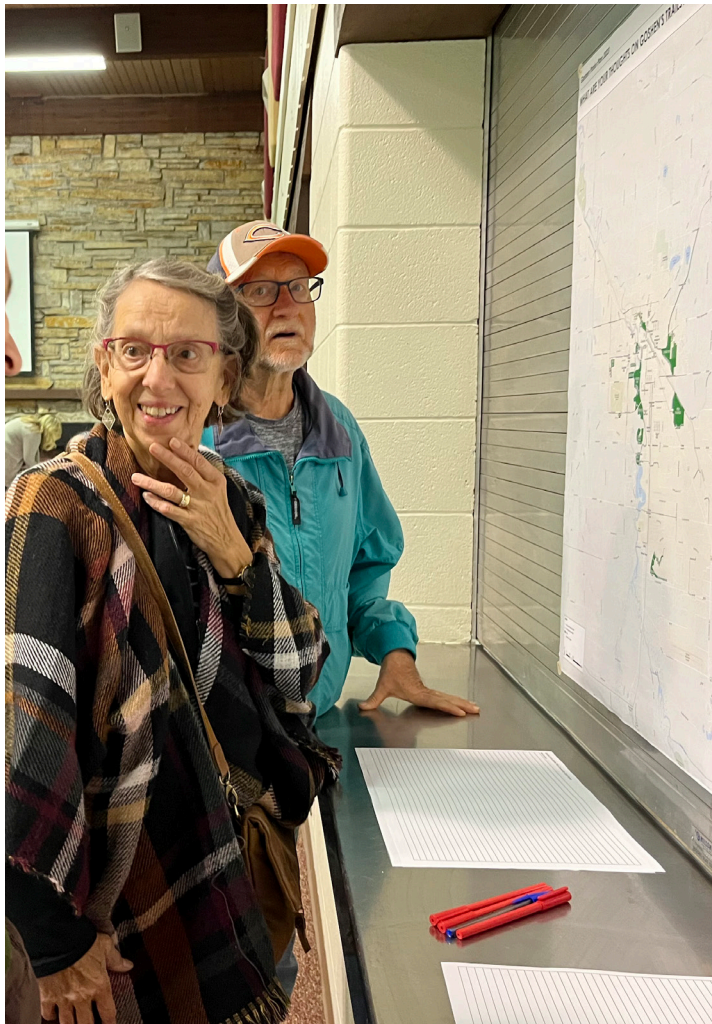
*Goshen Parks Department is updating the Parks Master Plan & needs your help. <https://rb.gy/8Inf1>*

*El Departamento de Parques de Goshen está actualizando el Plan Maestro de Parques y necesitamos su ayuda Espanol - <https://rb.gy/v5d>*

Comments received during the Community Workshop are included in the topic area Needs Analysis section. Copies of the comment sheets are provided in the appendix.



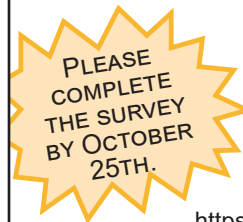




## City of Goshen Parks Master Plan

Goshen is undertaking a master planning process to help guide future decision making for our Parks, Recreational Programs, and Trails.

Please take a few minutes to provide your thoughts on the Master Plan **Mission, Vision, Values and Goals!**



SCAN ME  
or type URL below



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5K5FRLB>



  
<https://goshenindiana.org/parks-rec>

# Decide the Future of Goshen Parks!

Scan the codes to take both surveys!

Community Survey



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/goshen-parks>

Photo Survey



<https://arcg.is/WanHb>

  
<https://goshenindiana.org/parks-rec>

# ¡Decida el futuro de los Parques de Goshen!

¡Escanea los códigos para realizar ambas encuestas!

Encuesta comunitaria



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/goshen-parks?lang=es>

Encuesta fotográfica



<https://arcg.is/WanHb>

## COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

The Open House offered attendees a chance to review and comment on the proposed Master Plan's:

- Mission & Vision Statements,
- Community Values,
- Master Plan Goals, and
- Preliminary Inventory & Needs Analysis.

The Open House was held on October 18, 4:00-6:00 PM at the Shanklin Park Schrock Pavilion. This Pavilion has a entrance ramp and accessible bathrooms for those with mobility limitations. The event was promoted through:

- Flyers and Posters (Spanish and English)
- City's website was updated to promote the open house
- Social media posts on the Goshen Parks Facebook page on October 6th
- City of Goshen Parks and Recreation email contact list of approximately 4,000 recipients on October 12 and October 20. In addition, on October 11, an email promoting the event was sent to 182 recipients including the board, steering committee, and those who provided their email on the community survey or at an event, asking for them participate and to share the invitation with their contact lists.

There were 13 community members in addition to the City of Goshen Mayor, 2 council members who are residents, and 3 Park staff. Comments received during the Open House ranged from general comments, such as expanding the number of days per year that restrooms and water is available to the public, to more specific comments, such as adding a community garden and small play equipment to Water Tower Park. The comments are included in the topic area Needs Analysis section. The actual comment sheets are provided in the appendix.

## GOALS SURVEY

This second community survey was designed to get specific feedback on the proposed Master Plan Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Community Values and Master Plan Goals. A total of 17 surveys were received.

The Goals Survey was promoted through:

- Flyers and Posters (Spanish and English)
- City's website was updated to promote the Goals Survey

## PHOTO SURVEY

This survey is a fun way to get the public directly involved in the planning process and plan development. One of the goals identified during this process was to promote community involvement in the parks system. This survey was intended to allow park users to share their photos to populate some of the plan pages. By including images of actual park uses, it was hoped that the community would see itself in the parks and strengthen community ties to the park system.

Participants were asked to upload photos that represent what they love about Goshen Parks and Trails. The survey is in English and Spanish and is available September 1 through the spring of 2024.

The Photos Survey was promoted through:

- Flyers, Posters, and Conversations (Spanish and English) at First Fridays
- City's website was updated to promote the Photo Survey
- Social media posts on the Goshen Parks Facebook page on September 20



*This photo was submitted through the Photo Survey.*

FINAL PLAN PRESENTATION

TO BE ADDED AFTER EVENT ON 3/21/2024





# DRAFT

# Needs Analysis

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The Needs Analysis is organized three topic areas 1. **Methods** which outlines the methods used for the analysis, 2. **Summary of park system needs** based on park board and staff feedback and public input and 3. **Detailed analysis of Programs and Special Events, Trails, and individual Parks**. Specific needs identified through a physical review, discussion with park board and staff and public comments are included in each of these evaluations.

## METHODS

This section utilized a combination of qualitative and quantitative information along with a Level of Service strategy to analyze the local needs. These methods look at factors including expressed public need as gathered through community engagement efforts, input from the Parks Department Staff and Board, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources park land acreage per capita recommendations. Analysis methods also included a comparison of park-related factors with other cities in the area to provide local context for reviewing the Goshen Park system.

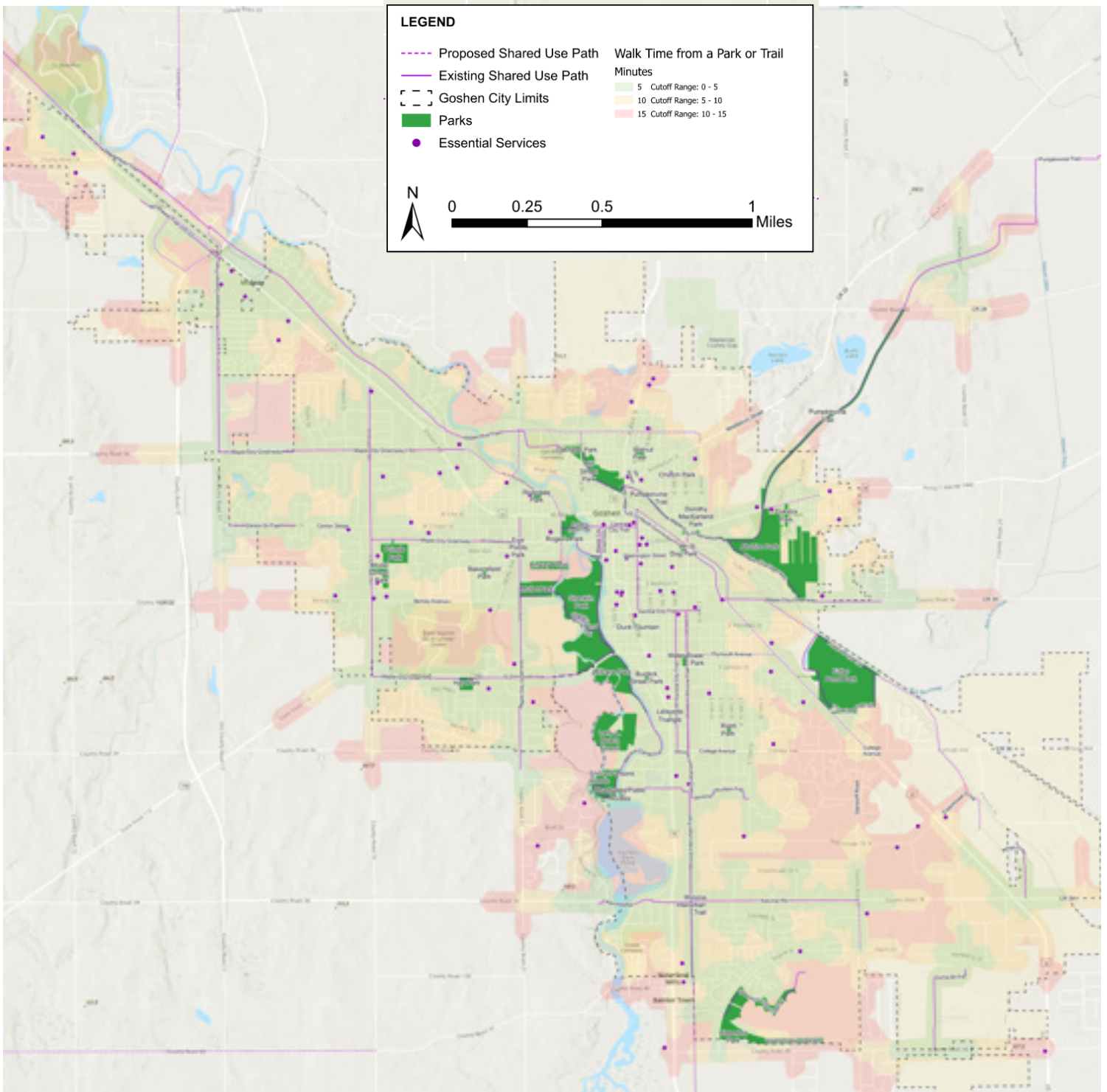
The Needs Analysis for the plan is based on a combination of a review of current conditions in the city as well as the community values and stated needs as collected and reviewed through public engagement. The public input, including that of the Parks and Recreation Board and Master Plan Steering Committee, along with the practical knowledge and expertise of the Parks and Recreation Department staff. All of these sources were valuable in identifying and analyzing the needs of the community. This review of current conditions and public requests for Programs, Trails, and Parks was used to establish the Priorities and Action Schedule for the next 5 years.

## LOCAL LEVEL OF SERVICE

To review if the Goshen Parks system offers an adequate supply of park land, this process used the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Level of Services guidelines for locally owned land of 20 acres per 1,000 people. For Goshen, that would indicate that an adequate amount of park land would be 693 acres for a population of 34,638. Currently Goshen has 541 acres (owned and managed) in its 28 parks and trail system or a short fall of 152 acres. Currently Goshen's acres of park per 1,000 people is 15.6. The Parks Department acknowledges this deficit and has included items in the Actions and Priorities for this Master Plan.

As Goshen is located in Elkhart County and its residents are also County residents, we included the evaluation of park land for the County Parks here as well. According to the Indiana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Elkhart County, with an estimated population of 205,560, should have just over 4,111 acres of park land. In this same report, the County is listed as having just over 2,673 acres, or a short-fall of over 1,423 acres.

In addition to size and quality of trails and parks in the system, an analysis of access to parks by walking was also completed. The map on the adjacent page shows parks the estimated walk time from a park or trail in minutes. This map was shared with the Steering Committee and at the Community Open House in August 2023 to solicit feedback and help to identify any areas that are lacking connected trail and park facilities.





# DRAFT

## NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION (NRPA)

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the field of parks and recreation by providing professional development, advocacy, grants and programs, research, and publications. The 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review is a summary of data collected from over 1,000 park and recreation agencies across the United States. The typical agency that participates in the NRPA Park Metric is a jurisdiction with population of 45,000 that manages 22 parks in 571 acres. As these statistics are similar to the City of Goshen we also conducted a review of the NRPA typical agency with the Goshen Parks and Recreation Department.

	NRPA 2023	Goshen
Number of parks	22	28
Acres of parkland	571	541
Resident per park	2,287	1,237
Acres of parkland per 1,000 residents	10.8	15.6
Resident per playground	3,759	2,887

## BENCHMARK COMMUNITIES

This process included a review of statistics for Goshen and 3 other cities in the area. This analysis provides another, more localized comparison of community norms for Parks and Recreation Departments in Northern Indiana.

Agency	2023 Population	City Size (Sq. Mi.)	Population per Sq. Mi.	Total Parks Acres Owned or Managed	Total Parks Acres per 1,000 Population
Source:	<i>worldpopulationreview.com</i>	<i>Census.gov (Wikipedia)</i>	<i>(calculation)</i>	<i>Most Recent Local Parks Master Plan</i>	<i>(calculation)</i>
Goshen	34,638	17.95	1,930	541	15.6
Valparaiso	34,991	16.43	2,130	714	20.4
Michigan City	32,069	20.59	1,558	705	22.0
Elkhart	53,945	28.47	1,895	411	7.6

Agency	Total Trail Miles	Total Trail Miles per 1,000 Population	Total Park Employees	Employees per 10,000 Population
Source:	<i>Most Recent Local Parks Master Plan</i>	<i>(calculation)</i>	<i>gateway.ifionline.org</i>	<i>(calculation)</i>
Goshen	34	1.0	108	31.18
Valparaiso	22	0.6	199	56.87
Michigan City	9.1	0.3	145	45.22
Elkhart	not published	-	210	38.93

Agency	2022 Disbursements for Park & Recreation	Disbursements per Acre	Disbursements per Capita
Source:	<i>gateway.ifionline.org</i>	<i>(calculation)</i>	<i>(calculation)</i>
Goshen	\$2,582,176	\$4,772.97	\$74.55
Valparaiso	\$7,771,291	\$10,884.16	\$222.09
Michigan City	\$6,210,372	\$8,811.54	\$193.66
Elkhart	\$2,719,971	\$6,617.93	\$50.42

Valparaiso and Michigan City were selected as they are similar in size to Goshen and in the region. Elkhart was selected even though it is larger, it is the other major city in Elkhart County and many residents from the cities move between them for work and leisure. Goshen is locally better-situated with parks land, parks land per population, and per capita spending for parks than the City of Elkhart. Compared to Valparaiso and Michigan City, they are below in all of the data points of park land acres, per population, and per capita spending. Goshen is the lowest in total number of employees and employees per 10,000 of population. This is consistent with comments received during our process, requesting more funding and staff to manage Goshen's parks and trails.

## KEY ISSUES & DEPARTMENT NEEDS

During discussions with Parks and Recreation Board and staff the following needs were identified:

- Additional funding for operations, maintenance, and programs
- There is limited staffing, making it difficult to complete all of the tasks they would like to do, such as trail maintenance leading to deferred maintenance issues.
- They would like to increase the ability to provide additional recreational and educational opportunities, specifically for senior citizens and youth programs
- Investigate youth introductory sports training and development programs
- Funding is needed for deferred maintenance items
- Capital campaign for aging facility replacement would be very beneficial
- Research ways in which the Parks and Recreation system can improve social connections, including improving mental health and acting as hubs for social connections
- Identify ways to engage with teens who are looking for passive recreation and spaces where they can congregate and socialize.

Many of the needs identified by the board and staff are consistent with issues identified by the public through the survey and public events. Actions to assist in resolving these issues have been incorporated into the Priorities and Action section of this plan.

## COMMUNITY COMMENTS (GENERAL PARK SYSTEM TOPICS)

This process focused on identifying issues that need to be addressed, but also collecting information on what the Goshen Parks and Recreation system is doing right. A significant component of this analysis is based on comments and feedback from the public received through the community survey, workshop, open house, and goals survey. During this process, we collected over 1,500 comments. Using excel spreadsheets to sort the comments, we were able to classify comments and address them in this section based on park system responses.

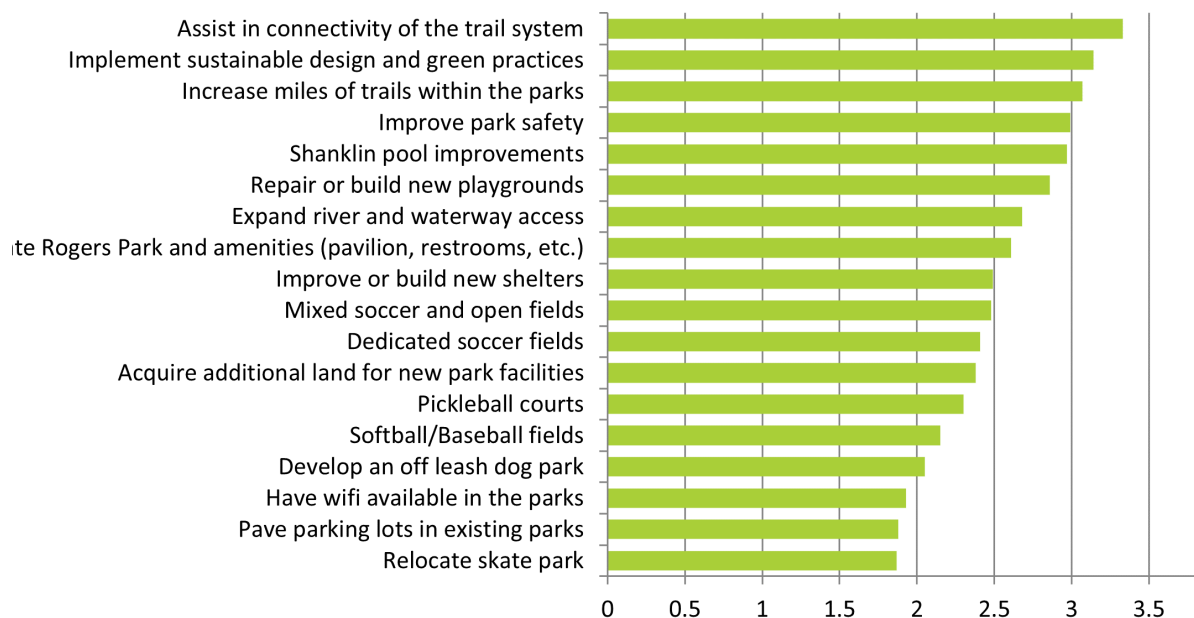
In addition, any specific program, trail, or park comments are noted in those sections of this analysis. All of the comments and survey response data has been compiled and is provided in the appendix.



# DRAFT

As part of the community survey, respondents provided insight to the overall management of the parks system.

When asked **“How would you rate the importance of these IMPROVEMENTS to the Goshen Parks over the next 5 years?”** Respondents ranked the following improvements:



Weighted Average: Not at all Important (1) → Very Important (4)

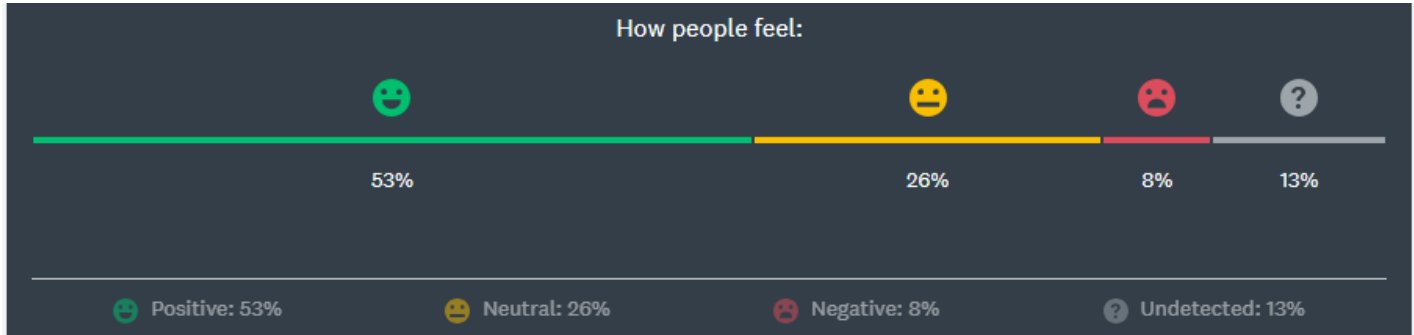
To gather input on the Parks alcohol policy, the survey asked **“Currently alcohol is not permitted in Goshen Parks. Should alcohol be allowed at park facilities for events through a permit process and if it is being served by a licensed caterer or bartender?”**

Of the 19 other responses, 3 were against, 2 indicated they did not have enough information and the rest were generally in favor with some restrictions, such as only if there is security, in pavilions without playgrounds, at private events such as weddings and other celebrations, or at special events such as concerts and food events.

	Percentage
Yes	25.4%
Yes, but only at private events inside the rental pavilions	20.8%
Yes, but only at public events in coordination with the Parks Department	15.5%
No	33.7%
Other (please specify)	4.6%



As the Parks offers private facility rentals, it was also useful to ask survey respondents ***“If you’ve ever rented or attended an event at a facility at a Goshen parks site, please indicate which facility(s) and describe how satisfied you were with the rental process, fees, experience, etc”***. This open-ended question allowed the 124 respondents that answered to identify which facilities they used and their satisfaction with the process. The graphic below provides a review of comments and a determination of if the comments were positive, neutral, or negative. The majority of respondents found the rental facility and process were either positive or neutral.



Two very important questions related to funding for the Parks Department were also included in the survey.

***“After FIRST seeking all applicable grants and donations, which of the following funding strategies would you support for additional improvements and growth of the Goshen parks, trails, and facilities?”***

Respondents were allowed to check all that applied to them. By far, most of the 333 respondents thought some provision should be made to increase funding for parks. Some of the comments listed as “Other” included boat rental fee increases, fundraisers, sponsorships, donations, or small fee at events. This information is important for the Parks Board and staff to use when discussing future department budgets and projects. It is gratifying that the community is so supportive of the parks system and recognizes that for the city to continue to offer the community spaces, program, and events offered by the department, financial resources must be available.

Small annual city park user tax	45.4%
Institute the use of a park bond for capital projects	43.5%
Establish a 1% food and beverage tax	38.1%
Increased program/facility fees	30.0%
Other (please specify)	12.6%
Include Goshen Parks and increase innkeeper's tax by 1%	9.9%
Parks, trails, and facilities should not be improved	1.8%

A similar question asked, ***“Costs for maintaining and developing parks and facilities may require increased future financial support via user fees, additional tax revenue, or park bonds. What is the additional annual amount your household would be willing to pay to improve and support growth of the Goshen Parks?”*** Of the 361 answers, most indicated they would be willing to provide some level of additional financial support to the Parks system. Nearly one-quarter of respondents would be willing to pay \$100 or more per year.

\$100 or more per year	22.44%
\$75-\$99 per year	13.02%
\$50-\$74 per year	14.13%
\$25-\$49 per year	19.67%
\$10-\$24 per year	19.39%
\$0	11.36%

## PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS

The Needs Analysis looks at program offerings paying special attention to those that were identified individually during the public engagement process. The analysis is organized by:

- Input from the Board and Staff
- Community identified need from the Community Survey and other comments
- A table of the programs and activities planned for 2024
- Review of programs and activities based on community identified needs or desires

## KEY ISSUES & DEPARTMENT NEEDS

The Parks staff are dedicated to providing a variety of exciting programs for all of Goshen's residents and visitors. Although the staff does a fantastic job planning and managing a variety of programs and special events, they see areas for improvement and to meet community needs and fulfill the department's goals. Some of the items identified by staff during the planning process include:

- Continue to research and planning for additional programs and events
- Identifying additional financial sponsors and community partners to improve the quality, quantity, and accessibility of programs and events
- There is limited staffing, making it difficult to develop and manage the volume of programs and events desired
- They would like to increase the ability to provide additional recreational and educational opportunities, specifically for senior citizens and youth programs
- Investigate youth introductory sports training and development programs
- Research ways in which the Parks and Recreation system can improve social connections, including improving mental health and acting as hubs for social connections
- Identify ways to engage with teens
- Need to train or hire trained staff to assist clients with special needs to ensure can participate in the programs that are interesting to them
- Work with City's Communication team to more effectively advertise and promote programs and events through a variety of platforms

Discover Day Camp and the Ballet program are two examples of a program that has trained staff to help provide a full-filling experience for participants with special needs. For the department to improve accessibility and engagement for the entire community in a wider-range of programs, regardless of ability, staff has identified the need to build and strengthen partnership within the community. These partnerships could be with organizations that have staff that could assist with programs. These organizations might also be able to train department staff, volunteers, or local caregivers in ways to help improve the experience of participants that need more individualized assistance. In addition to partners to provide technical support and training, the department is also focusing efforts to find financial sponsors and donors to offset costs for programs and increased levels of support for participants.

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The Community Survey asked several questions specific to the Goshen Parks and Recreation Department's programs and special events. The following pages provide survey summary information. All of the survey results are provided in the appendix.

An important question to ask the public was related to what programs were most popular and if the participants in those programs were satisfied with the experience. The chart to the left shows the programs listed in order of those that had the highest level of satisfaction. This ranking was determined by a weighted average of all responses on a scale of 1-5 where 1 was very dissatisfied and 5 was very satisfied. Of the 54 programs listed, 43 of them received a weighted average of 4 (satisfied) and the remaining 11 a weighted average of 3 (meets expectations). This high level of satisfaction indicates that the parks staff has a good understanding of the types of programs the community desires and that they are doing a good job of delivering them.

This direct feedback from program and event participants is good information for evaluating existing programs but can also help guide development and execution of new programs to be developed over the coming years.

In addition to the satisfaction rating of the program, it was important to ask the public if they were aware that the programs were offered. The second column lists the percent of the respondents that were aware that the program was offered. This response varies significantly based on the individual program or event and can show which activities need additional marketing or a modification to the communication strategy used. This result may also be a factor of newer programs as opposed to those that have been available for several years. This might be the issue with the Pop up Water Park which was a new event in 2023. The event was not well known, but left those that participated very satisfied. While more established programs like those offered at Shanklin Pool that were less highly rated but had a very high percent of public awareness.

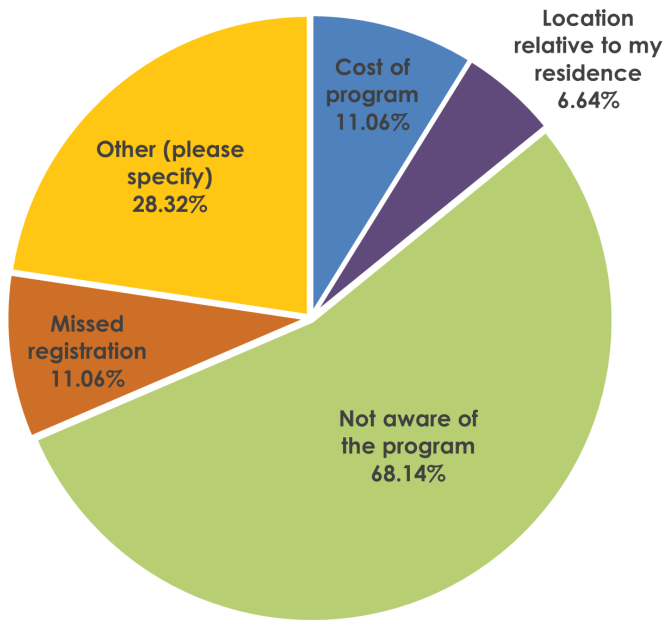
**If you've ever participated in one of the Goshen parks programs, please rate your satisfaction with the program.**

Program	% Aware of Program
Pop up Water Park	32%
Touch-a-Truck	58%
I Try Sailing	11%
Splash-Tastic Weekend	32%
Discovery Day Camp	31%
Letters from Santa	32%
Ballet	24%
Adult Triathlon	40%
Fantastic Fishing Derby	30%
Daddy-Daughter Dance	37%
Goshen Nights of Lights	53%
Sailing Camp	22%
Art Camp	27%
Zumba	20%
Maple City Walk	43%
Story Walk	52%
Kerry's Kids' and Teens' Triathlon	53%
I Try Scuba	7%
Fidler Pond Boat Rental	66%
Dinosaur Digs	17%
Young Champions Cheerleading	10%
Canoe Rental	47%
Adult Co-Ed Volleyball League	16%
Story Time in The Park	26%
Abshire Winter Activities	41%
Trunk-or-Treat	45%
Ping Pong	11%
Athletic Field Rental	20%
Pickleball	41%
Summer Swim Lessons	60%
Canoe Rentals	49%
Movies in the Park	58%
Community Gardens	40%
Basketball Open Gym	16%
Youth Basketball	31%
Adult Co-Ed Sand Volleyball	24%
Park to Park Program	10%
Youth Soccer League	44%
Scuba Classes	8%
Mother-Son Dance	20%
Dive-In Movie Night at Shanklin Pool	25%
Pound Fit	10%
Adult Men's Basketball	16%

Level of Satisfaction



If you did not participate in a Goshen parks program or activity, why not? (check all that apply)



This photo was submitted through the Photo Survey.



In addition to feedback from those who participated in park programs, it is also important to find out, if they have not attended the offered events, why? The pie chart to the left shows the results of this question. Reasons range from cost, location or missed registration. The most common response was that they were not aware of the program. This input is very important to the parks staff for them to use as they evaluate and review the existing and future communication efforts for programs and events.

Also interesting was the over 28% provided a written response in the “Other” option. These answers included issues such as a lack of time or interest in programs offered. When looking at responses related to a lack of interest, some comments were that the programs were not offered for the age group they desired, specifically that they were older and did not see the types of programs they felt were for them. A few notable comments were:

- “We utilized city parks much more frequently when we had children at home. Tend to think of the parks as for families rather than older adults and retirees.”
- “not interested. In general the topics presented are way too easy for the ages specified. After our kids were about age 4, the parks programming had little to offer other than sports.”
- “We love the park programs, and welcome the development of additional programs in the future.”
- “Lack of options for my desired age/ activity”
- “Limited options and many programs overlap in day/time”

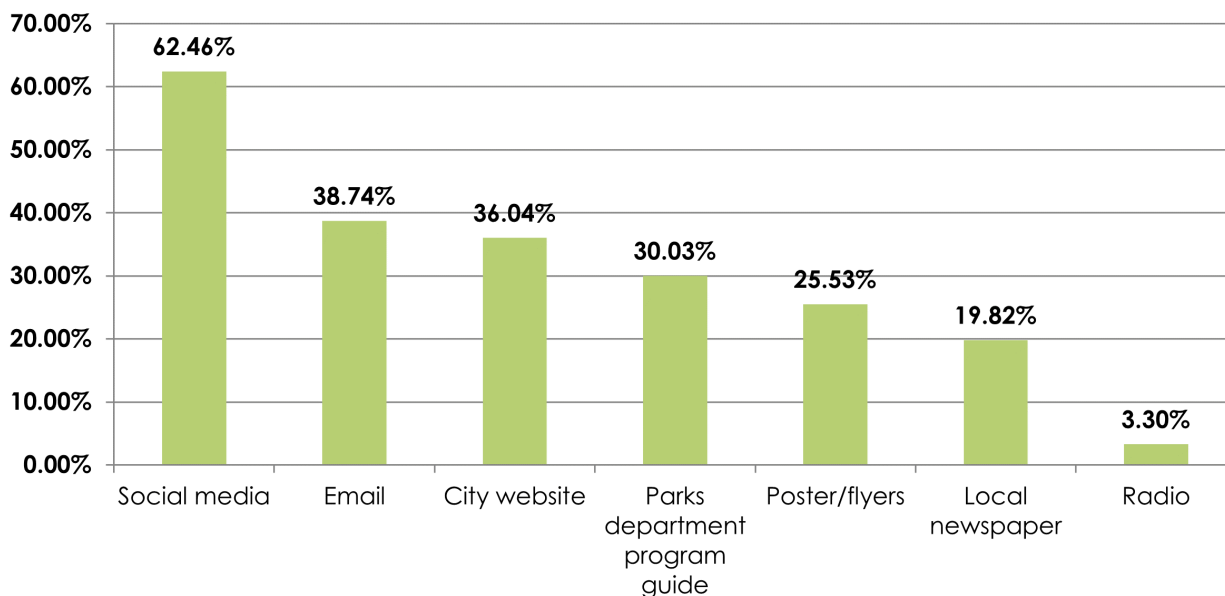
These comments offer more detailed information that can be used by staff when developing new programs or revamping existing ones to better serve the needs of the community.



Related to the lack of awareness, one very important question staff needed to know was how to most effectively communicate the availability and details of the department's programs and events. A question in the survey asks participants to select how they currently receive information about park activities and programs. Respondents could select as many choices that were appropriate for their experience. The chart below provides a summary of the survey responses. Of the 333 people who responded, the most common response by far was social media, with nearly 63%. Email, City Website, and Parks Program Guide all were in the 30% range.

Social media was by far the most common source with email and the website the second and third most common. These electronic options are likely due to the efforts by the staff to have a strong presence on social media and the extensive email list managed by the staff. Both of these methods were also used along with the website to promote the Master Plan process and inform the public of events and the availability of the draft plan. It should be noted that the Parks Guide which is available in printed form and on the website was also very popular. Annual print run of the guide is about 5,000 copies. Each year, approximately 3,100 of the printed guides are distributed to local schools. This information will help the staff develop an effective communication strategy that includes a variety of media for programs moving forward.

### How do you receive information about Goshen parks activities and programs? (Check all that apply)



## GOSHEN PARKS PROGRAM AND SERVICE MANAGEMENT MATRIX

	Community Partnerships	Self-directed	Leader- directed	Special Equipment	Inclusive Programming	At Risk Community	Pre-School	Teen	Senior	Family	Surveys	Evaluation Forms	Camp	Special Event	Program	Leisure Activity	Health & Wellness	Arts	Aquatic	Physical	Emotional	Social
Adult Basketball		X	X					X				X					X			X	X	X
Adult Softball		X	X					X				X					X			X	X	X
Adult Triathlon			X		X			X	X			X		X			X		X	X	X	X
Adult Volleyball		X	X					X				X					X			X	X	X
Art Camp	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X		X		X	X	X
Basketball Camp			X		X		X					X	X				X			X	X	X
Basketball League			X		X		X					X					X			X	X	X
Daddy Daughter Dance		X	X		X		X	X		X		X				X	X	X		X	X	X
Dance in the City		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X	X
Disc Golf*		X				X		X	X	X		X				X	X			X	X	X
Discovery Day Camp			X		X							X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X
Fidler Pond Boating		X					X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X				X	X
Fidler Pond Fishing*		X					X	X	X	X					X	X					X	X
Fishing Derby*		X						X	X	X		X			X	X					X	X
Free Lunch Program*	X	X	X		X	X		X		X		X			X	X	X				X	X
I Try Sailing*		X	X	X		X		X	X	X		X			X		X		X	X	X	X
Jiu Jitsu			X					X	X	X		X			X		X			X	X	X
Kids' Triathlon			X		X			X				X		X			X		X	X	X	X
Lap Swim		X						X	X			X			X		X		X	X	X	X
Maple City Health Zumba	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		X			X		X			X	X	X
Maple City Walk			X		X			X	X	X		X		X			X		X	X	X	X
Mother Son Dance		X	X		X		X	X		X		X				X	X			X	X	X
Movies in the Parks *		X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X		X	X			

As shown in the table, the City of Goshen Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of programs and events to meet the many needs of the community. This program and service matrix provides details regarding the type and target audience for each of the programs and events offered by the department. In addition, the matrix identifies if the program or event provides the participants with a Physical, Emotional, and Social benefit.

\*special equipment required and either park or participant provided.



	Community Partnerships	Self-directed	Leader- directed	Special Equipment	Inclusive Programming	At Risk Community	Pre-School	Teen	Senior	Family	Surveys	Evaluation Forms	Camp	Special Event	Program	Leisure Activity	Health & Wellness	Arts	Aquatic	Physical	Emotional	Social
Open Green Space*		X			X	X	X	X	X	X						X	X	X		X	X	X
Park to Park*			X		X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Pickleball*		X			X			X	X	X		X			X		X			X	X	X
Ping Pong*		X			X			X	X	X		X			X		X			X	X	X
Playgrounds*		X		X			X	X	X	X						X	X	X		X	X	X
Pop up Water Park		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X			X	X	X	X
River Canoe Trip		X																				
Run the Halls*							X	X	X	X												
Sailing Camp		X	X	X		X		X	X			X	X				X		X	X	X	X
Skiing		X				X	X	X	X	X		X				X	X			X	X	X
Soccer Camp			X		X		X					X	X				X			X	X	X
Soccer League			X		X		X					X					X			X	X	X
Splashtastic Slide the Hill		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X			X	X	X	X
Spring Concert*	X		X		X	X	X	X				X		X	X		X	X		X	X	X
Story Time in the Parks*	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X
Story Walk*	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X			X	X	X
Swim Lessons			X		X	X	X	X		X		X			X		X		X	X	X	X
Touch a Truck*	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X	X			X	X	X
Trunk or Treat*	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X	X			X	X	X
Tubing*		X				X	X	X	X	X		X				X	X			X	X	X
Walk with a Doc*	X	X	X		X			X	X	X		X		X		X	X			X	X	X
Walking and Bike Trails*		X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X				X	X			X	X	X
Zumba	X	X	X		X			X	X	X		X			X		X			X	X	X

The programs identified with the \* are those that are offered free of charge. 19 of the 46 programs that will be offered in 2024 and anticipated to be offered during the 2024-2029 Master Plan do not require a participation fee. These free programs represent over 41% of parks programs. In addition to a variety of free programs, the department established a scholarship program to off-set the program costs for participants who cannot afford the fee. This scholarship is supported by donations from local supporters. As of February 2024, four scholarships have already been provided to community members through this program. first come and when available supported by gifts and donations to fund

REVIEW OF PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES BASED ON COMMUNITY NEED OR DESIRE

Current programs and activities were evaluated to determine they are meeting the expectations and demands of the community. Comments received through the community survey, community workshop, and open house indicate that the public is generally satisfied with the programs and activities offered. A summary of comments and suggestions are listed below.

- Educational programs including art, astronomy, adult art programs, gardening, beekeeping, guided nature hikes and classes.
- Fitness classes including yoga, step aerobics, crossfit, and classes specifically geared towards seniors.
- Sports programs including toddler baseball, disc golf, cross country skiing, pickleball, football, foosball, horseshoes, tennis, adult sailing, winter sports, women’s basketball
- Recreational programs such as summer concert and theater series, dog inclusive events, games clubs, trail hiking club, bike clubs
- More activities for disabled and/or senior citizens
- Programs for youth, families and toddlers
- “More sensory-friendly options and programs developed specifically to meet the needs of families with children with disabilities”
- “Continue to hold the Maple City Walk on the Greenway and Pumpkinvine Trail”
- “Disc Golf as an activity in future years since Mullet Park has a course and it has been popular”
- “We love the park programs, and welcome the development of additional programs in the future”

Seventeen new programs were added to the department’s offerings since the last plan. These are identified on pages 18 and 19 of this document.

It should be noted that 6 programs that were identified in the prior plan are no longer offered as they are either offered by another provider or the instructor is no longer available to provide the class for the Goshen Parks and Recreation Department. Those programs are Water Aerobics, Rieth School Programs, Tae Kwon Do, Little Monets, Brushes & Brownies, and Dinosaur Digs

The Program and Service Management Matrix on pages 58-59 provides information on the programs that will be offered by the department in 2024 and likely though the 2024-2029 plan period. This table outlines important information for each program including:

- If the program is self-directed or lead by a leader or instructor
- If the program is inclusive for participants with a variety of skills and abilities
- The program’s audience including at-risk, age range, and for families
- The type of program including if it is an event, camp, etc. and if any special equipment is needed
- If the program addresses a physical, emotional, or social need

This table illustrates that the department is offering a wide-variety of programs to service the target audiences of toddlers, youth, senior, and families as identified in the community engagement process.

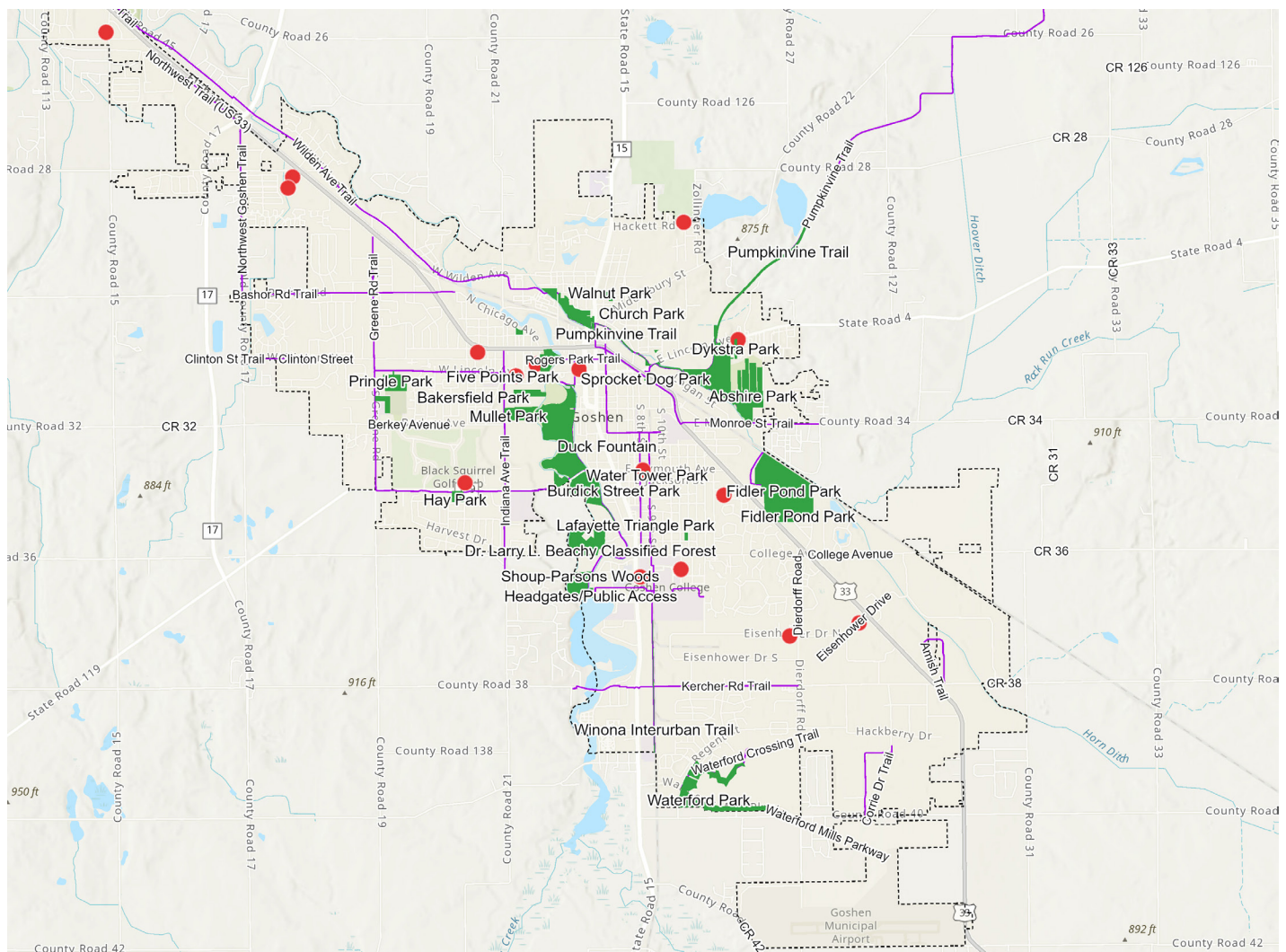
The table also provides information on area of interest including Leisure, Health & Wellness, Arts, Aquatic and Physical illustrating many of the desired programs and activities are offered by the department. An area to evaluate further would be additional fitness and educational classes and if other providers offer these activities in the community. The Parks and Recreation Department is an important source for recreation and wellness activities but not the only source. Many organizations, both for-profit and not-for-profit, have activities and resources to offer the community. Working in partnership with those organizations has been and will continue to be a priority for the department.

The Goshen Parks and Recreation Department is committed to offering programs and facilities that are inclusive and serve the community's needs. In general, all of the Goshen Parks and Recreation public buildings and playgrounds are accessible. Persons interested in participating in any of the offered programs are encouraged to contact the Parks Department for specific information and details. Accommodations will be made where practicable for most programs offered. Staff is happy to discuss program details in advance to see what will work best for participants. Although the department does not have trained assistance for programs, caregivers are welcome to engage and support their program participant.

It should also be mentioned that the city offers educational programming through the Environmental Resiliency Department (ERD) and Rieth Interpretive Center including Nature Hikes and School and Community Programs on a variety of topics. Some of the desired programs are nature and science educational programs may be more appropriate for the ERD and its interpretive staff. The survey results and draft plan were shared with the ERD so that the parks staff and the ERD staff can coordinate program offerings.

As part of this review we also mapped local gyms and recreational facilities in the plan area to gain an understanding of the local market. There were 17 entities that were identified through a review of the ESRI Business Analysis software for local businesses. They range from gyms, fitness and athletic clubs to a martial art studios and golf courses. The availability private gym and fitness facilities in the plan area to meet local demand fits well and is consistent with the Parks Programming focus on providing sports and recreational opportunities. The map below shows these facilities in relation of parks in the study area.

Goshen Parks and Recreation Department Program and Special Event Priorities and Action for the 2024-2029 Master Plan are located in that section of this plan starting on page 140.



## TRAILS

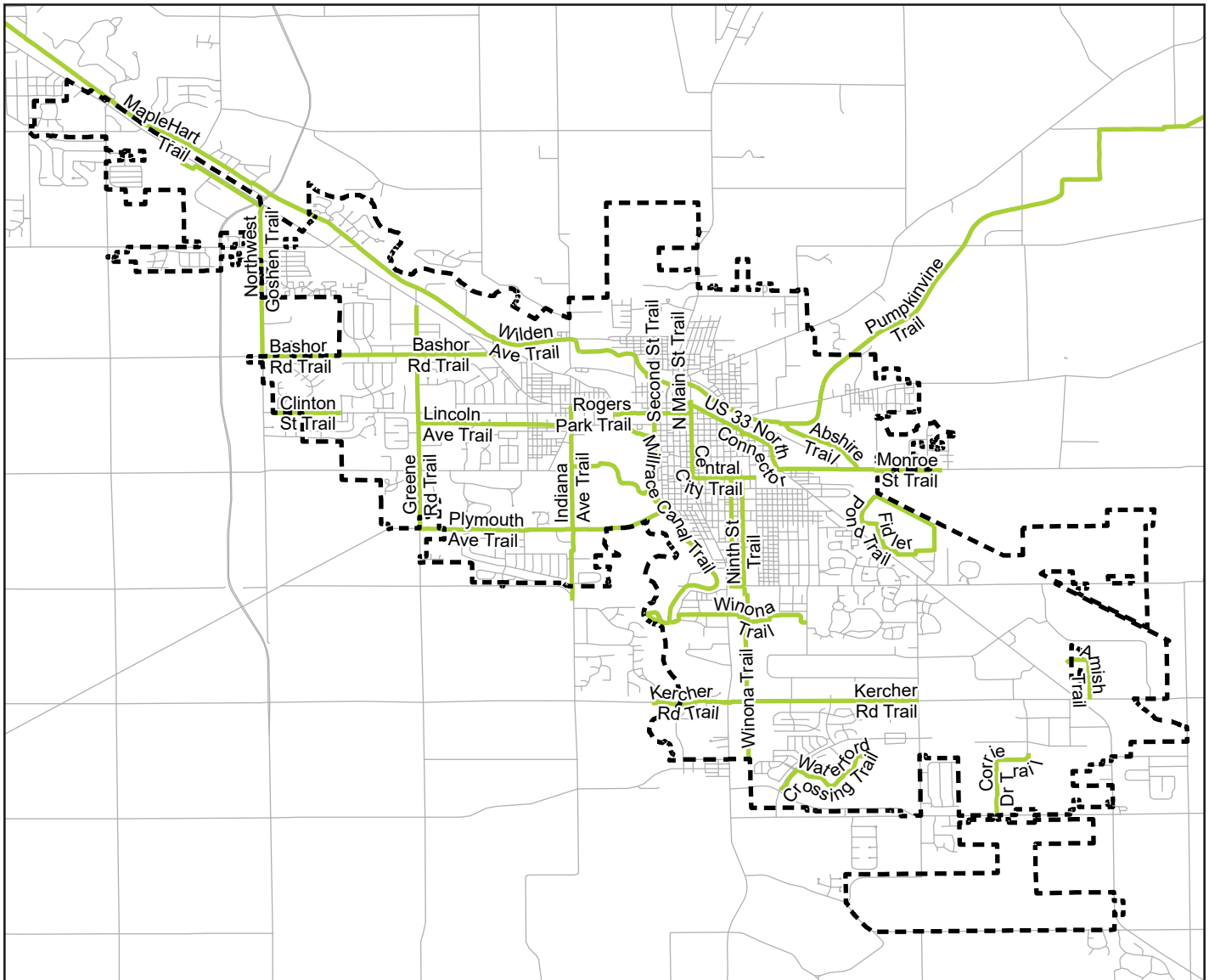
The City of Goshen and its residents value the trail network. In addition to trails within city parks, the Maple City Greenway provides connectivity throughout the city. The City's trails are a vital component of the local and regional pedestrian and bicycle transportation and recreational network. They serve the community by offering excellent recreational opportunities to get out and enjoy nature. As importantly, they offer those who cannot or choose not to use a motor vehicle a safe and efficient route to traverse the city and even the region.

The Needs Analysis related to trails looks at the current network as a whole as well as reviewing sections of the trail system that have been identified during the site assessment or through a comment from the public. The analysis is organized by:

- Input from the Board and Staff
- Trails Analysis
- Community identified needs or desires

Goshen Parks and Recreation Department Trail Priorities and Action for the 2024-2029 Master Plan are located in that section of the plan starting on page 140.

### Trail Network





Trail Name	Miles	
Abshire Trail	0.7	Crushed stone surface, 10 feet wide, connects Pumpkinvine Nature Trail along Rock Run Creek to Monroe Street.
Amish Trail	0.5	
Bashor Rd. Trail	1.6	
Central City Trail	2.2	Brick-edged sidewalk linking Goshen College, Goshen Public Library, Goshen High School, Elkhart County Courthouse and the downtown area.
Clinton St. Trail	0.4	
Corrie Dr. Trail	0.7	
Fidler Pond Trail	1.7	Crushed-stone surface, 8 feet wide, is a walking and biking track that follows the perimeter of Fidler Pond.
Greene Rd. Trail	1.9	
Indiana Ave. Trail	1.7	
Kercher Road Trail	1.8	
Lincoln Ave. Trail	1.0	
Mill Race Canal Trail	2.6	Crushed-stone surface, 8 feet wide, follows the hydraulic canal and connects Shoup-Parsons Woods, Shanklin Park and the Elkhart County Courthouse.
Monroe Street Trail	0.6	Paved surface, 10 feet wide, connecting Goshen High School, Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds.
Ninth Street Trail	0.9	Concrete surface, ranging from 8 to 10 feet wide, connects Goshen College at College Avenue with Water Tower Park and the Goshen Parks & Recreation Administrative Office, linking to Central City Trail and Goshen High School at Purl Street.
N. Main St. Trail	0.2	
Northwest Goshen Trail	2.0	
Plymouth Ave. Trail	1.7	Connects Shanklin Park with Goshen Middle School over the Elkhart River and continues to Hay Park and Greene Road. Paved surface, 10 feet wide.
Pumpkinvine Nature Trail	2.7	Crushed-stone surface, 10 feet wide, that runs along Rock Run Creek and Abshire Park, continuing to CR 28, connecting to Middlebury and Shipshewana.
Rogers Park Trail	0.3	
Second St. Trail	0.2	
Shanklin-Mullet Trail	0.9	
US 33 North Connector Trail	1.0	Concrete surface, 10 feet wide, connects Bashor Road (C.R. 30) to Reliance Road (Old C.R. 17), continuing north to U.S. 33 and to Market Centre shopping area.
Waterford Crossing Trail	0.9	
Wilden Ave. Trail	3.3	Paved surface, 8 feet wide, connects MapleHart Trail, Ox Bow County Park and City of Elkhart.
Winona Interurban Trail	2.6	Paved surface, 10 feet wide, connects Bethany Christian Schools, Waterford Elementary School and Goshen College campus, along with a pedestrian/bicycle path that provides connectivity to Greencroft.
Total Miles:	34.1	

## KEY ISSUES & DEPARTMENT NEEDS

The City of Goshen offer two basic type of trails:

- Trails within parks
- Local and regional trails

**Trail within park** properties offer an important amenity and attractions to the individual parks in which they are located. The planning, construction, and management of these trails is completed in large part by the Parks Department and their contractors. In addition to providing a localized asset to the park, these trails are often connected to the larger city and regional trail network. These trails offer a picturesque section of for the overall system and can act as a destination or connection for those passing through on a longer trip.

**Local and regional trails** are also an important part of both the City of Goshen's Transportation and Parks systems. These trails offer user the opportunities for recreation as well as transportation. Due to the multiple departments, government, and not-for-profit agencies involved in the broader trail network, the parks department must work in partnership with these groups on planning, construction, and maintenance issues for these trails. Locally the planing, design, and construction of trails in the general network is done by the Goshen Engineering Department with the Parks Department responsible for post-construction maintenance.

From discussion with the Board and staff, the most pressing issues related to trails are:

- Lack of staff and funds for maintenance
- Desire for more and earlier input in the development of new trails
- Lack of connections of the trail system to park properties to improve connectivity to reduce demand for parking

*This photo was submitted though the Photo Survey.*



## TRAILS ANALYSIS

A review of the existing trail conditions indicated that they are in overall good to fair condition. Some localized areas have been identified for repair but there are no major condition issues that would prevent the use of the trail network.

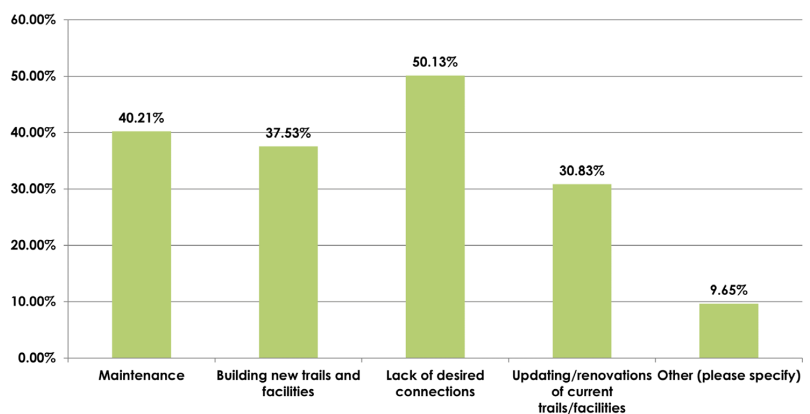
Many of the city's trails and paths are crushed stone. These facilities meet the ASTM F1951-99 "Firm and Stable Specifications. The only exceptions are where temporary repairs have been made due to utility installations or damage caused by vandalism. The parks do repair and make reasonable attempts to address deficiencies to the crushed stone paths so that they meet or exceed the ASTM Standards. This is a continual maintenance item that is addressed if notified or noticed by park staff during the routine maintenance / inspections.

In addition to meeting ADA standards, the City of Goshen has made efforts to be more inclusive through a partnership with ADEC Inc, a local not-for-profit agency that supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and Goshen College to connect persons with disabilities to nature. The article on page 71 provides details on this unique and innovative project.

As shown in the chart below, similar to the main issues raised by the Board and staff, survey respondents indicated that a lack of connections and maintenance were the most important issue facing the trail system. About 10% also provided comments such as:

- "Trails are nice as they are, and I would like to see them continuing to be maintained. More trails and facilities are always good, too."
- Rest areas
- Difficulty in accessing trails in some areas without driving , parking, and then getting on.

**What do you think are the most important issues facing Goshen trails? (Check all that apply)**



## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The community feedback indicate that the public is generally satisfied with the current trail network but would like to see:

- Improved connectivity
- Additional signage and mapping
- Continued maintenance
- An expanded trail network into all parts of the city  
Improved connections between trails and regional trail network.
- Improved connections between residential neighborhoods to schools, parks, shopping, and public buildings.
- An expanded trail network into all parts of the city and to make it viable for bike and pedestrian commuters.
- Bike and pedestrian improvement to Lincoln Avenue
- Extend Winona Trail
- Improved trail connector to Fidler Pond Park
- More opportunities to connect into downtown
- Established more connection from Pumpkinvine such as Mill Race and Powerhouse Parks
- Restroom facilities that open year round
- Evaluate routes to identify gaps for future projects
- Bike and pedestrian improvement to Lincoln Avenue
- Addition of steps/portages on Millrace and Elkhart River
- Improved signage to and around trails including Post No Smoking on trails

The overall ranking of the trails system of a 4 out of 5 illustrates the overall satisfaction but that more can be done to improve the network.

**How would you rank the Goshen Trails system? (1 star being poor to 5 stars being excellent).**



When asked if they felt the trail facilities meet their needs, 70% indicated that they did. A few of the comments were:

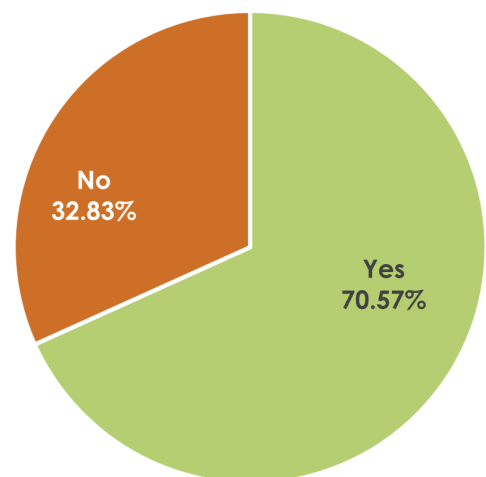
- “Wide variety of trails for recreation and travel, both walking/running and biking”
- “They do a great job but we could always have more!”
- “Great place to connect to nature and get some exercise too.”
- “Offers green spaces in flood plain; connects residents.”

Of the 30% that indicated that they did not here are a few of the reasons why:

- “hard getting to the pumpkinvine from anywhere south”
- “Connectivity from certain areas is problematic. I would like to see bike lanes to connect parks”
- “There are still gaps where young bikers are required to be on busy streets to access schools and/or parks”
- “We need more trails going to places people work and shop. Also more benches. Scooter rentals for older people to use handicapped accessible trails would be great”

These comments along with the feedback from the community events will be useful for not only the Parks Department but the other entities involved in the trial system. This information has been shared with partner agencies and will assist in future planning for the parks, local, and regional trail system.

**Do you feel that the Goshen’s trail facilities meet the needs of the community?**



## FAVORITE THING ABOUT GOSHEN TRAILS

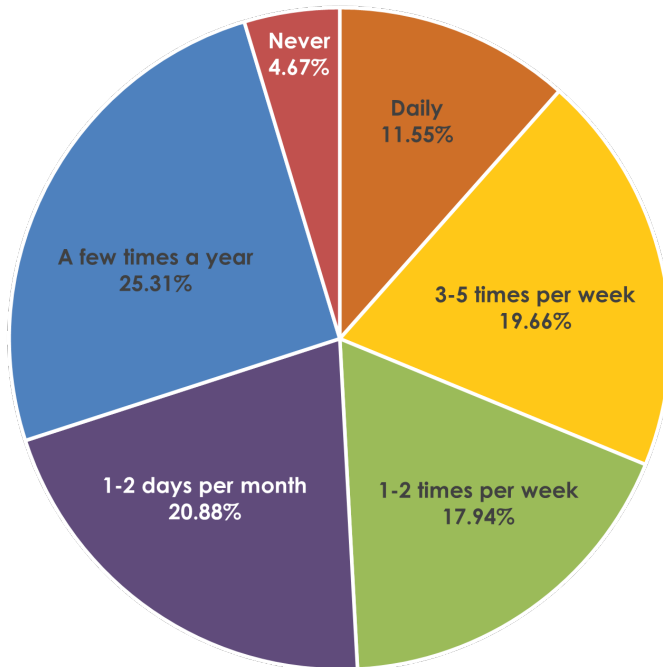


## WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT GOSHEN TRAILS





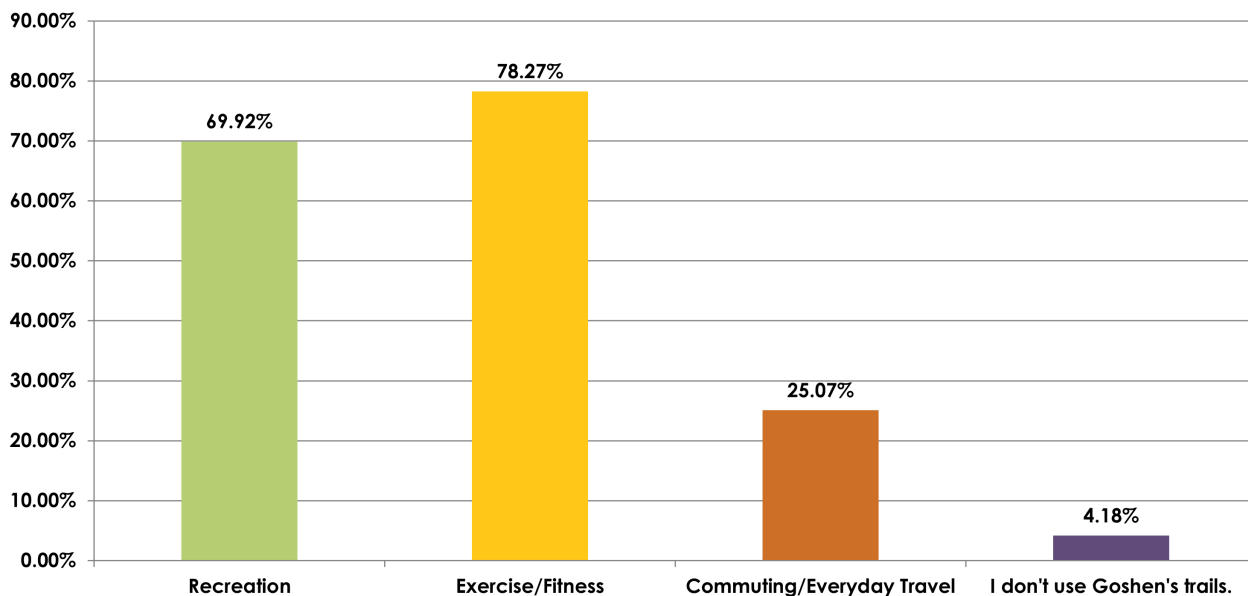
### How often do you use Goshen's trail system?



To gain an understanding the frequency of trail usage, the community asked participants to identify how often they use the trail system. The pie chart shows responses that range from daily to a few times a year. If they chose never we asked them why. Answers ranged from not interested to physical limitations and just not having time. We were happy to see condition issues, lack of maintenance, or safety were not listed as reasons that people were not using the trails.

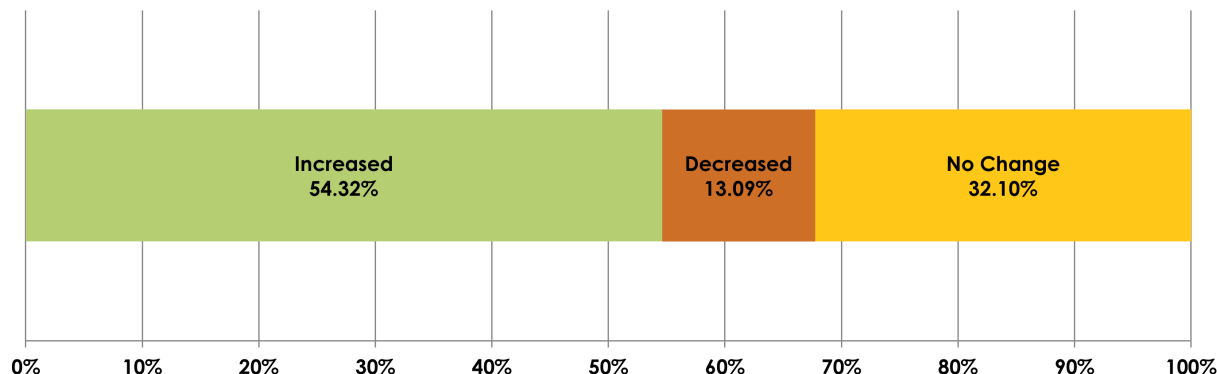
Of those that are using the trails system, we followed up with the question of "for what". Respondents could select as many that applied to their situation. The chart below shows the results. By far the most common reason for using the trails were recreation and exercise/fitness. It is notable that just over 25% of the respondents were using the trails for commuting/everyday travel. This data is important for the overall transportation networks for the City and will be shared with other city departments.

### For what purpose do you use Goshen's trails? (Check all that apply)



To gauge how trail usage has changed since the 2019-2024 Parks Master Plan was completed, the community survey asked how respondents use of the trails has changed over the past 5-years. The chart below provides that information. The most common response was that their trail use increased.

### How has your use of trails changes in the last 5 years?



In addition to answering if their usage increased, decreased or no change, participants could add a comment on why that was. Some of the answers are:

- Children
- Age
- Allergies
- Appreciating health benefits of outdoor exercise.
- Beauty
- Busy schedule
- Connectivity allows for greater distance
- COVID
- Disability
- Easier access to them via sidewalks
- Gas is too expensive
- I bike more
- I bike more for transportation/commute to work
- I don't run much anymore.
- I have enjoyed jogging through Mullet Park Shanklin and the Mill Race
- I have increased my daily walking. Incentivized by the covid shutdown of other fitness opportunities.
- I simply have more time.
- I've been doing other extra curricular activities and therefore not running as much. I still appreciate the trails!
- Increased exercise priority and more spaces available
- mobility issues
- More and improved trails
- Moved houses to a location that is easier to access trails. Using trails to bike kids to school.
- my own bad knees
- No good access point to my residence
- Retired with more free time.
- Safety, Scary people. Afraid to walk alone
- The increased connectivity of the trails has been really important to us.
- The Meijer area doesn't have easy access on bikes
- The trails in Beechy forest are beautiful and well-maintained.
- They do feel safe and more maintained than previously
- Walking my dog

*This photo was submitted though the Photo Survey.*



Many of these issues are outside of the Parks Department control, but comments related to connectivity, additional and easier access, and use of trails for transportation indicated that the trails will be used more when they are convenient and connect places people want to visit. This information will be helpful for future trail and transportation planning in the city.

## Trail Highlight: Ashley VanVurst Sensory Trail

Excerpt from Environmental Resilience Department website: [goshenindiana.org/ashley-vanvurst-sensory-trail](https://goshenindiana.org/ashley-vanvurst-sensory-trail)

What is it all about? The City of Goshen, ADEC, Inc. and Goshen College partnered to connect persons with disabilities to the natural environment's physiological and psychological benefits by utilizing technology. The project provides supportive tools where persons with disabilities can interact with nature in an immersive and physical way. This project was the first known of its kind to utilize technology to connect residents and visitors to a local community's natural environment and its vibrant community of living things through the creation of a free downloadable app of natural living things on a trail system and the utilization of an online camera system connected to natural areas in the community. The downloadable app can be used while walking down the trail where it utilizes global positioning mapping to show the user's location and the location of living features on the trail or from the comfort of a person's home.

1. Use technology to transform an existing nature trail into a sensory trail, using a free and downloadable app on Apple Play and Google Play stores (Ashley VanVurst Sensory Trail) to highlight natural "living" sensory features on the trail
2. Provide technology access to persons who do not have internet devices through an iPad lending library located at the Rieth Interpretative Center. 10 iPads are available typically from Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm and Friday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm. Guests can call ahead to ensure open hours and availability (574) 534-0076.
3. Install three 24-hour nature cameras accessible to the public and those who are unable to go to nature. These are available on YouTube.

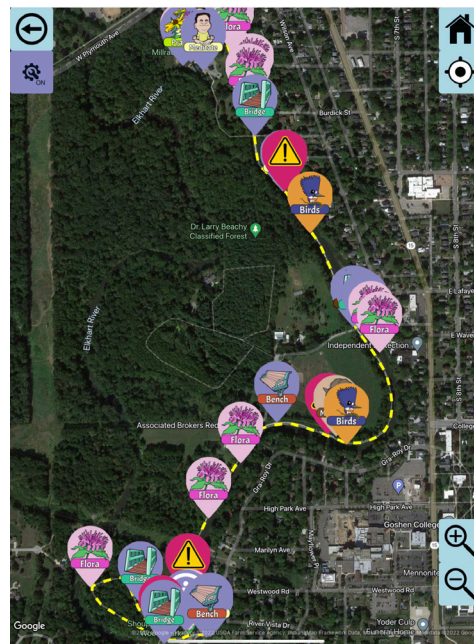


Photo credit: The Goshen News

Why is this project important? This project provides safe access to all persons with disabilities to the psychological and physiological benefits of nature, physically or virtually, contrasted to the recent pandemic's confinement and lack of connection to the outside world.

The City of Goshen partnered with ADEC, Inc. to develop this project for persons with disabilities who often struggle with the constraints of their disability, either physical or mental, to access natural spaces. This is even more injurious as the natural environment is a unique health affirming medicine that could improve their lives. Science has consistently documented the positive benefits of interacting with nature, including lower stress, better mood, increased concentration ability, and others. Persons with disabilities not only can be restricted from accessing the natural environment through physical accessibility issues but can be constrained by mental disabilities such as increased anxiety, depression, and sensory sensitivity that make it difficult for them to enter those spaces.

This project was designed to provide opportunities for safe, interactive outings for recreation or therapy for all persons with disabilities. It provides a background interface with information including, for example, length of the trail, location of the bathrooms, location of hazards, and location of benches for resting all mapped with the users location. It also allows users to select the sensory aspects or natural features that are most interesting or beneficial to them, while helping them to get outside and benefit from the positive physical changes that occur from being in the natural environment.





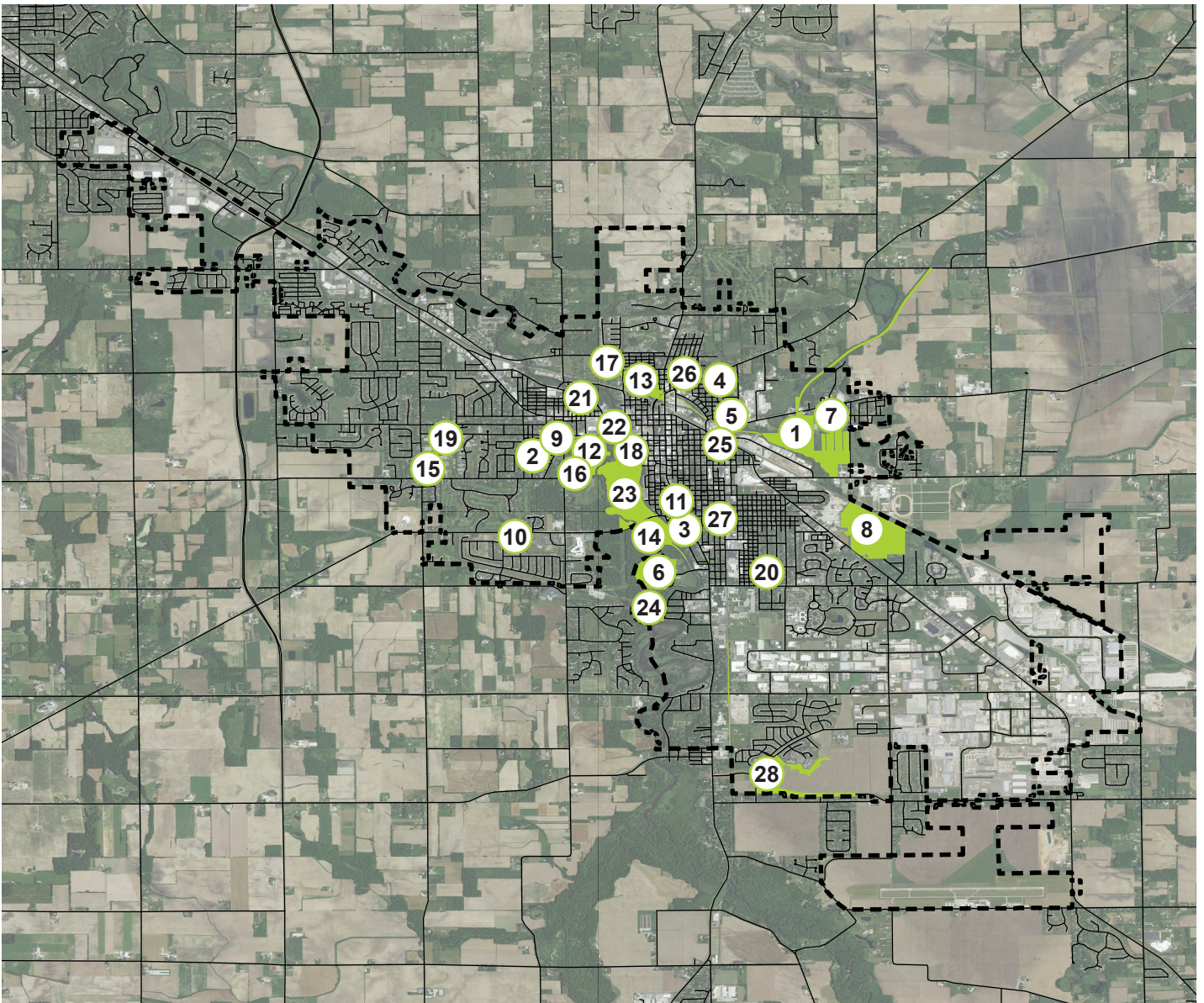
## PARKS

The City of Goshen's residents and visitors support and utilize the extensive park system. The parks, and the facilities offered within them, offer the community a mix of experiences from competitive sports, to playgrounds, water features and open spaces. They are critical and beloved elements of the neighborhoods in which they are located. They contribute to a sense of place and vitality to the community.

The Needs Analysis looks at the current parks system as a whole as well as evaluating specific parks or facilities as identified during the site assessment or public comment. The analysis is organized by:

- Park system overview
- Overview of each parks including notable features
- Review programs and activities that take place in the park or park facility
- ADA Review
- Community identified needs including needs identified by the Parks Board or staff Goshen Parks and Recreation

Department Trail Priorities and Action for the 2024-2029 Master Plan are located in that section of this plan starting on page 140.





## KEY ISSUES &amp; DEPARTMENT NEEDS

- Additional funding for operations and maintenance,
- There is limited staffing, making it difficult to complete all of the tasks leading to deferred maintenance issues.
- Funding is needed for deferred maintenance items
- Capital campaign for aging facility replacement would be very beneficial
- Research ways in which the Parks and Recreation system can improve social connections, including improving mental health and acting as hubs for social connections
- Identify ways to engage with teens who are looking for passive recreation and spaces where they can congregate and socialize.

***Do you feel that the Goshen's park facilities meet the needs of the community?***

When asked if they felt the parks meet their needs, 78% indicated that they did. A few of the comments were:

- "Goshen has a well-balanced park system"
- "There is something for everyone. They are not all the same."
- "Yes everything is clean and very accessible"
- "Many places for activities and gatherings"
- "We have a lot of parks for a city the size of Goshen."

Of the 22% that indicated that they did not here are a few of the reasons why:

- "Bathrooms often closed! No drinking water."
- "Upgrade and clean"
- "I think there could be more unique facilities for children and families at the smaller parks around the city."
- "Sitting areas with shade/canopies"
- "joldersma skatepark has been in very dangerous shape for many years, badly needs torn down and replaced with a permanent safe and modern skatepark"

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Greencroft area for new park facility
- "Moose Lodge – potential future city park?? Pond, trees, playground, in an underserved area"
- "General lack of parking at times and facilities (events)"
- "Better parking at parks/trails"
- "Skating rink and multipurpose pavilion – needs to be built in grassy area across the canal from the Hawks building."
- "Neighborhood park and bike rest area in northwest Goshen (east of Roxbury Park)"
- "Expand water and restrooms to year round, fall"
- "New facilities should require endowment to maintain"
- "Utilize volunteer groups to adopt a park/playground"
- General support for acquisition of land for new parks
- "Indoor pickleball facilities at any park with space for a building"
- "Other pickleball court at any park - outside"

**How would you rank the Goshen Parks system? (1 star being poor to 5 stars being excellent).**



Rankings for each park are provided on their specific page in this assessment but the overall ranking for the system is positive.

## Most Visited Parks

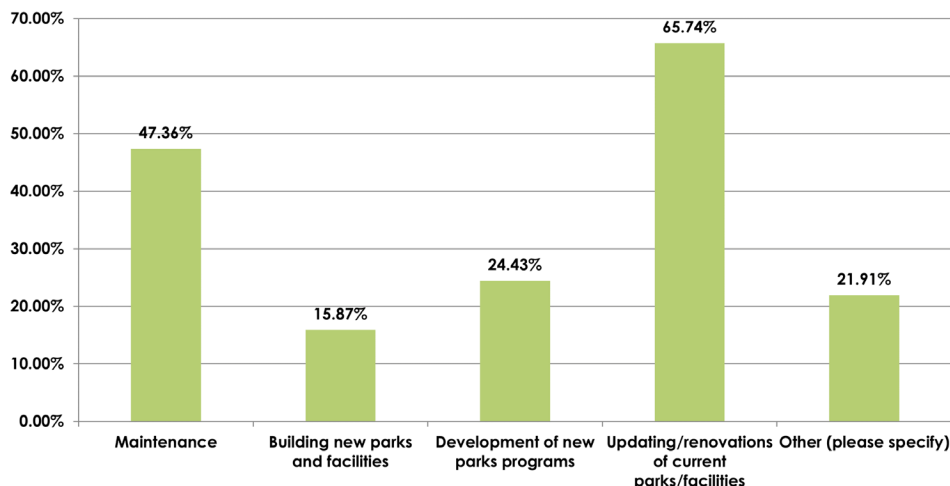


## How would you rate the importance of these IMPROVEMENTS to the Goshen Parks over the next 5 years?



The graphic above summarizes the ranking of importance survey respondents placed on the identified improvements. The system was a 4 point scale from not at all important to very important. Ranking is the weighted average of all responses. Highest was a 3.3 out of 4 and the lowest was 1.9. This information will help to prioritize actions in the plan.

## What do you think are the most important issues facing Goshen parks? (Check all that apply)



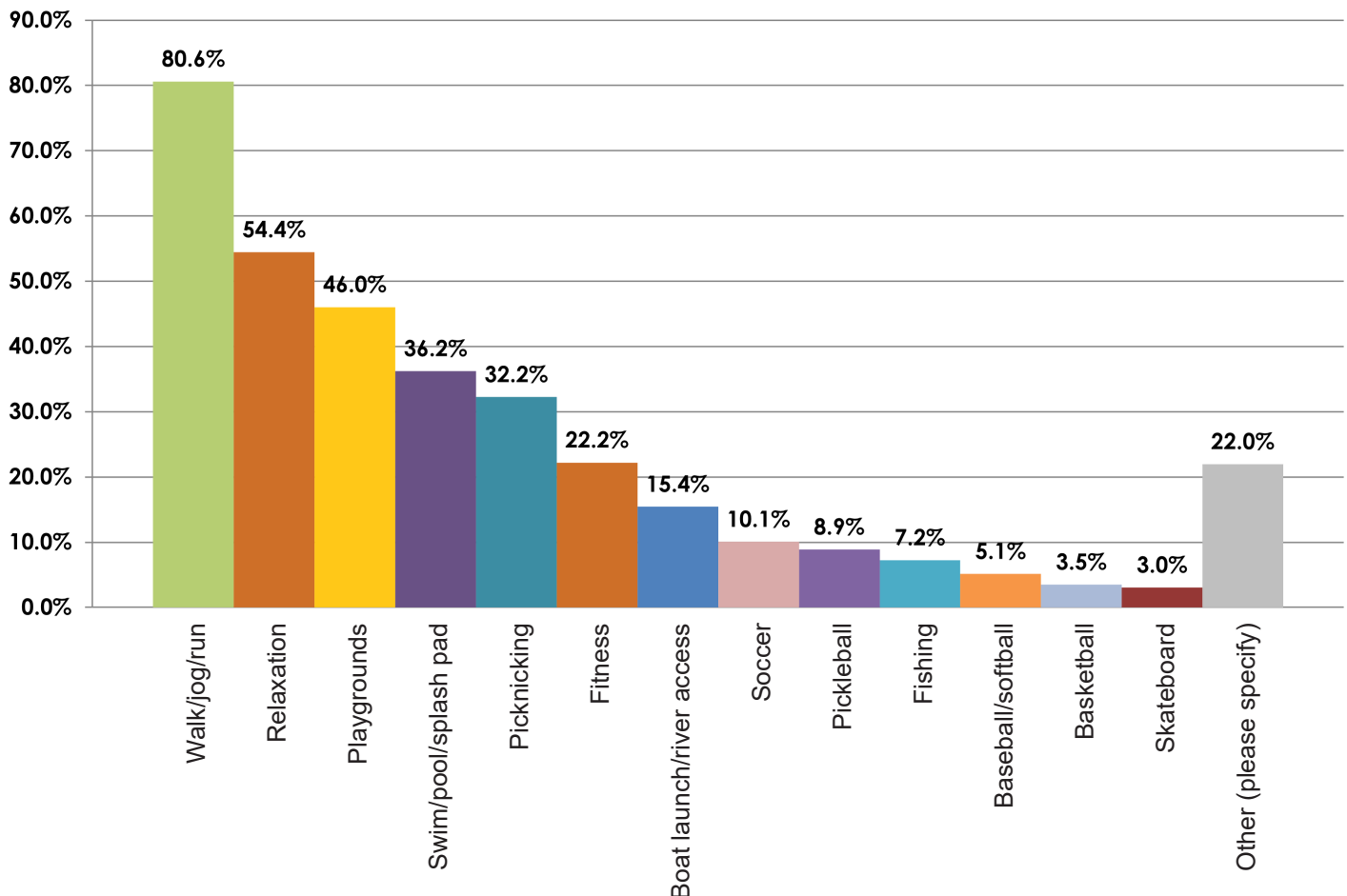
Similar to the issues raised by the Parks Department staff, when asked the most important issues facing the Parks system, survey respondents identified maintenance and updating/renovations of current park facilities as the most important issues.

The chart below illustrates the responded from the community survey regarding what people do while visiting the parks. The most popular activities are walking/jogging/running, relaxation, playgrounds and picnicking. In addition we asked for respondents to add any activities not listed some of those responses are:

- Badminton
- Spikeball
- Playing with dog
- Bicycling
- Bikemeet up with friends to walk/talk, celebrate birthdays
- Bird, animal, flora fauna study
- Birding, nature hikes, and foraging.
- Disc golf
- Enjoy Nature
- Games, such as tag or capture the flag
- Nature/wildlife photography
- Mountain Bike Trails near the Dam Pond and Shanklin
- Play with grandkids
- Volleyball
- Water slide at Abshire, christmas lights it Shanklin
- work
- Zumba classes, disc golf

These additional comments outline the many activities the community enjoys in the parks and park facilities. Offering space for individuals and families to relax, explore, and find their own enjoyment is an important value the parks bring to a community.

### What do you typically do in the parks? (check all that apply)





## FAVORITE THING ABOUT GOSHEN PARKS



Several community comments were related to a need for additional **water and restroom facilities** along the trails and in parks. The parks system does provide these facilities where connections to public utilities are possible. Additional connections are not planned at this time.

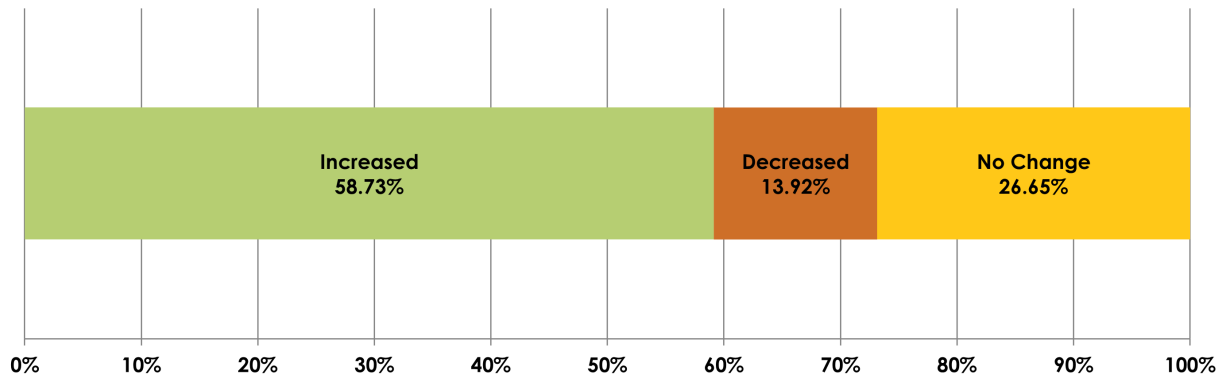
A related comment was to provide year-round access to water and restrooms. At this time, most park restroom facilities are open to the public from April 15 to October 15 from dawn to dusk. Due to the cold winter temperatures and the lack of heating in many existing restrooms, these facilities are generally winterized to prevent damage. The Parks Department does have several restroom facilities that are open year round at:

- Shanklin Park Warming Building (near pond), 411 W. Plymouth Avenue
- Abshire Cabin restrooms (East Lincoln Avenue/Pumpkinvine Nature Trail).
- Shoup Parsons/Goshen Dam, 755 Fair Oaks Dr. (a port-a-let throughout the winter months)
- Pumpkinvine Trail (near CR 28) (has a port-a-let at C.R. 28 year-round, no water access for permanent restrooms)
- Oakridge Park Area and Wilden Avenue Trail at 1st Street (a port-a-let throughout the winter months)
- Fidler Pond Park, 1424 Lincolnway E. (has a port-a-let year-round at the red barn)
- Millrace Park, 410 W. Plymouth Avenue (has a port-a-let throughout the winter months)

During the public engagement process there were several requests for ***lighting at trails, trail heads and parks***. As the Park Department has a dawn to dusk policy, these suggested changes have not been incorporated into recommendations for this plan. At this time, the City is not anticipating a change to that policy.

To gauge how trail usage has changed since the 2019-2024 Parks Master Plan was completed, the community survey asked how respondents use of the the parks has changed over the past 5-years. The chart below provides that information. The most common response was that their park use increased.

### How has your use of parks changes in the last 5 years?




In addition to answering if their usage increased, decreased or no change, participants could add a comment on why that was. The comments received provide insight on park use and will be helpful for establishing the actions for this plan.

- Addition of disc golf has also reminded me of the benefit of parks and to check out other in Goshen.
- Age of kids, more participation in park activities and playdates with friends.
- Aging
- As our kids grow, our needs change. We have gone from playgrounds to bike trails.
- COVID made indoor gatherings less fun
- Desire to make nature a part of our family lifestyle
- Disc Golf at Mullet park
- Ease of access. We visit parks that are easy to bike to with a young child.
- Getting more exercise
- Grandchildren, desire to be in nature more often
- Grandkids using the skate park.
- Had children and parks offer opportunity for play and time outside
- Having children makes me go to the park more often
- I'm walking more
- Meeting friends at the parks for cycling
- More awareness of parks, more time to spend outside
- Mobility issues due to health and age
- Out door areas have improved and its become more of a priority in my life
- Pumpkintvine trail improved
- Retired now and have more time to use them.
- There were several parks we were honestly just unaware of, but we discovered them mainly while cycling trails.
- Trails and sidewalks connecting parks are getting better.
- We loved the swim pass this summer

*These photo was submitted through the Photo Survey.*



## PARK AMENITIES MATRIX

 = New amenity since 2019!

Park Facility	ADA Parking / Route	Administration Office	Basketball Court	Baseball Diamond	Benches	Bike Racks	Boat Launch	Canoe Rental / Launch	Cross-Country Trail	Cross-Country Ski Rental	Drinking Fountain	Grill	Fishing	Gazebo	Rieth Interpretive Center	Lake/Pond/River/Canal	Open Play/Picnic Area	Picnic Table	Play Equipment	Restrooms*
1. Abshire Park					X	X			X		X	X					X	X		X
2. Bakersfield Park					X							X					X	X	X	
3. Burdick Park			X														X	X	X	
4. Church Park			X		X							X					X	X	X	
5. Dorothy McFarland Park					X									X			X	X	X	
6. Dr. Larry Beachy Classified Forest																X				
7. Dykstra Park			X		X												X	X	X	
8. Fidler Pond Park	X	X			X			X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		X
9. Five Points Park					X															
10. Hay Park	X				X	X					X						X	X	X	X
11. Lafayette Triangle Park					X												X	X		
12. Linway Lake													X			X				
13. Mill Street Park	X				X						X	X					X	X		X
14. Millrace Park	X				X						X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X
15. Model School Park					X															
16. Mullet Park													X			X	X	X		
17. Oakridge Park			X		X						X	X					X	X	X	X
18. Powerhouse Park	X				X	X	X													
19. Pringle Park					X	X					X	X					X	X	X	X
20. Rieth Park			X		X						X						X	X	X	X
21. Riverdale Park																	X			
22. Rogers Park			X	X			X				X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
23. Shanklin Park			X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
24. Shoup-Parsons Woods					X		X		X		X		X			X		X		X
25. Sprocket Dog Park	X				X						X									
26. Walnut Park			X		X						X	X					X	X	X	X
27. Water Tower Park	X	X			X												X	X		
28. Waterford Park																				

\* Note: Most park restroom facilities are open to the public from April 15 to October 15 from dawn to dusk. The restrooms at Abshire Cabin and at the warming house in Shanklin Park, however, remain open year-round. The Parks Department maintains year-round port-a-lets at Fidler Pond Park at the red barn, Oakridge Park at the Wilden Ave Trail, the Pumpkinvine Trail near Co Rd 28, Shoup-Parsons Woods at the canal headgates, and at Millrace Park.

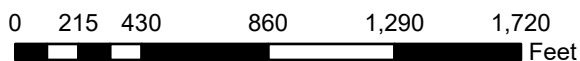
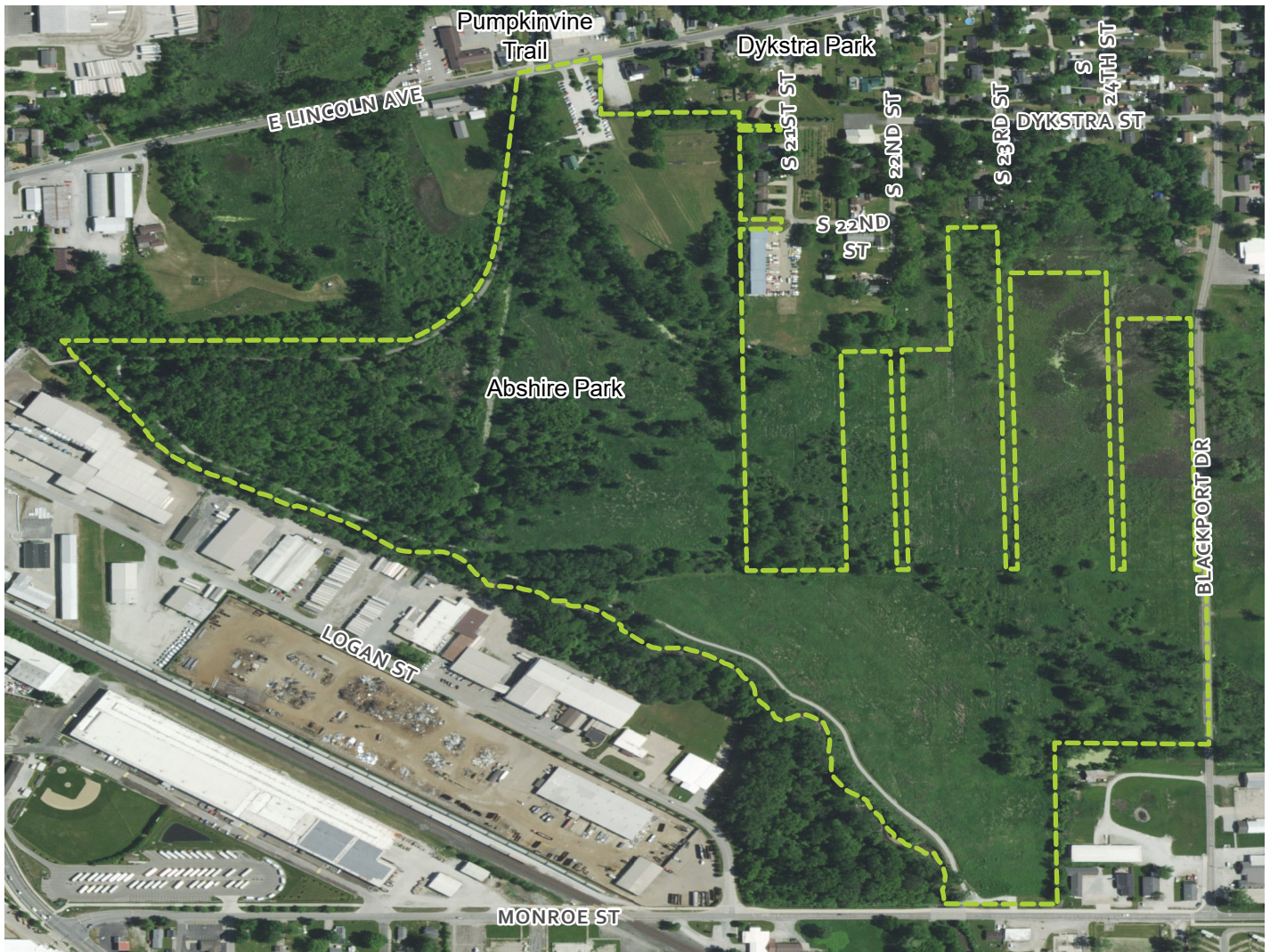
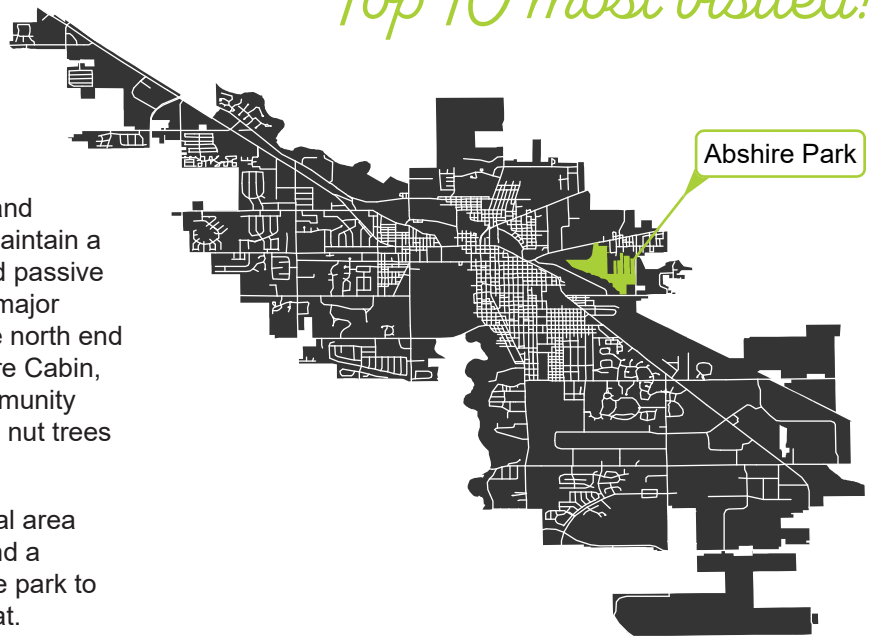
Skate Park	Shelter / Pavilion	Soccer/Football Field	Softball Diamond	Splash Pad	Swimming Pool	Trash Barrel	Trails	Sledding / Tubing	Volleyball Court	Wetland / Boardwalks	Climbing Wall	Natural Play Structures	Pickle Ball	Community Gardens	Book Exchange	Exercise Equipment	Disk Golf	Dog Park	Park Facility
	X					X	X	X		X				X					1. Abshire Park
						X													2. Bakersfield Park
						X								X	X				3. Burdick Park
						X													4. Church Park
						X													5. Dorothy McFarland Park
							X												6. Dr. Larry Beachy Classified Forest
						X													7. Dykstra Park
	X					X	X												8. Fidler Pond Park
																			9. Five Points Park
	X					X	X							X					10. Hay Park
						X													11. Lafayette Triangle Park
						X													12. Linway Lake
	X					X	X	X			X	X		X					13. Mill Street Park
	X					X	X									X			14. Millrace Park
						X							X	X					15. Model School Park
	X						X										X		16. Mullet Park
	X					X	X												17. Oakridge Park
						X	X												18. Powerhouse Park
	X	X		X		X	X		X										19. Pringle Park
	X			X		X													20. Rieth Park
																			21. Riverdale Park
X	X					X	X												22. Rogers Park
	X		X		X	X	X								X				23. Shanklin Park
						X	X			X									24. Shoup-Parsons Woods
						X	X											X	25. Sprocket Dog Park
	X			X		X													26. Walnut Park
						X	X												27. Water Tower Park
							X							X					28. Waterford Park



## ABSHIRE PARK

75.5 acres • Donated to the Parks and Recreation Department in 1986, this 75-acre tract is the second largest property in the park system. Developed to accommodate passive and interpretive programs, Abshire Park helps to maintain a balance in the park system between active and passive recreational opportunities. The park acts as a major trailhead for the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. The north end of the park is most developed, including Abshire Cabin, a sledding hill, and parking area. In 2019, community volunteers planted a public orchard of fruit and nut trees to the east of the parking lot.

The remainder of the park is a managed natural area and includes a prairie restoration, wetlands, and a transitional forest. Rock Run Creek borders the park to the southwest and provides an excellent habitat.

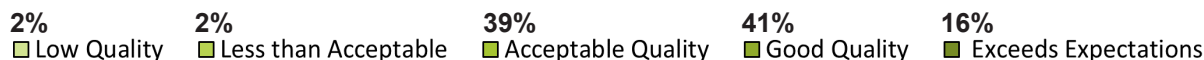


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

## FREQUENCY OF VISITS



## THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS &amp; ACTIVITIES

- Arts Camp
- Quilt Garden
- Community orchard
- Cross-country skiing
- Open play area
- Picnic tables
- Sledding
- Splash-tastic Weekend
- Walking/biking trails
- Wetlands boardwalk
- Rentable cabin

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Abshire Park offers its attendees:

- Fence line removed from sledding hill and proper safety improvements made (CF&C)
- Lighting additions to sledding hill
- Possible lighting at trailhead access points
- Pave parking lot
- Expand river access
- Address gravel trail conditions
- Continue invasive plants removal

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Abshire Park.

- ADA-compliant access to cabin
- ADA-compliant bathroom access

## WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "The unpaved trails on the pumpkinvine between the fairgrounds and Abshire is dangerous. The gravel is too loose."
- "Would favor more removal of invasive species in Abshire and Fidler, especially mowing Mugwort which is an invasive dense weed along trails."
- "Maintenance of paved trails near Abshire"

## OTHER DESIRES EXPRESSED FOR ABSHIRE PARK:

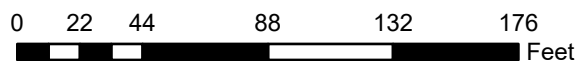
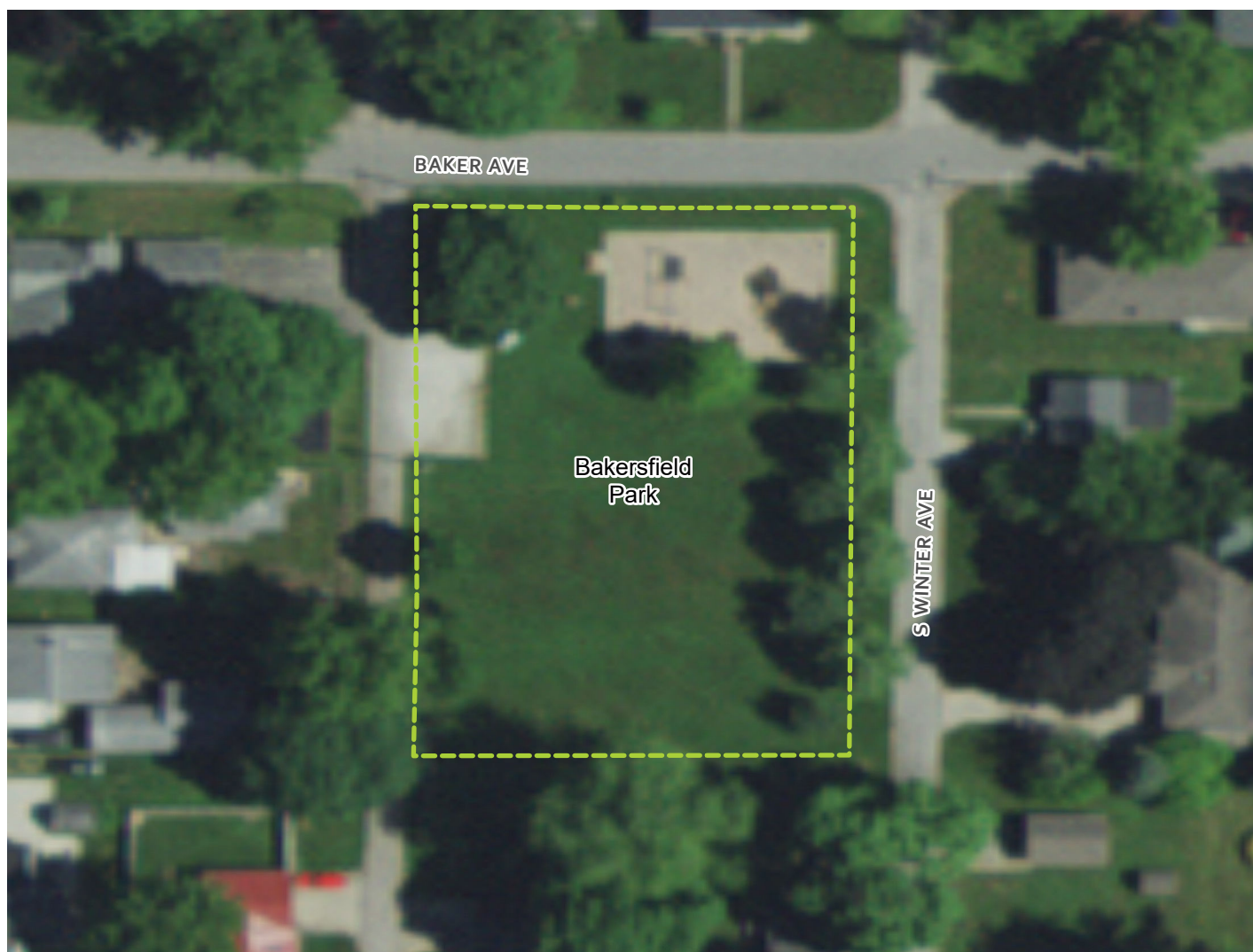
- Paved parking lot
- More parking
- More natural/passive recreation areas
- Expand river and waterway access
- More sustainable design/green practices





## BAKERSFIELD PARK

0.5 acre • Bakersfield Park is located at the corner of Baker Street and Winter Avenue. Features include an informal play field structure and a picnic area. West Goshen Neighborhood Association hosts several events at the park including seasonal picnics and block parties.



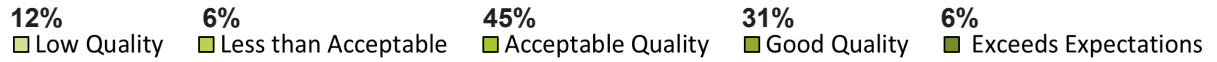


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Play equipment
- Open play area
- Picnic table
- West Goshen Neighborhood Association events

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Bakersfield Park offers its attendees:

- Lights for attendees who want to attend the park at night
- Recycled rubber mulch
- Provide shade structure

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Bakersfield Park.

- ADA-compliant route from parking to playground
- ADA-compliant parking space
- Widen surrounding sidewalk

### DESIRES EXPRESSED FOR BAKERSFIELD PARK:

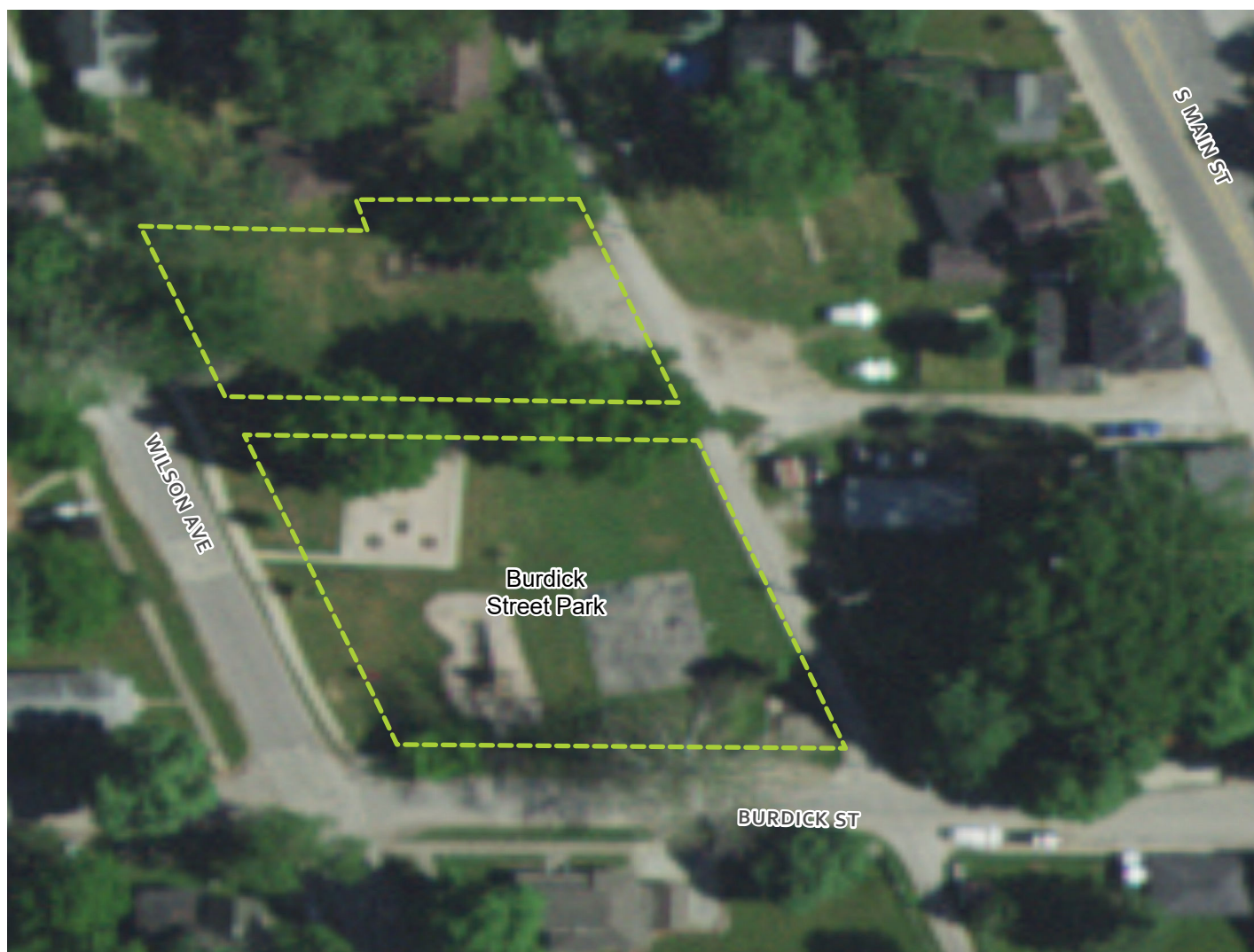
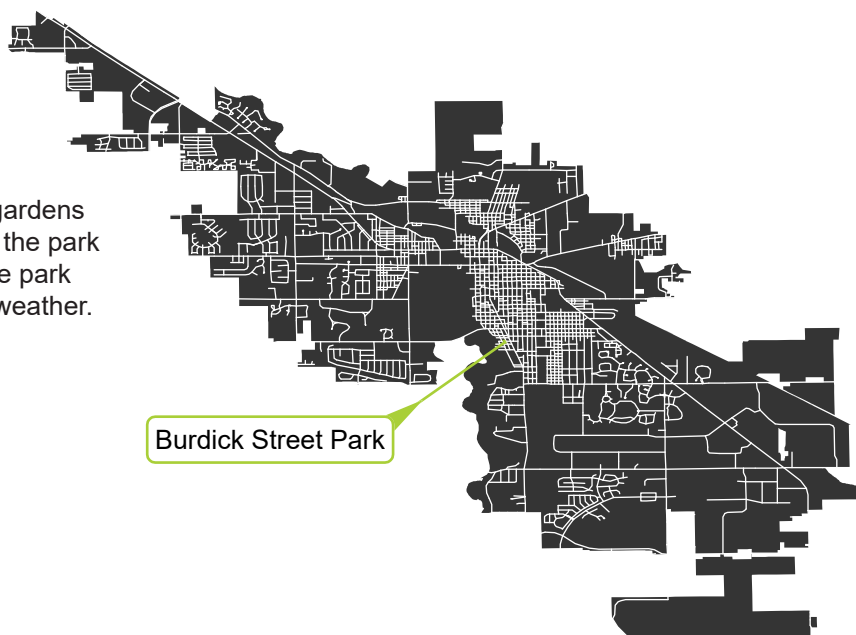
- More shade





## BURDICK PARK

0.5 acre • This park is located at the intersection of West Burdick Street and Wilson Avenue. Facilities include a basketball court, a play structure, and an open field. Community gardens and a Little Library box bring local residents to the park regularly. Mature shade trees in and around the park enhance the park's image and usability in hot weather.



0 24.5 49 98 147 196 Feet

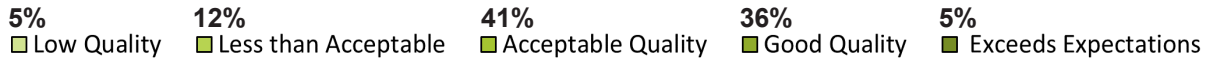


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Basketball
- Community gardens
- Play equipment
- Open play area
- Picnic tables
- Little Library

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Burdick Park offers its attendees:

- Improve parking lot
- Add mulch
- Add benches

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Burdick Park.

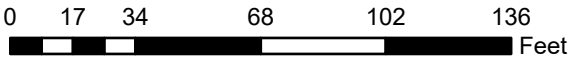
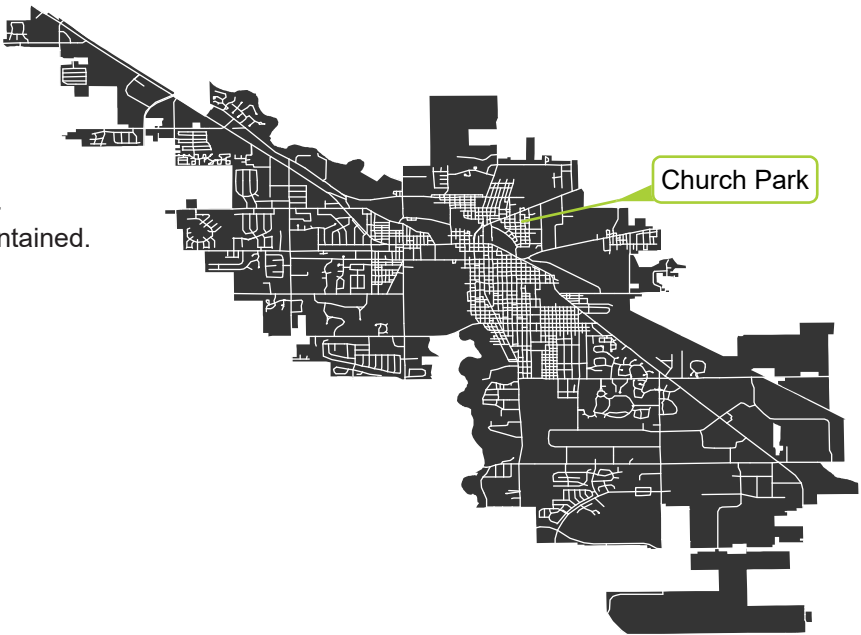
- ADA-compliant route from parking to playground
- Add ADA-compliant picnic table





CHURCH PARK

0.4 acre • Less than half an acre in size, Church Park is located on North Eight Street at Summit Street. Facilities include a play structure, swings, and a basketball court. High-quality, mature trees in this park should be maintained.





## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Basketball
- Play equipment
- Open play area
- Picnic tables

## ADA REVIEW

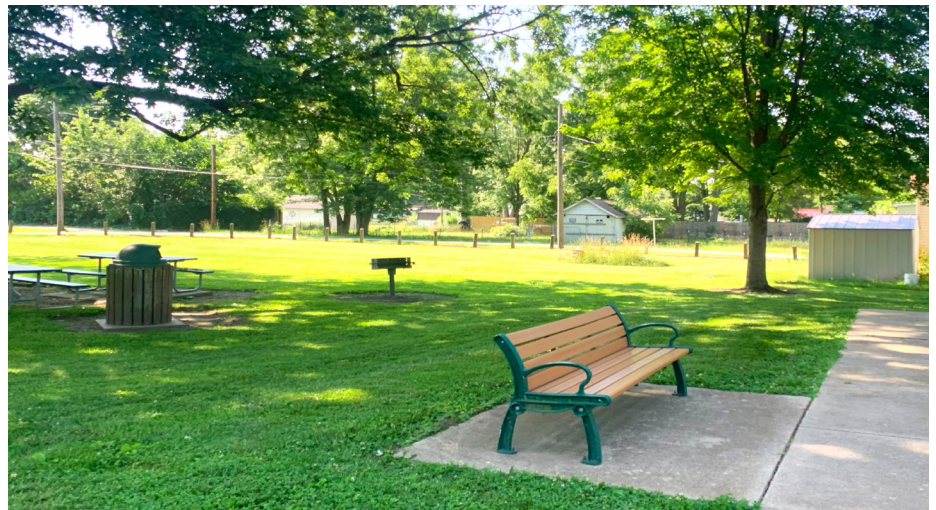
An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Church Park.

- ADA-compliant parking space
- Add ADA-compliant picnic table

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Church Park offers its attendees:

- Repaint playground equipment
- Repaint basketball court pavement markings
- Add seating for adults and picnics
- More parking spaces

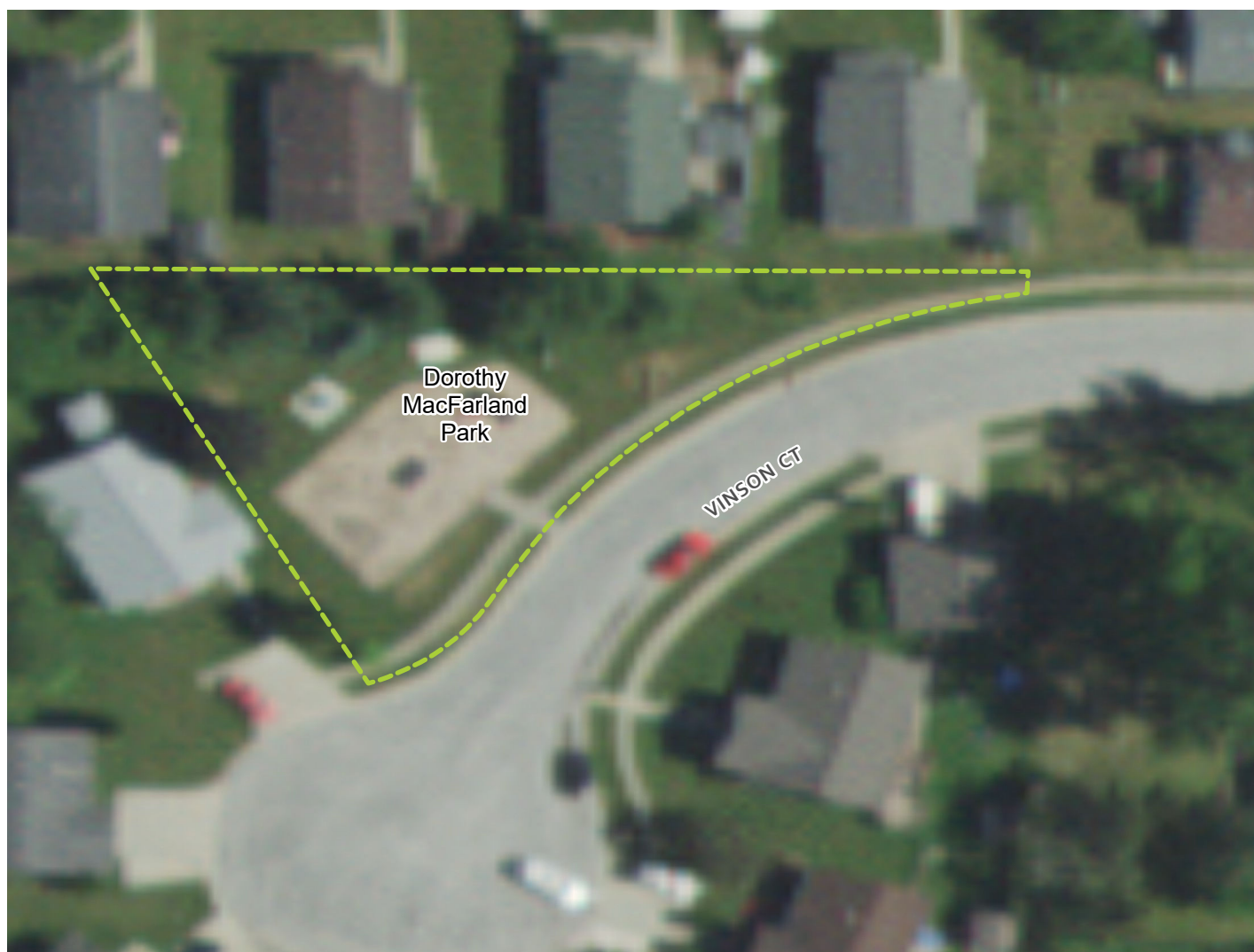
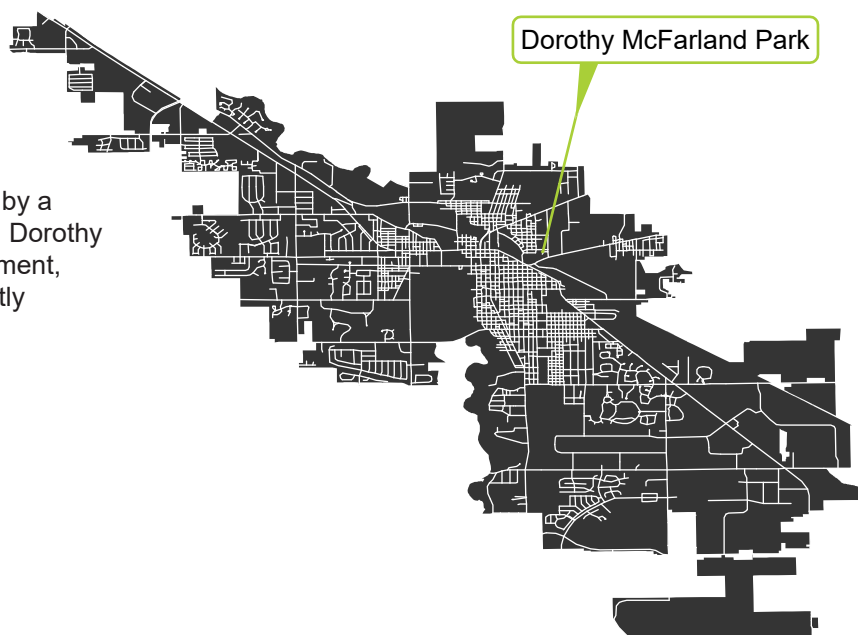




DRAFT

## DOROTHY MCFARLAND PARK

0.2 acre • Located on Vinson Court, this new park is less than a half an acre. It was created by a partnership with Habitat for Humanity and Mrs. Dorothy McFarland who donated the playground equipment, picnic table and benches. This park was recently upgraded to add new playground equipment.



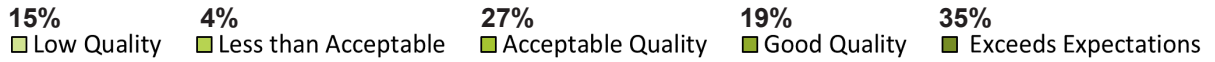
0 16.5 33 66 99 132 Feet

## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Play equipment
- Open play area
- Picnic table

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Signage

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to McFarland Park.

- ADA-compliant route to the new play equipment
- ADA-compliant parking space

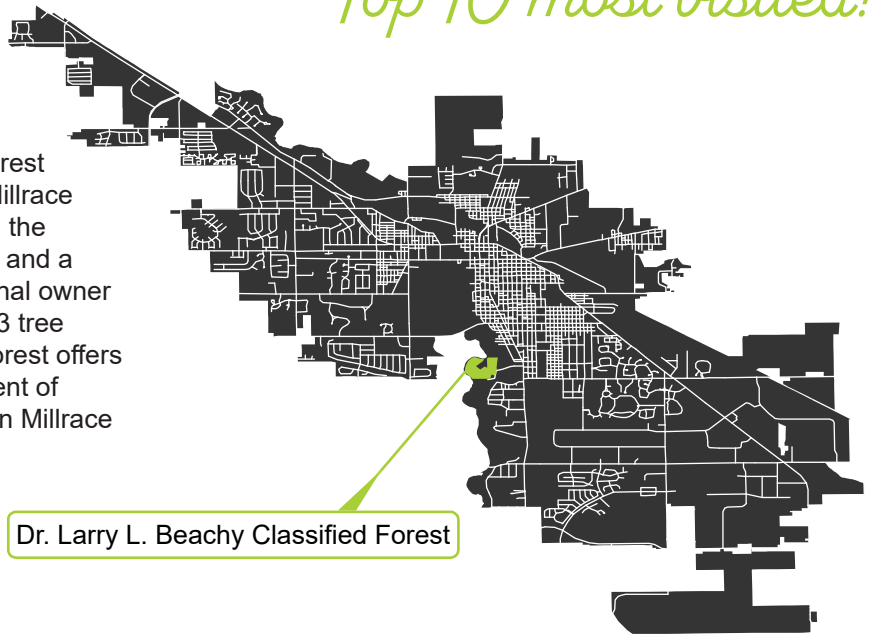




**DRAFT** *Top 10 most visited!*

## DR. LARRY L. BEACHY CLASSIFIED FOREST

34.5 acres • The Larry L. Beachy Classified Forest is located between the Elkhart River and the Millrace Canal. The property was acquired in 2003 with the assistance from the DNR Heritage Grant Fund and a local private match. Dr. Larry Beachy, the original owner of the Classified Forest, planted many of the 23 tree species located in the forest. The Classified Forest offers interpretive trails, wildlife viewing, and enjoyment of nature. The Rieth Interpretive Center, located in Millrace Park to the north of the Classified Forest, schedules regular nature walks through the forest.



Dr. Larry L. Beachy Classified Forest



0 137.5 275 550 825 1,100  
Feet

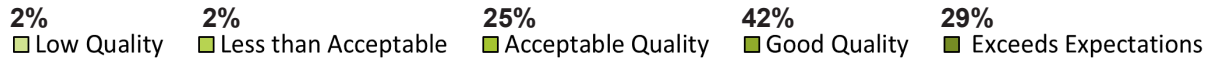


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Hiking
- Nature walks
- Passive recreation
- Bird watching
- Plant identification
- Walking/biking trails

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Dr. Larry Beachy Forest offers its attendees:

- Wayfinding signage
- Identifiable parking for visitors
- Mow or clear trails regularly

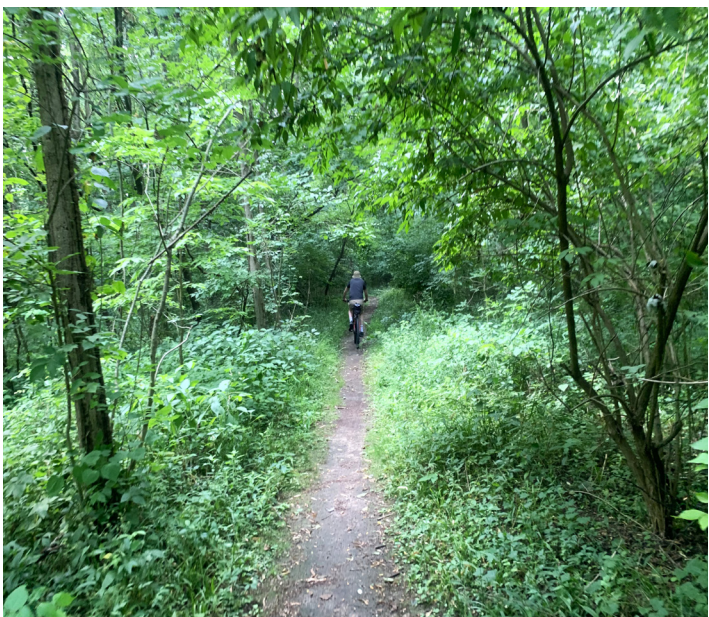
## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Dr. Larry Beachy Forest.

- ADA-compliant parking space

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "Mowing the Beachy Forest trails in summer would make them much more usable"
- "Trails need better maintenance"

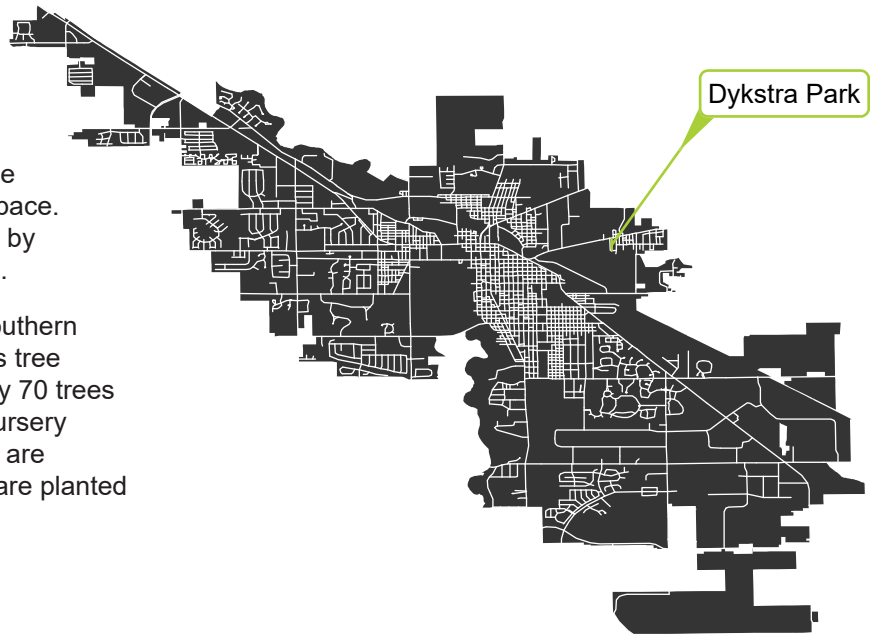




## DYKSTRA PARK

1.7 acres • On the south side of Lincoln Avenue, Dykstra Park is just under 2 acres and home to several staple park activities at the playground, basketball courts and open play space. The park's small windmill was funded and built by members of the Dykstra neighborhood in 2016.

An interesting feature of this park is that the southern part of the site is home to the forestry division's tree nursery. Currently, the nursery provides roughly 70 trees per year or about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of annual demand. This nursery produces larger trees of 1-2 inch diameter that are mechanically balled and planted. These trees are planted around the city including in the parks system.



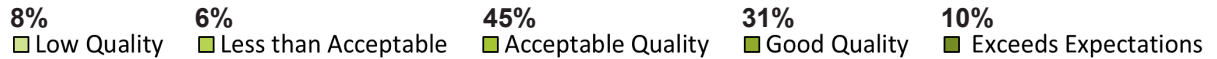


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Basketball
- Play equipment
- Open play area
- Picnic tables
- East Goshen Neighborhood Association events

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Dykstra Park offers its attendees:

- Add mulch
- Update playground equipment
- Pave parking lot
- Stripe parking spaces

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Dykstra Park.

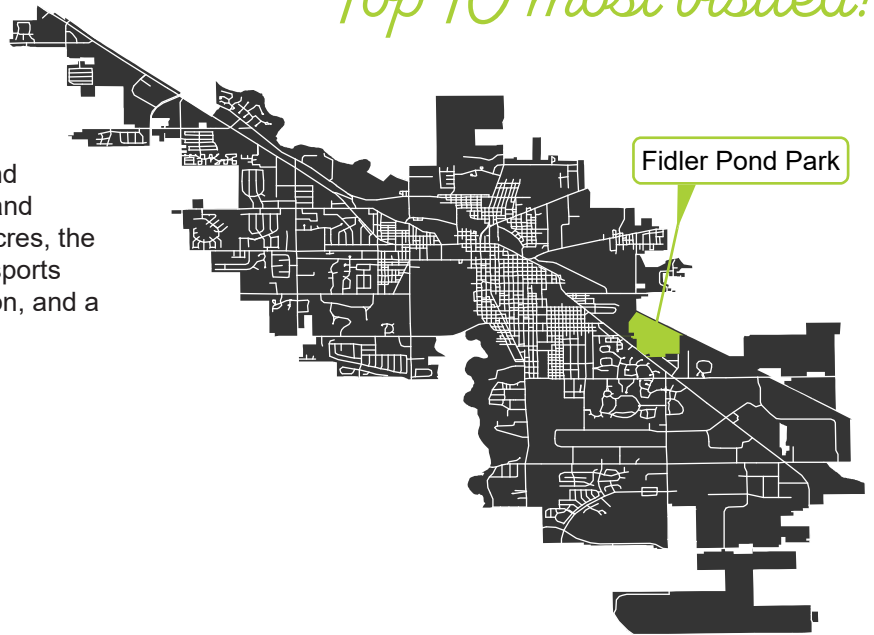
- ADA-compliant parking space
- ADA-compliant route to the playground
- Inclusive playground additions
- ADA-compliant picnic tables





## FIDLER POND PARK

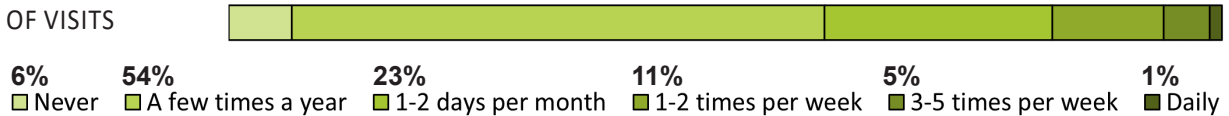
100 acres • Located on the east side of Lincolnway East (US Hwy 33) between East Monroe Street and College Avenue, Fidler Pond is a former gravel pit purchased by the Parks and Recreation Department in 2012. At 100 total acres, the park consists of a 1.5-mile walking trail, watersports rental facility, 84-acre pond, an open-air pavilion, and a welcome center.



0 195 390 780 1,170 1,560 Feet

## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

## FREQUENCY OF VISITS



## THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS &amp; ACTIVITIES

- Sailing Camp
- Fantastic Fishing Derby
- Adult Triathlon
- Kayak and canoe rental
- Cross-country ski rental
- Open play area
- Picnic tables
- Walking/biking trails
- Rentable open-air pavilion

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Fidler Pond offers its attendees:

- Rental facility upgrades
- Digitized rental system
- Upgrade water sports equipment
- Add fishing dock
- Add beach / swimming area
- Add more parking
- Continue invasive plants removal

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Fidler Pond.

- ADA-compliant parking space
- Inclusive water sport activities



## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "I like fishing at Fidler Pond even though I never catch anything."

## WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "Fidler Pond access must be improved for walkers and bikers crossing Lincolnway."
- "Allow fishing out of kayaks or canoes at Fidler pond as long as they don't have motors."
- "Allow swimming"
- "A beach at Fidler would be nice!! You would earn a lot."
- "Adding a beach and swimming area at Fidler Pond would be huge for our community in this warming climate and attract many people!!"
- "Would be nice if Fidler pond would actually create a beach area. Completely understand how deep it is, but with how nice that park is, would be awesome if it had a bit more features to it."
- "More consistent canoe/kayak rental at Fidler."
- "More land surrounding Fidler Pond Park"
- "Would favor more removal of invasive species in Abshire and Fidler, especially mowing Mugwort which is an invasive dense weed along trails."
- "A connection to Maple City Greenway, especially for Springbrook residents!"
- "If/when US 33 widens, advocate for a tunnel to Fairfield Ave."

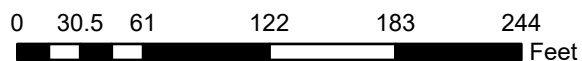
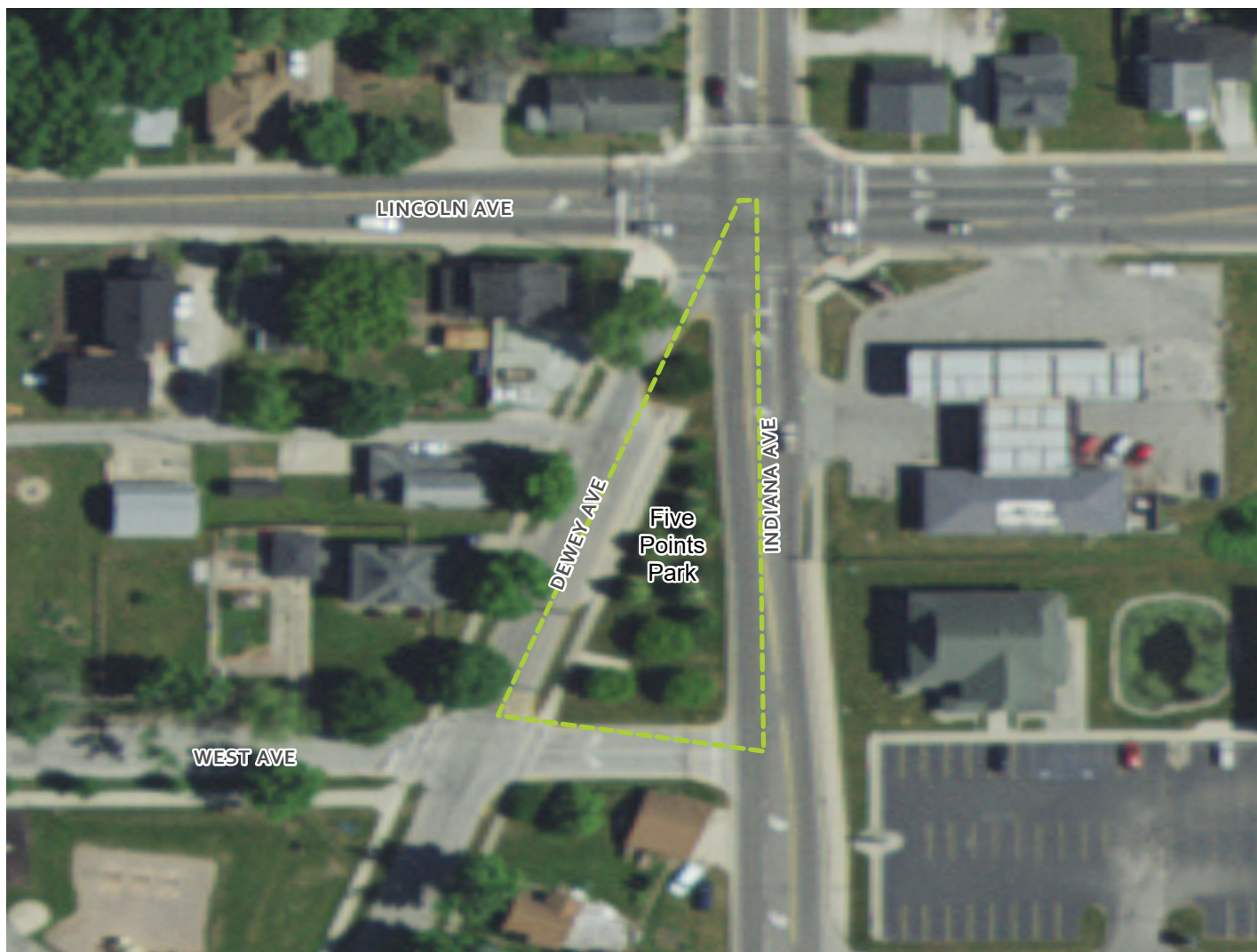
## OTHER DESIRES EXPRESSED FOR FIDLER POND PARK

- More parking
- Add a pier



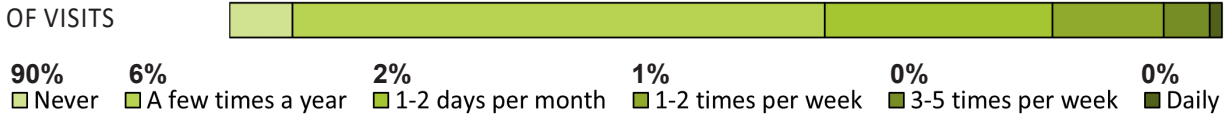
## FIVE POINTS PARK

0.1 acre • Located at the intersection of West Lincoln Avenue, Indiana Avenue, and Dewey Avenue is a small park that provides a get-away to sit down and relax.



## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

None at this time.

Potential location for urban orchard

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Five Points Park offers its attendees:

- Park signage

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Five Points Park.

- ADA-compliant parking space



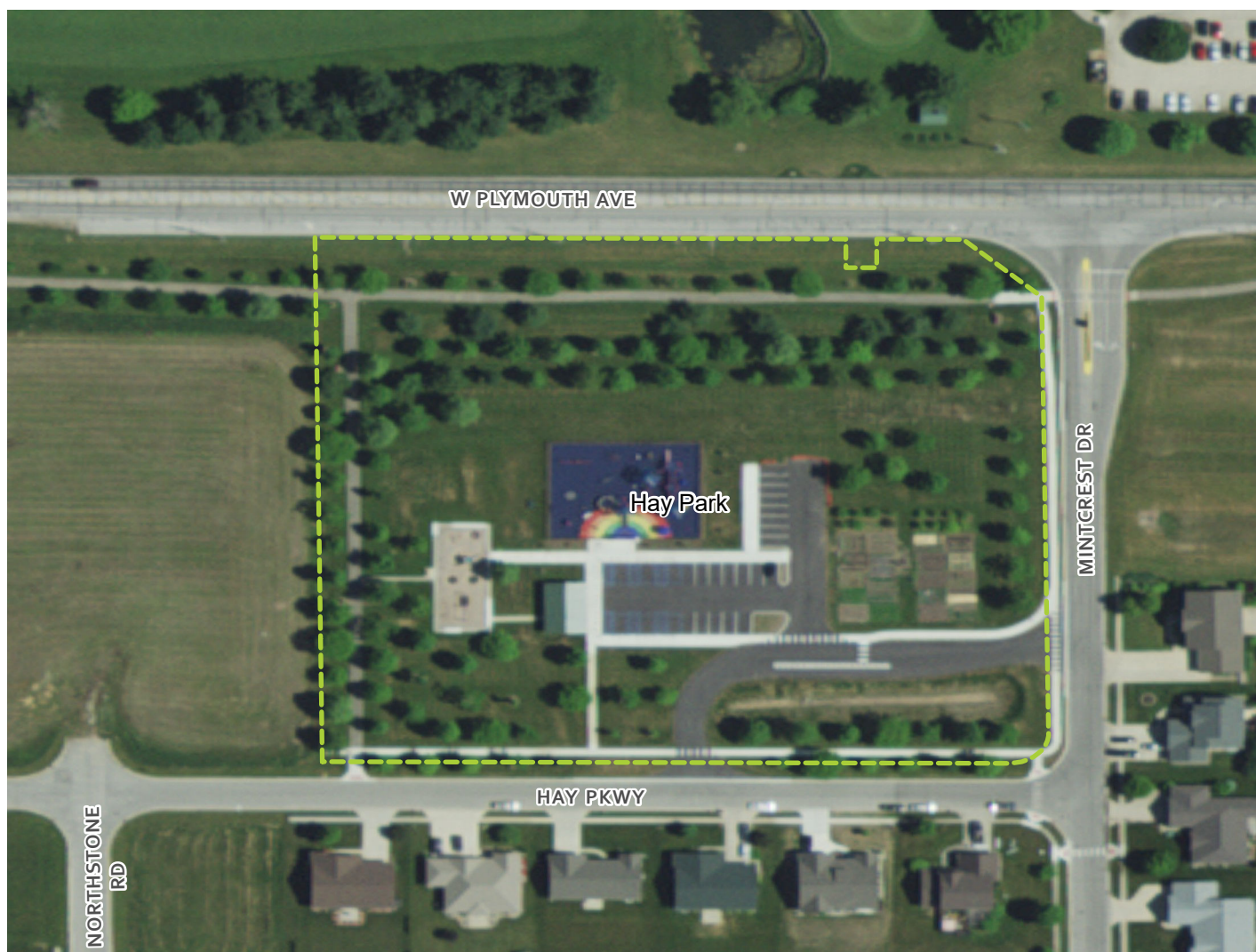


# DRAFT

*Top 10 most visited!*

## HAY PARK

5 acres • Located in the Clover Trails Subdivision, this park was donated and developed by Mr. Steve Hay, previous owner of the land. The park includes Kerry's Kids Playground, Goshen's first all-inclusive play facility. Over 150 trees are on the site and a half-acre community garden is tended by nearby residents. The park also provides a shelter.



0 49.5 99 198 297 396  
Feet

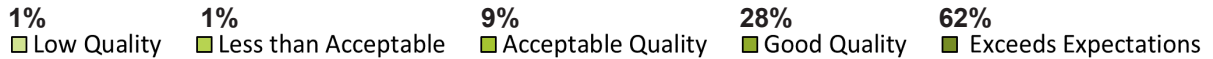


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Community gardens
- Play equipment
- Open play area
- Picnic tables
- Walking/biking trails
- Rentable open-air pavilion

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Hay Park offers its attendees:

- Add benches
- Add shade structures

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Hay Park.

- Widen surrounding playground sidewalk
- ADA-compliant picnic tables

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "Hay park love the park!"
- "I enjoy that I have options, but Hay is my favorite because it's the most updated."
- "I love the playgrounds, especially the accessible playground at Hay Park"
- "Enjoy how accessible Hay Park is, wish more parks had handicap accessible options."

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

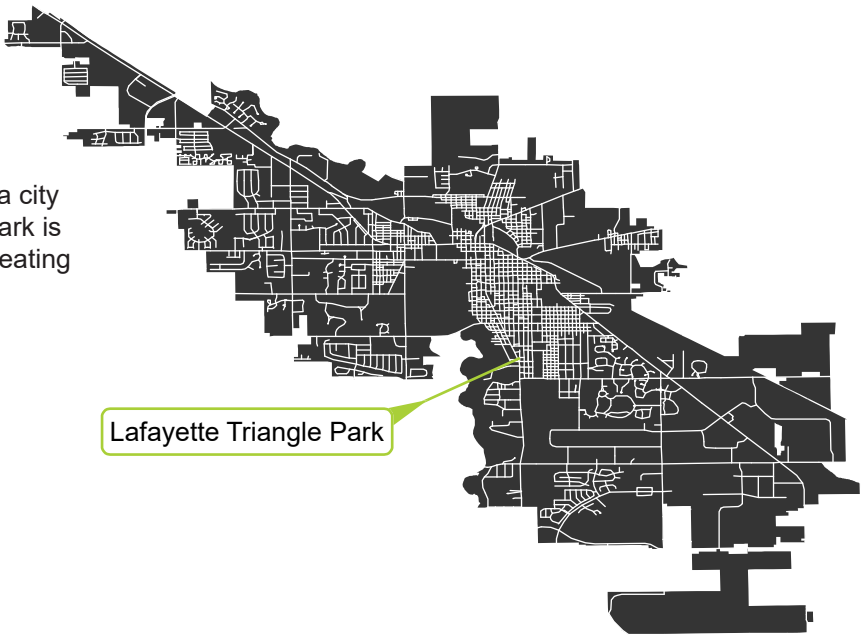
- "I would appreciate Hay Park have a fenced entrance. Children take off out the entrance in a flash, and if you're watching more than one child it is not enjoyable. Also the big gray piece to the right of the entrance walkway blocks vision and children cannot be seen. It would be wonderful to have the benches provide some shade from the sun. It is a wonderful park."
- "More parks similar to Hay park"
- "More shade at Hay Park"
- "Too much parking"



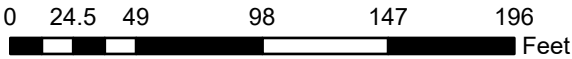
DRAFT

LAFAYETTE  
TRIANGLE PARK

0.5 acre • Located on South Main Street, this park is a city green space with landscaping as a city gateway. At one-half acre, Lafayette Triangle Park is a quaint little park with shaded pathways and seating areas for nearby residents.



Lafayette Triangle Park



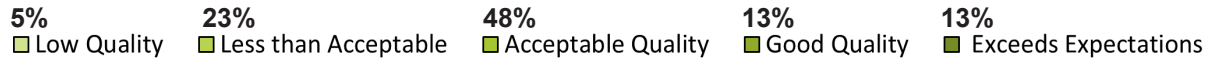


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Open play area
- Picnic tables

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Lafayette Triangle Park.

- Turn park benches for access from sidewalk
- ADA-compliant picnic tables

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Lafayette Triangle Park offers its attendees:

- Add lights for night visitors
- Park signage
- Add perennial and annual landscaping

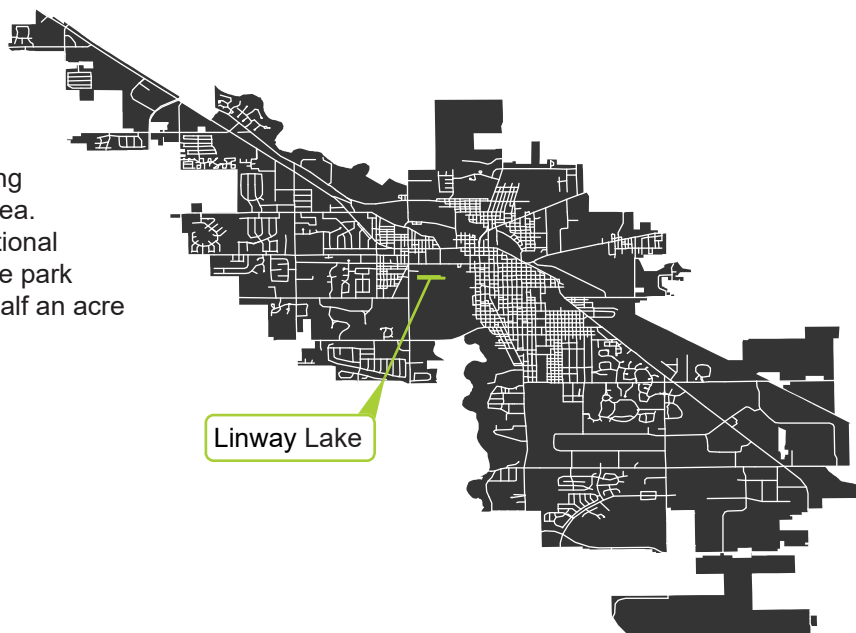




DRAFT

## LINWAY LAKE

7 acres • Comprised almost entirely of open water, Linway Lake is named because of its location directly south of Linway Plaza Shopping Center. It serves as a storm water detention area. Hidden behind the shopping plaza, this recreational gem provides a popular location for fishing. The park includes half an acre of maintained lawn and half an acre of woodland leading to the Elkhart River.



0 95 190 380 570 760 Feet

## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

None at this time.

### ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Linway Lake.

- ADA-compliant route to shore

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Linway Lake offers its attendees:

- Directional signage
- Clearly marked parking options
- Grand entrance landscape
- Perched fishing dock
- Cleared paths around lake
- Connectivity to Mullet Park
- Seating and tables

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "Needs to be connected because a lot of people don't know about it."
- "Seems like an underutilized resource. Would love to see development and connections to trail system."
- "Possibly a more formal access walking path from Chicago Ave / The Chief."

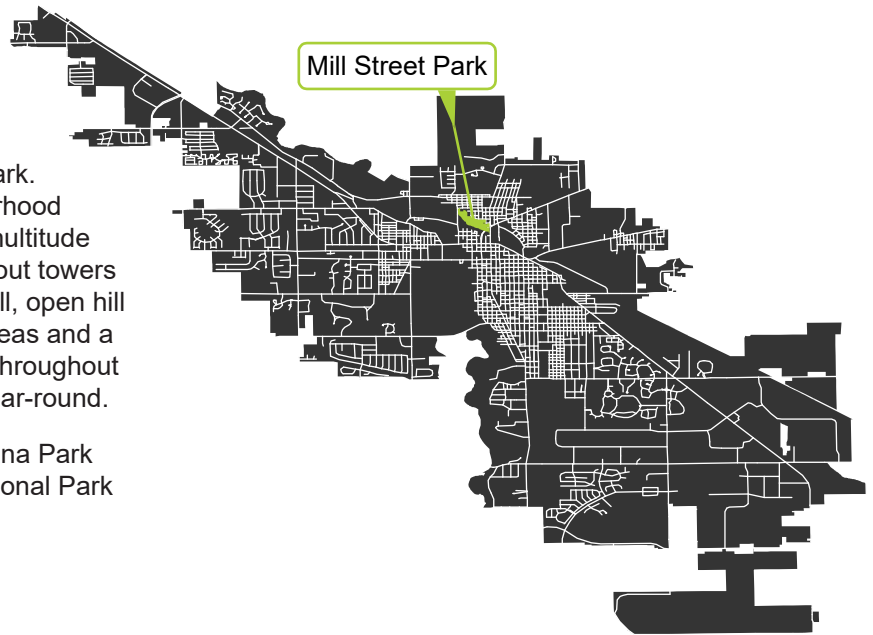




## MILL STREET PARK

11.08 acres • Prior to its current name, Mill Street Park, the park was formerly known as Rock Run Park, and then Allan J. Kauffman Park. Mill Street is the name chosen by the neighborhood residents. At over 11 acres, the park offers a multitude of opportunities; open play spaces, trails, lookout towers that invite imagination for youth, a climbing wall, open hill sides for sledding, interactive art and music areas and a community garden. The park is well attended throughout the year with neighborhood children visiting year-round.

In 2015, the park was the recipient of the Indiana Park and Recreation Association's award of Exceptional Park Design.



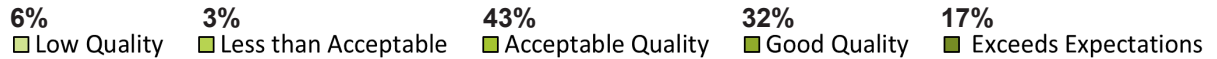


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Open play area
- Picnic tables
- Community gardens
- Walking/biking trails
- Rentable open-air pavilion

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Mill Street Park offers its attendees:

- Replace vandalized elements
- Crack seal parking lot

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Mill Street Park.

- ADA-compliant bathroom access
- Add inclusive playground activities

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "I would like to see more parks like Mill St. Park -- using natural materials and land features (hills and trails) and less play-structure focused."
- "Would love to see a disc golf course at Mill Street Park, there is plenty of underutilized space there for such a course"
- "Add additional small play structure to Mill Street Park"





## MILLRACE PARK

17 acres • Located south of Plymouth Avenue, this park is home to the Rieth Interpretive Center, which has a bird-viewing area and other nature and environmental exhibits. It is also the location for special events such as the Maple City Arbor Day Celebration. Millrace Park lies between the Elkhart River and Millrace Canal and across Plymouth Avenue/State 119, a major thoroughfare from Shanklin Park. The park includes a fitness area, a new wheelchair swing, and a Storybook Trail.

The Millrace Canal Trail follows the east border of the park and provides excellent bicycle and pedestrian access. The western and southern portions of the park are particularly picturesque, largely due to the impact of the Elkhart River and its floodplain.



0 137.5 275 550 825 1,100  
Feet

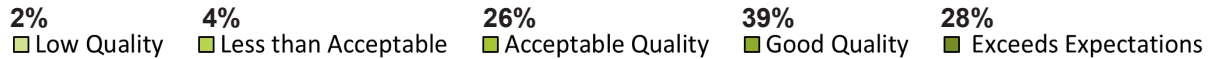


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Millrace Park holds several programs and activities throughout all seasons of the year including the following:

- Nature hikes
- School and community programs
- Story Walk
- Story Time in the Park

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Millrace Park.

- Widen surrounding playground sidewalk

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Millrace Park offers its attendees:

- Clearly define trail head
- Improve wayfinding signage
- Expand river access
- Continue invasive plants removal

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "Splash pads, playgrounds, and the new "water rocks" outside the Rieth Interpretive Center! Our toddler loves hanging out there."

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "In the trails of Millrace park, there should be more signs because I have gotten lost before."

### OTHER DESIRES EXPRESSED FOR MILLRACE PARK:

- Expand river and waterway access

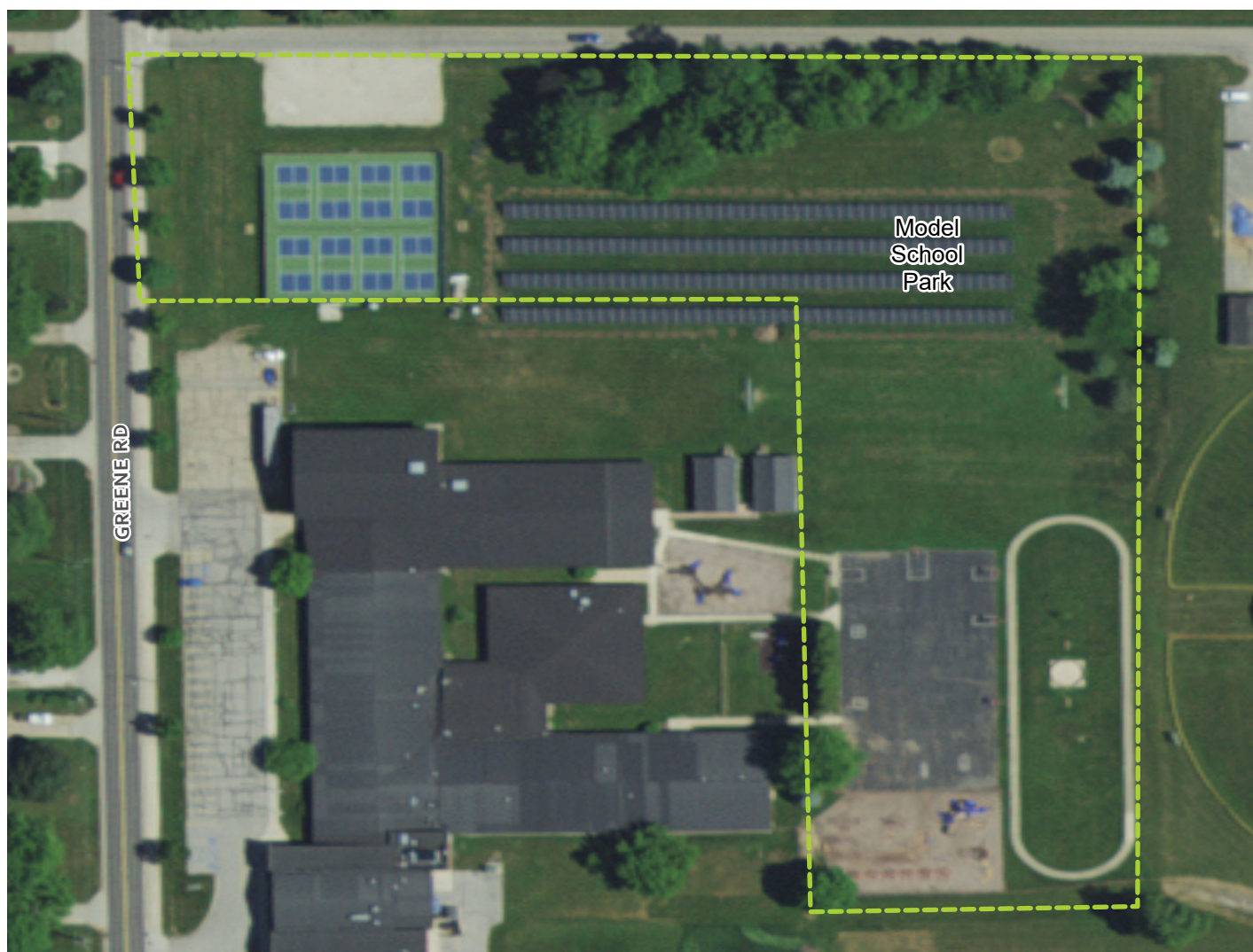
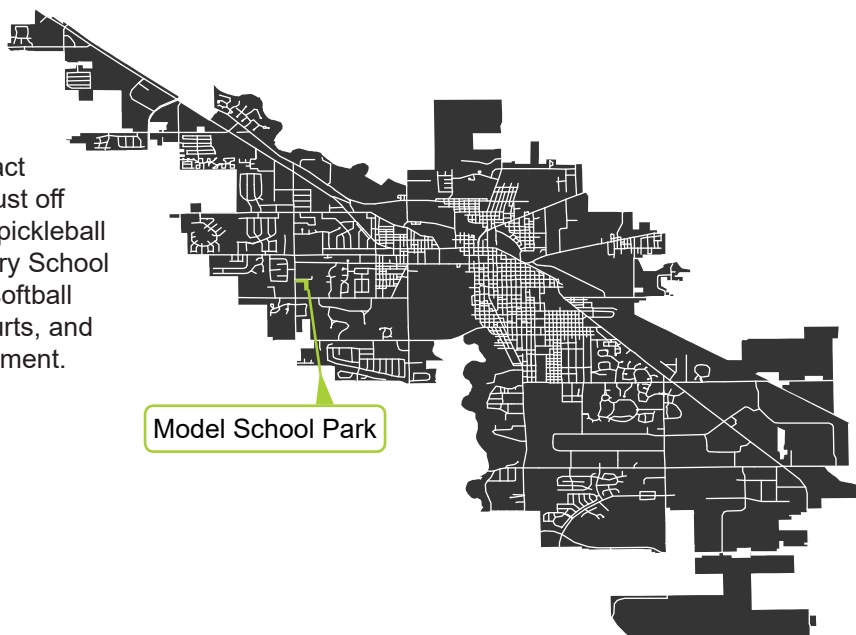




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## MODEL SCHOOL PARK

4 acres • Model School Park is an L-shaped tract of land adjacent to Model Elementary School just off Greene Road. Features include the city's only pickleball courts and an open play field. Model Elementary School and Model Park visitors use the baseball and softball facilities, but only the entry drive, pickleball courts, and parking lot are maintained by the Parks Department.



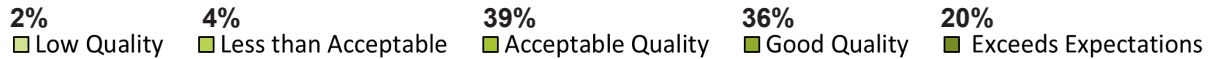
0 46 92 184 276 368 Feet

## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Pickleball tournaments

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Model Park.

- ADA-compliant parking space
- ADA-compliant paved parking lot
- ADA-compliant route from parking lot to courts

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Model Park offers its attendees:

- Seal cracked pavement
- Restripe pavement
- Outdoor pickleball court lighting system
- Additional pickle ball courts
- Add landscaping around courts

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "the pickleball courts at Model."

### DESIRES EXPRESSED FOR MODEL SCHOOL PARK:

- Additional pickleball courts
- Paved parking lot
- "Landscape around fence/build up so don't lose balls (pickleball courts)"





**DRAFT** *Top 10 most visited!*

## MULLET PARK

15 acres • This park is located between Indiana Avenue and Elkhart River, and it is accessible via a pedestrian footbridge that crosses the river into Shanklin Park. The park was recently developed into a popular 9-hole disc golf course that takes advantage of the many trees throughout the site. The site does not include a designated parking lot, though visitors often access the site from a curb cut on Indiana Ave. A small pavilion is located along the trail.



0 90 180 360 540 720  
Feet

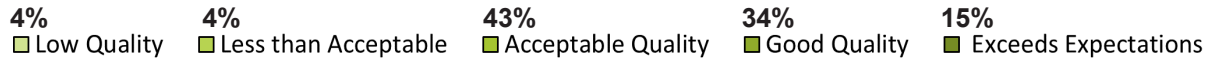


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Disc golf course
- Open play area
- Picnic tables
- Walking/biking trail

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Mullet Park.

- ADA-compliant parking space
- ADA-compliant route from parking lot to trails



## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Mullet Park offers its attendees:

- Gravel or pave small parking lot
- Bathroom facility
- Entrance plantings
- Lights near the trail
- Additional trash cans
- Bike racks
- WiFi availability

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "Disc golfing at Mullet"

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

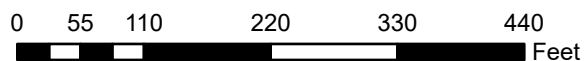
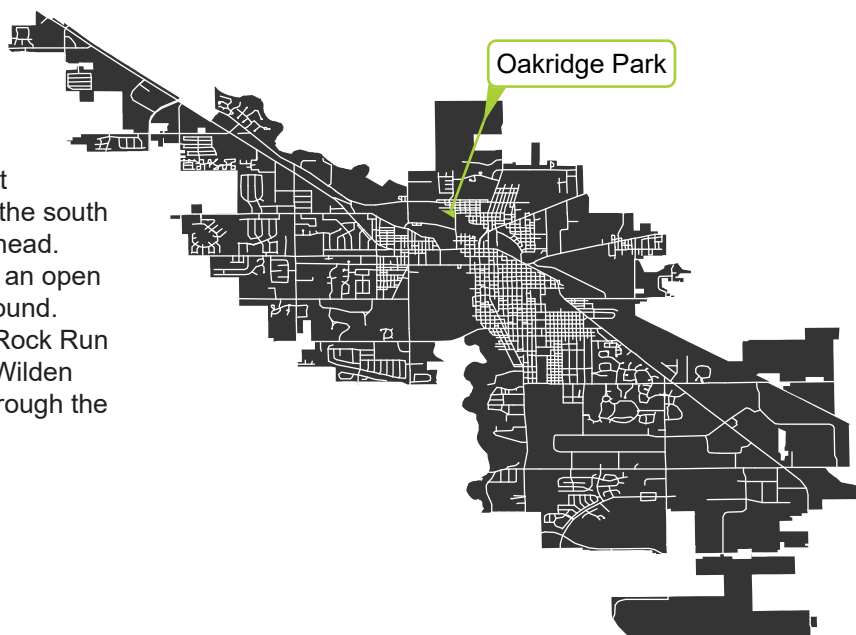
- "Improved parking for Mullet Park/Disc Golf"
- "More trash cans, regular lawn care in parks that depend on it (Mullet)"
- "Mullet park is missing bike racks"
- "Add an official trailhead at Mullet Park – people are parking there already"

### OTHER DESIRES EXPRESSED FOR MULLET PARK:

- WiFi availability
- More natural/passive recreation areas (in the conservation area by Mullet Park)

## OAKRIDGE PARK

3.5 acres • This park is the largest “neighborhood park.” It lies just north of Oakridge Cemetery, at the corner of North First Street and Oakridge Avenue. It is bounded on the south side by Rock Run Creek and serves as a trail head. Facilities include two lighted basketball courts, an open air pavilion with comfort stations, and a playground. The historic iron truss footbridge that crosses Rock Run Creek into Oakridge Park was relocated from Wilden Avenue in 2003. Maple City Greenway runs through the park.



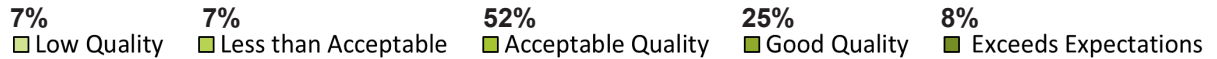


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Basketball
- Play equipment
- Open play area
- Picnic tables
- Walking/biking trail
- Rentable open-air pavilion

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Oakridge Park offers its attendees:

- New grill and placement
- Lights near the trail and playground due to thick tree cover

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Oakridge Park.

- ADA-compliant parking space
- Inclusive playground access and equipment

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "Oakridge splash pad"



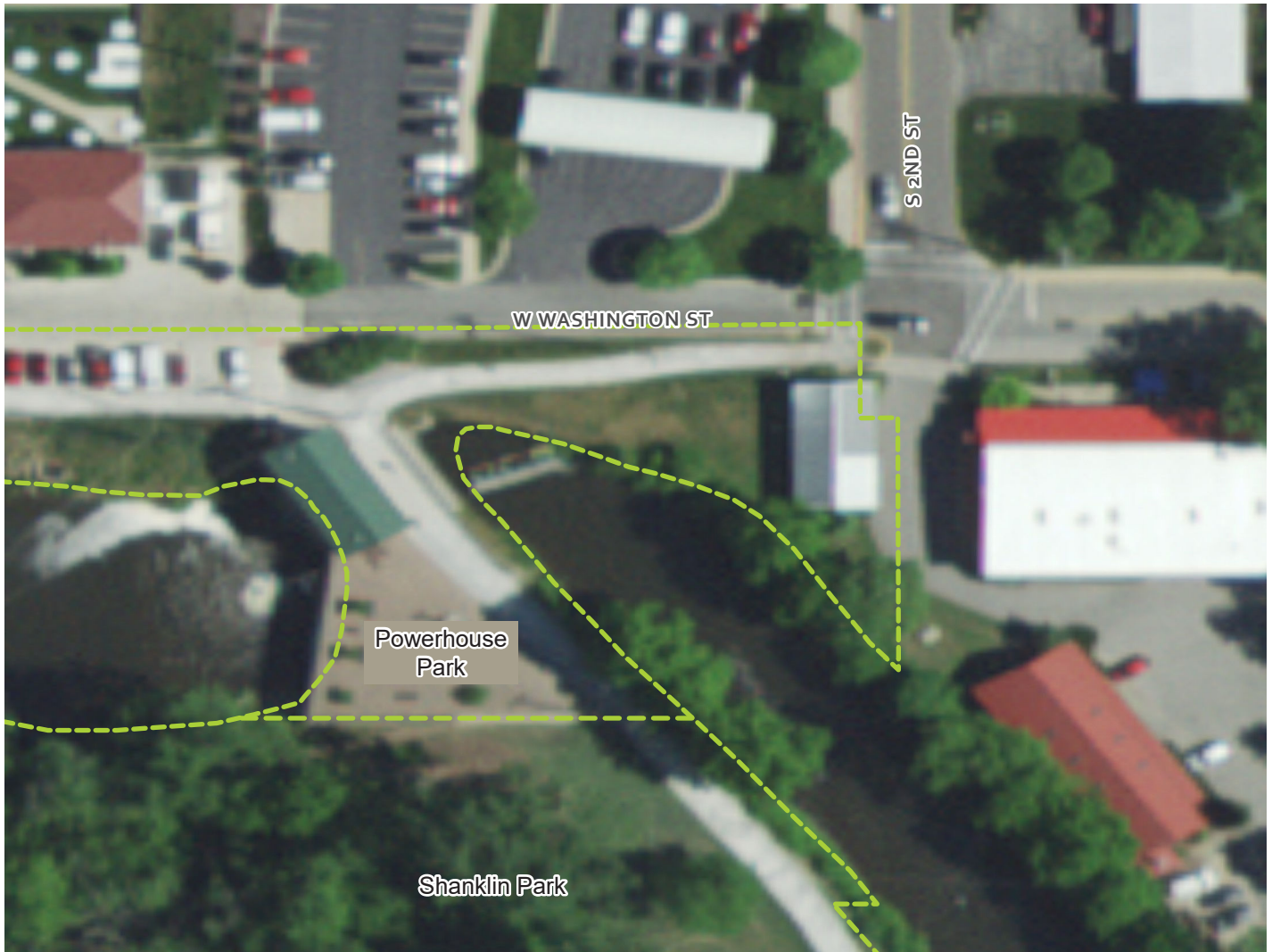
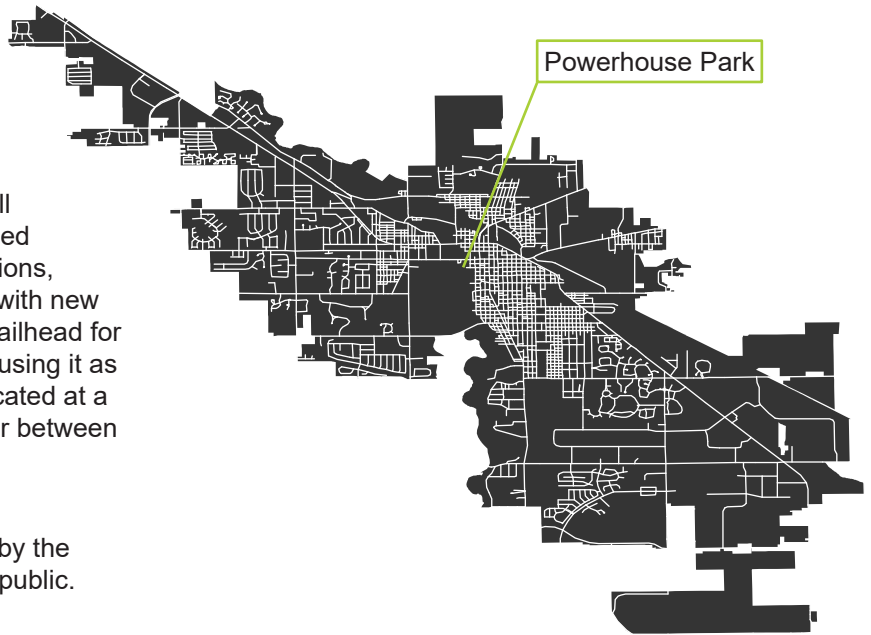


DRAFT

## POWERHOUSE PARK

1.06 acre • At just over an acre, the Powerhouse Park was revamped as a public park in 2011 with a scenic patio over looking the Elkhart River, complete with benches, small trees, and “Dream Chaser,” a sculpture by famed local artist John Mishler. As part of the renovations, the 113-year old powerhouse was cleaned up with new paint, windows, and roof. The park acts as a trailhead for the Millrace Trail with community running club using it as a weekly meet-up location. The park is also located at a portage point for kayaks and canoes to transfer between the Elkhart River and the Millrace Canal.

The property is owned by the City of Goshen Redevelopment Commission, but is managed by the Parks. The building is available for rent by the public.



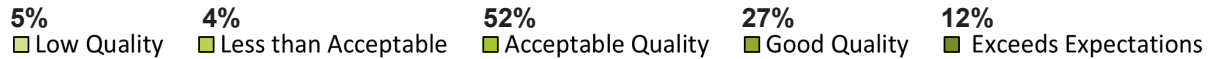
0 25 50 100 150 200 Feet

## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Small boat launches to Millrace canal and Elkhart River.
- Powerhouse building is available for rent by the public
- Walking/biking trailhead

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Oakridge Park.

- ADA-compliant parking space



## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Oakridge Park offers its attendees:

- Add steps down to the river access site
- Add drinking fountain

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "Love kayak stairs at Powerhouse to Millrace"
- "Add portage steps from Powerhouse/Millrace to Elkhart River"

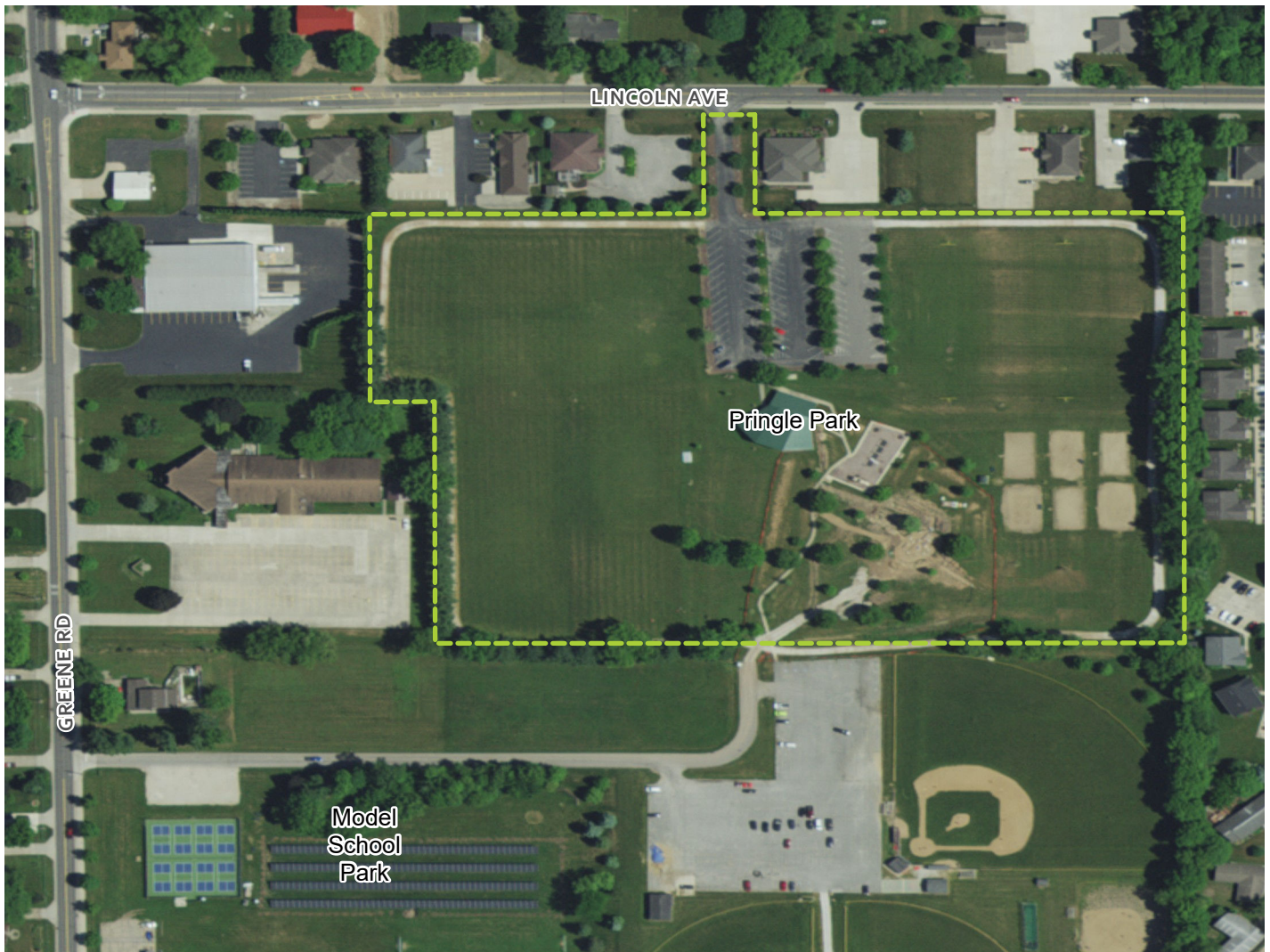
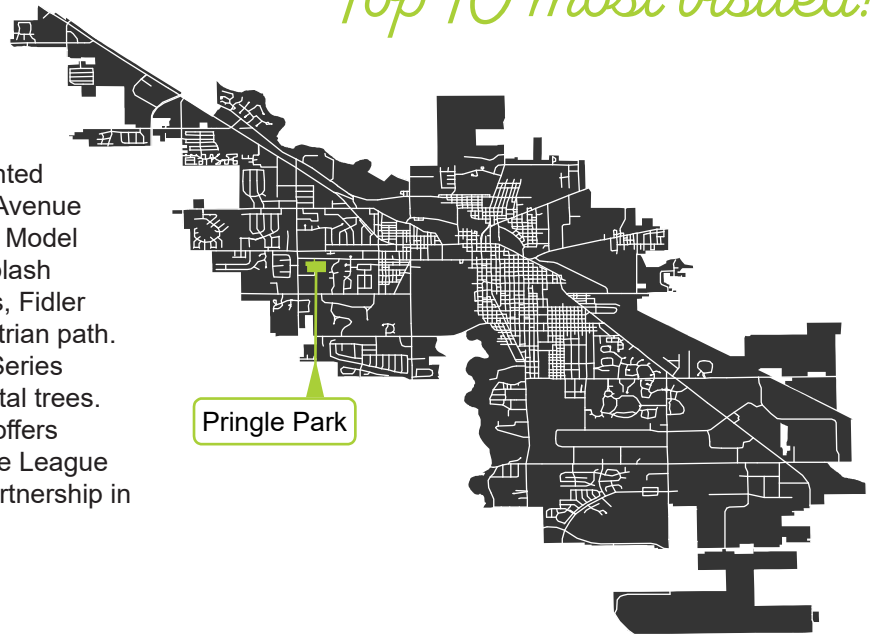




**DRAFT** *Top 10 most visited!*

## PRINGLE PARK

14 acres • Donated by the Fidler Family in 1979, Pringle Park serves an important community need and is primarily a sports-oriented park. The park can be accessed from Lincoln Avenue or Greene Road via an entrance drive north of Model Elementary School. Facilities include a new splash pad, youth soccer fields, sand volleyball courts, Fidler Pavilion, a playground, and a perimeter pedestrian path. Fidler Pavilion accommodates free “Summer Series Concerts.” The entrance is lined with ornamental trees. The parking lot is beautifully tree-scaped and offers ample parking. The park’s proximity to the Little League softball complex creates the opportunity for partnership in terms of programming and maintenance.



0 87.5 175 350 525 700 Feet

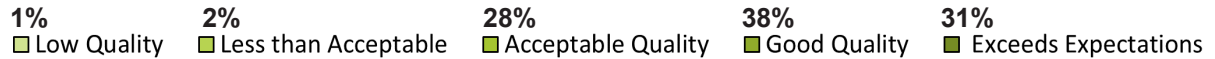


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

## FREQUENCY OF VISITS



## THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS &amp; ACTIVITIES

- Youth soccer league
- Soccer camp
- Adult co-ed sand volleyball
- Youth flag football
- Pound Fit
- Zumba
- Splash pad
- Walk With a Doc
- Play equipment
- Open play area
- Picnic tables
- Walking/biking trails
- Rentable open-air pavilion

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Pringle Park offers its attendees:

- Large berm for natural seating in case of concerts at pavilion
- Rope boundaries / clearly defined boundaries for volleyball courts

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "I like all the basketball opportunities at most parks and the big open areas of Pringle Park. Sometimes you want to fly a kite, throw a ball, etc... and those areas are great to do it."
- "Splash pads at Pringle Park"

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Pringle Park.

- Inclusive playground equipment

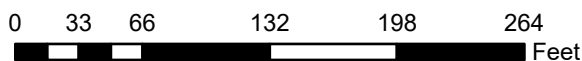
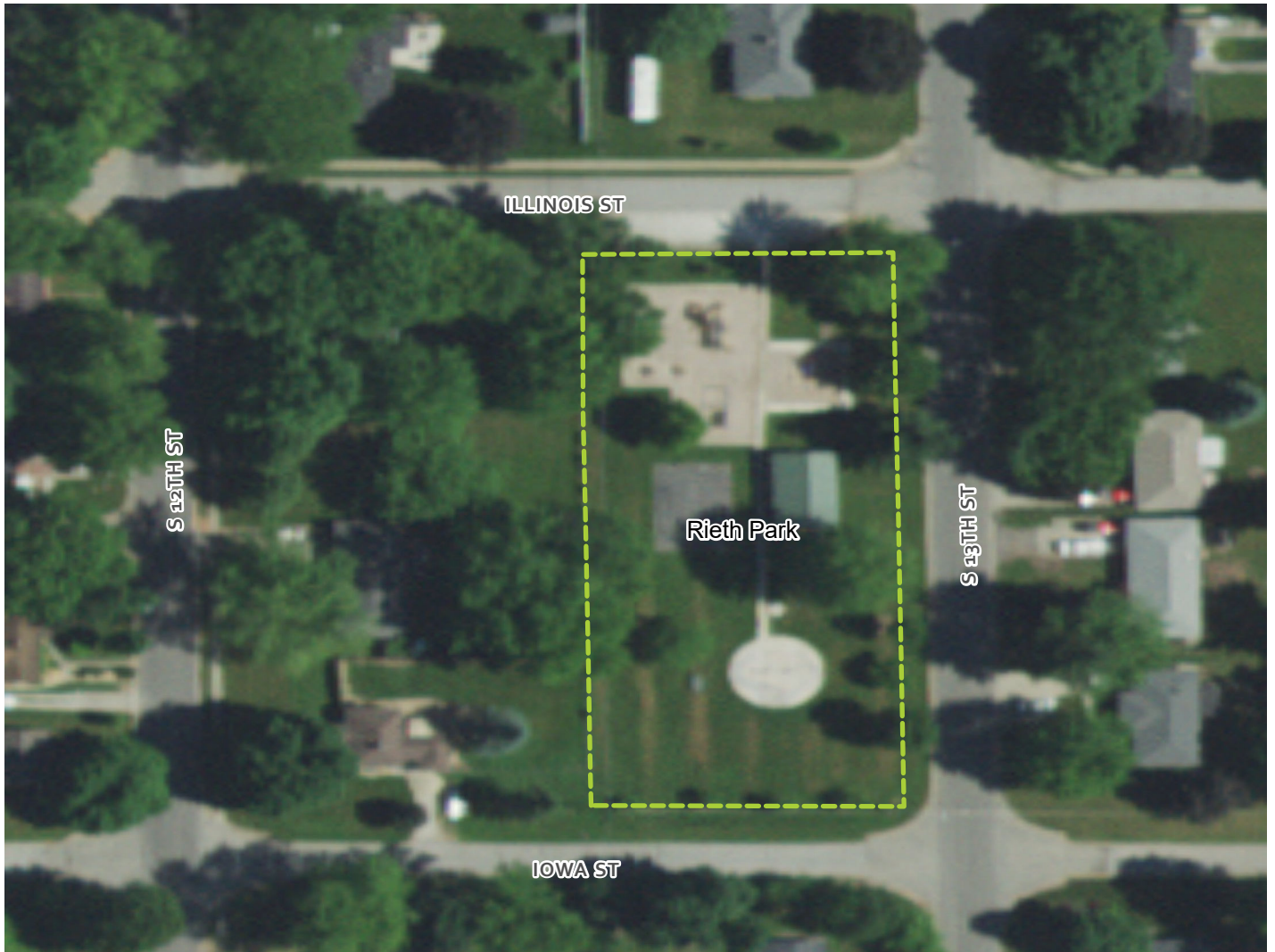


DRAFT

*Top 10 most visited!*

## RIETH PARK

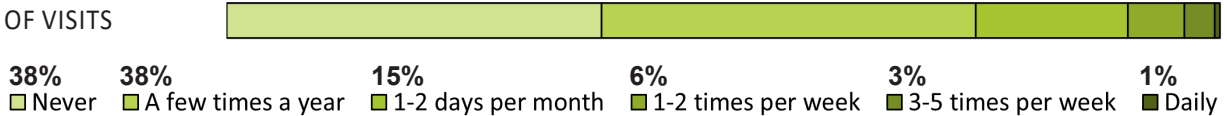
1.3 acres • Built on land donated by the Rieth Family in 1980, this neighborhood park features a picnic pavilion with restrooms, a playground, a splash pad, and an open play area. The layout of this park is defined between structured and informal uses. Land and water conservation funds were used to develop the park.



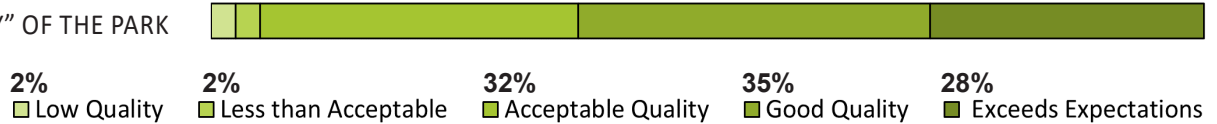


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Basketball
- Play equipment
- Open play area
- Picnic tables
- Splash pad
- Rentable open-air pavilion

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Rieth Park offers its attendees:

- More mulch, possibly recycled rubber
- New or updated splash pad equipment
- Security lighting

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Rieth Park.

- ADA-compliant route to park benches
- ADA-compliant parking space
- ADA-compliant picnic tables

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

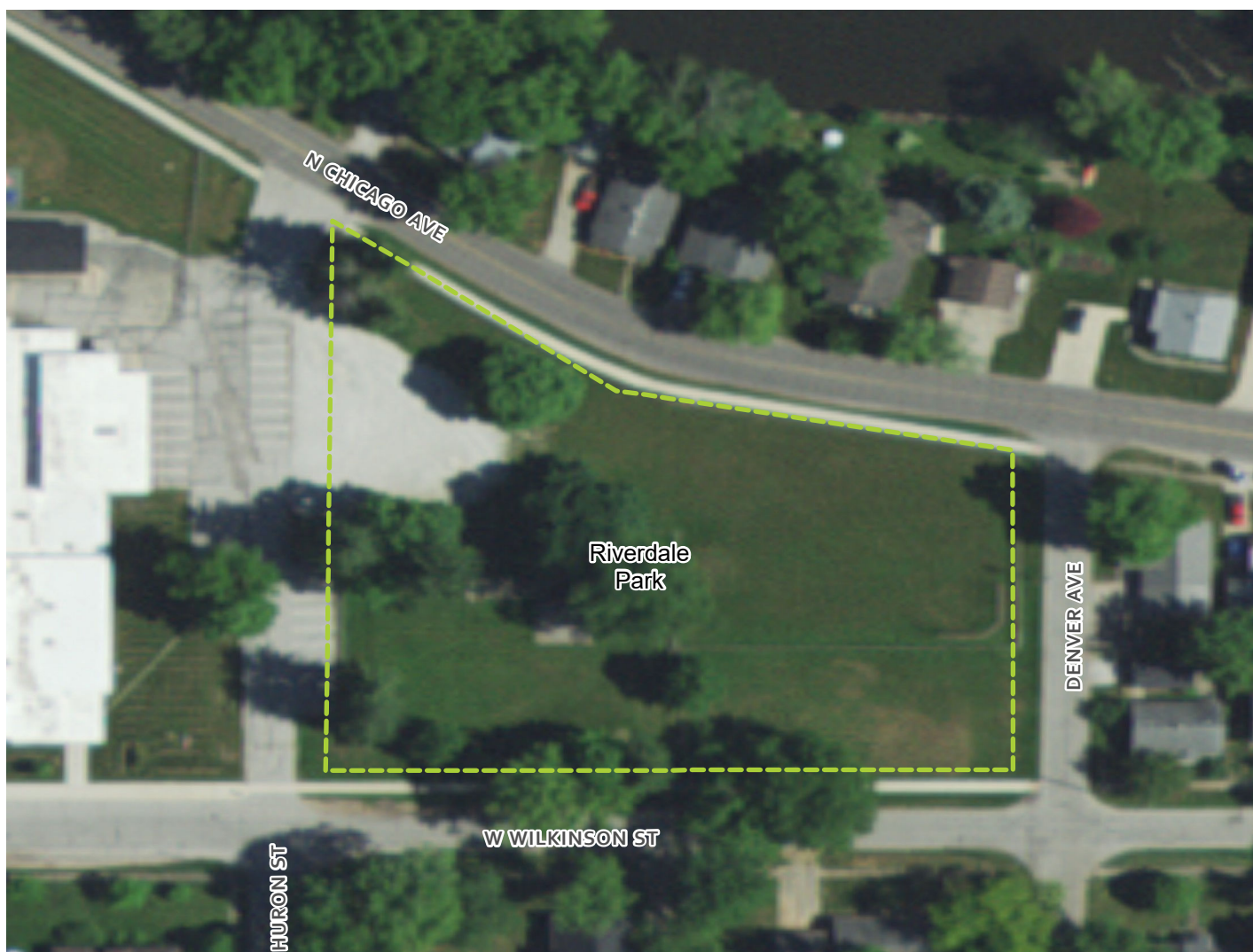
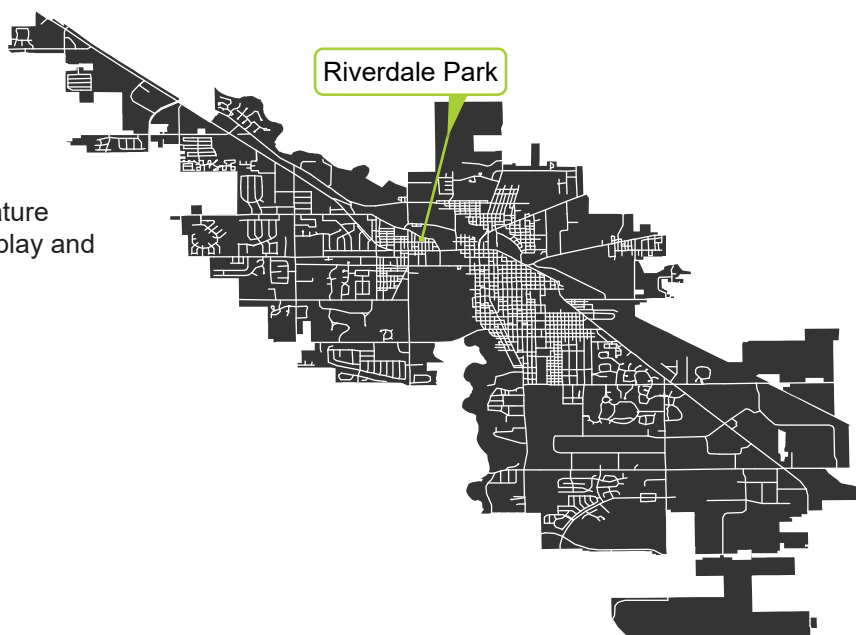
- "Rieth park could use more shade that allows parents to watch their children on the splash pad AND the playground. The pavilion, in its current location is awkwardly placed. You can sit at it but cannot see what is going on at the splash pad. If you want to sit and watch children, you have to bring your own shade or chairs, which is difficult for various folks (elderly, poor, teenagers, ect...). If you actually had electrical outlets in this shaded area, I think the park would be very very popular."





## RIVERDALE PARK

1.5 acre • This park is new to the Goshen Parks network as of 2023. Previously part of the adjacent Riverdale Elementary School, the park is now unprogrammed open field. The mature trees provide valuable shaded areas for open play and picnics.



0 31.25 62.5 125 187.5 250 Feet



THIS PARK WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITY SURVEY, SO DATA ON FREQUENCY OF VISITS AND QUALITY OF THE PARK ARE UNAVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Open play area

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Riverdale Park.

- ADA-compliant parking
- ADA-compliant route to open play area

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

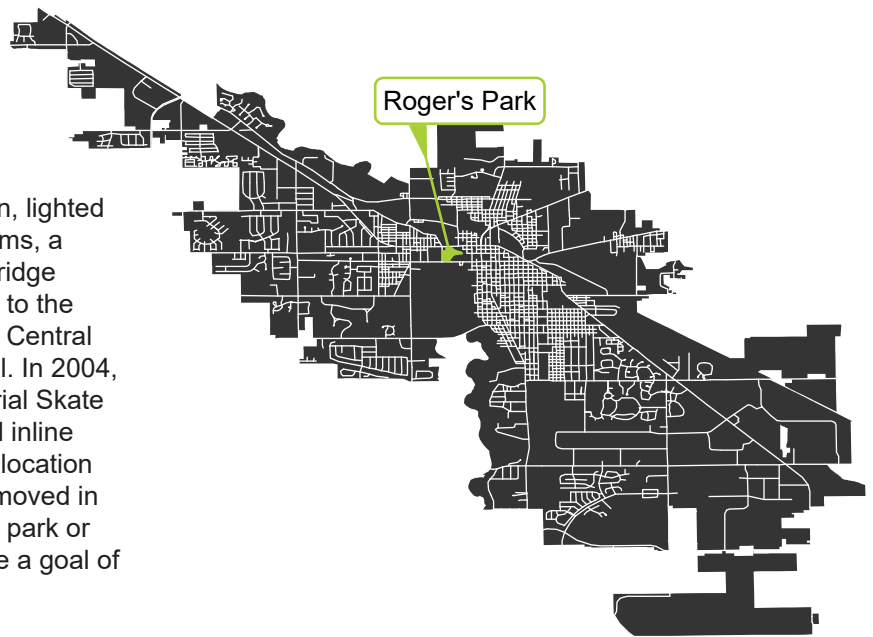
- Provide shelter
- Provide trash receptacles
- Provide benches
- Provide picnic tables
- Develop park program





## ROGERS PARK

12 acres • Originally developed in 1909, Rogers Park was the largest and most heavily used park in the City for over 50 years. Facilities include a large, historic picnic pavilion, lighted basketball courts, a baseball diamond, restrooms, a boat launch, and a playground. A pedestrian bridge spans the Elkhart River and connects the park to the downtown area, the Maple City Greenway, the Central City Trail, Riverwalk Trail, and the Millrace Trail. In 2004, the community built Tyler S. Joldersma Memorial Skate Park; it was constructed for skateboarders and inline skaters to practice their sport. Due to age and location in a floodplain, some of the equipment was removed in 2023 for safety reasons. Plans to renovate the park or find an alternative location for the facility will be a goal of the Parks Department during this plan cycle.



0 80 160 320 480 640  
Feet

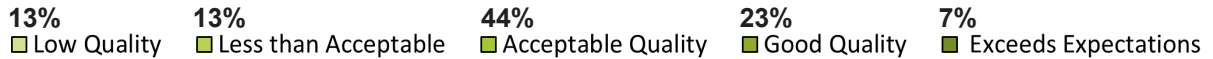


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Basketball leagues
- Baseball leagues
- Boat launch
- Skate park
- Fishing
- Play equipment
- Open play area
- Picnic tables
- Volleyball
- Walking/biking trails
- Rentable open-air pavilion

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Rogers Park offers its attendees:

- Complete park master plan, including pavilion, skate park, and ball diamonds.
- Fishing pier
- Upgrade canoe/kayak launch
- Security lighting located at all building facilities
- Update old wooden picnic tables
- Update or relocate skate park

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Rogers Park.

- ADA-compliant access to playground
- ADA-compliant picnic tables

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "Remove Rogers Park pavilion."
- "A new skatepark is needed and now that it's an Olympic sport we need to have access for kids to improve their street skating in a safe, realistic environment. At the time Goshen's skate park was created it was on some of the newest/best hardware but it was built exponentially large and doesn't cater to how the sport has evolved. A concrete river walk or skatepark in Rogers could be a huge opportunity. Look at Rob Dyrdek and other's skateparks where they don't actually try to look like skateparks. Making more "natural" features for street skaters would be nice for pedestrians and skaters alike (we just need signage that it is, in fact, a skatepark)."

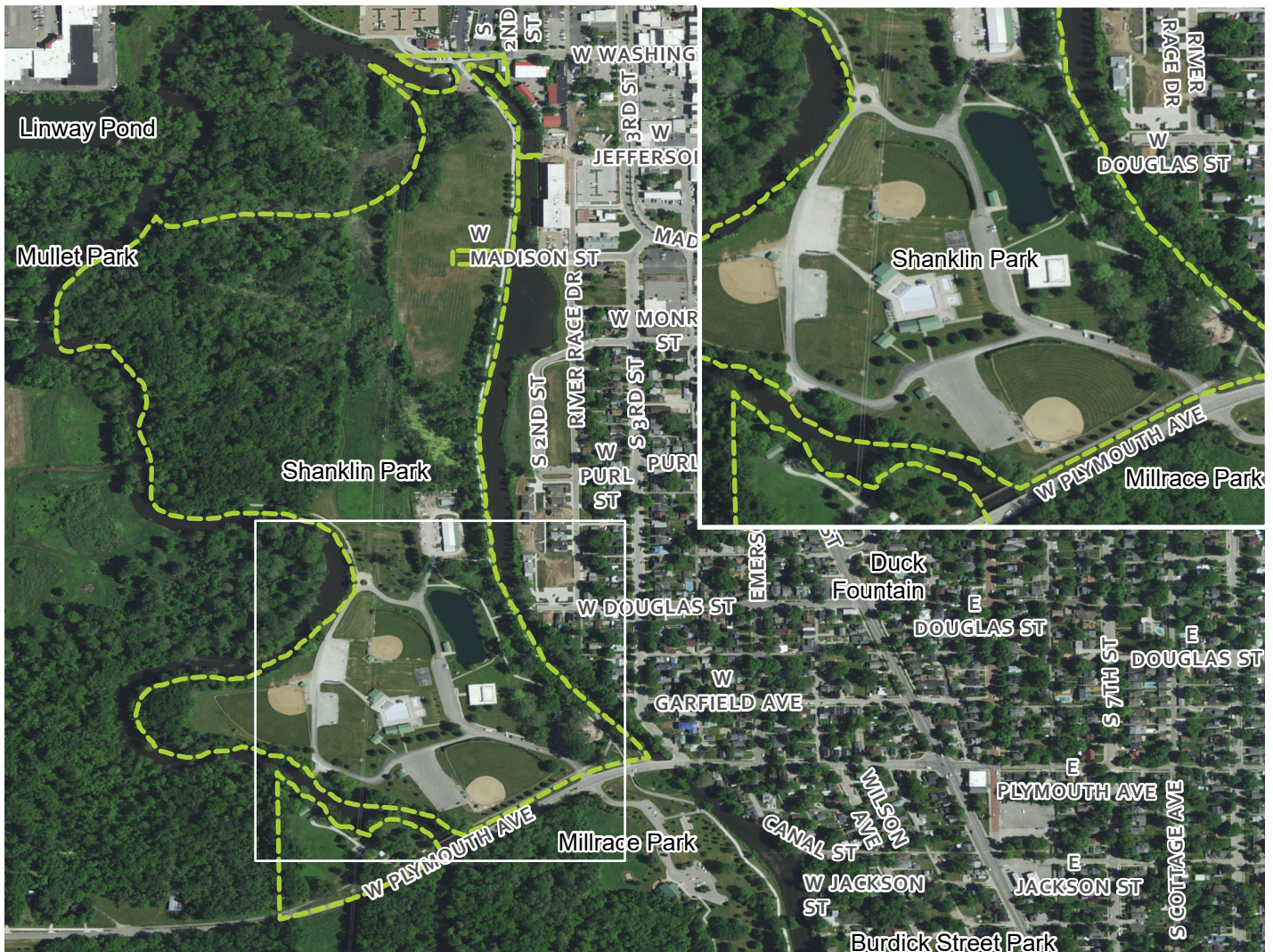


# DRAFT

*Top 10 most visited!*

## SHANKLIN PARK

90 acres • This park is by far the City's largest park and lies between the Elkhart River and Millrace Canal at the heart of the community. Since its development in 1958, Shanklin Park has become the "hub" of recreational activity in Goshen. Facilities include lighted baseball/softball diamonds, a swimming pool, Schrock Pavilion, a boat launch, the community-built Tommy's Kids Castle play structure, Kiwanis Pavilion, and the Riverside open-air pavilion. Shanklin Park also boasts significant passive opportunities, including native grass and wildflowers, a large forested wetland, and a perennial garden. A trail in Shanklin Park connects the Millrace Trail to Mullet Park. Park maintenance is housed at this park. Due to damage from the historic 2018 flood, the Park and Recreation Department's administrative offices have been relocated from the southwest corner of the property.



0 275 550 1,100 1,650 2,200 Feet

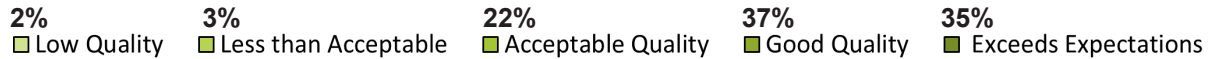


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

## FREQUENCY OF VISITS



## THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS &amp; ACTIVITIES

- High school cross-country meets
- Kerry's Kids and Teens Triathlon
- Discovery Day Camp
- Art Camp
- Young Champions Cheerleading
- Adult softball league
- Public pool
- Swim and scuba diving classes
- Dive-in movie night at the pool
- Sailing classes
- Nights of Lights
- Touch-a-Truck
- Basketball
- Fishing
- Play equipment
- Open play area
- Picnic tables
- Walking/biking trails
- Little Library
- Rentable enclosed and open-air pavilions

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Shanklin Park.

- Inclusive playground equipment

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Shanklin Park offers its attendees:

- Fishing pier
- Designated and updated canoe/kayak launch
- Security lighting located at all building facilities
- Improvements on pool
- Improved maintenance on playground
- Add pickleball courts
- Consider off-leash dog park
- Continue invasive plants removal

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "Shanklin park and the millrace are great for running, walking, playing, etc."
- "Shanklin pool"
- "Our favorite is Shanklin because of Tommy's castle. We spend a lot of time there"

## WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "Because of the heavy use it gets, Shanklin playground needs maintenance. It's kind of a muddy mess when it's wet, and I don't take the kids there at those times."
- "Paved multiuse skate/long board path at Shanklin"
- "More thought to preserve and enhance natural areas, like remove concrete riprap along river in Shanklin Park. It is really, really ugly and prevents use of riverbank."
- "Shanklin could use sanding on the wood, and a protective floor that is not use so as to be more handicap accessible."
- "I'm excited to see what will be done with Shanklin Park Pool. A bunch of tables/umbrellas with somewhere to use a diving board would be excellent. The only complaint I've ever had with the pool is running out of chairs or shade spots."
- "Reuse/repurpose old Parks & Rec office location in Shanklin Park"

## OTHER DESIRES EXPRESSED FOR SHANKLIN PARK:

- Update pool and changing rooms
- WiFi availability
- Pickleball courts
- Off-leash dog park



# SHANKLIN PARK POOL

The City of Goshen is in the process of evaluating the feasibility and costs associated with undertaking significant upgrades to the existing Shanklin Pool facility. The pool was opened in 1969 and has served the public well but is showing its age. A summary of this process and next steps is included in the plan.

## SHANKLIN POOL DESIGN SUMMARY

### WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?

#### POOL CONDITION ANALYSIS NOVEMBER 2022

Review existing pool conditions with pool operations. Observed existing condition of all features including pool, amenities, mechanical systems and buildings.

#### POOL MASTERPLAN MARCH 2023

Exploration of design alternatives with a recommended and preferred option for future design. Preferred option will serve as starting point for more detailed design.

#### START SCHEMATIC DESIGN DECEMBER 2023

Start of detailed design for pool, including survey, geotechnical borings, updated pool layout and building floorplans. Understanding of permitting requirements for construction.

### KEY FINDINGS

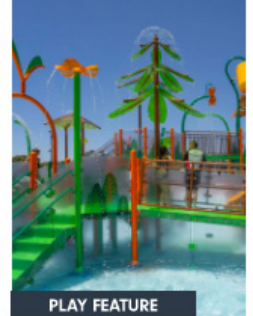
- **Existing Conditions**
  - Pool membrane is past its lifespan
  - Pool vessel concrete shows signs of wear
  - Pool gutter system needs upgrades/ replacement
  - Mechanical and piping system needs upgrades
  - Filtration system needs upgrades in wading pools
  - Concrete deck needs repairs/ replacements
  - Deck drainage needs repairs/ replacement
  - Pool slides are past their lifespan
- **Site Constraints**
  - Pool is in the floodway – permitting required
  - Electric utility easement – limits expansion
  - Site grading – limits expansion

### WHAT WE HEARD

- **Target Audience** – Children, Parents, Pre-teens, Young Adults, and Older Adults
- **300-500 Kids a Day** – Clubs, Camps, Field Trips
- **Inclusive Features are a need**
- **Programming Opportunities** – Adult/ Movie Night, Gathering/ Event Space
- **Desired Amenities**
  - Lockers/ Storage Space
  - Shade Options
  - Rentable Cabanas/ Space
  - Slides
  - Beach Entry with Play Feature
  - Toddler Play Features
  - Area for Swim Lessons



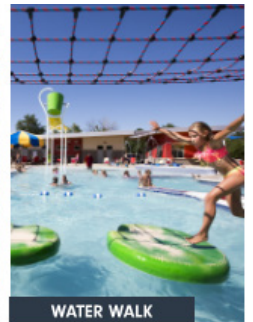
WATERSLIDES



PLAY FEATURE



TODDLER BAY



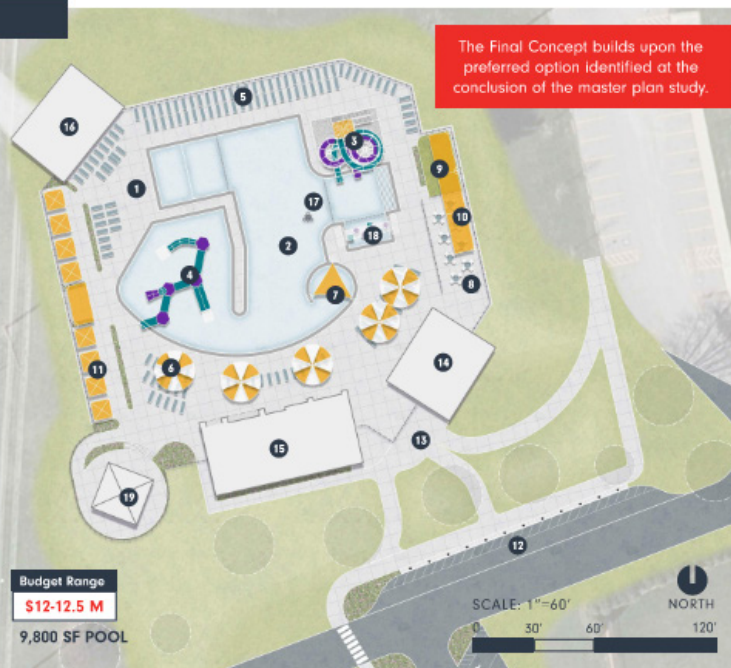
WATER WALK

CITY OF GOSHEN - PARKS AND RECREATION | FEBRUARY 9, 2024

### FINAL CONCEPT

#### Legend

- 1 Pool Deck  
• +/- 18,500 SF
- 2 Beach Entry / Activity Pool  
• 0-5' Depth  
• +/- 9,800 SF
- 3 Slide Tower  
• 2 Slides
- 4 Play Feature
- 5 Deck Chairs
- 6 Umbrellas
- 7 Toddler Bay
- 8 Cafe Area
- 9 Artificial Turf / Lounge Area
- 10 Shade Structure
- 11 Cabanas
- 12 Drop-Off Area
- 13 Entry Plaza
- 14 Admin/Concessions
- 15 Bathhouse
- 16 Mechanical Building
- 17 Basketball Goal
- 18 Water Walk Play Feature
- 19 Party Pavilion



The Final Concept builds upon the preferred option identified at the conclusion of the master plan study.

Budget Range  
\$12-12.5 M  
9,800 SF POOL

SCALE: 1"=60'  
0 30' 60' 120'

NORTH

During the Parks Master Plan community survey the department wanted to collect additional feedback on the potential pool improvement project. Two questions were asked.

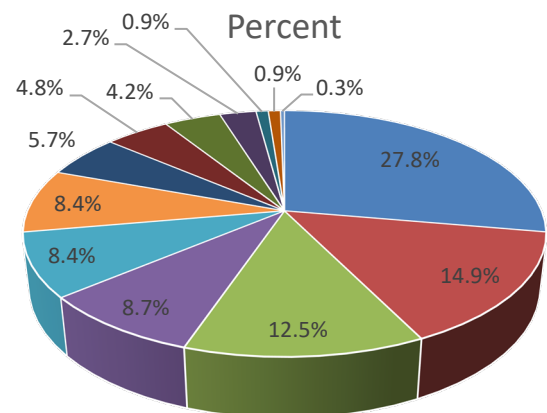
“Have you or someone in your family used the Shanklin Pool in the past 12-months? If yes what did they do, if no, why?” Of the 413 responses received, 59.6% indicated that they had not used the pool facilities in the last 12-months. Reasons provided range from having access to a private pool or lake to costs and lack of time or interest. There were some responses related to age and that they felt that their children were too young or they were too old to use the pool. Some respondents did indicate they use other facilities such as the Goshen Middle School Aquatic Center.

The survey also asked “What is the most important improvement that should be made to Shanklin Pool to make it more attractive?” Respondents were only allowed to select one answer but were given the opportunity to add a comment as “other”. Of the 355 responses, shade areas received the most votes of 27.8%. A list of responses is in the table. Notable other responses include:

- Special needs time slot
- Adult only area or time slot
- Increased hours and days of operation
- Reduce cost
- Splash pad for toddlers
- Make it deeper and larger
- More swim programs and instructors
- Renew main entrance
- Reduce crowding

***“What is the most important improvement that should be made to Shanklin Pool to make it more attractive?”***

	Percent
Shade Areas	27.8%
Other (please specify)	14.9%
Updated Bath Houses/Shower Rooms	12.5%
Zero Depth/Beach Entry	8.7%
Play Features	8.4%
Water Slides	8.4%
Retain the Diving Well	5.7%
Updated Concessions/Cafe Area	4.8%
Keep Swim Lane Lines	4.2%
Cabanas	2.7%
Artificial Turf Lounge Area	0.9%
Remove the Diving Well	0.9%
Remove Swim Lane Lines	0.3%



## Shanklin Park Pool Redesign Next Steps

COMPLETE SCHEMATIC DESIGN  
APRIL 2024

COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS  
FOURTH QUARTER 2024

START CONSTRUCTION  
FIRST QUARTER 2025

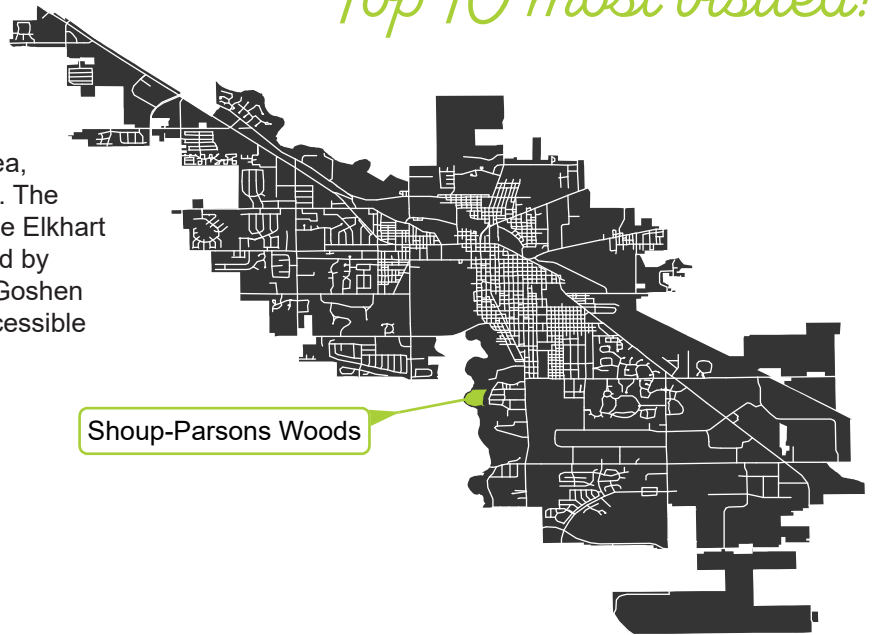
POOL OPENING  
MEMORIAL DAY 2026



**DRAFT** *Top 10 most visited!*

## SHOUP-PARSONS WOODS

17 acres • Designed as a natural education area, Shoup-Parsons Woods was dedicated in 1980. The park is comprised of lowland forest between the Elkhart River and the Millrace Canal, and it is accessed by crossing the head gates of the Millrace at the Goshen Dam Pond. Features include a paved, fully accessible trail loop, a boardwalk overlooking an existing wetland, interpretive trails, restrooms, and a parking area.



0 80 160 320 480 640 Feet

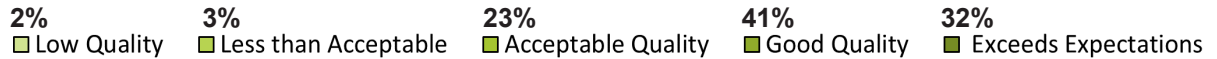


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Boat launch
- Fishing
- Picnic tables
- Interpretive signage
- Walking/biking trails
- Wetlands boardwalk

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Shoup-Parsons Woods offers its attendees:

- Security lighting located at all building facilities
- Expanded hours for restrooms
- Update interpretive signage
- Foot bridge for connection to neighborhood to the south.

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Shoup-Parsons Woods.

- ADA-compliant bathroom

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "Build a bridge to connect Shoup Parsons woods with Orchard neighborhood on the other side of the dam"
- "I love the Dam Pond, if there were more frequent boat/kayak rentals that were affordable (like Fidlars) I think a lot of people would use those."

### OTHER DESIRES EXPRESSED FOR SHOUP-PARSONS WOODS

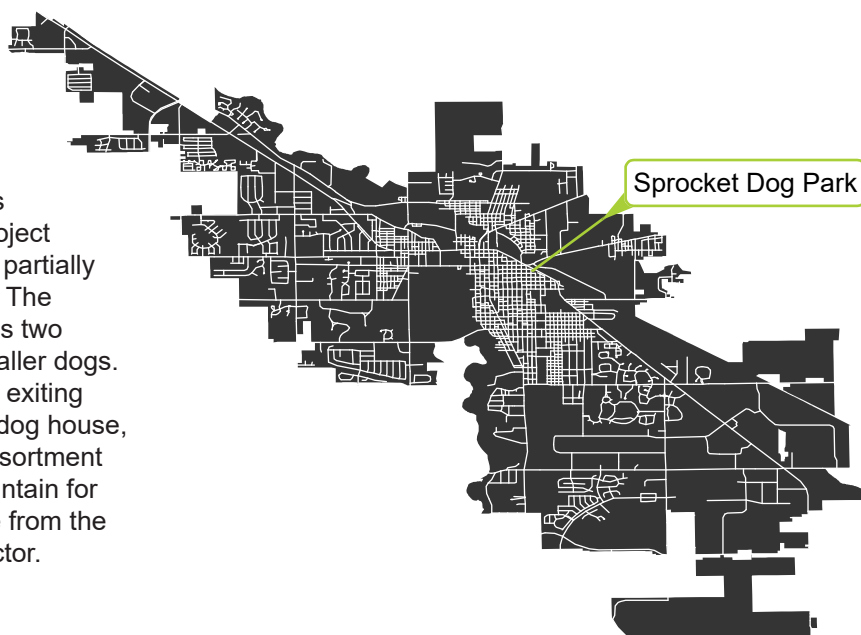
- "Expand water and restroom to full year at the dam"



DRAFT

## SPROCKET DOG PARK

0.32 acre • Goshen's first and only dog park opened in 2021 in the East Lincoln Crossroads Neighborhood, northeast of downtown. The project was begun by local residents in 2017 and was partially funded by a neighborhood improvement grant. The park is surfaced with rubber mulch and features two enclosures: one for large dogs and one for smaller dogs. The park is double-gated to prevent dogs from exiting without their owner. The large-dog area has a dog house, a hill that covers a tube, tractor tires and an assortment of fire hydrants and posts. There is a water fountain for both dogs and humans. The park is accessible from the Maple City Greenway, along the US 33 connector.



0 18 36 72 108 144  
Feet

Best satellite imagery available does not include built out facilities

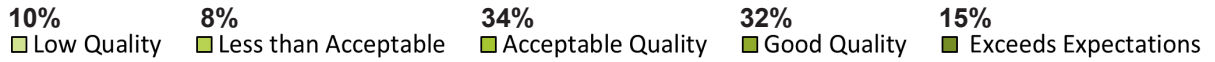


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Dog park
- Walking/biking trail access

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Recently developed park. No recommended improvements at this time but additional signage would help visitors.

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Sprocket Dog Park.

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "Need better dog park sprocket difficult parking small bad location"
- "Please put up clear signage for this park. It was very difficult to find."

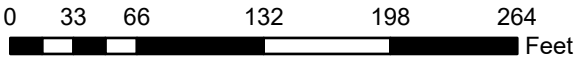
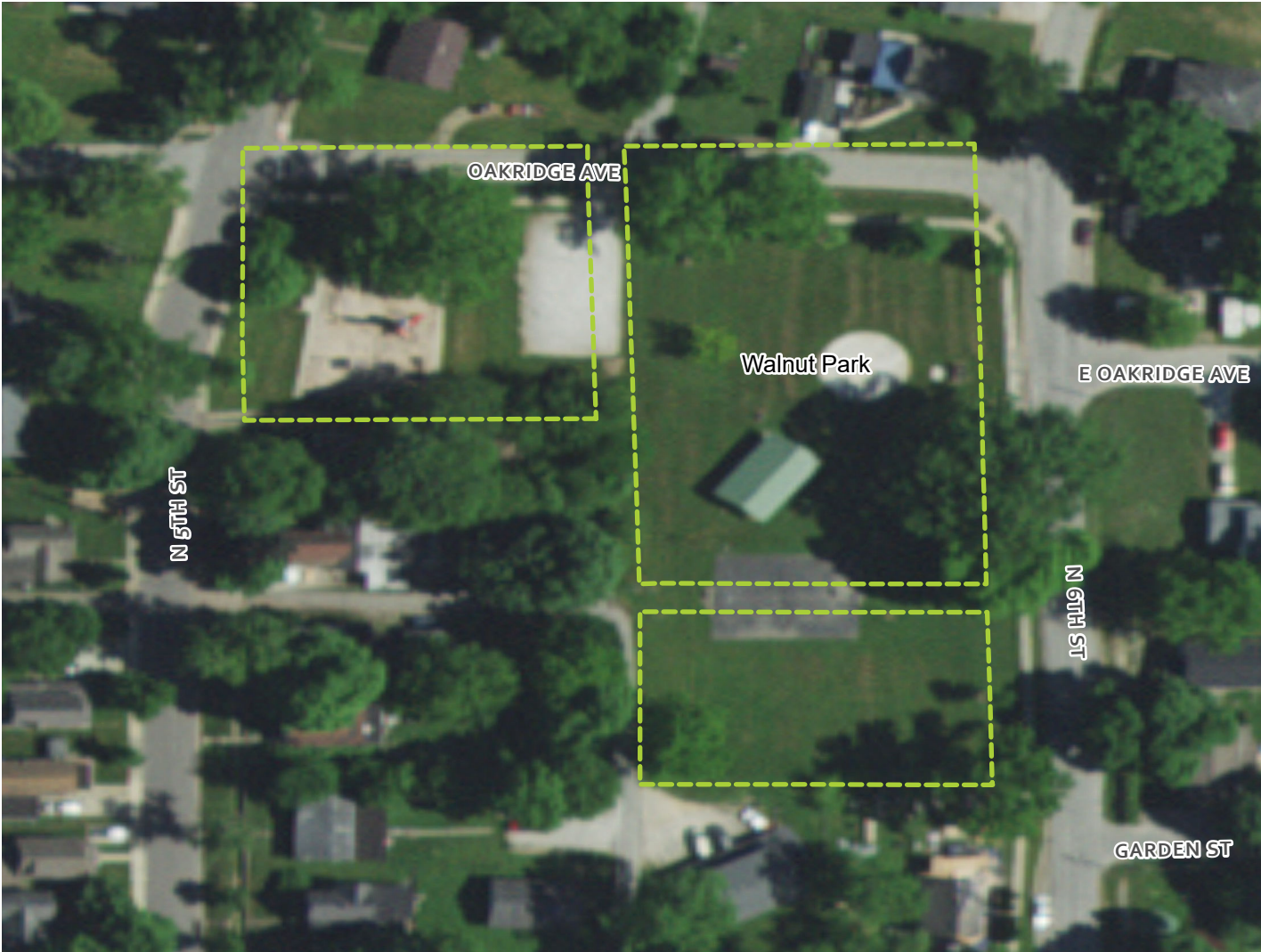
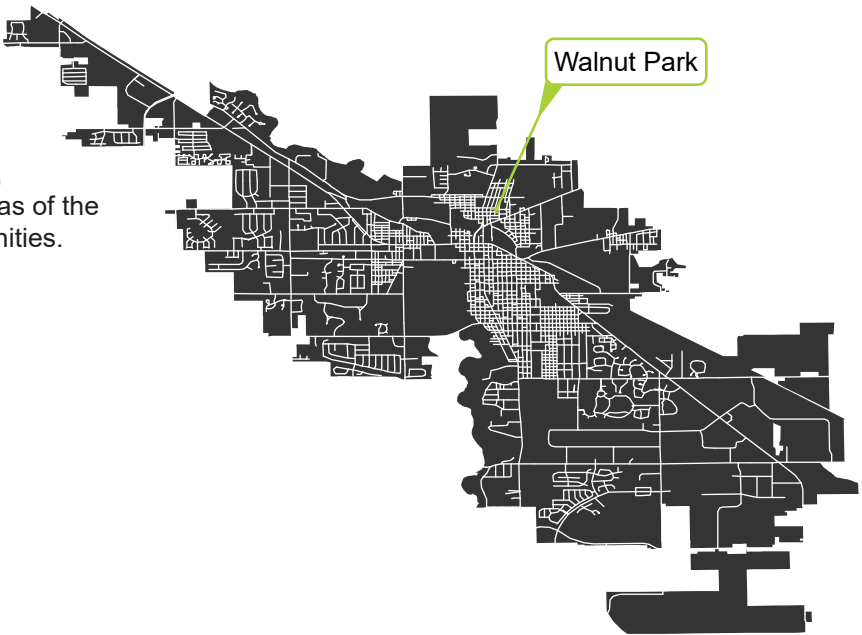




DRAFT

WALNUT PARK

1.8 acre • A neighborhood park of less than 2 acres, Walnut Park includes a playground, picnic pavilion with restrooms, basketball court, and splash pad. Slight topography in some areas of the park adds interest and winter sledding opportunities.

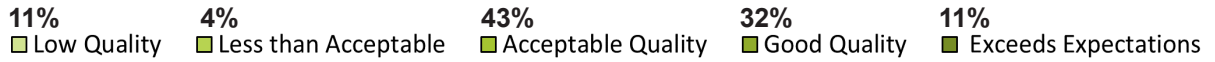


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Basketball
- Play equipment
- Open play area
- Picnic tables
- Splash pad
- Rentable open-air pavilion

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Walnut Park offers its attendees:

- Security lighting located at all restrooms and pavilions
- Update and add splash pad equipment

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Walnut Park.

- ADA-compliant route from parking lot to pavilion

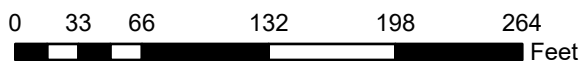
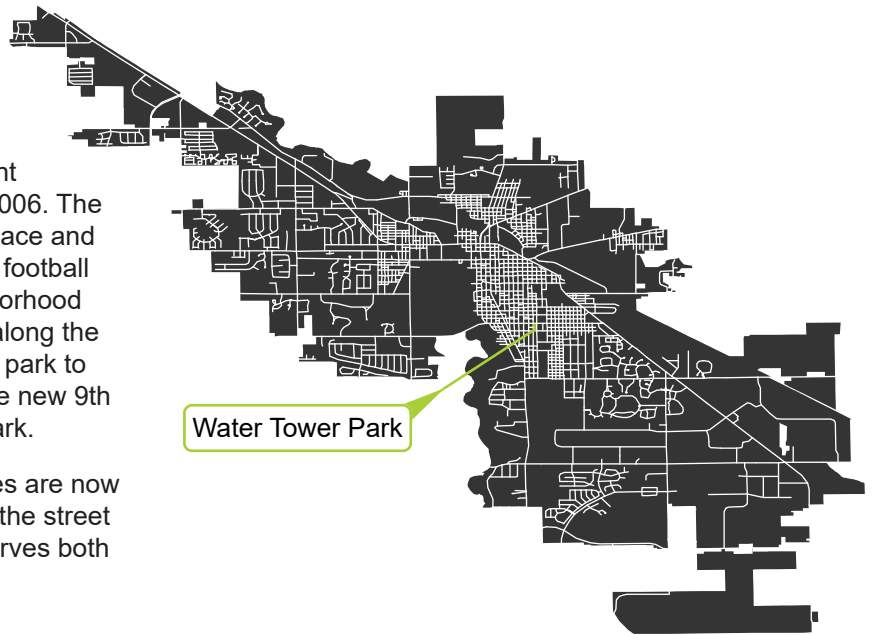




## WATER TOWER PARK

3.4 acres • This area was formerly the City Water Department's property. The park was deeded over to the care of the Park Department in 1997 and the water tower was removed in 2006. The primary use for this park is to provide green space and an open play area, mostly used for pickup flag football games, soccer, and other Water Tower Neighborhood Association activities. There is partial fencing along the north, northeast, and northwest portions of the park to avoid balls being kicked into the roadways. The new 9th Street Trail now borders the east side of the park.

The Parks and Recreation administrative offices are now located in a building south of this park, across the street on Jackson St. The parking lot on the south serves both the park and the offices.



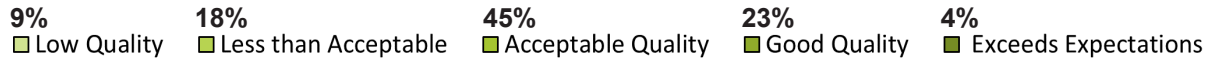


## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Flag football pick up games
- Open play area
- Picnic tables
- Biking/walking trail

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. Following are broad considerations to improve accessibility to Water Tower Park.

- ADA-compliant route from parking lot to benches and picnic tables.
- ADA-compliant picnic tables

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following identifies general considerations that should be taken to help improve the quality of life that Water Tower Park offers its attendees:

- Playground equipment
- Designated activities and use for site
- Develop programmed space

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT THE PARKS IN GOSHEN?

- "Dog park in the Water Tower Park"

### OTHER DESIRES EXPRESSED FOR WATER TOWER PARK

- Community garden
- Small play equipment

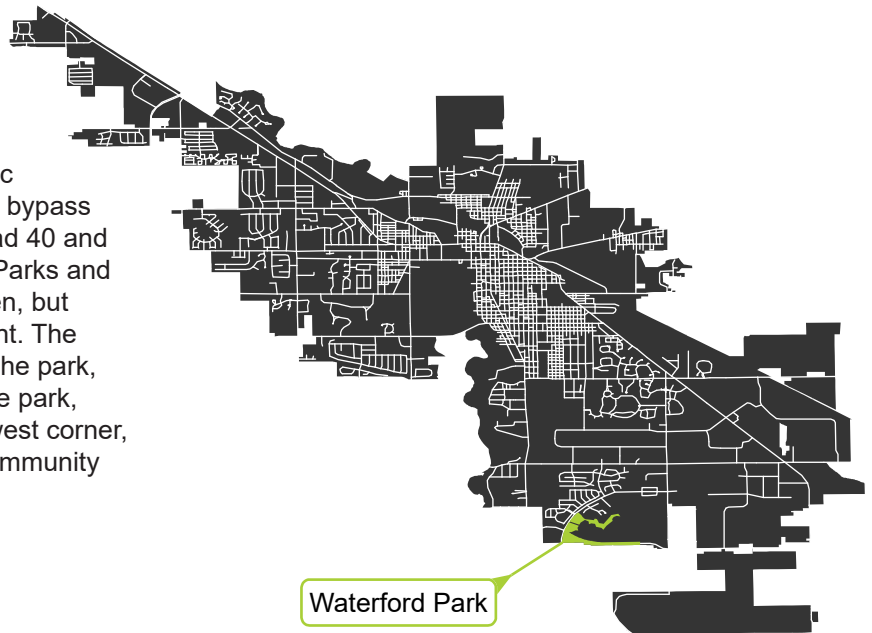




DRAFT

## WATERFORD PARK

27.95 acres • Located on the southern limits of the city, Waterford Park is a 28-acre triangular plot of land formed due to the rerouting of traffic in the area. Waterford Parkway was created to bypass traffic through residential areas from State Road 40 and State Road 15. The land was allocated to the Parks and Recreation Department from the City of Goshen, but currently it has no plans for further development. The Parks Department also manages land east of the park, along Waterford Mills Parkway, and north of the park, along the Waterford Crossing Trail. The northwest corner, on Regent Street is currently being used as community gardens.



0 240 480 960 1,440 1,920 Feet



## FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### FREQUENCY OF VISITS



### THE "QUALITY" OF THE PARK



## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Community gardens
- Walking/biking trail
- Open play area

## ADA REVIEW

An inventory and analysis for park compliance with the American Disabilities Act was taken by the Parks Department and its maintenance staff. The existing improvements are compliant with the act. New design and components will be reviewed for compliance with the act prior to the final design is complete.

The conceptual development layout illustrates the potential open and recreational spaces for the new residential development. This public-private partnership will offer a variety of opportunities for outdoor recreation. Amenities under consideration for this project include a playground, pickleball courts, pavilions, and open lawn areas. Some improvements will be on Goshen Parks property while others will be in the neighborhood on private property. As mentioned the final design is still in process but the resulting facilities will bring much needed community assets to the south side of Goshen.

## COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

This park will be modified due to a large residential development, to be known as Cherry Creek, in the existing agricultural land adjacent to the property. Final redesign of the park will be completed as a part of that development project as there is a desire to ensure the park and trail are connected and consistent with the amenities planned for the new residential neighborhood.



The existing trail will be relocated to accommodate water features while still offering connectivity to the Cherry Creek neighborhood, the larger trail network, and the Riverview Elementary School.



## ADDITIONAL SPACES

In addition to the 28 parks in the City of Goshen Parks System, the Parks and Recreation Department assists with maintenance of various smaller properties throughout the city that also serve the public with open space and gardens.

### SHANKLIN MILLRACE NEIGHBORHOOD ENTRY PARK

This corner park is approximately 5,000 square feet (0.1 acre) and marks the southeast corner of the Shanklin Millrace Neighborhood Association at the intersection of Main Street / State Road 15 and Plymouth Avenue. The park includes a short crushed limestone path through perennial gardens. The property is owned by the City of Goshen and is partially in the right-of-way. It is tended to by neighborhood residents with assistance from the Parks and Recreation Department.



Image capture: May 2023 © 2023 Google

### HISTORIC SOUTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ENTRY PARK

This corner park is approximately 2,800 square feet (0.06 acre) and marks the southwest corner of the Historic Southside Neighborhood Association. It is also located at the intersection of Main Street / State Road 15 and Plymouth Avenue, directly east of the Shanklin Millrace Park. The park includes a short brick path through perennial gardens with one bench. The property is owned by the City of Goshen and is tended to by neighborhood residents with assistance from the Parks and Recreation Department.



Image capture: Jul 2019 © 2023 Google



## DUCK FOUNTAIN PEDESTRIAN PARK

This small park is located in right-of-way along Main Street / State Road 15, just south of the Goshen Public Library. The park includes two benches, facing the small fountain, buffered from the road with perennial plantings. The Parks and Recreation Department assists with maintenance of this site.



Image capture: May 2023 © 2023 Google

## GOSHEN RAILPARK PEDESTRIAN PARK

This small park is located in right-of-way at the corner of East Plymouth Avenue and Logan Street. Two major rail lines intersect at this location into a four-rail corridor. The park includes two benches, buffered from the railroad with tree plantings, and a trail that connects to the Pumpkinvine Trail to the east and the broader Maple City Greenway. The park was originally installed as a neighborhood entry park for the East Lincoln Crossroads Neighborhood. However, the neighborhood was disconnected from the park when the City lost a popular pedestrian railroad crossing from Ninth Street, as well as the construction of the US 33 / Lincoln Highway Northern Connector. The Parks and Recreation Department assists with maintenance of this site.



Image capture: Jun 2023 © 2023 Google

# DRAFT *Priorities & Action Plan*

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Through the Master Planning process a variety of community and Parks and Recreation Department Board and staff needs identified potential projects and activities. The following list of priorities was developed through a review of data collected during this process including:

- Community survey responses
- Public comments
- Needs Analysis for Programming and Special Events, Trails, and individual Parks.
- Park and Recreation Board and Department's Vision, Values, and Goals

In addition to locally driven feedback, a review of the Indiana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), show that the Goshen Parks and Recreation Master Plan has similar priorities. The following goals and objectives outlined in the SCORP were developed to guide decision-making in parks-and-recreation and natural resources management for the next five years at the state level. Where applicable, the SCORP goals (1-5) are listed along side the Goshen priorities to identify where there is consistency in the two plans.

1. Develop more trails and bicycle/pedestrian facilities.
2. Encourage and promote outdoor recreation participation.
3. Continue emphasizing Indiana's aquatic resources, both natural and man-made.
4. Protect and enhance Indiana's natural and outdoor recreation resources.
5. Provide funding for outdoor recreation development at the state and local levels.



## ADMINISTRATION

- Provide efficient and effective management for the Parks system. (SCORP #4)
- Evaluate feasibility of additional programs and facilities based on community identified needs.
- Effectively manage the department's financial and human resources.
- Promote community involvement in to build support for and use of the Park's programs and facilities.(SCORP #2)

## PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- Continue to develop and provide a wide-variety of excellent program and events.
- Explore partnerships to support and grow community programs and events.
- As a means of increasing participation, the department will ensue the community is aware of programs and special events through the use of a variety of communication methods and platforms. (SCORP #2)
- Look for grants, partners, and sponsors to provide financial support for programs and events. (SCORP #5)

## TRAILS

Work in partnership with other city departments, local organizations, and the community to:

- Evaluate additional routes (SCORP #1)
- Increase connectivity (SCORP #1)
- Ensure well maintained and safe trails

## PARKS

- Address maintenance or other physical issues at individual parks that were identified during this parks analysis process. (SCORP #3 - various parks)
- Install community identified park improvements where funds area available. (SCORP #3 - various parks)
- Identify additional funding and sponsorships for park improvements that exceed available department budgets. (SCORP #5)
- Continue to protect natural areas within the Goshen Park system. (SCORP #4)
- Complete planned major improvement project at the Shanklin Park Pool. (SCORP #3)

## 2024-2028 ACTIONS

The Actions for the 2024-2029 Master Plan were developed through a review of public feedback by the Goshen Board and Staff along with budget and personal constraints. The Actions are organized by Administration, Programs and Special Events, Trails, and Parks. Each Action Plan Tables provides a summary of the proposed actions and tasks to be taken along with the year(s) of the Master Plan it would be completed, estimated budget, and potential funding sources.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS					
Type	Location	Action Item	Year(s)	Est. Budget	Funding Source
Parks	All Facilities	Review maintenance schedules annually to assess if changes are needed	2024-2028	Staff Time	Parks Budget
Parks	All Facilities	Investigate software to improve effectiveness of parks maintenance planning	2024	TBD	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Parks	Various	Investigate opportunities to increase access to pickleball facilities	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Parks	Various	Investigate opportunities to provide Wi-Fi access in Park Facilities	2025	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Parks	Various	Investigate opportunities for additional off-leash dog parks	2025	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Parks	Various	Investigate opportunities to raise funds for parks maintenance and operations such as grants, sponsors, partnership, creating a Friends of the Goshen Parks, etc.	2024	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Parks	Various	Evaluate feasibility of new park facilities to better serve the North, West, and East parts of Goshen	2025-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Parks	Chandler School	Work with Schools to transform Chandler playground into a city park	2025	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Parks	Various	Update Parks Website city parks page to add information on accessible feature for each facility	2024	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Parks	TBD	Re-engage community to determine feasibility of skating rink / multipurpose pavilion	2025	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Parks/Trails	Various	Utilize volunteer groups to adopt a Park/Playground/trails	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Parks/Trails	Various	Continue finding ways to integrate sustainable / "green" practices into design and maintenance of facilities	2024-28	Staff Time	Parks Budget
Parks/Trails	Various	Investigate erosion management techniques along waterways and bodies of water in the Parks system.	2025	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Parks/Trails	Mill Race Trail	Review legal ownership and easements of the Mill Race Trail to ensure future access is assured	2024	City Attorney	City Budget
Parks/Trails	Various	Where possible provide access to bathrooms and drinking fountains for parks and trails with existing water service lines	2024-28	TBD	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Trails	Various	Look for more opportunities to connect the city through trails	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Trails	City-Wide	Provide a Trails network map on the Parks Department website	2024	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Trails	Various	Incorporate trail and trailhead maintenance in parks maintenance plans where trail are located within a park	2024	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Trails	Various	Create maintenance plan for routine maintenance of trails and trailheads not	2024	Staff Time	Parks Budget
Trails	City-Wide	Work with other departments to update the Nonmotorized Transportation Plan to review and evaluate comments received during the Parks Master Plan process.	2025	TBD	Park Budget, General Fund, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations



PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS ACTIONS					
Location	Action Items	Year(s)	Est. Budget	Funding Source	Offered
Abshire Hill	Abshire Winter Activities	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations	December–February
Abshire Hill	Splash-Tastic Weekend	2024-28	\$10,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	July
City-Wide	Review and updated the recreational programming communications plan for all events and program annually.	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations	Year-Round
City-Wide	Continue to prepare and distribute the Parks Activity Guides for population segments that do not utilize the Internet	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations	Year-Round
City-Wide	Continue to work with partner agencies to promote programs and events, serving the target populations of Seniors, Disabled, & Youth	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations	Year-Round
4-H Fair Grounds	Family Dance	2024-28	\$10,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	February
Fidler Pond	Adult Triathlon	2024-28	\$20,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	August
Fidler Pond	Canoe Rental	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	April– October
Fidler Pond	Fantastic Fishing Derby	2024-28	\$1,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	June
Fidler Pond	Fidler Pond Boat Rental	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	April– October
Fidler Pond	Sailing Camp	2024-28	\$4,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	June
Goshen Community	Adult Co-Ed Volleyball League	2024-28	\$8,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	November–March
Goshen Community	Youth Basketball	2024-28	\$8,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	January– March
Goshen High School	Adult Basketball League	2024-28	\$4,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	November–March
Goshen High School	Adult Men's Open Gym	2024-28	\$1,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	December
Goshen High School	Basketball Open Gym	2024-28	\$1,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	November–March
Goshen Public Library	Letters from Santa	2024-28	\$300 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	December
Instructors Studio	Brazilian Jiu Jitsu	2024-28	\$500 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	September–October
Madie Bementary School Grounds	Pickleball	2024-28	\$3,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations	January–December
Multiple Park Locations	Community Gardens	2024-28	Utility Costs	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	April– October
Neighborhood Parks	Movies in the Park	2024-28	\$10,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	May–August
Neighborhood Parks	Park to Park Program	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations	June–July
Office Rentals & lunches	Canoe Rentals	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	May– October
Park Office Studio	Ballet	2024-28	\$25,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	January–December

PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS ACTIONS					
Location	Program & Events	Year(s)	Est. Budget	Funding Source	Offered
Pringle Park	Pop up Water Park	2024-28	\$4,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	June
Pringle Park	Youth Flag Football	2024-28	Staff Time	Parks Budget (fees collected by organization)	September-October
Pringle Park and Goshen	Walk with a Doc	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	January-December
Pringle Park and Office Studio	Zumba	2024-28	\$5,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	January-December
Pringle Park Courts	Adult Co-Ed Sand Volleyball	2024-28	\$8,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	May-August
Pringle Park Soccer Fields	Soccer Camp	2024-28	\$2,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	July
Pringle Park Soccer Fields	Youth Soccer League	2024-28	\$5,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	September-October
Pumpkin Vine Trail	Maple City Walk	2024-28	\$5,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	September
Rleth Center	Story Time in The Park	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	June
Rleth Center	Story Walk	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	January-December
Schrock Pavilion	Discovery Day Camp	2024-28	\$30,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	June- August
Schrock Pavilion	Ping Pong	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations	Fall and Winter
Schrock Pavilion & Office Studio	Art Camp	2024-28	\$3,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	July
Shanklin Park	Goshen Nights of Lights	2024-28	\$100,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	November-December
Shanklin Park	Touch-a-Truck	2024-28	\$1,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	August
Shanklin Park	Trunk-or-Treat	2024-28	\$1,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	October
Shanklin Park	Kerry's Kids' and Teens' Triathlon	2024-28	\$20,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	July
Shanklin Park Fields	Adult Softball	2024-28	\$20,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	May- September
Shanklin Park Fields	Athletic Field Rental	2024-28	\$2,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	April- October
Shanklin Park Fields	Softball	2024-28	\$40,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	Summer and Fall
Shanklin Pool	Dive-In Movie Night at Shanklin Pool	2024-28	\$3,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations	May-August
Shanklin Pool	I Try Sailing	2024-28	\$5,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations	June-July Wednesdays
Shanklin Pool	I Try Scuba	2024-28	\$500 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	May-July
Shanklin Pool	Scuba Classes	2024-28	\$2,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	June- August



PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS ACTIONS					
Location	Action Item	Year(s)	Est. Budget	Funding Source	Offered
Shanklin Pool	Shanklin Pool	2024-28	\$175,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	May–August
Shanklin Pool	Summer Swim Lessons	2024-28	\$7,000 Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fees	June– August
Various	Continue development of programming activities geared towards senior citizens	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations	Year-Round
Various	Continue development of programs and events geared towards youth	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations	Year-Round
Various	Continue development of programming activities geared towards people with disabilities	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations	Year-Round
TRAILS ACTIONS					
Trail Location	Action Item	Year(s)	Est. Budget	Funding Source	
City-Wide	Continue to support public engagement efforts to improve trail connections	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
City-Wide	Improve wayfinding signage to trailheads and along trails	2025	Staff Time \$3,500	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
City-Wide	Work with other departments and the community to make more connections-- between trails/parks, into neighborhoods, to downtown, etc.	2024	Staff Time	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
City-Wide	Work with other city departments and the community to evaluate Trail network to improve commuting across town	2024	Staff Time	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
City-Wide	Investigate ways to improve connect parks and trail network including possible wayfinding improvements	2026	Staff Time	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
City-Wide	Post "No Smoking" signs at trailheads	2025	Staff Time \$3,500	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
City-Wide	Prepare a plan to improve accessibility of trails	2024	Staff Time	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
City-Wide	Prepare a plan to increase the number of paved trails	2026	Staff Time	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
City-Wide	Add benches and other areas to rest along trails and at trailheads	2025	Staff Time \$3,500	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
City-Wide	Develop a program to facilitate group hiking and trail walking	2024	Staff Time	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
City-Wide	Provide Trail signage and maps along trail or at trailheads	2024	Staff Time \$3,500	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
City-Wide	Provide Interpretive signage for important areas or natural features along the trails.	2025	Staff Time \$5,000	Park, Environmental Resiliency, General Fund Budget	

TRAILS ACTIONS					
Trail Location	Action Item	Year(s)	Est. Budget	Funding Source	
City-Wide	Work with other city departments and the community to improve bike and pedestrian connections to existing parks and trails	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
City-Wide	Work with other city departments and the community to improve trail connections to important community assets such as schools and public buildings	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
City-Wide	Work with other city departments and community to expand trail network to improve connectivity and safety	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
Maple City Greenway	Consider potential locations for adding mountain bike trails	2026	Staff Time	Park Budget, General Fund, Grants	
Maple City Greenway - Downtown	Investigate the development of a trailhead in downtown – bike parking, kiosks, signage	2025	Staff Time	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
Maple City Greenway - Millrace	Resurface stone trail from Rieth Interpretive Center to Goshen Dam	2025	Staff Time \$4,000	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
Maple City Greenway – Pumpkinvine Trail	Report mile markers & locations to emergency responders for access route	2025-26	Staff Time	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
Maple City Greenway – Pumpkinvine Trail	Evaluate feasibility of paving the Pumpkinvine Trail in the City		Staff Time \$300,000	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
Maple City Greenway - Waterways	Review options to expand portage and access opportunities such as kayak/canoe portage steps to the Millrace Canal and Elkhart River at both dam and powerhouse	2025	TBD-Staff Time	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
Millrace Park	Evaluate techniques to stabilization the Millrace Trail	2025	TBD-Staff Time	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
Millrace Park	Create a design to more clearly define the trail head	2026	TBD-Staff Time	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	
Mullet Park	Consider improvements to make Mullet Park an official trailhead	2026	TBD-Staff Time	Park Budget/Grants	
Near Fidler Pond Park	Work with INDOH to establish a safe crossing to Fidler Pond Park across U.S. 33 to improve pedestrian connectivity to trails and neighborhoods.	2027	Staff Time	Park Budget, Other Department Budget, General Fund, Grants	

PARKS ACTIONS				
Park	Action Item	Year(s)	Est. Budget	Funding Source
Abshire Park	Explore improvements to the sledding hill	2024	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Abshire Park	Evaluate need for parking lot improvements	2025	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Abshire Park	Consider new natural/passive recreation areas	2025	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Abshire Park	Consider expanded access to Rock Run Creek	2025	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Abshire Park	Address gravel trail conditions	2024	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Bakersfield Park	Connect playground to parking for accessibility, resurface parking lot	2028	\$50,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Bakersfield Park	Evaluate improvements such as mulch, benches, and a shade structure	2028	Staff Time \$66,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Burdick Park	Renovate basketball court	2028	\$500	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Burdick Park	Improve pedestrian connections within park and to park	2028	\$10,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Burdick Park	Evaluate need for parking lot improvements	2028	Staff Time \$13,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Church Park	Update Playground Equipment	2026	\$100,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Church Park	Renovate basketball court restriping (on going)	2026	\$500	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Church Park	Add seating for adults, picnics, and evaluate need for additional parking	2026	Staff Time \$9,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Dr. Beachy Forest	Designate as a Classified Forest	2024	\$1,000	Park Budget
Dykstra Park	Install improvements such as mulch, new pavilion, playground equipment, and upgrading the parking lot, make accessible parking and walk access	2026	Staff Time \$200,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Idler Pond Park	Evaluate parking lot expansion	2025	Staff Time \$100,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Idler Pond Park	Seals and outdoor trash containers at Chiddister Pavilion	2025	\$2,500	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Idler Pond Park	Review potential upgrades to Idler's Pond including an Erosion Control Plan, a fishing pier, public swimming, water sports equipment	2025	Staff Time \$80,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Idler Pond Park	Explore acquiring additional land to enlarge the park	2024-2028	TBD	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Idler Pond Park	Review potential upgrades to the rental facility	2025	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Goshen Dam- Mike Puro Plaza	Bank Maintenance	2024	Staff Time \$10,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Hay Park	Review parking needs	2024	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Hay Park	Explore addition of shade structures and benches	2024	Staff Time \$60,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Lafayette Triangle Park	Install/improve perennial and annual landscaping	2025	Staff Time \$5,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Linway Park	Investigate ways to connect park to broader park and trail network, including wayfinding improvements	2027	Staff Time \$80,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations



PARKS ACTIONS				
Park	Action Item	Year(s)	Est. Budget	Funding Source
Linway Park	Conduct a plan to evaluate improvements including parking, water launch, entrance landscaping, fishing dock, trails around the lake, seating, and tables	2027	Staff Time \$20,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Mill Street Park	Consider additional small playground facilities	2027	Staff Time \$75,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Millrace Park	Improve trail head	2027	Staff Time \$30,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Millrace Park	Consider improvements to Millrace Canal access for kayaks and canoes	2027	Staff Time \$35,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Model Park	Make pavement improvements	2028	Staff Time \$64,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Model Park	Make improvements to outdoor pickleball court such as landscaping, and fencing	2028	Staff Time \$425,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Model Park	Provide shade structure	2028	Staff Time \$50,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Mullet Park	Consider improvements to make this park an official trailhead and install bike racks.	2024	Staff Time \$30,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Mullet Park	Maintain the passive and natural elements of the park.	2024-28	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Oakridge Park	Install improvements such as parking lot resurfacing, basketball court, and grills	2024	Staff Time \$20,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Oakridge Park	Accessibility improvements to shelter and playground	2024	Staff Time \$10,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Powerhouse Park	Investigate adding a drinking fountain	2024	Staff Time \$5,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Pringle Park	Pavilion Improvements	2027	Staff Time \$5,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Pringle Park	Clearly defined boundaries for volleyball courts	2027	Staff Time \$11,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Rieth Park	Make improvements such as basketball courts, mulch, splash pad equipment, shade, benches		\$500	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Rivendale Park	Complete a park plan to determine facilities to provide	2024	Staff Time \$10,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Roger's Park	Complete a park plan to determine facilities to provide	2026	Staff Time \$60,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Shanklin Park	After Pool Project, evaluate what additional park improvements are still needed	2027	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Shanklin Park	Investigate reuse/repurpose opportunities for the old Parks & Recreation office location	2024	Staff Time	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Shanklin Park - Pool	Proceed with plans to update/renovate Shanklin pool	2024-2026	Staff Time \$12,500,000	Park Budget, Grants, Financing, Sponsorships, Donations
Shoup-Parson Woods	Develop forest management plan		Staff Time \$8,000	Park Budget, Grants, Environmental Resiliency
Various	Replace Parks Identification Signage	2024-2028	Staff Time \$12,000/year	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, General Fund
Various	Investigate ways to improve wayfinding to this park	2024-2028	Staff Time \$10,000/year	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, General Fund

PARKS ACTIONS				
Park	Action Item	Year(s)	Est. Budget	Funding Source
Various	Add Spanish language signage where it is needed	2024-2028	Staff Time \$1,000/year	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, General Fund
Various	Implement invasive plant removal program at Park Facilities in cooperation with the Resilience Department	2025	Staff Time \$5,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, General Fund, AmeriCorps
Various - including Millrace Canal	Develop native vegetation / invasive plant management plan for parks and facilities in cooperation with the Resilience Department and Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) - Cisma	2025	Staff Time \$5,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, General Fund, AmeriCorps
Walnut Park	New curb along 6 <sup>th</sup> Street to reroute water runoff	2025	Staff Time \$10,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, General Fund
Water Tower Park	Complete a park plan to determine facilities to provide such as a community garden and small play equipment	2027	Staff Time \$10,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations
Waterford Park	Complete a park plan to determine facilities to provide	2027	Staff Time \$10,000	Park Budget, Grants, Sponsorships, Donations

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# *Appendices*

**2024 Proposed Department Budget**

**Full Department Maintenance Plan**

**Parks & Recreation Board Detailed Information**

**2019-2023 Actions**



**DRAFT**

# **PARKS & RECREATION BOARD INFORMATION**

**Roger Nafziger, President**

**Term: 1/10/2023 – 12/31/2023**

**Email: [goshenparks@goshencity.com](mailto:goshenparks@goshencity.com)**

**Jennifer Shell, Vice President**

**Term: 1/13/2020 – 12/31/2023**

**Email: [goshenparks@goshencity.com](mailto:goshenparks@goshencity.com)**

**Jenni Samuel, Secretary**

**Term: 01/01/2022 – 12/31/2025**

**Email: [goshenparks@goshencity.com](mailto:goshenparks@goshencity.com)**

**Megan Hessler, Member**

**Term: 02/26/2020 – 12/31/2023**

**Email: [goshenparks@goshencity.com](mailto:goshenparks@goshencity.com)**

**James Wellington, Member**

**Term: 1/1/23 – 12/31/26**

**Email: [goshenparks@goshencity.com](mailto:goshenparks@goshencity.com)**

**Jennifer Olvera-Morgado, Youth Advisor**

**Term: June 2023-June 2024**

**Email: [goshenparks@goshencity.com](mailto:goshenparks@goshencity.com)**