



# GREENCASTLE *Parks & Recreation*

2024-2029 Master Plan

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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# ADOPTION RESOLUTION

To be added for the final draft.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

To be added for the final draft.

## VISION

To be added for the final draft.

## GOALS

To be added for the final draft.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

To be added for the final draft.

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# CHAPTER 01: INTRODUCTION

## OVERVIEW

Greencastle Parks and Recreation Department manages eight municipal parks, the Greencastle Aquatics Center and the People Pathways bicycle and pedestrian trails. The Department also provides many recreational and cultural opportunities throughout the year for participants of all ages.

## MISSION & PLAN PURPOSE

The mission of the Greencastle Parks and Recreation Department is to:

***“Provide wholesome recreational opportunities, which reflect the interests and needs of the Greencastle community and to plan, acquire, develop, and maintain quality parks and facilities that will enhance the City of Greencastle.”***

Greencastle Parks and Recreation Department is passionate about their community, parks and programming and desires to bring more people from the community into the local parks to experience all the benefits that they provide. The purpose of this plan is to identify parks and recreation needs through research, data collection, analysis, and public participation and to set priorities that will guide the Parks and Recreation Department for the next five years towards reaching the goals established throughout the planning process.

## GOALS OF THIS PLAN

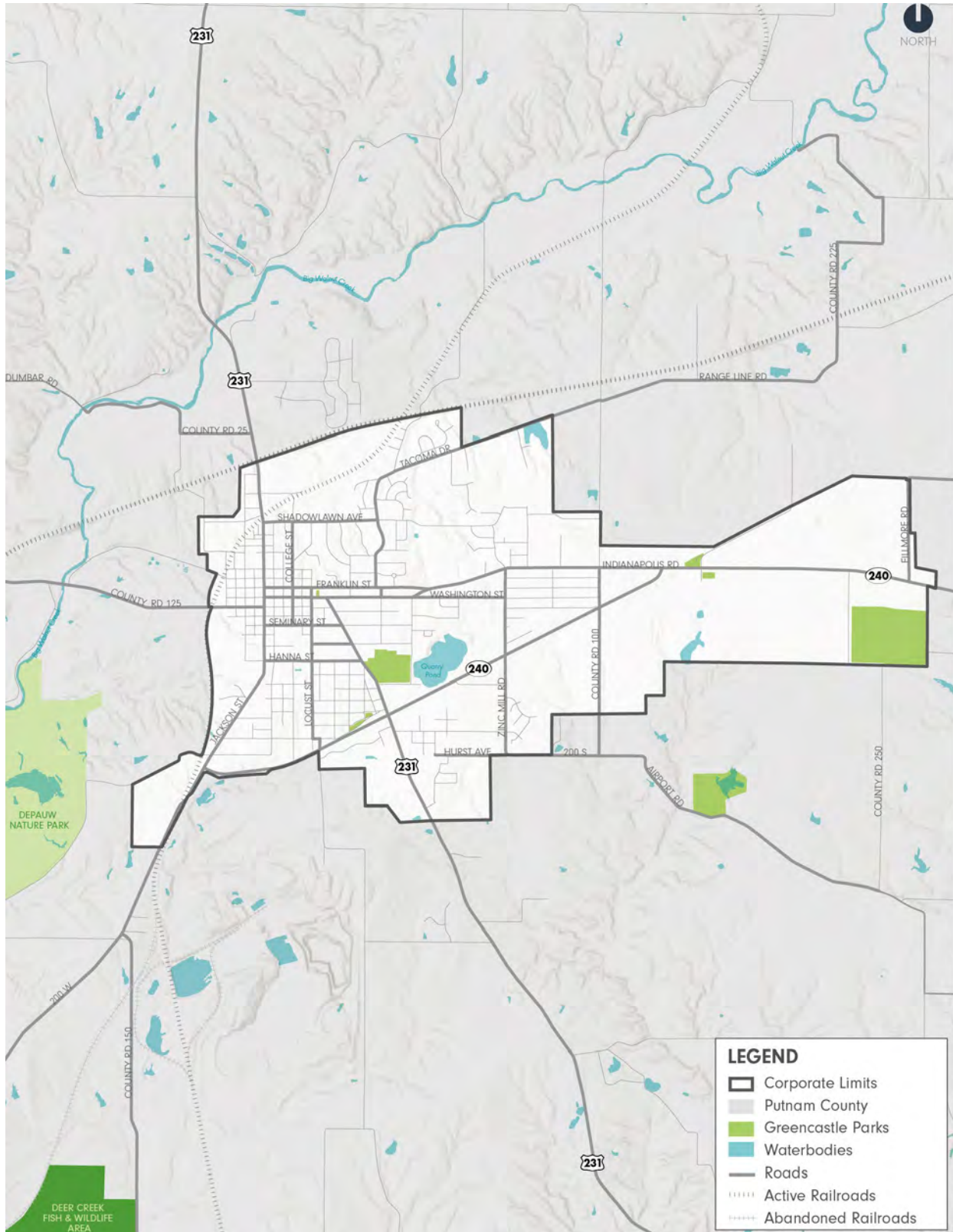
- To gather public input from Greencastle Parks and Recreation users, both in the city limits and in the surrounding areas, to ensure the priorities established in this plan are what the community desires for future development.
- Identify needed park facilities and programming in the community and to set priorities that will meet those needs.
- Identify Greencastle Parks and Recreation Department’s role in achieving the identified goals for park facilities and programming in the community.
- To keep the public informed and involved in Greencastle Parks and Recreation planning.
- To maintain eligibility for grants programs such as Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and for other applicable grants.

## PLAN METHODOLOGY & DEVELOPMENT

This plan was developed through an extensive process of inventory, data collection, research, gathering of public input and analysis. The information collected throughout this process is summarized within the content of this plan and has shaped the recommendations.



**FIGURE 1.1: DEFINITION OF PLANNING AREA**



## LOCATION OF GREENCASTLE

The City of Greencastle is nestled in the heart of west central Indiana in Putnam County. Greencastle is located within an hour of Indianapolis, Lafayette, Bloomington, Terre Haute and the Indiana-Illinois State Border. US Highway 231 is a major transportation vein that connects Greencastle to the heavily traveled I-70 corridor. The US Highway 40 corridor also yields an active east-west highway south of the city and provides important connections to surrounding communities. The surrounding regional communities are based primarily on agricultural economies which makes Greencastle an important regional commercial, employment, and social activity center.

## DEFINITION OF PLANNING AREA

A map of the planning area is shown in Figure 1.1. For the purposes of this plan, the limits are generally considered to be the corporate limits of the City of Greencastle and all Greencastle municipal parks. This would also include Jaycee Park, located outside the corporate limits.

## MANAGEMENT & ORGANIZATION

### LOCATION

P.O. Box 608  
Greencastle, IN 46135  
p. (765) 653-3395

### STAFFING & VOLUNTEERS

#### FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

Greg Ruark, *Park & Recreation Director*  
Chrysta Snellenberger, *Assistant Director*  
Ashely Crady, *Recreational Programming Coordinator*

#### PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

Rick Long, *Maintenance*  
Rodney McCammack, *Maintenance*

#### SEASONAL STAFF

The Parks and Recreation Department hires about 2 to 3 seasonal employees for maintenance, as well as 20 to 30 summer staff employees to operate the aquatic center and concession stand. Other seasonal staff include Bonner Scholars from DePauw University that work throughout school. At the time of this plan there were 4 working with Greencastle Parks and Recreation. Bonner Scholars work 8 to 10 hours a week on tasks such as maintenance and recreational programming at specific park locations.

#### CONTRACTED COMPANIES

Some parks and trails maintenance are contracted with an outside company. Some tasks of the contracted company include application of herbicides, which requires special certification. This benefits the parks and recreation department because it allows staff to focus on other parks and recreation needs. When staffing levels increase, future staff may be able to focus on maintenance but for now contracted maintenance is still needed.

## VOLUNTEERS

Greencastle Parks and Recreation does have residents that volunteer. Volunteers usually help with projects that are sponsored by outside groups, but within the Greencastle community. There is no defined volunteer program for residents. Other volunteers include DePauw University and Putnam County Remove Invasive Plants (PC RIP). PC RIP is a task force made up of Putnam County citizens who are dedicated to education, advocacy, and action. In the summer, PC RIP volunteers on the third or fourth Saturday of the month.

## LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Local organizations create a unique collaboration to maintain and expand outdoor recreation venues and programs with Putnam County. Some of these organizations include:

- Putnam County Parks Board
- Putnam Parks & Pathways
- Friends of the Park of Putnam County
- Putnam County Visitors Center
- DePauw University
- Greencastle Civic League

## FUTURE STAFFING NEEDS

As Greencastle Parks and Recreation continues to grow and offer additional park acreage, amenities, and programming to the park system, staffing levels will need to be considered. Additional staffing resources could include:

- Hiring additional full-time department staff to fulfill specific needs required from park expansion
- Hiring additional seasonal staff to fulfill additional peak season demand created by new facilities and programs
- Contracting with outside companies for the maintenance and operations of specific park and recreation functions such as the maintenance of Jaycee Parks' fishing pond or specific programs such as fitness programs
- Developing a more defined volunteer program

See *Chapter 05 Needs Analysis* for a comparison of staffing to national trends.

## BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

The Parks and Recreation Department is governed by the Greencastle Board of Park Commissioners. The board was established in 1937 and reorganized in 1992 under Indiana Code 36-10-4. The board consists of four members appointed by the Mayor, along with three board liaisons from the Putnam County Library, Greencastle Community School Board and the Greencastle City Council.

A list of the current board members is provided below:

- Cathy Merrell, *President*
- Tim Trigg, *Vice President*
- Joanna Muncie, *Board Member*
- Doug Hutchinson, *Board Member*
- Stacie Langdon, *City Council Liaison*

## REVENUE/FEES

Greencastle Parks and Recreation provides both free and fee-based programs and facilities. The only facility fees are for shelter rental and admission to Greencastle Aquatic Center. Shelter rentals fees cost \$50 for Greencastle residents and \$60 for those who live outside of city limits. Admission to Greencastle Aquatic Center is \$5. Program fees depend on the activity. Currently, there are nine fee-based programs and four free programs. See *Chapter 04 Park Inventory* for a detailed list of programming. Occasionally, the parks and recreation department will encounter issues with residents not being able to afford fee-based programs and will work with those families as necessary.

Fee-based facilities and programs should continue to be evaluated as new programs and facilities are added to the park system. Efforts should be made to accommodate those who are considered economically disadvantaged.

## OPERATING BUDGET

Greencastle Parks and Recreation currently oversees eight different parks. The operating budget for 2023 is \$838,021.

The operating budget covers:

- Personnel
- Supplies
- Programming
- Recreational Activities
- Greencastle Aquatic Center
- Vehicles
- Maintenance

The current budget is mostly operational, and facility and/or capital improvement projects must be approved by the City. Greencastle Parks and Recreation also partners with local organizations or city council personnel for certain events or projects.

As Greencastle Parks and Recreation continues to grow and offer additional park acreage, amenities, and programming to the park system, the operating budget will need to be considered. See *Chapter 05 Needs Analysis* for a comparison of operating budgets to national trends.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

As mentioned above, the operating budget is mostly operational and facility improvements and/or capital improvement projects must be approved by the City. Below is a list of capital improvements projects completed by Greencastle Redevelopment Commission to support parks and recreation activities. There is also a future project list that is from the current Economic Development Plan.

### 1995 Through 2007 Plan – Eastside Economic Development Area

- Big Walnut Sports Park Loop Trail
- Pavement of the main road and two parking lots and other related improvements at Big Walnut Sports Park

### 2011 Plan – Greencastle Economic Development Area (EDA)

- Improvements to Big Walnut Sports Park: This included parking, sidewalk, drainage, and ADA improvements to the girls' softball complex. This project was completed in 2018.

- People Pathways Campus Link Trail Phase I: This was completed and provided local match and other costs for the People Pathways trail segment from SR 240 to Zinc Mill Road. This project was supported by a grant of \$705,410 from INDOT. This project was completed in 2019 and was approximately 5,100 feet.
- Zinc Mill Road: Completed the reconstruction of Zinc Mill Road from SR 240 to South Street. The project included road reconstruction, storm drainage, curbs, sidewalks, and a multi-use trail. The project was supported in part by a state grant of \$1,186,307 from INDOT. The construction contract amount was \$1,853,604. This project was completed in 2020 and was approximate 2,650 feet.
- Improvements to Big Walnut Sports Park: This included parking, sidewalk, drainage, and ADA improvement at the boys’ baseball complex. The construction contract was \$389,786. This project was completed in 2021.
- People Pathways Campus Link Trail Phase II: The Commission has agreed to provide the local match for a Next Level Trails Grant application that has been submitted to DNR. During 2020, the Governor placed the program on hold. See Project 2022-6 listed below.

### 2015 Amendments through 2023 in the Greencastle EDA

- Project 2021-4 – Robe Ann Park Improvements
  - Design Cost – \$40,000
- Project 2022-3 – Robe Ann Park Improvements
  - Phase I: Engineering & Inspection Cost – \$59,554
  - Phase II: Construction (Parking, Drives and Sidewalks) Cost – \$927,573
- Project 2022-6 – People Pathways Campus Link Trail Phase II
  - Cost – \$403,918
    - Tennessee Street to Limedale
    - Leveraged \$2.003 million Next Level Trails Grant
    - Leverage other cash and property donations
- Project 2022-9 – Wellness Center / YMCA & Medical Office Building
  - Construction Cost: \$27,786,388
    - Completion is expected in Fourth Quarter of 2024

### Future Projects Listed in the Current Economic Development Plan

- Improvements to Big Walnut Sports Park to allow the paving of roads and parking areas. Most of this work is complete.
- Extension of water and sanitary sewer to Jaycee Park. Water may be relatively easy, but sewer will be difficult and expensive.
- Additional improvements to Big Walnut Sports Park such as additional sports fields, restrooms, lighting, concessions stands, ADA access, sidewalks, dugouts, bleachers, and other related improvements to maximize the use of the park and promote visitor/tourism use of the park. The Commission would partner with the Park Board and follow the parks and recreation master plan. Some improvements have been completed. The City will be hiring a lighting engineer for a phase one lighting project along the main road.
- Improvements to Robe Ann Park, beyond those funded by the new bond issue, following the master plan for the park. The Commission would partner with the Park Board and follow the parks and recreation master plan.
- Development of a neighborhood park on the site of the Emma Jones Elementary School if a portion of the site can be acquired from the county. The project could involve the extension of Jacob Street through the property to connect from Jackson Street to Madison Street.

### Other Considerations

- This list of projects does not include sidewalk work related to other road projects. In many cases road projects included installation of sidewalks in areas that had no pedestrian access.
- A recent Community Crossings Grant improved Tennessee Street and Wood Street on the south and east sides of Robe Ann Park. Work included the construction of a sidewalk along the boundary of the park which created a walking loop for the park.
- INDOT's US 231 project is improving the sidewalk along the west side of Robe Ann Park.

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# CHAPTER 02: THE COMMUNITY

## OVERVIEW

To plan for the future, you need to know what resources the community already has and what existing trends and predicted trends could impact the future of parks and recreation planning. Insights drawn from the collection and analysis of broad demographic trends, man-made resources, historical and cultural resources and natural resources can indicate specific needs or opportunities in the community.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic information and trends are important factors to consider when planning for parks and recreation as it can indicate issues the community is currently facing and identify future needs. The demographics examined in this section include population, age, disability, ethnicity and race, education, income, households, unemployment, and poverty. Statistics used for this analysis were gleaned from the United States Census Bureau, [censusreporter.org](https://www.censusreporter.org), [stats.indiana.edu](https://stats.indiana.edu), [bestplaces.net](https://bestplaces.net) and the Indiana Workforce Development website [hoosierdata.in.gov](https://www.hoosierdata.in.gov).

## POPULATION

The population of Greencastle was 9,820 as of the 2020 U.S. Census, a 4.9% decrease over the 2010 population of 10,326, with that trend slightly reversed into 2022 with an estimated population of 9,883, a 0.6% increase. Loss in population could relate to DePauw students graduating. Overall, the population has remained fairly consistent with less than 5% fluctuations. Projected population growth for Putnam County is not expected to increase much for 2030, from 37,301 (2022) to 37,497% (2030). This equates to less than 1% growth for the whole county.

With population growth not expected to increase much during this planning period, it is unlikely that parks and recreation demands will increase significantly in this planning period. As identified in the public input summarized later in this document, it is a desire of the community to retain its current population, especially those who are in a younger age demographic. Parks and recreation is essential infrastructure in healthy, vibrant and resilient communities. Local parks and recreation improve the quality of life in communities and is an effective strategy to retain the current population and encourage growth. Greencastle should continue to invest in parks and recreation for population retention and future growth.

## AGE

The median age in Greencastle as reported by [censusreporter.org](https://www.censusreporter.org) is 25.4, which is 67% younger than Putnam County at 37.9 and 66% of the median age of Indiana at 38.2. The largest age group is 20-29 years old at 23% of the population, with 10-19 years old at 22% in second and 0-9 and 30-39 years old equal at 11% each in third. Age groups representing each decade between 40 and 80 years old were evenly distributed at 7% each, falling to 5% over 80. The larger age group of 20-29 years old is likely due in part to DePauw University being located within Greencastle corporate limits. All DePauw students live on campus and according to DePauw University's website, they currently have 1,752 students enrolled in the school.

With such a young population, Greencastle Parks and Recreation should ensure they are providing adequate programming and amenities for young adults and teens in the community. A great first step could be to engage young adults and teens already involved in parks and recreation to identify needs and opportunities.

## DISABILITY

According to the 2020 U.S. Census data, 11.0% of the population of Greencastle is disabled with 5.9% having ambulatory difficulty, 5.6% having cognitive difficulty and 2.6% hearing difficulty. This is a slightly lower percentage when compared with the state at 14.2% disabled population and Putnam County at 13.1%.

Disabled individuals equally benefit from recreation as do able-bodied individuals but often face obstacles to access or ability to participate in programs. Accommodations for disabled individuals to recreational facilities and programs is required by ADA federal standards but also best serves the entire community by removing barriers to all users. Understanding how barriers may prevent full access to all individuals will help inform the park planning for future facilities and renovations to improve access to existing facilities. More information on specific barriers within current programs and parks is discussed in Chapter 04, Park Inventory.

## ETHNICITY & RACE

The racial characteristics of Greencastle are predominately white at 88.9% with a 5.5% Asian population, 3.4% two or more races, 2.7% Hispanic or Latino and 2.6% Black or African American according to 2020 U.S. Census data. This is a slightly lower white percentage than Putnam County overall at 91.9% and a significantly higher Asian population at 1.0% countywide and 2.1% statewide. While all races equally enjoy parks, they do offer opportunities to celebrate a community's diversity through programming that focuses on its varied ethnic backgrounds.

## EDUCATION

Data from censusreporter.org shows that over 88.4% of Greencastle residents hold a high school diploma or higher education with 23.1% holding a bachelor's degree or higher. This is slightly lower than Putnam County overall at 89.1% with a high school diploma or higher, but higher than the 17.7% with a bachelor's degree or higher. The percentages for the state are 90.6% and 28.9%, respectively.

Higher education attainment is associated with higher incomes and greater employment opportunities. Communities with these attributes tend to provide more recreational opportunities and a diversity of activities, which in turn encourages residents to remain in a community and attracts new residents and businesses.

## HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The estimated median income of Greencastle residents is \$47,091, about 28% lower when compared to Putnam County at \$64,993 and 24% lower than that of the state at \$61,944. While the median income is lower than the county and the state, that income goes further in Greencastle with an estimated cost of living at 28% below the national average and 25% below the state average, as found at Sperling's Best Places website ([www.bestplaces.net](http://www.bestplaces.net)).

Lower median income communities are more likely to utilize lower cost public facilities and services, including recreation and entertainment. Availability of these facilities and services is therefore highly important to the community in providing a physically and socially healthy environment.

## HOUSEHOLDS

Greencastle has 3,446 households, with an average household size of 2.1 persons, which is slightly less compared to Putnam County at 2.4 persons and the state at 2.5 persons. Of the 3,446 households in Greencastle, 35.5% are married-couple families, 7.1% are cohabitating couples, and 57.4% are single householders. About 28.3% are households with children under the age of 18 years and of that 28.3%, 16.9% are married couples or cohabitating couples and about 10.0% are single householders.



One significant data point from this information is that over half of the population are single householders. The age demographics for this group are not fully elaborated in the data but about 17.8% (of the 57.4%) are designated as being over the age of 65 years old. That equates to about 69% of single householders being under the age of 65 years. With a significant percentage of the population being single householders, Greencastle should ensure that programming and amenities reflect the needs of single householder users of all ages.

Another point to consider is the percentage of single parent households. Single parent households accounts for over a third of the households with children under the age of 18 years old in Greencastle. Single parents, especially those without support, can have fewer opportunities to participate in local parks and recreation. Greencastle should evaluate their current offerings to ensure parks and recreation are accessible to these families. Some things to consider could be if fee-based programs are a barrier for single parent families who would typically have lower household incomes compared to couples, and if when programs are offered (date and times) are a barrier to single parent schedules.

Of the 3,446 housing units, about 48% are owner-occupied. By comparison, about 74% of Putnam County's 14,890 housing units are owner-occupied. Most large apartments are in Greencastle as it is the county seat. This has created a concentration of rentals within the city limits. A high percentage of owner-occupied housing units contributes to more stable communities with longer residencies and greater community engagement and more overall ownership of and pride in the community. These residents are also more likely to utilize and benefit from the community facilities and services. This does not suggest that renters are less likely to utilize public facilities and services, but the availability of these amenities may influence their decision to become homeowners and permanent residents.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

The estimated unemployment of Greencastle is 4.2%, which is the same as Putnam County and lower than the state at 4.7%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census data, the highest percentage of jobs at 28.6% is in manufacturing, followed by transportation and warehousing at 21.2%, and educational services at 15.4%. Jobs of this nature are primarily conducted indoors with little opportunity for outdoor recreation during the workday. Access to outdoor recreation can be vital to the physical and mental health of workers. Additionally, recreational facilities provide opportunities to interact with other family members and the community at large. Providing a variety of opportunities for different levels of physical activity is essential to meet the needs of workers from those in sedentary jobs seeking a higher level of activity to workers in high activity level jobs seeking a quiet respite in nature.

## POVERTY

According to 2020 U.S. Census data, approximately 13.1% of Greencastle residents fall below the poverty line, which is 3.3% higher than Putnam County (9.8%) and about 1.5% higher than the state (12.6%). A higher percentage of the population living at or below the poverty line puts more pressure on a community's free or low-cost facilities and creates barriers to facilities that may require transportation for access. Offering free access to these facilities for lower income residents should be a consideration for all fee-based activities and facilities.

## MAN-MADE RESOURCES

### TRANSPORTATION

#### ROADS & HIGHWAYS

State Road 240, also known as Veterans Memorial Highway, terminates at U.S. Highway 231 in Greencastle, providing express access to U.S. 40 east to Plainfield (26 miles) and Indianapolis (50 miles). U.S. Highway 231 also connects to U.S. 40 south of Greencastle providing access to communities west such as Brazil (18 miles) and Terre Haute (34 miles). U.S. Highway 231 runs north to connect to Crawfordsville (30 miles) and Lafayette (57 miles) and south to Bloomington (45 miles). Interstate 70 is accessible via U.S. Highway 231 and is only a 16-minute drive to Greencastle.

Greencastle's road network is well connected to many communities and regions. Being centrally located in west central Indiana makes it easy for residents to travel to other communities and for visitors to come visit Greencastle. Proximity to Interstate 70 makes the community more accessible. With Greencastle being so connected and easily accessible, it can make Greencastle Parks and Recreation facilities and programs a destination to those outside of the community.

#### AIRPORTS

The Putnam County Regional Airport is located just outside of Greencastle's corporate limits between Jaycee Park, Ballard Family Park, and Big Walnut Sports Park. The airport covers approximately 192 acres. Much of the land is owned by the City of Greencastle and is leased to the airport. The airport also features one runway, a restaurant and a business center and hotel.

The airport properties owned by the City provide an opportunity to connect Jaycee Park to the existing trail system. Currently, Jaycee Park is only accessible by vehicle and is located outside of city limits.

#### RAILROADS

There are two active rail lines in Greencastle that are owned by CSX Transportation. One runs east to west between Indianapolis and St. Louis and the other runs north to south between Cloverdale and Lafayette. Additionally, there is an abandoned railroad right of way that runs from Madison Street around the west side of town. This roadbed runs parallel to the Walnut Street entrance drive leading into the nature park. The city owns a portion of this right of way from Columbia Street to Walnut Street.

#### SIDEWALKS & TRAILS

Greencastle does not have a complete sidewalk system. Some streets in residential areas have no sidewalks at all, and others only have a sidewalk on one side of the road. Some of these residential sidewalks are also not ideal widths for ADA accessibility and can be as small as 3' to 4' wide. Streets in downtown Greencastle and around DePauw University are more expansive with sidewalks on both sides of the street and a width of approximately 6' wide. Over the last eight years, the city has spent between \$100,000 and \$200,000 per year in sidewalk repairs and filling in gaps in the system. As repairs are made to existing sidewalks and/or streets, the city should continue to make a complete sidewalk system a priority. Sidewalks should connect to the overall system and meet existing ADA standards. When applicable, sidewalks should be expanded to facilitate the expansion of the trail network.

Greencastle has an impressive trail system known as the People Pathways. People Pathways has a total of 17.75 miles of trail within its system and 8.8 miles are located within Greencastle corporate limits. More information on People Pathways can be found in *Chapter 04 Park Inventory*. In partnership with eight counties across the State of Indiana, People Pathways of Putnam County currently has the longest segment of the National Road Heritage Trail

completed. The National Road Heritage Trail is an initiative to develop a 160-mile continuous cross-state multi-use trail. The trail follows the former Pennsylvania and Vandalia rail corridors, where possible, and closely follows the Historic National Road for much of its route. The segment that is complete in Putnam County is also known as the Vandalia Trail. The Vandalia Trailhead is located in Greencastle and is owned by the City and maintained by the parks and recreation department.

There are also walking paths and internal loop trails within the parks. Big Walnut Sports Park provides a 1.25-mile loop trail that is very popular. Each park, except for Jaycee Park, has either sidewalk or trail access. Future trail expansion should be made to connect Jaycee Park to the existing trail network and to make the park accessible to pedestrians and cyclists.

## RESERVOIRS

The largest body of water within city limits is Quarry Pond. Quarry Pond is approximately 30 acres in size and is located adjacent to Robe-Ann Park and Greencastle High School. The property is separated into several parcels that are owned by Cash Concrete Products, Inc. There is also some wooded area surrounding the pond. Cash Concrete Products, Inc.'s main office is located on the south side of pond, off State Road 240.

Quarry Pond provides an opportunity to add additional water recreation facilities to Greencastle. Currently, the site is mostly unused except for Cash Concrete Products, Inc.'s main office located south of the pond. The city could acquire the lake and surrounding wooded area to add to the park system.

## INDUSTRIAL PARKS

Most of Greencastle's industrial businesses are located on the east side of the city along State Road 240. Businesses in this area include Walmart Distribution Center, International Automotive Components, Heartland Automotive, Chiyoda USA Corporation, and Crown Equipment Corporation.

## LARGE BUILDINGS

Outside of industrial or warehouse buildings, the majority of Greencastle's large buildings are located on the DePauw University Campus. Among the largest are the Lilly Center recreation center, the Green Center for Performing Arts, and the Richard E Peeler Art Center.

## INDUSTRIES & EMPLOYERS

The Greencastle/Putnam County Development Center is Greencastle's local economic development group. DePauw University is a large employer for Greencastle but the city is also home to a Walmart Distribution Center and manufacturing businesses with ties to the automotive industry.

## UNIVERSITIES

### DEPAUW UNIVERSITY

DePauw University, a private liberal arts college, was founded in 1837 as Indiana Asbury University as an all-men's school but began admitting women in 1867. DePauw's enrollment of about 1,800 students includes students from across the U.S. and 39 countries with approximately 20% multicultural enrollment. A historic structure in the center of the campus, built in 1877 and known as East College, hosted commencement exercises and classes and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. The 695-acre university campus includes a 520-acre DePauw Nature Park. The former site of a limestone quarry, the Nature Park features abundant flora and fauna, hiking trails, a Quarry Pond, a field station, welcome center, and buildings for research and study. DePauw is consistently highly ranked by publications such as Forbes and U.S. News & World Report, which are widely respected for their university

rankings. Highly ranked universities draw students from around the country and the world who can contribute to the school's home community and utilize the community services and facilities. The quality of those services and facilities, as well as quality job opportunities, can positively influence a student's decision to remain after graduation.

## IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ivy Tech Community College completed its 33,000-plus square foot campus in 2009 to join the largest state community college system. Ivy Tech provides technical and vocational education for 2-year degrees. Again, the quality of community services and facilities as well as availability of quality jobs can influence students to remain after graduation.

The property was originally owned by the City but was donated to Ivy Tech in 2010. Before the land was donated to Ivy Tech, Greencastle City Council gave permission to the parks and recreation department to develop a park known as Rokicki Community Park in honor of Michael Rokicki who was a councilman and community leader who passed away in 2003. Greencastle Parks and Recreation Department hired Gove Associates to provide a site plan for the park. A copy of the site plan can be found in the Appendix. The plan was to install nature foot trails, a 10' wide asphalt People Pathways trail on the edges of the property, an ADA accessible playground and a community building that included a large banquet/meeting room, kitchenette, nature interpretive center and restrooms. The property was also to contain a yard waste site and sub-station for the Greencastle Fire Department.

When the property was donated, officials still intended to use portions of the land leftover for the planned park facilities. The property is about 42 acres in size and is currently only half developed with a large, wooded area on the east side of the property. The campus does include a picnic shelter and is open to the public. Considering the property was donated by the City to Ivy Tech and was previously planned as a park, the City should consider partnering with Ivy Tech to continue development of Rokicki Community Park. It is likely that parks and recreation needs have changed since the original site plan was completed. A new site plan should be developed if Rokicki Community Park does come to fruition.

## HISTORICAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES

### HISTORICAL

Founded in 1823, Greencastle is home to several historic sites.

### SITES

Historic sites listed with the National Register of Historic Places include:

- The Boulder House (James Orville and Adelene Boston Cammack House), built in 1910
- Courthouse Square Historic District, which included 76 different contributing properties
- Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity House, built 1926
- East College of DePauw University, built 1871
- Forest Hill Cemetery, established 1865
- Richard M. Hazelett House, built in 1868
- McKim Observatory, DePauw University, built in 1884
- F.P. Nelson House (The Towers), built 1871-1875
- Old Greencastle Historic District, includes 79 contributing buildings in a predominately residential area, developed between 1826 and 1961
- William C. VanArsdel House (The Ems), built in 1907
- Eastern Enlargement Historic District

- Northwood Historic District

## EVENTS

During the tumultuous Depression-era 1930's, the notorious gangster and bank-robber John Dillinger executed his largest haul in October 1933 at the Central National Bank in Greencastle, escaping with almost \$75,000.

## CULTURAL

### FESTIVALS

#### Greencastle Summer Music Festival

Founded in 2005, the Greencastle Summer Music Festival is hosted weekly throughout the summer months at the Gobin Memorial Church at the DePauw University School of Music. The free concert events feature classical, jazz, blues, and multi-genre music by local and nationally known artists. The relaxed setting is a celebration of musicians and their stories.

#### ParkFest

In its 30th season, the eight-week series, sponsored by the Greencastle Civic League is held weekly in the Robe-Ann Park band shell and hosts local musicians, high school bands, garage bands, and solo artists. The concerts are free to attend and may include performances by multiple artists.

#### First Fridays

Filling the streets of the Historic Courthouse Square in Downtown Greencastle, First Fridays attracts over 2,500 visitors and 40+ vendors from all over the West Central Indiana Region. This event is highlighted by local arts and crafts, retail, food trucks, beer gardens, and live music along Franklin Street. This event brings thousand of people together and provides a significant economic boost to the downtown.

#### Putnam County Mural Project

The Putnam County Mural Project hosted it's first ever Putnam County Mural Fest in 2022. The goal of this project is to celebrate, improve, and inspire the community through creative placemaking projects that activate over-looked spaces with beautiful works of art.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Putnam County 4-H Fair

The Putnam County 4-H Fair takes place during the first full week of July and kicks off with the Putnam County 4-H Fair Parade in downtown Greencastle. The fair features livestock, horse and pony shows and judging, food vendors, concerts, educational seminars, and the Putnam County Fair Queen pageant. Throughout the rest of the year, the fairgrounds host a wide range of events and activities that are open to the public.

#### Bold & Gold Weekend

The Bold & Gold Weekend celebrates graduation at DePauw University with a four-day celebration of events, concerts, and class gatherings of graduates and alumni exploring the campus and downtown Greencastle.

#### Monon Bell Game

Alternating locations each year, the annual football matchup between the DePauw University Tigers and the Wabash College Little Giants, Crawfordsville, began in 1890 and has been a continuous rivalry for the coveted Monon Bell, a 300-pound locomotive bell from the Monon Railroad. The week of the game includes game-related events and concerts hosted by both schools.

### Downtown Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market opens every Saturday morning from May to October, offering locals and tourists a variety of locally grown produce and local and regional crafts and artesian fare.

### Celebrate 4

Hosted by the Friends of the Park of Putnam County, the annual Celebrate 4 event on Independence Day, in Robe-Ann Park, consists of an entire day of events featuring a 5K Fun Run, live music, food vendors, and an open community pool.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **HYDROLOGY**

Figure 2.1 shows the hydrological conditions within the planning area. Greencastle is located in the Big Walnut Creek Watershed and in the subwatersheds of Dry Branch-Big Walnut, Deweese Branch-Deer Creek, Owl Branch-Deer Creek and Headwaters Deer Creek. While Greencastle does not contain any major or named waterways, many of its local streams on the west side of the city are tributaries to the Big Walnut Creek, which flows from north of the city to the southwest. In the absence of waterways, the city is relatively free of flood hazard areas except for a portion of the far northwest section of town where local tributaries are part of the Big Walnut Creek floodplain.

As previously mentioned, Quarry Pond is the largest waterbody within the planning area. Jaycee Park also has a fishing pond that is used frequently by park users. While there are not many water resources located within the planning area, the county offers many opportunities for water recreation. Below is a list of resources located within Putnam County:

- Big Walnut Creek
- Cagles Mill Lake & Cataract Falls
- Glenn Flint Lake
- Heritage Lake
- Portland Mills
- Vanbibber Lake

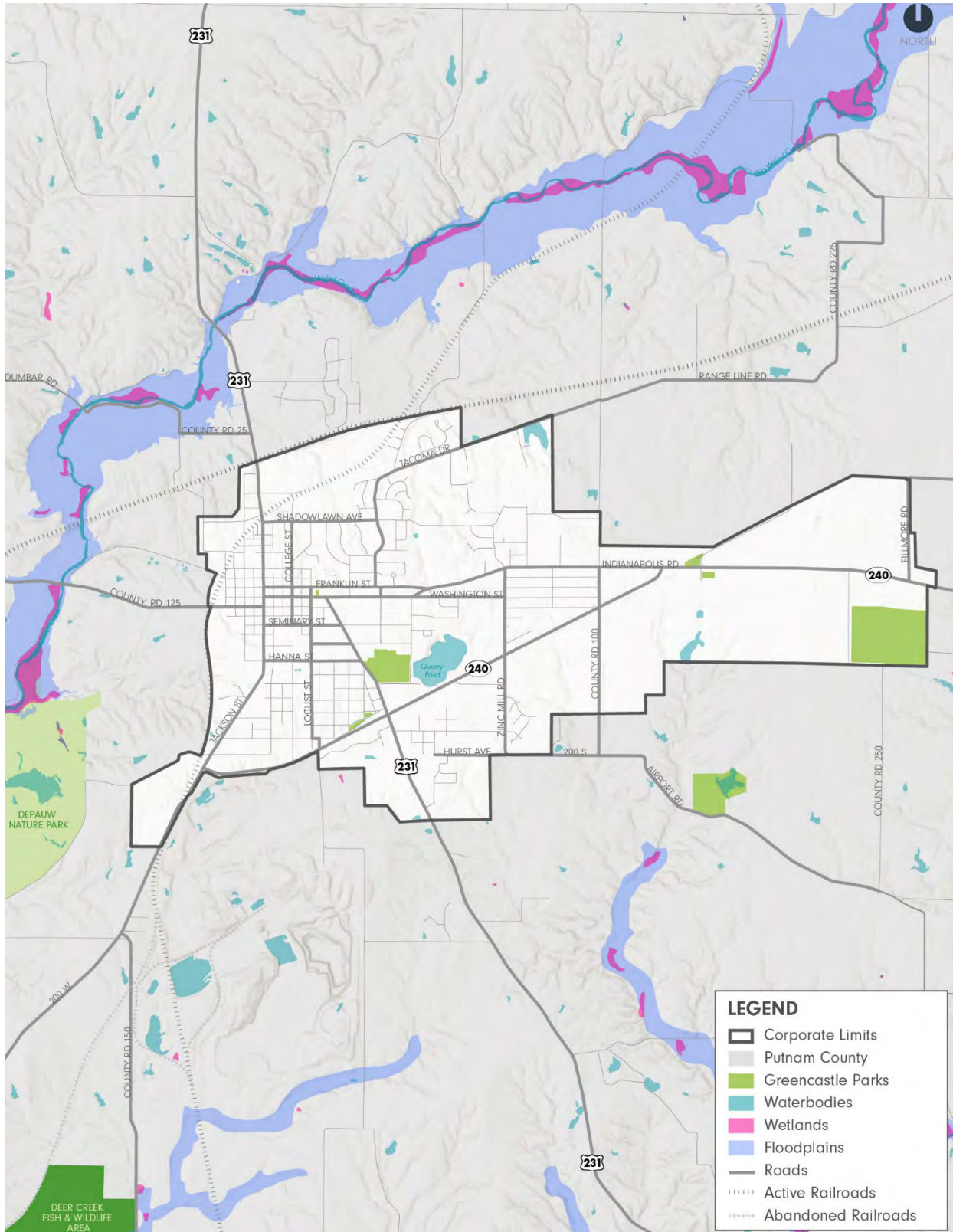
### **TOPOGRAPHY & SOILS**

According to the USDA Soil Survey, most of the soils in Greencastle are silt loam and well-drained to moderately well-drained. Slope percentages vary, but the majority of Greencastle is relatively flat or gently sloping with slope percentages ranging from 2-6%. The greatest changes in elevation can be found closer to DePauw Nature Park.

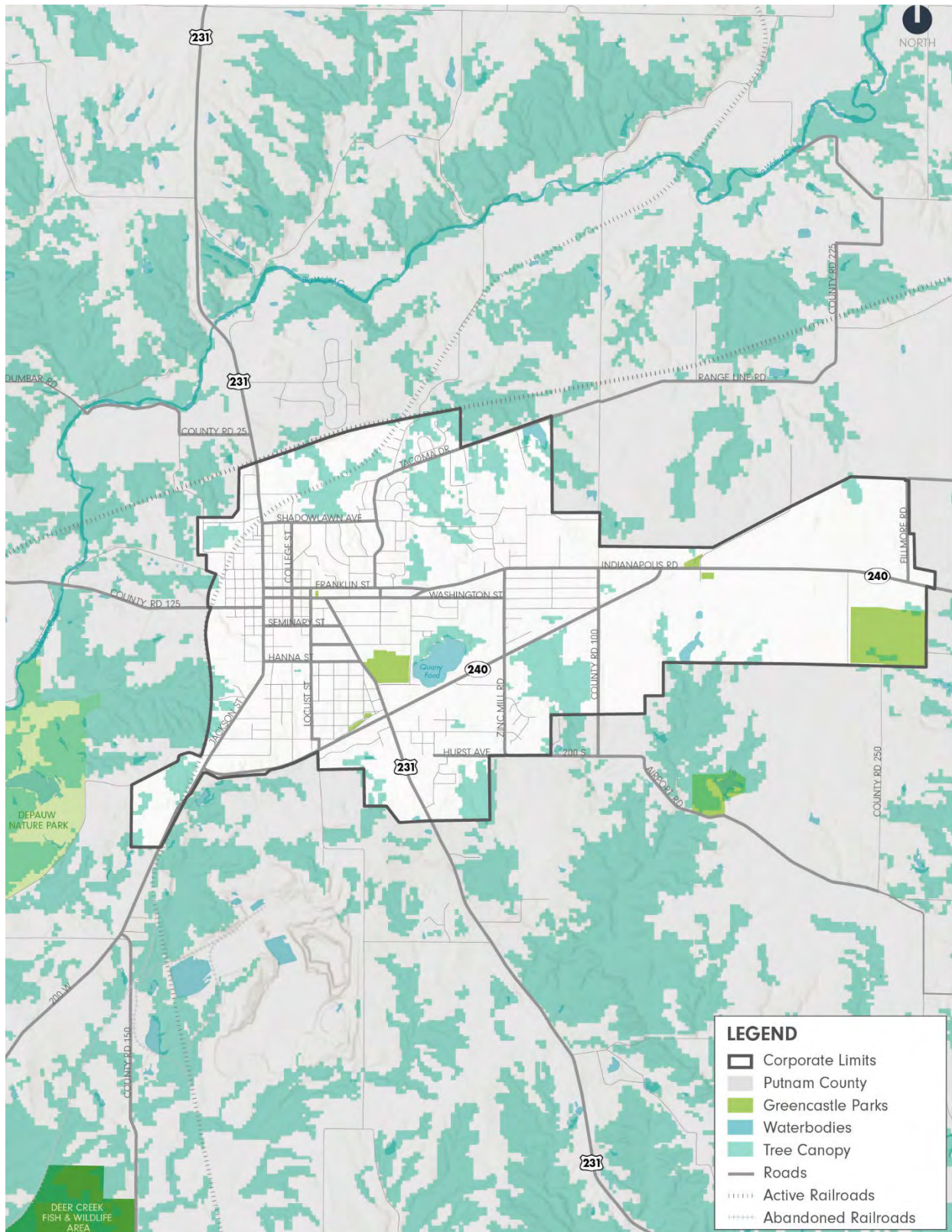
### **OTHER OPEN SPACE WITH PARK POTENTIAL**

Emma Jones Elementary School served as an elementary school for 47 years between 1954 to 2001. It was then sold to Putnam County and served as the Putnam County Annex from 2002 through 2011, when roof and other problems forced the Putnam County Commissioners to shutter the building. The 69-year-old building continued to deteriorate and was torn down in March of 2023. Currently, Putnam County Board of Commissioner owns the 4-acre parcel and are making plans for its future development.

**FIGURE 2.1: HYDROLOGICAL FEATURES**



**FIGURE 2.2: TERRAIN & TREE COVER**





## CLIMATE

The climate in Greencastle is no different than the rest of the state. Indiana has a temperate climate with warm summers and cold winters and there are four seasons throughout the year. Average lows in winter are around 23°F and summer high average around 84°. Average annual precipitation is 44.3 inches with approximately 68% of that precipitation occurring in the growing season. The growing season usually extends from April to September. Greencastle is located in the USDA Climactic Zone 6a/5b.

## LOCAL INVASIVE SPECIES

Local invasive species include those found throughout the state, including multiflora rose, Russian olive, Mulberry, cattail, phragmites, garlic mustard, and Japanese honeysuckle. PC RIP (Putnam County Remove Invasive Plants) is a taskforce of citizens dedicated to helping remove invasive species within the city parks and throughout the county.

## FOREST & VEGETATION

### TREE COVER

Though most of the land in and around Greencastle is developed or agriculture, the city does contain large, forested areas owned by Ivy Tech Community College and DePauw Nature Park, private owners, and around Quarry Pond. Of all the parks, Jaycee Park has the most forested area. Otherwise, most forest or vegetation resources are located outside of city limits in Putnam County. Figure 2.2 depicts the larger forested areas within and surrounding the planning area.

Greencastle has been recognized as a Tree City USA designation by the Arbor Day Foundation twenty-two times since 1997. Greencastle achieved the Tree City recognition by meeting the program's four requirements — a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. Greencastle's Public Works Department, Parks and Recreation Department and Forest Hill Cemetery take the lead roles in the city's urban forestry work, with support from the city's Planning Department.

## NATURE AREAS

Putnam County has more land in protected nature areas than any other Indiana county. Lined with trails and filled with history, there are thousands of acres of enjoyable outdoor recreation opportunities scattered around the county. Nature areas in Putnam County include:

- Big Walnut Nature Preserve
  - Approximately 2,700 acres along Big Walnut Creek in northeastern Putnam County
  - Known for rolling hills and steep ravines
- Fern Cliff Nature Preserve
  - Approximately 157 acres of preserve in western Putnam County
  - Known for steep, forested cliffs and ravines and abundance of unique vegetation
- Hall Woods Nature Preserve
  - Approximately 90 acres of preserve located along Big Walnut Creek east of Bainbridge
  - Known for forested area that includes large white oak trees, sassafras, buckeye, maple, dogwood, beech, tulip trees, and many other species
- Hemlock Ridge Nature Preserve
  - Approximately 40 acres of preserve in the Big Walnut Creek Corridor
  - Known for its stands of Hemlock along the bedrock bluffs and ravines with breathtaking views of Big Walnut Creek

- Deer Creek Fish and Wildlife Area
  - Approximately a 2,161-acre park located southwest of Greencastle
  - Known for rolling agricultural land and mature oak-hickory woods with hunting, and fishing opportunities
- Lieber & Cataract Fall State Recreation Area
  - Approximately 8,000 acres containing Cagles Mill Lake, five trail systems, a variety of land and water recreation opportunities, camping, and educational events all year-round
- DePauw University Nature Park
  - Approximately 520 acres located just outside of Greencastle in/around a retired limestone quarry
  - Known for its forests teeming with flora and fauna, worthy of viewing by researchers, birders and casual visitors and features a wide variety of native trees, shrubs, wetland grasses, prairie plants and wildflowers.
- Fern Station
  - Includes 570 acres of forest which is the largest piece of land ever protected by Central Indiana Land Trust.
  - The forest is dominated by white oak, beech and hickory trees, and is rich with woodland species.
  - This nature preserve is open for arranged tours and events led by CILTI and its partners and will be fully open for the public to explore in the future.

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# CHAPTER 03: PLAN DEVELOPMENT

## PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARIES

Public input is an important component of the research and analysis phase. The information collected identifies the public's opinion of current parks and recreation offerings including what facilities or activities are most enjoyed by residents, what issues are there at the parks or with programming and what is needed or most desired for the future. This information gathered guides the formulation of the goals and recommendations later in the planning process.

Public input was sought in the following way:

- Stakeholder Group Interview
- Public Survey
- Public Meeting
- Public Presentation

## STAKEHOLDER GROUP INTERVIEW

A stakeholder group interview was held on May 10, 2023, at 6:00pm at the Ivy Tech Community Center. In total, there were 11 attendees representing the following groups or interests:

- Friends of the Park
- Greencastle School District
- People Pathway
- Putnam Parks and Pathways
- City Council
- City Planning
- Civic League
- Youth Soccer
- Pickleball

A worksheet with five questions was also distributed in the meeting and distributed after the meeting to stakeholders via email. Only one stakeholder filled and return the worksheet via email. A list of suggestions for improvements to People Pathways was also provided. A copy of the sign-in sheet, worksheet, and improvements list can be found in the appendix.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

Stakeholders considered the strengths of Greencastle Parks and Recreation to be:

- Existing trail system
- Existing parks such Robe-Ann Park, Big Walnut Sports Park, Maple Berry Park and Micaela Cancilla Park
- Even though Greencastle is a smaller community, there are many opportunities for residents in the current facilities and programming
- Relationship to DePauw Nature Park
- Great collaboration between the parks and recreation department and other groups/organizations
- Cooperation between Greencastle Community Schools and the parks and recreation department



*Stakeholder group interview was held on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023.*

Areas for improvement identified by stakeholders included:

- Better communication of parks and recreation offerings to the community. Ensuring that information is getting out to community through different means of media
- Greater awareness of the health impact of parks
- Maintenance of existing trail facilities
- Filling in gaps to the trail system
- Providing access to school facilities such as rooms for programming and recreation facilities such as the track
- Ensuring programming is equitable

Stakeholders' dreams for the future included:

- Becoming a destination for parks and recreation events and tournaments
- More diversified and accessible programming at current facilities
- Another park on the north side of Greencastle
- Indoor aquatic center
- Indoor pickleball facilities

Barriers identified by stakeholders included:

- There are specific properties that are a barrier to filling gaps in the existing trail system
- Staffing resources are limited to initiate and execute new programming opportunities and it is hard to engage volunteers

## PUBLIC SURVEY

A survey with 20 questions was developed and distributed online. The survey was promoted on the Greencastle Parks and Recreation Facebook Page, the City of Greencastle Facebook Page, a news article in the Putnam County Post (a copy can be found in the Appendix), at the stakeholder group interview, and at the public meeting. The survey was made available to the public on April 6, 2023, and closed August 7, 2023.

A total of 132 responses were received. The previous parks and recreation master plan had 428 respondents. A full copy of the survey results can be found in the Appendix and a summary of the results are provided on the following pages.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

The age groups with the most respondents were 25-34 years (30.3%) and 35-44 years old (30.3%), followed by 55-64 years old (12.9%) and 65 years or older (12.9%). Age groups least represented in the survey were ages 24 years old or younger (2.3%). A little more than half respondents reside in Greencastle (55.3%) and a little less than half of respondents identified as residing in Putnam County (41.7%).

About 61.4% of respondents have children under 18 years of age. About 34.9% have children 0-5 years old, 25.8% have children 6-11 years old and 26.5% have children 12-18 years old.

Respondents were asked if any members of their family have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disability Act, about 13.6% said “yes”. Respondents were given an option to provide a response on how Parks and Recreation could better serve their needs. Out of 8 open-ended responses, key themes included:

- Aqua aerobic programming for paraplegics
- Sensory-friendly and inclusive equipment and activities
- Wheelchair accessibility
- Accessible family restrooms with enough space for a power wheelchair and caregiver
- Generally making the parks more accessible

Respondents were also asked if Greencastle Parks were friendly to those with disabilities and about 59.1% said “yes”.

## PARK PROXIMITY & USAGE

Approximately 70.5% of respondents live a 1/2 mile or more from the nearest park. This high percentage is likely due to the higher percentage of survey respondents living in Putnam County. Of City respondents, about 48.0% live within a 1/2 mile walk of a park.

There were 82.6% of survey respondents who indicated using park facilities daily (9.1%), weekly (35.6%) or monthly (37.9%) with only a few respondents saying they never use park facilities (4.6%) or only used park facilities once or twice a year (12.9%).

Most respondents said they find out about parks programs and event through social media (82.4%), word of mouth (45.8%), or the newspaper (40.5%). Respondents in the comments said that they often hear about events after they happen and would like a monthly email, mailed newsletter, weekly column in the newspaper, and/or a program guide to be sent home with the schools.

### Top Three Most Used Park Facilities

1. Robe-Ann Park (93.1%)
2. Big Walnut Sports Park (66.4%)
3. People Pathways (51.9%)

### Least Used Park Facilities

1. Mary Rodgers Field Park (0.0%)
2. Calbert Way Park (a.k.a Vandalia Trailhead, 1.5%)
3. Micaela Cancilla Park (2.3%)
4. Maple Bery Park (2.3%)

### Top Five Most Popular Activities & Amenities

1. Walking/Jogging/Exercise (74.8%)
2. Swimming/Aquatics Center (64.9%)
3. Time with Family/Friends (57.3%)
4. Playgrounds (54.2%)
5. Special Events and Festivals (51.9%)

### Top Reasons Respondents Did Not Use City Parks

1. Outdated Amenities (29.5%)
2. Lack of Restrooms (27.1%)
3. Lack of Awareness (20.5%)
4. Safety (20.5%)
5. Too far from my home (14.8%)

## **FACILITY RATINGS**

### Play Equipment

Most respondents considered the play equipment in Greencastle parks to be in fair condition (46.2%), with an additional 32.6% considering them to be in good condition. Top comments provided in this question included:

- A few respondents thought the conditions were improving or getting better
- A few respondents would like to see new, updated equipment

### Sports Facilities

Most respondents considered sports facilities in Greencastle parks to be in good condition (46.2%), with an additional 34.9% considering them to be in fair condition. Top comments provided in this question included:

- With the pickleball courts being a popular amenity, a respondent mentioned wanting more resources to be committed to them such as wind block netting, shade tarps and ensuring drinking fountains are working.
- One respondent would like other sports facilities besides soccer, pickleball and t-ball such as football, volleyball, etc.
- One respondent stated an indoor pool was needed.
- One respondent state the ball diamond could be upgraded and that the basketball goals could use fencing to prevent the ball from rolling too far.

## Restrooms

Most respondents considered the restrooms in Greencastle parks to be in either poor condition (47.0%) or fair condition (35.6%) and over half of respondents think there are not adequate restroom facilities in Greencastle's parks (63.7%). Top comments provided in these questions included:

- A couple respondents stated Robe-Ann Park's restroom facilities were in poor condition
- One respondent would like to see better facilities at Big Walnut Sports Park
- Others mentioned restrooms being damaged or needing more maintenance

## **PARKS & RECREATION NEEDS/PRIORITIES**

### Most Needed Facilities/Improvements

1. Restrooms in parks and along trails (57.4%)
2. Indoor fitness center/weight room (36.4%)
3. Trail signage and mile markers (34.9%)
4. Natural areas for hiking/nature-viewing/picnicking (33.3%)
5. Additional shade at parks (32.6%)
6. Additional drinking/doggie fountains (31.0%)

### Top Programming Needs

1. Community events (56.9%)
2. Indoor recreation opportunities (45.4%)
3. Fitness classes (44.6%)
4. Swimming lessons, aquatic programs (40.8%)
5. Nature programs/environmental education (40.8%)
6. Hobby/interest Classes (37.7%)

### Top Desired Capital Improvement Projects

1. Update/add playground equipment (38.2%)
2. Expand pool facilities (32.8%)
3. Update/add lighting to parks (32.1%)
4. Update park appearance (25.2%)
5. Add trails for walking/jogging/biking (24.4%)
6. Add nature trails (20.6%)

## **PUBLIC MEETING**

A public meeting was held on May 24, 2023, at 6:00pm at the Ivy Tech Community Center. A total of 12 members of the public attended the public meeting, not including city officials or parks staff. The public meeting was advertised on the Greencastle Parks and Recreation Facebook Page, the City of Greencastle Facebook Page, and in a news article on Banner Graphic. A presentation was given to inform the public on parks and recreation master planning and to share the results of the planning efforts thus far. Presentation boards were also used to engage attendees and provide them with an opportunity to share more feedback and input for the plan. However, with the smaller group, an open discussion happened, and input was gathered through that discussion. A worksheet with 5 questions was distributed at the meeting and a total of 5 worksheets were completed and returned. All presentation materials, meeting advertisements, copies of the worksheets and the sign-in sheet can be found in the appendix.

*“Just need to polish (our community) a bit—polish comes with better parks and trails.” – Quote from public meeting*



*Public Meeting held at the Ivy Tech Community Center on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023.*

Below is a summary of the topics discussed and feedback given at the public meeting:

- Favorite thing about Greencastle Parks and Recreation
  - Robe-Ann Park
  - Big Walnut Sports Park
  - Existing playground equipment for the kids such as Emerald Palace
  - Pool and splash pad
  - Open fields for adults
  - Existing trees for shade
  - Bike and walking paths
- The northside of Greencastle lacks parks and recreation services
  - The old Emma Jones Elementary School provides an opportunity to address this lack of service area. Attendees thought this was a great possibility and would love for it to become another gem in the community like Robe-Ann Park
- Jaycee Park
  - Attendees generally thought this park had been neglected in the past and would like more maintenance of the park
  - Attendees want Jaycee Park to be connected to the trail system
- Retaining younger people in the community
  - Parks and trails attract people to the community
  - Looping trails within parks
    - Big Walnut Sports Park walking trail is highly used
  - DePauw students are overlooked and unaware of parks and recreation facilities and programming offered in Greencastle



- Could inform them of the pickleball league or disc golf
- DePauw Nature Park and DePauw University are great assets to the community
- Parks are lacking opportunities for teens
  - Teens are sometimes pushed out of spaces in the parks
  - Providing parks and recreation opportunities for teens such as social spaces, Wi-Fi access, climbing equipment, public art, and programs such as teen park ambassadors
- Other needed or desired amenities:
  - A trail around Greencastle
  - Connecting trails to the existing parks
  - A fence around the little kids' playground by the skatepark at Robe-Ann Park to prevent kids from running in the road
  - Updating Emerald Palace playground at Robe-Ann Park
  - More open space that is usable (level, doesn't flood, has shade, etc.) for activities such as LARP at Robe-Ann Park
  - More play equipment such as slides, swings, etc.
  - Miniature golf
  - Adding a gaga ball pit to a park
  - Big Walnut Sports Parks needs shade and windbreaking for spectators
  - Pet clean-up stations at each park
  - Replacing signs on the trails that have been taken down
  - Connecting Vandalia Trailhead to Clay County in the future
- Programming
  - Indoor programming is needed
  - Partnering with the schools for more involvement in summer programs, music in the park, etc.
  - Existing events such as 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Nightmare Before Christmas and Santaland Lights at the Park are greatly enjoyed but wish there were more events throughout the year.

## PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Summary information to be added for final draft.



# Photo to be added for final draft

Public Presentation at the Ivy Tech Community Center on XX XX, 2023.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

Public input is a vital component in parks and recreation planning. It ensures that the facilities developed are what is needed or desired in the community. Below are the key takeaways and themes from all the public input methods:

### STRENGTHS:

- Greencastle has many parks and recreation opportunities for its size compared to other communities
- Greencastle Parks and Recreation Department has great partnerships with local groups and organizations
- The community values and are most proud of Robe-Ann Park, Big Walnut Sports Park, and People Pathways
- DePauw University and DePauw Nature Park are major assets to the community

### POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS:

- More communication is needed in a variety of forms to ensure the community is informed and aware of parks and recreation offerings
- Connecting the trail system to existing park facilities and filling the gaps for fully connected system.
- Emma Jones Elementary School property provides an opportunity to expand Greencastle parks and recreation location of services to the northside of the community
- Increasing partnerships and fine-tuning the collaboration between different groups/organizations in the community and the parks and recreation department is needed
- Jaycee Park is an underutilized facility in park system and provides an opportunity for future nature focused programming and facilities

- Teens are sometimes pushed out of existing park spaces and sometimes cause problems in parks. There needs to be parks and recreation opportunities catered to teens
- People do not use city parks because of outdated amenities and a lack of restrooms
- People desire updated and/or new playground equipment, expanded pool facilities, and restrooms in parks and along trails
- Indoor recreation opportunities such as an indoor pool, indoor pickleball courts, and indoor fitness center are desired
- More community events and fitness classes are desired

### **VISION FOR THE FUTURE:**

- To become a destination for parks and recreation events and tournaments
- To help retain the younger generation in Greencastle through parks and recreation

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# CHAPTER 04: PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY

## PARK HISTORY

Greencastle's public park system was established on the merits and hard work of continuous community input, volunteerism, and foresight. Greencastle's eight vibrant parks and the People Pathway pedestrian and bicycle trail system, in conjunction with numerous other private and public facilities, provide a vital community-wide parks and recreation system for the Greencastle area.

## ROBE-ANN PARK

The Greencastle Public Parks & Recreation System originated in 1928 when John and Anna Robe donated a parcel of land to the City. The Robes wanted the land to be used as a playground and recreation area for the citizens and particularly for the children of Greencastle. In 1934, the City along with its citizens began planning and development of Robe-Ann Park. Under the City's guidance, in 1936 the High School Athletic Association assisted the community with building Robe-Ann Park's first major facility, a softball diamond. To facilitate further development and maintenance efforts at Robe-Ann Park the Greencastle Board of Park Commissioners was created in 1937. In 1956 Robe-Ann Park's role as a significant component of the Greencastle municipal structure was formally recognized with a City Council ordinance establishing the Greencastle Parks & Recreation Department.

Over the next 50-years, the board, department and the Friends of the Park Association of Putnam County, Inc. developed facilities at Robe-Ann Park that include the basketball and tennis courts, picnic shelters, Greencastle Aquatics Center in 1992, Castle Playground in 1995, modern restrooms in 1996, Emerald Palace Playground and GPRD Administrative Office and Maintenance Building in 2001, the Putnam County Skatepark in 2003, and most recently the acquisition and addition of the Clearwaters property to the park in 2006.

In 2007 a Brownfield Assessment of the Clearwaters addition to Robe-Ann Park was conducted with funding assistance from a Brownfield Petroleum Remediation Grant through the Indiana Finance Authority. The property was found "clear" in the Final Assessment Report from that study, which was published on January 23, 2008.

In 2014, under the inspiration and fundraising efforts of the Greencastle Civic League whose goals are "to make Greencastle a better place to live" and along with funding from a Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant, the Bob York Memorial Splash Park was opened and is currently a free attraction at the Greencastle Aquatics Center located within Robe-Ann Park.

In 2016, six new pickleball courts and three tennis courts were added to the park funded with a donation from Heartland Automotive in Greencastle. Also in 2016-2017, the northern entrance road was removed and a 12' pathway was installed. In 2020, Graves Construction performed improvements to the Aquatics Center that included bathhouse renovations, two-flume water slide, drop-type water slide and children's water play structures in the zero-depth end of the pool.

## BIG WALNUT SPORTS PARK

In 2004, a maintenance agreement was established between the Big Walnut Sports Park Board, the City of Greencastle Board of Park Commissioners and City of Greencastle Parks & Recreation Department for the everyday maintenance of Big Walnut Sports Park. In exchange for maintaining all green spaces, water lines, trash receptacles,

maintenance shed, picnic facilities, and the centrally located restroom facility, the agreement made the privately-owned youth sports facility accessible to the general public as a municipal park. The agreement has worked out well for the department with many compliments received in regard to the aesthetics of the facility. The agreement also provided an avenue for improvements to the park by providing matching land donations to be used for federal and state recreation grants, i.e. Land & Water Conservation Fund and Recreation Trails Grants. More recently, Big Walnut Sports Park was donated to the Greencastle Parks and Recreation Department as a match for a 2012 LWCF grant.

Also in 2004, People Pathways saw a big expansion with the construction of the People Pathways Phase V: Big Walnut Sports Park Loop Trail. This 1.2 mile, 10-foot-wide asphalt trail encircles the 78.8-acre sports park and includes a new parking lot on the southern side making use of the two existing shelters more attractive. This project was funded by a Recreational Trails Grant from the State of Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

In October of 2005, the Greencastle Parks & Recreation Department received a \$129,342 Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for the development of Big Walnut Sports Park. The grant funded construction of playground equipment, a wildflower and butterfly garden, pathways, and a 9-hole disc golf course.

The grant was matched with the acquisition of 23.5-acres of land and infrastructure donated by the BWSP Board to the City of Greencastle. In 2007, the land match was deeded over to the City of Greencastle, creating Big Walnut Sports Park. Late in 2008, the asphalt pathways and the playground were completed. The parking lots and drives, 9-hole disc golf course, and the wildflower and butterfly gardens were finished in 2009.

In addition, the Land & Water Conservation Grant stimulated local support and other contributions, which included \$600 from Marathon Pipeline for the purchase of new trees to replace three removed over the gas pipeline, \$1,000 from Cinergy PSI for any aspect of the project, and approximately \$450,000 from the Greencastle Economic Redevelopment Board for the paving of roadways and parking lots within the BWSP.

Through the winter months of 2009-'10, the Greencastle Redevelopment Commission allocated funding for an additional parking lot which borders the Putnam County Youth Soccer Association's soccer fields. In 2010, The Greencastle Redevelopment Commission graciously financed a two-sided directional "Big Walnut Sports Park" sign, which now directs visitors off of Highway 240, as well as funded the planting of 10 – 5" maple trees that have been planted in the vicinity of the Little League Baseball and soccer fields. These trees should be large enough to provide shade to small groups of users during practices, games and tournaments.

A 2011 grant application for Land & Water Conservation Fund funding proved fruitful for improvements to Big Walnut Sports Park. Improvements realized from the grant funding included ADA improvements to the adult slow-pitch softball field, dog park, expansion of the 9-hole disc golf course to 19-holes and construction of a parking lot.

## **JAYCEE PARK**

In the mid 1970's, Jaycee Park was created and donated to the City of Greencastle by the Greencastle Jaycee organization. In 1981 the park was leased back to Jaycee's organization. Jaycee Park was then maintained by the Jaycees and offered for public use, with the exception of the community building which was made available on a stringent rental basis. In 2004 maintenance of the property was turned back over to the City of Greencastle Parks and Recreation Department with the disbandment of the local Jaycee's group. Many aesthetic repairs have been completed in the park since the turnover, including the removal of the grounds caretaker mobile home, removal of the entryway gate and fence opening up the entrance to the park, removal of the unsafe playground structures, renovating the outdoor primitive restroom facility, cleaning of the shelters, and repairing or replacing the picnic

tables. Each day park personnel make a number of tours of the park to clean the shelters and to clean up trash, litter and twigs. During the growing season, the park receives regular mowing every two weeks. This continued “presence” helps deter “unwanted” use of the park.

In 2006, the community building and park was adopted by DePauw University’s Hartman House for the site of their annual “Make A Difference Day” project. Over 110 volunteers from DePauw University and the community helped paint the inside of the community building and walk the surrounding forest area for old appliances, trash and debris. Also in 2006, the roof of one of the shelters was replaced due to damage received after a tree fell on the shelter during a thunderstorm.

In 2010, following specifications designed by the City Engineer, a contractor was hired to complete the replacement of the inlet controlling the level of the Jaycee Park pond. This included a slip lining to the drainpipe, a new trash rack, and additional riprap around the inlet. This was in accordance with directions received by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The community building roof developed a leak that went undetected, which caused damage to the sheetrock walls in the restroom areas. In 2013, the walls were removed.

In 2014, a grass-roots core group of bicycle riders volunteered to undertake the reconstruction of the mountain bike trails that were very popular in the 1980’s. This group planned, reconstructed existing and constructed new trails in the lower portion of the park. Their plans are to bring competitions to the park. Once these trails are used on a regular basis, there are plans to approach the Putnam County Airport Commission to solicit an expansion around the northern portion of Jaycee Park pond.

The summer of 2017 saw the renovation of one of the park shelters by Troop 99 Eagle Scout Sean Ramey. Completed as part of his Eagle Scout Project, he replaced the roof, painted the support structure, assembled four picnic tables and completed landscaping around the shelter. The shelter is now highly used by park visitors.

## MAPLE BERRY PARK

This property, located along Berry and Maple Streets, was purchased in 2003 by the Greencastle Board of Park Commissioners in a joint effort with other City departments to clean up some less-than-attractive lots. Goals for the project were five-fold:

- Preserve existing greenspace by creating a small municipal park to serve neighborhood children
- Provide a potential trailhead for the People Pathways trail system
- Provide additional parking for the businesses and restaurants located in the area
- Purchase privately-owned land currently used as a public roadway
- Address safety concerns with the intersection of Maple, Broadway (Berry), and Sycamore Streets

In 2004, Maple Berry Park saw major improvements with the completion of the Maple Berry West Project. Development began with a grant applied for and received through the City’s Engineering Department for Brownfield testing. Petroleum residual was discovered in the eastern portion of the property, so the development of the western end was started using E.D.I.T. funding. The installation of curb, gutter and sidewalks around the parcel helped define the park. A concrete pad for a basketball court and drinking fountain was included in the project.

Many organizations have contributed to the development of the park. Kiwanis Club purchased a goal for the basketball court, Greencastle Civic League donated ten trees to the park, picnic tables were purchased with a Recycled-Content Purchasing Grant through the Indiana Department of Commerce, and benches were purchased by the family of Clifford and Dorothy Monnett.

In 2007, IWM Consulting Group, from Indianapolis, conducted a Brownfield Assessment of the Maple Berry – East site, which was funded by a Brownfield Petroleum Remediation Grant through the Indiana Finance Authority. It should be noted that in a Final Assessment Report dated, January 15, 2008, IWM makes the following recommendations, which were completed in 2009:

- Two years of quarterly groundwater sampling
- Monitoring for (<3years) of the dissolved hydrocarbon plume to determine if there is a need for additional assessment
- All of which qualified for funding through the IFA PRG program

Additionally, there is an option to expand the southwest corner of the park along Airport Road by releasing the land from the airport lease through an amendment.

### **MICAELA CANCELLA PARK**

In July of 2017, the Maple Berry Park – East project was officially dedicated “Micaela Cancilla Park” after a life-long resident of Greencastle. The new neighborhood park was constructed on the site of the old street garage located directly behind Mama Nunz Restaurant. The park includes playground equipment that was financed by the Greencastle Rotary Club, picnic table, trees and Micaela Cancilla Park sign constructed from Otto’s Streetscape in Greenwood, Indiana.

### **BALLARD FAMILY PARK**

The newest addition to the park system, Walter and Eleanor Ballard Family Park, was formally dedicated in 2022. The Ballard Family donated the 1.2-acre tract of land adjacent to the People Pathways in memory of Walter and Eleanor in 2016. The Ballard Family home stood on this property until it was moved south to the property along Ballard Lane, near the Putnam County Regional Airport.

### **MARY ROGERS FIELD PARK**

In 2006, the “Mary’s Field” Committee of the Friends of the Park Association of Putnam County, Inc. raised over \$20,000 toward the development of Mary Rogers Field Park from a vacant lot located next to Greencastle City Hall in memory of their dear friend and park advocate Mary Rogers Field. Park development was completed in 2007 with improvements including a brick walkway and bench, tree and flower plantings. The installation of a split rail fence border and new park sign were completed in 2008.

### **VANDALIA TRAILHEAD**

Vandalia Trailhead, previously known as Calbert Way Park, and the Greencastle-to-Fillmore Trail were donated in 2002 by the Friends of the Park Association of Putnam County, Inc.’s People Pathways Committee. Created as a trailhead to start the first phase of the committee’s pedestrian and bicycle plan, the park offers a picnic shelter, parking lot, and greenspace. Many trees were moved and relocated to the park, due to a water and sewer line improvement project along Veteran’s Memorial Highway. Since then, the park has received additional donations of benches, picnic tables and additional trees.

### **PEOPLE PATHWAYS**

Putnam Parks and Pathways (3P) is a planning and implementation group established to focus on improving the quality of life in Greencastle and Putnam County by developing connections within and between communities. This is accomplished through a focus not only on the trail system itself, known as People Pathways, but on parks, nature preserves, and programming throughout the county. Putnam Parks and Pathways is a not-for-profit group that

functions under the tax-exempt 501c3 organizations of Friends of the Parks Association of Putnam County, Inc. and National Road Heritage Trail, Inc. with every dollar spent locally to build, maintain, and promote our community's multi-use trail system.

Their goal is to improve the quality of life in Greencastle and Putnam County by developing connections within and between our communities.

3P has successfully developed a multi-use recreational trail plan after soliciting opinions from community members through a series of presentations and open meetings. The paths will connect public spaces such as schools, parks, libraries, and community resources. The paths will be used primarily by walkers, joggers, and cyclists. This will include children going to and from school, people seeking exercise and recreation and commuters.

The goals of Putnam Parks and Pathways are to:

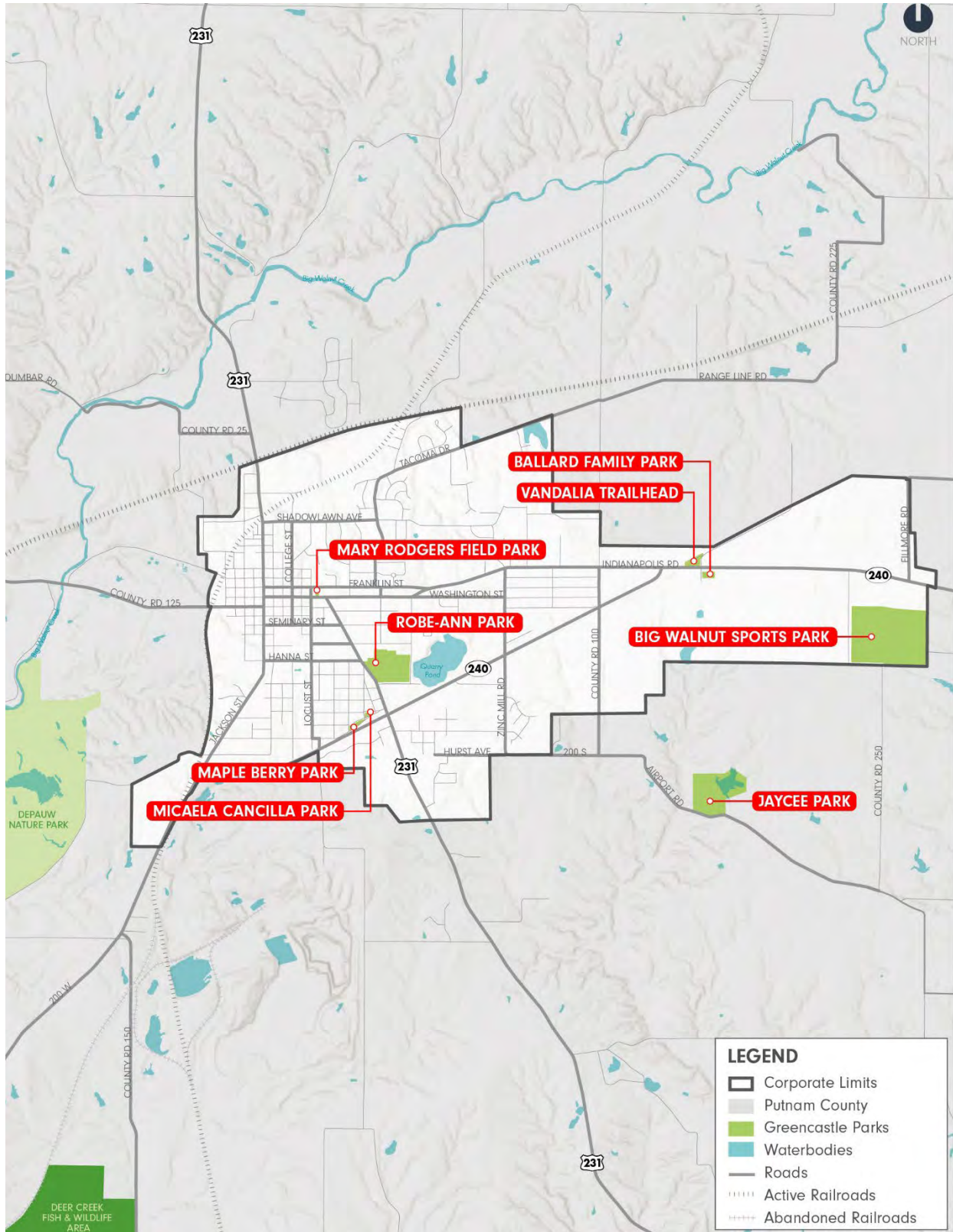
- Foster the mental and physical health of citizens of our community
- Nurture healthy families
- Create accessibility to our community green spaces by developing linear exercise trails using existing and future infrastructure
- Build bridges rather than walls between neighborhoods to help create a sense of belonging and community
- Enhance the small-town appeal of our community

Implementation of the People Pathways plan will be completed in phases as the opportunities develop. One of these opportunities includes a \$2.1M Next Level Trails grant that was received by the City of Greencastle in 2021. This grant will be used to complete the section of People Pathways along Veterans Highway. Engineering work was to be completed in 2023, with construction beginning in 2024 and completed within 4 years of receiving the grant. A list of already completed phases are provided below:

- **GREENCASTLE-TO-FILLMORE TRAIL**
  - Opened in 1999, 3.1 miles of gravel trail
- **BIG WALNUT SPORTS PARK LINK TRAIL**
  - Opened in 2002, 1.75 miles of asphalt trail
- **BIG WALNUT SPORTS PARK LOOP TRAIL**
  - Opened in 2005, 1.25 miles of asphalt trail
- **ALBIN POND /SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL TRAIL**
  - Opened in 2010, 2.3-mile of asphalt trail
- **VANDALIA TRAIL**
  - Opened in 2013, 4.7-miles of gravel trail connecting to Hendricks County, west of Coatesville
- **PUTNAM NATURE TRAIL**
  - Phase 1 – Opened in 2016, 0.8-miles of gravel trail
  - Phase 2 – Opened in 2018, 2.6-miles of gravel trail
  - Connects to the Deer Creek Fish and Wildlife Area
- **THE CAMPUS LINK TRAIL:**
  - Phase 1 – Opened 2020, 1.25 of asphalt trail
  - Phase 2 – In Progress



**FIGURE 4.1: PARK INVENTORY**



# **PARK INVENTORY**

## **TYPE OF PARK FACILITIES**

### **COMMUNITY PARK**

These parks tend to be larger than five acres and serve a wider area due to the amenities offered. They still cater to the nearby residents but offer amenities that can draw in people from a further distance including special programming, splash pads, dog parks, centerpiece playgrounds, etc.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD PARK**

These parks tend to be smaller, usually less than five acres, and offer amenities such as walking trails, playgrounds and open space that can be utilized in a myriad of ways by the nearby residents.

### **SPECIAL USE PARK**

These parks can vary in size but are unique in that they exist for a very narrow, specialized use that likely brings in users from a much wider area.

### **NATURE PARK**

These parks contain large areas of natural, undesignated park space. Examples of natural space include large, wooded areas, lakes, wetlands, or meadows. Even though they are undesignated, they are still accessible to the public.

### **LINEAR PARK**

These parks include narrow green space or signature trails and greenways which serve city-wide or regional connectivity.

### **POCKET PARKS**

These parks are typically under a half of an acre in size and are typically found in more urban areas of the city such as the downtown area. These parks typically serve the immediate local population and can offer a variety of functions such as small event space, play areas for children, space for passive recreation, etc.



## ROBE-ANN PARK

### ADDRESS

403 Bloomington Street

### OWNERSHIP

City of Greencastle

### PARK TYPE

Community Park

### PARK SIZE

21.0 Acres

### PARK DESCRIPTION

Robe-Ann Park, often referred to as a gem of Greencastle, is the main park in the City of Greencastle. The park is located centrally in Greencastle and hosts a variety of amenities including Greencastle Aquatics Center, Bob York Splash Park,

Emerald Palace Playground, and 2 other playgrounds, 3 picnic shelters, a lit adult softball diamond, 3 tennis courts, 6 pickle ball courts, 2 basketball courts, 2 horseshoe pits, a skate park, and 2 restroom facilities. The park also offers an amphitheater area with a bandshell that serves as the site for the summer concert series, annual Easter Egg Hunts, and the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. Additionally, the parks and recreation maintenance building and the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) Log Cabin Museum are in the park.

Improvements since the last plan:

- In 2019, a new bandshell was installed in the park.
- In 2020, the pickleball courts were redone
- In 2020-2021, improvements were made to the Greencastle Aquatics Center including renovations to the existing bathhouse, installation new three water slides, installation of a water play structure and installation of a zero-depth entry.
- A Community Crossings Grant supplied sidewalks around the east and south sides of the park, creating a walking loop around the park.
- An INDOT project on US 231 provided new sidewalks on the west side of the park.
- Restrooms are currently under construction.

### PARK CONDITION

Generally, the park is in good condition. Below are some issues identified:

- The existing bandshell, which was installed in 2019, needs more than \$20,000 in repairs. The roof is leaking due to poor construction and some of the siding at the back of the structure was blown off in a storm that had high winds speeds in 2023.
- The existing park house, which is housing provided to the Parks and Recreation Director as a benefit of the job title, was in very poor condition and has been demolished.
- Emerald Palace Playground needs updates.
- There are some issues with drainage issues near the bandshell.



## **BIG WALNUT SPORTS PARK**

### **ADDRESS**

1300 S. Co. Rd. 225 South

### **OWNERSHIP**

City of Greencastle

### **PARK TYPE**

Community Park

### **PARK SIZE**

78.8 Acres

### **PARK DESCRIPTION**

Big Walnut Sports Park is a 78.8-acre facility and is located on the east side of Greencastle. This park includes 13 youth soccer fields, 1 NCAA adult soccer field, 3 little league baseball diamonds, 1 NCAA/Babe Ruth baseball diamond, 3 girl softball diamonds, 1 ASA

adult softball diamond, 2 concession stands, 6 restroom facilities, a 19-hole disc golf course, the Keith Carr Basketball Court, a volleyball court, a playground, a dog park, 3 picnic shelters, 1.28-mile perimeter walking path, the Joanne Haymaker Pine Grove and a pollinator garden.

Improvements since the last plan:

- Improvements to paving roads and parking areas.
- Sidewalk drainage and ADA improvements.
- Phase one lighting improvements are underway.

### **PARK CONDITION**

Generally, the park is in good condition. Below are some issues identified:

- The existing loop path within the park is highly used and will likely need maintenance.
- The existing water fountain located at the dog park does not work.
- There is a desire for agility equipment to be added to the dog park.



## JAYCEE PARK

### ADDRESS

1681 East Co. Rd. 225 South

### OWNERSHIP

City of Greencastle

### PARK TYPE

Nature Park

### PARK SIZE

22.0 Acres

### PARK DESCRIPTION

Just south of Putnam County Airport, this nature park provides a great opportunity to relax and enjoy the wildlife in a natural setting. A small pond that is accessible for fishing wooded nature trail, mountain bike trails, pit restrooms, and 2 picnic shelters.

There have been no improvements since the last plan.

### PARK CONDITION

Generally, the park is in good condition. Below are some issues identified:

- This park has been neglected in the past and existing facilities could use updating and maintenance.
- The park currently consists of only one port-o-let as it's restroom facility.
- The pond is in need of maintenance and treatment of the pond has begun.
- Access around the pond could be improved through the addition of a trail.
- The city will begin inspecting the dam every two years starting in 2023.



## MAPLE BERRY PARK

### ADDRESS

10 Broadway St, Greencastle, IN 46135

### OWNERSHIP

City of Greencastle

### PARK TYPE

Neighborhood Park

### PARK SIZE

1.0 Acres

### PARK DESCRIPTION

Located at the intersection of Maple and Broadway Streets on the south side of Greencastle, Maple Berry Park was designed as a neighborhood park and contains a basketball court, park benches, picnic tables and open green space.

There have been no improvements since the last plan.

### PARK CONDITION

Generally, the park is in good condition. Below are some issues identified:

- Improve connectivity to People Pathways



## **MICAELA CANCELLA PARK**

### **ADDRESS**

603 Ohio St, Greencastle, IN 46135

### **OWNERSHIP**

City of Greencastle

### **PARK TYPE**

Neighborhood Park

### **PARK SIZE**

1.0 Acres

### **PARK DESCRIPTION**

Named after a life-long resident of the area, Micaela Cancilla Park is located caddy-corner to Maple Berry Park at the intersection of Maple and Broadway Street. This park offers a playground, picnic table and green space.

There have been no improvements since the last plan

### **PARK CONDITION**

Generally, the park is in good condition. Below are some issues identified:

- Improve connectivity to People Pathways



## **BALLARD FAMILY PARK**

### **ADDRESS**

State Road 240, Greencastle, IN 46135

### **OWNERSHIP**

City of Greencastle

### **PARK TYPE**

Special Use Park

### **PARK SIZE**

1.2 Acres

### **PARK DESCRIPTION**

Ballard Family Park is the newest addition to the park system. The land was donated to the City by the Ballard Family as a memorial park for Walter and Eleanor Ballard. The park was dedicated in 2022. While this park is mostly undeveloped, the park provide a

gateway to the new YMCA. There is potential for the park to be a trailhead with its proximity to the People Pathways trails.

### **PARK CONDITION**

Generally, the park is in good condition as it is undeveloped.





## MARY ROGERS FIELD PARK

### ADDRESS

1 N Locust St, Greencastle, IN 46135

### OWNERSHIP

City of Greencastle

### PARK TYPE

Pocket Park

### PARK SIZE

0.5 Acres

### PARK DESCRIPTION

Mary Rogers Field Park is a small pocket park located next to City Hall. This park offers a passive park experience with a nice brick walkway, picnic area, benches, community flower gardens, and plenty of green space.

There have been no improvements since the last plan.

### PARK CONDITION

Generally, the park is in good condition.



## VANDALIA TRAILHEAD

### ADDRESS

North Calbert Way, Greencastle, IN 46135

### OWNERSHIP

City of Greencastle

### PARK TYPE

Special Use Park

### PARK SIZE

2.0 Acres

### PARK DESCRIPTION

Vandalia Trailhead, formerly known as Calbert Way Park, is a trailhead in Greencastle for the Vandalia Trail. The park offers a picnic shelter, park benches, open space and parking for those who want to enjoy the trail.

There have been no improvements since the last plan.

### PARK CONDITION

Generally, the park is in good condition. Below are some issues identified:

- Trail identification and direction signs need to be reinstalled
- Trash pickup and removal needs to be regularly scheduled
- Map and information boxes need to be kept filled



## PEOPLE PATHWAYS

### ADDRESS

Throughout Greencastle

### OWNERSHIP

City of Greencastle

### PARK TYPE

Linear Park

### PARK SIZE

8.8 miles of trail (within Greencastle City Limits)

### PARK DESCRIPTION

People Pathways is a linear park system that includes 8.8-miles of trail within Greencastle city limits and 8.9-miles of trail outside Greencastle city limits for a total of 17.7 miles of trail. Greencastle Parks and Recreation manages and maintains the 8.8-miles of trail within

Greencastle city limits and Putnam Parks & Pathways manages and maintains the 8.9-miles of trail outside of Greencastle city limits.

Improvements since the last plan:

- New trail added along SR 240 from Indianapolis Road to Zinc Mill Road. New trail extended south from SR 240 to South Street along Zinc Mill Road.

### PARK CONDITION

Generally, the trails are in good condition. Below are some issues identified:

- The trail section that runs along highway 240 in front of Walmart is in need of repair. This section of the trail has drainage issues and the asphalt has heaved and buckled in areas throughout.
- Pedestrian road crossing is needed to cross highway 240 near the Vandalia trailhead.
- Missing directional signage needs replaced.
- Between the Vandalia trailhead and County Road 200 E, directional signage and road markings are needed.
- Overall, maintenance and upkeep are needed for existing trail infrastructure and amenities. A specific list is included in the Appendix.

## ADA ACCESSIBILITY

### EXISTING POLICY

The City of Greencastle recognizes the importance of providing facilities, programs, and services that are available to all citizens and the general public. This is evident in the city's Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan, which was completed in 2012. The goal of this plan is to optimize pedestrian experience by providing safe and accessible pedestrian facilities for all users. The designation "accessible" indicates access for wheelchair users in compliance with the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standard (ADA). The City of Greencastle's ADA coordinator is responsible for monitoring and initiating actions to ensure compliance with these standards. Additionally, the ADA coordinator is responsible for addressing grievances and requests in order to provide fair and prompt resolutions.

This person is:

#### Laurie Hardwick

City Attorney and ADA Coordinator  
City of Greencastle, Indiana  
1 North Locust St.  
Greencastle, IN 46135  
P: (765) 655-2301

Anyone who needs special accommodations that the city is not already providing or has an ADA concern in regards to one of the city's facilities, programs, or services should contact the ADA coordinator directly or by filling out the contact form found on the city's ADA/Title VI Information website page. The complaint should provide detailed information about the alleged discrimination including name, address, phone number, location, date, and description of the problem. The complaint should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation. The ADA coordination is then responsible for investigating each request or grievance and providing a response within 15 calendar days of receiving the complaint.

### PARK SYSTEM ACCESSIBILITY

In the 2012 ADA Transition Plan, the City of Greencastle completed a full facility review to identify needs to bring facilities to compliance. A copy of the parks facility reviews are provided in the appendix. Parks that were included in this facility review are listed below.

- Big Walnut Sports Park
- Jaycee Park
- Maple Berry Park
- Robe-Ann Park

Since this plan was implemented in 2012, the City has begun to make significant improvements to address compliance issues that were identified in this review. Parking, sidewalks, and other ADA improvements were completed at the softball complex at Big Walnut Sports Park in 2018, as well as at the baseball complex in 2021. Many of the park's playgrounds are inaccessible and action is currently being taken towards accessibility improvements at both Robe-Ann Park and Jaycee Park. It is recommended that City evaluate parks not reviewed in the 2012 ADA Transition Plan which includes Mary Rodgers Field Park, Micaela Cancilla Park, Ballard Family Park, Vandalia Trailhead and People Pathways as well as provide updates to previously reviewed facilities. Existing programs should also be evaluated for compliance. The City should continue to invest in capital improvement projects that make parks and recreation facilities and programming accessible.

## OTHER PARK RESOURCES

In addition to the facilities owned and operated by the City and Greencastle Parks and Recreation, other recreational facilities can be found throughout the community and region. Figure 4.2 illustrates additional community resources that were provided by respondents in the public survey. A list of those resources is provided below:

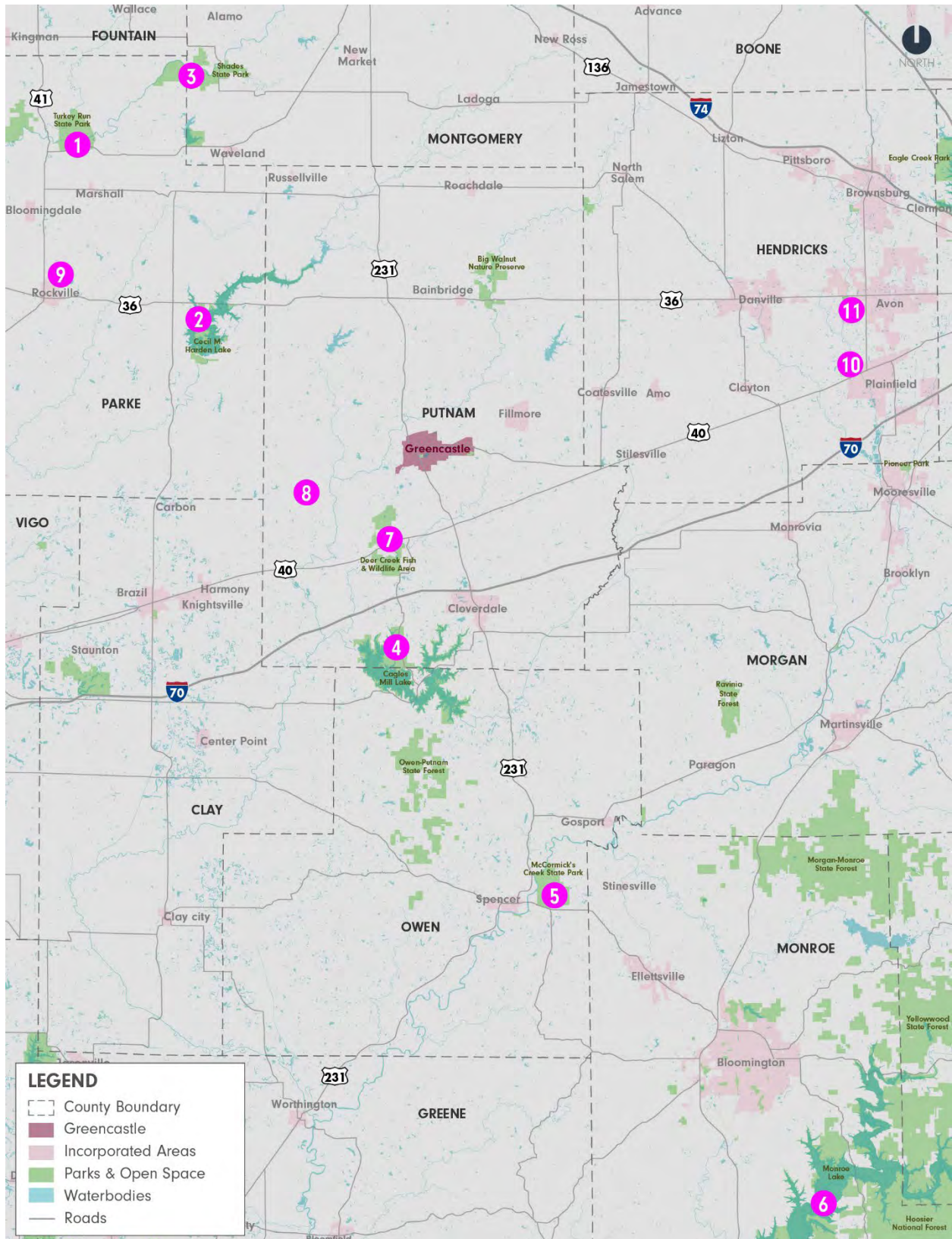
1. Turkey Run State Park
2. Raccoon Lake State Recreation Area
3. Shades State Park
4. Lieber State Recreation Area
5. McCormick's Creek State Park
6. Monroe Lake
7. Deer Creek Fish & Wildlife Area
8. Fern Cliff Nature Preserve
9. Rockville Lake Park
10. Richard A. Carlucci Recreation and Aquatic Center
11. Murphy Aquatic Park

Other community resources not mapped by provided by respondents included:

- School playgrounds such as Deer Meadow Primary School and Tzouanakis Intermediate School
- Local church playgrounds
- Local gyms
- DePauw Nature Park
- DePauw University facilities such as the Lilly Physical Education and Recreation Center
- Forest Hill Cemetery for walking
- Fern Station

Greencastle does not have a reciprocal agreement with the school system where each can utilize facilities rent free.

**FIGURE 4.2: COMMUNITY RESOURCES**



## **RECREATION PROGRAMMING**

### **YOUTH PROGRAMS**

- Youth CO-ED Basketball League (fee-based)
- Police Boot Camp (fee-based)
- S.P.A.R.K. Summer Camp (free)
- Swim Lessons (fee-based)
- Build It Yourself Workshop (fee-based)

### **ADULT PROGRAMS**

- Adult CO-ED Summer and Fall Slow-Pitch Softball League (fee-based)
- Pickleball Lessons (fee-based)
- Tennis Lessons (fee-based)
- Build It Yourself Workshop (fee-based)

### **FAMILY PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS**

- Mike Rokicki Road Run 5k (fee-based)
- Dia De Los Muertos (free)
- Breakfast with the Grinch (fee-based)
- Letters to Santa (free)
- Make Someone's Heart Go Pitter Patter (free)

### **ANNUAL EVENTS**

- Celebrate 4
- ParkFest
- Holiday Lights Festival

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# CHAPTER 05: NEEDS ANALYSIS

## OVERVIEW

The purpose of this chapter is to identify parks and recreation needs by comparing industry standards to the current park system. This is achieved by first reviewing a series of industry recognized parks and recreation benchmarks to help establish a baseline for the types of services and facilities which are currently in demand. This information is compared to the existing programs and facilities provided by Greencastle Parks and Recreation to identify surpluses and deficits within the system. All this information is further influenced by the public input gathered through the various methods identified in Chapter 3, Plan Development.

It is important to note that the benchmarks reviewed in this chapter are just an inventory and review of data for comparison to Greencastle Parks and Recreation. There is not a “one size fits all” approach to parks and recreation planning. Each community has unique needs, desires and challenges, and future planning should reflect this.

## CURRENT TRENDS

### SCORP AS A COUNTY COMPARISON

Indiana’s 2021-2025 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is an information resource that quantifies and analyzes the state’s outdoor recreation resources and is intended to support local, regional, and state-level recreation decision making. It is important to not only understand national recreational trends but also local recreational trends.

### TRENDS

From the Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey results, the top-three reasons why respondents participate in outdoor recreation were:

1. To be with family and friends (38%)
2. Physical health (37%)
3. Mental health (34%)

The top-five outdoor recreation activities that respondents participated in more than once per week include:

1. Walking / hiking / jogging / running
2. Relaxation/spiritual renewal
3. Gardening / landscaping
4. Bird / wildlife watching
5. Health-related activities (Exercise, Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates etc.)

The top ten “favorite” outdoor recreation activities described by respondents were:

1. Walking, running, jogging
2. Camping / RV camping
3. Hiking/backpacking
4. Fishing



5. Boating, wakeboarding, sailing, tubing, jet skiing, water skiing
6. Picnicking, barbecuing / cookout
7. Gardening, landscaping, yard work, mowing
8. Swimming, snorkeling, diving, scuba, splash pad
9. Bicycling
10. Golf

## LEVEL OF SERVICE GUIDELINES

Indiana's SCORP Level of Service (LOS) Guidelines recommend twenty acres of public recreation area per every 1,000 residents within a local area such as a county, township, city, or town. Public local recreation areas are described as being owned by the township, municipality, county, or being privately owned but open for public use. SCORP excludes all schools as many schools do not allow public access to their outdoor facilities.

Greencastle is deficient in acreage outlined by Indiana's SCORP. Based on the recommendation of twenty acres per 1,000 residents, Greencastle should be providing about 198 acres of public recreation area for a population of 9,883 (2022 US Census Population Estimates) but has current existing acreage of only 127.5 acres, leaving a local deficiency of 70.5 acres. Putnam County is one of the few counties to meet SCORP recommendations for acreage with a surplus of 774.2 acres.

While SCORP recommendations show a clear deficit in park acreage for Greencastle, Putnam County has a surplus. Other nearby county resources such as DePauw Nature Park and Deer Creek Fish and Wildlife Area could fill the gap of this deficit. See Chapter 2, The Community and Chapter 4, Park System Inventory for a more detailed list of resources.

## TRAILS

Since the 1995 SCORP, Walking/Jogging/Running has been the topmost popular outdoor recreation activity for Hoosiers. Some of the biggest takeaways from the Indiana Trail Plan are that current trails are not meeting Hoosier's needs and demand is growing. The SCORP highlighted feedback from 2,500 respondents across the state of Indiana for INDOT's Active Transportation Plan, *Moving Toward and Active Indiana – Walking and Bicycling in the Hoosier State*. Below is a summary of those findings:

- 87% of respondents said they would use a paved recreational trail
- 41% of respondents said concerns about bicyclist/pedestrian safety in traffic and around vehicles keeps them from walking and cycling more often in all areas
- 82% of respondents agreed that more bicycle paths and trails would encourage more people to bike often and 63% also agreed more separation between bikes and cars
- Additionally, respondents said more trails and paths, along with improved sidewalks, would get Hoosiers walking more often

People Pathways, and many community partners, have created a great trail system for the community. As the trail system continues development, it would be good to consider perceived pedestrian and bicyclist safety and provide more separated trails.

## NRPA AS A CITY COMPARISON

The National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) is a non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to building strong, vibrant, and resilient communities. The NRPA provides parks and recreation professionals with up-to-date data to help agencies make informed decisions and equip leaders with insights that help them make the case to key stakeholders and elected officials for greater and more sustainable funding. The reports reviewed for this plan include the 2022 NRPA Engagement with Parks Report and 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review.

### 2022 NRPA ENGAGEMENT WITH PARKS REPORT

NRPA's research team conducts an annual survey to better understand how people connect with parks and recreation across the United States. This report provides parks and recreation professionals insight on how local parks and recreation facilities impact people's lives across the nation.

According to this report, the top four reasons why residents visit parks are to:

1. Be with family or friends (54%)
2. Exercise or be physically fit (53%)
3. To have a break from day-to-day stresses (52%)
4. To be closer to nature (50%)

These reasons closely correlate with the Indiana SCORP findings and to what users identified as their favorite park and recreation activities in the 2022 Engagement with Parks Report which included:

1. Visiting local park, playground, dog park, or other open space (73%)
2. Hiking/biking/walking on a trail (53%)
3. Playing sports with family/friends/neighbors (32%)
4. Visiting local swimming pool/aquatic center (24%)
5. Visiting local recreation/senior center (22%)
6. Taking part in classes/lessons/activities at a local recreation center (17%)
7. Participating in an organized sports league (17%)
8. Children participate in an out-of-school time program (13%)

Walking, jogging, and exercise were also the most popular activity identified by respondents of the public survey (at 75.0%) and People Pathways was the third most used park facility. Knowing what motivates an individual or family to visit a local park and/or recreation facility can help agencies to customize their offerings to specific needs, wants and desires.

### 2023 NRPA AGENCY PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Combined, the 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review and NRPA Park Metrics feature the most comprehensive collection of park and recreation-related benchmarks and insights informing the public on the park and recreation industry. Key benchmarks and insights are identified in the following sections. These benchmarks are then compared to the current park system in Greencastle.

The NRPA benchmarks identified in this section are for jurisdictions serving less than 20,000 in population to compare Greencastle more closely to communities of similar size. It is important to note that benchmarks can change significantly between the jurisdiction's population size or from the median of all agencies. For example, agencies serving less than 20,000 in population provided one outdoor ice rink facility per 8,045 residents, while agencies

serving 20,000 to 49,999 in population provided one outdoor ice rink facility per 13,247 residents, and the median of all agencies provided one outdoor ice rink facility per 17,741 residents.

### **Park System Size**

For agencies serving jurisdictions less than 20,000 in population, there is one park for every 1,225 residents. This would equate to about 8 parks for the population of Greencastle at 9,883 (2022 US Census Population Estimates) and Greencastle currently has 8 parks in its park system.

Parks and recreation agencies serving jurisdictions less than 20,000 in population, manage 13.0 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. This equates to about 128.5 acres of parkland and Greencastle currently has 127.5 acres of parkland in its system.

### **Outdoor & Indoor Park Facilities**

As identified in the 2023 Engagement with Parks Report and the Indiana SCORP, trails are a popular park amenity for exercising, walking, biking, or hiking. It is no surprise that 84% of park and recreation agencies have trails, greenways and/or blueways as part of their outdoor offerings. Agencies serving jurisdictions less than 20,000 in population manage or maintains a median of 4 miles of trail for walking, hiking, running and /or biking in its network. The lower quartile provides 2 miles, and the upper quartile provides 10 miles. Greencastle has an incredible 8.8 miles of trails within the community and is closer to the upper quartile.

The 2023 Performance Review also offers insight into facilities offered by other park and recreation agencies and provides facilities to persons ratios. This data is used to determine overall surpluses and deficiencies. Table 5.1, on the following pages, identifies target park land and facility inventories in Greencastle for 2023. As the population is not expected to grow over the next year, a target ratio for 2028 was not identified as it should be very close to the 2023 target ratio. If expected population growth increases over the next five years, an amendment can be made to this document.

These target inventories are based strictly on NRPA data and Greencastle's current population data. As previously stated, there is not a "one size fits all" approach to parks and recreation planning and the following analysis is to establish a baseline understanding of how Greencastle compares to other jurisdictions of similar size.

Greencastle's current park system indicates both surpluses and deficiencies compared to agencies serving jurisdictions of similar size. Most notable surpluses identified were in miles of trail and youth soccer fields. Deficiencies in outdoor facilities included playgrounds, multi-purpose fields, an outdoor ice rink and a football field. The highest deficiency for indoor facilities is an indoor ice rink, followed by a community center, stadium, and recreation center.

## TABLE 5.1: GREENCASTLE TARGET RATIOS

Amenity	NRPA Target Ratio (1)	Current Inventory	Current Ratio	Unit	Target Inventory 2023 Data (2)	Surplus/Deficit
<b>Park System Size</b>						
Acres of Park Land	13.0 acres per 1,000 residents	127.5	1.0	Acres	128.5	-1.0
Miles of Trails	4 miles for less than 20,000 residents	8.8	2.2	Miles	4.0	4.8
<b>Outdoor Facilities</b>						
Playgrounds	1 facility per 2,014 residents	2.0	0.4	Ea.	4.9	-2.9
Totlots	1 facility per 5,816 residents	3.0	1.8	Ea.	1.7	1.3
Basketball Courts	1 facility per 3,729 residents	4.0	1.5	Ea.	2.7	1.3
Tennis Courts	1 facility per 2,805 residents	3.0	0.9	Ea.	3.5	-0.5
Pickleball Courts	1 facility per 3,252 residents	6.0	2.0	Ea.	3.0	3.0
Multiuse Courts: Basketball, Volleyball	1 facility per 5,093 residents	1.0	0.5	Ea.	1.9	-0.9
Diamond Fields: Baseball - Youth	1 facility per 3,114 residents	3.0	0.9	Ea.	3.2	-0.2
Diamond Fields: Baseball - Adult	1 facility per 7,627 residents	1.0	0.8	Ea.	1.3	-0.3
Diamond Fields: Softball - Youth	1 facility per 5,079 residents	3.0	1.5	Ea.	1.9	1.1
Diamond Fields: Softball - Adult	1 facility per 5,800 residents	2.0	1.2	Ea.	1.7	0.3
Rectangular Fields: Multi-purpose	1 facility per 3,859 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.	2.6	-2.6
Rectangular Fields: Soccer Field - Youth	1 facility per 3,600 residents	13.0	4.7	Ea.	2.7	10.3
Rectangular Fields: Soccer Field - Adult	1 facility per 6,955 residents	1.0	0.7	Ea.	1.4	-0.4
Rectangular Fields: Football Field	1 facility per 8,637 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.	1.1	-1.1
Multipurpose Synthetic Field	1 facility per 9,518 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.	1.0	-1.0
Swimming Pools (outdoor only)	1 facility per 9,745 residents	1.0	1.0	Ea.	1.0	0.0
Ice Rink (outdoor only)	1 facility per 8,045 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.	1.2	-1.2
Community Gardens	1 facility per 8,178 residents	1.0	0.8	Ea.	1.2	-0.2
Skate Parks	1 facility per 10,726 residents	1.0	1.1	Ea.	0.9	0.1
Dog Parks	1 facility per 11,100 residents	1.0	1.1	Ea.	0.9	0.1
Regulation 18-hole Courses	1 facility per 9,587 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.	1.0	-1.0
<b>Indoor Facilities</b>						
Recreation Centers	1 facility per 9,745 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.	1.0	-1.0
Community Centers	1 facility per 8,829 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.	1.1	-1.1
Senior Centers	1 facility per 14,000 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.	0.7	-0.7
Teen Centers	1 facility per 14,593 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.	0.7	-0.7
Nature Centers	1 facility per 10,633 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.	0.9	-0.9
Aquatic Centers	1 facility per 11,650 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.	0.8	-0.8
Ice Rink	1 facility per 8,000 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.	1.2	-1.2
Performance Amphitheater	1 facility per 11,100 residents	1.0	1.1	Ea.	0.9	0.1
Stadiums	1 facility per 9,250 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.	1.1	-1.1

(1) Target ratio standards are from the 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review for agencies serving less than 20,000 residents. Population for one facility per XXX residents.

(2) Target inventory is calculated by dividing the 2023 population data by the target ratio. Population data sourced from U.S. Census Population Estimates for 2022.

Even though Greencastle is considered deficient in these categories when compared just to the numbers, the percentage of agencies providing a specific facility may be significantly low. For example, even though the numbers say Greencastle is deficient in an outdoor or indoor ice rink, only 18% of all agencies provide an outdoor ice rink and only 12% of all agencies provide an indoor ice rink. Below is a list of the deficits identified in Greencastle and the percentage of all agencies providing that specific amenity.

TYPE OF FACILITY	PERCENT OF AGENCIES
Playgrounds	95%
Multi-Purpose Fields	69%
Outdoor Ice Rinks	18%
Football Fields	35%
Indoor Ice Rinks	12%
Community Centers	59%
Stadiums	20%
Recreation Centers	63%

## TPL AS A CITY COMPARISON

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a charitable organization that works to create parks and protect land for people to ensure that communities are healthy and livable. The TPL’s Center for City Park Excellence works to make cities more successful by providing data for park professionals and planners on the realities of urban park and recreation systems. The 2023 City Park Facts and ParkScore generated by TPL analyzes and evaluates how large cities are meeting the need for parks and recreation.

According to this evaluation, the overall median of parkland per 1,000 residents is 13.1 acres. Additionally, the average percentage of population that is within a walkable distance (1/2-mile radius) to access publicly owned parks is 74%. The 2023 City Park Facts also gives insight into balancing natural and built park environments. The average percentage of designed parkland is 47% and the average percentage of parkland that is natural is 53%.

Based on the TPL standards of 13.1 acres per 1,000 residents, Greencastle should have roughly 129.5 acres of parkland. This is almost identical to NRPA standards of 13.0 acres and as previously noted Greencastle is currently meeting this baseline at 127.5 acres.

TPL also reviews data to provide a walkability score. According to TPL ParkServe, only 54% of Greencastle residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park----less than the national average of percent. However, TPL ParkServe is missing 6 parks in their data including Jaycee Park, Maple Berry Park, Micaela Cancilla Park, Ballard Family Park, Mary Rodgers Field Park, and Vandalia Trailhead. TPL ParkServe also included DePauw University as a park. The public survey results showed that 26% of respondents who live in Greencastle live within a 5-minute walk (0 -1/4 mile) and 22% of respondents live within a 10-minute walk (1/4 - 1/2 mile) for a total of 48% within a 10-minute walk. A walkability mapping analysis including all these properties showed that 5,054 people live within a 10-minute walk in Greencastle, which is approximately 51% of the population. This is lower than the national average.

Figure 5.2 and Figure 5.3 depict the walkability to current park and recreation facilities. All park facilities are shown with a 1/4 mile (5-minute walk), 1/2 mile (10-minute walk), 3/4 mile (15-minute walk) and 1 mile (20-minute walk). Figure 5.2 shows all Greencastle Parks and Recreation Facilities and Figure 5.2 excludes Mary Rodger Field Park from the results as this park is a small park, often unknown by the public as a park and does not offer many park amenities.

Both maps illustrate three lack-of-service areas --- two significant areas northwest and northeast, areas 1 and 2 on the map, of downtown Greencastle and a smaller area, area 3 on the map, southeast of downtown near Ivy Tech. There are other areas east most in the planning area, near Big Walnut Sports Park, Vandalia Trailhead, Ballard Family Park, and Jaycee Park, which indicates a lack of service area. However, these areas are largely unpopulated as they are where the Putnam County Airport, Walmart Distribution Center and other non-residential uses are located.

Area 1 on both maps is northwest of downtown. When factoring out Mary Rodgers Field Park, the lack of service area grows substantially. This area has both residential homes and businesses. Most of the businesses are located along Highway 231. Another residential area, just outside of the corporate limits near the Putnam County Fairgrounds, is also included in the lack of service area. Area 1 is near the Emma Jones Elementary School Property. Acquiring part of this property and adding it to the park system would provide needed service to this area. Area 1 is also near Tzouanakis Intermediate School which was listed as community resource in the public survey.

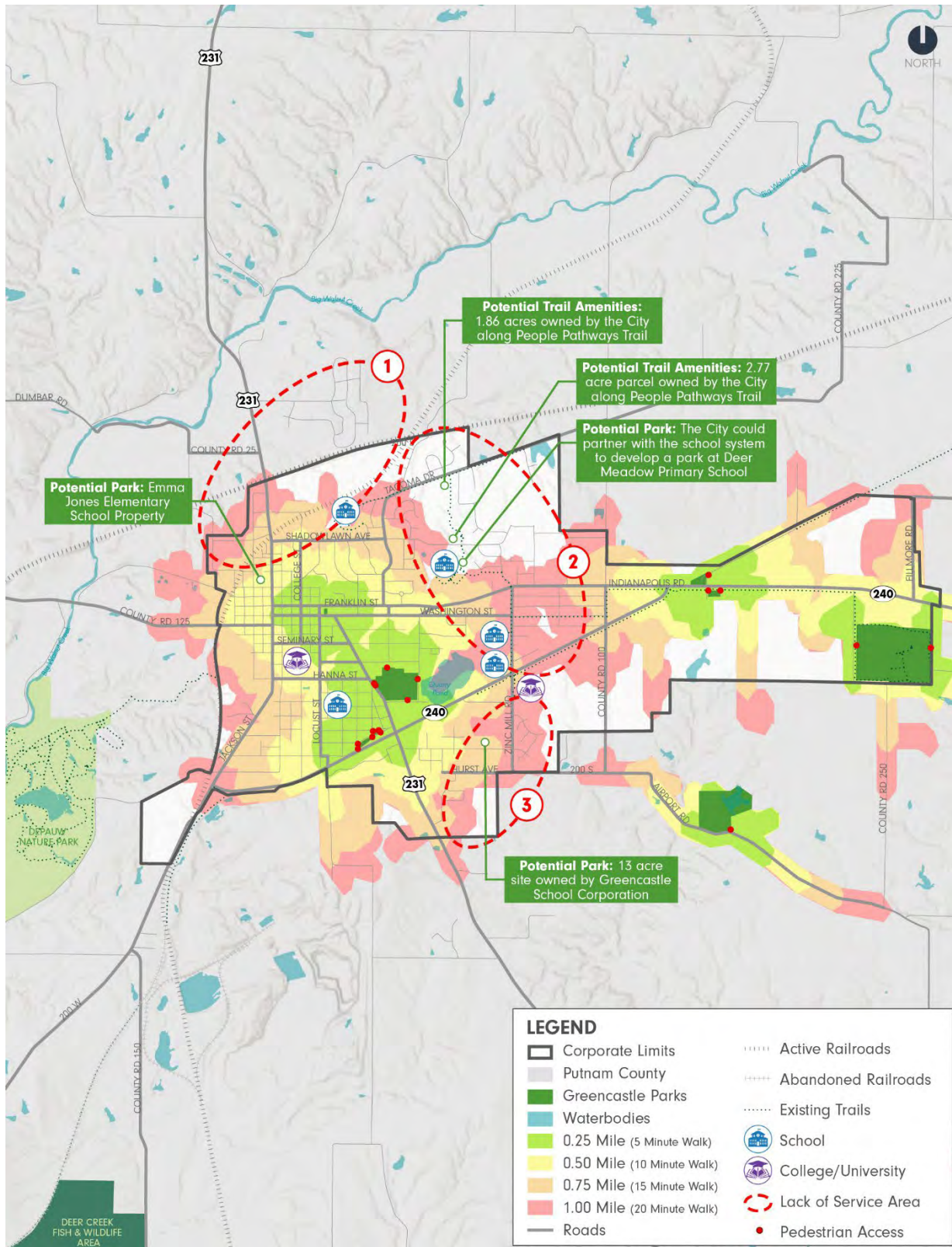
Area 2 on both maps is located northeast of downtown and northeast of three schools --- Deer Meadow Primary School, Greencastle High School, and Greencastle Middle School. Most of this area is residential homes with a few businesses and restaurant along Indianapolis Road. Deer Meadow Primary School was listed as a community resource by respondents in the public survey. Currently, a People Pathways trail runs through this whole service area providing some recreational opportunity for the area. There is space along the trail just north of Deer Meadow Primary School. There are two parcels the trail is located on that are owned by the City of Greencastle. One parcel is approximately 1.8 acres and the other is approximately 2.8 acres. However, these properties would be hard to develop as they are isolated, not accessible by vehicle, and have some wetland issues. It may be better to partner with the school system and develop a park at Deer Meadow Primary School instead. The City could put trail amenities such as exercise stations and/or create a storybook trail that would have minimal impact on the properties and could enhance recreational opportunities in the service area.

Area 3 is located near Ivy Tech's campus and is significantly smaller than the other areas. This area does have medium to large residential developments that are currently more than a 15-minute walk to the nearest park. There are a few opportunities to provide access to these areas. One option could be to connect the neighborhoods to existing parks by trail. This would require installing a trail along Highway 231 from Hurst Avenue to Robe-Ann Park and filling in the trail gap along State Road 240 to fully connect Area 3 to the rest of the park system. Zinc Mill Road already has a trail that runs from State Road 240 to Hurst Avenue and Hurst Avenue does have a sidewalk that connects to Highway 231. The State Road 240 trail gap is expected to be addressed with a Next Level Trails Grant.

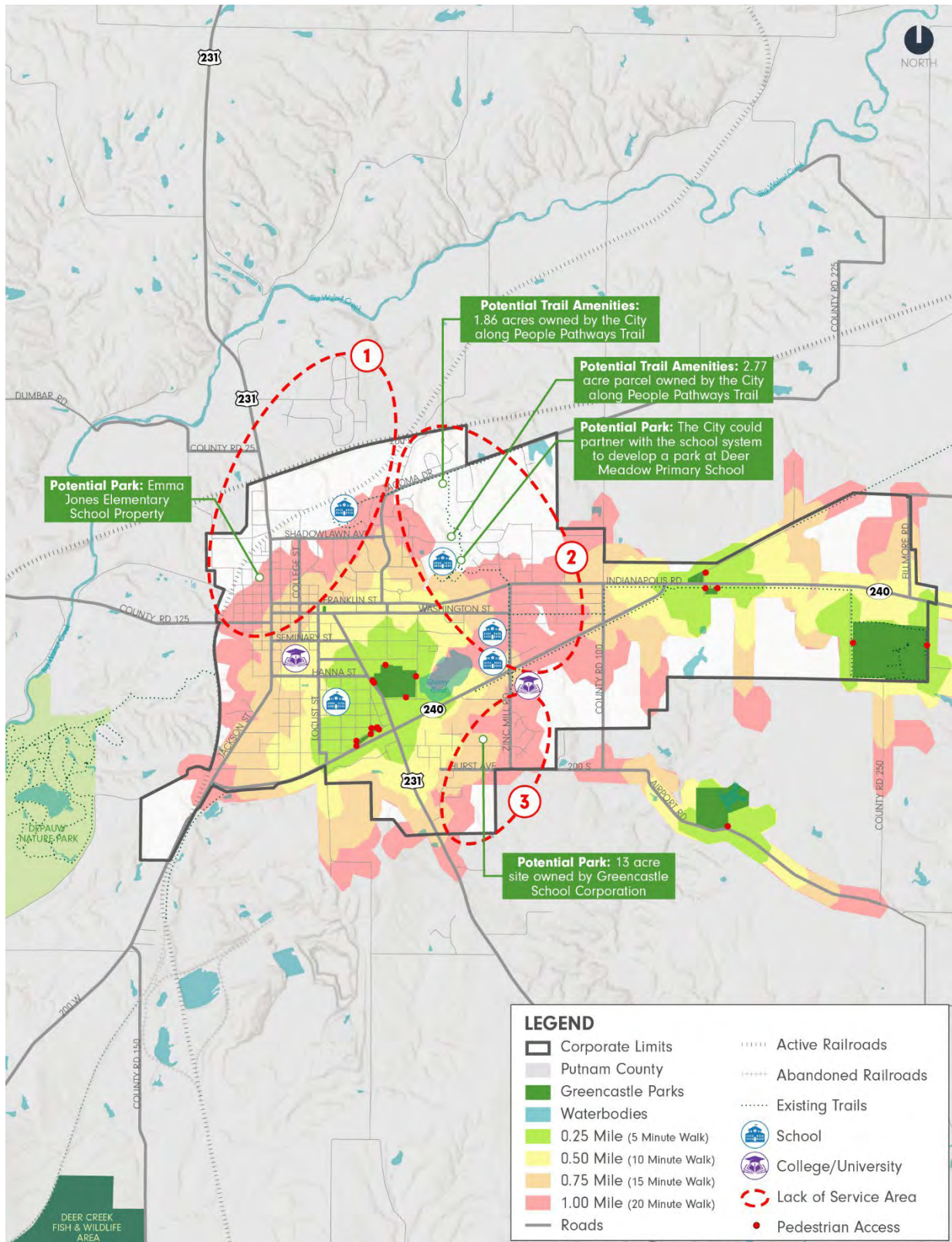
Another option for Area 3 could be to approach Ivy Tech and inquire about an easement or donation of land to the City for a park. The property was originally owned by the City and donated to Ivy Tech. The property is about 42 acres in size and is currently only half developed with a large, wooded area on the east side of the property. For more information on the Ivy Tech property and Rokicki Community Park see *Chapter 04 The Community*. Lastly, there is a large, undeveloped site located off Martinsville Street that is owned by Greencastle School Corporation. This site is about 13 acres in size. Greencastle School Corporation does have plans to develop a sports complex on some of the site but currently funding is not available for the project.

Areas 1 and 2 are a higher priority than Area 3 due to those areas being significantly larger areas needing service.

**FIGURE 5.1: WALKABILITY (ALL PARKS)**



**FIGURE 5.2: WALKABILITY (EXCLUDING MARY RODGERS FIELD PARK)**





## OPERATING EXPENDITURES & FULL-TIME STAFF

There are several ways in which the 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review compares operating expenditures. These include annual operating expenditures, operating expenditures per capita, operating expenditures per acre of park and non-park sites and operating expenditures by the amount of parkland managed. The following statistics are for jurisdictions serving less than 20,000 in population:

- Annual operating expenditures range from \$573,150 (lower quartile) to \$2,482,403 (upper quartile) with a median of \$1,200,000.
- Operating expenditure per capita ranges from \$69.65 (lower quartile) to \$229.61 per person with a median of \$120.79 per person
- Operation expenditure per acre of park and non-park site has a median of \$7,495

Greencastle's annual operating budget is within the range identified at \$838,021 and is between lower quartile and median. Likewise, operating expenditure per capita is between the lower quartile and the median at \$84.79.

The largest distributions of operating expenditures for typical parks and recreation agencies identified in the 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review include personal services and operating expenditures. Personal services is the largest share of the operations budget at 55% and includes salaries, wages and benefits for full-time and non-full-time personnel and contracted individuals. Operating expenditure to fund agency operations is the second largest share of the operating budget at 38%.

Just as park and recreation agencies differ by size and jurisdiction served, so too do staffing levels. The typical park and recreation agency has 8.9 Full-Time Equivalents (FTE's) on staff for each 10,000 residents, which is almost equivalent to the size of Greencastle's population at 9,883. Greencastle Parks and Recreation Department currently has 2 FTEs, which is significantly low. The lower quartile of all parks and recreation agencies has 4.8 FTEs and lower quartile of jurisdictions this size at 6.5 FTEs. Greencastle Parks and Recreation should consider adding 3-4 FTEs to support parks and recreation needs.

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

Beyond the operating budget, 2023 NRPA Performance Review identifies capital expenditures at \$500,000 (lower quartile) to \$4,118,785 (upper quartile) with a median of \$1,500,000 for agencies serving jurisdictions less than 20,000 residents. Parks and recreation agencies designate their capital expenditures to a variety of areas including renovation (55%), new development (31%) and acquisition (8%).

## CURRENT PROGRAMMING TRENDS

Programming is a key method of engagement that drives the use of park and recreation facilities, and when associated with registration fees, it is also the largest source of non-tax revenue for most agencies. The lack of programs can equate to reduced usage rates, less community support, and reduced budgets.

The 2023 Performance Review identified key programming activities offered by at least seven out of ten parks and recreation agencies. These include:

- Themed special events (89%)
- Social recreation events (88%)
- Team sports (86%)
- Fitness enhancement classes (81%)
- Health and wellness education (80%)

- Individual Sports (77%)
- Safety Training (71%)
- Racquet sports (71%)
- Aquatics (69%)
- Natural and cultural history activities (63%)
- Performing arts (62%)
- Cultural crafts (62%)
- Trips and tours (61%)
- Visual arts (61%)
- Martial arts (57%)
- Running/cycling races (52%)
- Golf (48%)
- Esports/Egaming (23%)

Agencies jurisdictions serving less than 20,000 in population typically offered the following programs targeted specifically for children, seniors, and people with disabilities:

- Summer camp (60%)
- Specific senior programs (61%)
- Specific teen programs (43%)
- Programs for people with disabilities (34%)
- Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs (42%)
- After-school programs (45%)
- Preschool (24%)
- Before-school programs (16%)
- Full daycare (5%)

## KEY ANALYSIS TAKEAWAYS

SCORP guidelines as well as the NRPA and TPL benchmarks and public input help form a complete picture of the amenities and services Greencastle Parks and Recreation should strive to provide to its residents. This analysis resulted in a number of observations and recommendations for the future direction of the park system. Below is a summary of the primary takeaways of this analysis.

## PARK ACREAGE & LOCATION

Greencastle is keeping up with national trends for parks and park acreage, however for Hoosier needs, Greencastle could add an additional 70.5 acres to the park system. Additionally, there are two areas within the planning area that should be a priority for new park acreage. These areas are located northwest and northeast of downtown Greencastle. The Emma Jones Elementary School property provides an incredible opportunity for the City to add a park to the northwest area and the City should continue to pursue acquiring a portion of that property. City owned property where the People Pathways trail is located, north of Deer Meadow Primary School, provides an opportunity for a park in the lack of service area northeast of downtown. Greencastle Parks and Recreation should investigate what it would require to add park facilities such as parking, a playground, a rectangular multi-purpose field, etc.

## PARK FACILITIES

The NRPA analysis noted deficiencies in outdoor facilities including playgrounds, multi-purpose fields, an outdoor ice rink and football field. Indoor facilities deficiencies included an indoor ice rink, community center, stadium and

recreation center. Even though the analysis shows that the park system is short in these categories, not all parks and recreation agencies provide these facilities 100% of the time. The most significant facilities to note that most parks and recreation agencies provide are playgrounds (95% of all agencies), multi-purpose fields, (69% of all agencies), recreation centers (63% of all agencies) and community centers (59% of all agencies). These facility deficits should be focused on more than the latter.

Some of these facility deficits correspond to the public such as playgrounds and a recreation center. The most desired capital improvement project from the public survey was to update/add playground equipment. The second most needed facility identified by respondents was an indoor fitness center/weight room. Fitness classes and indoor recreation opportunities were the second and third highest listed programming need by respondents.

Many of these identified deficits will be addressed through the construction of the new Putnam County YMCA. In partnership between the Greencastle Redevelopment Commission, the YMCA of the Wabash Valley, and the Putnam County Hospital, this new facility will serve as a valuable resource to the community. The YMCA will feature 59,725 square feet of recreation space including three basketball/sports courts, three exercise studios, a walking track, a fitness area, a child watch area, a teen room, and ample support space such as office space, restrooms, family locker rooms, and storage. The gym spaces are set up to accommodate basketball, volleyball, pickleball, and futsal. Additionally, the 14 acre site will allow for outdoor recreation opportunities.

## **TRAILS & GREENWAYS**

Greencastle is doing an incredible job with their trail network and should continue with the current plans and recommendations established by Putnam Parks and Pathways.

## **PROGRAMMING**

Greencastle Parks and Recreation should continue to diversify program offerings and ensure programs are accessible to all in the community. Fee-based programs and facilities should continue to be considered as current offerings are evaluated and new programs are added. Efforts should be made to accommodate those who are considered economically disadvantaged.

To fill in gaps in programming, Greencastle Parks and Recreation should partner with groups or individuals. As identified in the survey by respondents, more community events, fitness class and indoor recreational programs are desired.

## **STAFFING & OPERATING BUDGET**

Greencastle Parks and Recreation, compared to national trends, is considered to have a deficit of 3 to 4 FTEs and should consider hiring new staff to support parks and recreation needs. As Greencastle Parks and Recreation continues to grow and offer additional park acreage, amenities, and programming to the park system, staffing levels and the operating budget should be evaluated to ensure it is adequate to support new needs.

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# CHAPTER 06: RECOMMENDATIONS

## OVERVIEW

The following section provides a detailed listing of plan recommendations for Greencastle's park system. These recommendations were formed through an extensive planning process that included inventory and data collection, research, a public survey, a group stakeholder interview and two public meetings. The information collected during this planning process is summarized in the content of this plan. These recommendations will guide Greencastle Parks and Recreation Department in making decisions for operating, maintenance, facility and programming improvements over the next five years.

## SYSTEM-WIDE GOALS

### SHORT TERM

- **Increase quality of existing parks and trails**
  - Update existing facilities/add new facilities at Robe-Ann Park
  - Update existing facilities/add new facilities at Jaycee Park
  - Maintain existing trail system infrastructure
  - Increase maintenance of existing park facilities
  - Update existing restrooms facilities and add new restrooms
  - Improve trail wayfinding signage
  - Conduct an ADA Evaluation of parks and programs
- **Better promote park offerings**
  - Use multiple forms of communication such as social media, newspaper, newsletters, mailings, signs, etc.
  - Adding a marquee sign to Robe-Ann Park
  - Ensure DePauw students are aware of parks and recreation offerings
  - Update trail map
  - Adding trail kiosks
- **Expand services to areas in need**
  - Acquire part of the Emma Jones Elementary School property for a future park
  - Acquire needed properties to extend trail system
  - Add acreage from existing City owned properties to the park system in the northeast lack of service area and add trail amenities such as exercise stations and/or storybook trail
  - Fill in gaps of existing trail system
  - Complete Campus Link Trail Phase 2
- **Attract and cater to younger populations**
  - Conduct a teen and young adult survey to identify parks and recreation needs
  - Provide spaces and facilities for teens in the park such as a teen hangout space, study areas, climbing facilities, WiFi access, etc.
  - Implement programming geared towards teens such as a teen ambassador program, movie nights, game night, etc.

➤ **Give existing partnerships a boost**

- Establish a reciprocal agreement with the school system and the City of Greencastle, where each can utilize facilities rent free.
- Providing more opportunities for Greencastle School Corporation to be involved in summer programs such as music in the parks.
- Promote the trails

➤ **Focus on increasing program offerings**

- Partner with groups and/or individuals/volunteers to fill gaps or needs in programming
- Diversify program offerings
- Provide equitable and accessible programs
- Add trail programming
- Add more community events
- Add fitness classes

## **LONG TERM**

➤ **Increase staff and budget proportional to new services**

- Hiring additional seasonal staff to maintain park facilities in peak seasons
- Addition of full-time staff to fulfill specific needs required from expansion of facilities or programming opportunities

## ACTION PLAN

The following tables identifies actions that Greencastle Parks and Recreation can take over the next five years to accomplish the goals established for this planning period.

2024-2029			
Park	Action	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Source
System-Wide	Expand park communications. Explore multiple different methods such as social media, newspaper, newsletters, mailings, signage, etc. Promote parks, trails, and programming/events.	Varies pending media type, Staff-led or Consultant-led	Operating Budget
System-Wide	Acquire part of the Emma Jones Elementary School Property for a future park	TBD	City of Greencastle
System-Wide	Add city owned parcels to the park system in the northeast lack of service area. Add trail amenities along People Pathways Trail such as exercise stations and/or create a storybook trail	\$10,000 - \$30,000 for trail amenities	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
System-Wide	Establish a reciprocal agreement with the school system and the City of Greencastle	Staff and City Attorney-led	-
System-Wide	Conduct an ADA Evaluation of parks and programming	\$20,000 - \$30,000 Consultant-led	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
Programming	Add a programming calendar to parks website. Include all parks and trails programming/events.	Staff-led	Operating Budget
Programming	Add a new community event	Varies	Operating Budget
Programming	Expand and formalize a volunteer program for parks and programming. Advertise volunteer program to public.	Staff-led	Operating Budget
Big Walnut Sports Park	Repair and repave existing loop path as needed	Varies	Operating Budget
Jaycee Park	Continue treatment of pond	\$8,000 - \$10,000	Operating Budget
Ballard Family Park	Explore future use options for the park. Consider conducting a visioning session with the public.	Staff-led, or Consultant-led (\$2,500)	Operating Budget
Mary Rodgers Field Park	Explore future use options for the park	Staff-led	Operating Budget
People Pathways	Complete Campus Link Trail Phase 2	Underway	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget, Indiana Trails Program, Land Water Conservation Fund
People Pathways	Relocate and restore Historic Train Depot	Underway	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget, Indiana Trails Program, Land Water Conservation Fund, CreatINg Places
People Pathways	Continue to address drainage issues along the trail section that runs along Highway 240. Repair damaged sections where the trail has heaved and buckled.	Varies	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
People Pathways	Add part-time Trail Manager position to parks staff (March - October)	Staff investment	Operating Budget

2024			
Park	Action	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Source
System-Wide	Conduct a teen and young adult survey to identify park and recreation needs	Survey subscription cost (\$75/month), Staff-led	Operating Budget
Programming	Explore opportunities with Greencastle School Corporation to be involved in summer programs	Staff-led	Operating Budget
Programming	Implement a teen ambassador program	Staff-led	Operating Budget
Robe-Ann Park	Add a marquee sign to advertise parks and recreation opportunities for the community	\$15,000 - \$30,000	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget, Local Fundraising/Sponsors
Robe-Ann Park	Repair roof of the bandshell	Underway	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
Robe-Ann Park	Fix drainage issues near the bandshell	Underway	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
Robe-Ann Park	Repair drinking fountains at pickleball courts	\$100 - \$1,000	Operating Budget
Robe-Ann Park	Add a pet waste station	\$500	Operating Budget
Micaela Cancilla Park	Add a pet waste station	\$500-\$950 installed	Operating Budget
Vandalia Trailhead	Reinstall trail identification and direction signs	\$500-\$1,000/sign	Operating Budget, Volunteer Program
Vandalia Trailhead	Add trash pickup and removal to the maintenance schedule	Varies, Staff-led	Operating Budget, Volunteer Program
Vandalia Trailhead	Add filling maps and information boxes to the maintenance schedule	Varies, Staff-led	Operating Budget, Volunteer Program
People Pathways	Replace missing directional signage	\$500-\$1,000/sign	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
People Pathways	Add directional signage and road markings between Vandalia Trailhead and CR 200 E	\$500-\$1,000/sign	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
People Pathways	Add maintenance and upkeep of existing pathways infrastructure to maintenance schedule. Use park resources, volunteer program, or contract services out if needed. See list of maintenance needs in appendix.	Varies, Staff-led	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget

2025			
Park	Action	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Source
Programming	Implement a teen movie night and game night at Robe-Ann Park during the summer	Varies pending equipment type	Operating Budget
Programming	Add yoga, Zumba, etc. on the lawn at Robe Ann Park	Programming instructor costs vary	Operating Budget
Programming	Conduct a trail count and a trail use survey to understand how many people are using trails, how they are using the trails and why people don't use trails	Survey subscription cost (\$75/month), Staff-led	Operating Budget
Robe-Ann Park	Add wind blocking netting and shade sails/shelter to pickleball courts	\$25,000 to \$35,000	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
Big Walnut Sports Park	Add shade and windbreaks for spectators	\$20,000 - \$30,000	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
Jaycee Park	Add an accessible trail around the pond	\$300,000 - \$500,000	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget, Indiana Trails Program, Land Water Conservation Fund
Maple Berry Park	Add a trail or sidewalk to connect to the people pathways	Based on mileage, \$800,000 - \$1,200,000 per mile for a 10' wide asphalt trail, \$350,000 - \$550,000 per mile of 8' wide concrete sidewalk	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
People Pathways	Add pedestrian road crossing to cross Highway 240 near the Vandalia Trailhead	Underway	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget, Indiana Trails Program, Land Water Conservation Fund
People Pathways	Fill in Trail Gap - Round Barn Road / 10th Street to Indianapolis Road	Based on mileage, \$800,000 - \$1,200,000 per mile for a 10' wide asphalt trail	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget, Indiana Trails Program, Land Water Conservation Fund



2026			
Park	Action	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Source
Robe-Ann Park	Replace/Update Emerald Palace Playground. Design playground to be fully inclusive. Include a tot lot and climbing features for teens. Include accessible poured in place surfacing and/or artificial turf, a shade structure, seating areas for parents and fencing. Consider conducting a visioning session with the public, as this is a beloved facility within the community.	\$1,500,000 - \$3,000,000	Land Water Conservation Fund, Operating Budget, Playground Specific Grant Opportunities (Safeway Foundation, KABOOM!, Dana & Christopher Reeve Foundation), CreatINg Places
Jaycee Park	Add ADA accessible fishing dock	\$20,000 - \$35,000	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
Micaela Cancilla Park	Add a trail or sidewalk to connect to the people pathways	Based on mileage, \$800,000 - \$1,200,000 per mile for a 10' wide asphalt trail, \$350,000 - \$550,000 per mile of 8' wide concrete sidewalk	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
People Pathways	Update trail map (cost includes hiring a consultant)	\$7,500 - \$10,000, Consultant-led	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
People Pathways	Add pedestrian road crossing to cross Bloomington Street and Veterans Highway	Underway	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget, Indiana Trails Program, Land Water Conservation Fund

2027			
Park	Action	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Source
Robe-Ann Park	Add a adult/teen hangout space. Include WiFi access, seating, and shelter for shade/increment weather.	\$250,000 - \$500,000	Operating Budget, CreatINg Places
Big Walnut Sports Park	Add dog agility equipment to the dog park	\$10,000 - \$20,000	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
Jaycee Park	Add a nature playground. Include accessible surfacing such as engineered wood fiber. Include shade and seating areas for parents	\$750,000 - \$1,250,000	Land Water Conservation Fund, Operating Budget, Playground Specific Grant Opportunities (Safeway Foundation, KABOOM!, Dana & Christopher Reeve Foundation), CreatINg Places
Maple Berry Park	Add a volleyball court with fencing	\$50,000 to \$75,000	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
People Pathways	Add trail kiosks strategically along the trail	\$10,000 - \$15,000 per kiosk	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
People Pathways	Fill in Trail Gap - 10th Street to cross Veterans Highway to Campus Link Trail and Industrial Park	Based on mileage, \$800,000 - \$1,200,000 per mile for a 10' wide asphalt trail	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget, Indiana Trails Program, Land Water Conservation Fund

2028			
Park	Action	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Source
Big Walnut Sports Park	Renovate / replace existing restroom facilities	\$250,000 - \$500,000	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
Jaycee Park	Repair mountain bike trails as needed	Varies, Staff or Volunteer-led	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
Maple Berry Park	Add a gaga ball pit with mulch and fencing	\$10,000 - \$20,000	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
People Pathways	Fill in Trail Gap - Ridgeland Road	Base on mileage, \$800,000 - \$1,200,000 per mile for a 10' wide asphalt trail	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget, Indiana Trails Program, Land Water Conservation Fund

2029			
Park	Action	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Source
Jaycee Park	Add a prefabricated restroom facility to the park	\$250,000 to \$350,000	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget
Jaycee Park	Jaycee Park Connector Trail: Extend 10' multi-use trail from new community center to Jaycee Park on city-owned airport properties	Based on mileage, \$800,000 - \$1,200,000 per mile for a 10' wide asphalt trail	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget, Indiana Trails Program, Land Water Conservation Fund
People Pathways	Fill in Trail Gap - Industrial Connection: Connect Crown/IAC to the north to the Spec Building connector to People Pathways Vandalia Trail	Based on mileage, \$800,000 - \$1,200,000 per mile for a 10' wide asphalt trail	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget, Indiana Trails Program, Land Water Conservation Fund
People Pathways	Fill in Trail Gap - Community Center Connection: Connect from current trail along highway 240 south to new community center with 10' wide trail	Based on mileage, \$800,000 - \$1,200,000 per mile for a 10' wide asphalt trail	City of Greencastle, Operating Budget, Indiana Trails Program, Land Water Conservation Fund

# APPENDIX

## ROKICKI COMMUNITY PARK SITE PLAN

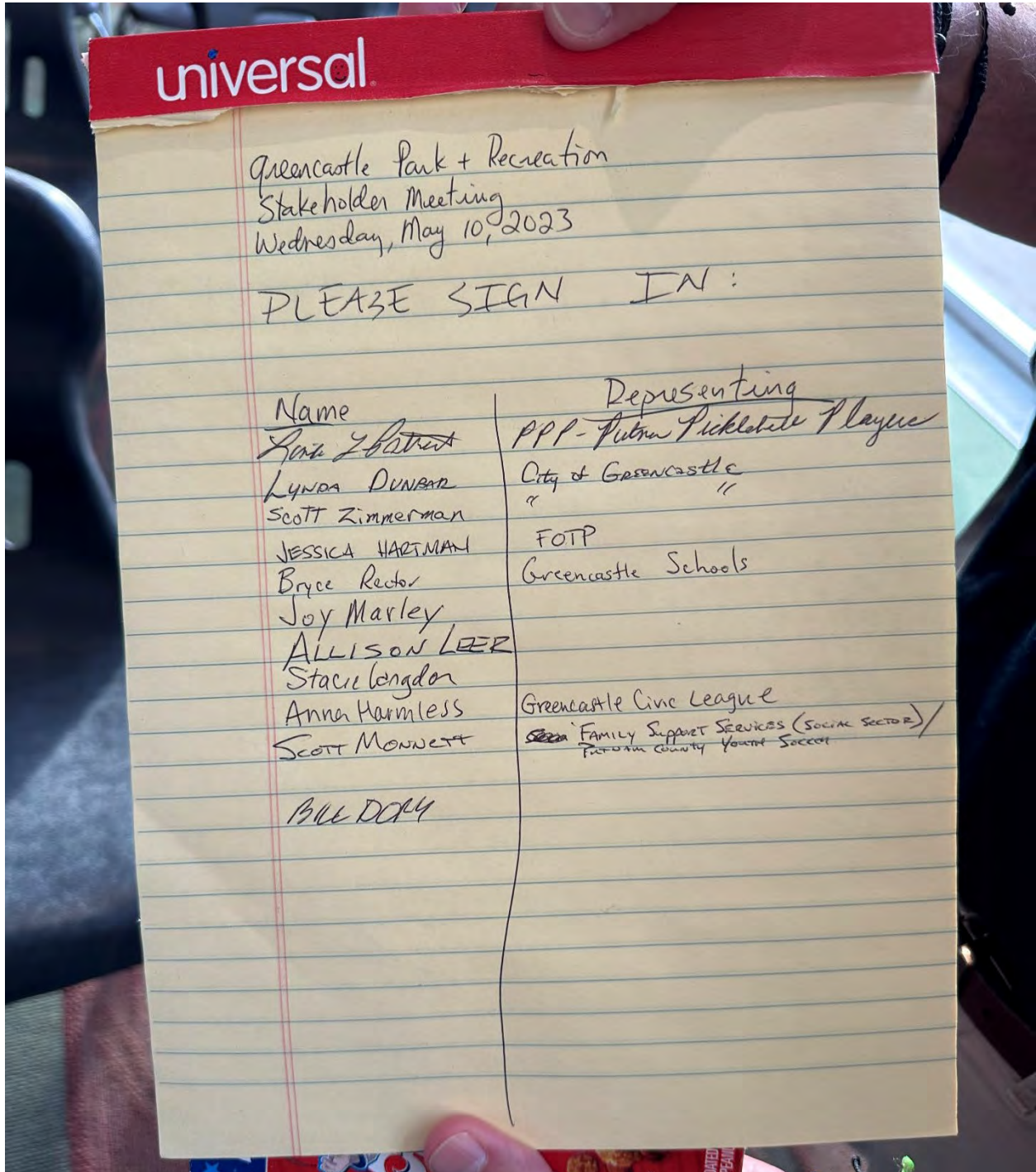
# ROKICKI COMMUNITY PARK



DRAFT

 **GOVE ASSOCIATES INC**   
ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS PLANNERS GIS SURVEYORS  
70 EAST 91ST STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46240

**STAKEHOLDER MEETING  
SIGN-IN SHEET**



# COMPLETED WORKSHEET



## Stakeholder Meeting - Questionnaire

Greencastle, IN - Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update  
Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm

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Name: Joy Marley

Email: [wjmarley@cinergymetro.net](mailto:wjmarley@cinergymetro.net)

1. What is your relationship to the parks?

Community volunteer/advocate for "linear park" development/expansion...A Pathways "pusher"

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2. What do you see as strengths of the parks?

Approximately 10-miles of the City's proposed preliminary "linear park" (Pathways) plan have been completed

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3. What do you see as weaknesses of the parks?

Gaps in the "linear park" multi-use trail network (Pathways) that create impediments for users

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4. What opportunities do you see for the parks?

Please note attachment with suggestions regarding our community's "linear park"

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5. What is missing from the parks? What would you like to see in the next 5 to 10 years?

Please note attachment with suggestions regarding our community's "linear park"

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## PEOPLE PATHWAYS LIST OF GOALS

### Park Board Five-Year Master Plan 2023 Pathways Suggestions

#### NEAR-TERM GOALS:

- **First Priority:** Complete Campus Link Trail/Phase 2 with relocation & restoration of Historic Depot
- **First Priority:** Maintenance & upkeep of existing pathways infrastructure
  - Asphalt Trails:
    - Spray weeds in cracks that have developed in asphalt
    - Edge trails to prevent vegetation encroachment
    - Replace missing signage
    - Highlight 4x4 sign posts in middle of trail with bright reflective paint or tape or replace with flexible green bollards
    - Repair rail fencing
    - Long-term: Consider sealing and/or resurfacing
    - Tile low spots that collect water
  - Packed Stone Trails:
    - Maintain gazebo and area around gazebo. People Pathways “front door”
    - Spray trail & rail fences at entrances to eliminate weeds and prevent vegetation encroachment that narrows the trail
    - Mow/trim overhanging branches regularly
- **Fill Gaps:**
  - **Round Barn Road/10<sup>th</sup> Street to Indianapolis Road** (sadly, lost in effort to develop a 10-foot-wide pathway to accommodate all uses in this busy connector segment, just sayin’!)
  - **10<sup>th</sup> Street to cross Veterans Highway** to Campus Link Trail and Industrial Park
  - **Ridgeland Road Gap**
  - **Industrial Connection:** Connect Crown/IAC to the north to the Spec Building connector and People Pathways Vandalia Trail
  - **Community Center Connection:** Connect from current trail along Hwy 240 south to new community Center with 10’-wide trail to safely accommodate and encourage pedestrian and bicycle traffic to the new facility.
  - **Jaycee Park Connector Trail:** Extend multi-use trail from new Community Center to Jaycee Park.
- **Programming** to promote trail, i.e., “Walk & Bike to School Day”, “Pedal & Pound the Pathway”

#### LONG-TERM GOALS:

- **Restart Study/Consideration of:**
  - **DPU Arboretum Connector Trail**
  - **Walnut Street Connection** to Albin Pond Trail for final piece of the People Pathways perimeter trail.
  - **Big Walnut Connector Trail:** Connection to Dunbar Covered Bridge then continuing along Big Walnut Creek to PC Fair Grounds
  - **Round Barn Road Connector:** Connection from Albin Pond Trail to Indianapolis Road
- **Continue Partnering:** Putnam County Convention Visitors Bureau, Putnam Parks and Pathways, DePauw, and National Road Heritage Trail to support & complete Greencastle/Putnam County’s key segment of the developing National Road Heritage Trail, Indiana’s a cross-state multi-use trail effort.

**PUBLIC SURVEY  
SURVEY FLYER**



**TAKE THE  
PUBLIC SURVEY  
BEFORE JULY 24TH**



Scan the QR Code with the photo app on your mobile device to take you directly to the survey.



# PUTNAM COUNTY POST

~ RADIO / NEWSPAPER / COMMUNITY ~

Powered by GIANT fm

## LOCAL NEWS

## SEARCH

Read All



TAKE THE PUBLIC SURVEY BEFORE JULY 7TH



Scan the QR Code with the photo app on your mobile device to take you directly to the survey.

### Greencastle Parks and Recreation implementing 5-year master plan

Posted About One Month Ago by Alicia Shamel

Greencastle Parks and Recreation have started a 5-year master plan to improve the city's recreational space and the access to those recreational spaces.

Having a master plan improves the number of funding opportunities Greencastle Parks and Recreation will have access to. It also allows for public input, ensuring the public has a say in what happens with the existing parks, whether new parks are added, what programs will be offered at each location, as well as a say in the accessibility to each location, such as the People Pathways connecting all Greencastle Park locations.

While there are three phases to this process, phase one could be argued as the most important as this phase is about gathering information and input from the community about what they want to see in their parks as well as whether more parks need to be added to Greencastle. One suggestion that has already been made is to turn the recently demolished old Jones school site into a park for an area of Greencastle that seems to be neglected as far as easy access to a park is concerned.

The Greencastle Parks and Recreation director, Greg Ruark, is asking the public to take a short survey of only 19 questions. You can do that by scanning the QR code at the bottom, or by clicking this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GreencastleParksandRecreationQRSurvey>.



## WEATHER

[Fair and 79 F at Putnam County Regional Airport, IN](#)

Posted Thursday, July 6th, 2023 6:38pm



The humidity is 68%. Last Updated on Jul 6 2023, 7:15 pm EDT.

[Click Here for the Full Forecast](#)

## OBITS





City of Greencastle

May 17 · 🌐



The [Greencastle Parks & Recreation Department](#) wants to hear from you as they embark on the master plan for the parks for 2023-2027. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey to help plan the future of our parks!



Greencastle Parks & Recreation Department

May 5 · 🌐

Help us plan the future of our parks! We are developing our 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and would love to hear from you!  
Please take a moment to fil... [See more](#)

1 share





City of Greencastle

June 27 at 4:41 PM · 🌐



Have you completed the survey to help the [Greencastle Parks & Recreation Department](#) with its five year master plan? You have until July 7th to provide your input on the future of our parks. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts!



Greencastle Parks & Recreation Department

May 5 · 🌐

Help us plan the future of our parks! We are developing our 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and would love to hear from you! Please take a moment to fil... [See more](#)

👍 1

3 shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



Greencastle Parks & Recreation Department

May 5 · 🌐



Help us plan the future of our parks! We are developing our 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and would love to hear from you!

Please take a moment to fill out our public survey so we can better serve you in the future:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/.../GreencastleParksandRecre...>

**HELP US  
PLAN THE  
FUTURE  
OF OUR  
PARKS!**

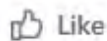
GREENCASTLE FIVE YEAR PARKS  
& RECREATION MASTER PLAN

**TAKE THE  
PUBLIC SURVEY  
BEFORE JULY 7TH**

Scan the QR Code with the  
photo app on your mobile  
device to take you directly to  
the survey.

👍 2

21 shares



Like



Comment



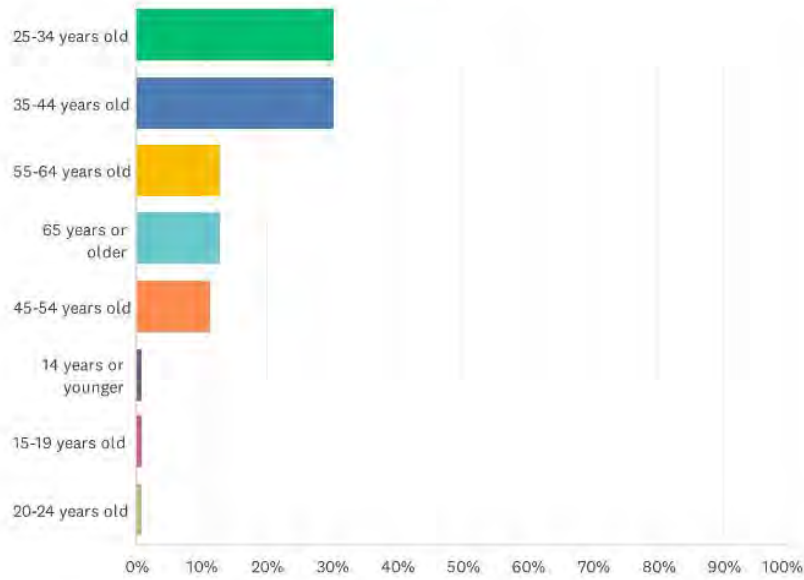
Share

# SURVEY RESULTS

Greencastle Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Public Survey

## Q1 Which category below includes your age?

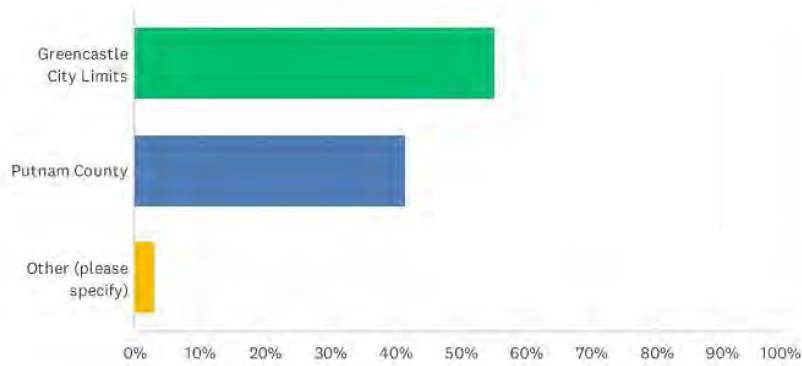
Answered: 132 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
25-34 years old	30.30%	40
35-44 years old	30.30%	40
55-64 years old	12.88%	17
65 years or older	12.88%	17
45-54 years old	11.36%	15
14 years or younger	0.76%	1
15-19 years old	0.76%	1
20-24 years old	0.76%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>132</b>

## Q2 Do you live in Greencastle or Putnam County?

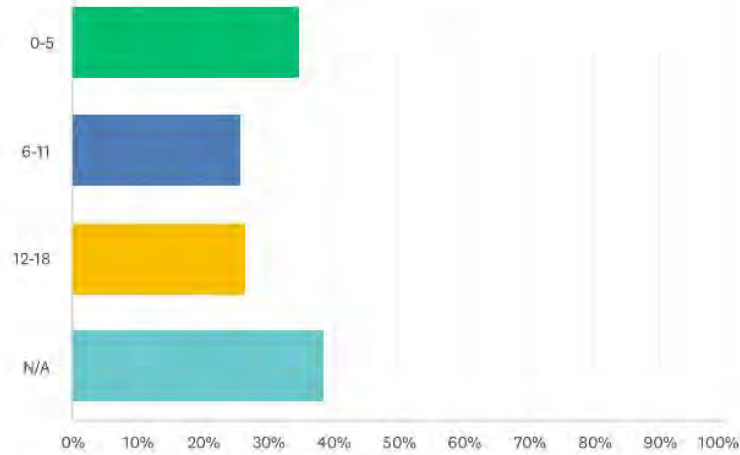
Answered: 132 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Greencastle City Limits	55.30%	73
Putnam County	41.67%	55
Other (please specify)	3.03%	4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>132</b>

### Q3 If you have children, how old are they? (Check all that apply)

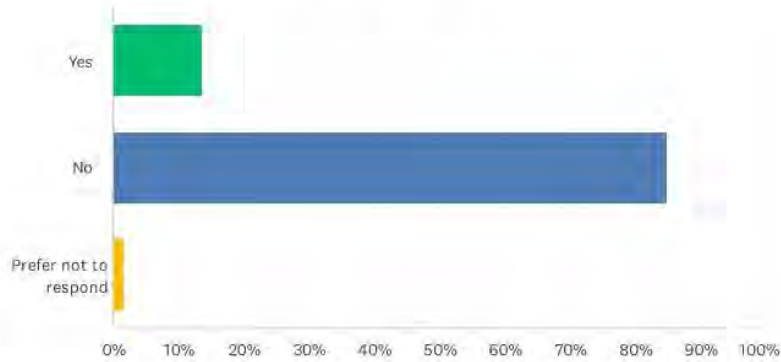
Answered: 132 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-5	34.85%	46
6-11	25.76%	34
12-18	26.52%	35
N/A	38.64%	51
Total Respondents: 132		

Q4 Do any members of your family have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act?

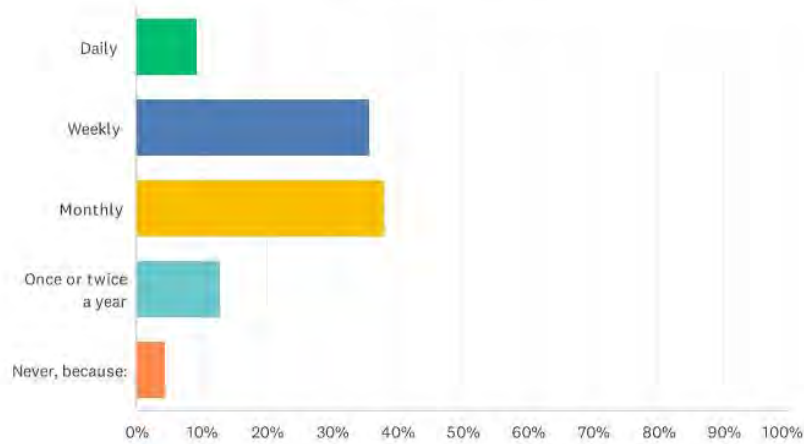
Answered: 132 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	13.64%	18
No	84.85%	112
Prefer not to respond	1.52%	2
TOTAL		132

### Q5 How often do you use the park facilities?

Answered: 132 Skipped: 0

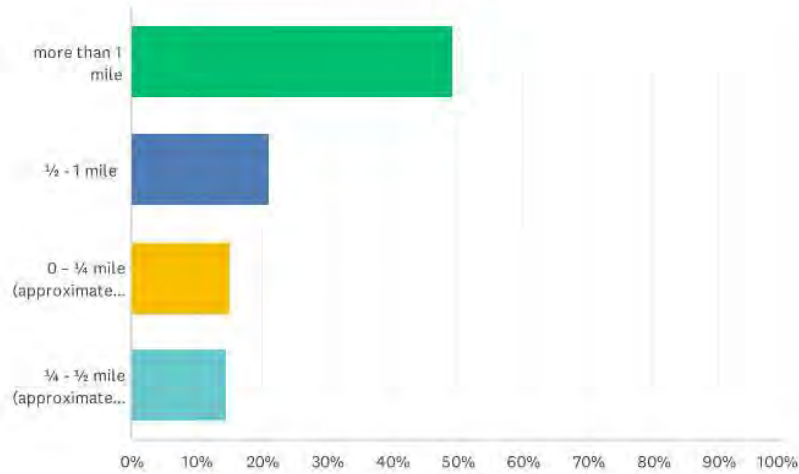


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Daily	9.09%	12
Weekly	35.61%	47
Monthly	37.88%	50
Once or twice a year	12.88%	17
Never, because:	4.55%	6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>132</b>



### Q6 How close do you live to the nearest park?

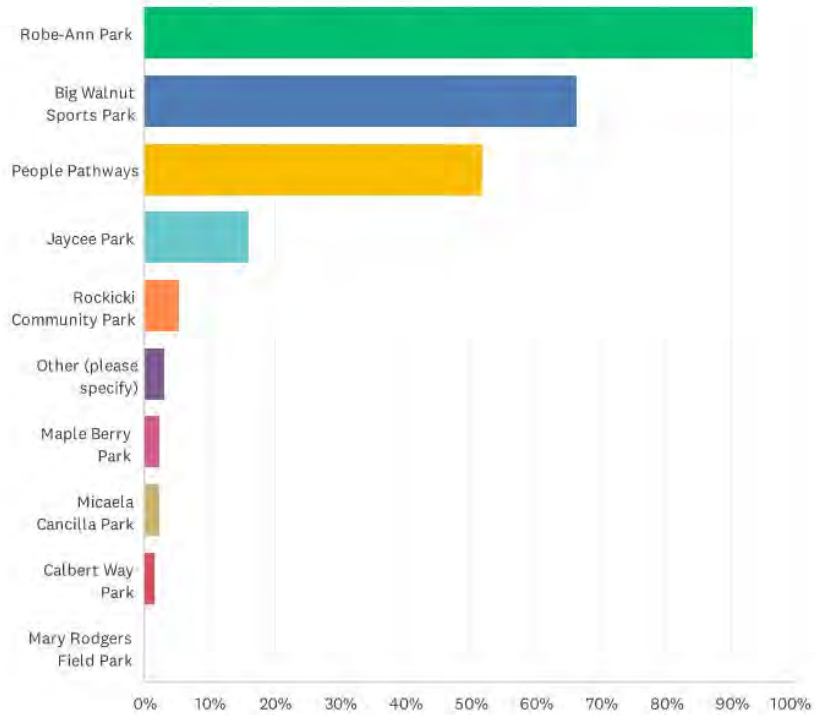
Answered: 132 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
more than 1 mile	49.24%	65
½ - 1 mile	21.21%	28
0 - ¼ mile (approximately 5 minute walk)	15.15%	20
¼ - ½ mile (approximately 10 minute walk)	14.39%	19
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>132</b>

### Q7 If you do use Greencastle park facilities, which facilities do you use? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 131 Skipped: 1

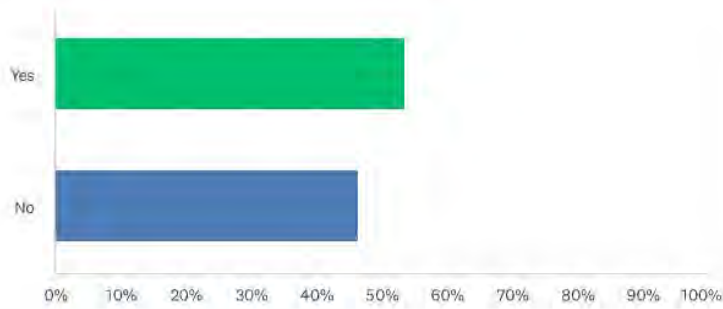


Greencastle Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Public Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Robe-Ann Park	93.13%	122
Big Walnut Sports Park	66.41%	87
People Pathways	51.91%	68
Jaycee Park	16.03%	21
Rockicki Community Park	5.34%	7
Other (please specify)	3.05%	4
Maple Berry Park	2.29%	3
Micaela Cancilla Park	2.29%	3
Calbert Way Park	1.53%	2
Mary Rodgers Field Park	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 131		

**Q8 Are there community resources you use that are not owned and operated by the parks department? (Ex. Church playground, private gym, state parks, etc.)**

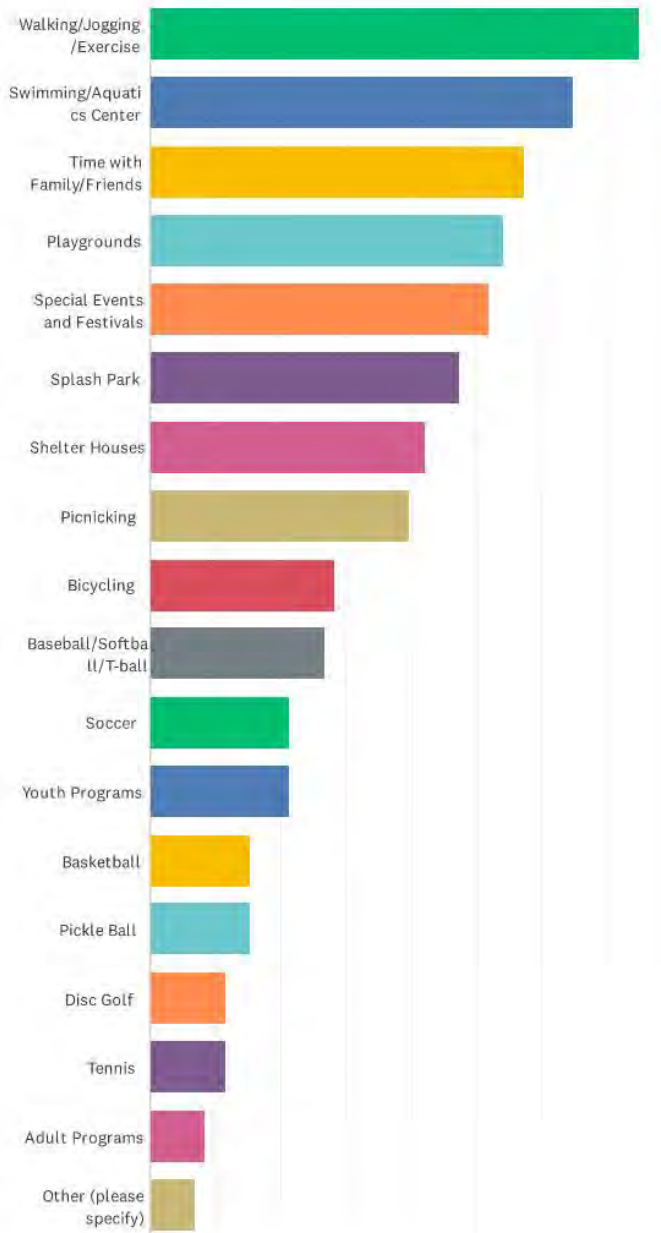
Answered: 131 Skipped: 1



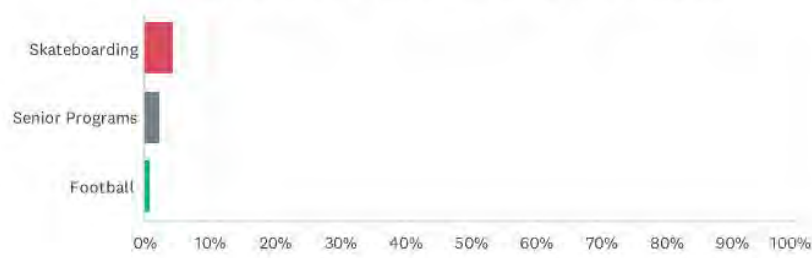
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	53.44%	70
No	46.56%	61
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>131</b>

### Q9 What activities or amenities do you participate in or use at the parks? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 131 Skipped: 1



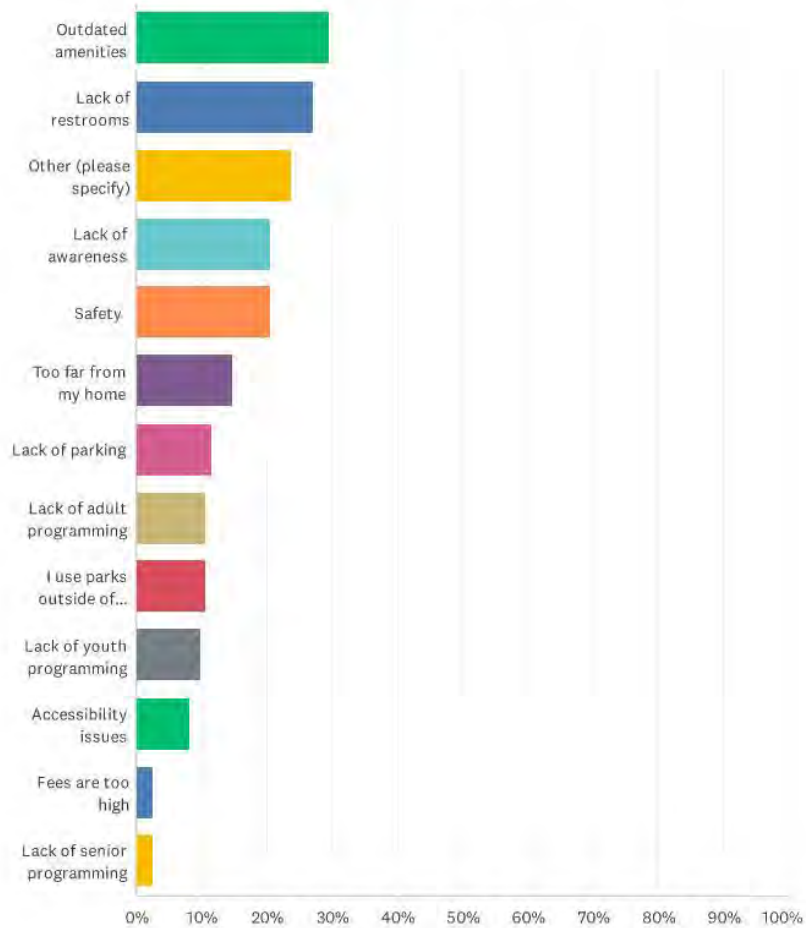
Greencastle Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Public Survey



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking/Jogging/Exercise	74.81%	98
Swimming/Aquatics Center	64.89%	85
Time with Family/Friends	57.25%	75
Playgrounds	54.20%	71
Special Events and Festivals	51.91%	68
Splash Park	47.33%	62
Shelter Houses	41.98%	55
Picnicking	39.69%	52
Bicycling	28.24%	37
Baseball/Softball/T-ball	26.72%	35
Soccer	21.37%	28
Youth Programs	21.37%	28
Basketball	15.27%	20
Pickle Ball	15.27%	20
Disc Golf	11.45%	15
Tennis	11.45%	15
Adult Programs	8.40%	11
Other (please specify)	6.87%	9
Skateboarding	4.58%	6
Senior Programs	2.29%	3
Football	0.76%	1
Total Respondents: 131		

### Q10 What keeps you from using city park facilities? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 122 Skipped: 10



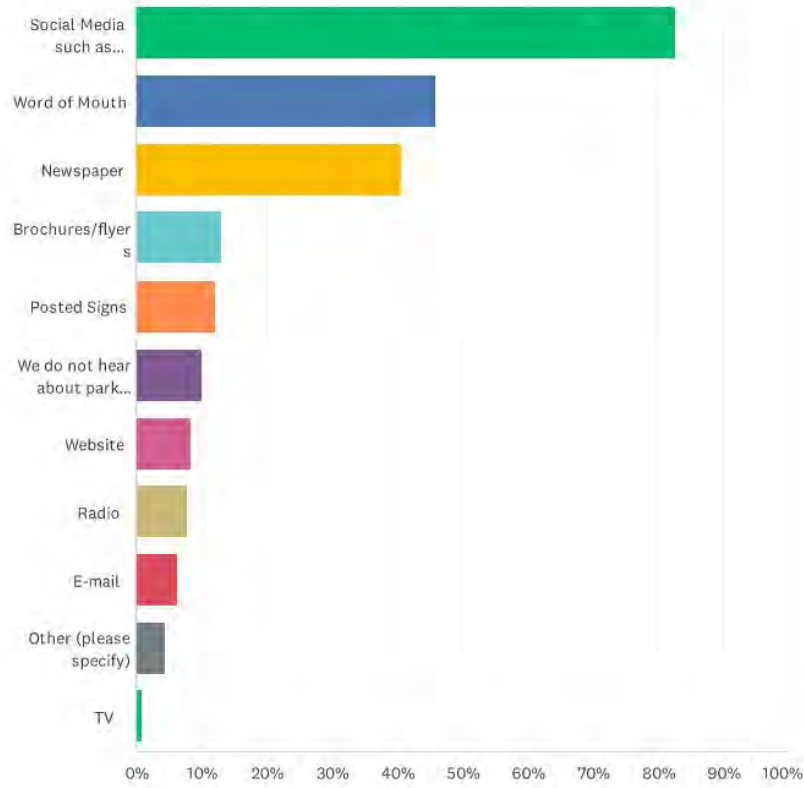
Greencastle Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Public Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Outdated amenities	29.51%	36
Lack of restrooms	27.05%	33
Other (please specify)	23.77%	29
Lack of awareness	20.49%	25
Safety	20.49%	25
Too far from my home	14.75%	18
Lack of parking	11.48%	14
Lack of adult programming	10.66%	13
I use parks outside of Greencastle instead.	10.66%	13
Lack of youth programming	9.84%	12
Accessibility issues	8.20%	10
Fees are too high	2.46%	3
Lack of senior programming	2.46%	3
Total Respondents: 122		



### Q11 How do you or your family find out about park programs and events? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 131 Skipped: 1

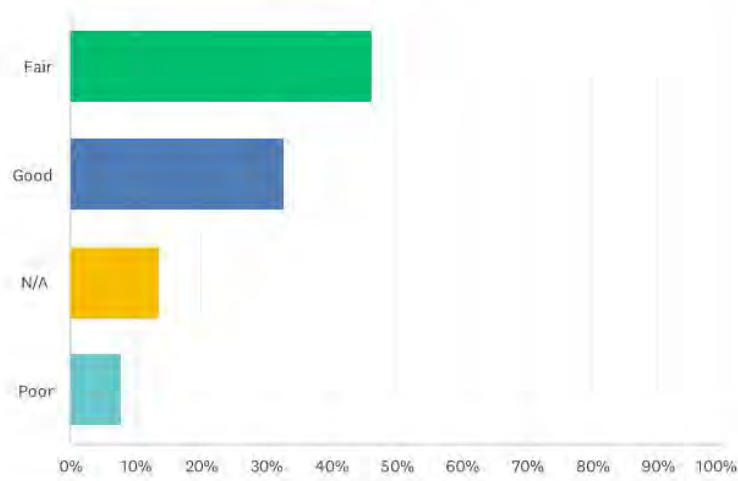


Greencastle Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Public Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Social Media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube	82.44%	108
Word of Mouth	45.80%	60
Newspaper	40.46%	53
Brochures/flyers	12.98%	17
Posted Signs	12.21%	16
We do not hear about park events	9.92%	13
Website	8.40%	11
Radio	7.63%	10
E-mail	6.11%	8
Other (please specify)	4.58%	6
TV	0.76%	1
Total Respondents: 131		

Q12 Please rate the condition of play equipment in our parks.

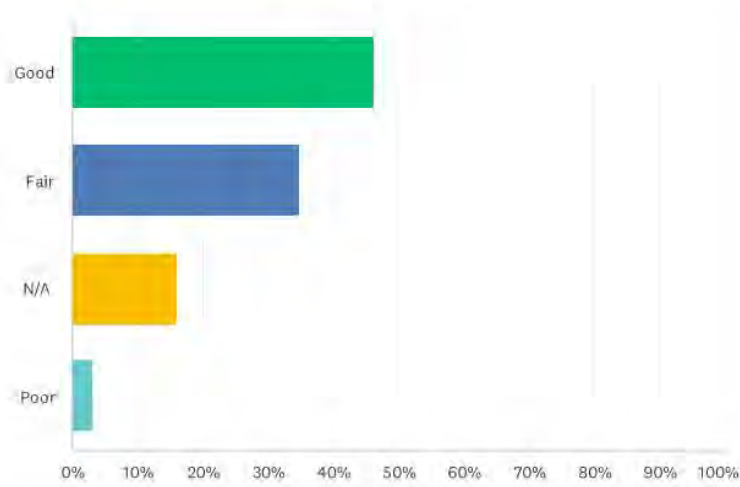
Answered: 132 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Fair	46.21%	61
Good	32.58%	43
N/A	13.64%	18
Poor	7.58%	10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>132</b>

Q13 Please rate the condition of the sports facilities in our parks.

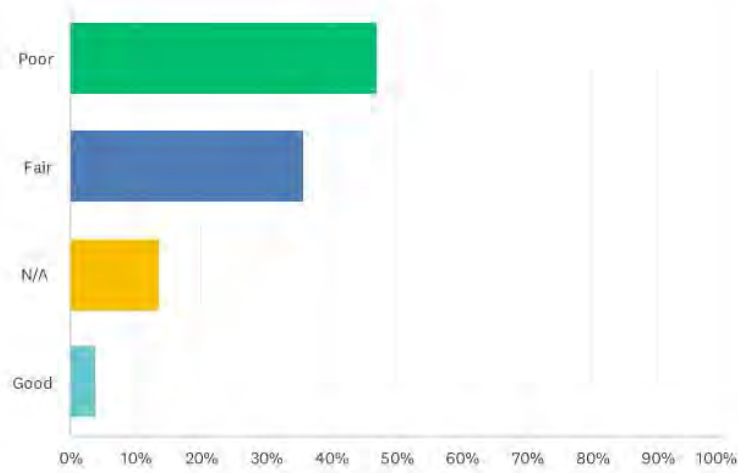
Answered: 132 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Good	46.21%	61
Fair	34.85%	46
N/A	15.91%	21
Poor	3.03%	4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>132</b>

Q14 Please rate the condition of restroom facilities in our parks.

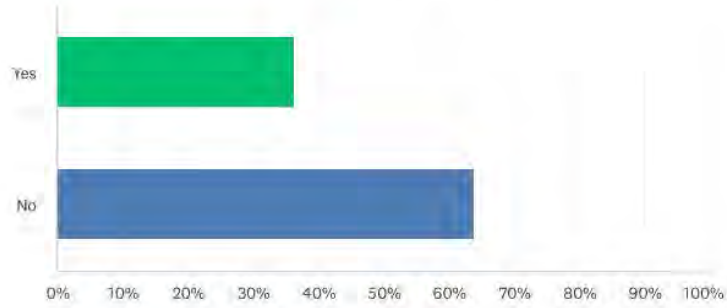
Answered: 132 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Poor	46.97%	62
Fair	35.61%	47
N/A	13.64%	18
Good	3.79%	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>132</b>

### Q15 Are there adequate restroom facilities in Greencastle Parks?

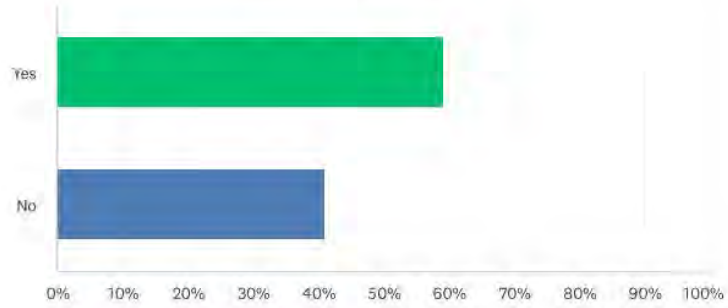
Answered: 124 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	36.29%	45
No	63.71%	79
TOTAL		124

### Q16 Are Greencastle Parks friendly for those with disabilities?

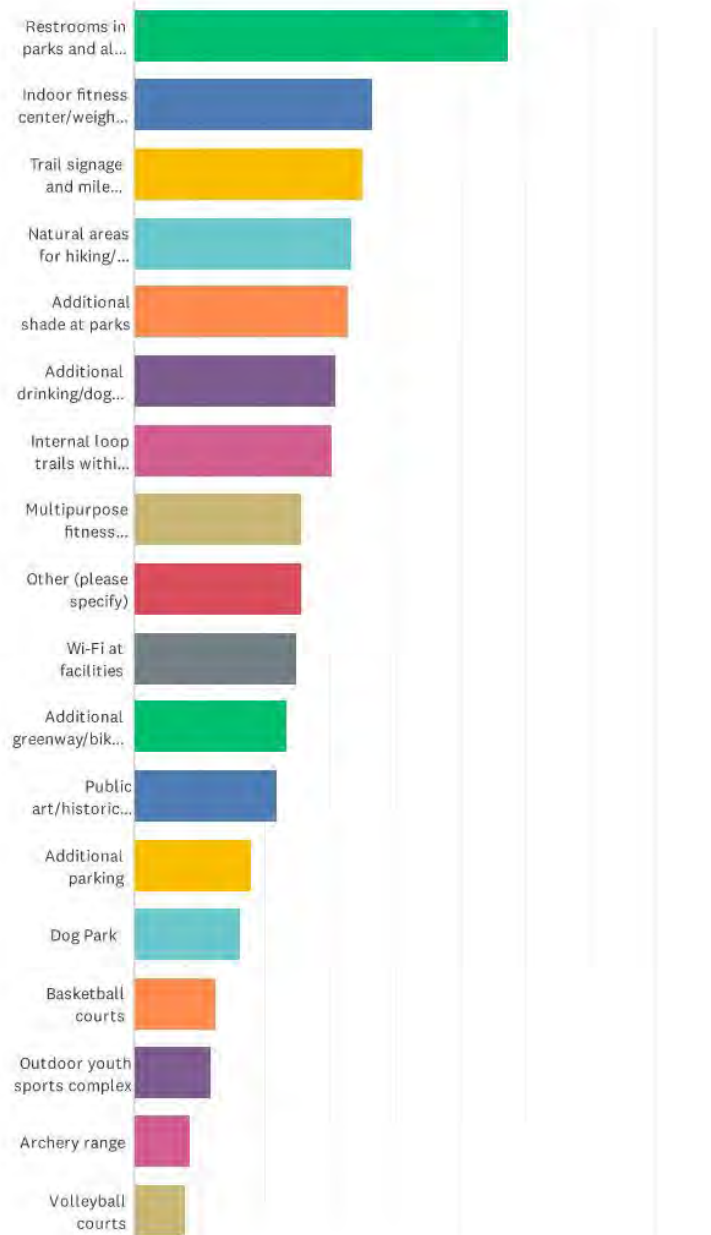
Answered: 115 Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	59.13%	68
No	40.87%	47
TOTAL		115

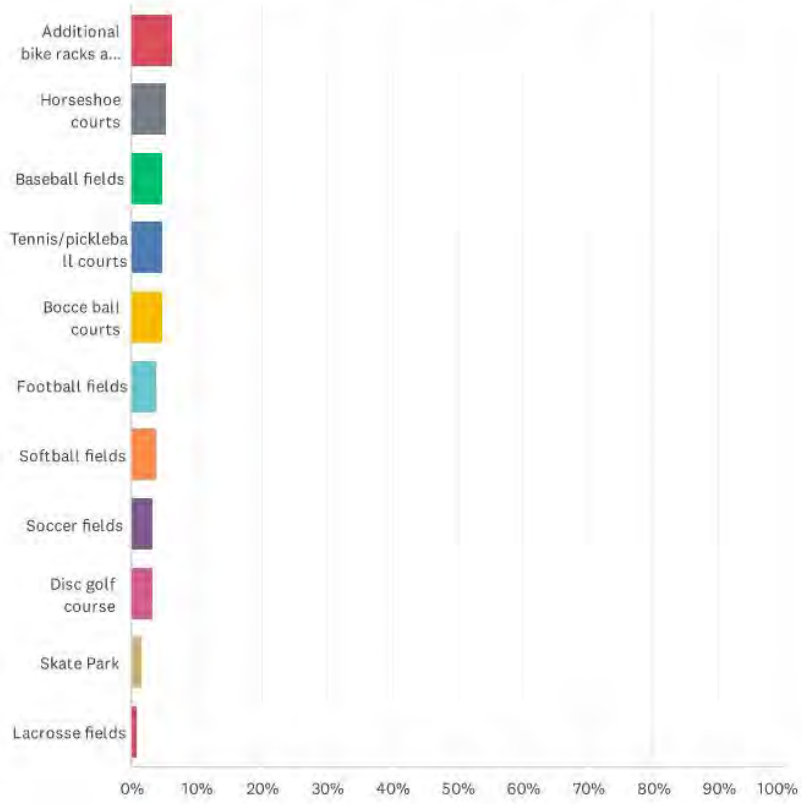
### Q17 What facilities/improvements are needed in the Greencastle park system? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 129 Skipped: 3





### Greencastle Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Public Survey

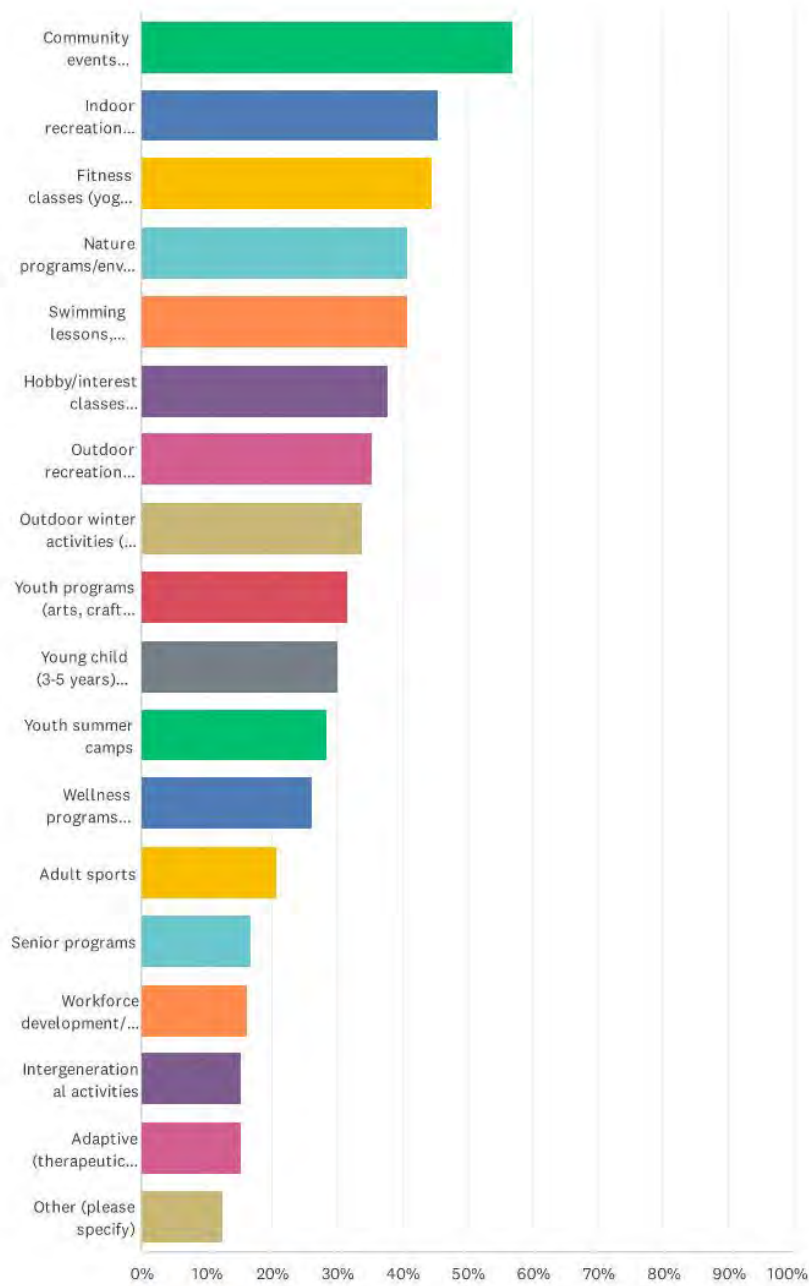


Greencastle Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Public Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Restrooms in parks and along trails	57.36%	74
Indoor fitness center/weight room	36.43%	47
Trail signage and mile markers	34.88%	45
Natural areas for hiking/ nature-viewing/picnicking (forest, wetland, prairie, etc.)	33.33%	43
Additional shade at parks	32.56%	42
Additional drinking/doggie fountains	31.01%	40
Internal loop trails within existing parks	30.23%	39
Multipurpose fitness classrooms	25.58%	33
Other (please specify)	25.58%	33
Wi-Fi at facilities	24.81%	32
Additional greenway/bike trails	23.26%	30
Public art/historical education along trails	21.71%	28
Additional parking	17.83%	23
Dog Park	16.28%	21
Basketball courts	12.40%	16
Outdoor youth sports complex	11.63%	15
Archery range	8.53%	11
Volleyball courts	7.75%	10
Additional bike racks at facilities	6.20%	8
Horseshoe courts	5.43%	7
Baseball fields	4.65%	6
Tennis/pickleball courts	4.65%	6
Bocce ball courts	4.65%	6
Football fields	3.88%	5
Softball fields	3.88%	5
Soccer fields	3.10%	4
Disc golf course	3.10%	4
Skate Park	1.55%	2
Lacrosse fields	0.78%	1
Total Respondents: 129		

### Q18 What programming is needed in the Greencastle park system? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 130 Skipped: 2

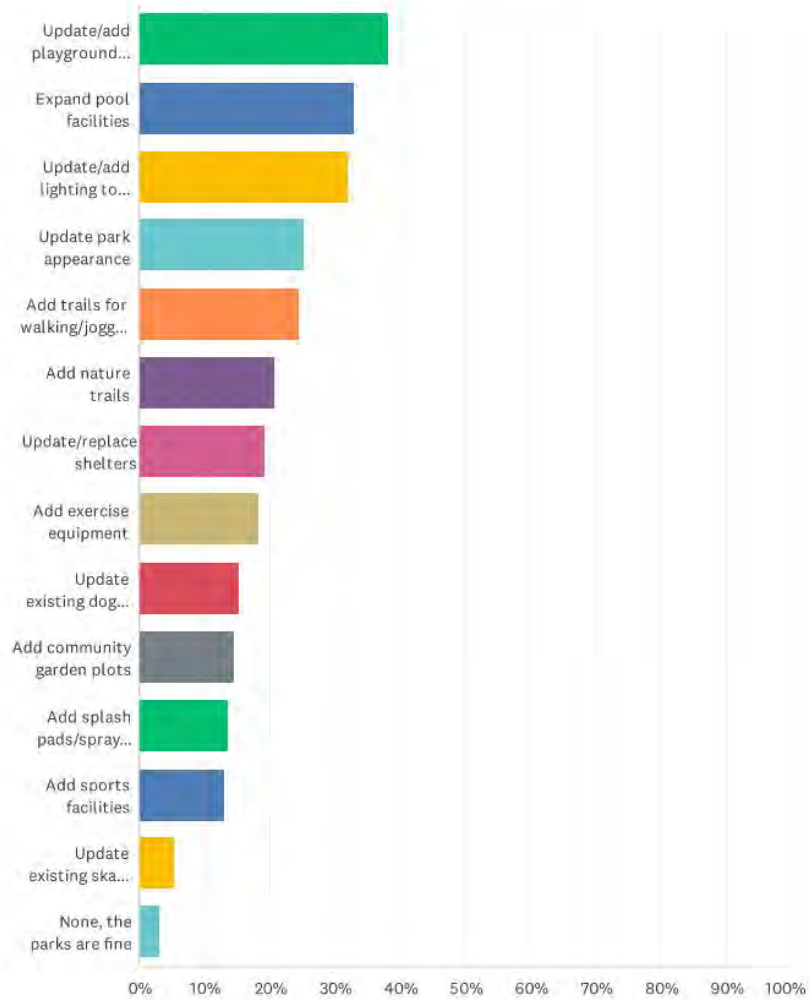


Greencastle Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Public Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Community events (festivals, 5k races, concerts, etc.)	56.92%	74
Indoor recreation opportunities	45.38%	59
Fitness classes (yoga, martial arts, zumba, etc.)	44.62%	58
Nature programs/environmental education	40.77%	53
Swimming lessons, aquatic programs	40.77%	53
Hobby/interest classes (crafts, gardening, cooking, etc.)	37.69%	49
Outdoor recreation (hiking, fishing, etc.)	35.38%	46
Outdoor winter activities (ice skating, skiing, etc.)	33.85%	44
Youth programs (arts, crafts, adventure, etc.)	31.54%	41
Young child (3-5 years) programs	30.00%	39
Youth summer camps	28.46%	37
Wellness programs (nutrition, health counseling, etc.)	26.15%	34
Adult sports	20.77%	27
Senior programs	16.92%	22
Workforce development/life skills classes	16.15%	21
Intergenerational activities	15.38%	20
Adaptive (therapeutic) recreation	15.38%	20
Other (please specify)	12.31%	16
Total Respondents: 130		

Q19 Of the following potential capital improvement projects, which is of the highest priority to you? (Please choose 3)

Answered: 131 Skipped: 1



Greencastle Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Public Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Update/add playground equipment	38.17%	50
Expand pool facilities	32.82%	43
Update/add lighting to parks	32.06%	42
Update park appearance	25.19%	33
Add trails for walking/jogging/biking	24.43%	32
Add nature trails	20.61%	27
Update/replace shelters	19.08%	25
Add exercise equipment	18.32%	24
Update existing dog park	15.27%	20
Add community garden plots	14.50%	19
Add splash pads/spray grounds	13.74%	18
Add sports facilities	12.98%	17
Update existing skate park	5.34%	7
None, the parks are fine	3.05%	4
Total Respondents: 131		

**PUBLIC MEETING  
ADVERTISEMENTS**

# BANNER GRAPHIC

## Public invited to City Parks Dept. master plan meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 2023



A public meeting designed to provide input for the 2023-27 Greencastle Parks and Recreation Department's master plan is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24 at Ivy Tech Community College.

The public is encouraged to attend the 6 p.m. meeting to help provide information for what will become the five-year master plan for the Parks Department.

The master plan is essential not only for future planning but in securing grants for further development of local parks and their facilities.



City of Greencastle

May 19 · 🌐



The [Greencastle Parks & Recreation Department](#) will be holding a public meeting on Wednesday, May 24 about the five-year master plan for the parks. And, don't forget to take the survey!

[https://t.hwcengineering.com/c/8ejjaEI4\\_UelbEplVaJmNw](https://t.hwcengineering.com/c/8ejjaEI4_UelbEplVaJmNw)

**Greencastle Parks and Recreation  
Five-Year Master Plan  
2023-2027**

**You are invited to the first public meeting  
addressing the future of Greencastle Parks  
and Recreation.**

**Wednesday, May 24 ~ 6pm  
Ivy Tech Community College.**

👍 5

3 shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share





Greencastle Parks & Recreation Department

May 16 · 🌐



**Greencastle Parks and Recreation  
Five-Year Master Plan  
2023-2027**

**You are invited to the first public meeting  
addressing the future of Greencastle Parks  
and Recreation.**

**Wednesday, May 24 ~ 6pm  
Ivy Tech Community College.**



6

15 shares



Greencastle Parks & Recreation Department

May 18 · 🌐



**Greencastle Parks and Recreation  
Five-Year Master Plan  
2023-2027**

**You are invited to the first public meeting  
addressing the future of Greencastle Parks  
and Recreation.**

**Wednesday, May 24 ~ 6pm  
Ivy Tech Community College.**



Greencastle Parks & Recreation Department

May 16 · 🌐

1 share

Like

Comment

Share



Greencastle Parks & Recreation Department

May 22 · 🌐



Just a reminder about an important event this week...



👍 3

3 shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



Greencastle Parks & Recreation Department

May 24 · 🌐



**Greencastle Parks Master Plan Public Meeting  
Tonight - 6PM Ivy Tech**

👍 1

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

# SIGN-IN SHEET



Confidence in the built environment.  
 135 N. Pennsylvania, Suite 2800  
 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
[www.hwcengineering.com](http://www.hwcengineering.com)

## Please Sign In!

### Greencastle Parks & Recreation Master Plan – Public Meeting

Ivy Tech Community College  
 May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 6:00pm

	Name	Email
1.	RICHARD SHAMEL	richardshamel@depauw.edu
2.	Alicia Shamel	alicia@giant.fm
3.	David Bault	DBault28@gmail.com
4.	Russ Evans	ruevans50@yahoo.com
5.	Vicki Evans	vmevans51@yahoo.com
6.	Ross Haven	rosshaven47@gmail.com
7.	Derek Jensen	derekjensen@gmail.com
8.	Joy Marley	
9.	Bruce Stinebri	stinebri@depauw.edu
10.	Brian Cox	Brian Joe Cox@gmail.com
11.	LYNDA DUNBAR	ldunbar@cityofgreencastle.com
12.	Veronica Pejril	veronica@pejril.com
13.	Mayor Bill Dory	
14.	Ang Ruank	
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		
21.		
22.		
23.		
24.		
25.		

# PRESENTATION



1



2

## INTRODUCTIONS



Rebecca Mahoney  
Landscape Architect  
HWC Engineering



Catherine Puckett  
Landscape Architect  
HWC Engineering

3

## WHAT IS A PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN?

4

WRITTEN FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE ACTION THAT ACTS AS A GUIDE FOR SENSIBLE FACILITY, PROGRAM AND SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

5

REASONS FOR CREATING A MASTER PLAN

- Improve funding opportunities
- Receive community input and feedback opportunities
- Ensure public wants the facilities that are developed
- Share information about programming and facilities with the public
- Give a clear sense of direction by providing not only information but analyzing it carefully in terms of how it affects both the community at large and the parks, ending in a strategic action plan

6



## PLAN METHODOLOGY & DEVELOPMENT



### Phase 1

Inventory & Data Collection



### Phase 2

Research & Analysis



### Phase 3

Results & Recommendations

7

## PLANNING PROGRESS: WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

- Project kick-off was in April
- Launched the public survey on May 4<sup>th</sup>
- Held a stakeholder interviews on May 10<sup>th</sup>
- Started inventory & data collection



8

## PLANNING PROGRESS: WHAT IS LEFT?

- Public survey will close on July 7<sup>th</sup>
  - We will then analyze the feedback and synthesize into the plan and recommendations.
- Complete inventory & data collection
- Complete research & analysis
- Draft goals and recommendations



9



## PUBLIC INPUT

Public input is gathered through a variety of methods including a public survey, stakeholder interviews, this public meeting and a future public meeting. All input is included in the plan document and inform the goals and recommendations of the plan.

10

## STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

- Stakeholder interviews were held on May 10<sup>th</sup> here at Ivy Tech
- There were a total of 11 in attendance
- Stakeholders represented various individuals and groups in the community that have personal involvement in the parks including Friends of the Parks, Greencastle School District, People Pathways, Putnam Parks and Pathways, Greencastle Civic League, Putnam Pickleball Players, youth soccer, and city officials.

11

## PUBLIC SURVEY

- A survey with 19 questions was developed and distributed online. To date, a total of 98 people have responded to the survey. The survey is open until July 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The next public meeting will include the results of the survey after the survey is closed.

Please take the survey!



Scan the QR Code with the photo app on your mobile device to take you directly to the survey.

12

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Two public meetings will be conducted during the planning process.
- This meeting is the first and the second will be at a future date towards the end of the planning process.
- During this meeting, participants will have an opportunity to discuss what they currently enjoy about Greencastle Parks and Recreation offerings and what they would like to see in the future.
- At the next public meeting, participants will be informed of the data collected in the planning process, goals, and recommendations. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss and comment on these items.

13

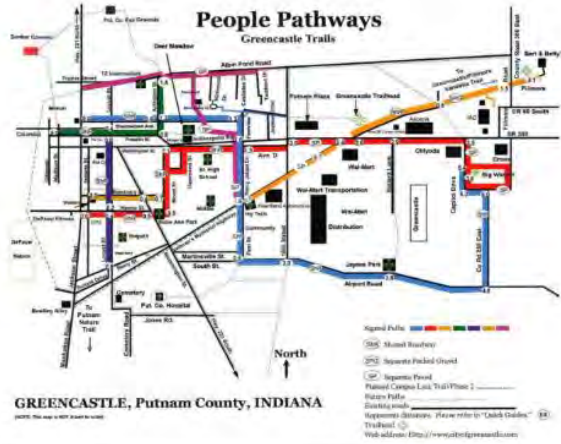
## PARK SYSTEM



1. Robe-Ann Park
2. Big Walnut Sports Park
3. Jaycee Park
4. Maple Berry Park
5. Micaela Cancilla Park
6. Mary Rogers Field Park
7. Ballard Family Park
8. Vandalia Trailhead
9. People Pathways (next slide)

14

## 9. PEOPLE PATHWAYS



15

### TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION (SEE COMMENT SHEET)

What is your favorite thing about Greencastle Parks and Recreation?

What is missing from the parks or programming?

What park issues impact you?

What would you like to see in the future?

16

## NEXT STEPS

- Take the public survey! Flyers with the QR code are available by the sign-in sheet.
- Participate in the activity boards or come talk to us!
- Fill out a questionnaire or add a comment to a comment card. These are available by the sign-in sheet.
- Pay attention to Greencastle Parks and Recreation social media for the next public meeting date.

17

THANK YOU!

18

ACTIVITY BOARDS

# WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT GREENCASTLE PARKS & RECREATION?



I always go to...

My favorite thing is....

I love....



**GREENCASTLE PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN**  
PUBLIC MEETING #1 - MAY 24, 2023

# WHAT ISSUES ARE THERE IN GREENSCASTLE PARKS & WHAT ARE YOUR SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS TO THESE ISSUES?



I have encountered...

The problem I have noticed....

I would suggest....



## GREENCASTLE PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

PUBLIC MEETING #1 - MAY 24, 2023



# WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE FUTURE FOR GREENCASTLE'S PARKS SYSTEM?



We need...

It would be great to have....

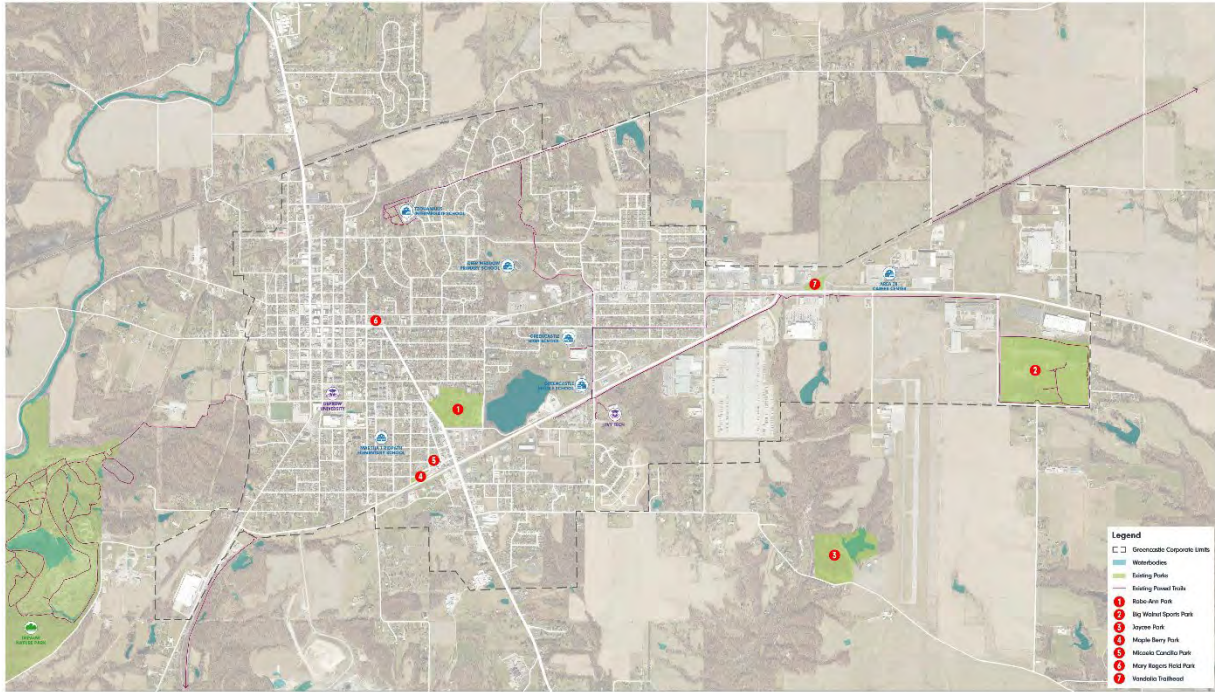
I would love....



## GREENCASTLE PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

PUBLIC MEETING #1 - MAY 24, 2023

# PARKS SYSTEM INVENTORY MAP



## GREENCASTLE PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

PUBLIC MEETING #1 - MAY 24, 2023

## COMPLETED WORKSHEETS



**HWC**  
ENGINEERING

### Public Meeting - Comment Sheet

Greencastle, IN - Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

Name: Ross Hanson  
Email: rosshanson97@gmail.com

1. What is your favorite thing about Greencastle Parks and Recreation?

I love Robe AM in the summer with  
the pool & the pickleball. I love the sports  
park as well

2. What is missing from the parks or programming?

• That Chesterson idea is GREAT!  
• More bike/cycling connection throughout the Parks  
• I wish there was a Gaga Ball Pit at a Park  
• A Park at Jones would be GREAT!

3. What park issues impact you?

I love events at the Parks - such as 4th  
of July. I wish there were some more events  
throughout the year in the Parks

4. What would you like to see in the future?

I wish there was even more, even longer trails  
that connect. Long term it would be awesome  
to see the Vandalia Trail connect to Clay count!

5. Other comments:

I like the disc golf at Big Walnut. The nature  
play that was very interesting!

I really like the music in the Parks in the  
summer! I wish that could be more year round



**Public Meeting – Comment Sheet**

Greencastle, IN – Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

Name: David Bault  
Email: Dbault28@gmail.com

1. What is your favorite thing about Greencastle Parks and Recreation?

it the best place to work

2. What is missing from the parks or programming?

Indoor programming / more programs of things to do

3. What park issues impact you?

Keeping ~~it~~ nice as we can

4. What would you like to see in the future?

It to get bigger and better it has been left behind

5. Other comments:

Keep doing what we do good  
and  
improved on what we do half way good



**Public Meeting - Comment Sheet**

Greencastle, IN - Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

Name: Bruce STINEBRICKNER  
Email: STINEBRIC@DEPAUW.EDU

1. What is your favorite thing about Greencastle Parks and Recreation?

Robe Ann Park, bike/walking paths,

2. What is missing from the parks or programming?

MAYBE more slides, swings, etc for  
Teenagers in Robe Ann in particular

And a "Juni" of Robe Ann Park  
on the Jones School site

3. What park issues impact you?

(Swim pool at Robe Ann closing in late July or so)  
Not a big deal, but.

4. What would you like to see in the future?

A bike path that made riding much  
safer, feasible - NOT the "keyhole"!

5. Other comments:

Rest rooms at Robe Ann - always  
been dubious - for years & years.



**Public Meeting – Comment Sheet**

Greencastle, IN – Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

Name: RICHARD SHAMEL  
Email: richardshamel@depauw.edu

1. What is your favorite thing about Greencastle Parks and Recreation?

Emerald Palace, Pool, Splash Pad, Green Space

2. What is missing from the parks or programming?

More open green space that is useable for activities.

3. What park issues impact you?

Removal of Half of the open field behind the softball diamond in Robe Anne Park. We had utilized that area to practice a "League" known as Dagerbir for the past 15 years or so. We are now struggling to find a place for practice in the Greencastle area.

4. What would you like to see in the future?

More refined level open green space with shade near by. Most of the space left in Robe Anne is very rough and could cause ankle or knee injury due to the uneven nature of the ground.

5. Other comments:

I have focused mainly on Robe Anne as it is the park I use most. When we have Dagerbir practice we try to have it in a location that puts more eyes on us, as we are able to get more recruitment when people can actually see us and see how fun the sport is and how much we enjoy it.



**Public Meeting - Comment Sheet**

Greencastle, IN - Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

Name: Alicia Shamel  
Email: alicia @ giant. fm

1. What is your favorite thing about Greencastle Parks and Recreation?

Playground equipment for the kids & open fields for the adults. I also love all the trees for their shade

2. What is missing from the parks or programming?

a fence around the "little kids" playground by the skate park. Its too easy for little ones to run into the road.

3. What park issues impact you?

The emerald palace needs updated.

4. What would you like to see in the future?

Pet clean-up stations. People walk their pets through Robe Horn but sometimes don't clean up after them. The stations might help encourage clean-up.

5. Other comments:

# PUBLIC PRESENTATION

To be added for final draft.



# 2012 ADA TRANSITION PLAN: COPY OF PARKS FACILITIES REVIEW

## D. Parks 1. Parks & Recreation Main Office



### Summary of Facilities:

Located at 405 S. Bloomington Street, near Robe-Ann Park, the Parks & Recreation department operates from this building. There are three full-time employees and several seasonal employees that work from this location. Administration and equipment maintenance are done from this building. The public would go to this location to contact park personnel.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Work Necessary for Compliance</i>	<i>Estimated Date of Completion</i>
No designated handicap parking. (4.6). No paved parking.	Designate and mark handicap parking. Pave a 20 X 20 concrete pad for parking leading to sidewalk.	To be completed by 12/31/14.
Inadequate clear floor space in bathroom (4.22.3-7).	Reconstruct and enlarge bathroom.	As funds become available.
Door thresholds exceed maximum height (4.13.8).	Replace front and side doors.	To be completed by 12/31/13.
Door handles not easily worked with one hand (4.13.9).	Replace door handles.	To be completed by 12/31/13.
Curb ramps are too rough and uneven to be sufficiently accessible (4.7).	Replace curb ramps.	To be completed by 12/31/14.
Table in lobby exceeds maximum height (7.2).	Replace table.	Completed.
Mirrors in restroom exceed height requirements. Exposed pipes in restroom (4.19.4), (4.19.6).	Lower restroom mirrors. Install protective coverings over pipes.	Mirrors to be completed by 12/31/13. Exposed pipes: Completed.

## D. Parks

### 2. Big Walnut Sports Park



#### Summary of Facilities:

Big Walnut Sports Park is a 78.8 acre park located east of Greencastle. The park is owned, in part, by the City and in part by the Big Walnut Sports Park, Inc.; a non-profit sports organization. The park includes nine soccer fields (one lighted), three Little League Baseball diamonds, three girls' softball diamonds, one adult softball diamond, and a 1.28 mile walking pathway encircling many open grassy areas and a nine hole disc golf course. The City has spent over \$700,000.00 in recent years to pave most of the parking lots. Of the three remaining parking lots, one will be paved in 2013 by an Indiana Department of Natural Resources grant. In addition, the grant will pay for a fully accessible dog park, drinking fountains and concrete pads under the baseball dug-outs and bleachers. There are two accessible shelter buildings and an accessible playground

<i>Description</i>	<i>Work Necessary for Compliance</i>	<i>Estimated Date of Completion</i>
Storage building is not accessible. No sidewalk leading to door (4.3).	Install sidewalk to door.	To be completed by 12/31/14.
Door thresholds exceed maximum height requirement (4.13.8).	Replace doors.	To be completed by 12/31/14.
Public restroom door does not meet minimum width (4.13.5).	Reconstruct brick wall and install new door.	As funds become available.
Pipes under sinks in bathroom are exposed. (4.24.6). Grab bars missing from handicap restroom.	Install protective materials under sinks. Redesign handicap restroom and add grab bars.	Pipes: Completed. Grab bars to be completed by 12/31/13.
No paved pathway leading from public restroom/parking lot to baseball field (4.3).	Install a sidewalk and concrete pad for baseball spectators.	To be completed by 12/31/14.

## D. Parks

### 3. Jaycee Park

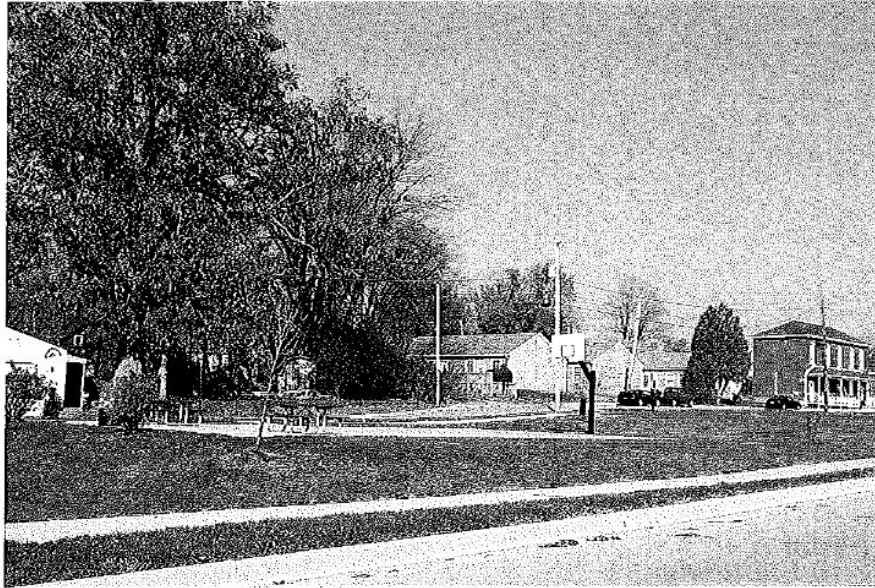


#### Summary of Facilities:

This 22 acre nature park provides residents with great opportunities to see wildlife and relax in a natural setting. Jaycee Park is located southeast of Greencastle on Airport Road. The main purpose of this park is outdoor recreation. Located at the park are a small pond that is accessible for fishing, wooded nature trail, pit restrooms, and two picnic shelters. For decades, the property was leased and managed by the Jaycees, a not-for-profit organization. It was turned back to the City in 2006. Due to the poor condition of the indoor community building it has been closed to the public and will be demolished.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Work Necessary for Compliance</i>	<i>Estimated Date of Completion</i>
Outdoor portable restroom is not accessible. (4.3)	Replace current portable restroom with a accessible portable restroom.	To be completed by 12/31/13.
There is no sidewalk leading to the shelter. (4.3)	Install concrete sidewalk from road to shelter.	To be completed by 12/31/14.
Park entrance road unpaved and too narrow. (4.3)	Pave and widen road and dam.	As funds become available.
The outdoor restrooms are not accessible. (4.3)	Replace restrooms.	As funds become available.
No accessible route to trail. (4.3)	Build accessible route to trail.	As funds become available.
No accessible route to pond (4.3).	Build accessible route to pond.	As funds become available.

**D. Parks**  
**4. Mapleberry Park**

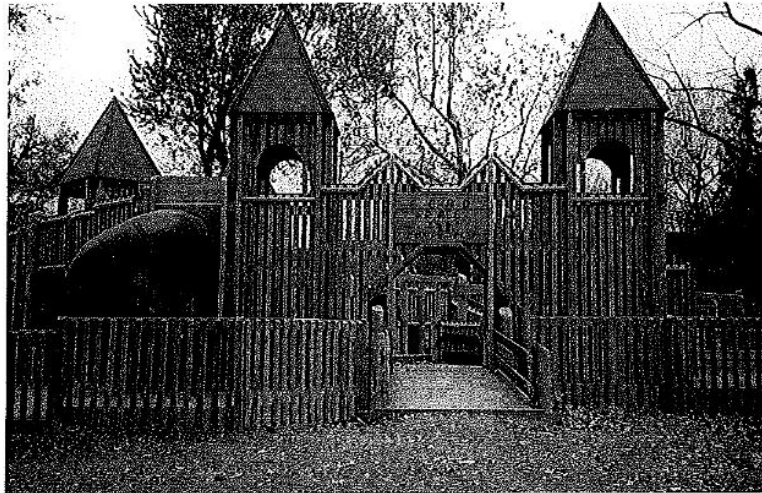


**Summary of Facilities:**

This 1 acre park is located at the intersections of Maple and Berry Streets on the south side of Greencastle. Mapleberry Park was designed as a neighborhood park and contains a basketball court, park benches, picnic tables, a drinking fountain, and an open grassy play area.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Work Necessary for Compliance</i>	<i>Estimated Date of Completion</i>
Not all benches are accessible.	Increase sidewalk and concrete pad leading to bench area.	To be completed by 12/31/14.
Drinking fountain does not meet all ADA requirements.	Increase concrete pad around drinking fountain.	To be completed by 12/31/14.

**D. Parks**  
**5. Robe-Ann Park**

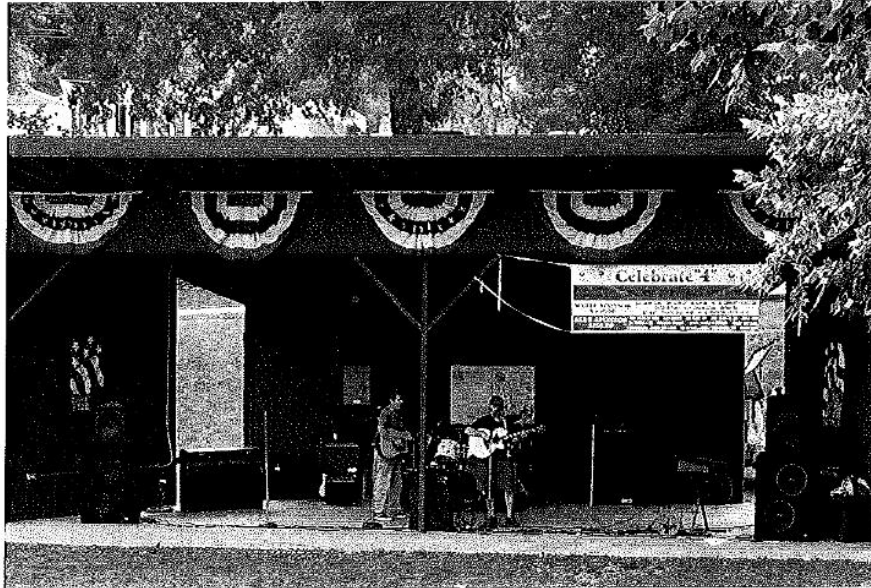


**Summary of Facilities:**

Located at 405 S. Bloomington Street, Robe-Ann Park is a 28-acre park centrally located in Greencastle. The park includes the Greencastle Aquatics Center, lighted softball diamond, tennis and basketball courts, skate park, Emerald Palace Playground shelter buildings and a historic log cabin. Because of Robe-Ann Park’s size, it will be broken into four sections; Shelters, Tennis, Aquatic Center, and Softball. Assessments that cannot be categorized as such are listed below.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Work Necessary for Compliance</i>	<i>Estimated Date of Completion</i>
Walkways and sidewalks do not comply with ADA guidelines in terms of location, width, passing space, surface textures, and changes in levels.(4.3.2-8)	Replace sections of sidewalk that do not comply.	Ongoing, as funds become available.
Handicap parking is inadequate, improperly marked or is not in a convenient location in certain areas throughout park. (4.6.1)(4.6.3)(4.6.4)	Add handicap parking in proper location and adequately sign and mark the spaces.	To be completed by 12/31/13.

**D. Parks**  
**5. Robe-Ann Park**  
**a. Shelters**



**Summary of Facilities**

Robe-Ann Park currently has three shelters and a band pavilion available to rent for picnics, concerts and other public activities.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Work Necessary for Compliance</i>	<i>Estimated Date of Completion</i>
No designated parking at Shelter House 1, 2, and 5 (4.6).	Designate and properly mark handicap parking	To be completed by 12/31/13.
Drinking fountain near bandshell is not accessible due to rough terrain.	Construct sidewalk and concrete pad to and around drinking fountain	As funds become available.
Accessible handicap tables not available in all shelters.	Place handicap accessible tables at all shelters	Complete.
No accessible route to Shelter House 1, 2 or 5. No accessible route to band shell or play areas.	Install a sidewalk to shelter, band shell and play area.	Shelter House 1, 2 and 5 completed.  Band shell and play area as funds become available.

**D. Parks**  
**5. Robe-Ann Park**  
**b. Tennis Courts**

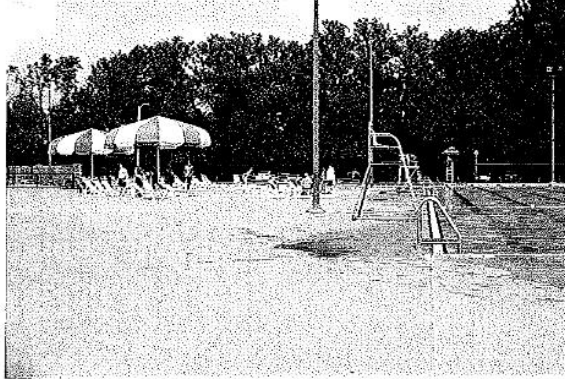


**Summary of Facilities:**

Robe-Ann Park houses five clay tennis courts. The courts are aging and currently have large cracks and do not have an accessible path from the parking area. The City has applied for a grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to repair the courts and make them accessible.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Work Necessary for Compliance</i>	<i>Estimated Date of Completion</i>
Current walkway does not meet ADA requirements.	Reconstruct sidewalk from parking lot to tennis courts.	To be completed by 12/31/15.
Drinking fountain does not meet all ADA requirements.	Increase concrete pad around drinking fountain and install sidewalk from tennis courts.	To be completed by 12/31/15.

**D. Parks**  
**5. Robe-Ann Park**  
**c. Aquatic Center**



**Summary of Facilities:**

Robe Ann Park has a Aquatic Center with a full size pool, a diving board and water slide. There is a large walk-in ramp on the northeast end of the pool and the City has installed a chair lift for access. The wading pool did not meet accessibility or pool grate standards, so it has been closed. Plans have been developed to replace it with a fully accessible splash pad. The splash pad was included as part of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources grant application and is being co-sponsored by the Greencastle Civic League, a not-for-profit, philanthropic organization. The pool is open to the public and many seasonal employees are hired every year to operate the facility.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Work Necessary for Compliance</i>	<i>Estimated Date of Completion</i>
Means of entry into pool do not meet ADA requirements.	Install accessible means of entry (chairlift).	Completed.
Faucets in women's and men's bathrooms are not easily workable.	Replace faucets.	To be completed by 12/31/14.
Toilet flush controls are not in compliance.	Replace toilets/handles.	To be completed by 12/31/14.
Urinals in men's restroom exceed maximum height and flushers are not easily workable.	Replace urinals and lower height.	To be completed by 12/31/14.
Bathrooms, shower room and employee restroom not in compliance (4.23).	Replace toilet handles and lower mirrors and dispensers to proper height.	To be completed by 12/31/14.



**D. Parks**  
**5. Robe-Ann Park**  
**d. Softball Field**



**Summary of Facilities:**

Robe-Ann Park has one lighted softball field. There is a concrete pad poured for one bleacher unit with room for multiple wheelchairs.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Work Necessary for Compliance</i>	<i>Estimated Date of Completion</i>
Concession sales counter threshold exceeds height requirement (7.2)(4.32.4).	Add lower counter on west side of building.	To be completed by 12/31/13.
Concrete surface around concession stand is broken, uneven, and without accessible surface.	Construct concrete pathway from parking area and bleacher area to concession stand. Repair and expand concrete pad around concession stand.	To be completed by 12/31/14.