

Decatur – Adams County Parks and Recreation 5 -Year Master Park Plan

Written by the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council, and Decatur Park Planning Committee.
Guided by the residents of Decatur and Adams County

2021 - 2026

A vibrant park system can revitalize an area by improving the quality of life and place for its residents. Therefore, using information gathered from more than 600 park users, this document was created to prioritize the needs and wants for the Decatur – Adams County Parks and Recreation system. It is intended to be used to help guide the process by providing an Action Plan that shows the priorities for improvements to the parks and their associated costs needed to move the Decatur-Adams County Parks system into the future.

Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation (231 E. Monroe St. Decatur, IN 46773)
and NIRCC (200 E Berry Street, Suite 230, Fort Wayne, IN 46802)

: 2021 - 2026

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Introduction



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Plan Organization

The Decatur-Adams County Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Park Plan is an outline of the goals and proposed actions of the City of Decatur and Adams County over the next five years. It was compiled through a collaboration of public input from town residents, special interest groups, local business owners, and the Decatur and Adams County Park Boards and Government. Park Plans are living documents and therefore, should be reviewed annually to ensure goals and proposed actions are still in line with the desires and capabilities of the Park Boards.

The Plan is a means to put the goals garnered through the planning process into an easy to follow and attainable action register that the local governments and residents may reference regarding additions or changes to the local Parks. The Park Boards should be contacted if there are any questions or concerns regarding the information presented in the Plan.

1.2 Definition of Planning Area

The planning area for the purposes of this Plan are Adams County political boundary and the City of Decatur within the County boundaries which has its own Park Board.

Adams County is 217,600 acres (340 sq. miles) and home to nearly 36,000 residents. The Parks are used by residents residing within Decatur and Adams County as well as others living in surrounding communities and counties. The department shares maintenance duties with other agencies and schools as needed in an effort to maximize resources. Figure 1 below identifies the planning area.

1.3 Goals of the Plan

The goals of the Park Plan are:

- Improve the potential for funding opportunities in the future.
- Collaboration with the public, and state and federal agencies to establish realistic goals for the Park.
- Prioritize the needs and wants of the community to help guide the development of the park system and spend funds where they will have the biggest impact.
- Develop a capital improvement plan.

Decatur - Adams County Parks Planning Area

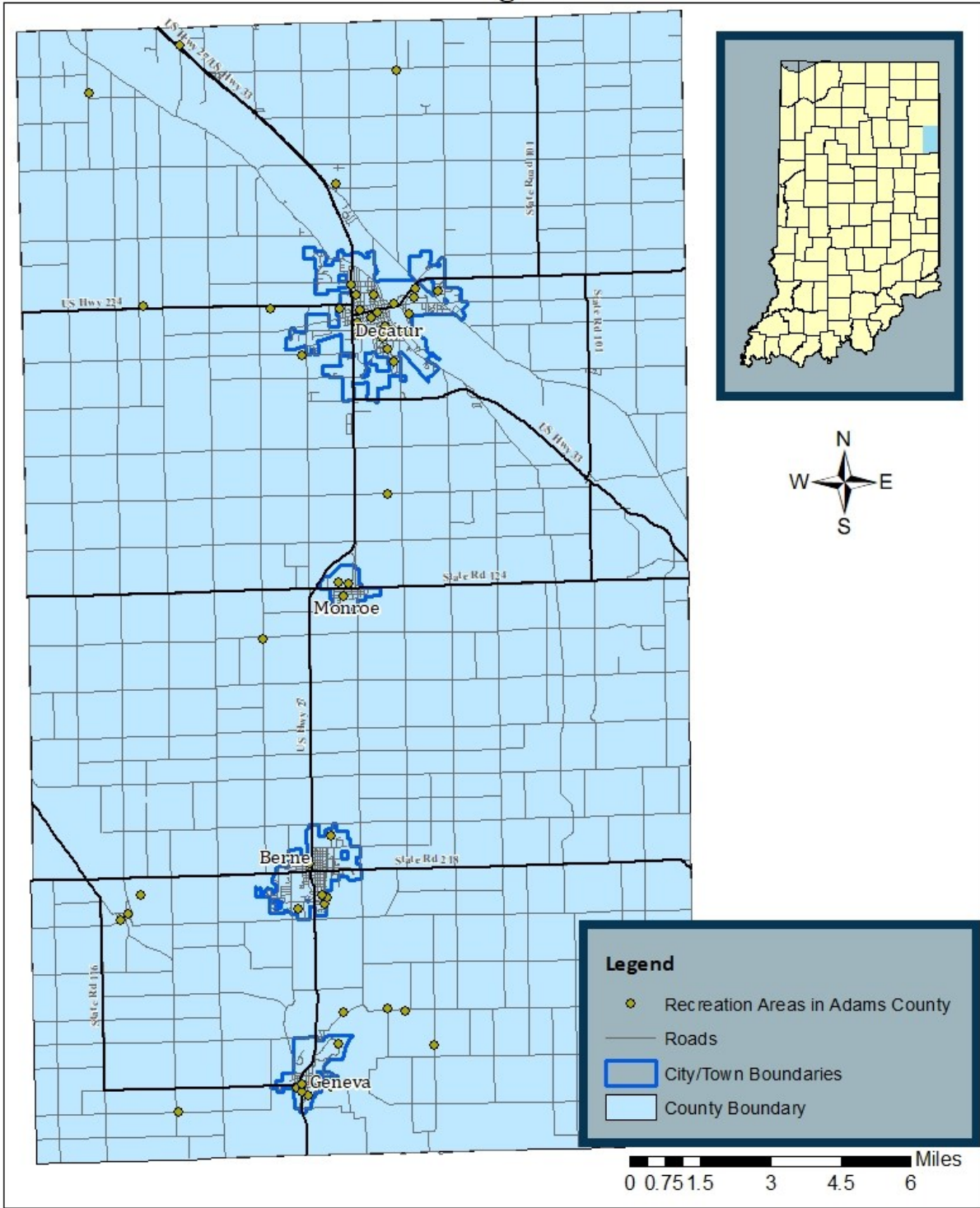


Figure 1: Decatur – Adams County Planning Area

1.4 Park Board History

The Decatur-Adams County Parks and Recreation department (DACPR) is controlled by two separate boards: the Decatur Parks and Recreation Board and the Adams County Parks and Recreation Board. The Adams County/Decatur park boards maintain full statutory compliance with IC 36-10-3, and will provide detailed record of this compliance on request. The two Boards have a long history of sharing park duties, equipment, staff, and programs. The joint Parks and Recreation department was created in an effort provide adequate services, park maintenance, and staff for both jurisdictions. This partnership has enabled the two Boards to put funding and resources to better use, as well as, has allowed for residents to access quality parks and green spaces no matter where they reside within the County.

The Decatur Parks Board was first created in 1970 and was re-established in 1982 to meet the requirements of Indiana Code 36-10-3: General Park and Recreation Law. The Adams County Parks Board was created in 1967 and was re-established in 1982 for the same reasons as above. The boards are comprised of a diverse group of area residents representing varying education and vocational backgrounds, and political affiliations. In 1974, the city of Decatur and Adams County created an agreement that would allow the two departments to share equipment and staff.

In 1972, the joint department created the Superintendent and Secretary positions through a contract. Two additional positions, Director of Leisure Services and the Leisure Services Manager were added in 2009.

The Decatur-Adams County Parks and Recreation department hired a planning consultant to write a comprehensive five-year Master Park Plan in 2011 because up to that point the DACPR department was not operated under the guidance of a Master Plan.

Decatur Park Board – Riverside Center 231 E Monroe Street, Decatur, IN 46733

President

Larry Isch

E-mail: larryi@centurylink.net

Term: 1970 – No Expiry

Member at Large

Kim McCord

E-mail: kimsmccord@hotmail.com

Term: 01/13/20 – 12/31/23

Vice President

Kelly Ehinger

E-mail: Ehinger@apls.lib.in.us

Term: 01/01/21 – 12/31/24

Member at Large

Richard Stimpson

E-mail: nordik@embarqmail.com

Term: 01/01/21 – 12/31/23

Secretary

Joan Sieftring

E-mail: jsieftring@embarqmail.com

Term: 01/01/21 – 12/31/24

Member at Large

Drew Derengowski

E-mail: derengskid@nadams.k12.in.us

Term: 01/13/20 – 12/31/22

Adams County Park Board– Riverside Center 231 E Monroe Street, Decatur, IN 46733

President

Randy Lehman

E-mail: randyplehman@comcase.net

Term: 01/01/20 – 12/31/23

Vice President

Jenny Long

E-mail: jenny_L1717@hotmail.com

Term: 01/01/19 – 12/31/21

Secretary

Marc Ripley

E-mail: ripleymarcj@gmail.com

Term: 01/01/21 – 12/31/24

Member at Large

Scott Bonifas

E-mail: bonifas7@embarqmail.com

Term: 01/01/18 – 12/31/24

Member at Large

Amy Rumschlag

E-mail: amyjohnson@purdue.edu

Term: 11/01/2008 – No Expiry

Member at Large

Melissa Fey

E-Mail: Linn Grove@live.com

Term: 01/01/18 – 12/31/21

1.5 Park and Recreation Department Staff

The DACPR Department currently has six full time employees including City Manager/Superintendent; Director of Leisure Services; Leisure Services Manager; Youth Sports Coordinator; Office Manager; Director of Maintenance. Additionally, the DACPR Department has 25 part-time and/or seasonal employees for summer grounds maintenance, lifeguards at the pool, and others.

1.6 Park Board Vision and mission Statement

1.6.1 Vision Statement

The Decatur and Adams County Park and Recreation Boards strive to provide beautiful, clean, and safe recreational spaces to enhance the quality of life and availability of assorted leisure activities for all citizens of Decatur and Adams County.

1.6.2 Mission Statement

The Decatur and Adams County Park and Recreation Boards strive to provide beautiful, clean, and safe recreational spaces and availability of assorted leisure activities to enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Decatur and Adams County.

1.7 Local Government Structure

The City of Decatur is governed by the City Council which is comprised of five members; four District members and one at-large member. The Decatur City Council develops City Ordinances, establishes and has authority over the City budget, public facilities and services, capital improvements, and the appointment of boards and commissions serving in the City's interest. The City Council works continuously to improve the quality of life and place in the City. The Council meets biweekly on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Adams County is governed by a three member County Commission from three districts and a seven-member County Council comprised of representatives from four Districts and three at-large members. The County Council develops County ordinances, establishes and has authority over the County budget, public facilities and services, capital improvements and the appointment of boards and commissions serving in the interest of the County. The County Council meets the second Tuesday of each month at 8:30 am at the Adams County Service Complex.

The Park Boards for Decatur and Adams County each make decisions regarding upgrades, maintenance, and new amenities at the parks, as well as, help to set the Park Boards' budgets.

1.8 Park and Recreation Budget

The majority of the park budgets come from tax-based town appropriations. The budget has adequately met the needs of the park over the past; however, many parks and facilities are in need of upgrades, and additional park(s) or park services are desired within Decatur and Adams County to offer recreational opportunities to meet the needs of all who reside within the park's jurisdiction. Table 1 shows the Park and Recreation Budgets from 2016 through 2019.

Table 1: Park and Recreation Budget 2016 - 2019

Decatur Parks and Recreation				
	<i>Beginning Cash Balance</i>	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Disbursements</i>	<i>End Cash Balance</i>
2016	\$255,074.95	\$506,269.73	\$553,446.39	\$207,898.29
2017	\$207,898.29	\$544,768.93	\$538,879.71	\$213,787.51
2018	\$213,787.51	\$642,215.13	\$597,995.94	\$258,006.70
2019	\$258,006.70	\$656,119.25	\$641,175.97	\$272,949.98
Park Non-reverting - Bus Trips				
2016	\$15,601.71	\$38,593.00	\$45,180.72	\$9,013.99
2017	\$9,013.99	\$5,325.00	\$6,641.76	\$7,697.23
2018	\$7,697.23	\$240.00	\$1,147.00	\$6,790.23
2019	\$6,790.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,790.23
Park Non-reverting - Ball Parks				
2016	\$6,820.00	\$7,070.00	\$2,273.19	\$11,616.81
2017	\$11,616.81	\$7,350.00	\$2,137.19	\$16,829.62
2018	\$16,829.62	\$6,900.00	\$5,182.99	\$18,546.63
2019	\$18,546.63	\$4,700.00	\$0.00	\$23,246.63

Adams County Parks and Recreation				
	<i>Beginning Cash Balance</i>	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Disbursements</i>	<i>End Cash Balance</i>
2016	\$116,983.07	\$58,265.34	\$122,464.88	\$52,783.53
2017	\$52,783.53	\$122,098.60	\$113,289.01	\$61,593.12
2018	\$61,593.12	\$124,428.13	\$90,537.49	\$95,483.79
2019	\$95,483.79	\$126,633.10	\$107,500.92	\$114,615.97
Park Non-reverting Capital				
2016			N/A	
2017	\$767.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$767.92
2018	\$767.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$767.92
2019	\$767.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$767.92
Park Non-reverting Operating				
2016	\$108,188.25	\$62,510.10	\$71,124.62	\$99,573.73
2017	\$99,573.73	\$60,499.21	\$70,461.33	\$89,611.61
2018	\$89,611.61	\$66,187.41	\$79,397.10	\$76,401.92
2019	\$76,401.92	\$75,694.00	\$86,931.40	\$66,164.52

1.9 Five-Year Park Master Plan Advisory Committee

To help guide the Five Year Master Park Plan for Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation an advisory committee of stakeholders, City and County Government, and Park Board members was put together. The Advisory Committee is comprised of individuals to effectively represent all demographics of the project area and live within the Adams County planning area. Below is a list of who is on the Advisory Committee.

Advisory Committee

Larry Isch – Decatur Park Board President

Kelly Ehinger – Adams Public Library System/Decatur Park Board

Richard Stimpson – Decatur Park Board

Randy Lehman – Adams County Park Board President/South Adams Trails Board President

Scott Bonifas – Adams County Park Board

Amy Rumschlag – Adams County Park Board

Jeremy Gilbert – Decatur Superintendent

Sue Millholland – Decatur Parks and Recreation Director of Maintenance

Chris Krull – Decatur – Adams County Parks and Recreation Director of Leisure Services

Ryan Green – Decatur – Adams County Parks and Recreation Office Manager

Dan Rickord – Mayor of Decatur

Existing Conditions



2.0 Existing Conditions

2.1 Natural Features and Landscape

2.1.1 Geology

The landscape of northeastern Indiana is directly influenced by the last great glaciation which occurred over 14,000 years ago; the Wisconsinan glaciation. The glaciers filled and dammed rivers and flattened the rolling hills that were once present in northern Indiana. As the glaciers melted, they deposited rock, dirt, and sand that they picked up while traveling across the landscape. In the project area, scoured till-like sediments, locally capped by lacustrine silt and clay were left by the glaciers.

The bedrock in northern Indiana was deposited during the Devonian Period some 400 million years ago. The deposited rocks consist mostly of sedimentary rock. The predominant bedrock of the project area is primarily argillaceous dolomite, dolomite, and limestone. The last lobe of the Wisconsin glaciation, the Erie Lobe, left a sequence of deposits known as the Lagro Formation, which is responsible for the clay-rich composition of the soils present within northern Indiana today. The surficial geology overlaying the bedrock in the project area consists of mostly silt, clay, loam or a combination of the different soil types.

The project area is located almost entirely within the Central Till Plain physiographic region and Bluffton Till Plain Sub-Region. The topography of the area is relatively homogenous. The average elevation is around 800 in the northern portion of the county and 840 in the southern portion of the county. There are some areas where the slope of the land may exceed 2% slightly, specifically near the St. Marys and Wabash Rivers, but overall the landscape of the project area is unremarkable.

2.1.2 Deciduous Forest

Adams County is located within the Eastern Temperate Forest ecological region and is dominated by Beech, Maple and Basswood trees. Adams County is a quarantine zone for the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) as designated by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) due to several sightings of the invasive insect that has infested many Ash trees located within residential areas, and even large forest stands. The IN DNR EAB locator map has several locations in Decatur and along the rivers marked as areas where the EAB has been identified. Due to the loss of Ash trees within Adams County, other tree plantings have occurred. However, expanding the tree planting program within Adams County through various grants and donations could help to improve the loss of tree cover due to the EAB.

2.1.4 Hydrography

Adams County is located within three 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUCs) including the St. Marys River Watershed (04100004), which encompasses the majority of Adams County, the Auglaize River Watershed (04100007) in the northeastern tip of the county and both of which are part of the greater Western Lake Erie Basin. The southern portion of the county from the Ohio state line, through Berne to Vera Cruz is located in the Wabash River Watershed (05120101) and is part of the greater Mississippi River watershed which outlets into the Gulf of Mexico. There are two significant rivers that flow through the County which increases the ability for outdoor enthusiasts to view wildlife, birds, go fishing, or paddle the waterways.

There are 469 small ponds located within the political boundaries of Adams County though most are smaller than one acre (150 waterbodies are larger than 1 acre). Three Decatur Parks have large ponds including a 5-acre pond at Kekionga Park, a 5-acre pond at Belmont Pond, and a 4.7-acre pond at the St.

Marys Nature Preserve in Decatur, both of which have fishing piers that are used regularly. Additionally, a 2.2-acre pond is located in Lynn Grove County Park.

With two large rivers and several streams and creeks located in Adams County there are several areas that are located within a 100 year flood hazard as identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These floodways are often ideal for open green space and passive recreation areas. The Adams County and Decatur Parks and Recreation have seven parks located within flood hazard areas. Most recently, the Decatur Parks and Recreation installed a Nature Preserve along the St. Marys River which floods each spring and is a great space to hold water so as to not cause flood damage to real property.

Two parks in particular were installed on land purchased through a FEMA grant. Modifications to traditional park design has been made at the St. Marys Nature Preserve including pervious parking, invasive plant clearing an installation of additional trees and water resistant vegetation. Kekionga Park is mostly green space with a small pavilion and play area. It also houses a large pond that can help with water retention when floodwaters rise. The other parks located in flood plains are located high on the banks and have not flooded in recent history.

Figure 2 on the next page shows the location of the water bodies and their flood hazards in Adams County.

2.1.2 Soils

Approximately 78% of the County is comprised of three major soil types including Pm - Pewamo silty clay with 0 – 2 percent slopes; BgmA - Blount silt loam which has 0 to 1 percent slopes; BgmB – Blount silt loam which is 2 to 4 percent slopes. These soils types are generally somewhat to very poorly drained. See Table 2 for a full description of these soils.

Table 2: Soil Association Description

Soil Association Symbol	Soil Association Name	Association Description
Pm	Pewamo silty clay	Very poorly drained, nearly level, classified as prime farmland if drained, parent material is Wisconsin till derived from limestone and shale under till plains on toeslopes. 0-12 inches to water table. 0-2% slope and classified as hydric.
BgmA	Blount silt loam (ground moraine, 0 – 2% slopes)	Somewhat poorly drained, nearly level, classified as prime farmland if drained, parent material is Wisconsin till derived from limestone and shale under moraines on till plains on footslopes. 6-12 inches to water table. 0-2% slope and classified as hydric.
BgmB	Blount silt loam (ground moraine, 0 – 2% slopes)	Somewhat poorly drained, nearly level, classified as prime farmland if drained, parent material is Wisconsin till derived from limestone and shale under ground moraines on till plains on summit and backslopes. 6-12 inches to water table. 2-4% slope and classified as hydric.

Of note is the soils listed above are classified by the Natural Resource Conservation Service as hydric based on them meeting one or more field indicators of hydric soils in the United States. These soil types may limit the use of some areas within parks and may indicate the historic presence of wetlands.

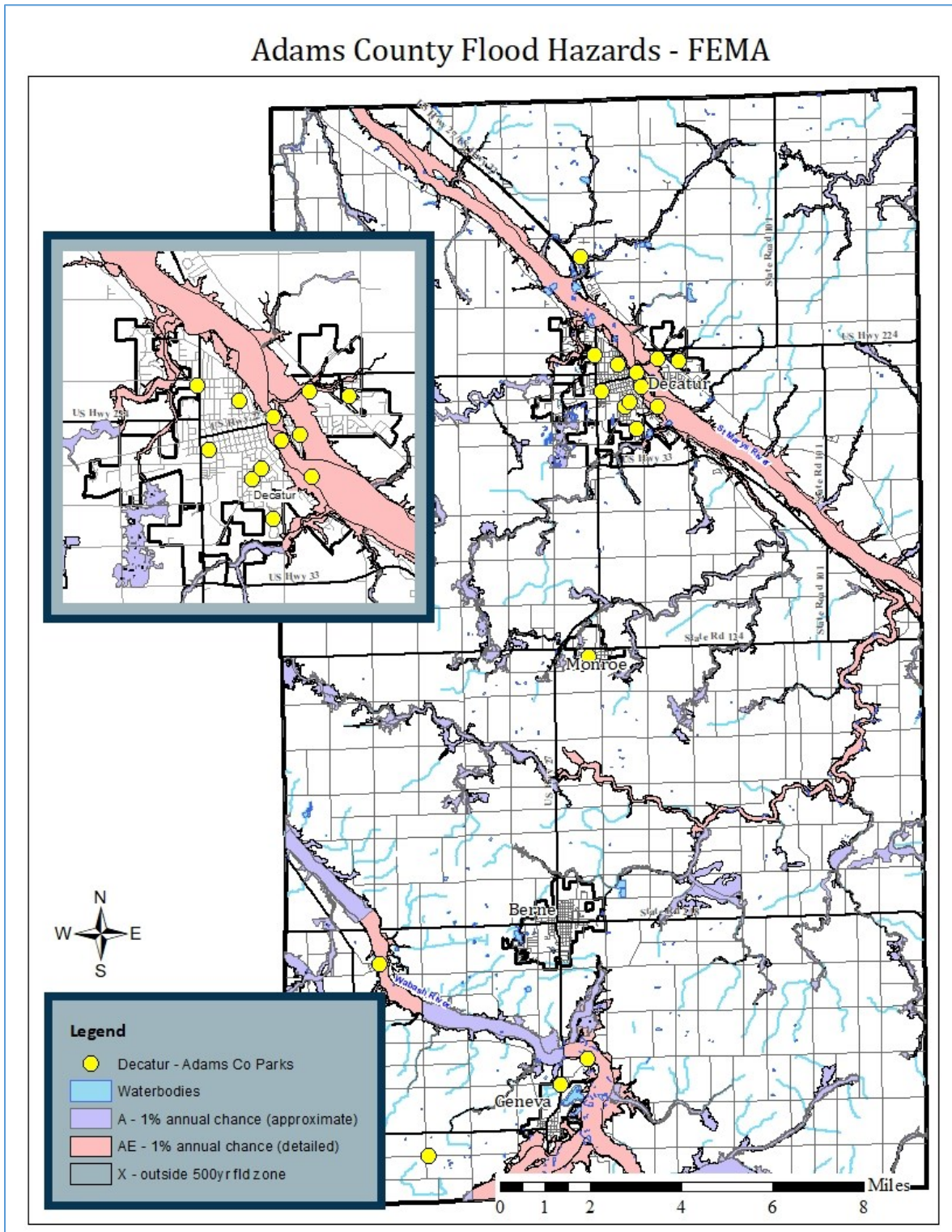


Figure 2: Adams County Water Resources and Flood Hazards

2.1.5 Wildlife, Birds, and Aquatic Life

The predominate wildlife present within Adams County are deer, raccoon, squirrels, opossum, and coyote. One may also observe the presence of fox and mink. Many birds of prey are found in the area as well including owls, hawks, and more recently bald eagles, especially along the Wabash River corridor where several nesting pairs have been found. With two large rivers running through Adams County fishing is a common hobby. There are several species of fish found in both the St. Marys and Wabash Rivers including some sport fish such as Walleye, Small and Largemouth Bass, Black and White Crappie, common carp, and spotted gar. There are several endangered species present in Adams County including mollusks, birds, reptiles and a mammal. Table 3 below shows which animals are listed on either the state or federal endangered species list.

Table 3: Endangered Species in Adams County

Species Name	Common Name	Status	Rank
Mollusk			
<i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>	Snuffbox	LE;SE	G3; S1
<i>Obovaria subrotundra</i>	Round Hickorynut	C; SE	G4; S1
<i>Pleurobema clava</i>	Clubshell	LE; SE	G1; G2; S1
<i>Ptychobranchnus fasciolaris</i>	Kidneyshell	SSC	G4; G5; S2
<i>Toxolasma lividus</i>	Purple Lillput	C; SSC	G3; Q; S2
<i>Villosa fabalis</i>	Rayed Bean	LE; SE	G2; S1
Reptiles			
<i>Clonophis kirtlandii</i>	Kirtland's Snake	SE	G2: S2
Bird			
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	SSC	G5; S2
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike	SE	G4; S3; B
Mammal			
<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Least Weasel	SSC	G5; S2

LE - Federally endangered; C - Federal candidate for listing; SE - State endangered; SSC - State species of special concern; G1 - critically imperiled globally; G2 - imperiled globally; G3 - rare or uncommon globally; G4 - widespread and abundant globally but with long-term concerns; G5 - widespread and abundant globally; Q - uncertain rank globally; S1 - critically imperiled in state; S2 - imperiled in state; S3 - rare or uncommon in state; B - breeding status

2.1.6 Land Use

According to the 2011 National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD) Adams County is dominated by agriculture land, as is the surrounding area of Decatur as can be seen in Figure 3 below. Typical crops grown in the area are rotated between corn and soybeans and the fields drain via drainage tiles to open ditches and streams. Many farms are conventionally tilled which results in sediment loss from the fields, however more farmers are beginning to implement no or limited tillage practices which reduces farm field runoff. The majority of the land use within the town/city boundaries is classified as low intensity developed land with little developed land classified as high intensity. Most of the medium to high intensity developed

land is located within Decatur. The parks within Adams County are classified by the NLCD as developed open space.

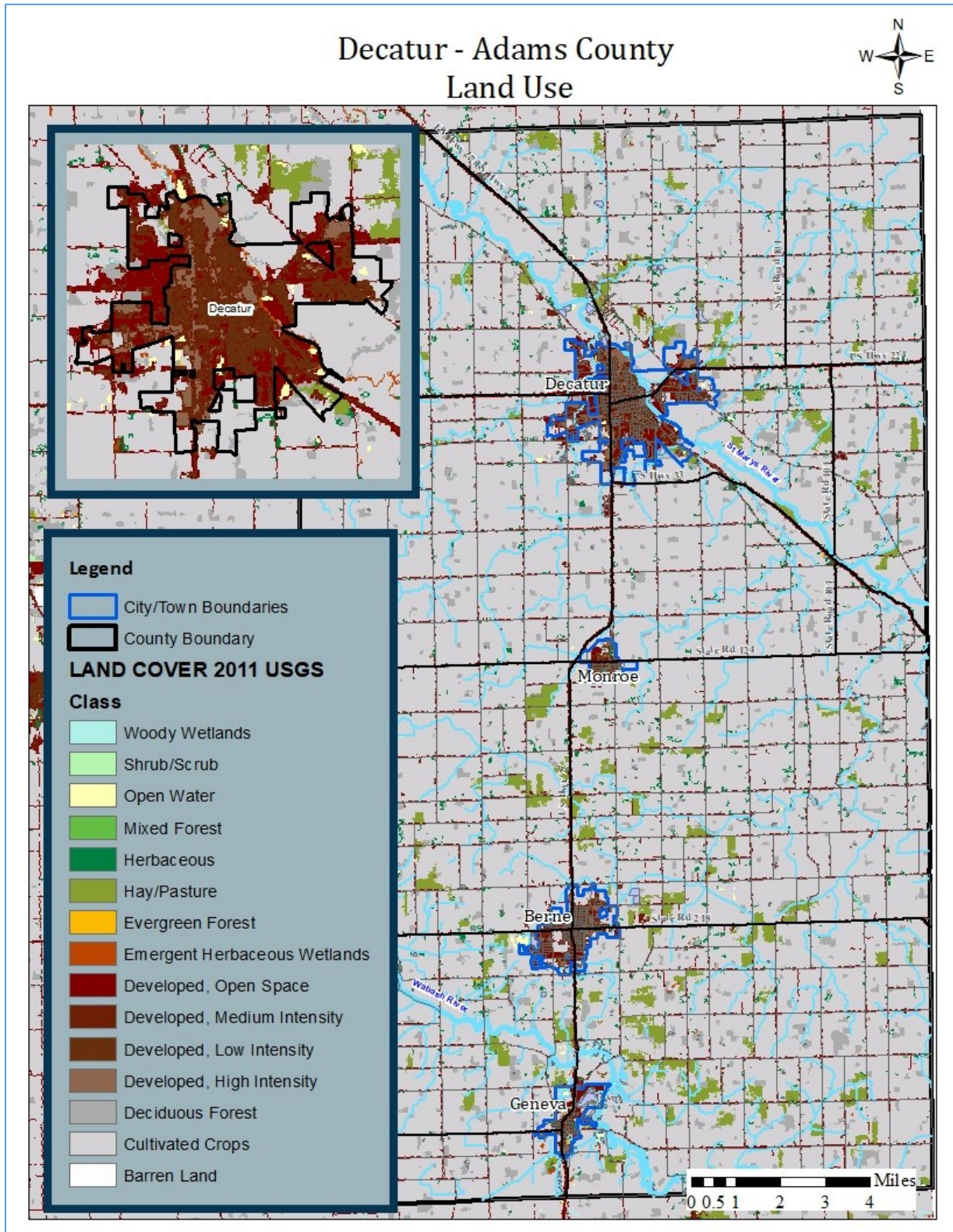


Figure 3: Land Use in Adams County

2.2 Man-made, Historical, and Cultural Characteristics

Adams County was created by State statute in February 1835 and officially organized on March 1, 1836. The County seat was founded in 1836 when Samuel Rugg, and prominent business man who later became a state Senator, offered for the County seat to be situated on his land which consisted of four church lots, half an acre public square, 1 acre seminary, and two acres for a cemetery. Rugg also paid to locate the Commissioners to the new County seat and to furnish a house to hold official business. The County seat, Decatur, was likely named for Commodore Stephen Decatur, Jr. who was an American naval officer who served in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812.

Many family and locally owned businesses are scattered throughout Adams County, and especially in downtown Decatur. The residents of Decatur take pride in their vibrant community and the City strives to provide a welcoming community for visitors and many amenities to ensure an exceptional quality of life for its residents. Decatur has a booming art focus with a community makers space, and the Decatur Sculpture Tour. There are also several festivals held in Decatur that celebrate the city and county's vibrant history including the Motorsports Festival, Germanfest, Dekegger Homebrew and BBQ Festival, Christmas Open House, the Callithumpian Festival, the Decatur Highland Games, Kekionga Festival (the latter two held in Riverside Park in Decatur), a weekly Farmer's Market, and summer concert series. Today, Adams County is home to a large Amish community who not only supplement the local economy but contribute greatly to the local culture with farming, hand-made crafts, and homemade foods.

2.2.1 Commercial and Industrial

Adams County has a booming industrial sector and a long list of businesses in the food processing industry including Red Gold Products, Bunge North America and three others. Table 4 lists the major industries located in Adams County. In addition to the larger industries, Adams County also is filled with small family owned restaurants, shops, farm stands, and more.

Table 4: Adams County Industry

Industry	Number of Businesses	Est. Sales
Ag/Forestry/Fishing/Hunting	26	\$14.77M
Mineral/Gas/oil extraction	2	\$894k
Construction	67	\$53M
Manufacturing - Food/Textiles	7	\$354M
Manufacturing - Chemical/Fuel/Paper/Plastic/Wood	10	\$139M
Manufacturing - Electronics/Furniture/Machinery/Metal/Misc	39	\$279M

Information gathered from the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership (<https://neindiana.com/doing-business-here/target-industries>)

2.2.2 Transportation Links

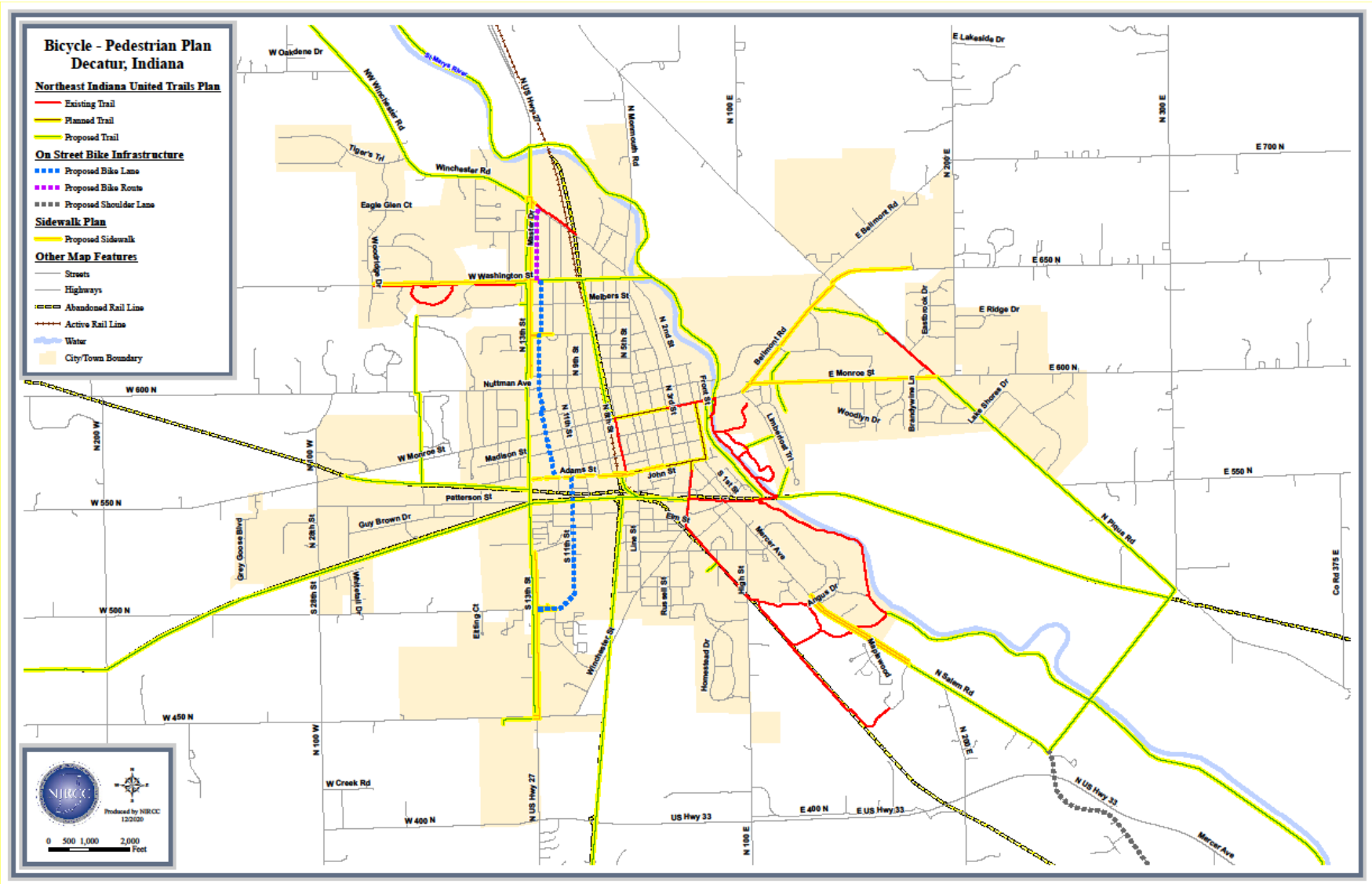
Adams county is a prime location for businesses and individuals as it sits amongst four Indiana state roads, three U.S. Routes, and one railroad line. State roads include 101 which connects the county north to Angola; 124 which connects the county to Bluffton and I69 to the west and Lima, OH to the east; 218 which connects to I69 to the west and US Route 127 to the east; 116 which connects Jay County to the City to Geneva, Linn Grove, and Bluffton to the west. U.S. Routes in Adams County include 27 which connects to Fort Wayne to the north and Richmond to the south; 224 which connects to I69 and Huntington to the west and Van Wert, OH to the east and 33 which connects to 127 and St.

Marys, OH to the east. The rail line in Adams County is operated by RailAmerica and operates from Decatur to just southeast of Fort Wayne. The train's primary use is to haul goods from Central Soya located in northern Decatur.

In addition to motorized transportation the City of Decatur and South Adams Trails group have been working to increase its active transportation network. There are currently approximately 11.5 miles of multi-use trails in Adams County. This includes 7.61 miles managed by Decatur Parks and Recreation, approximately 1.75 miles managed by South Adams Trails and the remaining trails (2.14 miles) are owned by the IN DNR or privately owned.

The Bike and Pedestrian Trail Plan compiled by the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council identifies a proposed 2 mile bicycle shoulder lane on Master Dr from N 2nd Street just east of US 27, south to 12th Street to Adams Street then south on 11th Street to Bollman Street which connects back to US 27. This shoulder lane will provide a safe pedestrian path from the north side of Decatur to the shopping plaza and Walmart on the south side of town. The Trail Plan also identifies four miles of planned trails within Adams County including trail connections in Decatur and the completion of the South Adams Trails trail connecting Geneva and Berne. Finally, the Trail Plan also identifies nearly 87 miles of proposed trails within the county. Figure 4 is a map depicting the trails and sidewalks (existing, planned and proposed) in Decatur, and Figure 5 is a map depicting the same for Adams County.

An extensive sidewalk inventory has not been mapped. Nearly all of Decatur's parks have a sidewalk that connects the park to residential areas. The smaller towns, including Monroe which is home to one County Park does not have sidewalks leading to the park. However, this is a small community and travel via street shoulder is relatively safe for park visitors. NIRCC has worked with Decatur to determine locations for sidewalks in the future. Figure 4 below shows the location of the planned and proposed sidewalk network in Decatur.



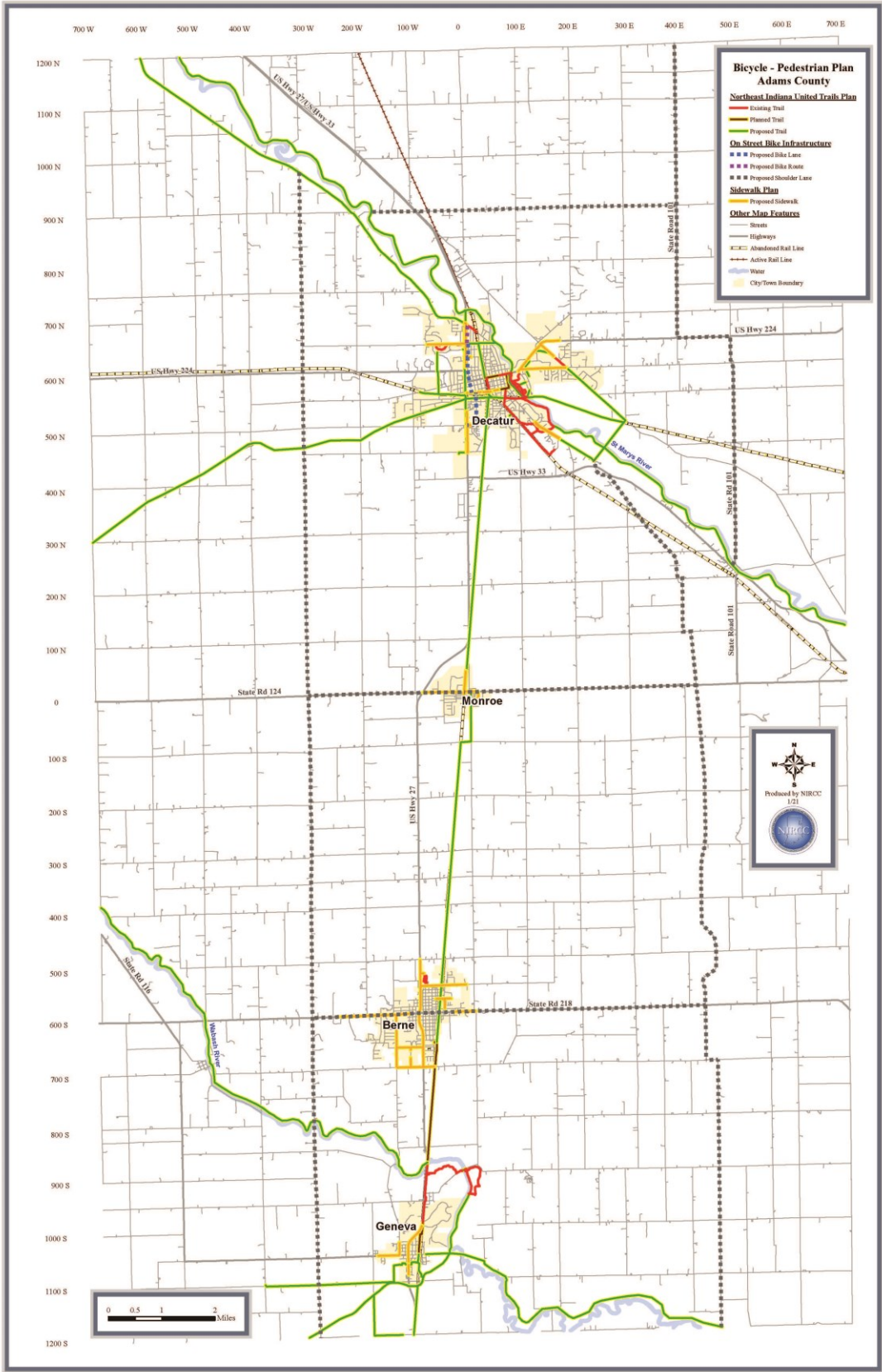


Figure 5: NIRC Bike and Ped Trail Plan for Adams County

2.2.3 Historic Adams County

The Indiana State Historic Architectural and Archeological Research Database (SHAARD) shows greater than 500 historic sites and/or structures located within Adams County that are rated as “contributing” 151 historic sites and/or structures rated as “notable” and 64 that are rated as “Outstanding”. Of these structures 11 are also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Table 5 is a list of those national historic places.

Table 5: List of Properties on National Registry of Historic Places

Name	Address	City	Township	National Registry Survey Number
Gene Stratton Porter Cabin	200 E. 6th Street	Geneva	Wabash	0017
John S. Bowers House	104 Marchal St.	Decatur	Washington	0340
Ben Colter Polygonal Barn	IN101 S of Piqua Rd	Pleasant Mills	St. Marys	1068
Geneva Downtown Commercial District	144-456 East Line Rd	Geneva	Wabash	1642
Lenhart Farm	6929 N Piqua Rd	Decatur	Root	1671
Ceylon Covered Bridge	Limberlost County Park	Ceylon	Wabash	1868
Charles Dugan House	420 West Monroe St	Decatur	Washington	1949
Adams County Court House	112 South 2nd St	Decatur	Washington	2082
Grand Rapids and IN Railroad Depot	111 North 7th St	Decatur	Washington	2448
County Homes of Indiana, 1832 - 1966	Throughout Indiana			2528
Residential Planning and Development in IN	Throughout Indiana			2566

2.2.4 Adams County Zoning

The majority of Adams County is zoned for agriculture, however within the cities and towns there are areas specifically for commercial, industrial and residential uses. It should be noted the majority of the Town of Geneva is designated residential, but Decatur and Monroe have a mix of zoned areas. Figure 6 below is a zoning map for Adams County. It can be assumed that the area of Adams County not specifically identifies is zoned agriculture, with the exception of Berne, though the zoning information was not available for use in this Plan.

Decatur - Adams County Zoning

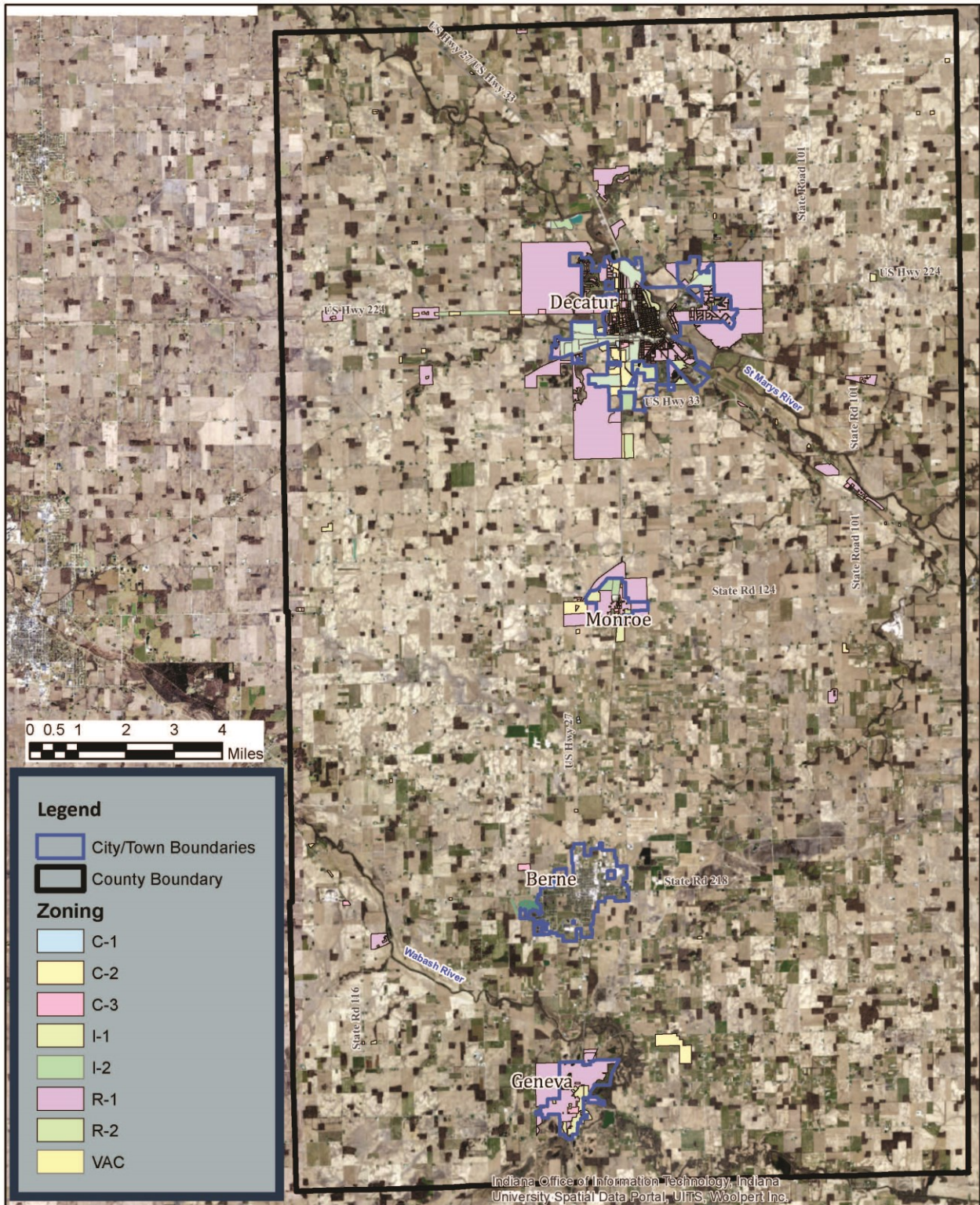


Figure 6: Adams County Zoning Map

2.3 Social and Economic Factors

This Section will discuss the demographic and economic influences in Adams County and Decatur. All data described was taken from the 2010 Census unless otherwise stated.

2.3.1 Population

According to the U.S Census the population of Decatur and Adams County was 9,405 and 34,387, respectively, as of April, 2010. The population of Adams County has increased by 2.27% since the 2000 census, however the Decatur population has decreased by 1.35% since the 2000 census. The City of Decatur has recognized that its population is on the decline and is working hard to improve quality of life and place within the City to retain and attract new talent to the city. The city's efforts may be paying off as the 2019 population estimate (9,628) shows an increase of almost 2% from the 2010 census. Figure 7 shows graphically the population change between the past two US Censuses in Decatur and Adams County.

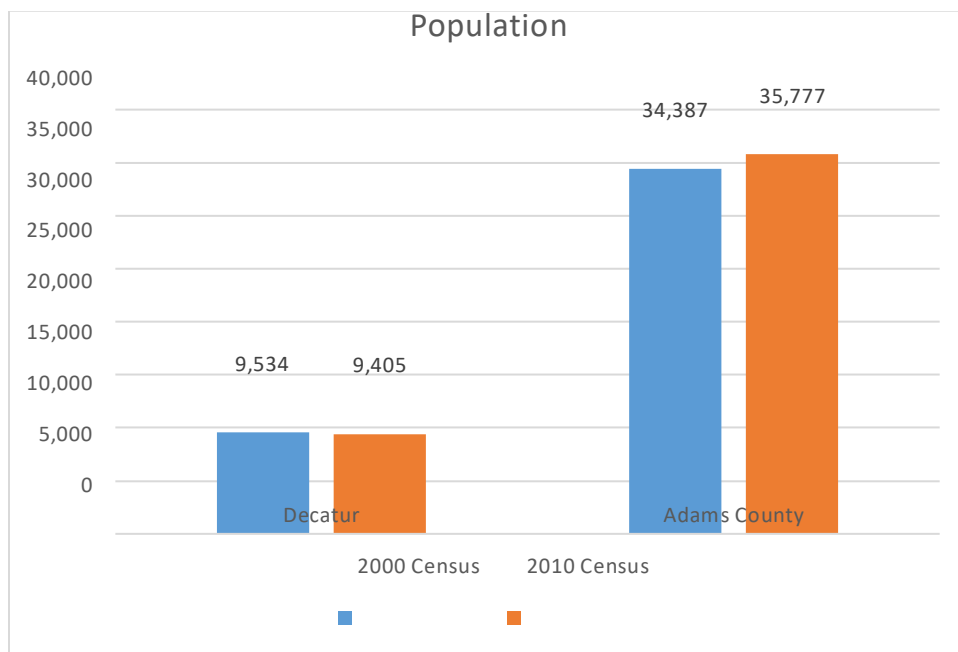


Figure 7: Change in Population

2.3.2 Age Distribution

The majority of people living within Decatur are age 18 to 65 years old (51.2%) which is close to the percentage of same aged people in Indiana as a whole (54.4%). However, while the majority of people in Adams County is between the ages of 18 and 65, the percentage is lower at 43.4%. The difference in age distribution between Decatur, Indiana, and Adams County is due to the large number of children in the County (40.7%) compared to the percent of children in Decatur (30.9%) and Indiana (29.5%). The high number of children in the County may be due to the large Amish population that resides in Adams County. Amish families often are larger than “English” families and according to AmishAmerica.com have an average of seven children per family. According to the Young Center at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania the Amish population doubles approximately every 20 years. For Indiana, the Amish population increased from 23,405 in 1992 to 54,825 in 2018. Since the County has a higher number of children it is important that the County park system offer recreational opportunities that appeal to the younger population such as play equipment, sports facilities, and open green spaces.

There is a slightly greater population of persons 65 or older living in Decatur than in Adams County or Indiana. This should be considered when Decatur Parks and Recreation are planning programs for Decatur residents to ensure that there are suitable activities for the aging population. Figure 8 below shows the percentage of age distribution in Decatur, Adams County, and Indiana according to 2010 US Census data.

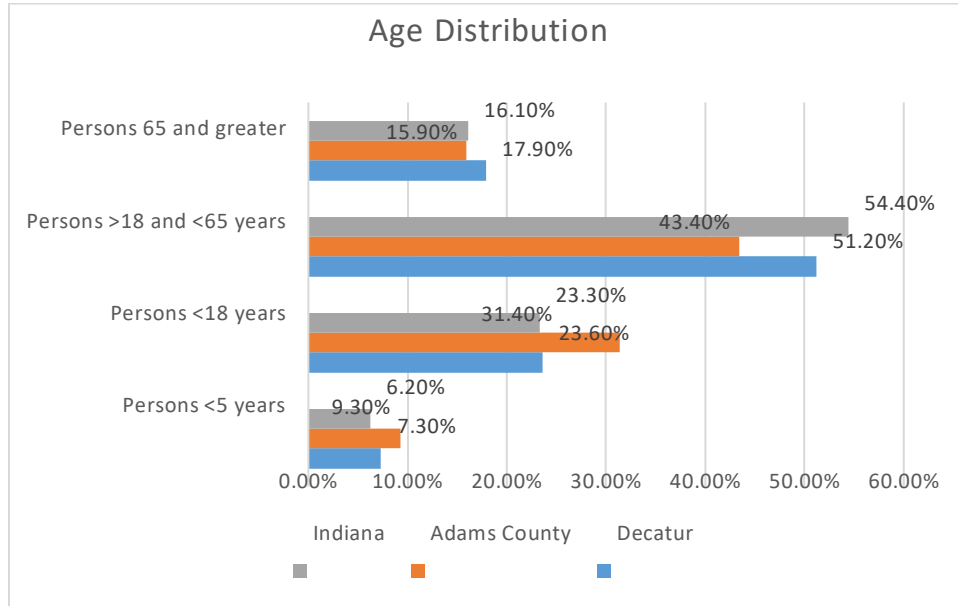


Figure 8: Median Age of Decatur, Adams County, and Indiana (2000 and 2010)

2.3.3 Race

The City of Decatur and Adams County are less diverse than Indiana as a whole as 97.8% of the residents of Adams County identify as white alone according to the 2010 Census. Table 6 below shows the distribution of races in Decatur, Adams County and Indiana.

Table 6: Distribution of Race in Decatur, Adams County, and Indiana

Race	Decatur	Adams County	Indiana
White alone	95.20%	97.80%	84.80%
Black or African American alone	1.20%	0.60%	9.90%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0.10%	0.30%	0.40%
Asian alone	0.00%	0.40%	2.60%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone	0.00%	<0.1%	0.10%
Two or More races	0.50%	0.90%	2.20%
Hispanic or LatinX	7.30%	4.50%	7.30%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	91.10%	93.60%	78.40%

2.3.4 Disabilities

The estimated population living with disabilities of any kind below the age of 65 years old in Decatur is 2.1% greater than the estimate in Indiana and 3.9% greater than the estimate of those living with a

disability below the age of 65 in Adams County as a whole. There is a high margin of error in these estimates. However, due to the significant difference in estimates in Decatur as compared to Adams County and Indiana it is important that Decatur offer accessible play spaces for people of all abilities. Therefore, it can be assumed that the level of accessibility required for Decatur residents is extremely important and the Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation should strive to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act to the greatest extent possible. Figure 9 depicts the percentage of people living with a disability in Decatur, Adams County, and Indiana.

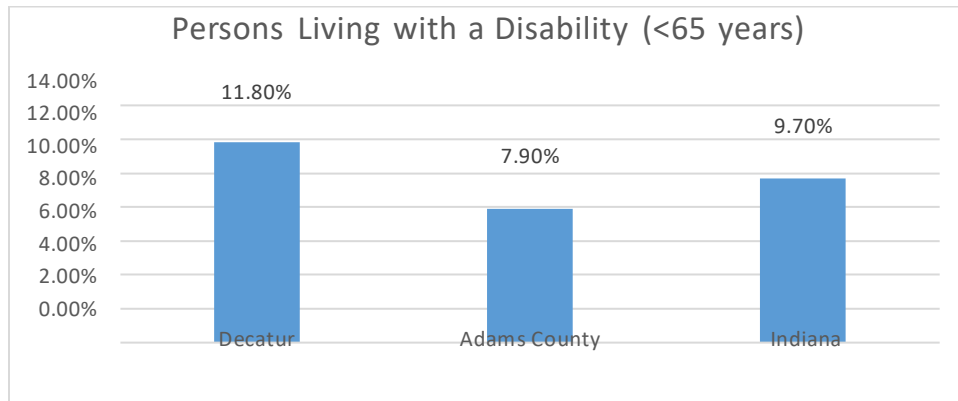


Figure 9: Percentage of Population Living with Disabilities

2.3.5 Socioeconomic Factors

Median household income in Decatur is lower than both Adams County and Indiana by approximately 14% and 20%, respectively. Additionally, the percentage of families living in poverty in Decatur is greater than those living in Adams County as a whole, and approximately 2% greater than Indiana. The higher poverty rate in Decatur may be due to the fact that estimates show fewer Decatur residents with a four-year degree (12.9%) than those in Adams County (15.5%) or Indiana (26.5%). Table 7 shows the income and poverty level and Table 8 shows the education level for residents of Decatur, Adams County, and Indiana.

Table 7: Income and Poverty Levels

	Decatur	Adams County	Indiana
Median Income	\$45,149	\$52,504	\$56,303
Per capita income	\$23,059	\$23,316	\$29,777
Persons in poverty	13.90%	12.60%	11.90%

Table 8: Education Levels

	Decatur	Adams County	Indiana
High School grad or higher	90.00%	84.70%	88.80%
Bachelor's degree or higher	12.90%	15.50%	26.50%

2.3.6 Unemployment

According to IndianaStats 2019 data, the unemployment rate for Decatur’s population 16 years of age and older is 3.9%, as compared to Adams County’s unemployment rate of 2.7% and Indiana at 3.3%. The number of unemployed in Decatur and Adams County are within 0.6% of that of the state as a whole.

2.3.7 Occupations

Due to the rural nature of Adams County the top industry is agriculture related. Farm proprietors employ nearly 15,000 individuals. Not taking agriculture into account the private sector employs over 17,000 individuals in Adams County with manufacturing (5,246) construction (2,329), healthcare (1,145) and retail (1,936) being the leading employers in Adams County. It should also be noted that the average drive time to work for Decatur and Adams County residents is approximately 20 minutes. This could lead one to believe that many people work outside of the City or County in larger, nearby communities such as Fort Wayne. Figure 10 shows the various occupations that Adams County residents have and Table 9 shows the mean drive time to work for residents of Decatur, Adams County, and Indiana.

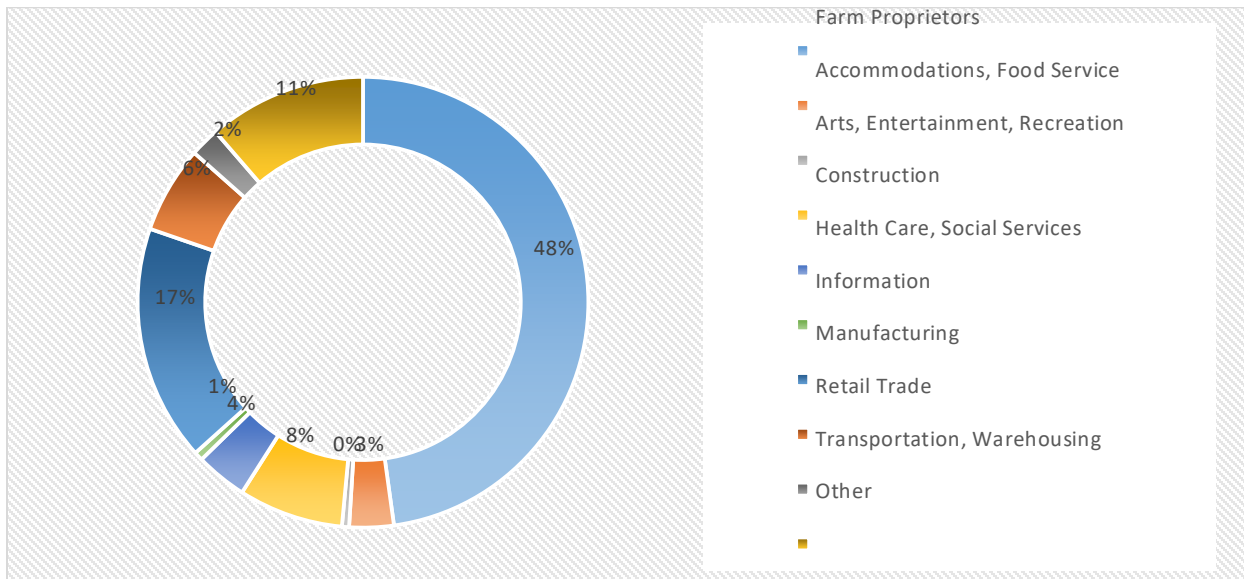


Figure 10: Graphical Comparison of Occupation in Adams County

Table 9: Drive-time to Work in Decatur, Adams County, and Indiana

	Decatur	Adams County	Indiana
Mean travel time to work age 16+ (minutes)	19.6	21.9	23.8

2.3.8 Summary of Findings

Below is a summary of the findings related to the social and economic analysis that may influence park planning:

- The population of Decatur declined between the 2000 and 2010 Census but is rising according to estimates
- Adams County has a larger number of children likely a result of the large Amish community
- The median income is substantially lower in Decatur than in Adams County or Indiana
- The poverty level is 2% higher in Decatur than in Indiana
- The estimated percentage of individuals with disabilities is greater in Decatur than in Adams County or Indiana.
- The percentage of individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher in Decatur is lower than in Adams County or Indiana
- The majority of workers in Adams County work in agriculture, though manufacturing is also a large employer, as is healthcare, and retail.

Park Inventory



3.0 Inventory

3.1 Parks Located within Adams County

There are several recreational opportunities available within Adams County. According to Indiana Maps data obtained from the IN DNR there are 51 different locations offering outdoor recreation including schools and churches, which are not always available to the public, and some private organizations that may require a fee. However, there are several recreation opportunities that are available to the public through other ownership including from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, ACREs Land Trust, and the Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation.

To have an understanding of how the public uses the parks within Adams County, specifically those that are owned by DACPR, a public survey was made available between November 23 and December 31, 2020. The survey was advertised via the websites for the DACPR and City of Decatur and it was announced via a press release sent to two local newspapers the Decatur Daily Democrat and Berne Witness. The press release was also sent to the Adams County Economic Development Corporation, Decatur Chamber of Commerce, Geneva Town Hall, Monroe Town Hall and the Belmont High School Radio 103.5. Paper surveys were available at the DACPR office in Decatur and they were available at two events involving the Amish Community in Adams County including a library and vaccination workshop. It should be noted that only one paper copy survey was completed and returned which was manually entered into the on-line survey by DACPR staff. There were 604 respondents to the survey and their responses are incorporated into the park inventory below where applicable and the full survey responses can be found in Appendix A.

The following sections will identify the public facilities and amenities located in Adams County. Each section will be divided into subsections according to park ownership. Figure 11 is a map showing the location of the 51 amenities identified in IndianaMap.org as provided by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Adams County Recreational Facilities

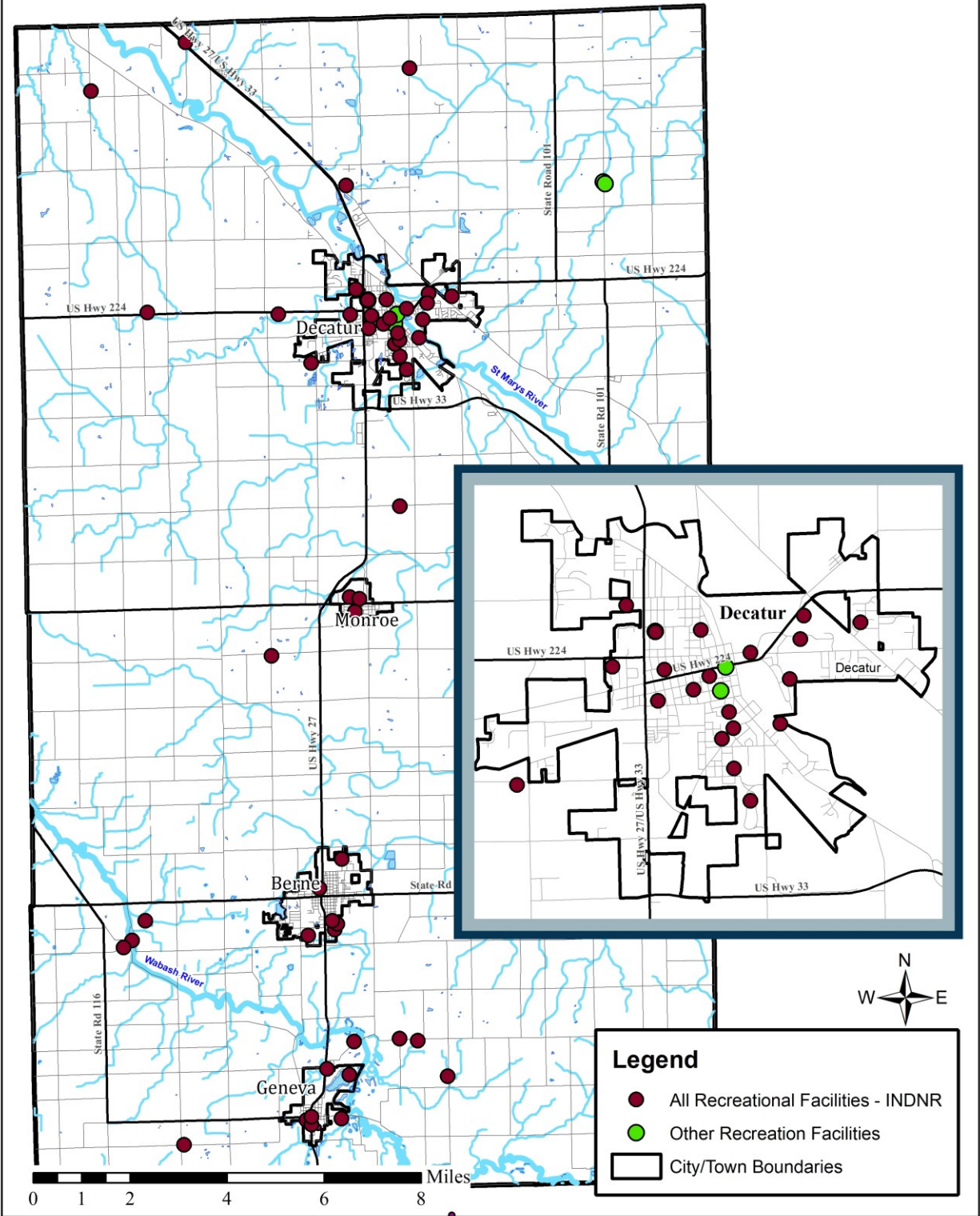


Figure 11: Adams County Recreational Facilities – IndianaMap.org

3.2 Decatur Parks and Recreation

The Decatur Parks and Recreation Board have jurisdiction over fourteen parks and the 10 mile trail system within Decatur's city limits. The DACPR recently acquired the playground at the NW school property in Decatur and they maintain the exterior amenities at the property. The DACPR also maintains the activities available in the Adams County Service Complex and maintains Founders Park (City of Decatur) and Belmont Pond (North Adams Schools). The Park Planning Committee conducted an inventory of the parks. The results of the inventory are described below. Figure 12 below shows the location of the parks within Decatur that are managed by the Parks and Recreation Board.

Decatur Parks and Recreation Facilities

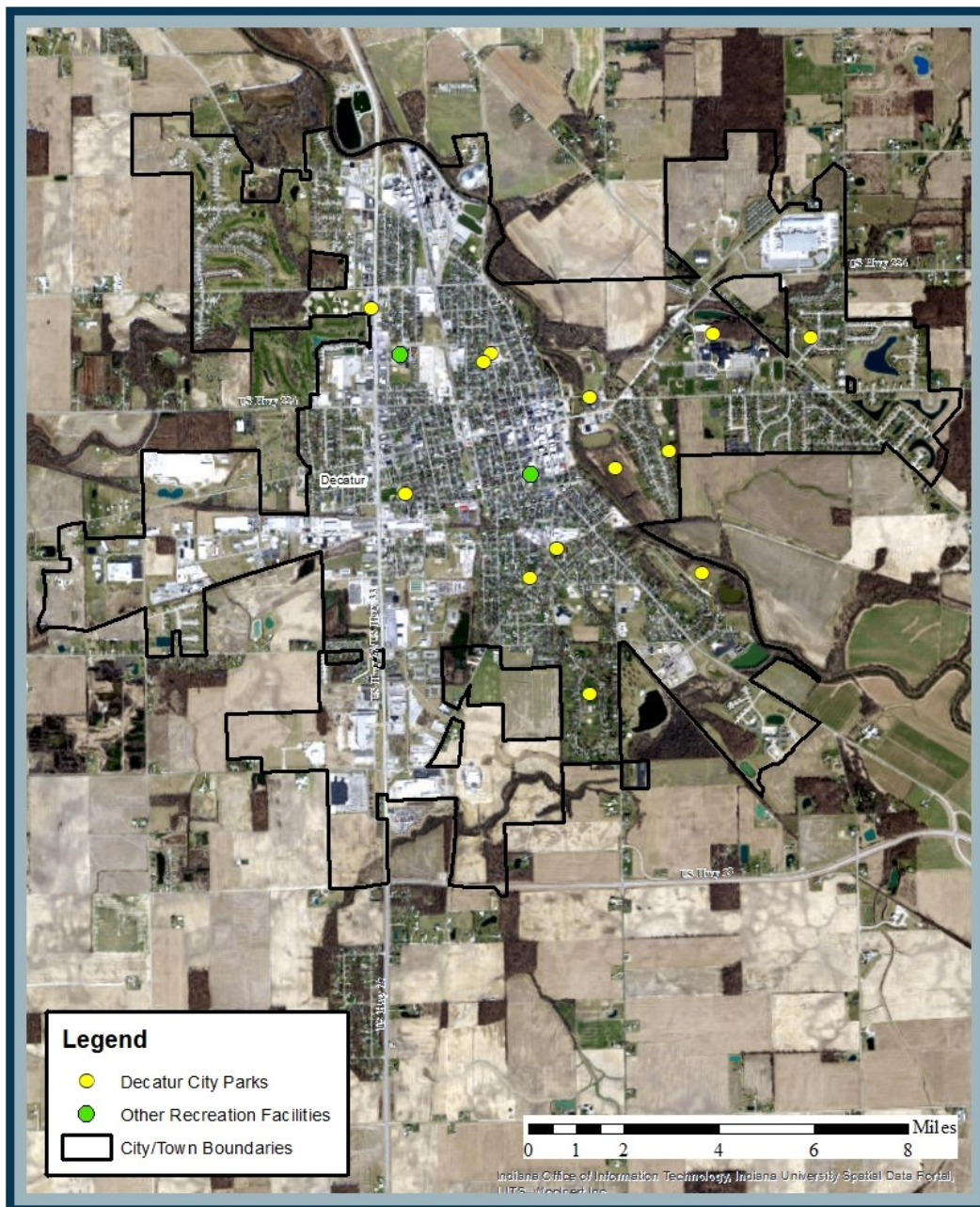


Figure 12: Decatur Park Facilities

3.2.1 American Legion Park

501 Winchester St. Decatur

American Legion Park, referred to by some as Cannon Park is 2.01 acres. Established in the 1920s with the help of the local American Legion, it was in need of updates and in 2012 a new ADA playground was added to the park. It also boasts a hard-surface sidewalk through the park and connects to the Rivergreenway Trail.



According to the Park Planning Committee, American Legion Park is used heavily and has an excellent ADA rating.

Responses from the public survey correspond with the Planning Committee’s assessment that the park is used heavily as 56.4% of respondents marked American Legion Park as one of the most visited parks of those offered by the DACPR. Though, 1.5% of respondents mentioned that the park is in need of upgrades and/or maintenance. As can be seen in the adjacent table, the Planning Committee

Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Volleyball Court	1	Fair	Sand
Merry-go-Round	1	Excellent	
Climbing Equipment	1	Excellent	
Swings	6	Excellent	Mommy and me and ADA swings
Slides	5	Fair / Excellent	
Play Structure	1	Excellent	
Picnic Table	17	Fair / Excellent	
Open Air pavilion	1	Fair	
Restrooms	1	Excellent	
Benches/Seating	3	Excellent	
Drinking Fountain	2	Excellent	

believes the park to be in excellent condition with the exception of the sand volleyball. It was noted by survey respondents that the sand at the volleyball court needs to be replaced with appropriate beach sand rather than the playground sand that is currently used. Finally, 31.47% of survey respondents noted they would like to see new amenities added to American Legion Park.

3.2.2 Belmont Pond

Intersection of US 224 and N Piqua Rd

Bellmont Pond is located off US 224 on the east side of town nestled between Belmont High School on Stadium Drive and N Piqua Rd. Belmont Pond is on an 18 acre parcel of land with a .23 mile trail traveling through a wooded area and a five acre pond. The property is owned by North Adams Schools but maintained by the DACPR. Belmont Pond is a passive park with no other amenities with the exception of the pond, wooded trail, and picnic table. The Park Planning Committee has identified that Belmont Pond does not meet ADA requirements as it does not have a hard surface walking path or a parking area. Additionally, the Committee has identified usage of Belmont Pond to be low and recognizes that it is not used as frequently as other parks.



Picture acquired from Adams County website: www.co.adams.in.us

Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Multi-use Trail	0.23 mile	Fair	Gravel / Wooded
Picnic Table	1	Fair	
Other	5 acre pond	Excellent	

The Committee’s assessment is in line with that of survey respondents as only 11.45% of respondents indicated they frequent Belmont Pond for their outdoor recreation. Two respondents answered that Belmont Pond is in need of maintenance/updating. The public was asked which parks they would like to see new facilities and 13.46% indicated Belmont Pond. It is not clear which amenities they would like to see at Belmont Pond, however it could be trails (N=7), more fishing opportunities (N=6), mountain biking (N=4), more picnic areas or benches (N=4), or a place to accommodate gardens such as butterfly, flower, and prairie grasses since the park only accommodates passive recreation. Additionally, the public was asked if they would be interested in renting equipment such as paddle watercrafts and 380 respondents answered yes, with another 165 specifically writing in kayaks/canoes. Paddle sports could be utilized at the park on the five acre pond.

3.2.3 Eastbrook Park

409 Eastbrook Drive, Decatur

Eastbrook Park is a 4.6 acre neighborhood park located in Decatur. It is situated behind houses and not clearly visible from the street. The park is the traditional neighborhood park with play equipment swings, slides and the like.

The Park Planning Committee states the park is not used often and is not ADA compliant. As can be seen in the adjacent picture, the play equipment is not ADA, has a sand play surface and does not have a hard a solid surface leading to the equipment.

Eastbrook Park is one of the least visited parks according to the respondents of the public survey as only 1.35% or respondents indicated they frequent this park. One respondent noted that Eastbrook Park is in need of maintenance or updating and 14 respondents (2.9%) indicated they would like to see new facilities added to the park.



Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Merry-go-Round	1	Fair	
Climbing Equipment	1	Fair	
Swings	3	Fair	2 child / 1 infant swing
Slides	3	Fair	
Play Structure	1	Fair	
Benches/ Seating	2	Fair	

3.2.4 Founder's Park

172 N 2nd Street, Decatur

Founder's Park is what is referred to as a "pocket park" at just 0.14 acres. It is a small park in downtown Decatur at the corner of W Monroe St. and N 2nd St. across from City Hall. This park is owned by the City of Decatur but maintained by the DACPR. It includes seating, shade, and access to downtown amenities including the self-guided sculpture tour. It also connects to the Rivergreenway by way of sidewalks to the St. Marys Nature Preserve.

This park was not assessed by the Park Planning Committee as it is relatively new, in excellent condition, and ADA compliant. The park was included in the public survey where respondents indicated the park is not visited frequently (6.57%). Founder's Park was not referred to in any other answers in the public survey.



3.2.5 Hanna Nuttman Park

Intersection of US 33 and N Washington Street, Decatur

Hanna Nuttman Park, established in 1932, is a 35.5 acre property that is heavily used. It is located on the northwest side of Decatur. Hanna Nuttman is Decatur’s largest active park (St. Marys Nature Preserve being the largest passive park) and it is full of activities including ball diamonds used by youth and adult baseball and softball leagues, two play areas, a large green space, a large open air pavilion, many large mature trees, and two cabins which are owned and maintained by the Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts.



The Park was in need of updates and be reconfigured to accommodate its heavy use. Additionally, the ball diamonds were no longer in safe working order, frequently flooded, and there were safety concerns at the park with the ball diamond layout and lack of parking availability. The development of the REV Sports Complex began in July, 2019 and is nearly complete. The redesigned Hanna Nuttman – REV Sports Complex consists of six ball diamonds, parking for 368 vehicles, two new restrooms and a concession building, fencing, and score boards. It is the desire of the DACPR to bring youth baseball back to Hanna Nuttman with this new state of the art facility.

The Park Planning Committee indicated Hanna Nuttman to be heavily used and ADA compliant with the new renovations. Responses in the public survey match that assessment as 46.8%

of respondents indicated they frequent Hanna Nuttman (second most visited park). However, it is possibly some of the public are not aware of the recent updates to the park as 10 respondents wrote in that Hanna Nuttman is in need of maintenance/updating. Other suggestions made for the park by survey respondents

Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Baseball Field	6	Excellent	New in 2020
Basketball Court	1	Fair	
Pickleball Court	1	Fair	
Multi-use Trail	1	Excellent	New in 2020
Running/Walking Track	1	Excellent	New in 2020
Teeter			
Totter/Seesaw	1	Excellent	New in 2020
Merry-go-Round	1	Excellent	New in 2020
Climbing Equipment	2	Excellent	New in 2020
Swings	4	Excellent	New in 2020. 2 child / 2 infant swings
Slides	1	Excellent	New in 2020
Picnic Table	10	Fair	
Open Air pavilion	1	Fair	
Restrooms	2	Excellent	New in 2020
Concession Stand	2	Excellent	New in 2020
Bleachers	2	Excellent	For baseball and tennis
Cabins	2	Unknown	Owned/Maintained by Scouts
Drinking Fountain	4	Fair	
Other (Explain)	corn hole	Fair	

include wind stopper around the pickleball courts and an amphitheater. It should be noted that while only two respondents specifically mentioned Hanna Nuttman Park in their responses, 40.58% of respondents believe that additional amenities should be added to the park.

3.2.6 Homestead Park

Homestead Drive, Decatur

Homestead Park, established in 1947, is a 15.9 acre neighborhood park located on the south side of town on Homestead Dr which is located across High St from Adams Memorial Hospital. The park has more amenities than the average neighborhood park as it has a baseball/softball field, basketball court, tennis court, benches, and swings and slides. Additionally, Homestead Park hosts youth soccer league and portable soccer goals are used in the park for this activity. The youth soccer league runs for eight weeks each fall.



Analysis by the Park Planning Committee indicates the park is heavily used but does not meet ADA requirements as the park has a gravel parking lot without designated handicap parking, or hard and solid surfaces leading to the park amenities. The public survey asked which parks the public frequents and responses indicate that Homestead Park is one of the most visited as 28.45% marked the Park as one they frequent (N = 169). Twenty-four respondents wrote in the survey that Homestead Park was in need of maintenance and updating, which is also apparent from the Committee’s analysis of the park. 26.29% survey respondents indicated they would like to see new facilities at Homestead Park.

Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Baseball Field	1	Fair	Same field used for both
Softball Field	1	Fair	No benches/bleachers
Basketball Court	1	Fair	Cracked asphalt
Soccer Field	4	Good	Seasonal
Tennis Court	1	Fair	Cracked asphalt
Merry-go-Round	1	Poor	Broken
Climbing Equipment	1	Poor	
Swings	4	Poor	2 child / 2 infant
Slides	1	Fair	
Restrooms	port-o-pots		Seasonal
Benches/Seating	2	Fair	
Other (Explain)	green space	Good	

3.2.7 Kekionga Park

101 Kekionga Park Rd, Decatur

Kekionga Park, established with a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant from the IN Department of Natural Resources in 1974, is a 31.1 acre park located in a floodplain east of Adams Memorial Hospital and adjacent to the St. Marys River. The park is located behind a neighborhood where, in recent years, homes have been purchased and demolished with FEMA funds which allows for expansion of the Park in the future. Kekionga Park has a pond with a boat launch which is often used for fishing and paddle sports. A DNR boat access site to the St. Marys River with hard surface parking is located in the park as well. Kekionga Park also has a covered pavilion available to rent, playground, basketball court, picnic tables, the county's only frisbee/disc golf course, baseball diamond, and green space. Additionally, Kekionga Park serves as a trailhead to the Rivergreenway trail system in Decatur.

The Park Planning Committee's analysis of the park identified that the park is used at a moderate level by the public and that it does not meet ADA requirements as it does not have a hard and solid surface to all amenities, has a soft playground base, and does not have a solid surface parking lot or designated handicap parking near DACPR owned amenities.



Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Baseball Field	1	Fair	No bleachers, benches, or dugouts
Softball Field			
Basketball Court	1/2 court	Poor	
Multi-use Trail	3.75 mi		Section of Rivergreenway
Merry-go-Round	1	Fair	
Climbing Equipment	1	Fair	
Swings	4	Fair	
Slides	1	Fair	
Boat Launch (Ramp)	1	Excellent	River access - DNR owned
Picnic Table	9	Good	At pavilion
Open Air pavilion	1	Excellent	
Restrooms	2	Fair	
Drinking Fountain	1	Good	
Other	Disc golf	Good	9 holes

The public survey included a question about which parks are used frequently and the results of the survey indicate Kekionga Park is used at a moderate level as 25.25% of respondents indicated they frequent it. The public was asked which parks need maintenance or updating and 41 respondents wrote in Kekionga

Park indicating it is in certain need of attention. The public was also asked which parks need new facilities and 30.64% of respondents indicated that Kekionga Park needs new amenities.

3.2.8 North Ward Park

519 N 5th Street, Decatur

North Ward Park is located in central Decatur surrounded by residential homes and across 5th Street from Waterworks Park and the Decatur Public pool. The park is 0.6 acres and is located at 519 N 5th Street. North Ward Park has two full court basketball courts, a small skate park including a small skate ramp on approximately 4,800 sq. ft. of hard surface and drinking fountain.



The analysis of North Ward Park by the Park Planning Committee identified that the park is used by the public at a moderate level and has a poor ADA rating. There is not a designated parking area connected to the park amenities, no handicap parking, no hard and solid surface from the street parking to the amenities or designated seating to view activities in the park.

Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Basketball Court	2	Fair	
Drinking Fountain	1		
Other (Explain)	skate park	Poor	hard surface and small ramp

Respondents to the public survey indicate that North Ward Park is the least frequented park as only 1% of respondents indicate they use the park. However, five respondents wrote in that North Ward Park is in need of maintenance and updating which indicates the park may be used more frequently than the 1% would suggest. Additionally, 2.69% of respondents (N=13) indicated that North Ward Park is in need of new amenities.

3.2.9 Northwest School Property

1109 Dayton Street, Decatur

The NW school property is located in Decatur and was recently given to the City of Decatur when it was no longer being used as a school. The City is working to identify potential uses for the building. The property is 7.28 acres and the exterior of the property includes a playground which was given to the Decatur Parks Department and was identified by the Park Planning Committee as needing updated. Other outdoor amenities

Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Baseball Field	1	Fair	
Basketball Court	4	Fair - Good	one hoop is leaning
Obstacle Course	1	Poor	
Spring Rocker	1	Poor	
Climbing Equipment	4	Poor	
Swings	6	Poor	All child sized
Slides	5	Poor	
Play Structure	1	Poor	
Green Space			

include the baseball diamond and four basketball hoops in the parking lot. The exterior of the property is

currently being maintained by the DACPR. The interior of the building has a large gymnasium that can be rented and is used for other activities including volleyball and basketball.

The Park Planning Committee’s analysis of the property identified that it is not often used and does not meet ADA requirements as there is no seating to view baseball games, no benches or resting areas, and there is not a solid subsurface at the playground equipment.

The public survey results are in line with what was assessed by the Planning Committee as on 8.42% of respondents indicated they frequent the property and 14.91% of respondents answered they would like to see new amenities at the property.

3.2.10 Riverside Center Park

230 E Monroe Street, Decatur

Riverside Center Park is a 6.52 acre property behind Riverside Center adjacent to the St. Marys River. The park houses the DACPR administrative building, as well as a small gazebo, sand volleyball courts, benches or other seating, and several sculptures. Additionally, Riverside Park is a trail head for the Rivergreenway trail in Decatur, as a portion of the trail runs through the park. There has been discussion



within the City of Decatur and the DACPR about expanding development in the park which would include expanded trails and riverfront development. Additionally, river access for paddle sport rentals and access for individuals who own their one watercraft.

The Park Planning Committee’s analysis of Riverside Park identified the park as used moderately and that it is not ADA compliant. However, there is a hard surface parking lot with designated handicap parking, a hard and solid surface from the parking lot

Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Volleyball Court	2	Fair	Sand
Benches/Seating	5	Good	
Green Space			
Gazebo	1	Fair	
Art		Excellent	Sculptures

to the administration building, the gazebo and adjacent to the sand volleyball court. Therefore, the park itself is likely ADA compliant, but Riverside Center, the administration office may not be and will be discussed in Section 3.2.9.1.

According to survey results, Riverside Park is frequented by 7.58% of the respondents, and 13.5% of respondents (N=65) indicated they would like to see new facilities at Riverside Park.

3.2.10.1 Riverside Center

Riverside Center, erected in 1954, is located within Riverside Park at 231 E Monroe Street, Decatur. Riverside Center is home to the DACPR administrative offices, has rooms available for public or private meetings and events, and restrooms which are available to the public during office hours. The DACPR Board meetings are held in this space, as are other large local government led community events.



The Park Planning Committee’s analysis of Riverside Center identified the Center is moderately used and does not meet all ADA requirements. Specifically, the restrooms should be updated to meet current ADA standards.

3.2.11 South Ward Park

711 Winchester Street, Decatur

South Ward Park is a 0.74 acre park surrounded by residential homes. South Ward Park houses on ½ basketball court, play equipment including swings, a slide and merry-go-round.



The Park Planning Committee’s analysis of the park identified that the park is not used often and it does not meet ADA requirements as there is not a parking lot with designated handicap parking, and compliant surface under the play equipment, or a hard a solid surface to the park’s amenities.

Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Basketball Court	1/2 court		
Merry-go-Round	1	Fair	
Swings	4	Fair	2 child / 2 infant
Slides	1	Good	

The respondents of the public survey indicated that South Ward Park is one of the least used parks as only 1.85% of them responded that they frequent the park. Six respondents wrote in that South Ward Park is in need or maintenance and updating and 4.55% of respondents indicated they would like to see additional facilities at the park.

3.2.12 St. Marys Nature Preserve

Limberlost Trail, adjacent to St. Marys River, Decatur

The St. Marys Nature Preserve, established in 2017 with a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant awarded to the Decatur Park and Recreation Department, is a 47.49 acre passive park located on Limberlost Trail behind the shopping plaza on W Monroe Street and adjacent to the St. Marys River. The parking lot to the preserve is located within the Stratton Park neighborhood. The land was donated by the St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Decatur to be turned into a nature preserve and educational tool about the natural environment for residents in Decatur. The park includes a pervious parking lot located on property that was bought out with FEMA funds as it frequently floods. The parking lot includes bus parking as well as designated handicap parking. There is a .75 mile multi-use



Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Multi-use Trail	0.75 mile	Excellent	
Benches/Seating	3	Excellent	Seating nodes set off trail for nature viewing
Fishing Pier	1	Excellent	At pond. Two additional benches

hard surface trail through the preserve that connects to the Rivergreenway trail. There is a small pond on the property with a fishing pier which is also ADA compliant. There are several interpretive signs placed along the trail that describe the various ecosystems within the preserve.

The Park Planning Committee’s assessment identified that the park is heavily used by the community and is ADA compliant.

The respondents of the public survey indicated that St. Marys Nature Preserve is moderately used as 19.02% of respondents (N=113) indicated they utilize the preserve and one respondent wrote in that the preserve is in need of maintenance. When asked if the public would like to see additional activities at the parks in the parks, five respondents indicated they would like more nature activities such as bird watching and nature tours, and three indicated they desire more places to accommodate pollinator and flower gardens and prairie grass plantings, all of which currently or can easily be added to the St. Marys Nature Preserve. This could be the intent of those respondents as 9.5% of respondents indicated they would like to see new facilities at the St. Marys Nature Preserve.

3.2.13 Stratton Park

401 Stratton Way, Decatur

Stratton Park is a 4.97 acre neighborhood park located within the Stratton Park neighborhood. Stratton Park has more amenities than is typical at a neighborhood park. The amenities include a baseball field, various play equipment, several picnic tables an open-air pavilion, green space, shade trees, and drinking fountain.



The Park Planning Committee’s assessment identified that Stratton Park is not a highly used park and it does not meet ADA requirements. The parking lot is not a hard and solid surface and does not have designated handicap parking, there is not a hard and solid surface to the park’s amenities, and the play ground does not have a stable surface.

Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Baseball Field	1	Good	This is the same field
Softball Field			
Merry-go-Round	1	Good	
Swings	4	Good	2 child/ 1 infant/ 1 bench
Slides	1	Good	
Picnic Table	6	Good	
Open Air pavilion	1	Good	
Drinking Fountain	1	Good	

The respondents of the public survey indicated the park is not used often but more so than nine other DACPR parks as 7% of respondents responded they utilize the park. Twenty-one respondents wrote in the public survey that Stratton Park needs maintenance and updating. When asked which park is in need of new facilities, 10.56% of the respondents (N=51) indicated they would like new facilities in Stratton Park.

3.2.14 Waterworks Park

602 N 5th Street, Decatur

Waterworks Park was the very first park established in Decatur in 1895. It is a 3.79 acres park located across from North Ward Park and surrounded by residential homes. Waterworks Park is home to the Decatur pool which includes two lap lanes, a diving board, two slides, a water bucket dump, baby pool, and concessions. The pool was poured in 1920 with the help of the Decatur Rotary Club. The park also hosts playground equipment, picnic tables, and bike racks. The DACPR offers many programs already, and the public was asked which programs they participate in. 63.24% of the respondents answered they participate in swim lessons, and 30.66% answered they participate in aquatic exercise classes. These classes and lessons take place at the Waterworks Pool, however, it should be noted that the DACPR has a partnership with Belmont High School to utilize their pool for these activities during the cold weather season.



Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Merry-go-Round	1	Fair	
Climbing Equipment	1	Good	
Swings	4	Fair	2 child / 2 infant
Slides	1	Good	
Picnic Table	4	Good	
Pool	2	Fair	
Bike Racks	3	Good	

The Park Planning Committee's assessment of Waterworks Park identified that the park is moderately used, though more frequently in the summer as the pool opens, and that it does not fully meet the requirements of the ADA. There is a solid surface parking lot with designated handicap parking, a compliant ramp to enter the pool house, and sidewalks leading from the parking lot to the pool house and the pool entrance. However, there is not a hard a solid surface to all amenities within the park and they playground does not have an ADA compliant surface.

The respondents of the public survey are in line with the assessment of the Planning Committee as 5.89% of the respondents (N = 35) indicated they frequent Waterworks Park. Nineteen respondents wrote in that Waterworks Park/Pool are in need of maintenance and updating. The public was asked if they would

The respondents of the public survey are in line with the assessment of the Planning Committee as 5.89% of the respondents (N = 35) indicated they frequent Waterworks Park. Nineteen respondents wrote in that Waterworks Park/Pool are in need of maintenance and updating. The public was asked if they would

like to see additional amenities added to the parks and 24 respondents answered they would like more swimming opportunities, indoor pool, upgraded pool or heated pool. An additional four respondents answered they would like to see a water park and six answered they would like a splash pad added to the parks. It has been discussed within the DACPR to add additional water features to the park which may include a Splash Pad. The respondents may have intended these additional amenities to be added to Waterworks Park as 14.91% respondents (N = 72) indicated they would like new facilities to be added to Waterworks Park. Finally, three respondents left comments regarding leaving the pool open later, and another respondent suggested pool rentals.

3.2.15 Worthman Field

1216 Adams Street, Decatur

Worthman Field is a 4 acre park located at the corner of US 27 and Adams in Decatur. The park was donated to the DACPR from the schools and it includes a baseball diamond with a set of bleachers for each team, dugouts, batting cage, soccer field, ¼ mile gravel running track, play equipment, an open air pavilion with restrooms and picnic tables, and a large parking area.



The Park Planning Committee’s assessment of the park identified that the park is heavily used by the public and does not meet ADA requirements as the paths to the bleachers, the playground subsurface and track are all gravel. The parking lot is a hard surface though it does not have designated handicap parking.

Respondents to the survey indicated that Worthman Field is one of Decatur’s well visited parks by the public as 17.68% answered this is a park they frequent. Eleven respondents wrote in that they believe Worthman Field is in need of maintenance and updating. One respondent suggested that better parking is needed at Worthman Field,

Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Baseball Field	1	Fair	
Soccer Field	2	Excellent	
Running/Walking Track	1/4 mile	Fair	Gravel
Merry-go-Round	1	Fair	
Swings	3	Fair	
Picnic Table	9	Fair	Some ADA compliant
Open Air pavilion	1	Fair	
Restrooms	1	Fair	
Bleachers	4	Fair	
Drinking Fountain	1	Fair	
Batting Cage	1	Poor	
Perimeter fencing		Good	New
Safety Park run by police department		Good	DACPR maintains grounds
Survive Alive House- run by fire dept		Good	DACPR maintains grounds

Picture acquired from Adams County website: www.co.adams.in.us

especially during the busy soccer season but when asked where new facilities should be installed 13.66% of respondents answered Worthman Field was in need of new facilities.

3.2.16 Adams County Service Complex

313 W Jefferson St, Decatur

The Adams County Service Complex, also referred to as the Annex, is located at 313 W Jefferson St. in Decatur on three parcels of land totaling 1.2 acres. It is owned by Adams County Commissioners and houses the county administrative offices. This former school was turned over to the county in 1995 as a community asset. The DACPR operates the community amenities inside as well as hosts many community programs there. Amenities at the Annex include an open gym for basketball, however the gym can be rented for other activities for a small fee. Other amenities include a rock climbing wall, fitness center with six treadmills, four elliptical machines, one recumbent bike, one upright bike and a weight room, and a pickleball court which is free and available at certain times during the week. Two leagues are run out of the Annex including the women’s volleyball league and men’s winter basketball league.



Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Basketball Court	1	Good	
Volleyball Court	2	Good	
Gymnasium	1	Good	
Climbing Equipment	1	Good	Rock Wall
Exercise Equipment	Various	Excellent	Aerobic and Weight
Restrooms	2	Good	
Bleachers	2	Good	
Benches/Seating	Many	Good	
Drinking Fountain	2	Excellent	
Various gymnastics equipment	Various	Good	

The Park Planning Committee analyzed the Annex and identified that it is a real asset to the community and is heavily used. However, they gave it an ADA rating of poor to fair. There are two entrances to the building that meet ADA requirements, however the interior of the building will need some updating to meet all ADA requirements.

The Annex was not included in the public survey specifically, however one respondent wrote in that they visit the Annex frequently and two respondents wrote in that the Annex is in need of maintenance and updating. Nine respondents wrote in that they would like to see indoor basketball courts, exercise equipment, sports complex, and practice facilities. It is possible these respondents are not aware of the amenities available at the Annex. The public was asked which programs they participate in the most and many of the top answers were activities/programs offered at the Annex including fitness center (43.55%), gymnastics (43.03%), and rock climbing (21.95%). The public was given the opportunity to suggest other activities not currently offered by the DACPR and many responses are of activities that could be added to the Annex in the future, or are activities the public is not aware are currently offered at the Annex including large indoor space with playground, dog park, gymnastics or exercise space (N=4), exercise classes including yoga, thai chi, pilates, and Zumba (N=7), and various dancing lessons or events (N=2).

3.2.17 Decatur Trail System

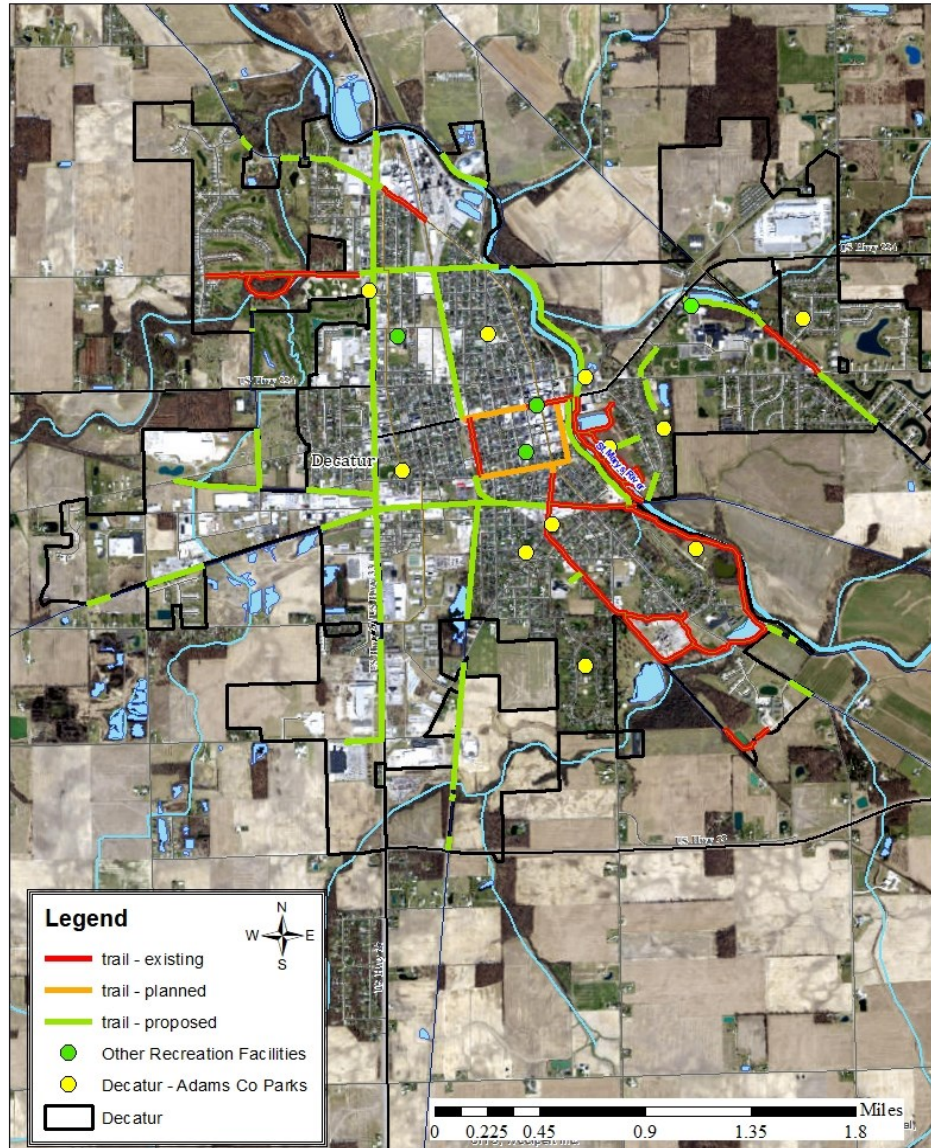
The DACPR manages the trail system within Decatur. There are currently 7.61 miles of trails in Decatur. The River Greenway which runs adjacent to the St. Marys River is 2.01 miles long and there are 1.85 miles of trail that occupy old rail beds. The IN DNR has approached Decatur about taking over additional rail bed within the city limits. This property will be donated to Decatur from the state if Decatur decides to move forward with the acquisition. There is an additional 1 mile of trail planned in Decatur and another 50 miles of proposed trails within the city.

There are trails that connect American Legion Park, Kekionga

Park, St. Marys Nature Preserve and Riverside Park. Other parks are connected to the trail system via sidewalks including Hanna Nuttman and Founders Parks.

The public survey requested respondents to mark their top three priorities for adding amenities to the parks and 52.27% of respondents indicated that additional trails was a priority. The survey did not have specific questions about the trail system, however, several people made trail specific comments including safety of the trails (N = 1), fix cracks and broken areas of river greenway (N=1), fix wooden bridge on trail (N = 1), stop flooding at trails (N = 1), new trailhead near wood/iron bridge (N = 1), add mile markers on the trails (N = 1) add more trails (N =7), add a trail connecting to Allen County (N = 1) (this is one of the proposed trails in Adams County).

Decatur's Trail System



3.3 Adams County Parks

Adams County Parks and Recreation Board has five parks under its jurisdiction. The Park Planning Committee conducted an inventory of the parks and their analysis of each park is described below. It should be noted that 74.12% of the survey respondents answered that they live in Decatur, so the answers regarding frequency of use and others from the survey may not accurately reflect the use or needs of the parks in the greater Adams County area. Figure 13 shows the location of the parks that are the responsibility of the Adams County Parks and Recreation Board.

Adams County Parks

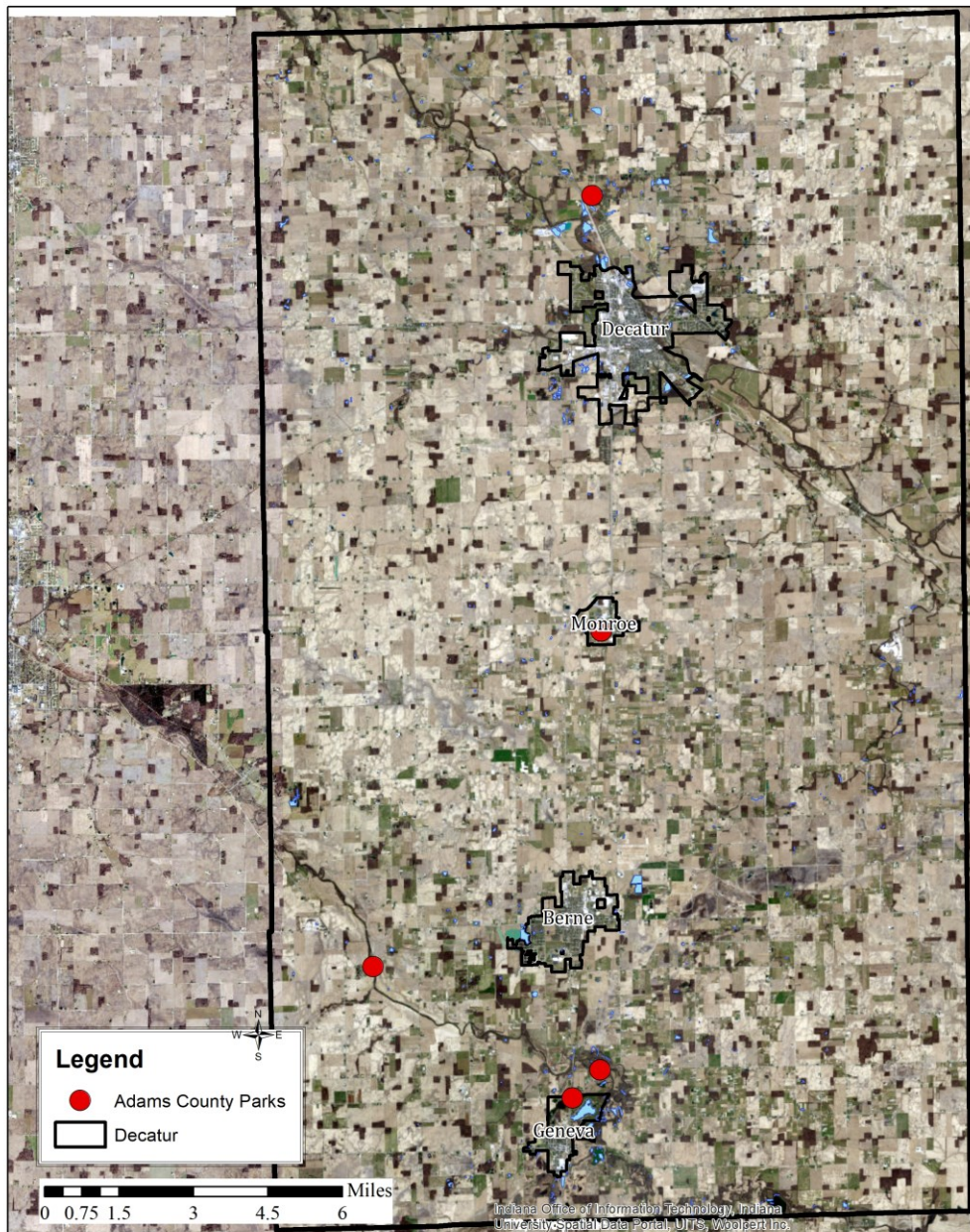


Figure 13: Adams County Parks

3.3.1 Fields Memorial Park

978 Rainbow Road, Geneva

Fields Memorial Park is an approximately one acre plot of land. It is a passive park and home to the South Adams Trail group’s first trailhead. The trailhead has hard surface parking for eight vehicles including two handicap spaces, a bike rack, four benches, and a restroom building with two drinking fountains. There is approximately one mile of trail from this spot, but the South Adams Trails group intends to continue the multi-use trail to connect Geneva and Berne. Fields Memorial also connects to Limberlost Park via a multiuse trail (0.75 mile).



The Park Planning Committee believes this location is getting more use the more residents become aware of the trail and believe it will be used extremely often as the trail construction continues. The Park Planning Committee rated Fields Memorial Park as having an excellent ADA rating. To meet all requirements wheelchair resting pads adjacent to benches need to be added.

Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Multi-use Trail - Trailhead	1	Excellent	Restrooms
Benches/Seating	4	Good	
Other (Explain)	green space		

Respondents to the survey indicated that Field Memorial is not currently used often as only 3.03% of respondents indicated they frequent the park and only 2.9% answered they would like to see new facilities added to the park. However, this may be misleading because it is possible that individuals utilizing the trail head may not realize it is located within Fields Memorial Park. When asked if there are additional activities, they would like the DACPR to offer two people wrote in a walking club and this park would be an ideal meet up location.

3.3.2 Limberlost Park

9486 CR 950 S, Geneva

Limberlost Park is a passive park adjacent to the Wabash River. It is approximately 64 acres in size and contains green space and a wooded riparian area. The Adams County Park Board has discussed improving the area with native prairie plantings. Limberlost Park is home to the historic Ceylon Covered Bridge built in 1860. The park has an open-air pavilion two picnic tables and one bench. The



park does not currently meet ADA requirements as it has a gravel parking lot and no designated handicap parking.

Respondents to the survey indicated that Limberlost Park is not used often as only 3.37% of respondents indicated they frequent the park and only 4.97% answered they would like to see new facilities added to the park. However, as indicated above, only 25% of the survey respondents live outside of Decatur, therefore the majority of survey respondents most likely were thinking of parks located within their

Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Multi-use Trail	.25 mile	Excellent	connect to .5 mile trail to Fields Memorial Park
Picnic Table	2	Good	
Open Air pavilion	1	Good	
Benches/Seating	1	Good	
Ceylon Covered Bridge - 1860	1	Good	Historic Bridge over the Wabash River
Well Water Pump	1	Good	

city specifically. Several respondents noted they would like to see more nature related activities and additional butterfly and flower gardens and prairie grass plantings and Limberlost Park would be an ideal location for these additional DACPR amenities.

3.3.3 Linn Grove Park

6998 S 500 W, Berne

Linn Grove Park is another passive park offered by the Adams County Parks. The park is 13.6 acres and includes many large shade trees and open green space. It also has an open-air pavilion, two picnic tables, and two ponds that are frequently used for fishing. The park does not currently meet ADA requirements as it has a gravel parking lot, with no handicap parking, does not have a hard and solid surface to park amenities, nor does it have accessible fishing locations on either of the ponds.



Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Picnic Table	2	Fair	
Open Air pavilion	1	Fair	
Pond	2		Used for fishing

Respondents to the survey indicated that Linn Grove Park is not frequented as only 2% of respondents indicated they frequent the park and 1.45% of respondents answered they would like to see amenities added at Linn Grove Park. However, two respondents wrote in that Linn Grove is in need of maintenance indicating that the public does have concern for the parks availability in the community. Linn Grove Park would be another ideal location for additional natural activities and gardens. When the public was asked if there are activities not currently offered by the DACPR they would like see added six respondents wrote in fishing facilities/tournaments. Linn Grove Park would be an ideal location for these types of activities. One respondent also emphasized the need to maintain the ponds due to a large fishing community in Adams County.

3.3.4 Monmouth School Ball Diamonds

CR W 850 N east of N Piqua Rd, Decatur

Adams County Parks and Recreation acquired the Monmouth baseball diamonds from the local church when they closed the Monmouth School. The building is being leased to various organizations. The property managed by the DACPR is 14.62 acres and includes three youth baseball fields, one t-ball field, bleachers, dugouts, announcer stand, batting cage, and picnic tables. The park is used seasonally for youth baseball.

Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Baseball Field	4	Excellent	3 youth/1 t-ball
Picnic Table	2	Fair	
Bleachers	6	Excellent	2 at each field
Batting Cage	1	Excellent	
Dugouts	6	Fair	2 at each field
Announcer Stand	1	Fair	

The Park Planning Committee assessment of the park indicated that it does not meet ADA requirements. It has a hard surface parking lot but the path leading to the baseball facilities from the parking lot is gravel and not stable.

Respondents to the survey indicated that Monmouth Ball Diamonds are frequented at a moderate level as 9.6% of the respondents stated they frequent it and four respondents wrote in that the ball diamonds are in need of maintenance and updating. The public was asked if there are other activities not currently offered by DACPR they would be interested in and three respondents wrote in an adult baseball/softball league. With the new ball fields at Hanna Nuttman Park, Monmouth Ball Diamonds could be an ideal location for such as league.

3.3.5 Lions Park

380 Park Street, Monroe

The Monroe Lions Park, partially funded with a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant through the IN DNR, is a 6.16-acre park located in Monroe. It is the only park available within Monroe's boundaries and is in walking distance to many residential homes. The park houses swings, a slide for younger children, merry-go-round, teeter totter, climbing equipment, bench swings, horseshoe pits, hitching post, an open-air pavilion with picnic tables and a pond used for fishing.



The Park Planning Committees analysis of the part identified that it is used at a moderate level but does not meet ADA requirements. The parking lot is gravel as is the path to the pavilion. There is not a hard and stable surface to any of the amenities available at the park and the playground does not have a stable subsurface.

The public was asked how often they frequent DACPR parks and 3.87% of respondents indicated they frequent Monroe Lions Park, and six respondents wrote in that the park was in need of maintenance and updating and one respondent mentioned the Monroe park does not meet the needs of older children.

Amenity	Number	Condition	Comments
Horseshoe Pit	1	Fair	
Teeter Totter/Seesaw	1	Fair	
Spring Rocker	1	Fair	
Merry-go-Round	1	Fair	
Climbing Equipment	1	Fair	
Swings	6	Fair	2 child/2 infant/ 2 bench
Slides	1	Fair	
Play Structure	1	Fair	
Picnic Table	4	Fair	
Open Air pavilion	1	Fair	
Benches/Seating	5	Fair	
Pond	1	Fair	Used to fish
Hitching Post	1	Good	

3.4 Other Recreational Facilities

There are several other outdoor recreation opportunities in Adams County offered by other organizations including the IN DNR, ACREs Land Trust, and private entities. Table 10 below outlines the other available outdoor recreational facilities in Adams County. However, there are three golf courses and other private/for-profit businesses that offer outdoor recreation that are not listed. There are also 15 schools located in Adams County, most of which leave their outdoor amenities available to the public when school is not in session. These amenities include outdoor tracks, basketball and tennis courts, baseball fields, and play equipment. It should also be noted that the DACPR has a partnership with Belmont High School to offer indoor swimming opportunities at specific times.

Table 10: Other Recreational Facilities in Adams County

Name	Address	City	Owner	Amenities
Preble Fireman's Park	4333 US -224	Decatur	Preble Volunteer Fire Dept	Building available for rent, demolition derby arena, bleachers
Balztzell- Lenhart Woods Nature Preserve	on E200N east of N100E	Decatur	IN DNR	37 acres of messic - wet mesic flatwoods with walking trail
Adams County Fair Grounds	200 W Washington St	Monroe	Adams County	Adjacent to Adams County Schools, nine bldgs, horse arena
Lehman Park	401 Park Avenue	Berne	City of Berne	Playground equipment, restrooms, benches, picnic tables, pavilion (for rent), grills,
Berne Public Pool	943 Hendricks St	Berne	City of Berne	Public pool with slides, diving platforms, lap lanes and a baby pool, pool house and concessions

Name	Address	City	Owner	Amenities
Affolder Park	885 E Line St	Geneva	Town of Geneva	Cabin and open pavilion which can be rented, merry-go rounds-gazebo, picnic tables
Shackley Street Park	104 W Shackley St	Geneva	Town of Geneva	3 Ball diamonds, new concession stand, restrooms, truck pull/derby area
Munro Nature Preserve	3957 W. 1100 S	Geneva	ACREs Land Trust	25.6 acres of wood and prairie land with a 0.5 mile trail. Home to historic Brushwood School House. Slated to close to public by the end of 2024.
Limberlost State Historic Site	200 6th St	Geneva	IN DNR	Gene Stratton-Porter's cabin and greenhouse available for visitors to explore
Limberlost Swamp Wetland Preserve	200 6th St	Geneva	IN DNR	846 acres of wetlands, prairies, and wooded areas with 3.6 miles of trails.
7th Street Depot (a.k.a. Pennsy Depot)	111 N 7th St	Decatur	City of Decatur	1.78 property with green space and old rail depot available for rent
Storybook Park	222 W Jefferson St	Decatur	Adams Public Library System	Pocket park with six (6) benches, gazebo seating for programming
Union Township Recreation Hall	4655 E 800 N	Decatur	Union Township	Recreation room for rental, two play structures, picnic tables, sand volleyball,

3.4.1 Adams County Trails

While Decatur has been working to increase their local trails, the South Adams Trail group has been working to increase connectivity between southern Adams County’s towns and cities and the Adams County Parks in the southern portion of the County. There are currently XXX miles of trails in the County, not including the 7.6 miles of trail in Decatur. Figure

3.5 Park Programming

The DACPR offers many programs to the public as part of their service to the community to enhance leisure activities. These programs are well attended by residents of Adams County. Youth activities offered include swim lessons, gymnastics, fall soccer, a summer day camp, daddy daughter and mother son dances, basketball, indoor rock climbing, girl’s softball, football, and baseball. Adult programs include pool aquatics, the fitness center, women’s indoor volleyball, men’s basketball, aerobics classes, men’s softball, and co-ed softball. Senior activities include aquatics, senior weights, senior luncheon, bingo, paint club, and euchre club, The public survey asked which programs people attend and respondents indicated they participate in swim lessons, youth soccer, the fitness center at the Adams County Service Complex, and gymnastics the most. Table 11 below shows how respondents answered this question.

Table 11: Public Participation in Park Programs – Survey Results

Answer Choices	Percentage	Number
Swim Lessons	63.24%	363
Youth Soccer	57.84%	332
Fitness Center	43.55%	250
Gymnastics	43.03%	247
Youth Basketball	32.06%	184
Aquatic Exercise Classes	30.66%	176
Touch a Truck/Tractor Youth Event	27.18%	156
Rock Climbing	21.95%	126
Daddy - Daughter Dance	20.56%	118
Youth Paint Class	19.86%	114
Women's Volleyball League	18.82%	108
Tails on the Trail Dog Walk	17.60%	101
Aerobics Classes	15.51%	89
Mother - Son Dance	14.81%	85
Summer Camp	14.46%	83
Youth Bakery Workshop	13.59%	78
Iron Kid Triathlon	13.41%	77
Men's Basketball League	12.89%	74
Pickle Ball	12.37%	71
Paint Club	10.63%	61
Senior Lunch and Bingo	8.01%	46
Euchre Club	7.32%	42
Other (please specify)	4.88%	28
	Answered	574
	Skipped	30

The public was given an opportunity to write in other programs they would like the DACPR to offer. The most requested programs include paddle sports (N=7), youth/flag football (N=6)(youth football is currently offered to fourth through 6th graders by an outside organization), racquetball (N=6), and tennis lessons (N=5) (tennis is offered through high school tennis camps in the summer), more soccer including kids and adults (N=5) and sand and youth volleyball (N=5). The full list of suggested programs can be found in the public survey results in Appendix A.

3.6 Access to Exercise and Outdoor Recreational Opportunities

According to *County Health Rankings and Roadmaps* (www.countyhealthrankings.org) Adams County ranks 40th out of 92 in the state for overall health outcomes. The state of Indiana ranks at 75% as a whole for its population having reasonable access to exercise opportunities. However, larger municipalities, the major population centers have greater access due to them having private gyms, YMCAs and more parks in general than Adams County. Indiana top performers range in the 91% for access to exercise. *Note: Individuals are considered to have access to exercise opportunities if they 1)*

reside in a census block that is within a half mile of a park; 2) reside in an urban census block that is within one mile of a recreational facility; or 3) reside in a rural census block that is within three miles of a recreational facility.

Local, state and national parks, and facilities including gyms, community centers, YMCAs, dance studios and pools are included in the “Access to Exercise Opportunities” measure. It should be noted that not all these types of facilities are available in Adams County.

Indiana recently compiled its Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) which is a “resource that quantifies and analyzes the state’s outdoor recreation resources for social, environmental, health and economic benefit of citizens statewide”. The SCORP is for years 2021 – 2026 and is intended to support local, regional, and state-level recreation decision making, as well as foster research, partnerships and cooperation among users, planners, government officials, nonprofits, and the private sector. It describes how Indiana has set a LOS of 0.02 acres of outdoor recreational space including parks, recreation, and open space available per person.

According to the SCORP, Adams County is short of recreational space available per person by nearly 50%, or 355.75 acres.

3.7 Accessibility and Universal Design

The City of Decatur and Adams County are responsible to ensure that all activities and facilities offered by the Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation Departments are accessible to residents and visitors of all abilities. The Park Board is committed to ensure that all new facilities and renovations are constructed to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

3.7.1 ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plans

The City of Decatur completed their ADA Transition Plan in December, 2011 and released a revised version in January, 2016. City staff performed the visual inspections of municipal buildings, sidewalks, and curb ramps. The inspection did not include park amenities. Due to the age of most of Decatur’s parks, most amenities and facilities are not compliant with ADA requirements. An evaluation of the parks by NIRCC staff indicated that the parks are not in compliance with ADA regulations and as improvements are made, they will need to meet Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and ADA requirements. Additionally, all sidewalks must meet ASTM 1951-99 requirements and all park amenities must meet ASTM 1951-99 and ASTM 1242-99 requirements. The St. Marys Nature Preserve and the newly renovated Hanna Nuttman Park do meet these requirements. The Decatur ADA Transition Plan identified 69 sidewalk curbs that are in need of repair or modification and 180 which are in need of reconstructions. The City has prioritized these repairs and reconstructions based on their location along major thoroughfares and to those locations which provide access to public or government services.

Adams county completed their ADA Transition Plan and 2013 and adopted their revised Plan on January 26, 2021. County staff performed a visual inspection of the County’s curb ramps and have determined they are all in compliance. There has not been a thorough inspection of the County owned buildings or parks. Though, as noted in the above park inventory, the County parks and the Service Complex do not currently meet ADA requirements and as renovations are made to the facilities they will need to be brought up to date to meet Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and ADA requirements.

Both Decatur and Adams County promote the ADA transition plans and encourage public participation. The Plans are available at local government buildings, Work Force One, libraries, Post Office, Chambers of Commerce, Decatur Housing Authority, financial institutions, realtors, churches and schools.

3.7.2 ADA Contacts

Information regarding the ADA nondiscriminatory requirements and accessible facilities programs and services can be acquired by contacting the City of Decatur's or Adams County's ADA Coordinators at the following addresses:

Decatur

Jeremy Gilbert
Street and Sanitation Commissioner
Decatur City Hall, 172 N 2nd Street, Decatur, IN
46733
Tel: 260.724.3356
E-mail: jgilbert@decaturin.org

Adams County

Tim Barkey
Adams County Highway Engineer
201 N. Polk Street
Monroe, IN 46772
Tel: 260-692-6222
E-mail: tbarkey@co.adams.in.us

3.8 Summary of Findings

Below is the summary of the findings related to the park inventories and public survey conducted as part of the park planning process:

- American Legion Park, Hanna Nuttman Park and Waterworks Park and Decatur Pool are the most used parks in Adams County.
- The least used parks are North Ward, Eastbrook, South Ward, Linn Grove Park, Fields Memorial, Limberlost and Monroe Lions Park. Most of these parks are located in the county and survey responses may not accurately reflect their actual use (with the exception of North Ward, Eastbrook and South Ward Parks).
- Improving the pool and adding a splash pad are desires of the public.
- The top additional amenities desired by the public are a splash pad, additional trails, and a dog park.
- There is additional space to expand the Decatur Park system at Kekionga Park and increase access to natural features at the County Parks.
- There is opportunity to expand Decatur's trails through an old rail line offered by the IN DNR.
- The most popular park programs include swim lessons, youth soccer, fitness center and gymnastics.
- Survey respondents indicated they would like additional programs that are already offered indicating a possible need for an examination of information dissemination.
- Most of the parks do not meet ADA requirements, however newer parks and new facilities do meet ADA requirements. Additionally, with a higher percentage of disabled individuals in Decatur than in Adams County or Indiana, it is important to ensure ADA compliance at parks in Decatur specifically.
- Several parks need maintenance or updating of the facilities and amenities which may warrant a new method of overseeing the maintenance and updating of all the parks.

Public Participation



4.0 Public Participation

To ensure that a park plan meets the needs of the community it is important to provide ample opportunity for the public to provide their input into the park system and what their recreational needs and desires are. The Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation boards have worked to provide the community with as many opportunities to provide input as they can including a public input survey. However, due to the Covid-19 public health emergency, it was decided that a public meeting was not reasonable during the winter months of writing the Plan. However, an on-line Zoom public meeting, an in-person meeting with limited capacity, and the Park Plan final draft being placed at several locations throughout Adams County to allow the public the opportunity to review it and leave comments if desired were conducted after the final draft was completed. This will be discussed in detail in Section 6.

4.1 Park Board Meetings

The Decatur Parks and Recreation Board and Adams County Parks and Recreation Board hold their meetings on the second Monday of each month; Adams County at 6:00pm and Decatur at 7:00pm in Riverside Center. Progress on the 5-Year Master Park Plan was presented at each meeting and questions addressed. The meeting minutes from all Park Board meetings since September 2020 when the planning process began are in Appendix D.

4.2 Public Input Survey

A survey was constructed to gather public input on the current parks and amenities and gauge interest in additional amenities, as well as understand who uses the parks in Decatur and Adams County. It was available by hard copy at the DACPR office located in Riverside Center in Decatur and online via a Survey Monkey survey. It was advertised via a press release (Appendix B) sent to the Decatur Daily Democrat and the Berne Witness newspapers. The press release was also sent to Geneva Town Hall, Monroe Town Hall, and the Belmont High School Radio 103.5. Additionally, the survey was advertised through the websites and social media for the Adams County Economic Development Corporation, Decatur Chamber of Commerce, the DACPR social media page, and the City of Decatur government website. Finally, to reach the Amish community within Adams County, paper copies of the survey were brought to a library program and a vaccination workshop for the Amish.

There was a great response to the survey as 604 individuals participated. However, there were no paper copies of the survey received indicating that the Amish community did not supply input toward the Park Plan through the survey. Survey results were incorporated into the park inventory above and a copy of the survey and the results are in Appendix A. Below are key points from the survey results.

- 74% of the respondents live in Decatur, and 17.9 live in the rural area of Adams County
- 50% of respondents were between the age of 25 and 44 years old and 26% was over the age of 55 years old
- 70% of respondents have children under the age of 18 living with them
- 81.7% of respondents view outdoor recreation as extremely or very important and only 2.5% view outdoor recreation as not important
- 45.14% of respondents visit the parks at least once a week; 31.21% visit the parks once a month; 4.2% visit once a year; and 17.28% visit the parks seasonally for sports activities

- When asked which five activities are most important in the community the top answers included walk/run/jog (indicating the importance of trails or running paths); playgrounds; the multi-use trail system; swimming; and field sports with court sports coming in just 9% lower
- 54.32% of respondents live within the area the above-mentioned activities are offered; 34.88% have to travel some to reach the activities
- When asked which parks are most often used the top five answers were American Legion Park (56.4%); Hanna Nuttman Park (46.8%); Decatur Pool at Waterworks Park (33.84%); Homestead Park (28.45%); Kekionga Park (25.25%); and Riverside Center (22.39%). The least visited parks were North Ward Park (1.01%); Eastbrook Park (1.35%); South Ward Park (1.85%); Linn Grove Park (2.02%).
- 63.29% of respondents view the general condition of the parks and their facilities as good or high quality; 34.88% believe the quality varies from park to park
- When asked which park is in need of maintenance the top five written answers were Kekionga Park (N=41); Waterworks Park/Pool (N=34); Stratton Park (N=24); All/Most parks (N=16)
- 67.94% of respondents travel less than 10 miles to participate in most recreational activities; 21.10% travel 10 – 20 miles
- 78.96% of respondents visit the parks with family and 11.19% visit with friends
- When asked which three amenities respondents would like added to the parks the top answers included splash pad (70.76%); additional trails (52.27%); dog park (42.18%); grills and picnic areas (22.86%); and more passive recreation (20.67%)
- Respondents were given the opportunity to write in activities they would like to participate in that are not currently offered. The top answers included more swimming opportunities (N=24); pickleball (N=21); indoor basketball/exercise equipment/sports complex/practice facility (N=9); expanded greenway and trails (N=7); fishing facilities (N=6); tennis courts (N=6); and splash pad (N=6)
- When asked which park they would like to see new amenities the top answers included Hanna Nuttman (40.58%); American Legion Park (31.47%); Kekionga Park (30.64%); Homestead Park (26.29%); and waterworks park and the Northwest School Property (14.91% each)
- 90.27% of respondents would like to see more trails connecting the communities in Adams County
- 73.3% of respondents believe it to be extremely or very important for the parks department to offer programs to the community which only 3.7% believe it to not be important
- Respondents were asked which park programs are most important to them; the top answers include swim lessons (63.24%); youth soccer (57.84%); fitness center (43.55%); gymnastics (43.03%); youth basketball 32.06%); and aquatic exercise classes (30.66%)
- Respondents were given the opportunity to suggest other programs not currently offered. The top answers included paddle sports (N=7); youth football/flag football (N=6) (it should be noted this is offered by an outside organization in the area); racquetball (N=6); tennis (N=5) (it should be noted the high school offers tennis camps and instructions); soccer for adults and children (N=5); sand volleyball and youth volleyball (N=5) (there is currently only a women's volleyball league
- Respondents were asked of their interest in the parks department offering rentals for things such as paddle sports and bean bag toss. Top answers included kayaks and canoes (N=159); yes to all suggested rentals (N=69); bean bag toss (board and bags) (N=13); and frisbee golf (N=4)

- Respondents were asked to provide any additional comments. Top comments included “great job”, “Thank you”, “love the parks” (N=77), and “add a splash pad” (N=5)

4.3 Analysis

After examining the results of the public meetings and survey, the DACPR gleaned information vital to improving the Parks and Recreation system within Decatur and Adams County to benefit and meet the needs and desires of the residents of Adams County. The following subsections will outline the main points gathered from the public and the priorities as measured by the DACPR Planning Committee.

4.3.1 Public Perception, Needs, and Wants

The below key points regarding the Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation system were identified through the public surveys and park inventories.

- The parks in general are used frequently and valued by the community.
- There is a great desire to install a splash pad, upgrade the public pool, install a dog park, and expand the trail system.
- The majority of the parks do not meet ADA requirements and work should begin to ensure they do meet the needs of all area residents.
- Only one park, Monroe Lions Park, has a hitching post to accommodate the large Amish community in Adams County. More parks are in need of hitching posts.
- Water activities are of interest to the public as there are several small lakes, and two rivers (Wabash and St. Marys) that pass through the County.
- Many are interested in renting equipment for outdoor recreation. Kayaks and canoes were of most interest, and bean bag toss and disc golf to a lesser extent.
- The public survey revealed that the public is interested in participating in several activities including football, tennis and would like the Parks Department to offer these programs. These programs are offered by other organizations in the area indicating the need for stronger communication between the DACPR and other organizations that offer community wide recreation opportunities.
- Several parks are aging and in need of repairs or updates
- Only the playground at Hanna Nuttman Park is ADA compliant with a soft solid surface under it.

4.3.2 Priorities

The DACPR Planning Committee examined the results of the public input they received through the surveys to prioritize Park improvements based on the desire of the public. The survey results were discussed in depth at a meeting held on January 6, 2021. It was decided at that meeting that the top priorities as determined by the public would be compiled into a weighted survey to be taken by the Planning Committee members, while also taking into consideration feasibility of the improvements and additional amenities and available funding.

The prioritization survey included the top 14 amenities suggested by the public, eight activities/programs suggested by the public, and a list of all the parks to prioritize maintenance. All of these question’s answers were weighted to provide a clear prioritization. The survey also included six equipment rental opportunities suggested by the public and the Planning Committee was asked to mark those they would like the DACPR to offer. Table 12 - 15, below show the results of the prioritization survey completed by the Planning Committee.

Table 12: Additional Park Amenity Prioritization Survey Results

Additional park amenity prioritization (weighted)	Score
Multi-use Trail	12.89
Dog park	12.78
Splash pad	11.00
Grills/Picnic areas	10.67
Additional boat access	9.89
Additional passive recreation	8.13
Pickleball courts	6.33
More swimming opportunities/indoor pool/heated pool	6.11
Soccer Complex	6.00
Frisbee golf	5.78
Skateboard opportunities	5.50
More fishing opportunities	4.56
Indoor sports complex/exercise room	4.25
Tennis courts/youth tennis	2.38

Any amenity scoring higher than 8pts was considered a priority to be completed within the next five years. These included increasing the length of the multi-use trails in Adams County, installing a dog park and splash pad, add more grills and picnic areas, install additional boat access sites to the rivers, and increase the availability of passive recreation.

Table 13: Additional Park Programming Prioritization Survey Results

Additional Park Programming Prioritization (weighted)	Score
Paddlesports / rafting	7.44
Youth football / flag football	5.25
Sand volleyball / youth volleyball	4.88
Arts and crafts classes	4.56
Naturalist programs (birding/plant i.d./gardening)	4.11
Yoga/Pilates/Thai Chi	4
Tennis league / lessons	3.43
Additional soccer opportunities for all ages	3.43

Many of the above-mentioned programs are already offered by the DACPR such as volleyball, or they are offered by other organizations in Adams County including yoga/Pilates offered by the library and tennis offered by the local high school. The DACPR Planning Committee determined that they should work with these other organizations to help promote the recreation and team activities being offered by other organizations in the area.

Table 14: Rental Program Prioritization Survey Results

Parks and Rec rental program	Percentage
Kayaks	75%
Corn hole bags/boards	62.50%
Canoes	50%
Frisbees/Discs for Frisbee Golf	50%
Bikes	12.50%
Ice Skates/ Roller Skates / Roller Blades	12.50%

Any of the rental opportunities that were marked as important by 50% or more of the Planning Committee was considered a viable rental offering and prioritized as important to implement within the next five years.

Table 15: Park Maintenance Prioritization Survey Results

Park Maintenance Prioritization (weighted)	Score
Kekionga Park	19.53
Waterworks Park/Pool	18.38
Stratton Park	17.75
Worthman Field	15.88
Homestead Park	14.43
South Ward Park	14.43
North Ward Park	12.88
NW School Property	12.00
Hanna Nuttman Park	10.57
Bellmont Pond	10.29
Linn Grove	9.75
Monmouth School Ball Diamonds	9.29
American Legion Park	8.57
Riverside Park	8.29
Eastbrook Park	8.00
Limberlost Park	6.75
Adams Service Complex	6.25
Fields Memorial Park	6.00
St. Marys Nature Preserve	5.71
Monroe Lions Park	1.71

During the discussion of survey results it was suggested that the DACPR determine a rotating schedule to assess the parks and make necessary improvements or upgrades following that rotating schedule. The results of the above prioritization will be used to determine what parks will be included in the rotation, starting with those that are in need of the urgent repair and maintenance (Kekionga Park, Waterworks Park, Stratton Park, Worthman Field, and Homestead Park being within the first year's rotation).

Based on the public survey and prioritization results, below is a list of the Priority 1 and Priority 2 upgrades, programs, and maintenance requirements.

- Priority 1 (0 – 5 years)
 - Determine maintenance schedule
 - Update bathrooms at Riverside Center to meet ADA requirements
 - Update 10% of Decatur’s playgrounds to meet NPSI and ADA requirements
 - Update Monroe Lions Park to meet NPSI and ADA requirements
 - Install additional grills and picnic areas
 - Repair and upgrade Decatur Public Pool
 - Ensure the Adams County Service Complex meets ADA requirements
 - Increase marketing on available park and partner amenities and programs
 - Install hitching posts at parks to allow ease of access for Amish Community
 - Acquire available land for additional trails and support area trails groups
 - Partner with other organizations to offer additional park programming
 - Implement equipment rental program for Paddlesports, bean bag toss, and frisbee golf
 - Install dog park
 - Create more passive recreation opportunities
- Priority 2 (5 - 10 years)
 - Update all play structures to meet Consumer Product Safety guidelines
 - Ensure all parks have a hard and solid surface to park amenities
 - Install heat unit in pool to extend swimming season
 - Have additional multi-use trails installed
 - Install additional pickleball courts
 - Design a permanent sports complex
 - Install frisbee golf course

5.0 Final Public Comment Period of 5-Year Master Park Plan

In a joint meeting with Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation Boards on March 8, 2021 the Park Plan was discussed, the priorities list and proposed Action Register read out loud and discussed in detail and the draft plan was approved by both Park Boards. To ensure that the public has as many opportunities to review the draft plan before final approval by the IN Department of Natural Resources and officially adopted by the Park Boards, two public meetings (on-line and in-person) were held, and the draft plan was available at several public spaces to be read and reviewed with the opportunity to leave comments. The following sections discuss the review process and any comments that were made.

5.1 Public Review Methods

The final draft Decatur and Adams County 5-Year Master Park Plan was available to the public to read through and leave comments beginning April 6, 2021 through April 30, 2021 at the following locations: Adams County Public Library branches in Decatur, and Berne, the Geneva Public Library, Riverside Center, the Service Complex, and at two stores frequented by the Amish Community including one in Berne and another in Geneva. Additionally, the draft plan was available for review on the Decatur-Adams County Parks and Recreation website (www.daparks.com).

Park Plan reviewers were asked to complete a comment card and place it in the back of the Plan binder or send comments or questions to Kyle Quandt at kyle.quandt@co.allen.in.us. The comments received from anyone who read the draft Park Plan were forwarded to the Planning Committee and addressed as necessary.

In addition to hard copies of the draft Plan being available for review, the Planning Committee hosted two public meetings. An online Zoom meeting was held on April 14 at 5pm and an in-person meeting was held at Riverside Center in Decatur on April 15 at 6pm.

5.2 Public Comments and How they were Addressed

It was reported that over a dozen people from the Amish community reviewed the Park Plans, but only three comments were left. Comments included two regarding the need for restrooms at County owned parks and two regarding the need for hitching posts. Ten additional comments were made after the community reviewed Plans available in other locations. All ten comments referred to the need for additional pickleball courts in Adams County due to the growing interest in the sport.

The Zoom meeting held on April 14 had one attendee from the general public who did not make any comments, the in-person meeting on April 15th at Riverside Center had two attendees from the general public. There was much discussion regarding pickleball, and possible funding options for park improvements.

After reviewing the comments that were made by the public, a survey was created for the Planning Committee to determine if the comments that were received during the public comment period warranted a change to the proposed action register. The survey results indicated the need to move up the original timeframe to build additional pickleball courts and permanent restrooms at the county parks including Linn Grove and Limberlost Parks.

The public comment forms and the Planning Committee survey results can be found in Appendix C.

Action Register



1320 N Washington St, Decatur, IN 46733

- Basketball Court
- Pickle ball Court
- Open Air Pavilion
- Restrooms
- Concession Stand
- Corn Hole Set
- Playground



6.0 Action Register for Implementation

To help guide the implementation efforts to improve the DACPR system and help with park budgeting an action register was developed. The action register is divided into several different sections including “Existing Facilities”, “Trails”, “Programming”, “New Amenities – short term”, and “New Amenities – long term”. Table 16 below shows the actions necessary to meet the needs and desires of the residents in Decatur and Adams County.

Table 16: Decatur-Adams County Parks and Recreation Action Register for Plan Implementation

Objective	Actions	Time-Frame	Cost Estimate	Responsible Party	Potential Source of Funding
Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation - Existing Facilities					
Maintain all existing parks to ensure all amenities available are in good working condition	Create a rotating maintenance schedule of all DACPR Parks	###	N/A	Decatur and Adams County Park and Recreation Boards	PB
	Create a rotating schedule to perform updates and more costly maintenance of DACPR Parks as they are needed				
	Use the results of the public survey to determine the rotating schedule				
Ensure all playgrounds meet the Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines	Inventory all Park play structures and catalog those that need updated	2023	N/A	Decatur and Adams County Park and Recreation Boards	PB
	Update all play structures that do not currently meet the CPSC guidelines	2031	\$300,000		LWCF/PB/D/AWS
Meeting Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility guidelines	Update the bathrooms at Riverside Center	2024	\$40,000	Decatur Parks and Recreation	LWCF/PB/D
	Create a priority list of parks to ensure a hard and solid surface to all amenities in all parks	2021	N/A	Decatur and Adams County Park Boards	PB

Objective	Actions	Time-Frame	Cost Estimate	Responsible Party	Potential Source of Funding
	Work to ensure that all parks have a hard and solid surface to all park amenities	2031	\$250,000		LWCF/PB/D
	Update a minimum of 10% of Decatur's playgrounds to meet National Playground Safety Institute and ADA guidelines	2026	\$300,000	Decatur Parks and Recreation	LWCF/PB/D/AWS
	Update Monroe Lions Park playground to meet the National Playground Safety Institute and ADA guidelines	2023	\$200,000	Adams County Parks and Recreation	LWCF/PB/D/AWS
Increase Skateboard Opportunities	Upgrade the existing Skate Park at North Ward Park	2031	\$75,000	Decatur Parks and Recreation	LWCF/PB/D
Install Additional Picnic Areas and Grills at Parks	Determine which parks are in need of additional picnic areas and/or grills	2021	N/A	Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation	PB
	Install additional picnic tables and/or grills where needed	2023	\$15,000		LWCF/PB/D/AWS
Assess Viability of Existing Pool	Have a full inspection of existing pool completed and acquire estimate of pool repairs	2021	\$1,000	Decatur Parks and Recreation	PB
	Determine if existing pool is repairable or if a new pool should be constructed	2022	N/A	Decatur Parks and Recreation	PB
	Have all repairs completed or new pool constructed	2026	Unknown until estimate acquired	Decatur Parks and Recreation	LWCF/PB/D

Objective	Actions	Time-Frame	Cost Estimate	Responsible Party	Potential Source of Funding
Offer additional Swimming Opportunities	Extend pool hours during long summer days	2021	\$10,000	Decatur Parks and Recreation	PB/UF
	Install heat unit to extend the swimming season	2031	\$5,000		PB/UF
Update Adams County Service Complex	Assess the weight room and update as appropriate	Ongoing	Annual Budget	Adams County Parks and Recreation	PB/UF
	Increase outreach regarding the services offered at the Complex	2021	N/A	Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation	PB
	Ensure that the building meets ADA requirements	2022	Annual Budget	Adams County Government	PB/ACG
Install Hitching Posts so the Amish Community has Access to the Parks	Determine which parks already have hitching posts and make repairs if needed	2021	N/A	Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation	PB
	Install hitching posts at parks that are frequented by the Amish community, but none currently exist	2023	\$3,000		PB/LWCF/D
	Ensure there is proper horse waste receptacles at each hitching post	2023	\$500		PB/LWCF/D
Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation - Trails					
Increase the number of miles within the Multi-use Trail System	Approve the NIRCC trail plan	2021	N/A	City of Decatur	CoD
	Complete the acquisition of old railroad bed from IN DNR	2025	\$1,000	City of Decatur and Adams County Government	PB/CoD

Objective	Actions	Time-Frame	Cost Estimate	Responsible Party	Potential Source of Funding
	Construct multi-use trail on old railroad bed	2028	\$150,000	Decatur Parks and Recreation	LWCF/PB/D/ITP/F
	Support other organizations who are working to expand the multi-use trail system in Adams County	Ongoing	N/A	Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation	PB
	Continue to supply maintenance support of existing multi-use trails	Ongoing	Annual Budget		CoD/PB/SAT
Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation - Programming					
Partner With Other Entities Offering Recreation Opportunities in the County	Identify partners who already offer recreation opportunities to the community	2021	N/A	Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation	PB
	Develop a means for partners to share opportunities for recreation with the DACPR to advertise to the community	2021	###		
	Create an efficient means of disseminating information to the community	2021			
Offer Additional Park Programming	Investigate partnerships with area residents and other organizations to offer programs such as crafts, nature hikes, birding, etc.	2021	N/A	Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation	PB

Objective	Actions	Time-Frame	Cost Estimate	Responsible Party	Potential Source of Funding
	Assess additional financial support necessary to offer such programs	2021	N/A		PB/CF/UF
Implement an Equipment Rental Program	Establish renting program protocols	2021	N/A	Decatur Parks and Recreation	PB
	Identify put-in locations for paddle sport rentals	2021	N/A		PB
	Purchase kayaks/paddles/PFDs available for rental	2022	\$4,000		PB/D/UF/F
	Purchase bean bag toss game boards and bags for rental	2022	\$500		PB/D/UF/F
	Purchase frisbee golf discs	2022	\$200		PB/D/UF/F
Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation - New Amenities (short-term)					
Install a Dog Park	Determine the ideal location(s) for a community dog park(s)	2021	N/A	Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation	PB
	Install community dog park(s)	2023	\$100,000		PB/F/UF
Install Community Splash Park	Determine the ideal park(s) for the installation of a splash pad	2021	N/A	Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation	PB
	Install a suitable splash pad(s) to meet the needs of the residents of Decatur	2024	\$250,000		LWCF/PB/D
Create Additional access to the rivers for water sports	Install additional boat access sites on the St. Marys and Wabash Rivers	2025	\$0 - \$100,000	Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation	LWCF/PB/D/ITP/AWS/DNR-BAP

Objective	Actions	Time-Frame	Cost Estimate	Responsible Party	Potential Source of Funding
Improve Water Quality in St. Marys and Wabash Rivers	Investigate the feasibility of offering river clean-ups which would include invasive plant, debris, and trash removal	2022	N/A	Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation	PB
	Investigate partnernships with other organizations already offering river clean-ups in the County	2022	N/A		PB
Create More Passive Recreation Opportunities	Identify opportunities for land acquisition	2024	N/A	Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation	PB
	Install passive recreation opportunitites at existing parks such as flower/pollinator gardens/prairie grass/etc	2025	\$50,000		LWCF/PB/D/F/MG
Install Additional Pickleball Courts	Identify the ideal location for additional courts	2025	N/A	Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation	PB
	Install additional courts in a location ideal for tournaments	2026	\$182,000		LWCF/D/PB/C
Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation - New Amenities (long-term)					
Sports Complex	Designate a park for a permanent soccer complex	2027	N/A	Decatur Parks and Recreation	PB
	Install permanent soccer/football goals	2028	\$20,000		LWCF/PB/D/UF/F
	Install parking to allow for tournaments	2030	\$175,000		
	Install a concession/restroom building	2030	\$100,000		

Objective	Actions	Time-Frame	Cost Estimate	Responsible Party	Potential Source of Funding
	Work with the community to investigate the possibility of getting a YMCA in Adams County	2027	N/A	Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation	PB
Install a Frisbee Golf Course	Identify an ideal location for an additional frisbee golf course	2027	N/A	Decatur Parks and Recreation	PB
	Install the frisbee golf course	2029	\$7,500		LWCF/D/PB/C
Install Permanent Restroom Buildings at County Parks	Install restroom facility at Limberlost Park	2027	\$80,000	Adams County Parks and Recreation	LWCF/PB/D
	Install restroom facility at Linn Grove Park	2029	\$80,000		
ACG - Adams County Government; AWS - Anthony Wayne Services Foundation; C - Clubs; CF - Community Foundation; CoD - City of Decatur; D - Donations; DNR - BAP - Dept. of Natural Resources - Boat Access Program; F - Foundations; ITP - Indiana Trails Program; LWFC - Land and Water Conservation Fund; MG - Master Gardeners; PB - Park Board; SAT - South Adams Trails; UF - User Fees					

7.0 Plan Evaluation

The Park Plan is a living document that will need to be evaluated annually to determine the effectiveness of the action register, progress in addressing priorities, and if the public needs have changed over time. The Action Register of the Plan will be evaluated annually at the April meeting to measure progress in achieving the objections and actions outlined, as well as reassess the priorities given to each action. While all Park Board meetings are open to the public, the April meeting will have extra advertising via social media, website, and local newspapers to encourage public participation at the meeting.

8.0 Board Resolution Adopting 5-Year Master Park Plan

The Decatur Parks and Recreation Board, and the Adams County Parks and Recreation Board were given the opportunity to review the final draft of the Five-Year Master Park Plan. After review, the Board members had an open discussion of the final document. Each Board approved it as written either via email, or signed the Board Resolution to Adopt the 2021 – 2026 Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation: Five-Year Master Park Plan. Below are copies of both signed Resolutions.

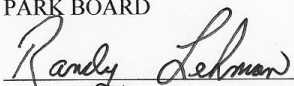
BOARD RESOLUTION
OF
ADAMS COUNTY PARK BOARD

We, the undersigned, being all the Directors of the Adams County Park Board, organized and existing under the laws of Indiana, and having its principal place of business at 231 East Monroe St, Decatur, Indiana 46733 (the "Board"), hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Directors and Stakeholders of the Board duly held and convened on June 14, 2021, at which a quorum of the Board was present and voting throughout, and that such resolution has not been modified, rescinded or revoked, and is at present in full force and effect:

Therefore, it is resolved:

That the Adams County Park Board hereby adopts the Adams County Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan, a copy of which can be found in the Decatur branch of the Adams County Public Library, and the Geneva Branch of the Adams County Public Library.

PARK BOARD

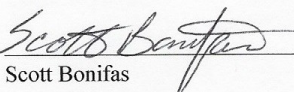


Randy Lehman
President

Date 7/12/2021

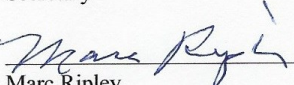
Jenny Long
Vice President

Date



Scott Bonifas
Secretary

Date 6/14/2021

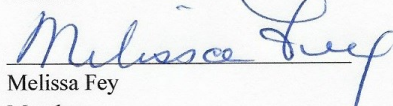


Marc Ripley
Member

Date 6/14/2021

Amy Rumschlag
Member

Date

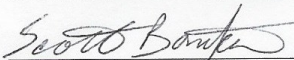


Melissa Fey
Member

Date 7.12.21

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has affixed his/her signature this 12th day of JULY, 2021. The Board has no corporate seal.

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY: The Secretary of the Board hereby certifies that he/she is the duly elected and qualified Secretary of the Adams County Park Board and certifies that the above is a true and correct record of the resolution that was duly adopted by the Board of Directors on June 14, 2021.



Scott Bonifas, Secretary

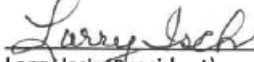
**BOARD OF RESOLUTION
OF
DECATUR CITY PARK BOARD**

We, the undersigned, being all the Directors and Stakeholders of Decatur City Park Board, organized and existing under the laws of Indiana, and having its principal place of business at 231 E Monroe Street, Decatur, Indiana 46733 (the "Board"), hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Directors and Stakeholders of the Board duly held and convened on June 14th, 2021, at which a quorum of the Board was present and voting throughout, and that such resolution has not been modified, rescinded or revoked, and is at present in full force and effect:

Therefore, it is resolved:

That the Decatur City Park Board hereby adopts the Decatur-Adams County Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan, a copy of which can be found at Adams Public Library, Decatur City Hall, and Riverside Center, as well as online at www.daparks.com

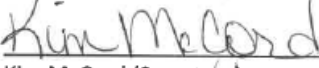
PARK BOARD


Larry Isch (President)

6-29-2021
Date


Kelly Ehinger (Vice President)

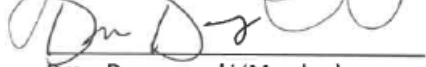
6/16/21
Date


Kim McCord (Secretary)

6/17/21
Date


Joan Siefring (Member)

6-23-21
Date


Drew Derengowski (Member)

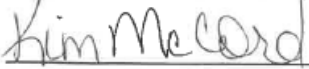
6/24/21
Date


Dick Stimpson (Member)

6/29/21
Date

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

The Secretary of the Board hereby certifies that he/she is the duly elected and qualified Secretary of the Decatur Park Board and certifies that the above is true and correct record of the resolution that was duly adopted by the Board of Directors on June 14th, 2021


Kim McCord (Secretary)

6/17/2021
Date

Appendix A

Public Participation



Copy of Decatur-Adams County Parks and Recreation

Please take a moment to help us improve your experience at the Decatur - Adams County Parks by completing this survey. Your participation in this survey is very important as your answers will help guide the future of the park system.

Your responses will remain anonymous and confidential and will only be used for park planning purposes!

1. What best describes where you live?

- Decatur
- Geneva
- Berne
- Linn Grove
- Monroe
- Outside city limits, but within Adams County

2. What is your age?

- Under 18
- 45-54
- 18-24
- 55-64
- 25-34
- 65+
- 35-44

3. How many people live in your household?

Adults

Children under 18 y/o

4. How important is outdoor recreation to you?

- Extremely important
- Not very important
- Very important
- Not at all important
- Somewhat important

5. How often do members of your household visit an area park in a year?

- Never
- Once a month
- Daily
- Once a year
- Once a week
- Seasonally for sports activities

6. What do you and your family feel are the five most important activities available in your community? (Check the five most important to you)

- Walk/Run/Jog
- Fishing
- Court sports (basketball, tennis, volleyball)
- Playgrounds
- Exercise Equipment
- Field Sports (soccer, base/softball, football)
- Pavilions (open air)
- Picnic Spaces
- Green Spaces/Open Fields
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Horseshoe Pits
- Swimming
- Park Programs
- Utilizing the multi-use trail system
- Corn Hole
- Other (please specify)

7. Are the activities listed above available in your area?

- Yes
- Yes - but I must travel to some activities
- No

8. Which park(s) do you visit most frequently? (check all that apply)

- American Legion Park
- Belmont Pond
- Decatur Pool at Waterworks Park
- Eastbrook Park
- Fields Memorial
- Founders Park
- Hanna Nuttman Park
- Homestead Park
- Kekionga Park
- Limberlost Park
- Linn Grove Park
- Monmouth School Ball Diamonds
- Monroe Lions Park
- North Ward Park
- Northwest School Property
- Riverside Center
- Riverside Park
- South Ward Park
- St. Mary's Nature Preserve
- Stratton Park
- Waterworks Park
- Worthman Field
- Other (please specify)

9. Overall, how would you rate the Park Department's facilities / amenities?

- High quality
- Generally good
- Quality varies from park to park
- Poor quality

10. If there is a park that you feel is in need of maintenance / updating, which park is it?

11. How far do you typically travel to participate in most recreational activities?

- < 10 miles
- 10 - 20 miles
- 21 - 30 miles
- > 30 miles

12. Who do you normally visit the park with?

- Family
- Friends
- By yourself
- Other (please specify)

13. If you could add more amenities to the parks what would they be? (check the three (3) most important to you)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Grills at picnic areas at parks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Splash Pad | <input type="checkbox"/> More passive recreation opportunities (green spaces) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboard Opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer Complex |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Frisbee Golf |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional boat access sites for canoe/kayak | |

14. Are there other activities not listed above that you would like see added to the parks?

15. In which park(s) would you like to see these new facilities? (check all that apply)

- American Legion Park
- Belmont Pond
- Eastbrook Park
- Fields Memorial
- Hanna Nuttman
- Homestead Park
- Kekionga Park
- Limberlost Park
- Linn Grove Park
- Monroe Lions Park
- North Ward Park
- Northwest School Property
- Riverside Park
- South Ward Park
- St. Mary's Nature Preserve
- Stratton Park
- Waterworks Park
- Worthman Field
- Other (please specify)

16. Would you like to see more trails connecting our communities in Adams County?

- Yes
- No

17. How important is having park programs to you?

- Extremely important
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not very important
- Not at all important

18. There are several programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. Please check the activities that you and your family are interested in, or have participated in.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swim Lessons | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Camp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Soccer | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Lunch and Bingo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gymnastics | <input type="checkbox"/> Euchre Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Basketball League | <input type="checkbox"/> Paint Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Volleyball League | <input type="checkbox"/> Aerobics Classes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Touch a Truck/Tractor Youth Event | <input type="checkbox"/> Pickle Ball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Climbing | <input type="checkbox"/> Iron Kid Triathlon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Basketball | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Bakery Workshop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Paint Class | <input type="checkbox"/> Tails on the Trail Dog Walk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mother - Son Dance | <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daddy - Daughter Dance | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Exercise Classes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

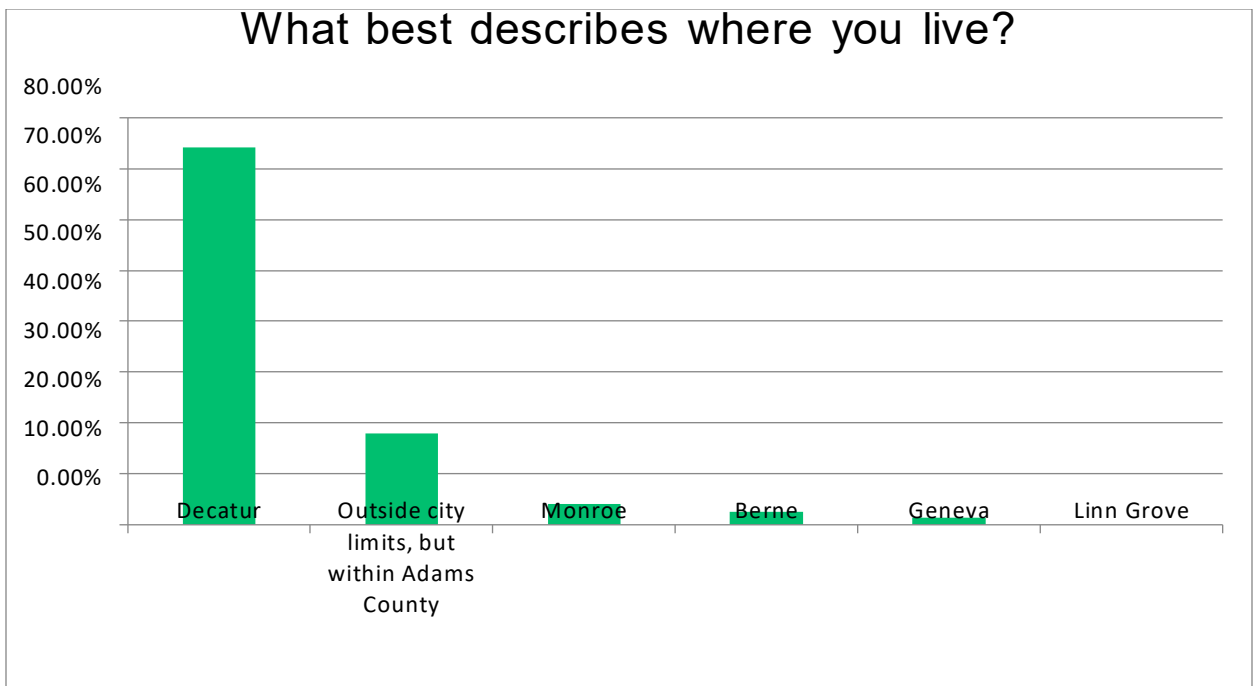
19. Are there activities you are interested in that are not currently offered by the Parks and Recreation Department?

20. Would you be interested in renting equipment from the Parks and Recreation Department such as canoes, kayaks, bean bags for corn hole game, etc? If so, what would you be interested in?

21. Do you have any other comments for the Decatur - Adams County Parks and Recreation Department Boards and Staff?

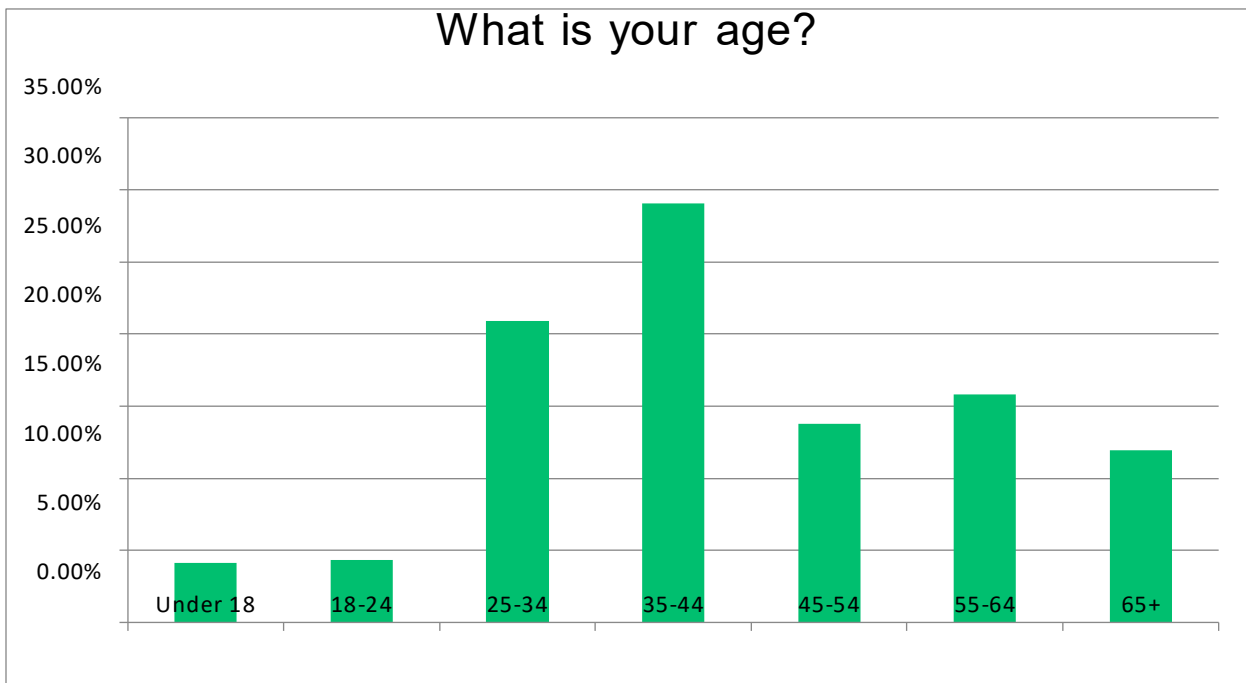
What best describes where you live?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Decatur	74.12%	444
Outside city limits, but within Adams County	17.86%	107
Monroe	4.17%	25
Berne	2.50%	15
Geneva	1.34%	8
Linn Grove	0.00%	0
	Answered	599
	Skipped	5



What is your age?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Under 18	4.15%	25
18-24	4.32%	26
25-34	20.93%	126
35-44	29.07%	175
45-54	13.79%	83
55-64	15.78%	95
65+	11.96%	72
Answered		602
Skipped		2

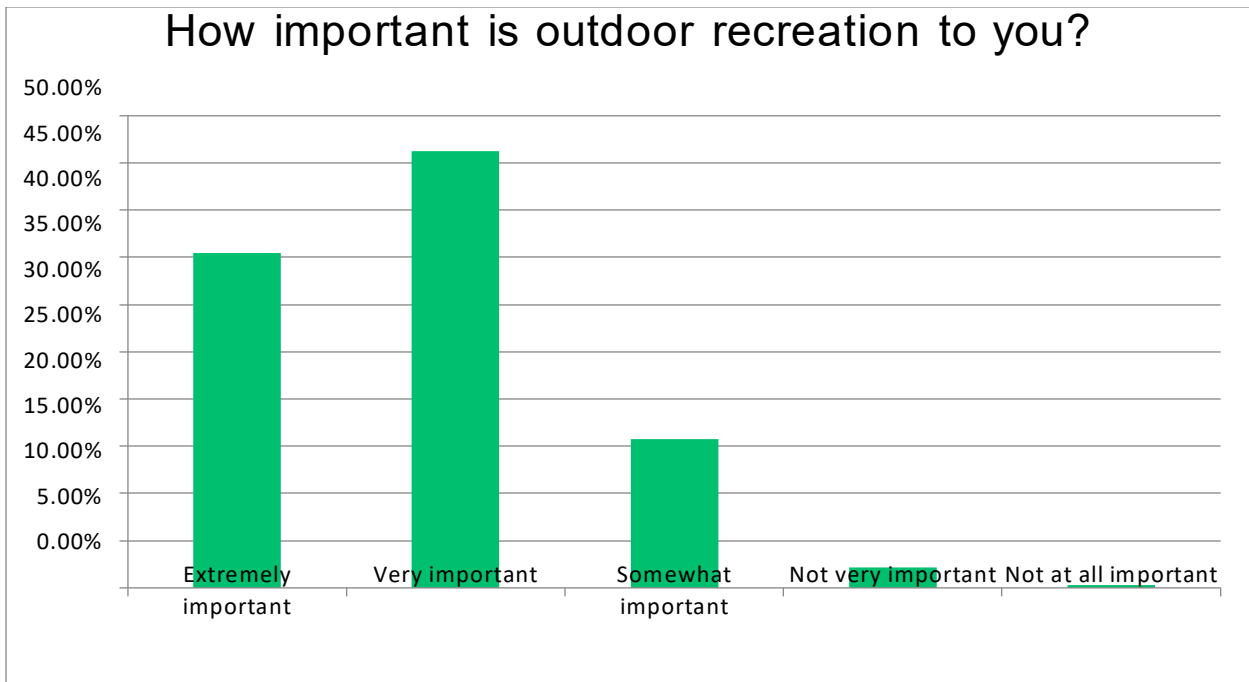


How many people live in your household?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Adults	100.00%	601
Children under 18 y/o	70.22%	422
Answered		601
Skipped		3

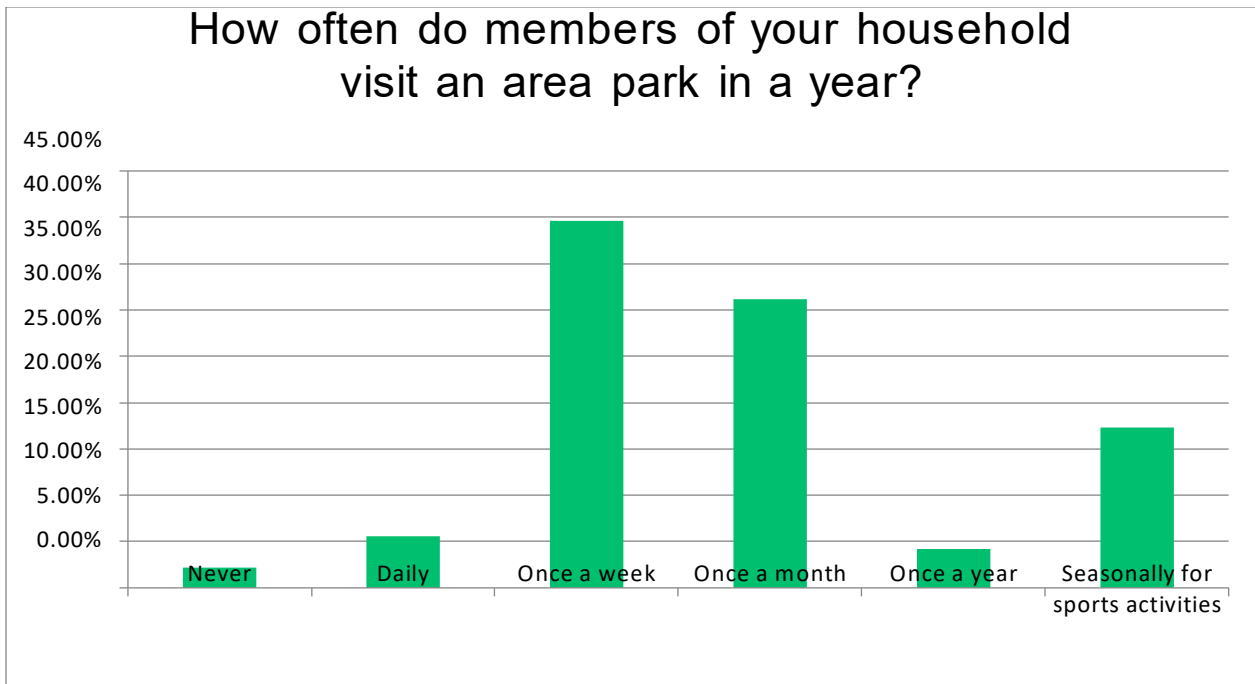
How important is outdoor recreation to you?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Extremely important	35.51%	212
Very important	46.23%	276
Somewhat important	15.75%	94
Not very important	2.18%	13
Not at all important	0.34%	2
Answered		597
Skipped		7



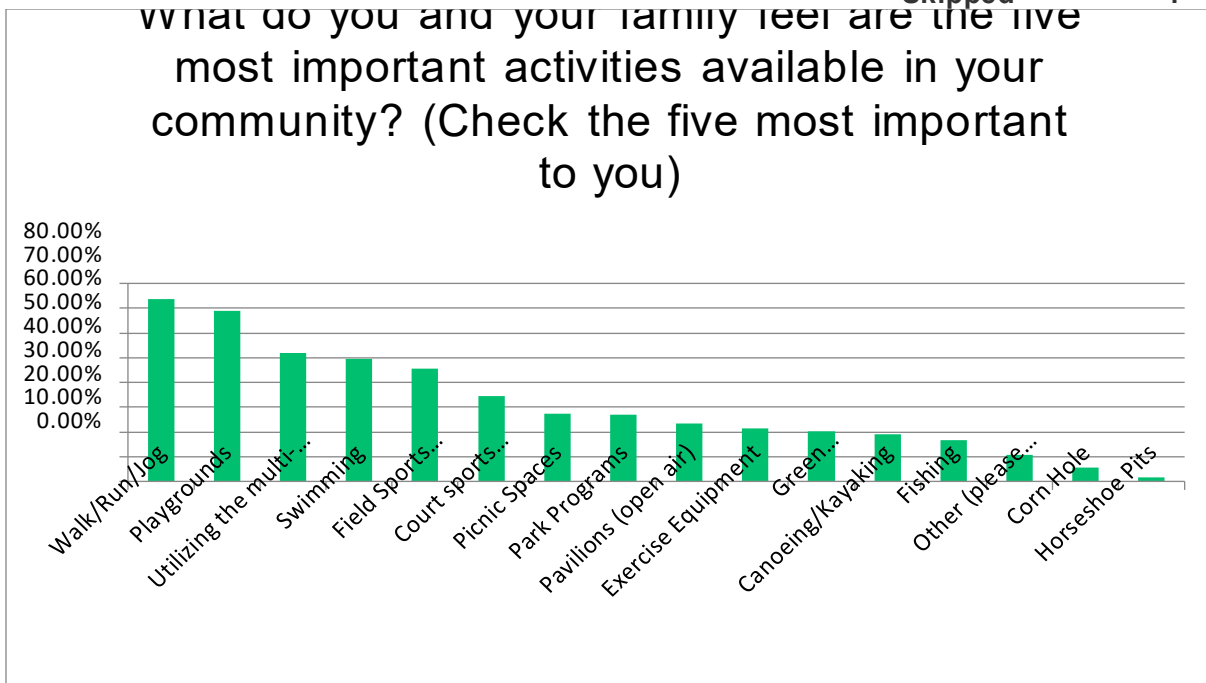
How often do members of your household visit an area park in a year?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Never	2.18%	13
Daily	5.54%	33
Once a week	39.60%	236
Once a month	31.21%	186
Once a year	4.19%	25
Seasonally for sports activities	17.28%	103
	Answered	596
	Skipped	8



What do you and your family feel are the five most important activities available in your community? (Check the five most important to you)

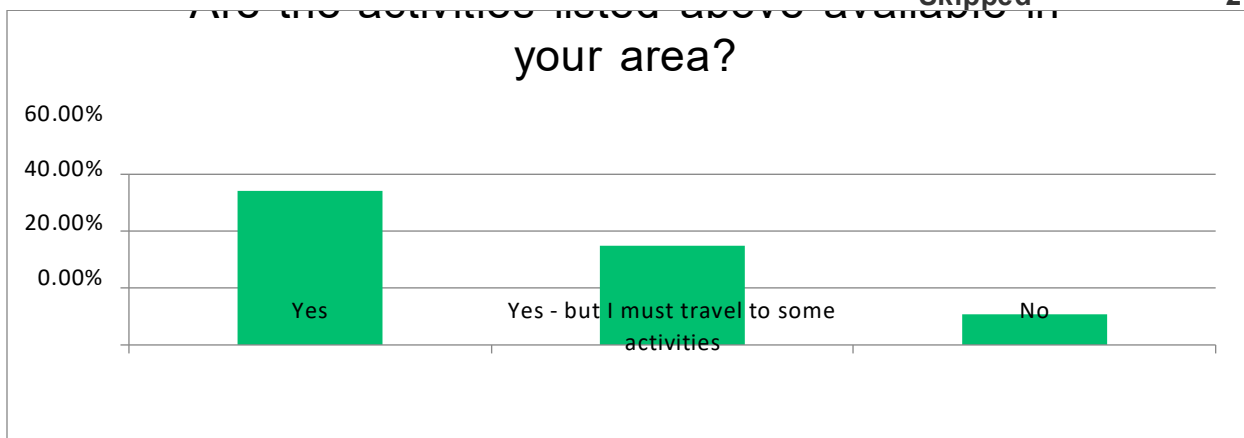
Answer Choices	Responses	
Walk/Run/Jog	73.47%	443
Playgrounds	68.99%	416
Utilizing the multi-use trail system	51.91%	313
Swimming	49.59%	299
Field Sports (soccer, base/softball, football)	45.44%	274
Court sports (basketball, tennis, volleyball)	34.33%	207
Picnic Spaces	27.20%	164
Park Programs	27.03%	163
Pavilions (open air)	23.38%	141
Exercise Equipment	21.23%	128
Green Spaces/Open Fields	20.07%	121
Canoeing/Kayaking	18.91%	114
Fishing	16.58%	100
Other (please specify)	10.78%	65
Corn Hole	5.47%	33
Horseshoe Pits	1.66%	10
	Answered	603
	Skipped	1



Other	17
Biking	10
Pickleball	8
Splash Pad	7
Disc/Frisbee golf (many people play at Kekionga)	6
Nothing	2
Nature Activity	1
Farmers Market/Flea Market	1
Pickleball (inside and outside)	1
leisure strolls in a park with flowers, trees, and open areas	1
Riverside Center	1
Golf	1
Something for Teenagers	1
Gymnastics	1
Water park for grand kids	1
Wheelchair accessibility	1
Picnic tables	1
Swimming and laps in school and park pools	1
Dancing (square, group, line dancing)	1
Skatepark	1
Birding	1

Are the activities listed above available in your area?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	54.32%	327
Yes - but I must travel to some activities	34.88%	210
No	10.80%	65
	Answered	602
	Skipped	2



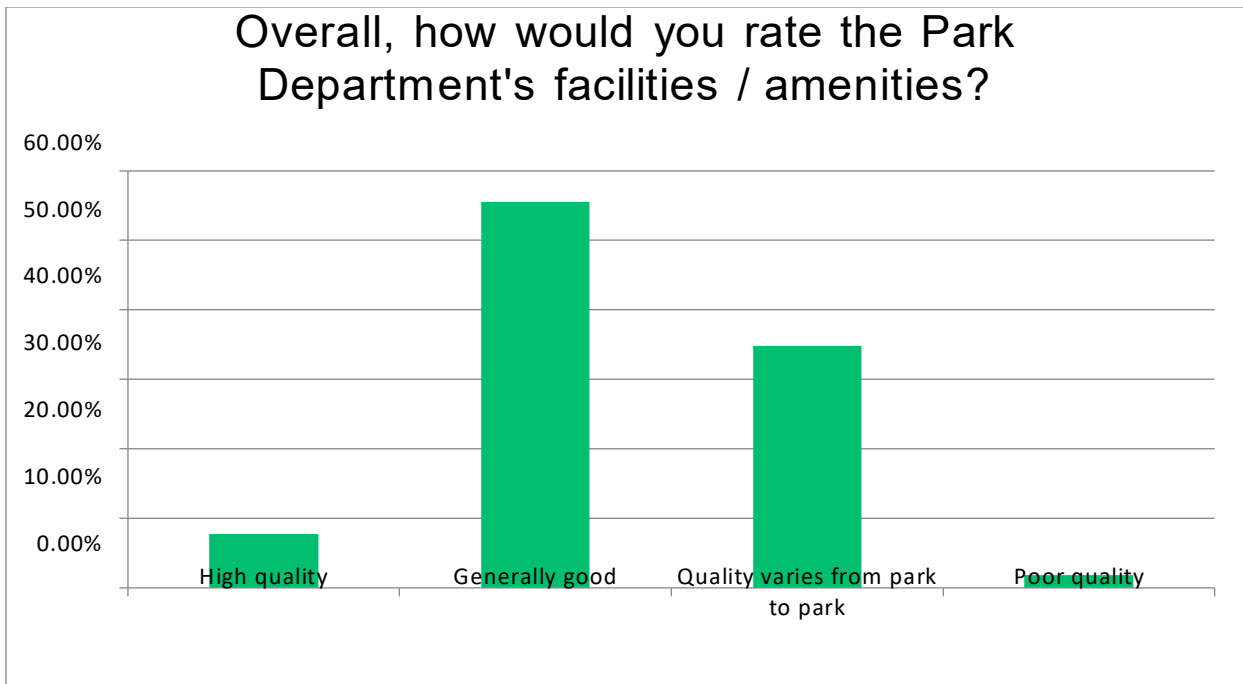
Which park(s) do you visit most frequently? (check all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
American Legion Park	56.40%	335
Hanna Nuttman Park	46.80%	278
Decatur Pool at Waterworks Park	33.84%	201
Homestead Park	28.45%	169
Kekionga Park	25.25%	150
Riverside Center	22.39%	133
St. Mary's Nature Preserve	19.02%	113
Worthman Field	17.68%	105
Bellmont Pond	11.45%	68
Other (please specify)	10.10%	60
Monmouth School Ball Diamonds	9.60%	57
Northwest School Property	8.42%	50
Riverside Park	7.58%	45
Stratton Park	7.07%	42
Founders Park	6.57%	39
Waterworks Park	5.89%	35
Monroe Lions Park	3.87%	23
Limberlost Park	3.37%	20
Fields Memorial	3.03%	18
Linn Grove Park	2.02%	12
South Ward Park	1.85%	11
Eastbrook Park	1.35%	8
North Ward Park	1.01%	6
	Answered	594
	Skipped	10

Other	Number	Comment
Rivergreen Trail	17	
Lehman	11	Berne
Oubache (Wells County)	5	
None	3	
Loblolly (Jay County)	2	
Whicker Park Bluffton)	2	
Depends on activity	1	
Out of town parks	1	
SE school	1	
Covered Bridge	1	
St. Marys River	1	
Van Wert	1	
Annex	1	
Green space on 1st Street	1	
Girl Scout Cabin	1	
One near hospital	1	Kekionga
Kekionga Pond	1	
Cannonball park	1	Legion
Downtown	1	
Berne Pool	1	
Bellmont Middle School track	1	
Geneva and Berne	1	
Out of State	1	
Storybook Park	1	
Not sure of names, we just visit what we know is available	1	
Portland pool	1	
Lehman park, not sure what the names are of some of the Decatur parks, and if there would be a playground with exercise equipment like the school behind the Galley we would love that! Bluffton has a park like that.	1	
Monroe softball diamonds	1	
We need four wheel trails	1	

Overall, how would you rate the Park Department's facilities / amenities?

Answer Choices	Responses	
High quality	7.81%	47
Generally good	55.48%	334
Quality varies from park to park	34.88%	210
Poor quality	1.83%	11
Answered	602	
Skipped	2	



If there is a park that you feel is in need of maintenance / updating, which park is it?

Answered	327
Skipped	277

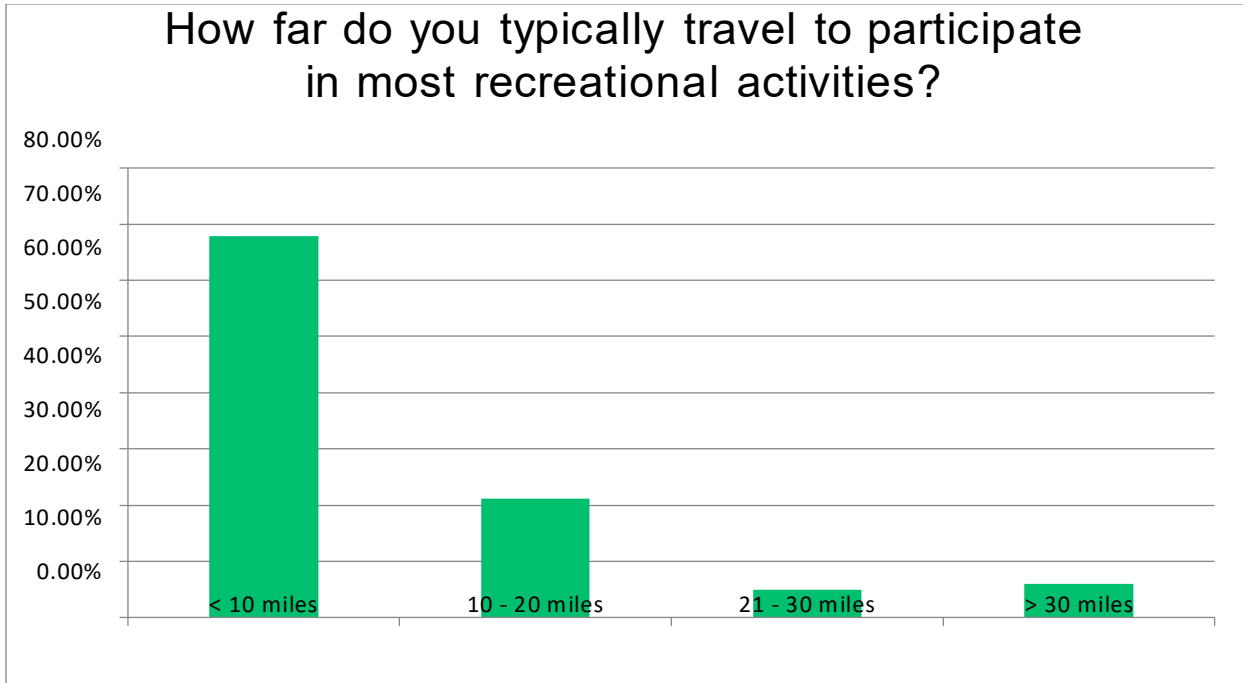
Answer	Number
None	63
Kekionga Park	41
Homestead Park	24
Stratton Park	21
Waterworks Park/Pool	19
All/Most	16
Pool	15

Answer	Number
Worthman Field	11
Hanna Nuttman Park	10
American Legion Park	9
South Ward Park	6
Monroe	6
South Ward Park	6
Northwest Property Playground	6
North Ward Park	5
Monmouth school ball fields	4
more playground equipment for children	3
Bellmont Pond	2
All except American Legion Park	2
Riverside	2
Riverside Restrooms	2
Annex	2
Bathrooms at all parks	2
Need a dog park	2
5th Street	2
Linn Grove	2
Beach Volleyball Court	2
Nature Preserve	1
The bottom part of rev park	1
Homestead because of streets	1
Annex fitness room	1
Joe	1
Skatepark	1
Across the street from Canyon Park	1
Bathrooms at Riverside Center	1
Eastbrook Park	1
Each and every one - beautify with more gardens	1
more lights needed on walking path from legion park to hospital	1
Push mulch under swings at Legion Park	1
The majority of parks have the bare minimum in playground equipment	1
There needs to be a park with playground equipment near Piqua Rd. And E Monroe St. nothing close.	1
If people would stop treating Worthman Field as a dog park and letting their dogs run loose and not picking up their droppings it would greatly improve the park.	1
Everything except Hanna Nuttman and Legion Park	1
They all need to be looked at	1
Safety of walking trails	1

Answer	Number
More parking at Homestead	1
Most area parks are becoming outdated, exception being the newly remodeled Hanna Nuttman.	1
The park on Winchester Street	1
All ponds	1
Add more options at all parks	1
Oubache (state park)	1
Just an infant or dog park would be great	1
All except American Legion Park	1
rivergreenway fix the broken up areas and cracks	1
All the ones we've been to have been in good repair	1
Better trash receptacles at Linn Grove - people leave a lot of trash and I don't mind picking it up, but more trash cans would be helpful	1
I think they are all well maintenance and well updated for as much funding is available in our community. None are broken down or lots of weeds. It's not top-of-the-line at every park but it's nice.	1
Frisbee Golf Course	1
More River Greenway trail access	1
We need bathrooms open year round	1
River greenway wooden bridge	1
The one across from Cannon Park is wasted space could be a teen park with ninja course or toddler park	1
The one diagonal from Cannon Park	1
Canoe and kayak rental	1
More Trashcans	1
In need of one large park	1
Most need updated equipment	1

How far do you typically travel to participate in most recreational activities?

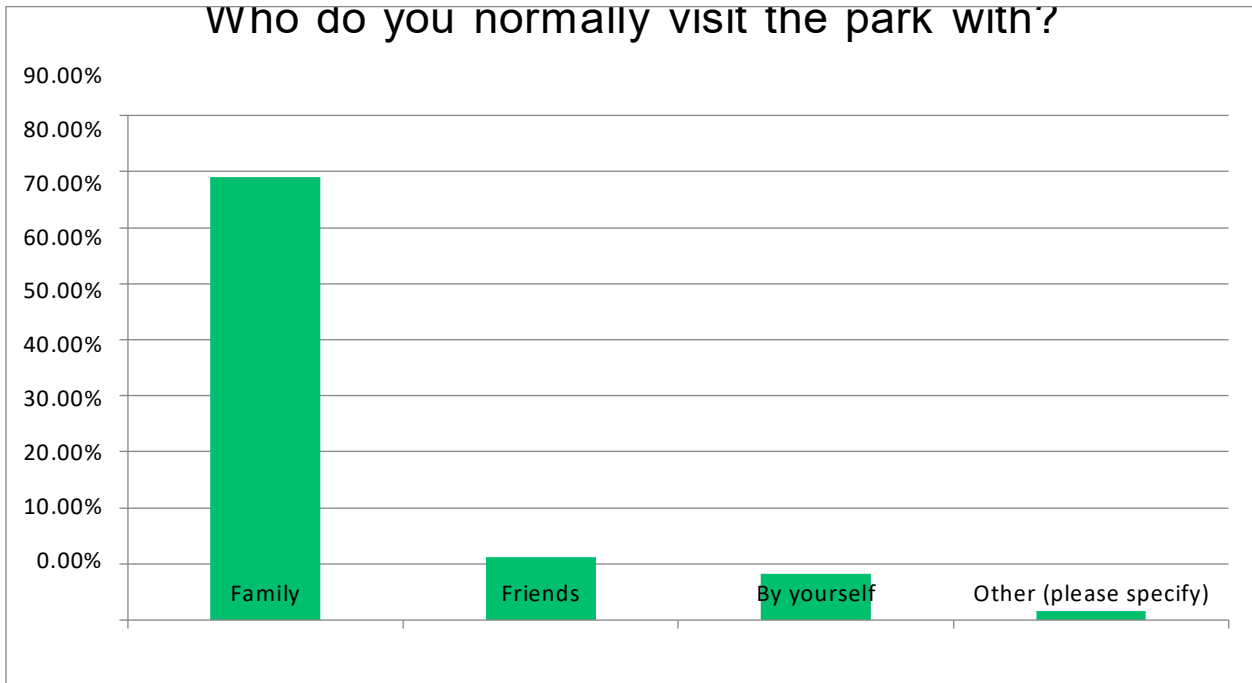
Answer Choices	Responses	
< 10 miles	67.94%	409
10 - 20 miles	21.10%	127
21 - 30 miles	4.98%	30
> 30 miles	5.98%	36
Answered		602
Skipped		2



Who do you normally visit the park with?

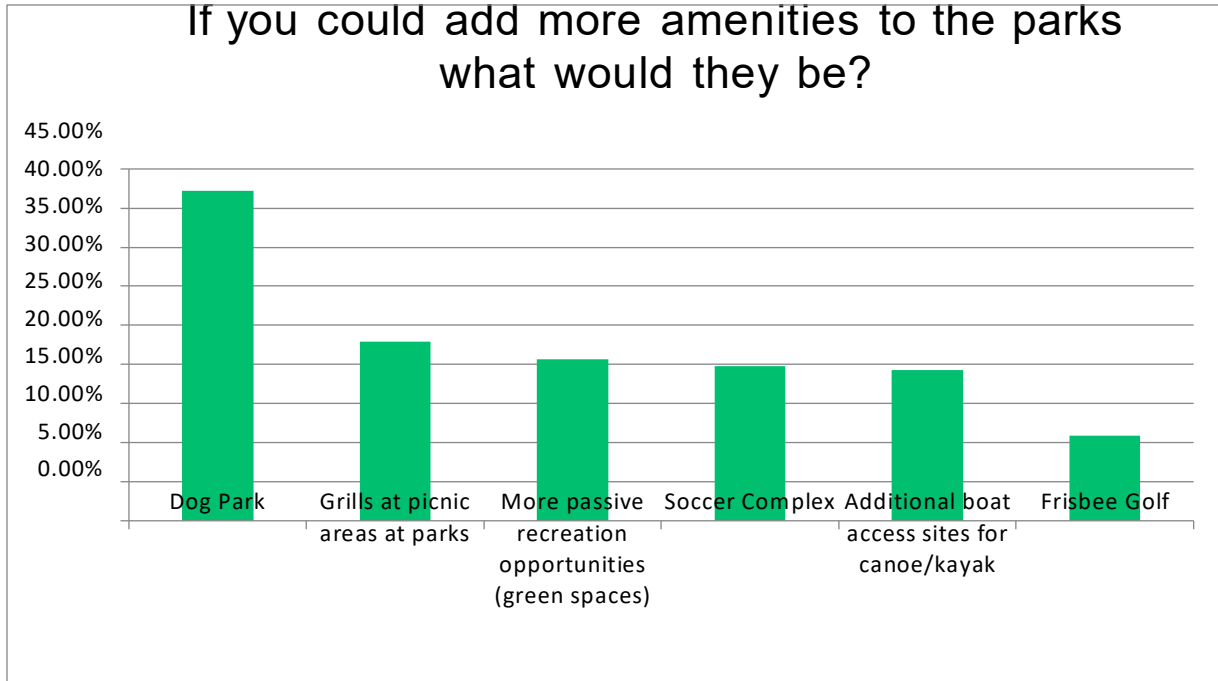
Answer Choices	Responses	
Family	78.96%	473
Friends	11.19%	67
By yourself	8.18%	49
Other (please specify)	1.67%	10
Answered		599
Skipped		5

Other	Number
Cross country team	1
Friends	3
Family	2
Pets	4
The littles I babysit	1
boyfriend	1



If you could add more amenities to the parks what would they be? (check the three (3) most important to you)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Splash Pad	70.76%	421
Additional Trails	52.27%	311
Dog Park	42.18%	251
Grills at picnic areas at parks	22.86%	136
More passive recreation opportunities (green spaces)	20.67%	123
Soccer Complex	19.83%	118
Additional boat access sites for canoe/kayak	19.33%	115
Frisbee Golf	10.92%	65
Skateboard Opportunities	9.92%	59
Answered	595	
Skipped	9	



Are there other activities not listed above that you would like see added to the parks?

Answered	305
Skipped	299

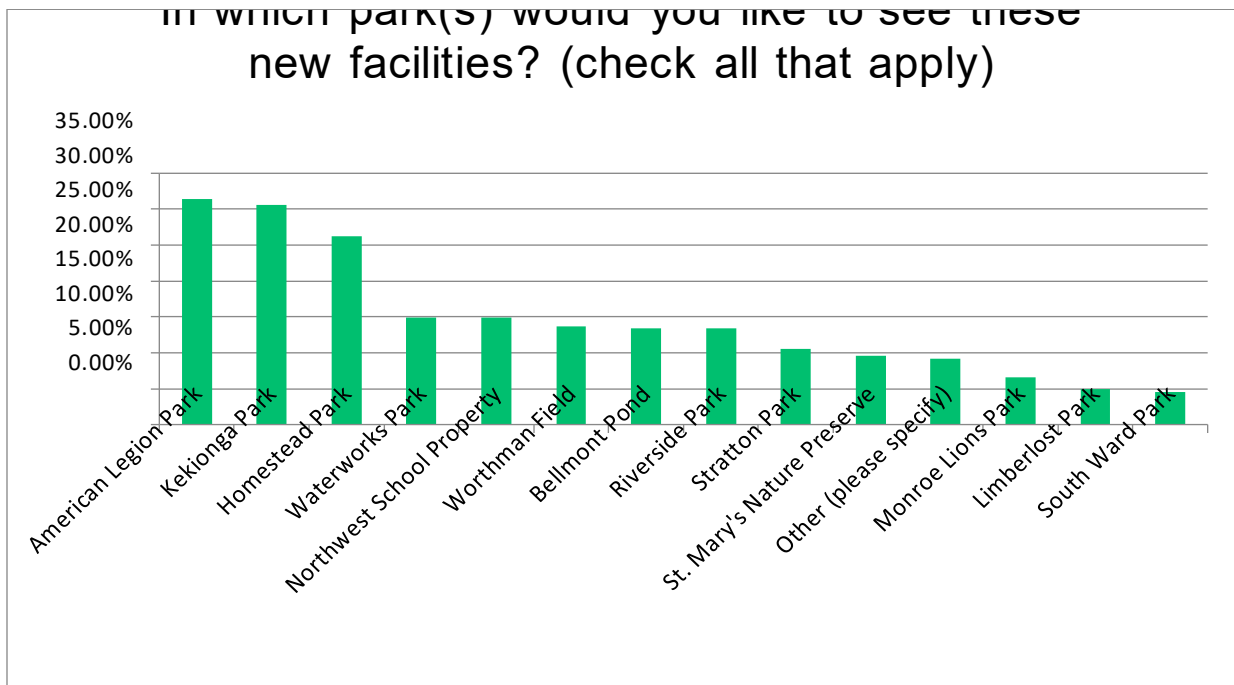
Answer	Number
None/NA/No	116
More swimming opportunities/Indoor lap pool/small indoor pool/upgraded pool/heated	24
Pickelball courts	21
Indoor basketball courts/exercise equipment/sports complex/practice facility	9
Expand river greenway/trails	7
Fishing facilities/tournaments	6
Tennis Courts/tennis for kids	6
Splash pad	6
Bathrooms that are actually open/more bathrooms	5
Safe biking opportunities	4
Bird watching/nature tours	4
Mountain Bike trails	4
Areas for special needs	4
More playground equipment	4
Exercise trail/park	4
A place for teenagers to congregate that offers activities	4
More picnic areas/benches	4
Ice skating	4
Volleyball	4
Water park	4
A Place to accommodate gardens (butterfly, flower, prairie grasses and other plantings	3
An adult softball/baseball diamond/slow pitch softball with lights	3
Concerts in the park (rather than downtown)	3
Volleyball net	3
Too much destruction/safety/security/add Cameras	3
Sledding area	2
More green space	2
More/better swings and slides at the parks	2
football field	2
Flag football/youth football	2
Corn hole/hillbilly golf/horseshoe	2
More slides at pool	1
Unique playground equipment per park	1
Hire a naturalist to offer programs in all parks	1
What are you doing with area on Parkview Drive where houses were torn down? Make campsites in that space	1
Need Belmont pool open for health and exercise with social distancing	1
Area for flying drones or racing	1
Farmers market	1
Indoor activities for families to burn energy and exercise.	1

Answer	Number
Lighting at path from Legion Park to Adams Memorial hospital	1
Better equipment for younger children	1
Funder bus	1
Nice picnic areas with seating and bathroom facilities can rent all year with reasonable rates for all types of families)	1
Basketball, football, and soccer leagues for kids not on a middle school or high school team	1
Wiffleball field	1
Basketball hoops	1
Volleyball sand (not playground sand)	1
A big playground area like Ft. Wayne has	1
More scenery	1
Hanna Nuttman pickleball court including wind stopper around the fence	1
golf cart trails	1
Something done with southeast elementary playground	1
Obstacle course/ninja course	1
Dog trail/dog walk path	1
Tetherball	1
Archery range	1
Stop flooding on trails near river and hospital	1
Corn hole tournaments	1
Zip line	1
Fire pits	1
Food vendors	1
Permanent soccer goals	1
Better swings	1
Playground for kids aged 0 - 8 y/o (more than just swings)	1
Green space to watch nature during picnic (like Franke Park in Fort Wayne)	1
Wooded trails for hiking	1
River clean-up	1
River access ramps	1
Check out Miller Activity Complex online. It's in Castle Rock, CO. Has wonderful outdoor equipment that can be used for play or training for many many sports as a team or individual. So much fun!	1
4 wheeler trails on old railroad tracks. MI and WV make money doing this	1
Just grateful for parks - as a renter these are particularly important.	1
Historic figures along trails, storybook trail	1
Add to the trail going east toward Piqua road. You could follow the old railroad all the way to Bobo !!!	1
Outdoor class space (ex. Outdoor yoga)	1
Roller skating	1

Answer	Number
Monroe needs something. The park there is very limited and universities g to kids	1
More summer programs for kids. Similar to programs that Bluffton parks and rec offer	1
Park with untraditional equipment like wicker park, more activities for kids (gymnastics, crafts, tennis camps, etc)	1
Some parts of the river green way need re paved	1
Enclosed pavilions	1
Parking spaces to access the walking path by that big tower/iron bridge path on the river greenway	1
Hopscotch	1
Climbing beyond what is at the Annex	1
Mini putt-put by a splash pad	1
Batting cages	1
Corn hole at more of the pavilions would be nice	1
More maintenance for ponds and trail in Decatur	1
Baseball and softball tournaments that would draw in teams from outside the area and be revenue producing	1
Something unusual. Perhaps small houses like the ones in Rockford Ohio	1
Outdoor theater at Hanna Nuttman	1
Better parking. Especially at Worthman during soccer. Very unsafe...have seen several kids almost get hit.	1
Longer hours at pool, an lighten up a little an let the kids have fun	1
Nice fun things for my little ones to do. There's not much around here	1
Columbia City has a wonderful splashpad in their largest park. Their public pool isn't even open anymore since they have the YMCA, but with the splash pad they don't need it. I would love to see us get one, doesn't even have to be near the pool, but a splashpad in one of the largest parks would be nice for those with young children.	1
A place to rent canoes would be nice.	1
Outdoor ping pong with some under pavilions	1
Dedicated space for Decatur Ultimate Frisbee League	1

In which park(s) would you like to see these new facilities? (check all that apply)

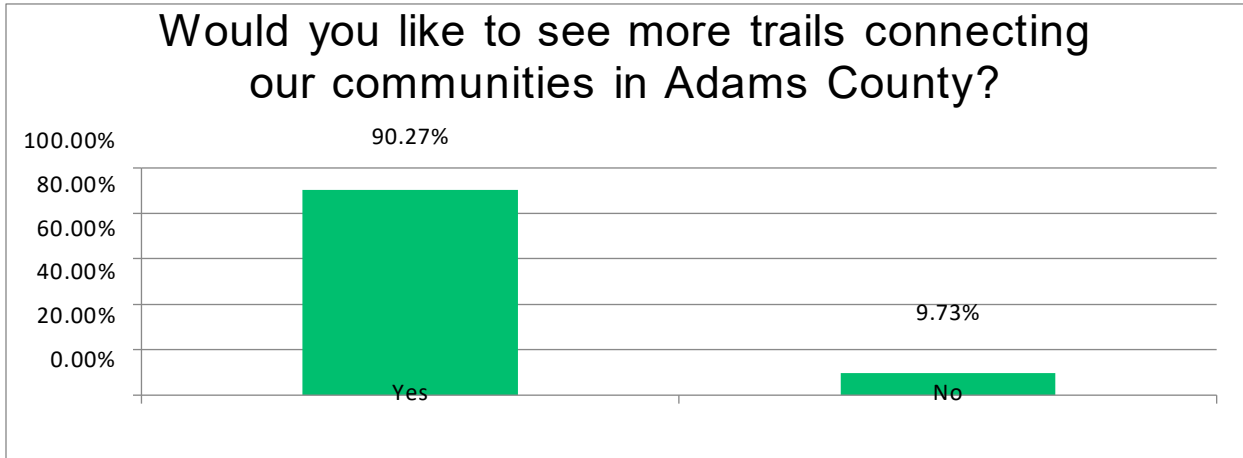
Answer Choices	Responses	
Hanna Nuttman	40.58%	196
American Legion Park	31.47%	152
Kekionga Park	30.64%	148
Homestead Park	26.29%	127
Waterworks Park	14.91%	72
Northwest School Property	14.91%	72
Worthman Field	13.66%	66
Bellmont Pond	13.46%	65
Riverside Park	13.46%	65
Stratton Park	10.56%	51
St. Mary's Nature Preserve	9.52%	46
Other (please specify)	9.11%	44
Monroe Lions Park	6.63%	32
Limberlost Park	4.97%	24
South Ward Park	4.55%	22
Eastbrook Park	2.90%	14
Fields Memorial	2.90%	14
North Ward Park	2.69%	13
Linn Grove Park	1.45%	7
Answered		483
Skipped		121



Other	Number
Any	7
New pool	5
Belmont pool or new indoor pool	1
Undecided	5
Lehman Park	3
Decatur Parks	2
Canon Park	2
All	2
New Park	1
None	1
Away from busy streets and fenced in	1
Wherever there is space for more courts	1
All security	1
Just one that could best utilize this opportunity for our community.	1
The new baseball diamonds (not sure of name)	1
Any for disc golf	1
4wd trails everywhere	1
River greenway	1
We need more areas for families to enjoy nature	1
Enforcement not allowing dogs to use parks (or other property owners) as their bathroom (owners not cleaning up after them). I have witnessed the same 2 females taking their dogs to 2 parks so their dogs can use as a bathroom over a few years period (both females have their own yards)	1
Bike trail from Decatur to Geneva	1
Dog park exclusively	1
Trails connecting more parks	1

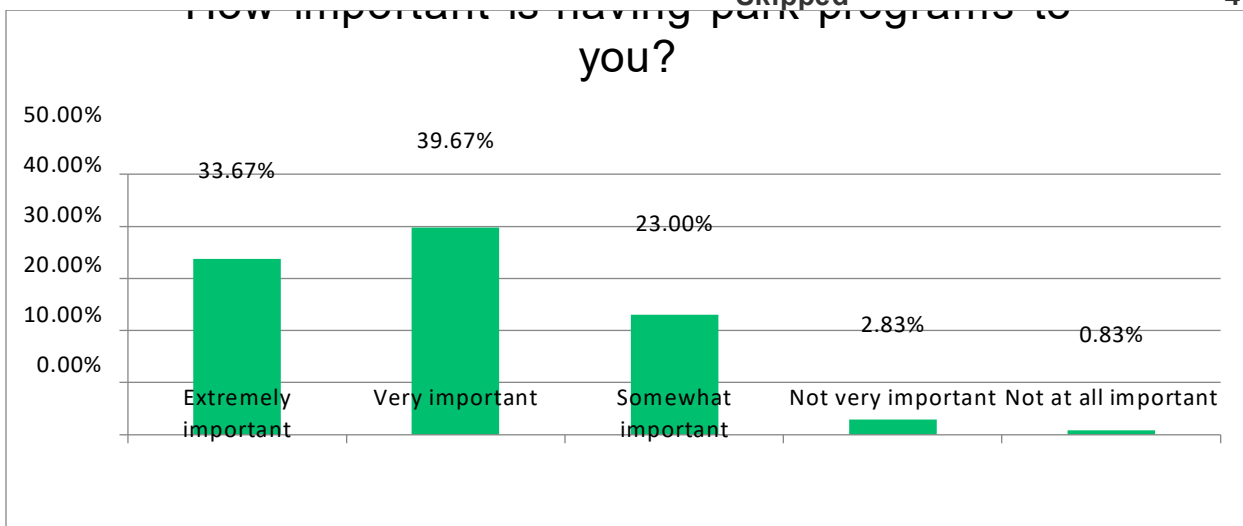
Would you like to see more trails connecting our communities in Adams County?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	90.27%	529
No	9.73%	57
Answered		586
Skipped		18



How important is having park programs to you?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Extremely important	33.67%	202
Very important	39.67%	238
Somewhat important	23.00%	138
Not very important	2.83%	17
Not at all important	0.83%	5
Answered		600
Skipped		4



There are several programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. Please check the activities that you and your family are interested in, or have participated in.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Swim Lessons	63.24%	363
Youth Soccer	57.84%	332
Fitness Center	43.55%	250
Gymnastics	43.03%	247
Youth Basketball	32.06%	184
Aquatic Exercise Classes	30.66%	176
Touch a Truck/Tractor Youth Event	27.18%	156
Rock Climbing	21.95%	126
Daddy - Daughter Dance	20.56%	118
Youth Paint Class	19.86%	114
Women's Volleyball League	18.82%	108
Tails on the Trail Dog Walk	17.60%	101
Aerobics Classes	15.51%	89
Mother - Son Dance	14.81%	85
Summer Camp	14.46%	83
Youth Bakery Workshop	13.59%	78
Iron Kid Triathlon	13.41%	77
Men's Basketball League	12.89%	74
Pickle Ball	12.37%	71
Paint Club	10.63%	61
Senior Lunch and Bingo	8.01%	46
Euchre Club	7.32%	42
Other (please specify)	4.88%	28
	Answered	574
	Skipped	30

Other	Number
None	3
Co-ed/mens/womens Softball	3
Walking/biking trails	2
Bike Club	1
Events at Riverside Center	1
Youth Volleyball	1
Women's Volleyball	1
Roller skating at Riverside Center	1
Computer club/lab	1
Baseball	1
Nature photo scavenger hunt	1
Cardboard boat race	1
New Years family dance	1
Tincaps game Decatur night	1
Removing homeless	1
Youth football	1
Go carts	1
Dance for kids and adults	1
Shuffle board	1
Play equipment	1
4wd jamborees	1
Cornhole	1
Half marathon/5k	1
Swing dance classes	1
Touch a truck	1

Are there activities you are interested in that are not currently offered by the Parks and Recreation Department?

Answered 292
Skipped 312

Answer	Number
N/A / None / No / Not at this time	127
kayaking/canoeing/rafting	7
most are	6
Youth football / flag football	6
Racquetball	6
Tennis - adults and kids/lessons and leagues	5
More soccer for adults and children <5, all ages	5
Not sure	5
Sand volleyball / youth volleyball	5
Development of enhanced natural areas/naturalist programs/bird watching	4
Large indoor space - playground, dog park, gymnastics, exercise space	4
Dog park	4
Arts and Crafts (Painting classes, scrapbooking, cooking/baking)	4
Yoga, pilates, tai chi	4
Roller skating	3
Splash Pad	3
Cornhole league	3
Running club for small children / cross country	3
Zumba classes	3
Mountain biking	2
An indoor pool facility that is heated and has programs such as water aerobics	2
Indoor soccer	2
Swimming pool open later & through September	2
Walking Club (maybe a dog walking club)	2
amphitheater	2
a walk or run for people or a 5k/10k	2
Archery	2
Line, square, ballroom, swing dancing.	2
Adult softball / co-ed	2
They aren't offered anywhere close to where we live!	1
Evening hour activities for seniors like euchre because not all seniors are retired and available during day hours. Weekend trips. Getting to know you groups. Not everyone in Adams county have been born and raised here. There are no programs for people to get to know any friends. Socializing groups for our community. Example: dining out or game nights.	1

Answer	Number
The sad part for me is the lack of good pedestrian infrastructure to get to a park!! I live in E Monroe and the sidewalks to St Mary's Preserve are dangerous. Riding a bike to the parks is like committing suicide!! Parks are useless if you cannot ride to them!!	1
Love Chris and all the support the crew had given over the years.	1
Water aerobics with indoor pool not affiliated with Bellmont. 2 years of no use has not been good. Have paid to use Muselmans.	1
Ones where youth can participate in a sport/exercise class with parents or at the same time as a class for parents so we don't have to get a babysitter to exercise	1
We need a dog park!!!! And a shelter that cares for the animals they hold!	1
Love that we now have an outdoor pickle ball court!	1
Just more Pickleball courts	1
Golf for kids	1
Golf	1
Many	1
Co-ed Volleyball Leagues	1
Bingo? Crafts for seniors sewing classes quilting etc for more older population activities	1
R.C. car truck ect ... race course. 🚗 🚚 🚛	1
enclosed pavilion capable of hosting 200 people for reunions or small events.	1
Drag strip	1
Outside fitness	1
genealogy, gardening, how to take care of your photos, what to do with family momentous, taking care of antiques, how to fix a faucet and toilet.	1
Bike event	1
cheese	1
My children have been interested in karate	1
See above	1
Maybe cooking classes for widows and household repair/contacts for reliable local repair men	1
Don't know	1
Horseback riding on the trails, better hiking	1
The dance lessons were fun.	1
more of the summer camps	1
Boat rides on the st marys River. Telling the history of the River, Decatur and businesses.	1
🚣 canoe or kayaking classes	1
I become frustrated with limited classes that fill up quickly. Maybe offer more of the classes that fill up.	1
Safety program	1

Answer	Number
I miss the winter and spring break activities that have been provided in the past.	1
YMCA	1
Boys or co-Ed gymnastics above age 5	1
More adult summer activities	1
Youth library club	1
Tri-ath-a-lon for kids. Looking forward to gymnastics for kids again. Would be fun if you had boat rental for families who don't own a boat. Or a day like the JAKES organization used to do where they would teach kids how to fish (for kids whose parents don't know anything about it) or shoot a bee-bee target.	1
Some	1
You already asked this. Fishing tournaments. Zip lines. Nature walks.	1
Open family swim in the winter at Belmont	1
The county needs more opportunities for swim lessons, it is almost impossible to get your kid into a class when they are younger. You almost need to put them in private lessons or go to Ft Wayne.	1
Unsure	1
Parent and child get togethers	1
Shuffle boards	1
More aerobics classes with child care...step aerobics, Zumba...or childcare offered at fitness center during certain times of day, not all day	1
My kids are still young, so maybe you have this and I don't know, but a day camp would be a big help to parents in need of childcare during the summer!	1
I wish there were more lap swim times/dates available when the city pool is closed.	1
Futsal,	1
More disc golf	1
Chess club?	1
More Cubs baseball trips to either Chicago or Cincinnati.	1
New City Pool	1
Yes, the finished softball field. The season will be tough with no lights.	1
More advanced gymnastics for youth males, better skateboard park	1
4wd jamborees	1
Adult women's athletics...basketball	1
Dance fitness	1
They are offered but often poorly advertised	1
Baseball/softball	1
Sports programs for toddlers	1

Answer	Number
Yes! I would love for the current Fitness Center at the Service Complex to be improved. I travel to other community YMCA's to exercise because their facilities are nicer (updated, more equipment, open longer hours). I would appreciate if the current Fitness Center at the Service Complex be totally remodeled to increase space and improve facility appeal. It would be appreciated if there was an indoor track, group exercise rooms (cycling, yoga, etc), as well as child-care options.	1
More for adults. Cooking. Art. Craft.	1
Unsure...fairly new to the area.	1
More programs, clubs, activities for the Senior Members of our community.	1
I know you had to back off aerobics because of Covid but please bring it back as soon as possible Maybe start outdoor aerobics when it warms up	1
I think some of them are offered already	1
Summer nights at the pool. If the temperature stays above 80 degrees, Have a late night open swim. 9pm - midnight.	1
More trail uses with marked mileage	1
The future looks bright for our area. The library offers classes for adults and kids. Painting classes are offered. MAKER areas are being added. There is much to do for most everyone. All the area of open spaces, it should be no problem. Have visited camp sites around the country. They generally offer something of a dog park. Give them plenty of space to romp, watering areas, and cleanup areas. If someone has the extra dollars, maybe even a seasonal pet wash area!	1
Cheerleading	1
Activities during the day for homeschool children	1
kids fishing, kids nerf fight	1
I miss the yogalates class	1
Dog oark	1
New Haven parks and rec offers a children's program with seasonal craft activities, open gym in the winter, busy bee type classes for toddler through age 6/7 where kids can run, jump, obstacle courses, hula hoop, stretch/exercise, etc. My kids have loved participating in these!! It's been a huge draw and success for New Haven. We are currently in the process of moving back to Decatur. I have so many friends who I believe would utilize these classes as a way to socialize and allow their children the opportunity to interact, learn to listen, develop skills etc.	1
Sustainability classes on composting, gardening. ice skating area would be amazing!!! 2 day day camp for kids only/kids and a parent(or grandparent/family member) together. A pond for swimming like Clemson lake.	1
Resuming senior fitness post covid	1
Ice skating in the winter.. Look into something like Headwaters Park.. But smaller obviously.. Put it on the corner by the river in that green space..	1
Biking areas	1
Bus trips like to Chicago or other close by locations.	1

Answer	Number
bike trails to Allen County	1
More fishing opportunities and other water activities: for boating that allows for public access so all can use. We have a river that could be utilized if it could be kept clear of trees and debris. Looking at other communities that have incorporated use of their rivers for recreation and a source of revenue, I see this avenue as an untapped resource. Finding ways to entice residents to utilize more of our resources and ultimately bring in people from other communities that could be contributors to a created revenue source to help fund other projects that build upon common themes to use and profit from our Decatur resources. A connector to stretch our trails through our counties (Decatur – Berne – Geneva)	1
Book club	1
Swim	1
Ping Pong	1

Would you be interested in renting equipment from the Parks and Recreation Department such as canoes, kayaks, bean bags for corn hole game, etc? If so, what would you be interested in?

Answered	380
Skipped	224

Answer	Number
Kayak and canoes	159
No / N/A / None	111
Yes!	55
Yes, all listed are appropriate	14
Maybe	13
corn hole bags and/or boards	13
Sure	5
Frisbee / Disc golf	4
Bicycle / tandem bike /cart for trail	3
ice skates, roller skates/blades, etc.	3
At a younger age, yes. Especially canoes or bikes.	2
All of the above. Parachute,	2
Yes, all kinds of equipment	2
a weight lifting set	2
Paddle boards	2
pickle ball equipment	2
horse shoes	2
I would love to rent canoes and kayaks if our water was cleaner.	2
Yes but have classes available for the canoeing & kayaks.	1

Answer	Number
I would rent a kayak to go on Bellmont pond. Putt putt would be fun	1
fishing, camping equipment.Lawn games equipment	1
joe	1
I would be interested in renting kayaks if the river was clean, but having to rent been bags is kind of dumb.	1
I would not personally but i believe others would be.	1
I would not need to rent any of these, but that is a good idea.	1
I am not, but what an opportunity we have at the riverside center to open a rental for river activities. Is this offered already?	1
Pelaton bike or stationary bike stand that will work on my own bike.	1
Would love to see a river education program. I am unfamiliar with St. Mary's but would love to explore it.	1
I would be interested in St Mary river tours	1
Pavilion outdoor games	1
As long as reasonably priced	1
Scooters	1
Pool rental	1
New City Pool	1
shuffle boards and equipment	1
maybe snow gear like snowshoes, sleds, ice skate	1
Summer games	1
Just pavilion areas for parties	1
net sports equipment	1
Ping pong, corn hole, canoe & kayaks for ponds. Kinda of like a small college town. Bicycle rental possibly. Let's dream big...booze cruise down the St Mary's, after working hours.	1
Yes. Depends if sanitized with covid.	1

Do you have any other comments for the Decatur - Adams County Parks and Recreation Department Boards and Staff?

Answered	305
Skipped	299

Answer	Number
no / N/A / none	120
Great job / thank you / love the parks	77
Splash pad please!!	5
For sustained growth, the community and county needs to seek and employ a Park and Recreation Director with the appropriate credentials and degrees. Emphasis on Park and Recreation - development of existing facilities.	

Answer	Number
<p>Your workout area is too small and hard to maneuver around , your gymnastics area is in a terrible location with all of the stairs to climb , very dangerous situation, the building is outdated too small and dangerous for what it is being used for you need a new updated building ASAP</p>	
<p>Gymnastics area is poorly located. Insufficient indoor space for exercise or sport activities.</p>	
<p>I think over all you are doing a great job. My children had many good opportunities to be involved in the parks programs here in Adams county when they were growing up. From swimming, tumbling tots, little league ball and golf. With not coming from a golfing family my son and daughter learned to play well enough from the parks department that they played golf for the high school teams. To this day being adults, golf has been a game they continue to play for their enjoyment. For that I thank you.</p> <p>My biggest suggestion would be to remember even your seniors need activity and we are not all athletes. We can all use a few more friends in our lives.</p> <p>Thanks for listening.</p>	
<p>I love the city pool as it is. The size is amazing. The facility is exceptionally clean. The water is crystal clear and refreshing. It would be lovely to have extended hours on the weekends. Thank you for the city pool.</p>	
<p>Just sidewalks!!</p>	
<p>New pool, long overdue. Should have been placed in front of the ball fields. Mayor Meyer railroaded that project ahead. The pool has been an asset to this community for years and is treated like the red-headed stepchild of the parks.</p> <p>Time is now. Stop slow rolling the pool project.</p>	
<p>Waiting for aquatics at Belmont to open!!</p>	
<p>With churches now offering sports programs. I feel our efforts should turn somewhat to our outdoor spaces. We need a Naturalist. This person could offer educational programs in all parks. Belmont pond is right by An all grade school campus. Adding trails through those woods and pond safety, canoeing would be a great benefit for our community. Also we need more park maintenance employees! They cannot keep up with the work load. And lastly, the city of Decatur needs to reevaluate their pay scale. We cannot keep employees if they can go to any fast food restaurant or even babysit and make more money. In closing I feel the park department does great job with the limited resources they are provided. Thank you for your time.</p>	
<p>there needs to be more for kids and teenagers to do.</p>	
<p>Too much \$ is spent on youth sports.</p>	
<p>more runs. 5k or otherwise</p>	

Answer	Number
I want to congratulate and thank the park board for safely opening the pool this year! We went often and felt very safe. Someone thought out of the box and executed an excellent plan! Nan Everett and Mr Krull should be commended!!!	
Would be nice to have a YMCA	
Can golf carts go on the trails. I think they should be able to I have a handicapped husband that could really enjoy them if we will be allowed to. He is no longer able to walk the trails	
Just communication answering phones and questions listed online with updates of all activities	
I would like to see a firing range. Decatur has a large number of people who own firearms and really need a place close by. As far as I know we only have one east of Monroe. Trained licensed volunteers could teach gun safety and laws. I know I would be more than happy to help as I am a gun owner and a Army vet and have been trained to use small arms and other weapons. Thank you.	
Piano lessons, singing lessons, etc	
YES! Homestead Park! There needs to be several benches strategically located _ _ _ _ for resting. Especially when entering the park from Bollman Street, the resting bench could be placed next to the "Homestead Park" sign.	
I feel the pool is one of the greatest assets to our community and would like to keep it great	
Yes we need activities for the winter!	
Want lights for REV pickleball courts	
would like to see extra lighting on that walking trail please for people who walk early in the morning when it's dark	
you should consider purchasing the old GE property or Casting property for development.	
The multi use/cycling paths could be more functional for transportation use. Maybe the RR corridors or Winchester st. to get riders out to the business district on 27, and bike lane or paths to Kroger/ Wal-Mart on the south side, and along the river out to the north.	
Trails throughout Decatur.	
Beautify all the parks especially ones with picnic areas with bulbs, shaped shrubs and picnic tables.	
joe	
We need more things for smaller children, children with sensory needs, and autism. Children with autism can just dart off. Having somewhere to take them to play outdoors but enclosed would be a dream.	
I like what they did with Hanna nuttman park but they could at least update north ward park a little bit.	
Hiking trails are extremely important to our community's livability and well being	

Answer	Number
<p>It would be nice to have a big playground with all that newer safety stuff.....with that safety turf stuff so kids don't get hurt.....and scenery.....we need scenery in Decatur.....other areas have campgrounds and water falls and bridges and we literally have nothing like that...just my opinion</p>	
<p>They could of bought the old Kmart and turned it into something for the kids. Already had the snack place, huge possibilities. If I would of had the money, it would of happened. Arcade games, roller rink, mini putt putt. Something. Not another storage unit.</p>	
<p>Parking at some parks is poor. Poor parking area at Legion Park. Picnic areas need to have some shade.</p>	
<p>There are the big 4 of youth activity that our community should be striving to meet in sports. Baseball/softball, basketball, volleyball, and gymnastics. If families are having to leave to go to other communities to participate in any of these than we are doing them an injustice. Hanna Nuttman is a huge step in the right direction. It is a very expensive park that must be maintained. We will be having people from other communities visiting Hanna Nuttman and that could be there only experience with this beautiful city. Must keep it top notch. Worthman field needs a new batting cage, very dangerous for youth to be in there. If a new one can't be afforded, then at the very least the current one needs taken down. Also, no dog waste on Worthman field. Signs need posted asap. Thank you all for your time and commitment to our community!</p>	
<p>My kids love meeting their friends up at the American legion park. Lately we have had to leave the park do to older kids being rough and/or fighting at the playground and it causes my special needs son to become over loaded and is a safety issue for the younger kids in the park.</p>	
<p>Promote our youth to get off their electronic device and get some physical activity. Our softball and baseball leagues are not full, kids need to be encouraged to get out and get some social and physical interaction.</p>	
<p>We need clean and working bathrooms and drinking fountains accessible at the parks. Need a complex building that can house fitness center and mens/womens locker rooms w/ shower, courts, gymnastics, and a pool in one building.</p>	
<p>Maybe in the future a facility like a YMCA?</p>	
<p>I have appreciated the opportunity to use the facilities for pickleball.</p>	
<p>A storm water reservoir like the one in Muncie Indiana would be amazing with all the people that travel to the lakes it would be a major expense but a huge money maker!!</p>	
<p>Put in a permanent fence and lights at Kekionga for the baseball/softball field.</p>	
<p>Leave as much open green space as possible</p>	
<p>Our parks are one of the few areas kids have anything to do, it would be a good idea to have activities that older kids and teens can do to. To help keep them engaged in community and exercise. Since the rage closed, they have nothing. Could anything be done for that?</p>	

Answer	Number
Would like bathrooms to be accessible at parks.	
Canoe would be fun	
Keep updating facebook as to when signups for activities are	
New big service complex center/field house -better gymnastics area and more classes offered, Indoor soccer, basketball courts, vball courts, batting cage, fitness center with childcare.	
How does one person hold the position of two full time roles?	
More trails to connect communities	
I love the shade at American Legion Park so there is a place to let kids play without the heat/sunburns. We go there several times a week solely because of the shade.	
Would love to see a multi sport complex	
Trash cans in winter months are needed in parks. Hanna Nuttman will be a mess in a couple months.	
My family frequents the greenway trail. I'd love to see more trail and a mountain bike trail along the river.	
We need a YMCA in Decatur	
Maybe more lights on the trails near the hospital too. Along with preventing flooding along trail.	
Put more equipment in the parks. Have different group activities in each park each month some adult some things. MAINTAIN THE FEW PONDS WE HAVE SO MUCH BETTER THAN YOU DO! THERE'S A HUGE FISHING COMMUNITY HERE GIVE THEM NICER PLACES TO FISH. Have community clean up days and people will help.	
Would love to see a water park of some kind. Bigger, better pools.	
Keep the Decatur up and running. It would be nice to have a place to swim all year around	
If you look at surrounding towns they offer much nicer and larger playgrounds than we offer as a larger town.	
Can we clean up the river to use?	
We love the playgrounds. We'd love to be in nature more. More kayak access points and spaces to just enjoy the scenery would be lovely.	
More disc golf...happy to help design and modify courses. 7154121128	
I think the board should consider allowing youth 12 and up to be allowed to use exercise equipment at the Annex if their parent is present.	

Answer	Number
<p>Please add another access point to the St. Mary's river. We have Kayaks and have enjoyed using them but finding another access point makes planning a trip a challenge. Also, the ramp is commonly muddy, or the water is well below the ramp. Extending the ramp or adding some sort of kayak launch would be amazing.</p> <p>Also would like to see more holes added to the frisbee golf course, or another course somewhere in town.</p>	
<p>Parks need wheelchair accessibility</p>	
<p>Everything I stated above is good.</p>	
<p>New City Pool, should have come before the baseball field. However, Mayor Meyer had different ideas. The pool has been an asset to the community for generations. Time to make it a priority now.</p>	
<p>The annex gym is garbage. Decatur has so much unused space for a nice gym. One with a sauna and good equipment.</p>	
<p>More bike trails or a mountain bike system like Franke park in Fort Wayne.</p>	
<p>Do a better job advertising when signups are for activities. You could put it on Facebook</p>	
<p>Keep the younger kids out with things to do</p>	
<p>Yes, "person" at the P&R is usually very loud and obnoxious. I have complained about her to no avail. Whoever is in charge of it should do something about her</p> <p>Not "person" he does nothing about her.</p> <p>Thank you, I love the park and Rec, just don't like working out when "they are" there.</p>	
<p>A tri-state trail system for dirt bikes and four wheelers would be great</p>	
<p>Traffic in Homestead Park during soccer season is dangerous for residents. No place for designated parking, so cars pulling in and backing out around the whole residential area. Not suited for the amount of cars. Resident kids in danger. Can't walk or ride bikes safely.</p>	
<p>Please bring more benches to areas like the shopping mall. It's within walking distance to many apt complexes but many people are elderly or disabled and need places to sit and rest</p>	
<p>They do a great job for the amount of funding that is received throughout our community to be able to upkeep our community.</p>	
<p>For the most part, most parks and programs are very nice</p>	
<p>We need more playground equipment for the kids at the parks it's always so crowded and think about making campsites at Kiekonga Park out there by Parkview utilize all that space</p>	
<p>Would love to see a splash pad park and handicapped playground and facilities like Kreiger Park just north of New Haven.</p>	
<p>Additional indoor pickleball courts are needed.</p>	

Answer	Number
I prefer Decatur and Adams County spend resources on the decaying sewage system and water system before moving forward into more parks. We already spent too much on the new baseball complex that isn't finished or used.	
Are our rivers safe to kayak? If so, that should be advertised!	
Continue with the renovation of REV Hanna Nuttman. Add lights to the fields and host tournaments	
The parks are lacking in visual aesthetics. Add some greenery, trees, plants, etc.	
Please expand your interest to include more kids!	
I utilize the trails a lot. Could we consider emergency posts? In case me or someone on the trail needs help. I don't always have my phone on me.	
I believe the more opportunities to be with nature our community and county can offer the healthier both mentally and physically we can all be! Also great park opportunities lead to greater chance for generational get togetherness! Thanks for all you do and hope we can all help build a better love for the outdoors!	
I love the greenway trail and would love to see it extended for longer runs and bike rides!	
Just that overall we are blessed with a pretty good parks dept!! And we are super excited for the walking path between Geneva Berne to be finished and would absolutely love to see it go farther!!	
I am not a dog owner but am concerned that the new REV ball diamonds have already been used as dog runs. More than one fenced dog run area is needed. Rear of Hanna Nuttman, behind police department, and Kekionga. All three. Folks will not go across town if other parks are "easier." A reasonable fence with a few benches and trash can is all that is needed.	
Definitely rent kayaks, our kids travel over 2 hours to do this up north.. Lots of kids and adults travel to do this in the summer	
We are well aware that the overdoing of the ball diamonds, as opposed to more other fields at Hannah Nuttman is not your fault, but emphasis on a more year-round usage type activities would be better.	
Resurface Decatur trail	
The public needs to be more aware of cleaning up after themselves when they use the park facilities.	
Geneva's trail is well maintained and looks great! We rode our bikes on the Decatur trail and expected them to be nicer than Geneva's. The scenery was awesome but the asphalt itself needs a lot of work.	
The pool is the best feature, yet you waste all the money on a baseball park. Put more money into the pool, the kids deserve it (so do the adults).	

Answer	Number
<p>Do you offer projects to local Boy Scout troops? If you have any projects in the near future, I know there are boys with Troop 70 that are looking for an Eagle Scout Project.</p>	
<p>It would be nice if there was a high school basketball league. My boys want to play for fun and high school sports is all about winning. Thanks for all you do for our communities!</p>	
<p>I really think an indoor facility for practice would get great use! There are many teams that travel and pay to rent facilities in order to practice spring/summer sports in the winter. This was mentioned to the previous Mayor, but I was told the plans were already finalized for Hannah Nuttman and my suggestion fell on deaf ears.</p>	
<p>The children's programs are phenomenal, and I wish there were more.</p>	
<p>Ask council for more funds. They are doing well with what they have.</p>	
<p>Check out Whicker Park in Bluffton. My kids love that place. I think it would be great for Decatur to add such a park.</p>	

Appendix B

Public Comment - Advertising

Kyle Quandt
Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council
260-449-7309
Kyle.quandt@co.allen.in.us

November 23, 2020
For immediate release

Public Comment Requested for the Decatur-Adams County 5-Year Master Park Plan

The Decatur – Adams County Parks and Recreation Boards of Directors are seeking input from the public on improvements to the area parks, green spaces, recreation opportunities, and park programs. The information provided through a public survey will help guide the Park system through the next five years. A confidential survey is available for citizens of Decatur and Adams County through December 31, 2020 at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DecaturAdamsParks>.

The Decatur and Adams County Park Boards have been functioning under a Master Plan written in 2012. This Plan has led the Park Boards' decision-making process as it relates to park improvements, additional park program opportunities, and new parks in Decatur and Adams County. However, as the population of Decatur and Adams County is expanding and becoming more diverse, it is the goal of the Park Departments to ensure the park and recreation system meets the needs of all citizens. Therefore, the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council has been contracted to assist with the development of a new Five-Year Master Park Plan for the Decatur and Adams County Park Boards.

The mission of the Park Boards is to provide beautiful, clean, and safe recreational spaces and availability of assorted leisure activities to enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Decatur and Adams County. To ensure the mission is met it is necessary that the Park Boards learn what the people living in the service area feel would improve their quality of life as it relates to outdoor recreation and leisure activities. For this purpose, it is important for the public participate in the short five-minute survey and share their thoughts on where the Park Boards are with meeting the needs of park users and where they need to be in the future. The survey can be accessed on line at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DecaturAdamsParks> or if you prefer a paper copy please contact the Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation Department at 260-724-2520.

###

City of Decatur, Indiana Gov't 4h · 🌐

Good afternoon Decatur!!

Please take a moment to help us improve your experience at the Decatur - Adams County Parks by completing this survey. Your participation in this survey is very important as your answers will help guide the future of the park system.

You can access this survey though this link . . .
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DecaturAdamsParks> ... See More

7 5 Comments 6 Shares

Like Comment Share

Most Relevant ▾

Write a comment...

Ken Meyer
 Good job City of Decatur. Took the survey. I encourage everyone to take the survey and to share this post. It takes EVERYONE to make a greater Decatur!

Like · Reply · 3h

View 1 more comment

Decatur-Adams County Parks and Recreation November 23 at 3:52 PM · 🌐

The Decatur – Adams County Parks and Recreation Boards of Directors are seeking input from the public on improvements to the area parks, green spaces, recreation opportunities, and park programs. The information provided through a public survey will help guide the Park system through the next five years. Please take the quick survey below to help us learn about the needs in our community. Deadline to take survey is December 31st, 2020.



SURVEYMONKEY.COM


Copy of Decatur-Adams County Parks and Recreation
 Take this survey powered by surveymonkey.com. Create your own s...

Decatur, Indiana Community Videos

Decatur
A Kindly Inspired Experience

▶ COMMUNITY MOVIES

- Welcome
- Quality Of Life
- Downtown & Things to Do
- Art and Culture
- Community Organizations



Announcements

Parks Survey

Please take a moment to help us improve your experience at the Decatur - Adams County Parks by completing this survey. Your participation in this survey is very important as your answers will help guide the future of the park system.

[Read More](#)

City Offices

City of Decatur will begin opening offices to the public on Wednesday, March 13th, 9 AM to 3:30 PM.

Mulch



Decatur-Adams County Parks and Recreation

December 28, 2020 · 🌐



REMINDER: Thursday is the last day to submit your survey for the 5-year master park plan if you have not already. Thanks for your input!



[SURVEYMONKEY.COM](https://www.surveymonkey.com)

Copy of Decatur-Adams County Parks and Recreation

Take this survey powered by [surveymonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com). Create your own s...

👍 3

3 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

Kyle Quandt
Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council
260-449-7309
kyle.quandt@co.allen.in.us

April 6, 2021
For immediate release

Public Comment Requested on the Final Draft Decatur and Adams County 5-Year Master Park Plan

The public is invited to provide comments on the final draft 5-Year Master Park Plan for Decatur and Adams County by either attending one of two public meetings offered or by reviewing the draft Plan and providing comments. The Decatur and Adams County Parks and Recreation Boards have been working since September 2020 to develop a 5-Year Master Park Plan for the nineteen parks they operate. With information gleaned through the responses of over 600 individuals who participated in the public survey available in November and December, a comprehensive action plan was developed to move the park system forward to meet the needs of the residents of Decatur and Adams County.

A Zoom meeting will be held on April 14 at 5pm (follow the link on www.daparks.com) and an in-person meeting will be held on April 15 at 6pm at Riverside Center located at 231 E Monroe St, Decatur (masks required, and social distancing will be observed).

If you are unable to attend one of the meetings, you are encouraged to review the draft Plan on-line at www.daparks.com or in person through April 30th at: Riverside Center, Adams County Library in Decatur and Geneva, the Berne Library, and the Adams County Service Complex. Comment cards are located with the Plans at each location or you may email comments to kyle.quandt@co.allen.in.us.

Your review of the Plan and subsequent comments is essential to ensure the parks meet the needs of the Decatur and Adams County community.

###

QR code to Zoom meeting



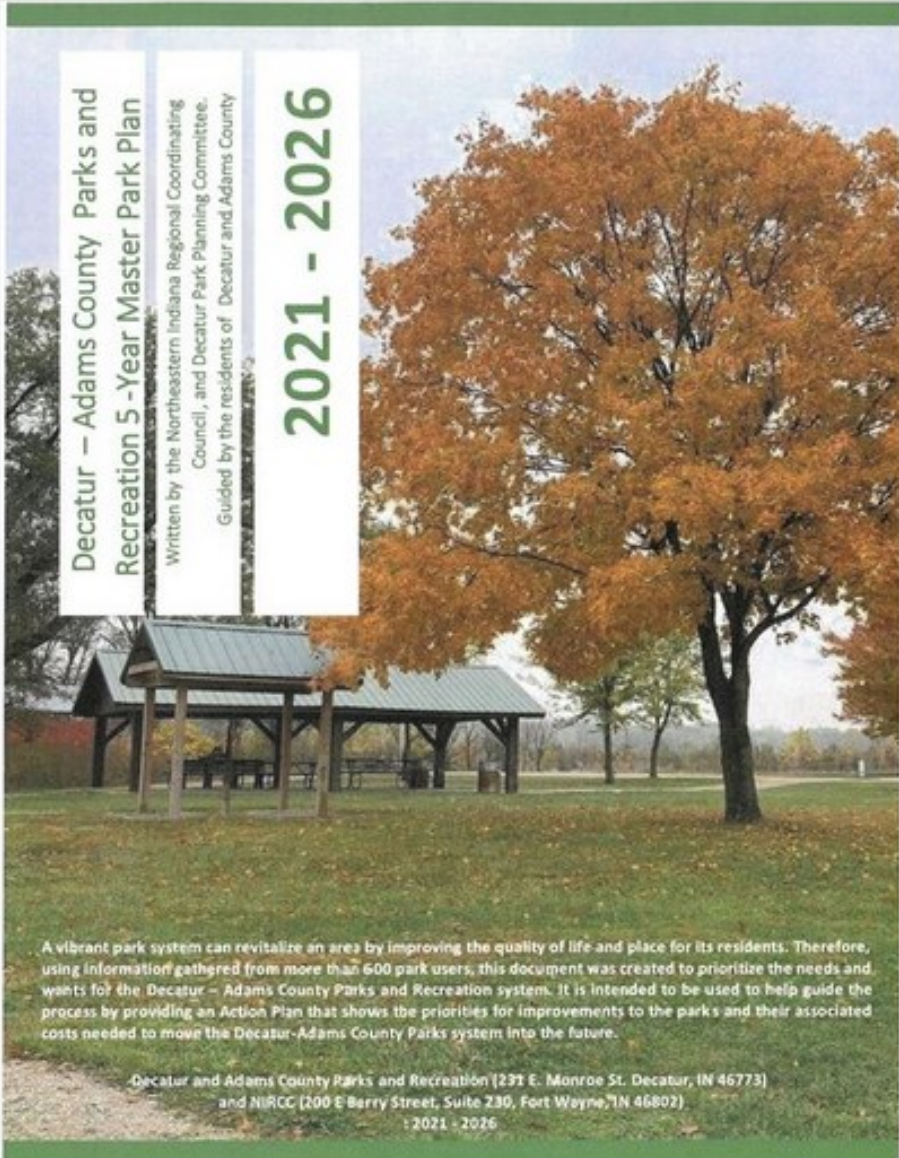


Adams Public Library System

April 27 · 🌐



This is the last week for public comment on the newly drafted Decatur-Adams County Park Plan. Copies of the plan are at all the libraries in Adams County with comment forms in the folders. Copies may also be found online at <https://daparks.com/park-plan>.



👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



Decatur-Adams County Parks and Recreation

@DecaturAdamsCountyParksAndRecreation · Park

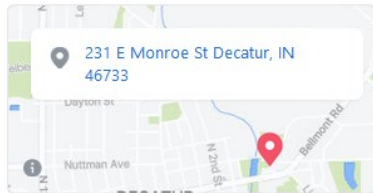
Send Message

Home About Photos Reviews More ▾

Like 🔍 ⋮

About

See All



📍 Parks and Recreation Department serving Decatur and Adams County, Indiana

📖 The philosophy of the Decatur-Adams County Parks and Recreation Department is to enhance leisure life styles and quality of life, through program deve... See More

👍 2,956 people like this including 1 of your friends



👤 3,069 people follow this

📍 589 people checked in here

🌐 <http://www.daparks.com/>

☎️ (260) 724-2520

✉️ Send Message

💰 Price Range · \$

✉️ parks@decaturin.org

🕒 Open Now
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM ▾

📍 Park · Sports & Recreation



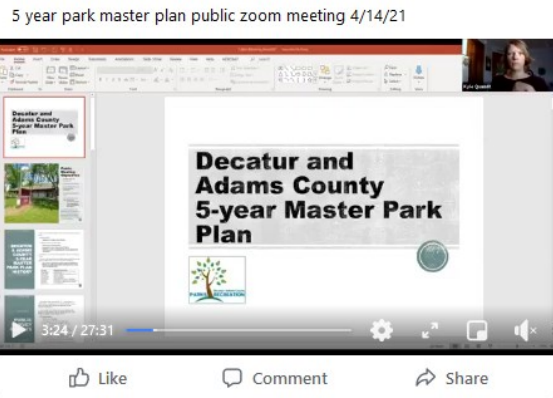
Create Post

📷 Photo/Video 📍 Check in 👤 Tag Friends



Decatur-Adams County Parks and Recreation

43m · 🌐



Decatur-Adams County Parks and Recreation

April 20 at 10:36 AM · 🌐

🏟️ **REV Sports Complex at Hanna-Nuttman Park**
April 20 at 10:35 AM · 🌐

Due to the incoming winter weather, ALL team practices at REV Sports complex today(4/20) and tomorrow (4/21) have been cancelled. Practices may resume Thursday ... See More

👍 Like 🗨️ Comment ➦ Share

Appendix C

Public Comment – Final Review

Public Comment Forms and Planning Committee Survey

**Decatur and Adams County
5-Year Master Park Plan
COMMENT FORM AND GUIDELINES**

The Decatur and Adams County Park Planning Committee has worked over the past 6 months to develop a comprehensive 5-Year Master Park Plan that meets the public's needs. Please take some time to review the Master Park Plan and we welcome ideas, comments or concerns from the public regarding the local park system. The comments can be provided by filling out this form and placing it in the back of the Park Plan binder or by email to Kyle Quandt at kyle.quandt@co.allen.in.us. The original of this sheet will be forwarded to the Park Board President who acknowledges in writing receipt of all public comment. All comments will be reviewed by the Decatur and Adams County Park Planning Committee.

The Park Board is always looking for ideas and suggestions from park users that will improve the park system. The Park Board requests that any concerns expressed be general comments specific to Decatur and Adams County Parks rather than a comment regarding a personal matter or situation.

Please summarize your idea or concern in the space below:

ALTHOUGH I DO NOT HAVE ANY UNIQUE IDEAS & SUGGESTIONS, I WOULD LIKE
TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE THE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT AND
INCLUDE IN ITS PLANS ADDITIONAL PICKLE BALL COURTS, AS THIS IS APPARENTLY
THE FASTEST GROWING SPORT TODAY AND A GREAT FORM OF EXERCISE FOR ALL
AGES OF MEN AND WOMEN, I BELIEVE A VISION TO DEVELOP MORE COURTS
TO PLAY ON NEEDS TO BE IN ANY FUTURE EITHER IN ADDITIONAL COURTS AT
THE REYNOLDS COMPLEX OR BY CONVERTING SOME OF THE EXISTING TENNIS
COURTS. HOWEVER THIS ONLY ADDRESSES THE SUMMER MONTHS BUT OF A
BIGGER CONCERN I HAVE WOULD BE MAKING PROVISIONS FOR MORE
COURTS FOR WINTER USE AND ALSO DURING TIME OF INCLEMENT
WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING THE SUMMER.

Name (optional):

[REDACTED]
75 YEAR OLD, 4+ YEAR PICKLE BALL PLAYER

Address (optional):

[REDACTED]
DECATUR, IN

Telephone (optional):

For Park Board Use Only:

- Date received: _____
- Name of Park Board member who received form: _____

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Please summarize your idea or concern in the space below:

I APPRECIATE THE EFFORT THAT WENT INTO THE 5
YEAR PLAN. LOTS OF GOOD INFO. ONE SURPRISE ~~WAS~~ FOR
ME WAS THE LOWER THAN WHAT I EXPECTED
INTEREST IN PICKLEBALL COURTS. I AM PART OF
2 DIFFERENT GROUPS THAT PLAY AT THE SERVICE
CENTER @ DEV PARK. WE ARE LIMITED BY THE
NUMBER OF COURTS. I SUSPECT WE HAVE OFTEN
GROUPS OF 16+ PLAYERS THAT CANNOT PLAY AT
THE SAME TIME. WE THEREFORE GO TO FORT
WAYNE. PICKLEBALL IS A FAST GROWING SPORT.
IT WOULD SEEM TO BE A GOOD INVESTMENT BY
DALCPD TO INVEST IN A GROWING SPORT

Name (optional):

[REDACTED]

Address (optional):

[REDACTED]

DECATUR, IN 46733

Telephone (optional):

[REDACTED]

For Park Board Use Only:

- Date received: _____
- Name of Park Board member who received form: _____

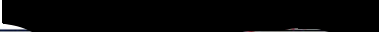
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Please summarize your idea or concern in the space below:

As a retired person of two years Pickleball
has become one of my favorite sports. It would be
so nice if we could get a facility that had 4
courts so more people could play. I actually
play other places because of shortage of courts.
I would much rather come to Decatur instead
of driving to Portland or St Henry, OH. There
are 4 + 6 courts so people don't have
to sit. Pickleball is the "New sport!"

Name (optional): 

Address (optional): _____

Telephone (optional): _____

For Park Board Use Only:

- Date received: _____
- Name of Park Board member who received form: _____

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Please summarize your idea or concern in the space below:

Pickleball is a growing sport in our community. I play at the Service Complex on Monday, Wednesday & Friday's. We normally have 10 or more playing and could use a third court most days. We now have two outdoor courts that have several people playing in the evening.

Name (optional): [REDACTED] _____

Address (optional): _____

Telephone (optional): _____

For Park Board Use Only:

- Date received: _____
- Name of Park Board member who received form: _____

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Please summarize your idea or concern in the space below:

Missed the survey, Pickleball
Very growing sport. Need more courts, nice
to convert Horseshoe into outdoor at Hanna
Nuttman could use some type of wind
barrier.
Thank

Name (optional):

[Redacted]

Address (optional):

[Redacted]

Decatur

Telephone (optional):

[Redacted]

For Park Board Use Only:

- Date received: _____
- Name of Park Board member who received form: _____

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Please summarize your idea or concern in the space below:

The community is in dire need of pickleball courts. Our gym that has been playing at the park & rec gym is growing rapidly and we need more courts. More courts would benefit all ages. Pickleball is a wonderful sport for everyone and is great exercise. It would be an asset to have more courts so tournaments would be easier to hold.

Name (optional): _____

Address (optional): _____

Telephone (optional): _____

For Park Board Use Only:

- Date received: _____
- Name of Park Board member who received form: _____

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Please summarize your idea or concern in the space below:

I have been playing pickle ball for about a year. I love the exercise + meeting new ladies I would have never met had it not been for the opportunity to play here. Pickle ball is becoming very popular + it would be great to get some additional time slots + frames for more opportunities to play + expand the number of players.

Name (optional): _____

Address (optional): _____

Telephone (optional): _____

For Park Board Use Only:

- Date received: _____
- Name of Park Board member who received form: _____

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Please summarize your idea or concern in the space below:

*Looking at all the conditions it seems waaaay!
Brand new courts at Hanna Outdoor Facility? Also
the public ball court was new! Tennis court at
Horseshoe is terrible and Fair! Basketball courts
need resurfaced. The stuff at Service Complex is
not public use I'm hearing a lot people wanting
more public ball courts out side!! Mostly a lot
of the courts need upgraded.*

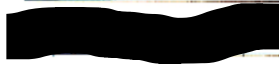
Name (optional):



Address (optional):



Telephone (optional):



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Please summarize your idea or concern in the space below:

*There is a growing need for more
pickleball courts, especially indoors.
at times there are enough players at
one time for 3 or 4 courts. I know
this isn't an easy fix, but more & more
women (and men) are playing.*

Name (optional):

Address (optional):

Telephone (optional):

For Park Board Use Only:

- Date received: _____
- Name of Park Board member who received form: _____

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Please summarize your idea or concern in the space below:

Pickle Ball has become more and more popular over the past couple years especially in this area. Many surrounding counties have designated courts both inside and outside. It's great having the two new outdoor courts in Decatur but I feel the demand in playing has increased and additional courts and locations to play would be a great investment for the community.

Thank you!

Name (optional): _____

Address (optional): _____

Telephone (optional): _____

For Park Board Use Only:

- Date received: _____
- Name of Park Board member who received form: _____

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Please summarize your idea or concern in the space below:

There is a need for restrooms at Linn Grove & Limerlost Park. Could a PORT-O-TOILET be rented for the season? Maybe cost could be shared between users and the parks dept.? Come up with a cost for the port-o-toilets from May to October (6 months) and try to get the cost donated by the community.

Name (optional): _____

Address (optional): _____

Telephone (optional): _____

For Park Board Use Only:

- Date received: _____
- Name of Park Board member who received form: _____

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Please summarize your idea or concern in the space below:

Something helpful - Hitching rail for horses at
Linn Grove Park and Ceylon 'Kimberlost' Park

SCHWARTZ STEEL - CORNER OF 350 S + 300 W SELLS STAINLESS STEEL
HITCHING POSTS - RANDY LEHMAN

Name (optional): _____

Address (optional): _____

Telephone (optional): _____

For Park Board Use Only:

- Date received: _____
- Name of Park Board member who received form: _____

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Please summarize your idea or concern in the space below:

① TOILET AVAILABILITY BE ESSENTIAL

② Hitching Posts

① 12 People seen This or More

Name (optional): _____

Address (optional): _____

Telephone (optional): _____

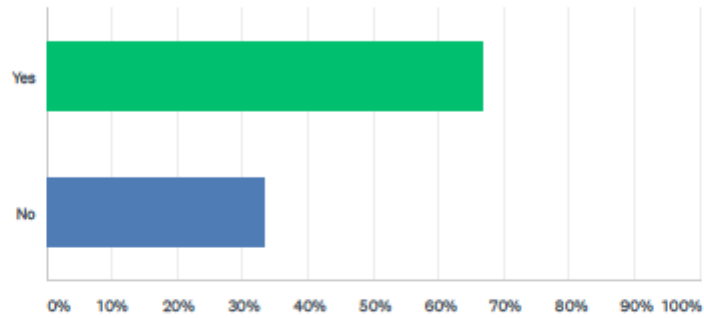
For Park Board Use Only:

- Date received: _____
- Name of Park Board member who received form: _____

Final Park Plan Comment Analysis Survey

Q1 The Plan currently includes "Install additional Pickleball courts in a location ideal for tournaments" to be completed by 2031. Should that time frame be moved up?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

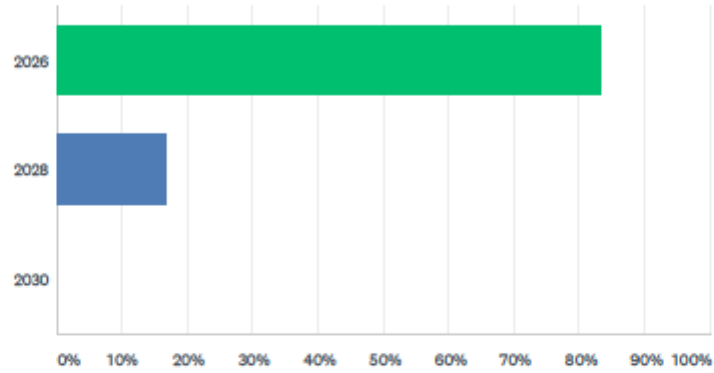


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	66.67%	6
No	33.33%	3
TOTAL		9

Final Park Plan Comment Analysis Survey

Q2 If you answered "yes" above, when should the pickleball courts be installed by?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 3

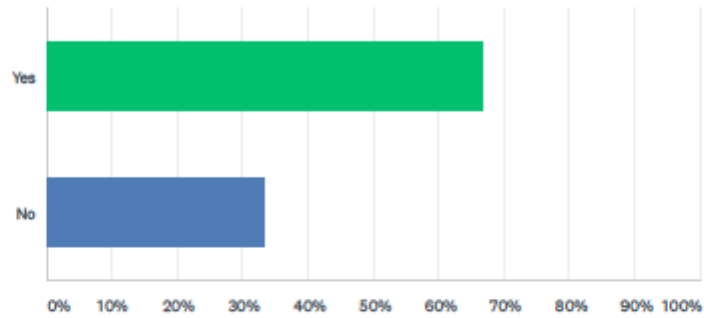


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
2026	83.33% 5
2028	16.67% 1
2030	0.00% 0
TOTAL	6

Final Park Plan Comment Analysis Survey

Q3 There was interest expressed in creating more indoor pickleball courts. Should this be added to the action register?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

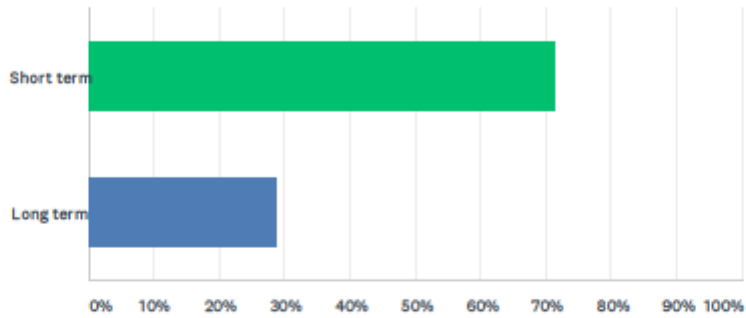


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	66.67%	6
No	33.33%	3
TOTAL		9

Final Park Plan Comment Analysis Survey

Q4 If you answered "yes" above, should additional indoor pickleball courts be a short term (by 2026) or long term (2031) goal?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 2

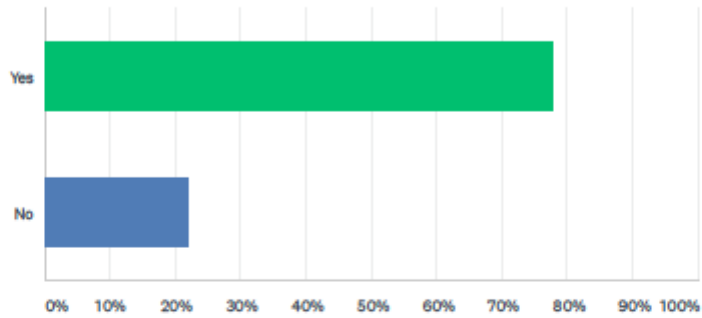


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Short term	71.43%	5
Long term	28.57%	2
TOTAL		7

Final Park Plan Comment Analysis Survey

Q5 The Park Plan currently includes "install hitching posts so the Amish Community has access to the Parks" by 2023. Should a separate action of installing hitching posts in all County parks by 2022 be included?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

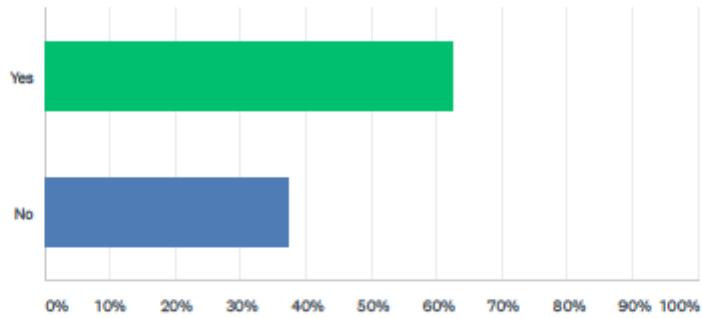


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	77.78%	7
No	22.22%	2
TOTAL		9

Final Park Plan Comment Analysis Survey

Q6 Two comments included the need for restrooms at the County Parks and one mentioned cost-sharing with the community for port-o-johns. Are you interested in cost-sharing for port-o-johns at County parks?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 1

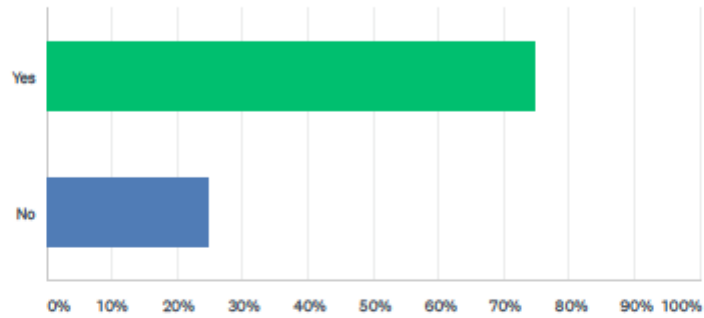


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	62.50%	5
No	37.50%	3
TOTAL		8

Final Park Plan Comment Analysis Survey

Q7 Are you interested in pursuing permanent restrooms at the County Parks (these could be with plumbing or pit toilets...this can be decided at a later date)?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	75.00%	6
No	25.00%	2
TOTAL		8

Final Park Plan Comment Analysis Survey

Q8 Any other comments?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 7

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	pit toilets would be a good option for the county parks	5/10/2021 4:46 PM
2	It all takes money. Maybe a meeting with the pickle ball people to see about a fund raiser.	5/10/2021 11:42 AM

Appendix D
Park Board Meeting Minutes

**City Park Board Meeting
Monday, September 14th, 2020
6:30 p.m. at REV Sports Complex**

City Park Board Members Present: Joan Siefring, Dick Stimpson, Kim McCord, Kelly Ehinger

Staff Present: Ryan Green, Sue Milholland, Jeremy Gilbert

Guests: Chelsea Manley, Ryan Baker, Mike Colclasure, Ryan Baker

City Park Board Minutes – Joan Siefring made a motion to approve the August 10th 2020 City Park Board minutes, Dick Stimpson seconded, passed unanimously.

City Park Board Claims — Dick Stimpson made a motion to approve the City Park Board claims, Joan Siefring seconded, passed unanimously.

REV Sports Complex Advisory Board

Kelly Ehinger distributed a draft copy of the standing rules for the REV Sports Complex advisory board. Joan motioned to adopt the standing rules for the REV Sports Complex advisory board, Kim McCord seconded, passed unanimously.

REV Sports Complex Update

Jeremy Gilbert said the playground equipment would be arriving within the week and the basketball and pickle ball courts were complete.

5 Year Park Plan

Jeremy Gilbert said he is looking for volunteers for the 5-year park plan advisory board. He said he would be emailing park board members with further details.

Bellmont ICE Program Student

Ryan Green spoke on behalf of Belmont student and park time city employee Sophie Krull. Sophie asked permission to work with the Parks and Recreation department as a paid internship through Belmont High School's ICE program. The Park Board unanimously agreed to Sophie Krull's paid internship with her current pay rate.

Jeremy Gilbert announced the board would have next month's park board meeting at American Legion Park at 6:00pm. Jeremy then gave a quick tour of the REV Sports Complex.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm

**County Park Board Meeting
Monday, September 14th, 2020
6:00 p.m. at Riverside Center**

County Park Board Members Present: Jenny Long, Randy Lehman, Scott Bonifas, Amy Rumschlag

Staff Present: Ryan Green, Chris Krull, Jeremy Gilbert

County Park Board Minutes – Jenny Long motioned to approve the August 10th 2020 County Park Board Minutes, Amy Rumschlag, passed unanimously.

County Park Board Claims — Scott Bonifas motioned to approve the County Park Board Claims, Jenny Karner seconded, passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Chris Krull reported the first youth soccer game went well. Chris said he would be purchasing a new AED for the Service Complex.

5 Year Park Plan

Jeremy Gilbert said he is looking for volunteers for the 5-year park plan advisory board. Jeremy asked the board to start thinking about what realistic 5 year goals they would like to see in the plan. He said he would be emailing park board members with further details.

Meeting Adjourned 6:30 pm

**City Park Board Meeting
Monday, October 12th, 2020
6:00 p.m. at American Legion Park**

City Park Board Members Present: Joan Siefring, Dick Stimpson, Drew Derengowski, Kelly Ehinger

Staff Present: Sue Milholland, Jeremy Gilbert

City Park Board Minutes – Joan Siefring made a motion to approve the September 14th 2020 City Park Board minutes, Dick Stimpson seconded, passed unanimously.

City Park Board Claims — Drew Derengowski made a motion to approve the City Park Board claims, Joan Siefring seconded, passed unanimously.

American Legion Park

The board discussed improvements they would like to see at American Legion Park, including a BBQ/fire pit and corn hole set.

South Ward Park

The board discussed improvements they would like to see at South Ward park, including an additional basketball goal at the west end of the court and more benches.

Hunter's Education

The park Board gave the Indiana Hunter's Education department permission to use Riverside Center free of charge for 4 days in October for a hunter's education class. Joan Siefring motioned to give the Indiana Hunter's Education Department permission to use Riverside Center free of charge for the class, Dick Stimpson seconded, passed unanimously.

Kekionga Park Softball Field Lights

Board members discussed adding lights to the softball field at Kekionga Park. The lights would cost about \$28,000 and could be split between two different fiscal years. The board discussed possible field sponsorship to help with costs.

Art Hill and Lynn Duff – Messiah's Misfits Health Ministry

Art Hill and Lynn Duff of Messiah's Misfits asked permission to use Riverside Center for a fund raiser on June 12th 2021 for Brianna's Hope & Adams County Drug Court. They plan on having a motorcycle ride finish at Riverside Center with live music and vendors. The Park board approved the event unanimously.

Board Member Comments

Jeremy Gilbert said the new playground for the REV Sports complex has arrived and will be installed this week. There will be an online Park Planning Committee meeting October 14th at 1pm to discuss park surveys and future improvements for the 5-year master plan.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm

County Park Board Meeting
Monday, October 12th, 2020
6:00 p.m. at Riverside Center

County Park Board Members Present: Jenny Long, Randy Lehman, Scott Bonifas, Amy Rumschlag, Marc Ripley

Staff Present: Ryan Green, Chris Krull, Jeremy Gilbert

County Park Board Minutes – Scott Bonifas motioned to approve the September 14th 2020 County Park Board Minutes, Amy Rumschlag seconded, passed unanimously.

County Park Board Claims — Marc Ripley motioned to approve the County Park Board Claims, Jenny Karner seconded, passed unanimously.

Staff Reports - Jeremy encouraged members to walk around the Service Complex and think about any improvements they would like see done in the 5-year park plan.

Service Complex Walking Tour

Chris Krull led a walking tour of the Fitness Center and Gymnasium. Chris explained the facility is used for the fitness center, aerobics classes, walking, basketball, volleyball, pickle ball, rock climbing, and youth gymnastics. The board suggested installing security cameras in the weight room.

Meeting Adjourned 6:45 pm

**City Park Board Meeting
Monday, November 9th, 2020
6:00 p.m. at Riverside Center**

City Park Board Members Present: Joan Siefring (online), Dick Stimpson, Drew Derengowski (online), Kelly Ehinger, Kim McCord, Larry Isch (online)

Staff Present: Sue Milholland, Jeremy Gilbert

Guests: Mike Colclasure

City Park Board Minutes – Larry Isch made a motion to approve the October 12th 2020 City Park Board minutes, Kim McCord seconded, passed unanimously.

City Park Board Claims — Larry Isch made a motion to approve the City Park Board claims, Dick Stimpson seconded, passed unanimously.

REV Sports Complex

Columbia City would like to rent fields in 2021 for Tournaments:

May 14th-16th, 2021 (10-11-12 boys) (10-12-14 girls)

July 16th-18th, 2021 (9-10-11-12 boys)

Dick Stimpson motioned to approve the tournaments with a charge of \$20 per game and to work with Ryan Green on the scheduling, Kim McCord seconded, passed unanimously.

Jeremy Gilbert said John Summers would be getting drone pictures of the new complex and Drew Derengowski said he would put together a video. Jeremy is planning a public update on promotion & fundraising.

Larry motioned to approve the placement near the Homestead playground of the Greg Mendez sculpture commissioned by the family of Matt Gorman in his memory, seconded by Dick Stimpson, passed unanimously.

Art Commission: Joan Siefring resigned as the Park Board's representative to the Art Commission. Any board member who may be interested in serving on the Commission should let Larry Isch know.

Staff Reports

Sue Milholland reported she has been mowing, keeping leaves off trails, and winterizing.

Jeremy Gilbert reported the survey for the 5 year master park plan will be completed soon and distributed to media outlets and email lists. We can also work on a capital plan to incorporate all parks' needs. Jeremy said he is trying to get year-end tasks completed and will have purchase quotes for needed items for the December meeting. Jeremy Gilbert said he is working with Tom Rorick to get lights installed at Kekionga ball park for men's and Co-Ed softball leagues. Gilbert also reported that a dog park is a possibility at Evergreen Assisted Living property that is now the City's.

Board Member Comments

Larry Isch asked about status on fundraising for REV Sports Complex. Jeremy to share a HN wish list with the Board. I&M discounted the cost for the HN project billing us only \$20,000 instead of \$80,000, contributing the difference to the project in-kind (\$60,000).

Larry motioned to adjourn, Dick Stimpson seconded, passed unanimously.

**County Park Board Meeting
Monday, November 9th, 2020
6:00 p.m. at Riverside Center**

County Park Board Members Present: Jenny Long, Randy Lehman, Scott Bonifas, Amy Rumschlag, Marc Ripley

Staff Present: Jeremy Gilbert

County Park Board Minutes – Mark Ripley motioned to approve the October 12th 2020 County Park Board Minutes, contingent on correcting “Jenny Long” (last name was typed incorrectly) Jenny Long seconded, passed unanimously.

County Park Board Claims — Scott Bonifas motioned to approve the October County Park Board Claims, Marc Ripley seconded, passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Jeremy discussed the progress with the 5-year park plan. Surveys will be out until December 31 2020 and the rough draft will be presented to the committee members and the DNR in January.

South Adams Trails

Randy Lehman spoke in the progress of the bridges for the South Adams trail. One bridge should be set sometime in November. The second bridge is coming along as planned with no date of being completed.

Randy also commented on a missing picnic table from the trail. The table has been found and will need to be removed from the water as time allows. Park employees will attempt to retrieve the table.

On a motion made by Marc Ripley seconded by Scott Bonifas the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm

City Park Board Meeting
Monday, December 14th, 2020
6:00 p.m. at Riverside Center

City Park Board Members Present: Dick Stimpson, Drew Derengowski, Kelly Ehinger, Kim McCord,

Staff Present: Ryan Green, Chris Krull, Jeremy Gilbert

City Park Board Minutes – Dick Stimpson made a motion to approve the November 9th 2020 City Park Board minutes, Kim McCord seconded, passed unanimously.

City Park Board Claims — Kim McCord made a motion to approve the November City Park Board claims, Drew Derengowski, passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Chris Krull reported indoor walking has been put on hold due COVID-19. Chris Krull reported Sophie Krull has been doing well in her internship through Belmont High School's ICE Program. Chris Krull said he has been busy working on construction of the new computer server room at Riverside Center. Chris said the new room will house servers for the new camera system at Riverside Center.

Ryan Green reported receiving only one hand written 5-year park plan survey had been turned in relative the over 500 online survey submissions.

City Part-time raises for 2021

After a short park board discussion, Kim McCord motioned to approve a 5% raise for all hourly part-time City Parks and Recreation employees for 2021. Dick Stimpson seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

2021 Budget Transfer Requests

Jeremy Gilbert asked permission for the following budget transfers:

Transfer \$355 from 204501423 in 204501431 professional services. Transfer \$8,400 from 204501423 in 204501435 Utility Services to cover expense from the irrigation cost at the REV Sports Complex.

Kim McCord motioned to approve both 2021 budget transfers, Drew Derengowski seconded, passed unanimously.

2021 Encumbrance Requests

Jeremy Gilbert asked permission to encumber \$11,132.10 from 204501444.000 Park Machinery and Equipment for the purchase of the following park equipment:

Doty and Sons Concrete for 2 sets of Corn Hole boards. \$4,172.00

Ada Grills for misc. City Parks: \$1,751.94

New basketball goals for Southward Park \$5,208.16

Jeremy Gilbert also requested to encumber \$3,500 from 204501445.000 Park Capital Outlay for roof replacement at pavilion in rear of Hanna Nuttman.

Drew Derengowski motioned to approved all of the above Encumbrances requests from Jeremy Gilbert, Dick Stimpson seconded, passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 7:22pm

**County Park Board Meeting
Monday, December 14th, 2020
6:00 p.m. at Riverside Center**

County Park Board Members Present: Mellissa Fey, Jenny Long, Randy Lehman, Scott Bonifas, Amy Rumschlag, Marc Ripley

Staff Present: Ryan Green, Chris Krull, Jeremy Gilbert

Guests Present: Rex Moore

Randy Lehman introduced new County Park Board member Melissa Fey

County Park Board Minutes – Jenny Long motioned to approve the November 9th 2020 County Park Board Minutes, Marc Ripley seconded, passed unanimously.

County Park Board Claims - Marc Ripley motioned to approve the November County Park Board Claims, Scott Bonifas, passed unanimously.

Staff Reports – Chris Krull said the fitness center has closed the HIIT Room temporarily due to the County IT department's ongoing construction to the adjacent room. Chris also said adult volleyball and basketball leagues are on hold.

Chris Krull said he would be purchasing two additional security cameras for the lower lever of the fitness center. Chris said the cost would be \$1,117.92 and has already been approved.

Ryan Green reported receiving only one hand written 5-year park plan survey had been turned in relative the over 500 online survey submissions.

Jeremy Gilbert said he is working on a multi-year capital improvement plan and would have more information in the coming months.

County Part-time raises for 2021

After a short park board discussion, Randy Lehman motioned to approve a 3% raise for all hourly part-time City Parks and Recreation employees for 2021. Amy Rumschlag seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Board Member Comments

Randy Lehman asked for paper copies of the 5-year master park plan survey to pass out to the Amish community. Ryan Green said he would get 150 copies printed for distribution.

Meeting Adjourned 6:35 pm

**City Park Board Meeting
Monday, January 11th, 2021
6:30 p.m. at Riverside Center**

City Park Board Members Present: Dick Stimpson, Larry Isch, Kelly Ehinger, Kim McCord,

Staff Present: Ryan Green, Chris Krull, Sue Milholland, Jeremy Gilbert

Election of Board Member Seats

Dick Stimpson nominated Larry Isch as President, Kelly Ehinger seconded, passed unanimously.

Dick Stimpson nominated Kim McCord as Secretary, Kelly Ehinger seconded, passed unanimously.

Larry Isch Nominated Kelly Ehinger as Vice President, Dick Stimpson seconded, passed unanimously.

City Park Board Minutes – Kelly Ehinger made a motion to approve the December 14th 2020 City Park Board minutes, contingent on correcting who made the minutes and claims motions (Dick Stimpson and Kim McCord), Kim McCord seconded, passed unanimously.

City Park Board Claims — Larry Isch made a motion to approve the December City Park Board claims, Kim McCord, passed unanimously.

Park Plan Update

Jeremy distributed the results from the 5-year master park plan survey. Jeremy asked the board members to look through the results and think about what they would like to see in the 5-year master park plan.

REV Sports Complex

Jeremy said he is working on construction of the REV Sports Complex. Jeremy asked the Park Board to get in touch with the REV Sports Complex Advisory Board to discuss their plan with handling concession stands at the complex.

Concession Stand Names at REV Sports Complex

Jeremy suggested naming the concession stands at REVS Sports Complex after local businesses, Irving Materials Inc. and Arnold Lumber, who have supplied building materials for the complex at a discounted rate to the city. Jeremy made the suggestion as a way of thanking them for supporting the project. Kim McCord motioned to name the two concession stand buildings at REV Sports Complex after Irving Materials and Arnold Lumber, Dick Stimpson 2nded, passed unanimously.

2021 Decatur Flea Market Contract

Ryan Green distributed a copy of the 2021 Decatur Flea Market contract. Ryan noted the only change from last year was adding that if any city holidays fell on the first Sunday, then the flea market would be held the second Sunday on that month.

Kim McCord motioned to approve the 2021 Decatur Flea Market contract as presented, Larry Isch seconded, passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Chris Krull said he had been helping the street department lately on the trash truck. Chris said he has been working on painting the server room at riverside. Chris also reported that Dale Manis has given us permission to return to BHS Pool for aquatic and that he would be looking into BMS walking.

Sue Milholland said she was busy working on fixing picnic tables and planting trees.

Meeting Adjourned 7:25 PM

**County Park Board Meeting
Monday, January 11th, 2021
6:00 p.m. at Riverside Center**

County Park Board Members Present: Melissa Fey, Jenny Long, Randy Lehman, Scott Bonifas, Amy Rumschlag

Staff Present: Ryan Green, Chris Krull, Jeremy Gilbert

Guests Present: Rex Moore

Election of Board Member Seats

Jenny Long nominated Randy Lehman as President, Scott Bonifas seconded, passed unanimously.

Scott Bonifas nominated Jenny Long as Vice President, Amy Rumschlag seconded, passed unanimously.

Jenny Long Nominated Scott Bonifas as Secretary, Randy Lehman seconded, passed unanimously.

County Park Board Minutes – Scott Bonifas motioned to approve the December 14th 2020 County Park Board Minutes, Amy Rumschlag seconded, passed unanimously.

County Park Board Claims – Amy Rumschlag motioned to approve the December County Park Board Claims, Scott Bonifas, passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Chris Krull said he is working on compiling a list of amenities for the Adams County Service Complex for the 5-year master park plan.

Chris said registration for men's and women's basketball leagues have started. Chris said he had changed the team fee for men's basketball league to \$150 to help cover the cost of officials throughout the year, and that he would see how registration goes.

Meeting Adjourned 6:35 pm

City Park Board Meeting
Monday, February 8th, 2021
6:30 p.m. at Riverside Center

City Park Board Members Present: Dick Stimpson, Larry Isch, Kelly Ehinger, Joan Siefring, Drew Derengowski

Staff Present: Ryan Green, Chris Krull, Nan Everett, Jeremy Gilbert, Sue Milholland

Guests Present: Mike Colclasure

City Park Board Minutes – Kelly Ehinger made a motion to approve the January 11th 2021 City Park Board minutes, Kim McCord seconded, passed unanimously.

City Park Board Claims — Joan Siefring made a motion to approve the January 2021 City Park Board claims, Dick Stimpson, passed unanimously.

REV Sports Complex Advisory Committee Report

Mike Colclasure of the REV Sports Complex Advisory Committee brought up several topics that are currently being discussed by the committee. Mike expressed his concern about needing more direction from the park board for financial decisions, particularly with concession stand sales and how the park board wants the advisory board to handle concessions at the new complex. Mike said the advisory committee should focus on solving non-financial decisions and implementing procedures. Mike also has concerns with irregularities in the distances from home plate to the pitching mound on several fields on the boy's end of the complex. Mike asked the board what their long term plan was with the complex, adding the need to consistently hold weekend tournaments at the complex to help generate sufficient income to cover costs of maintenance.

Kelly Ehinger agreed that the board and the advisory committee should begin working more closely together and that they would be sitting up a meeting soon to work out current issues.

Jeremy Gilbert expressed his concern on whether the city will be able to generate enough revenue to maintain the facility, and also agreed that the park board needs to work more closely with the REV Advisory Committee on how to move forward.

Dog Park Fence Purchase

Jeremy Gilbert recommended former Evergreen property next to Kekionga Park for a suitable location for a dog park. Jeremy said the park could be positioned adjacent to the asphalt parking lot and presented a proposal from R&C Fence Inc. for \$28,700 for fencing for the park. Kelly Ehinger asked if the local fundraising group was not able to raise the entire cost, if there were funds available to cover the rest. Kelly added she thinks the local fundraising could come up with approximately \$15,000. Jeremy said he said he believes there would be enough to cover the extra. Joan Siefring made a motion to accept the proposal for fencing from R&C Fence Inc., Drew Derengowski seconded, passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Jeremy Gilbert said he was working an asset management draft and will present it to the board soon. Jeremy personally thanked Chris Krull and Sue Milholland for going above and beyond in helping with snow removal and trash removal. Jeremy reported the city had purchased 4 new basketball goals for city parks at a cost of approximately \$5,000. Jeremy reported the 2 new sets of concrete corn hole boards and new grills are in and will be installed at American Legion Park soon. Jeremy said he is waiting on the weather to improve to install the new roof on the pavilion in the back of Hanna Nuttman Park and is waiting to hear back from IT on options for improving the camera system at the back of the park.

Chris Krull reported he has been helping on the trash truck due to the department being short staffed. Chris said he recently sent out letters to pool staff from last year to see who is interested in returning this summer. Chris also said Belmont pool will be out of service for approximately 4 weeks starting spring break due to a new roof being installed over the pool. Chris said the Daddy Daughter/Mother Son Dances will be delayed for now due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and he is looking at possibly holding them in April this year.

Nan Everett said she has been working on cleaning Riverside Center and helping with park maintenance. Nan said she has started looking for applicants for lifeguards at BHS Pool and the City Pool for this summer.

Sue Millholland said she was busy with snow/ice removal.

Ryan Green distributed a draft of the REV Sports Complex Tournament Application and Agreement. Ryan said he would be working with the REV Sports Complex advisory committee and the City Park board to finalize an agreement.

REV Sports Complex Advisory Committee Member Replacement

Joan Siefring made a motion to accept Randy Baker as a replacement member for the REV Sports Complex Advisory Committee, replacing Aaron Baker who moved out of town, Dick seconded, passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 8:06 PM

**County Park Board Meeting
Monday, February 8th, 2021
6:00 p.m. at Riverside Center**

County Park Board Members Present: Melissa Fey, Randy Lehman, Scott Bonifas, Amy Rumschlag

Staff Present: Ryan Green, Chris Krull, Jeremy Gilbert

Guests Present: Rex Moore

County Park Board Minutes – Scott Ripley motioned to approve the January 11th 2020 County Park Board Minutes, Melissa Fey seconded, passed unanimously.

County Park Board Claims – Amy Rumschlag motioned to approve the January County Park Board Claims, Scott Bonifas, passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Chris Krull reported 4 teams registered for Men's Basketball league so far. Chris also said he would be installing the new video cameras for the weight room soon.

Jeremy Gilbert said his staff was busy with snow removal. Jeremy asked the park board to think about what capital improvements they would like to see done in the coming year and reminded the 5-year master park planning committee of the next meeting on February 17th.

Meeting Adjourned 6:37 pm

City/County Park Board Meeting
Monday, March 8th, 2021
6:00 p.m. at Riverside Center

City Park Board Members Present: Dick Stimpson, Larry Isch, Kelly Ehinger, Drew Derengowski, Kim McCord

County Park Board Members Present: Randy Lehman, Scott Bonifas, Amy Rumschlag, Melissa Fey, Marc Ripley

Staff Present: Ryan Green, Chris Krull, Nan Everett, Jeremy Gilbert, Sue Milholland

Guests Present: Dan Rickord, Rex Moore, Kyle Quandt

City Park Board Minutes – Dick Stimpson made a motion to approve the February 2021 City Park Board minutes, Kelly Ehinger seconded, passed unanimously.

City Park Board Claims — Kelly Ehinger made a motion to approve the February 2021 City Park Board claims, Dick Stimpson seconded, passed unanimously.

County Park Board Minutes – Scott Bonifas made a motion to approve the February 2021 County Park Board minutes, Marc Ripley seconded, passed unanimously.

County Park Board Claims — Randy Lehman made a motion to approve the February 2021 County Park Board claims, Scott Bonifas seconded, passed unanimously.

5-year master park plan draft review

Larry Isch read the draft of the 5-year master park plan. The board discussed and approved the 5-year master park plan draft.

Staff Reports

Chris Krull asked permission to purchase aerobic exercise equipment for the fitness center for approximately \$666, Marc Ripley motioned to approve the purchase, Scott Bonifas seconded, passed unanimously.

Ryan Green presented and asked the board to approve the final draft of the REV Sports Complex Tournament Application. Dick Stimpson motioned to approve the REV Sports Complex Tournament Application, Kelly Ehinger seconded, passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 7:28pm