



Chapter 13

Recommendations



Recommendations Summary

Needs Analysis

As discussed in the introduction, the Comprehensive Park Master Plan will serve as a guide and a tool for shaping the future of Munster Parks and Recreation. The Plan creates a strategy to maximize the quality of life through identifying the community's needs, prioritize improvements to the parks, recreation facilities, open space; and allocate funding effectively. This Plan will serve as a guide for the public to conceive and define future direction for Munster Parks and Recreation, and used as a tool by the Department staff to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Plan.

Individual site-based assessments and inventories were conducted by our planning team on all parks to determine diversity of facilities, distribution patterns, maintenance practices, age, condition and compliance with accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As part of the Plan, numerous recommendations have been developed as a result of these site-based assessments, park land inventories and facility assessments. Additionally, recommendations WERE developed as a result of the analyses of programs, meetings/interviews with staff and interested public. After completing site visits and inventories, recommendations were made based upon the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) guidelines for service areas and community needs, staff responses, public input and trends.

The recommendations are not all-inclusive; however, alternatives are suggested that range from conservative to optimistic relative to funding. In the overall assessment, Munster Parks and Recreation is providing excellent services based on results from the focus groups and community wide survey. The recommendations that follow represent areas where the Department can improve and strengthen its services, operations, programs, and facilities. Based upon these recommendations, the Department should annually review goals and objectives and establish priorities to assess progress, while establishing new goals and objectives. In addition, the Capital Improvement Program and the Recommendations/Implementation should be reviewed, evaluated, and updated annually.

Along with the individual park assessments' associated recommendations, the following categories each have their own list of recommendations.

Community-Wide Survey Findings	
Recreation/ Programming	
Volunteering	
Marketing	
Work Place	
Parks/Open Space Sustainability	
Bike Paths	
Other Recreational Open Space	
Land Acquisition	

Community-Wide Survey Findings



Public Participation was extensive throughout the process of this Master Plan. In addition to in-person group feedback on current sentiments of the Parks and Recreation Department, a mail-in, community wide survey and online program collected more information volunteered by the public.

The following recommendation is built off the public participation events during the time of this report's production.

- Develop a strategy to collect feedback data that supports expressed desire for capital improvement and improvements to programs and activities.**

This will support new project initiatives by the Parks and Recreation Department. Forming a partnership with any data collection and management service that focuses on participatory input would likely accomplish this goal.
- Expand engagement with younger residents (ideally between 13 and 30 years of age) when collecting public feedback.**

This could be done through efficient and intelligent means of communication. An efficient means is offering end-of-program evaluations for the youth who participate in them. In addition to the tangible feedback from those evaluations, an intelligent means to communicate with the youth is through social media campaigns. Experiment with incentives to participate (such as entering participants in a drawing for something free or significantly discounted) in the beginning trials on social media. Determine if this increases feedback, and if it does, continue with the trend as long as it gathers useful information.

Understanding the Community-Wide Survey

A survey questionnaire was prepared based on input from the Town Recreation Department staff and the planning team. The questions were intended to gather input from the community on their feelings, attitudes, and interest for various park and recreation activities and facilities.

The questionnaire was mailed to 2,000 random households within the Town of Munster. Three hundred sixty-six usable surveys were returned for analysis.

The survey questionnaire requested demographic information relative to age, gender, location of residence within Munster, household size and other salient categories.

Most of the respondents 118/392 resided in the geographical area between Ridge Road and 45th Street east of Calumet Avenue. The lowest percentage of respondents 20/392 resided in the area south of 45th Street west of Calumet Avenue.

When asked what was most important for the Parks and Recreation Department to plan for in the next 5-10 years. The top five areas by region were: maintaining existing parks/facilities; improving trails/paths within parks; ADA accessibility in parks; improving restrooms in parks; and acquiring land/green space.

The least important areas for consideration were improving the skate park; improving Centennial Park dog park; and improving Centennial Park golf course.

When asked if they would support future funding for the areas they rated as important or very important the responses were 67% yes or maybe while only 22% were not sure or no.

Community-Wide Survey Findings, cont.



Program Satisfaction

When asked their level of satisfaction with a variety of Department's activities, respondents indicated overall they were most satisfied with youth sports and community events/special events and least satisfied with aquatics and adult sports. When the respondents were separated into various age categories <45, 45-54; 55-64 and >65 the satisfaction levels changed with the <45 age group most satisfied with adult +50 (keenager) programs, continuing education and youth education. The 45-54 age group was most satisfied with trips and travel; the 55-64 age group liked summer camps and community events/special events and the >65 age group favored youth sports and community events/special events.

Based on this fairly diverse response, it is recommended the Munster Parks and Recreation Department staff dig deeper into the survey results to identify the why are the individuals satisfied or not satisfied with various programs. Additionally, this information may be collected or analyzed by "exit interviews" or end of program evaluations.

Park Visitation

Residents were also asked how frequently they used various parks within the Town of Munster. As would be expected parks in close proximity to the resident were used more frequently than park sites located at other areas of the Town. There was no attempt to correlate activities within parks to the frequency of park visitation.

There may be value for the Parks and Recreation Department to dig deeper into the frequency response to determine if there is any particular activity or group of activities that would attract residents to a particular park. It is important to recognize the "if you build it they will come" syndrome and verify the park or facility has the infrastructure and resource to accommodate an increased user demand or participation.



Figure 77: Collection of various comments/key words from focus groups

Community-Wide Survey Findings, cont.



Program Offerings

Residents were asked to identify their preference for weekday or weekend recreation programs. There was no clear cut preference for weekday or weekend, most indicated either was acceptable. Additionally, there was no clear cut preference by age group other than the >65 preferred weekday programs. As far as time of day, the preference across all age groups was a 5pm – 7pm time slot. Again the >65 age group identified 10am – 2pm as most desirable and the after 7pm time slot as the least desirable.

Understanding why individuals do not participate in activities is as important as why they participate. The residents were asked the reasons they or members of their households do not use Munster parks, programs and facilities more often. It was expected, the number one reason across all age groups was not enough time, followed very closely by times don't fit schedule. There is virtually nothing practical the MPRD can do to create more time for an individual. However, there are opportunities to address the "don't fit schedule". These may be as simple as correlating available time with program offerings, to short courses or programs that are more sensitive to residents' available time blocks. The golf industry is working towards targeting players with limited time by developing strategies such as 3-hole, 6-hole, and 9-hole loops to best fit times. The MPRD should evaluate programs to see if there are opportunities to break them into smaller increments or components so time slots can be more easily managed.

Alternative Program Offerings

Residents were also asked to identify alternative organizations where they go to obtain their recreation programs. The number one response across all

Alternative Program Offerings, cont.

age groups is "private fitness facility". The MPRD should evaluate existing private fitness facility to assess their programs, facilities, fee structures to determine possible additions or modifications to the Department's facilities to either capture a higher percentage of the market place or be more equal to the competition.

Information Delivery

Information delivery is important to the success of the Department's programs and activities. Understanding how the residents get their information about the Department's offerings and how satisfied they are with the vehicle where they are receiving their information is also important.

The seasonal program brochure was the leading source of information across all age groups, with banners in parks a distant second for source. Once the source of information is identified the question was how satisfied were they with the source of information. On a scale of 5 to 1 with 5 being very satisfied and 1 not at all satisfied, the residents were very satisfied with the seasonal program brochure, followed by the mailers/flyers and the banners in parks. The residents generally had above average satisfaction with all sources of information across all age groups. The 45-54 and >65 age groups were least satisfied (3.4 of 5.0) with e-blasts.

The level of satisfaction may improve over time as more individuals become proficient with computers, email, and the internet. The MPRD may consider programs to encourage and promote the use of electronic communication, e-blasts, and use of various social media platforms.

Community-Wide Survey Findings, cont.



Aquatics

Understanding where residents go for their aquatic recreation can help the Department understand the local swimming and aquatic market. Overall over the last 2-years just over one-third of the respondents utilized public beaches while just under one-third identified the Munster Community Pool as to where they have gone for aquatic facilities.

Why didn't they go?

When reviewing why residents didn't use the Munster Community Pool in the last 2 years, the number one reason was "other" which meant some reason other than either price or no time to go. As they were the next two ranked answers. The <45 age group identified "too expensive" as the reason they did not go to the Munster Community Pool. The MPRD should conduct a competitive analysis of surrounding aquatic facilities to identify the competition, their offerings, and their fee and rate structure in order to assess where the Munster Community Pool ranks among the competition. The study can serve as the basis for developing strategies for becoming more competitive in either facilities, fees and pricing or both.

Satisfaction with Pool Facilities

The residents that used the Munster Community Pool were asked their satisfaction with various pool offerings. Overall the residents were most satisfied with safety, followed closely by lifeguard/management staff and least satisfied with "Backyard Grill" and fees. The <45 age group was least satisfied with "Backyard Grill" which could be related to either menu options, value, or costs or a combination of all three. The MPRD should consider a more in-depth study to determine why this particular age group is not satisfied with the "Backyard Grill".

Satisfaction with Pool Facilities, cont.

All age groups ranked cleanliness/maintenance; hours, locker rooms/bathhouse as just below average. The cleanliness and maintenance as well as hours of operation may be a function of available staffing. While the locker rooms/bathhouse are a physical facility and may need further review. The MPRD recently completed a locker room repainting and freshening which may address the relative dissatisfaction with the locker room and bath house.

Other Findings from Public Engagement

- Nobody who participated was under 25 years old
- Centennial Park was the most used park, followed by Community Park and F Hammond Park
- The community parks of West Lakes, Heritage, and Stewart are all used by less than 30% of Munster
- River's Edge Disc Golf is used by less than 20% of Munster
- There is a high demand, noted from in-person group sessions, for stronger presence of a Farmer's Market

Recreation and Programming



Innovative attempts at updating Munster's recreational program offerings will always have potential to elevate the Department's success. However, this potential can be only maximized when all other recommendations are explored. Program recommendations for this Master Plan are focused on expanding the existing program structure to continue to implement additional revenue streams and programs which may not be provided. The Department's long-range vision is to construct a Community Center facility to house current and expanding programs and indoor recreation activities to maintain a self-sustaining facility. The cost to implement program recommendations will vary depending on the extent of the new programs offered, staffing levels, and it may be possible that program modifications can be implemented at no costs, except for additional promotion costs related to letting the residents know of the program offerings.

- **Evaluate the Community Survey results** to determine specialized program/facility needs and requests that will lead to new and expanded programs that will appeal to a cross-section of current and future residents of diverse age, gender and ability.
- **Conduct ongoing participant user surveys** to assess and evaluate existing programs and identify recreation trends and continually monitor the viability of existing programs
- **Identify standards for macro and micro level evaluations.** Reviewing program offerings, both comprehensively and individually, can result in valuable information for the Parks and Recreation Department. By establishing clear standards, the Department can use the evaluations as a reference to benchmark performances
- **Increase program participation** by developing quantitative methods for determining community and participant need.
- **Meet the Community's demand for recreation program and services.** Based on survey data, let the desire for programming opportunities drive the renovation and repair of existing facilities, and design and construction of any future new facilities i.e. Community Center facility.
- **Continue to expand the variety of programs,** including educational, recreational and fitness, which allow participation by family groups.
- **Schedule programs to meet the needs of the Department's working public** – Create flexible program scheduling that will meet the lifestyle needs of more Department residents, including evening and weekend programming that will attract working adults.
- **Expand the number of community-wide special events at Centennial Park** – increase sponsorship participation to fund events. Create a new annual sponsorship manual listing all opportunities for the year and distribute within the community in a menu format that creates a sense of urgency within the business community. Develop a Cooperative Community Events Calendar to eliminate multiple events planned for the same day to provide for greater participation.
- **Expand and improve the local farmer's market** as a community event for the entire family. Increase attendance and participation by developing quantitative methods for determining community needs and interest.

Recreation and Programming



- **Expand Senior activities and programs** to include quality day trips and excursions as well as promote expanded interest and use of the Department's facilities and amenities.
- **Continue to work with other recreation providers** such as the City of Hammond and Dyer, Indiana's Recreation Departments in developing and increasing the quality of programs offered and discount consideration.
- **Continue coordinating program offerings with area schools** as appropriate to broaden recreation, education, athletic and fitness opportunities.

New Facility Recommendation

Based on input gained from Department staff and the results from the Community Survey, an indoor recreation space, i.e. Community Center, would be beneficial to the Department and Town at large. While residents and staff expressed a strong desire to have a Community Center facility, the Department should make a go/no-go decision based on a careful evaluation of the long-term costs associated with building and operating a community center. Estimated costs for community center facilities depend on final design, amenities, etc. Therefore, the need for a Comprehensive Community Center Feasibility Study is necessary. It is highly recommended that a financial feasibility study be performed. Additionally, before the Department commits to the renovation or construction of a new community recreation center, extensive public input including surveys, focus groups, and development of a facility amenities list should be conducted. Due to the cost of a new facility, the more diversified the expected users, the more useful the facility will be for the community.

New Facility Recommendation, cont.

If constructed, a community center facility will meet the needs of not only the Town of Munster residents, but also those in surrounding areas.

Key recommendations in determining feasibility of a Community Center are as follows:

- **Investigate the costs associated with the construction** of a new Community Center.
- **Seek community input from stakeholders** to gain input on the needs and support for specific amenities, programs, and facility size. Use this information in conjunction with the public input gained in the Master Planning process.
- **Perform a market analysis** including demographics, trends, comparable facilities within the region, alternative providers, pricing, programming, and amenities.
- **Develop an operational plan, operational cost estimates and pro forma** to determine the operational structure, building use, staffing models, management strategies, hours of operation, programming, contractual service needs, estimated expenses, estimated revenues, pricing and cost recovery models.



Current Munster Social Center, unable to meet demand

Volunteering



Munster Park and Recreation has and will continue to use volunteer labor for a wide variety of special events and programs. Volunteer labor has the advantage of little to no cost to the Department and provides a sense of pride within the Community by having an organized mechanism for interested residents too participate in the events and programs. Given the current full time and part-time staff size within the Department, volunteer labor has been and continues to be a great use for special events and focused activities that require minimal training and oversight.

It is recommended volunteer labor be recognized on a regular basis to maintain continuity of the volunteer labor force. It is recommended that the Department continue to understand the value of the volunteer labor that is being performed and promote the importance of volunteers. Key recommendations are as follows:

- **Increase the visibility and description of volunteer opportunities on the Munster Park Department's web-site.**
This will give the volunteer program a greater presence and appeal.
- **Continue to utilize volunteers to assist with special events, select recreation programs and general park maintenance activities**
This will reduce operation costs for the Parks and Recreation Department, develop personal connections between the community and volunteers, and sustain the programs and events that are appreciated by the public. Engage schools, organizations and church groups to assist in volunteering following each special event, program, or activity. This will offer a sense of collective ownership for the volunteers, shared with the Department.

- **Promote teen and youth volunteer efforts**
Recruiting Munster Parks and Recreation Departments awareness campaign in schools and youth organizations.
- **Provide volunteers with training**
Match their areas of activity to ensure that volunteer activities meet the quality and philosophical goals of the Department.
- **Host volunteer opportunities at events in various community parks**
According to the Department's Facebook page, most of the events sponsored by the Department take place at Community and Centennial Park. Other locations may draw in new participants, and offer new activities depending on the park's offerings.

Volunteer Recommendations

- Vendors at concession stands during sporting events, and potential servers at banquet-style events
- Transportation to big events for those without driver's licenses
- Setting up and clearing out spaces before and after special events
- Seasonal clearing out of nondesirable vegetation, a.k.a. invasives, throughout various park sites to reduce maintenance costs and educate the public on environmental stewardship/responsibility

Marketing



Effective marketing is crucial to increasing program participation. Expand marketing staff in which greater collaboration with program staff can be achieved to communicate offerings to the public in a more engaging and clear manner. The following are some key recommendations:

- **Expand marketing Staff** to work closer in conjunction with program staff to provide the most clear information to the residents of Munster
- **Develop advertising of programs** that focuses on filling lesser known programs in addition to the most popular programs to try to limit program cancellation.
- **Develop a regional marketing effort** for programs that are unique to the Department and the Town of Munster.
- **Broaden the utilization of Facebook, Instagram, twitter, and other social networking** to inform residents of Department news and events and encourage participation in programs
- **Increase marketing to non-residents** for participation in recreation programming to fill capacities and increase revenue.
- **Increase marketing and promotional efforts** for the clubhouse restaurant/banquet facility to increase new and repeat customers.

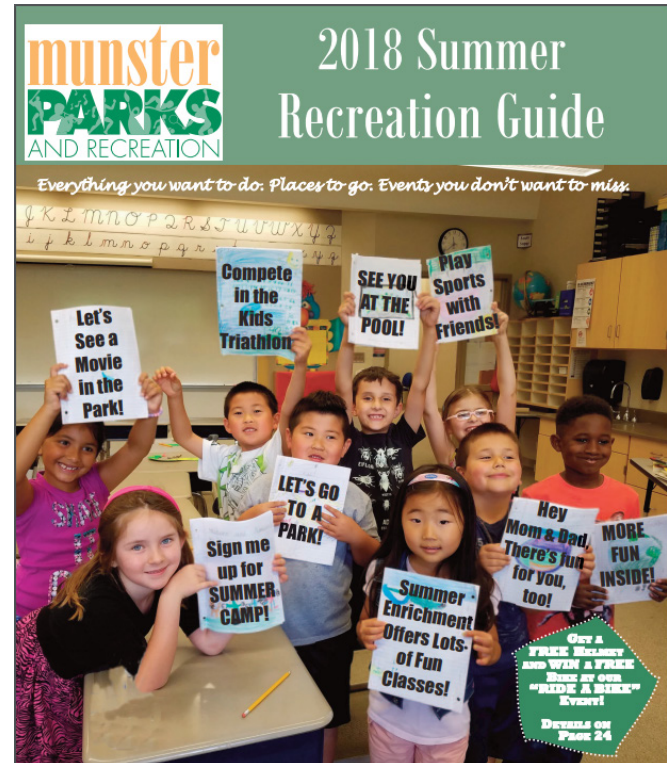


Figure 78: Recent Seasonal Recreation Guide Covers for MPR

Parks/Open Space Sustainability



In the present circumstances of climate change and human-involved environmental disturbances, private and public agencies should expect more frequent natural disasters, more common natural resource and agricultural scarcity, significant human migration from environmentally and politically hostile regions in the world, and greater species disappearance.

Although this reality is severe, there are many attractive opportunities to mitigate the consequences of climate change through sustainable measures. Sustainability is not just a buzz word today- it's an open-ended strategy to improve the environment and the economy so that both are at their most reliable in the long term.

Munster Parks and Recreation values environmental sustainability by making decisions that help protect, maintain, and preserve natural and developed resources. The following bullet points are sample recommendations.

- **Improve Tree Diversity and installation of easy-to-maintain native plants and landscapes**
This is important because it will reduce maintenance costs in both labor and supplies, reduce risks of plant species-specific diseases, and enhance the habitats of critical, local pollinators
- **Incorporate recycling bins alongside standard trash receptacles for park patrons**
Separating waste by materials has been an increasingly common practice for the past few decades. A simple and effective means to improving the trend of recycling in Munster is to provide the option at any location there is an existing trash receptacle.
- **Use long lasting materials in all capital development projects**
This will reduce the frequency of replacing the same materials at the point of deterioration, easing costs on the Department and the environment
- **Replace outdated park drinking fountains with products having bottle filling stands.**
These relatively new-to-market models offer the option for park visitors to fill their own personal water bottles, which can reduce the number of plastic bottles disposed within parks and in landfills.
- **Incorporate rain gardens and wetlands for increased flood control**
The number of vacant properties in the north end of Munster should especially be considered for this approach to flood control, given its proximity to the Little Calumet River
- **Integrate permeable pavings in new development/redevelopment**
This is another measure for flood control, as it reduces runoff from large paved areas. Prioritize the redevelopment of parking lots with permeable paving on the north end, for similar reasons stated above
- **Conserve existing natural areas**
This will retain the rich ecological vibrancy and wildlife habitats within Munster. The dense vegetation also improves the surrounding air quality and can provide a space of tranquility to local residents
- **Eradicate invasive species**
These species pose a threat to the native vegetation that sustain local wildlife; refer to the Indiana DNR: Invasive Plant Species list when determining if a park's landscape is in need of eradicating any vegetation
- **Utilize solar, wind energy when possible**
This will reduce the dependency on resources that are non-renewable and carbon-intensive. In addition to improving air quality, solar and wind energy can also reduce operating costs, long term.

Work Place



The following recommendations are specifically for the Munster Parks and Recreation Department team members, in order to advance the working experiences for everyone.

- **Consider higher quality training and pay for part-time staff**
Current part-time staff will appreciate improvements in training and increases in pay, and it could reasonably project a stronger retention of staff. Furthermore, without high staff turnover, employees might share their positive work experiences with others. This may increase the quality and size of the applicant pool when seeking to fill any vacant positions within the Department.
- **Ensure all staff receives feedback and twice-a-year reviews**
Biannual reviews are common among many public and private enterprises; staff generally aspires to improve their skills. Regular feedback is key to identifying areas of improvement.
- **To improve the area of “disconnect”, arrange quarterly times for maintenance, recreation, and board members to enjoy social times together.**
Quarterly, or seasonally, events that encourage social cohesiveness among all staff in the parks and recreation Department can improve spirits and communal trust. Activities that support team building will strengthen existing connections and cultivate new connections.
- **Continue to work on job descriptions to better align employee tasks and responsibilities.**
Clarity of tasks and responsibilities within any position will generate improved work efficiency and staff confidence in the value of their work. This has both immediate and long-term benefits.

Bike Paths



Trails are one of the most popular recreational amenities for communities to provide for their residents. Bike paths and trails are popular with all ages from children to seniors. Recommendations for Munster's bike paths and trails were designed referencing the 2010 Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Munster. The 2018 Master Plan is intended to support and enhance the direction of the 2010 Comprehensive Plan.

Recommendations for Munster's bike paths were designed referencing the 2010 Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Munster. The 2018 Master Plan is intended to support and enhance the direction of the 2010 Comprehensive Plan. This Plan recommends the Department work in conjunction with the Town to continue expanding bike path and trail access throughout the community. Key recommendations are as follows:

- **Bike Paths and trails should be developed where feasible and should connect to other existing trails** such as the Pennsy Path or NIPSCO trail creating an expanded network of linked trails throughout the community.
- **Reclaim the vacant NW/SE corridor from S. Manor Ave. to W. 45th Street** to offer a new direct connection for the Pennsy Path. Reclamation of this corridor will eliminate the detour-like route down Fisher Street and south on Calumet Ave.
- **Where bike path and trails cross streets, signage and/or marking should be installed** to alert both bike path/trail users and vehicles. Implement safety treatments at these crossings.
- **Address ADA accessibility of existing trails** so that they comply with national guidelines

- **Determine where connections through more urbanized areas of the Town are limited;** sidewalks may double as bike paths and trails.
- **Where possible, coordinate with the Town to develop trailheads for the trail users.** Trailheads should be established at strategic locations along the bike path/trail system.
- **Expand local trail standards/design standards,** particularly within busy corridors



(LED flashing lights on the margins of signage can enhance the visibility of signage when approaching a busy intersection that also serves pedestrians and cyclists)

Bike Paths, cont.

- **Trailhead areas should be of adequate size** to provide space for sheltered picnic areas, signage, public restrooms, water stations and parking facilities for users.
- **Generate a recognizable style of bike path/trail signage throughout Munster.** There is a strong sense of orientation and security when signs consistently indicate the next phase of a trail network. Interpretive maps of the entire Munster bike path/trail network are recommended to be located along the path/trail at regular intervals.
- **Evaluate wayfinding and safety constraints at all proposed and existing intersections/crossings.** Consider retrofitting certain busy intersections for enhanced cyclist protection among vehicular routes (see image on right).
- **Clarify the type of existing bike path**
Is the path shared on the road without separate bike lanes (such as Forest Ave)? Is it shared with the roads but with distinct and separate markings for cyclists (such as Fran-lin Pkwy)? Is it entirely separate from existing vehicular roadways (such as the Pennsy Path or NIPSCO trail). The City of Chicago has implemented a guide for the cyclists' benefit, and it can be replicated in any community that promotes biking, regardless of scale.
- **Investigate trail network tourism opportunities** and partnerships with local tourist attractions to determine if bike routes would improve the local economy
- **Develop a trails and bikeways master plan** that can be clear, reliable and frequently utilized by cyclists in Munster

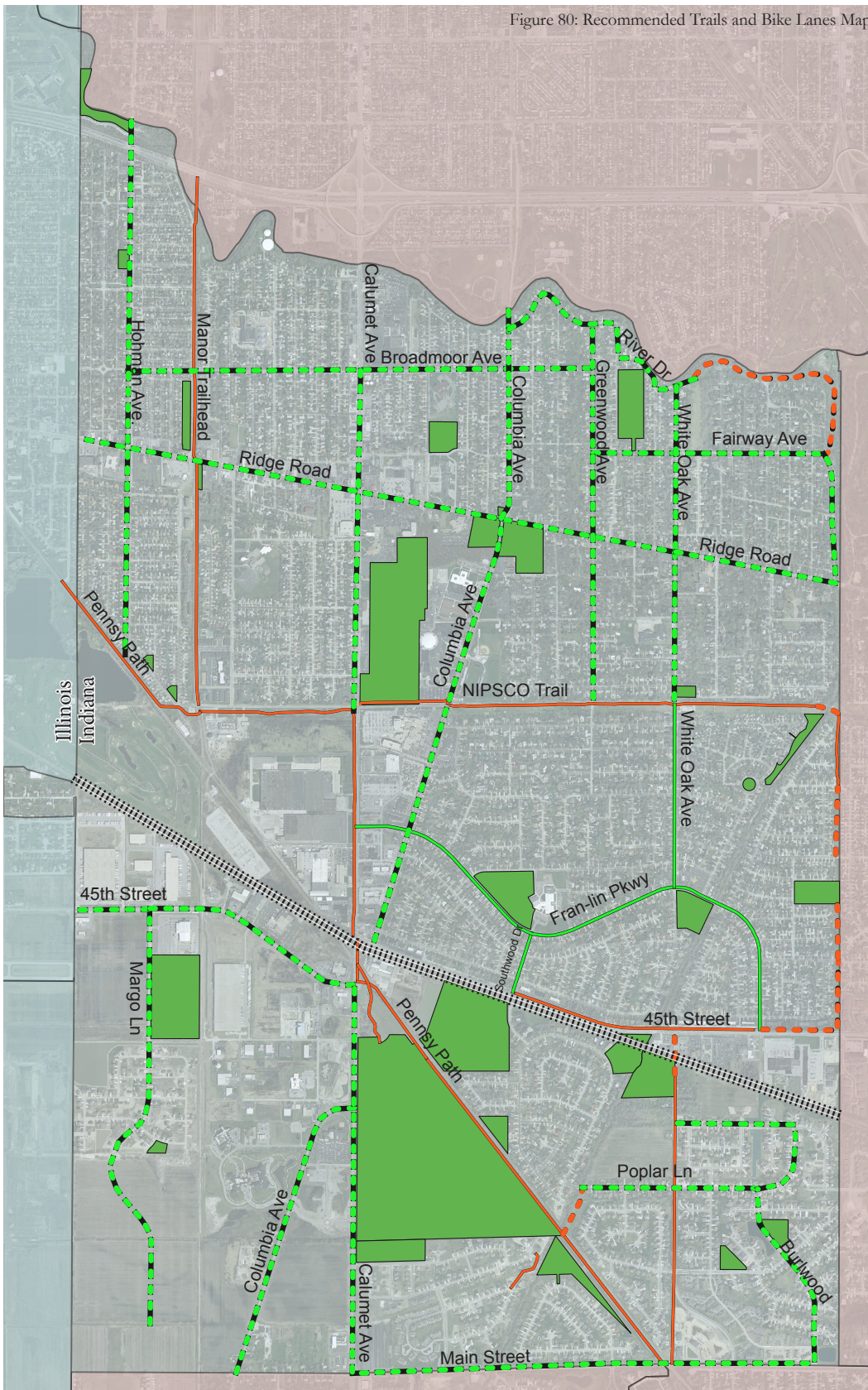


Figure 79: Existing Intersection and a Cyclist-friendly Upgrade Concept

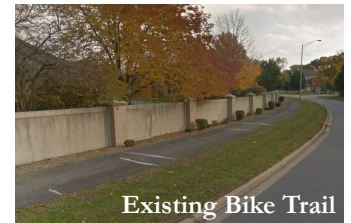
Recall...

Many of the public participation groups said during the in-person sessions that they'd like to see more bike paths throughout Munster, to enhance connection among the existing parks.

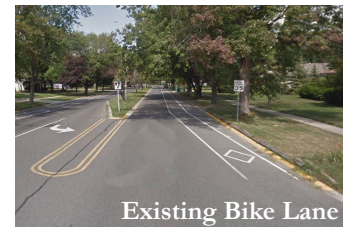
Figure 80: Recommended Trails and Bike Lanes Map



There are two primary transit routes for bicycles in Munster: bike trails and bike lanes.



The *trails* are separated from the roads and clearly marked as paths on which vehicles cannot travel. The Pennsy Path and NIPSCO Trails are the most prominent ones in Munster.



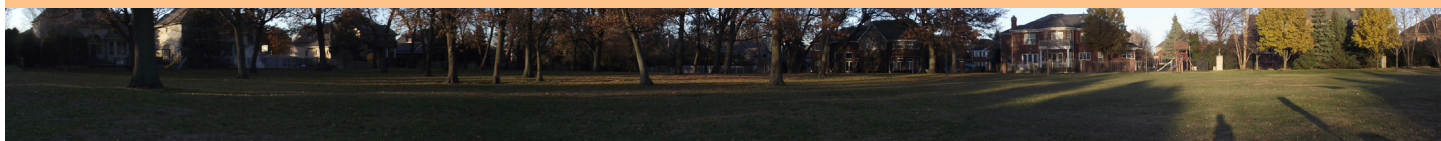
The *lanes* are shared with the existing roadways, and are separated by painted white lines. Often, there are signs that alert drivers of cyclists in advanced, to optimize safety.

Legend

- Existing Bike Lanes
- - - Proposed Bike Lanes
- Existing Bike Paths
- - - Proposed Bike Paths



Park Assessment Recommendations



Park enhancement recommendations are based on the park specific assessments presented in one of the earlier chapters. While the conditions of the parks varied, many similar issues were observed and identified Department-wide. General recommendations are presented as items to be addressed throughout the Town of Munster as a whole. The Plan aims to provide a well-balanced, and efficient parks and recreation system. More detailed individual park recommendations are based on unique issues at each park.

- **Use tree massing as spatial definition.** This is a cost-effective and long-term investment for enhancing the various park sites in Munster is through planting more trees. Beyond the recommendation to increase diversity, there are other benefits to increasing tree presence. These benefits include promoting wildlife habitat, establishing shaded areas, filtering air pollution, and preparing natural overhead structures for the Town's younger generation.
- **Ensure that access to equipment and site elements continues to meet ADA requirements.** This includes whenever site elements and playgrounds are updated.
- **Continue re-inventory of parks and facilities as sites are improved and renovated.** As components are added or taken out of service, perform an inventory and evaluation - at the very least, every 5 years in conjunction with the Department's Master Plan Updates.
- **Prepare site master plans for each individual park site within the Town of Munster.** These Master Plans will identify current uses and the proposed improvements. The plans will form the basis for developing and evaluating implementation strategies and budgeting improvements annually..
- **Embark on a program that utilizes standards** for furnishings, quality materials, enhanced landscaping, improved safety, and wayfinding.
- **Continue replacing site furnishing, playground equipment and other site amenities** on a programmed schedule that will provide regular improvements on a cyclical basis.
- **Replace aging gazebos/shelters** with ones that are updated and architecturally interesting
- **Track recreation trends, demographic changes and changes in local interests** to determine redevelopment needs of park site features and amenities.
- **Install creatively designed unique playgrounds for individual parks.** Incorporate bright colors.
- **Install and maintain mulch rings around deciduous and evergreen trees** to minimize or eliminate the need to trim grass and weeds. Provide protection from string trimmers around tree bases.
- **Entry signage for parks and open spaces in Munster should be consistent in design** to create a "brand" for increased recognition within the community.
- **Replace any faded park entry signs to enhance public perception of the park.** Incorporate updated park signage
- **Develop and enhance gathering areas/social nodes in community parks** to include wi-fi capabilities and consistently themed wayfinding signage for sculptures and focal feature areas

Land Acquisition

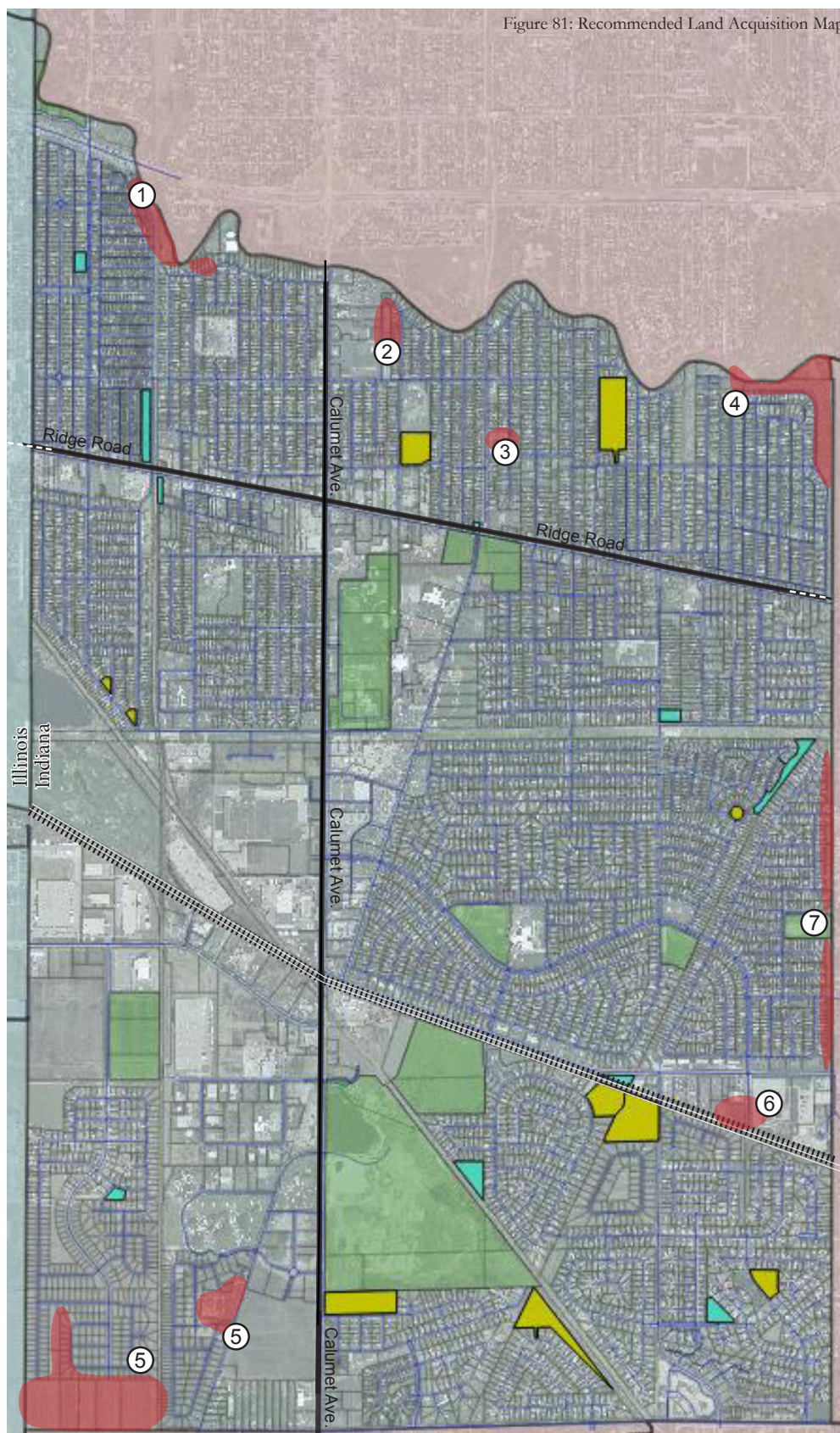


The following recommendations are intended to guide Munster's Parks and Recreation Department on the best ways forward to provide abundant and equitably distributed open space to all of its residents.

- **Work with the town Planning Department to be proactive about land acquisition & site selection for park in new or infill developments.**
Request a formal role in the town development review process.
- **Take advantage of any opportunities to acquire land for additional mini or neighborhood parks.**
This is especially recommended in the east part of "Region 1" and the southeast park of "Region 2" (see map on page 142)
- **Take advantage of any opportunities to acquire land for bike paths throughout the town.**
Some private properties are located on desirable land that offer potential for better regional bike path connection. If any of these properties placed on the market, investigate the feasibility of purchasing the property for enhanced trail connectivity.
- **Create an accessible map of all of the paths within Munster identifying access points and mile markers.**
This will outline the potential throughout Munster for successful land acquisition.

In addition, digitizing the map and offer an interactive feature for smart phone users to track their progress while on the paths. Established GPS software content, such as Google or Waze, would suffice for this level of service.

Figure 81: Recommended Land Acquisition Map



The following areas are identified because they hold open space that, if acquired by Munster, could be specified for local use in, but not limited to, the following ways:

- ① -a dog park
-a set of community garden plots
-a multi-sensory garden.
-a canoe/kayak rental station (if appropriate)
- ② -a set of community garden plots
-a formal seating/resting space
- ③ -a set of community garden plots
-a formal seating/resting space
- ④ -a connective trail
-a dog park
-a set of community garden plots
-a pair of pickleball courts
-a playground
-a canoe/kayak rental station (if appropriate)
- ⑤ -a connective trail
-an entirely new park/playground
-a set of community garden plots
-a dog park
- ⑥ -an entirely new park/playground
-a set of community garden plots
- ⑦ -a connective trail

Legend

- ① Open Space Opportunities
- Neighborhood Park
- Mini Park

Recommendations- Land Acquisition



0 1/4 1/2 1 mile



Area 1

Location: Northwest Munster

Acreage: 3.9 Total

Flood Risk Level: High

General Features:

Broken up into three open spaces; 2 vacant residential properties and 1 moderately vegetative site with a utility building. All properties are adjacent to the Little Calumet River Corridor.



Area 2

Location: North Central Munster

Acreage: 1.1 Acres

Flood Risk Level: High

General Features:

A narrow open space west of Euclid Avenue as well as the commercial region off of Calumet Ave. To the east there are a row of homes, and to the south is a place of worship. To the north, there are also private homes.

Figure 84: Area 3



Area 3

Location: North Central Munster

Acreage: .75 acres

Flood Risk Level: High

General Features:

A compact open space with a size that amounts to approximately 4 residential properties. It is nestled among many residences and in between two neighborhood parks. As the service group indicated during the public participation process, there is a need for more green space at the north end of Town, so this area should be preserved. It may be owned currently by the Salvation Army, so a partnership between them and the Parks Department could yield beneficial results for the community.

Figure 85: Area 4



Area 4

Location: Northeast Munster

Acreage: 29.3 acres

Flood Risk Level: High

General Features:

This large area is situated at the northeast corner of Munster and features a mixture of riverfront, open turf, and wooded space. There are opportunities to develop the existing bike path network here in order to advance connectivity within Munster (this was mentioned during public participation gatherings by the school group). Additionally, there is a narrow corridor running North-South that has similar potential as the Manor Avenue Greenspace.

Figure 86: Area 5

Area 5

Location: Southwest Munster

Acreage: 62

Flood Risk Level: Low

General Features:

A collection of upcoming residential parcels and general open space. If some land was acquired by the Parks and Recreation Department, this area would have potential for a new, local park for the upcoming residential units.

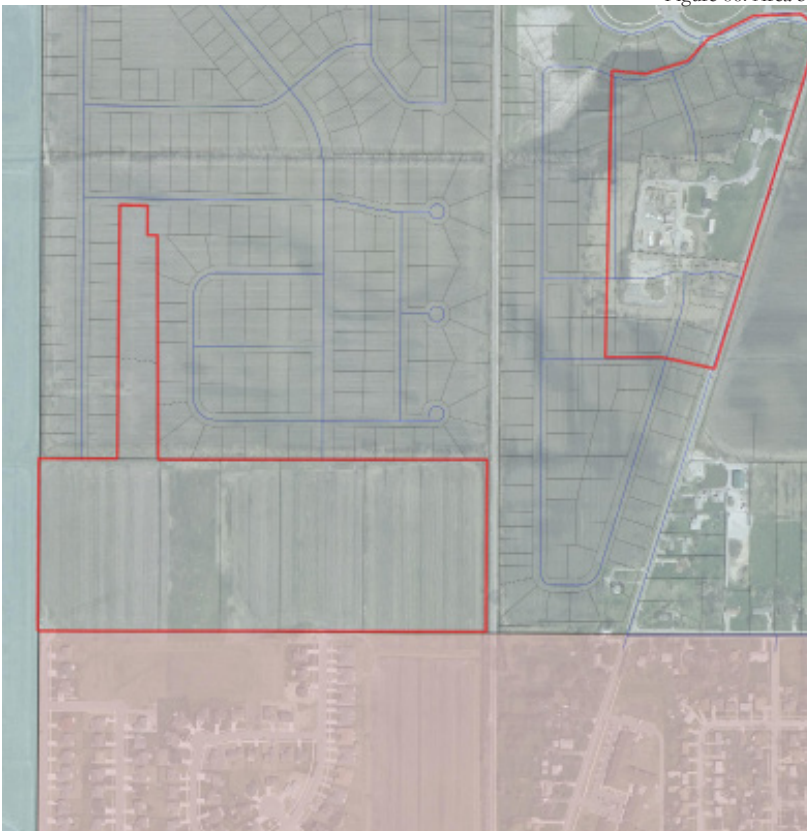


Figure 87: Area 6

Area 6

Location: Southeast Munster

Acreage: 3.6 acres

Flood Risk Level: Undetermined

General Features:

This is an abandoned site to the north of the existing railroad tracks, to the east of Fran-Lin Parkway, to the south of an existing shopping center, and to the west of an apartment complex. A park at this location would secure an open space for Munster families who live between two restricting corridors (the tracks to the south and 45th Street to the north) and otherwise have difficulty accessing park space.



Figure 88: Area 7

Area 7

Location: East Munster

Acreage: 8 acres

Flood Risk Level: Undetermined

General Features:

This strip of open space running north-south is adjacent to the eastern edge of Munster's town boundary. It is located under a chain of tall powerlines similar to the ones running along the NIPSCO trail. This would suggest that there's a precedent to establish a bike/walking path that connects 45th street at the south to Bluebird Park and Bluebird Park to the NIPSCO trail at the north, with suitable planning in advance.

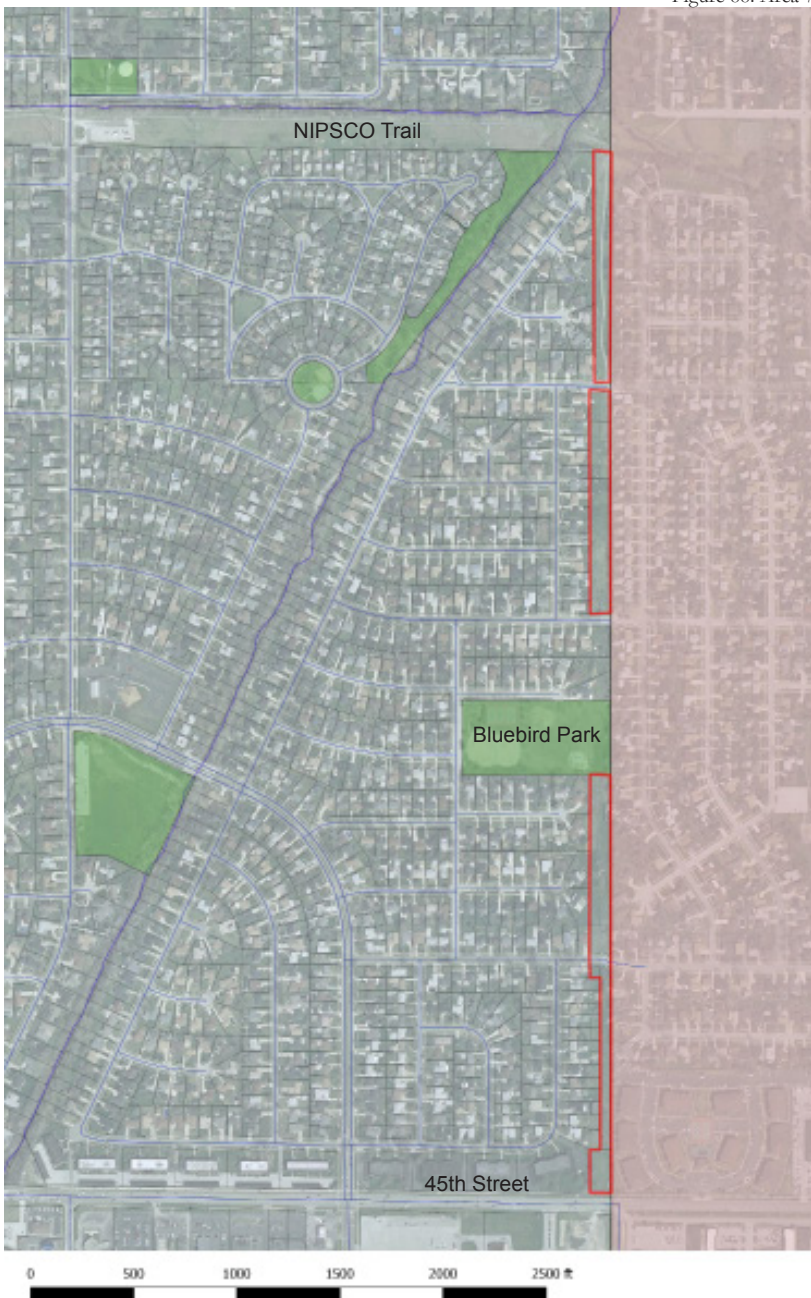
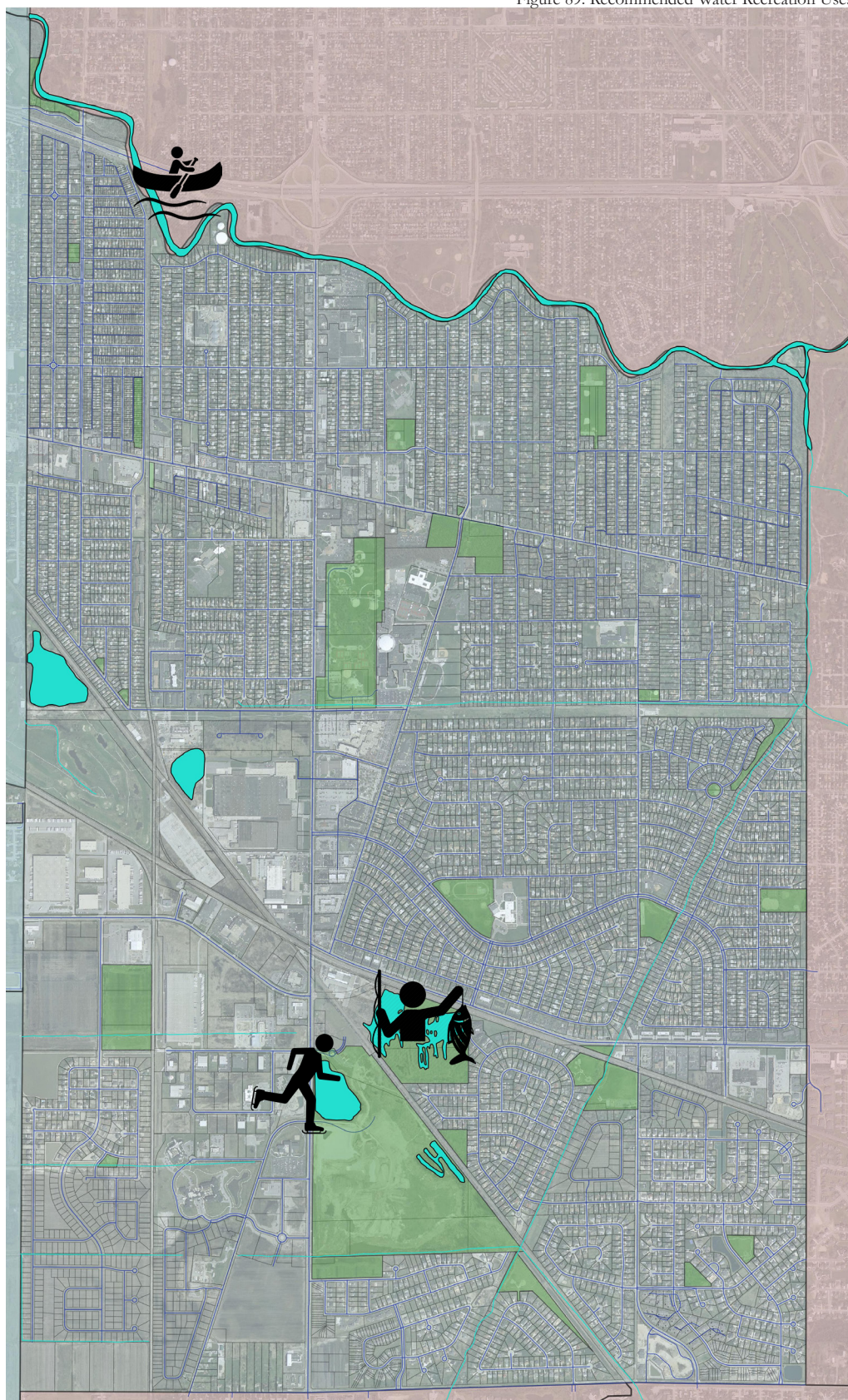


Figure 89: Recommended Water Recreation Uses



Recommended Water Recreation Uses



The Park Board and Town Council, in their in-person group meeting, expressed desire to enhance the Little Calumet River. A canoe launch somewhere in an existing open space on the river would likely be near the River's Edge Disc Golf park or at the northeast open space near the proposed bike trail

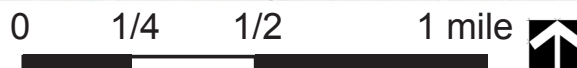


Currently, fishing is permitted at Maynard Lake but not Clayhole Lake. Since more programs are desired by all ages, consider expanding fishing to Clayhole Lake. The Lansing Country Club offers it at their body of water to the northwest, but that is run privately.



It was expressed by the Schools group that ice skating is desired. As a winter activity, it is suitable at Maynard Lake at Centennial Park due to the existing facility nearby to serve as a warming house. If it already is promoted by the Department, consider expanding its appeal by offering vendor opportunities (rentals, hot cocoa, snacks, etc.)

Bodies of Water



Recommended Improvements

Determine if neighborhood support exists for the following improvements:

45th Avenue Greenspace

- Install ornamental tree species along parkway underneath powerlines
- Create a destination for vital pollinators by planting native perennials, trees, and shrubs
- Add a park sign to the site



Beech Park

- Modify the south parking area to one-way, entering on Beech Avenue and exiting on Fair view and provide space along north edge of parking for accessible route.
- Add trail connection to northeast to the Calumet River Trail network. Path will need a bridge to access trail on the north side of the Little Calumet.
- Provide ADA accessible routes to every activity area within the park
- Provide ADA access into the play area by removing the raised plastic curb system or lowering it flush to the existing grade.
- Inspect depth of Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) to verify adequate fall protection is provided based on equipment manufacturer's recommendations
- Provide accessible route to spectator seating and increase distance from play area.
- Replace spectator seating areas with either lower 3-row seating or 5-row seating with additional barrier protection on sides and back
- Add hardened surface behind backstops at both ballfields to reduce maintenance and improve access.
- Relocate equipment boxes to hardened surface
- Remove excess asphalt near basketball court or repurpose the area to include additional game courts



Bieker Woods

- More clearly define the trail path going through Bieker Woods. Enhance the mulch trail and connectivity to the existing asphalt path that connects the Arts Center with the Middle School.
- Add additional trails west of the asphalt connecting path in the large portion of the wooded areas without trails (note: it appears to not be officially Bieker Woods Park property)
- Update the kiosk and signage at the trailhead and throughout the trail to enhance a 'sense of place' as well as incorporate educational signage, i.e. wildlife education, forestry information etc.



Bluebird Park

- Foul line fencing needed at both fields
- Consider player benches & covered dugout areas for ballfields
- Inspect depth of Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) to verify adequate fall protection is provided based on equipment manufacturer's recommendations
- Install an accessible connection from the parking lot to the park's perimeter path network



Briar Creek Park

- Provide additional seating for spectators, seniors, and child guardians
- Repaint shelter posts
- Increase amount of engineered wood fiber within creative play area to the recommended depth required by the manufacturer, comply with ADAAG (ADA Accessibility Guidelines) 2010 Standards
- Resurface the court games area, and replace damaged concrete path sections
- Assess condition of water fountain and replace as may be required



Briar Creek Park

Burlwood Park

- Install ample seating space for visitors
- Create new asphalt path with multiple connections to the apparatus area.
- Install larger shade structure to accommodate more park patrons and picnic opportunities
- Additional landscaping—in need of additional shade trees
- Replace drinking fountain with a model that offers an ADA-compliant feature



Burlwood Park

Centennial Park

- Add a park sign at the south parking lot entry from Calumet Avenue
- Repair settling concrete in several areas surrounding the entertainment stage
- Replace any missing stone wall caps around entertainment stage
- Replace missing bucket swing in play area
- Add new decomposed granite material around sculpture garden surface transitions
- Replenish screening surface at dog park, or install alternate hard surfacing
- Install additional seating and shading features in dog park
- Perform small scale grading to have finished slope meet flush to step down from clubhouse
- Provide inclusive bench pads for all, not some, seating



Centennial Park



Centennial Park

Circle Park Woods/Lawler Park Greenspace

- Consider interpretive signage to describe a natural area restoration and the processes
- Naturalize site landscape to minimize long-term maintenance, prioritize natives and pollinator-friendly plants



Circle Park

- Inspect depth of Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) to verify adequate fall protection is provided based on equipment manufacturer's recommendations
- Inspect playground apparatus for damage/wear and repair/replace as necessary.
- Consider replacement of perimeter wood timber curbing with more permanent material and possible mow/trim strip to minimize trimming requirements, improve efficiency of mowing, and improve overall accessibility complying with ADA
- Resurface basketball courts to address poor surface conditions and cracking
- Verify court dimensions for free throw distance and width of lane on court.
- Restripe court to place goal support outside of playing surface
- Trim and manage vegetation adjacent to sign to improve visibility and recognition of the park
- Remove benches and replace with new benches.
- Install outside the play equipment clearance zone - footings to be installed 12" below top of playground surfacing to eliminate footing exposure.



Cobblestones Park

- Install path to connect to existing pad at tennis court entrance, offering much needed accessibility
- Increase depth of engineered wood fiber within creative play area
- Place picnic benches on a surface that isn't turf grass to avoid settling
- Increase number of seating areas, particularly near the ball field
- Assess current play equipment and replace any outdated components. Replace plastic containment curb with new concrete curb.
- Add foul line fencing down left field line
- Add spectator seating areas, near the ball field and player benches



Community Park

- Review the condition of the existing playground surfacing. Replace material at required depth as may be necessary.
- Remove the stone rip rap along the swale edge. Regrade as may be required/. Restore with native plant mix and plugs to create a more natural/sustainable setting to assist with the reduction of maintenance and flooding potential.
- Review Munster Pool use to confirm if sand volleyball and the sand play area should remain or be replaced with alternative play elements such as a splash pad area or other use.
- Add a more structural separation between the skate park area and adjacent parking lot.
- Create a site planting plan to implement over time to add shade and natural areas where feasible and create spatial identity/beautify the site.



Evergreen Park

- Enhance the park sign with an ornamental landscaped bed
- Define hard court play area and create additional game courts on existing hard surface
- Reposition existing park sign to improve visibility to pedestrians
- Install signage for the bike trail on Timrick Drive.



F.H. Hammond Park

- Complete perimeter path system along Fran-lin Parkway
- Inspect depth of Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) to verify adequate fall protection is provided based on equipment manufacturer's recommendations
- Consider replacement of vegetative screening at tennis courts
- Consider replacement of perimeter curbing with more permanent material and possible mow/trim strip to minimize trimming requirements and improving efficiency of mowing
- Resurface tennis courts to address poor surface conditions and cracking - color coat to enhance aesthetics
- Integrate all play areas into a cohesive and inclusive play environment
- Remove and replace existing drinking fountain with new drinking fountain for accessibility and compliance with ADA.



Grove Park

- Repurpose the existing hardscape area adjacent to the basketball court for tennis practice use
- Resurface the tennis and basketball courts.
- Add fencing and dugouts to the softball field in front of the bleachers
- Enhance ornamental landscape beds around the memorial and park sign
- Add wheel stops to the parking lot with striping and ADA accessible walk and accessible spaces
- Relocate the park sign to maximize visibility along the nearby pedestrian path.



Heritage Park

- Improve intra-site trail network and environmental interpretation



Kiwanis Park

- Power wash fence to remove mold and repaint
- Enhance the park sign with an ornamental landscaping bed
- Review site for accessible routes to playground and other amenities



Monon Trail Head and Fountain

- Screen the electrical panel and systems to make them less conspicuous.
- Replace bicycle rack with furnishing in same family as current site benches and furnishings. Integrate bicycle rack into plaza space to avoid the “tacked on” appearance.



Manor Avenue Greenspace

- Remove building foundation remnants
- Consider naturalizing area to reduce maintenance and mowing
- Potential location for small playground for neighborhood and master site plan



Orchard Park

- Remove abandoned bocce court
- Continue memorial tree planting; include the memorial in a “grove” or mass plantings
- Master plan for site 1
- Naturalize where appropriate



River's Edge Disc Golf

- Clearly define the park and disc golf boundary through landscape and signage
- Address wear at the tee box areas with new matting or other landscape materials
- Master Plan site to identify issues with river banks/ parking/accessibility and volunteer construction and park identification/signage



Rotary Park

- Open up the park entrance by relocating one of the evergreens
- Enhance plantings in the raised bed



Stewart Park

- Develop wooden screen and pad for portable restroom, include accessible walk and access from parking lot for servicing restroom
- Modify parking lot layout to improve circulation
- Investigate purpose of beehive grate in the north central end of park and consider replacing it with a flat grate
- Inspect staked trees, remove guy wires and staking that are no longer functional or needed



Stewart Park

Sunnyside Park

- Master plan park site to address parking/play equipment and circulation
- Consider installing more canopy trees closer to the play equipment to provide more shade.
- Investigate additional play equipment within the existing play area
- Coordinate with Town Public Works to investigate traffic calming measures to improve pedestrian access from parking on east side of Hohman Ave.
- Align park access with crosswalk on Hohman Avenue



Stewart Park



Sunnyside Park

Twin Creek Park

- Resurface court area, mill and overlay
- Install seating area along perimeter of park path, including near ballfield
- Add player benches/spectator seating/shade shelters for dugouts
- Upgrade play around borders for clear edging
- Upgrade trash receptacles, separate recycling from general waste
- Review site for accessible routes to playground and other amenities



Twin Creek Park

West Lakes Park

- Place park sign in visible location for visitors coming from both north and south and add additional park signs
- Restripe spaces for handicap parking and install signs for each space
- Replace outdated park equipment and drinking fountain
- Investigate costs and benefits to replacing rip rap near water with naturalized plantings



White Oak Park

- Fully remove any remains of tree stumps in park
- Place picnic benches on a surface that isn't turf grass to avoid settling
- Upgrade trash receptacles, separate recycling from general waste
- Include a sign at the shelter that indicates maximum capacity



45th Avenue Greenspace

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Add a park sign to the site	\$5,000-8,000
B	Install ornamental tree species along parkway underneath powerlines	\$8,500-10,000
C	Create a destination for viral pollinators by planting native perennials, trees, and shrubs	\$8,000

Beech Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Provide ADA accessible routes to all activity areas within the park, as well as spectator seating	\$8,000-15,000
A	Inspect depth of engineered wood fiber (EWF) to verify adequate fall protection is provided based on equipment manufacturer's recommendations. Provide additional EWF to play area, if necessary	\$15,000-20,000
A	Remove excess asphalt near basketball court, or repurpose the area to additional game courts	\$8,000-10,000
A	Design and install pathway network within open space	\$90,000
A	Renovate play surface area to provide seating for caregivers and provide ADA access from parking areas to play areas	\$15,000-20,000
B	Replace spectator seating areas with either lower 3-row seating or 5-row seating with additional barrier protection on sides and back	\$16,000-20,000
B	Add hardened surface behind backstops at both ballfields to reduce maintenance and improve access. Relocated equipment boxes to hardened surface	\$16,000-20,000
B	Add trail connection northeast to a recommended/proposed bike lane on River Drive	\$4,200-6,000
C	Modify the south parking area to one-way, entering on Beech Avenue and exiting on Fairway Avenue and provide space along north edge of parking for accessible route into park	\$10,000-15,000

Bieker Woods

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Clearly define the trail path; enhance connectivity to the existing asphalt path that connects the arts center with the middle school (1,000SY Wood Fiber)	\$15,000-25,000
B	Install additional trails west of the asphalt connecting path	\$20,000-25,000
B	Update the kiosk and signage at the trailhead and throughout the trail	\$5,000-10,000

Bluebird Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Add foul line fencing at both fields	\$15,000-20,000
A	Inspect depth of engineered wood fiber (EWF) to verify adequate fall protection is provided based on equipment manufacturer's recommendations. Provide additional EWF to play area, if necessary	\$6,000-15,000
A	Install an accessible connection between the parking lot and the park's perimeter path system	\$6,000-8,000
B	Include player benches & dugout areas for ballfields	\$15,000-25,000

Briar Creek Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Repaint shelter posts over chipping	\$5,000-7,000
A	Increase engineered wood fiber (EWF) within creative play area	\$15,000-20,000
A	Resurface the court games area, and replace damaged concrete path sections	\$10,000-15,000
A	Assess condition of water fountain, and replace if outdated or non-compliant	\$8,000-12,000
B	Provide additional seating for specators, seniors, and child guardians	\$15,000-25,000

Burlwood Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Install additional bench seating	\$5,000-12,000
A	Replace drinking fountain with a model that offers an ADA-compliant feature	\$7,500-12,000
B	New asphalt path with multiple connections to the apparatus area	\$1,000-2,500
B	Install additional landscaping- specifically, more shade trees	\$10,000-20,000
C	Install a larger shade structure to accomodate more park patrons and picnic opportunities	\$50,000-70,000

Centennial Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Perform small scale grading to have finished slope meet flush to step down from clubhouse	\$5,000-15,000
A	Repair settling concrete in several areas surrounding the stage	\$15,000-25,000
A	Replace missing bucket swing in play area	\$500
A	Provide inclusive bench pads for all, not some, seating	\$4,000-10,000
A	Replace any missing stone caps around stage	\$3,500-8,000
B	Replenish screening surface at dog park, or install alternate hard surfacing	\$2,000-4,000
B	Add new decomposed granite material around sculpture garden surface transitions	\$10,000-20,000
B	Add a park sign at the south parking lot entry from Calumet Avenue	\$25,000-50,000
C	Install additional seating and shading features in dog park	\$30,000-50,000

Circle Park Woods/Lawler Park Greenspace

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Naturalize site landscape to minimize long-term maintenance, prioritize natives and pollinator-friendly plants	\$5,000-10,000
B	Consider interpretive signage to describe a natural area restoration and the process	\$5,000-8,000

Circle Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Inspect depth of Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) to verify adequate fall protection is provided based on equipment manufacturer's recommendations	\$15,000-20,000
A	Inspect playground apparatus for damage/wear and repair/replace as necessary	\$1,000-5,000
A	Resurface basketball courts to address poor surface conditions and cracking	\$12,000-20,000
A	Restripe court to place goal support outside of playing surface	\$5,000-8,000
B	Install outside the play equipment clearance zone - footings to be installed 12" below top of playground surfacing to eliminate footing exposure. Remove benches and replace with new benches	\$8,000-15,000
B	Trim and manage vegetation adjacent to sign to improve visibility and recognition of the park	\$1,000-1,500
C	Consider replacement of perimeter curbing with more permanent material and possible mow/trim strip to minimize trimming requirements and improving efficiency of mowing	\$5,000-8,000

Cobblestones Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Inspect depth of Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) to verify adequate fall protection is provided based on equipment manufacturer's recommendations	\$15,000-20,000
A	Assess current play equipment and replace any outdated components. Replace plastic containment curb with new curb	\$80,000-170,000
A	Install path to connect to existing pad at tennis court	\$4,000-7,500
B	Place picnic benches on a surface that isn't turf grass to avoid settling	\$4,000-7,500
B	Add foul line fencing down left field line	\$5,000-8,000
C	Add spectator seating areas, near the ball field and player benches	\$15,000-25,000

Community Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Review and test the playground surfacing to see if this should be replaced	\$1,000-2,000
A	Review Munster Pool to determine if sand volleyball and the sand play area should remain or be replaced with alternative play elements	
B	Naturalize the rip-rap swale and stormwater basin on the south side to reduce flooding and maintenance	\$200,000-300,000
B	Add a more structural separation between the skate park area and adjacent parking lot	\$18,000-30,000
C	Create a site planting plan to implement over time to add shade and natural areas where feasible	\$12,000-25,000

Evergreen Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Screen the mechanical bank with appropriate landscaping	\$2,000-5,000
A	Define hard court play area and create additional game courts on existing hard surface.	\$8,000-12,000
B	Reposition existing park sign to improve visibility for pedestrians	\$5,000-8,000
B	Install signage for the connecting trail on Timrick Drive	\$5,000-8,000

F. H. Hammond Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Inspect depth of Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) to verify adequate fall protection is provided based on equipment manufacturer's recommendations	\$6,000-15,000
A	Resurface tennis courts to address poor surface conditions and cracking	\$50,000-70,000
A	Consider developing play for universally accessible play environment to replace existing play	\$12,000-15,000
A	Retrofit drinking fountain for accessibility and compliance with ADA	\$7,500-12,000
B	Complete perimeter path system along Fran-lin Parkway	\$30,000-50,000
B	Consider replacement of vegetative screening at tennis courts	\$2,000-5,000

Grove Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Repurpose the existing hardscape area adjacent to the basketball court	\$8,000-12,000
A	Resurface the tennis courts and basketball courts	\$50,000-70,000
A	Add wheel stops to the parking lot with striping and ADA accessible walk and accessible spaces	\$5,000-10,000
B	Add fencing and dugouts to the softball field in front of the bleachers	\$20,000-30,000
C	Enhance ornamental landscape beds around the memorial and park sign	\$5,000-15,000
C	Relocate the park sign to maximize visibility along the nearby pedestrian path	\$5,000-8,000

Heritage Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Develop comprehensive site master plan to accomodate access/and use of Kaske House	\$25,000-35,000

Kiwanis Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Power wash fence to remove mold and repaint.	\$500-2,000
A	Review site for accessible routes to playground and other amenities	\$1,000-2,500
B	Enhance park sign with an ornamental landscaping bed	\$5,000-8,000

Monon Trail Head and Fountain

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Screen the electrical panel and systems	\$2,000-5,000
B	Replace bicycle rack with furnishings in the same family as current site benches and other site furnishings	\$4,000-6,000

Manor Avenue Greenspace

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Remove building foundation remnants	\$10,000-20,000
B	Consider naturalizing area to reduce maintenance and mowing	\$5,000-10,000
B	Potential location for small playground for neighborhood and master site plan	\$120,000-175,000

Orchard Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Remove abandoned bocce court	\$2,000-5,000
A	Develop master plan for site 1	\$12,000-15,000
A	Relocate benches to pads that offer adequate space and access	\$1,000-2,500
B	Continue memorial tree planting; include the memorial in a “grove” or mass plantings	\$2,500-5,000
B	Naturalize area to reduce maintenance	\$5,000-10,000

River’s Edge Disc Golf

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Master Plan site to identify issues with river banks/parking/accessibility and volunteer construction and park identification/signage	\$18,000-25,000
B	Address wear at the tee box areas with new matting or other landscape materials	\$15,000-20,000
B	Clearly define the park and disc golf boundary through landscape and signage	\$5,000-8,000

Rotary Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Screen existing utility box situated currently in front of the park sign	\$2,000-5,000
B	Enhance plantings in the raised bed	\$1,000-2,000

Stewart Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Develop wooden screen and pad for portable restroom, include accessible walk and access from parking lot for servicing restroom	\$5,00-10,000
A	Investigate purpose of beehive grate and consider replacing it with a flare grate	
B	Modify parking lot layout to improve circulation	\$25,000-40,000
B	Inspect staked trees, remove guy wires and staking that are no longer functional or needed	

Sunnyside Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Master plan park site to address parking/play equipment and circulation	\$12,000-15,000
A	Investigate additional play equipment within the existing play areas	
B	Plant more shade canopy trees closer to the play equipment	\$5,000-7,500
B	Align park access with crosswalk on Hohman Avenue	\$5,000-8,000
B	Coordinate with Town Public Works to investigate traffic calming measures to improve pedestrian access from parking on east side of Hohman Avenue.	

Twin Creek Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Resurface court area, mill and overlay	\$3,000-5,000
B	Install seating area along perimeter of park path, including near ballfield	\$5,000-8,000
B	Upgrade play around borders for clear edging	\$10,000-15,000
B	Upgrade trash receptacles, separate recycling from other waste	\$2,000-4,000
B	Add player benches/spectator seating/shade shelters for dugouts	\$15,000-25,000
C	Review site for accessible routes to playground and other amenities	\$1,000-2,500

West Lakes Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Paint clear spaces for handicap parking and install signs for each space	\$1,000-2,500
A	Develop updated site master plan and playground master plan prior to replacing play equipment	\$12,000-15,000
B	Place park sign in visible location for visitors coming from both north and south	\$5,000-8,000
C	Naturalize the rip-rap swale and stormwater basin on the south side to reduce flooding and maintenance	\$200,000-300,000
C	Replace outdated park equipment and drinking fountain	\$7,500-12,000

White Oak Park

Priority	Recommendation	Estimated Cost
A	Fully remove any remains of tree stumps in park (Grind/Topsoil seed)	\$1,000-1,500
A	Address concrete walk settlement adjacent to shelter slab for accessibility	\$5,000-20,000
B	Place picnic benches on a surface that isn't turf grass	\$1,500-3,000
B	Include a sign at the shelter that indicates maximum capacity	\$150-250