

# COMPREHENSIVE FIVE-YEAR PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

2024 - 2028



# Comprehensive Five-Year Park System Master Plan 2024 - 2028



**City of Lafayette**  
Mayor Tony Roswarski

**City Council**  
Lauren Ahlersmeyer  
Perry Brown  
Bob Downing  
Kevin Klinker  
Nancy Nargi  
Jerry Reynolds  
Steve Synder  
Melissa Weast-Williamson  
Eileen Hession Weiss

**City Clerk**  
Cindy Murray

**Parks & Recreation Board**  
Jan Abney  
Dave Mecklenburg  
Matt Metzger  
Siany Molina

**Parks & Recreation Department**  
Claudine Laufman - Park Superintendent  
Jon Miner - Director of Operations

Lafayette Parks & Recreation  
1915 Scott Street  
765-807-1500



Landscape Architecture & Urban Design  
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317-849-0600

Greg Beilfuss - Chief Planner  
IDNR – State Parks: Community Grants and Trails  
402 W. Washington St., W298  
Indianapolis, IN 42204-2782  
(317) 232-4071

April 19, 2024

Matt Metzger  
Lafayette Park Board  
1915 Scott St.  
Lafayette, IN 47904

Dear Matt,

The DNR Division of State Parks planning staff has reviewed the final draft of the 2024-2029 Lafayette Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan meets the Department of Natural Resources' minimum requirements for local parks and recreation master plans. This letter certifies that your community **is eligible to apply for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants through this office in the 2024 grant year**. A new plan will be due on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2029 at which time your current LWCF grant application eligibility will expire.

If you haven't already, we strongly recommend that you contact our grant section chief as soon as possible about future grant applications. The grants staff can assist in your grant application process. They can be reached by phone at: (317) 232-1295 or by e-mail at: [nsimmons@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:nsimmons@dnr.IN.gov).

We support your planning efforts and encourage your participation in the grant programs administered by the Division of State Parks. If you require further information regarding planning, do not hesitate to call me at: (317) 232-4071 or by e-mail at: [gbeilfuss@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:gbeilfuss@dnr.IN.gov).

Sincerely,

Greg Beilfuss  
Chief Planner - IDNR Division of State Parks, Community Grants and Trails

ECC – Deb Schmucker, Cornerstone PDS

**GENERAL RESOLUTION 24-01**

**PARK AND RECREATION BOARD  
CITY OF LAFAYETTE, INDIANA**

WHERE AS, the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Board is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the residents of Lafayette, Indiana and

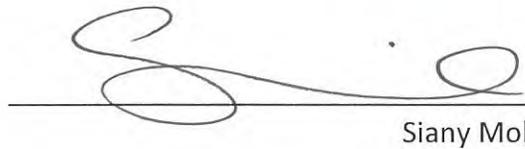
WHEREAS, the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Board realized the importance of sound planning to meet the needs of its citizens,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE LAFAYETTE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD does adopt the Lafayette Park and Recreation Five Year Comprehensive Master Plan as its official plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreation opportunities in Lafayette.

Passed and signed the 18th day of March 2024

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Mecklenburg, Vice-President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Siany Molina, Secretary

# Index

Section 1	Department Information
Section 2	Community Profile
Section 3	Current Park Facilities & Programs
Section 4	Trends and Needs Analysis
Section 5	Community Engagement
Section 6	Priority Action Plan

# Section 1: Department Information

## IN THIS SECTION:

- Acknowledgements
- Board and Department Information
- Department Organization
- Department Budget
- Accomplishments
- Adopting Resolution



## ❖ Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department

Claudine Laufman  
Park Superintendent  
1915 Scott Street  
Lafayette, IN 47904  
(765) 807-1500

Tony Roswarski, Mayor  
20 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lafayette, IN 47901

### City Council Members

Lauren Ahlersmeyer  
Perry Brown  
Bob Downing  
Kevin Klinker  
Nancy Nargi  
Jerry Reynolds  
Steve Synder  
Melissa Weast-Williamson  
Eileen Hession Weiss

Cindy Murray, City Clerk  
20 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lafayette, IN 47901

### Park Board Members

Matt Metzger, President - Term expires 01/01/27  
Dave Mecklenburg, Vice President - Term expires 01/01/26  
Siany Molina, Secretary - Term expires 01/01/25  
Jan Abney - Term expires 01/01/28

## ❖ Department

The Lafayette Board of Parks and Recreation is the policy-making authority for the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department. The Board is bipartisan and comprised of four members appointed by the mayor to serve staggered four-year terms. The most basic and necessary function of the City Park Board is to outline proposed goals and objectives which will provide the framework and direction within which the board will direct future land acquisition, development, and recreational programming.

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department and its Board operate under the provision of the "Indiana Parks and Recreation Law" (IC 36-10-3) in accordance with City Ordinance.

The Lafayette Parks Foundation and the Friends of Columbian Park Zoo are both independent not-for-profit corporations organized under the laws of the State of Indiana. These two organizations dedicate their efforts to supporting the Parks Department and the Columbian Park Zoo.

The purpose of the Lafayette Parks Foundation is to establish and maintain an endowment fund for the benefit of the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department, encourage individuals and organizations to make financial contributions to support the Department, and in various other ways as opportunities and needs arise to support the Department.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department maintains quality park and recreation facilities and services, and facilitates leisure opportunities so that all citizens will receive:

- Personal Benefits *in the form of physical fitness, relaxation, rest and revitalization;*
- Social Benefits *in the form of stronger and healthier families, ethnic and cultural harmony, reduced anti-social behavior, and enriched lives for persons with disabilities;*
- Environmental Benefits *in the form of a green and tree-filled city, habitat for native plants and animals, and open and protected green-space;*
- Economic Benefits *in the form of more productive and healthier citizens, increased tourism, and contributions to the quality of life sought by business and industry.*

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES FOR LONG TERM EXCELLENCE

### Human Resources

- A Park Board that provides strong leadership and which fosters cooperation between itself, the Superintendent, the Mayor, and the City Council.
- A qualified, committed Park Staff that is motivated and customer oriented, whose skills are competitively compensated, and whose achievements are recognized.

### Administration and Operations

An Administration that provides good management and follows adopted plans.

- A consistent set of policies regarding patron use of park property and a fee structure that supports maintenance of facilities and programs without denying access to any citizen.
- A safety and security program that provides safe facilities to attract the public, gives patrons a sense of security, and reduces vandalism.
- A park system whose appearance is a source of pride, whose facilities are clean, and whose maintenance is guided by a financially sound asset management program.

### Funding and Financial Management

- A long-term financial plan that enables careful financial management, accountability for revenue, spending and public funds, and a capital improvements program.
- Adequate long-term funding that includes a consistent level of tax support, creative new funding sources, and partnerships with business and private donors, all supported by the efforts of an active park Foundation.
- The ability to be entrepreneurial with programs and services.

#### Organizational Relationships

- A park system that develops community pride, is user friendly, provides great customer service, and is supported by citizens through public/private partnerships.
- Beneficial government relations through coordination and collaboration with other park departments, other local government agencies, school corporations, and Purdue University to reduce duplication of facilities and programs, better coordinate the provision of infrastructure and to share resources, including staff expertise.

#### Physical Resources and Services

- System-wide improvements that create an inviting healthy family atmosphere at all parks.
- A well-maintained Columbian Park whose facilities and services are responsive to citizen needs and interests.
- An improved Zoo with a mission to encourage the appreciation of the world's wildlife, to enhance the preservation and conservation of biodiversity, and to inspire educational discovery and exploration in a fun, family-oriented environment for all citizens of the Greater Lafayette Area.
- Fully developed Riverfront Corridor Parks that maximize their potential and their location next to the Wabash River.
- A system of Neighborhood Parks that provides age-appropriate recreation and which are maintained in cooperation with neighborhood associations and neighborhood residents.
- An improved McAllister Center with a mission to provide a safe, fun environment for programs and activities; a recreational facility that serves all citizens and high-quality recreational programming that will enhance health and personal enrichment.
- Programs and classes for all ages, but with the greatest emphasis on children and teens, priced to be self-supporting.

#### Planning and Growth

- A strong commitment to planning that responds to community desires and results in multi-year plans that can be realistically implemented and funded.
- A park system that provides for growth and new facilities commensurate with the growth of the city (including land, facilities, equipment, staff and financial resources.)
- A linear park trail system that will connect citizens to every park and the river.

#### Master Plan Goals

The goals of this Comprehensive Five-Year Park System Master Plan are:

- Gather current input from residents to develop future priorities for the department.
- Strengthen and expand partnerships and collaborations within the community.

## DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

The Parks and Recreation Department is comprised of the following divisions: Administrative Services, Park Operations, Amusements, Columbian Park Zoo, and McAllister Recreation Center led by the Superintendent. During 2022, there were 45 full-time positions, 18 part-time and temporary positions, and approximately 243 seasonal employees.

### Administrative Services

This division is responsible for financial accounting, fiscal planning, purchasing, data and record management, clerical and office services, marketing, public information, and customer service.

### Park Operations

Park Operations is responsible for park and facility maintenance, trails, urban forestry, natural resources, city beautification, capital development and improvement, risk management, and safety and security.

### Amusements

This division oversees aquatics and concessions.

### Columbian Park Zoo

This division is responsible for running the Zoo, amusement rides, providing educational programming, and raising funds for the on-going renovations.

### McAllister Recreation Center

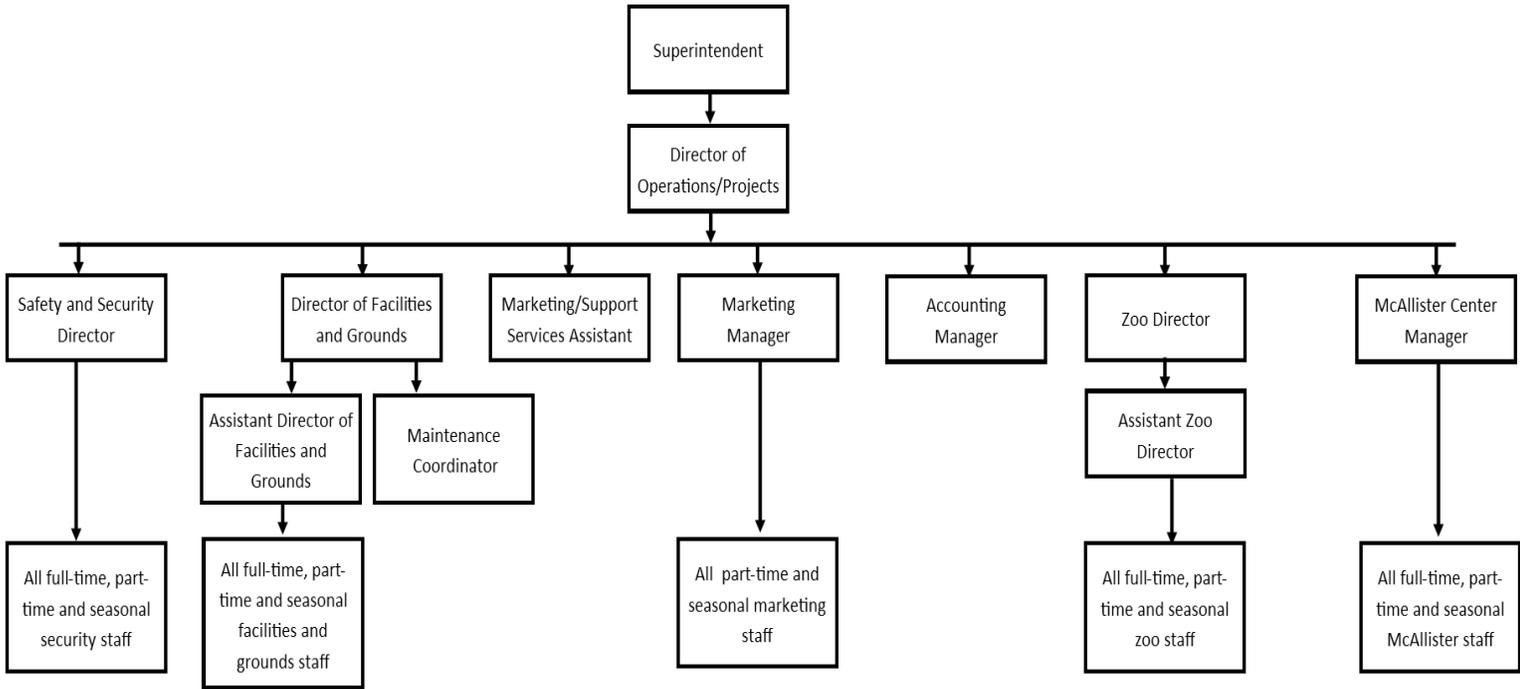
This division is responsible for the operation of McAllister Recreation Center and providing and overseeing a variety of recreational activities for the citizens of Lafayette.

### Community Parks & Natural Resources

This division is responsible for planning, managing and supervising park landscape projects, managing the Adopt-A-Spot and Adopt-A-Median programs, assisting with city beautification, and developing and maintaining park signage, and conducting hazard tree evaluations.

The department organization is represented in the following flow chart on the next page.

## DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION



## PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET

The department’s budget is primarily funded through property tax revenues and user fees imposed and collected for various programs. The chart on the next page is a summary of general fund and revenue from 2018 - 2022. The department has partnered with local businesses and other agencies to meet the ongoing budget challenges over the last five years.

The General Fund is used to cover expenses related to general administration, personnel, maintenance, operations, and programming. Equipment replacement costs are generally funded through this fund as well. Capital projects may be funded through the Department’s general budget, Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) appropriation, City-Council appropriation, grants and gifts.

The Department continues to actively pursue partnerships and grants to fund programs and capital improvement projects. Revenue numbers were impacted by the pandemic in 2020 and the construction at Columbian Park and Loeb Stadium.

GENERAL FUND	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Personnel	\$3,034,671	\$3,359,900	\$3,371,602	\$3,405,318	\$3,721,651
Supplies	\$438,692	\$438,500	\$438,770	\$450,770	\$465,206
Services	\$808,747	\$800,400	\$808,261	\$819,812	\$982,103
Total	\$4,282,110	\$4,598,800	\$4,618,633	\$4,675,900	\$5,168,960

REVENUE	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Aquatics	\$409,063	\$509,531	\$351,150	\$543,789	\$587,284
Rides	\$80,686	\$73,135	*\$0.0	**\$82,638	\$99,883
Concessions	\$131,745	\$154,658	\$110,011	\$163,736	\$180,404
Rentals	\$95,143	\$84,639	\$48,397	\$93,532	\$88,502
McAllister	\$327,653	\$323,793	\$169,993	\$212,630	\$316,735
Zoo	\$231,071	\$222,018	\$109,455	\$465,072	\$414,531
Loeb	-	-	-	\$189,078	\$217,719
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	\$21,575

Data: Department Annual Reports

\* There was no ride revenue in 2020 due to the construction on Memorial Island and the preparation for the new carousel building.

\*\* Only partial year of ride revenue due to completion of construction of Memorial Island

## ❖ Progress Evaluation

Over the last five years, the Department has focused on long-term maintenance and beautification within park facilities. The following list includes the larger scale improvements which were made in the Lafayette Park system during the last five years.

### ARMSTRONG PARK

- Replaced tennis court nets
- Cleared invasive species
- Invasive species removal along linear trail
- Installation of turf in small batting cage
- New message center for baseball
- Upgrades of fencing, signage at ballfields
- Upgraded electrical, roof at concessions/restroom building
- Installation of FreeNotes Harmony play pieces
- Added playground safety mulch
- New roof on concession/restroom building

### CASTAWAY BAY

- Installed epoxy flooring in restrooms
- Replaced Funbrellas

- Installed new booster pump
- General maintenance: new booster pump, new drain covers, painted bathroom floors, doors, gutters on building, Big Quirt
- Added privacy screening
- Completed pool repairs and main intake valve replacement

#### CAT PARK

- Added All-inclusive Sports Field

#### CENTENNIAL PARK

- Added new landscape plants
- Upgraded electrical panel
- Installed Little Library

#### COLUMBIAN PARK

- New Loeb Field
- Grand entry plaza and pergola
- Memorial Island renovation including new stage with sound system, fixed seating, restrooms, ADA accessibility throughout area, new pedestrian bridges, promenades and boardwalks
- Added rental pedal boats at lagoon
- Lagoon shoreline improvements and improved water quality

#### COLUMBIAN PARK ZOO

- New building construction for carousel
- Penguin Cove
- Primates and Cats Exhibits
- Commissary Building
- Upgraded Birds of Prey exhibit with new tree/branches

#### COLUMBIAN PARK - TROPICANOE COVE

- New Cove Mat Racer/Aqua loop installed (44' high, 6 lanes)
- New tot-sized fish slide
- Installed air-conditioning in concession building

#### CROSSER SPORTS COMPLEX

- Completed installation of field signage, site furniture, signage, landscape plantings, score board, dugout benches/racks and restrooms.
- Constructed new maintenance storage building
- Installed wind screens on field fencing

#### HEDGEWOOD PARK

- Added extra fencing near trail at Holly Hill

#### HANNA PARK

- Installed fibar to playground area

#### LINNWOOD PARK

- Installed new multi-age and tot playgrounds

#### LYBOULT SPORTS PARK

- Replaced field distance signs and added park rules signs
- Installed three new scoreboards, message center and protective screens
- Painted bathrooms and added LED lights

#### McALLISTER RECREATION CENTER

- Installation of On-Demand Fitness components
- Installed new back boards in gym
- Installation of ten rooftop HVAC units
- Installed new sidewalk outside of gym and replaced sections of sidewalk along 20<sup>th</sup> Street
- Upgraded gym lighting to LED fixtures
- General building repairs and maintenance including painting, replacement of flooring and paneling in kitchen; refinishing the gym floor

#### McALLISTER PARK

- Installation of 18-hole disc golf baskets
- Volunteers removed invasive species removal at McAllister Park entrance and along Wabash Heritage Trail
- Widen mowing paths around all trails and exposed more usable green space
- Installed new multi-age playground with rubber surfacing, new landscape and benches.
- Resurface Cloud Jockey runway with Duke Energy foundation grant fund.
- Refurbished clubhouse interior.

#### McCAW PARK

- New 11,200 square foot playground with poured-in-place rubber surface
- New storage building
- Converted basketball and tennis courts to twelve pickleball courts
- New roofs on dugouts and press box
- Updated press box interior and installed new aluminum slats on existing bleachers and safety netting over bleacher areas
- Added pergola by concessions building
- Field repairs completed by Turfdogs LLC

#### MUNGER PARK

- Repair and repaint both bathrooms; added extra heaters
- Landscape: removed invasives and installed trees
- Install adult fitness structure
- Painted restrooms and added ventilation fans

#### MURDOCK PARK

- Installed new concrete disc golf tee pads
- Install new roof on Softball Concession building

- Replaced shelter by playground
- Installed Little Library
- Repaved asphalt trail and added benches along trail
- Demolished softball field for City Water Works' new three-million-gallon booster station tank
- Removed invasive plant species.

#### SHAMROCK PARK

- Additional fence added to create three separate large dog park sections
- Resurface roller hockey court; add slap shot wall around perimeter
- Reseeded dog park
- Installed a water station with bottle filler/dog waterer, memorial bench and bulletin board kiosk

#### SOUTH TIPP PARK

- Repaired hole in playground surfacing
- Replaced swing belts on playground

#### TROPICANOE COVE

- New Tiki Twist and Riptide Racer slides
- New chairs
- Updated irrigation system
- General painting and repair of buildings and equipment
- Installed and updated landscape
- Installed privacy wall at end of water slides
- Installed retaining wall between Tropicanoe Cove and Loeb Stadium
- Installed air-conditioning in concession building

#### VINTON POOL

- Repainted pool floor and sides
- Added privacy windscreen
- New pump
- New LED lights in bathroom and pump house

#### WABASH HERITAGE TRAIL

- Duke Energy Foundation grant funded 1000-foot paved trail extension and six concrete pads for future benches
- Graded areas along trail

# Section 2: Community Profile

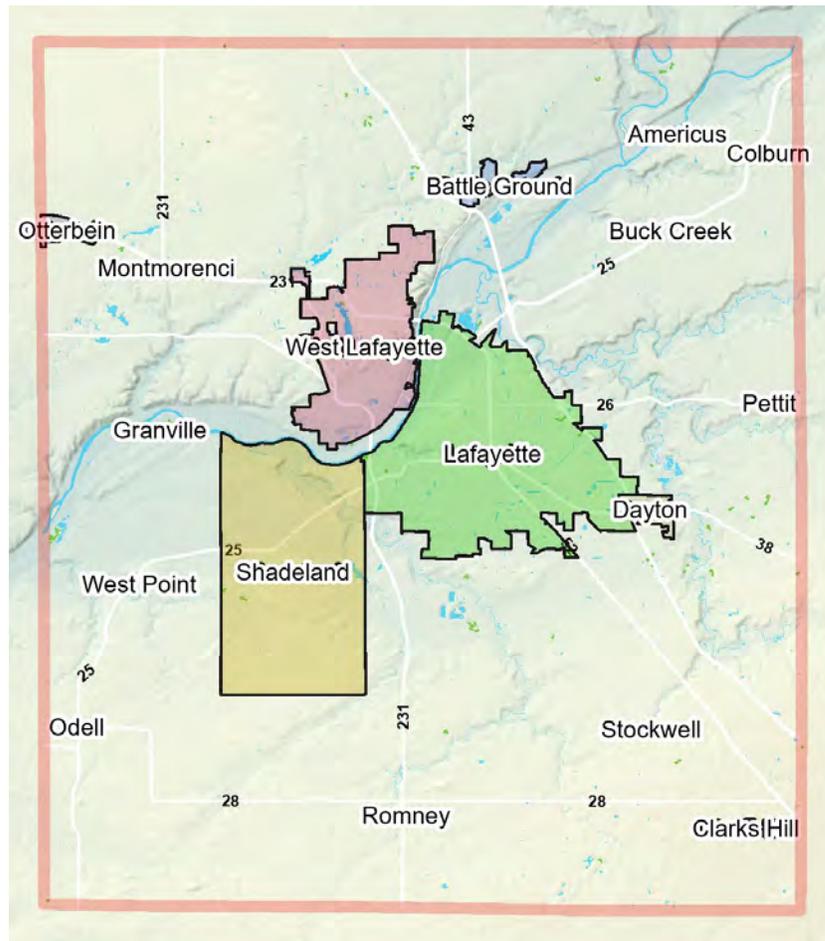
## IN THIS SECTION:

- History
- Culture
- Planning Area
- Natural Features
- Socio and Economic Factors



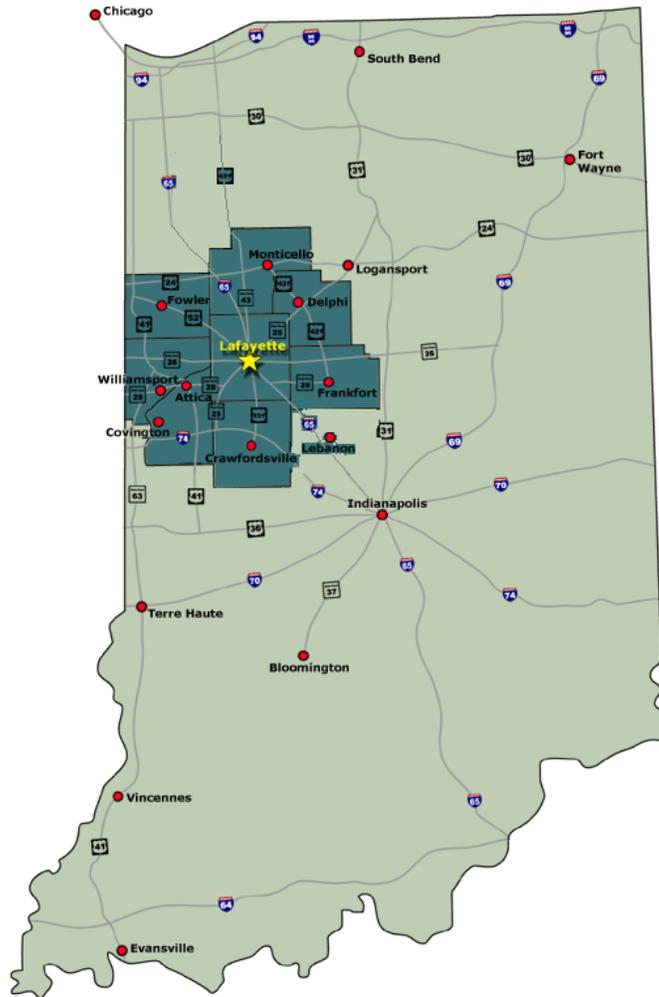
## ❖ Community Profile

Lafayette is the county seat of Tippecanoe County and is in west-central Indiana, 130 miles southeast of Chicago and sixty miles northwest of Indianapolis. Because of its central location in the county, it is a focal point not only for Tippecanoe County but is considered the “hub” of a nine-county agricultural, commercial, industrial, and educational heartland. In fact, in 1991 following the 1990 Census, the Census Bureau expanded the Lafayette MSA to include neighboring Clinton County to the southeast. West Lafayette is located on the west bank of the Wabash River and is home to Purdue University.



Tippecanoe County Map

Lafayette is served by Interstate 65, which connects Indianapolis and Chicago, and six additional state and federal highways. In addition to passenger railroad service (Amtrak), the community is provided rail service by two major lines. Chartered and commercial air transportation is provided by two airports in the county and Indianapolis International Airport is a 75-minute drive.



## History

Tippecanoe County was inhabited by a tribe of Miami Indians known as the Quiatenon or Weas. In 1717, the French government established Fort Quiatenon on the Wabash River about three miles south of the current location of the city of Lafayette. The fort was the center of trade between the Indians, merchants, and trappers. A festival known as The Feast of the Hunter's Moon takes place there each fall.

William Digby, a boatman, founded Lafayette in 1824. Lafayette was chosen by the county commissioners in 1826 to be the county seat. The Wabash and Erie Canal construction stimulated additional growth in the community in the 1840's and it was one of the most heavily used ports on the entire canal route. However, the railroad proved to be the catalyst that put Lafayette on the map. The first rail line connected



Feast of the Hunters Moon - Tippecanoe History.Org

Indianapolis to Lafayette in 1852 and then a second line was added downtown on what is now 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The rail lines allowed Lafayette to become a center for meatpacking and merchandising. The selection of Tippecanoe County for the site of a land grant college would result in the location of Purdue University across the Wabash due to a generous donation of land by John Purdue in 1868. The university's development along with the growth of the industrial sector became an important aspect of the growth of the entire community on both sides of the Wabash. During the depression era, Lafayette received federal aid through work relief programs which included the development of Purdue Airport, construction of a swimming pool at Columbian Park and Purdue's fieldhouse.

Lafayette thrived during the era from 1940-1970's due to their industrial base and the GI Bill which brought thousands of servicemen to the area to do training and research. The construction of Interstate 65 was the catalyst for the city's new suburbs east of Lafayette in the early 1950's. Redevelopment efforts from mid-1975 to 1990's brought revitalization to the downtown along with historic preservation and new retail developments.

In the downtown area there are several cultural and historical buildings and/or locations which are linked together through sidewalk paths and trails. These include the Big Four Depot which was built in 1902 and relocated in 1994 as a part of the railroad relocation project. A proposed pedestrian and bicycle bridge is under development to cross the Wabash River downtown to provide even more access to this cultural, natural and historical corridor.

## Culture

The Parks Department currently partners with the county historical society, county parks department, West Lafayette Parks department, native tribes, and cultural art groups to develop.

programs celebrating the unique history and culture of the Greater Lafayette Area including festivals, programs, etc.

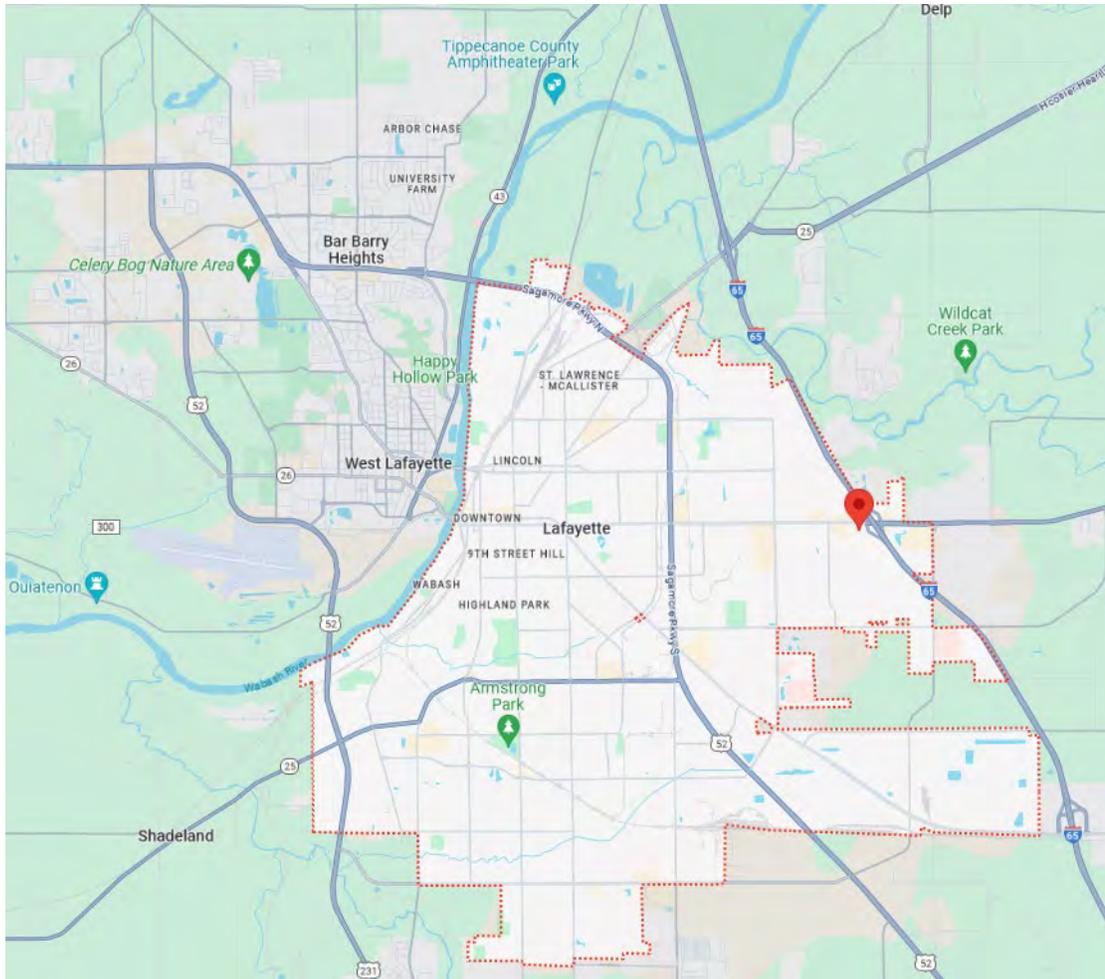
The area is rich with cultural arts opportunities for its citizens. The Parks Department has an Art in the Park festival event series each summer. It showcases local and regional fine arts and crafts, live art: dance improv comedy and music all from local talent. Other groups such as the Civic Theater of Greater Lafayette offer camps, workshops, classes and shows for all ages. The Tippecanoe Arts Federation, also located in downtown Lafayette, offers After-School Arts Programs, exhibitions, gallery walks, ARTreach instrument lending, and other opportunities for residents. These groups have a wide variety of programs which are available to all residents. Other local partners include the Hann Museum of Indian Art and Sculpture Garden. Reihle Plaza adjacent to the Big Four Depot is utilized throughout the year for festivals



Lafayette Citizen Band Concert at Columbian Park

and is at the center Stars & Stripes Celebration on Independence Day. Other events include the TASTE of Tippecanoe which is a one-day summer festival held downtown. It is operated by the Tippecanoe Arts Federation. The Farmers' Market is held May through October downtown. Other festival activities within Tippecanoe County include The Feast of the Hunters Moon, Purdue University Cultural and Music programs, Germanfest, Indiana Fiddlers' Gathering, Art on the Wabash, Wabash Riverfest, Tippecanoe County

4-H Fair, and Global Fest. The Lafayette Citizen Band performs free evening concerts during the summer months at Columbian Park.



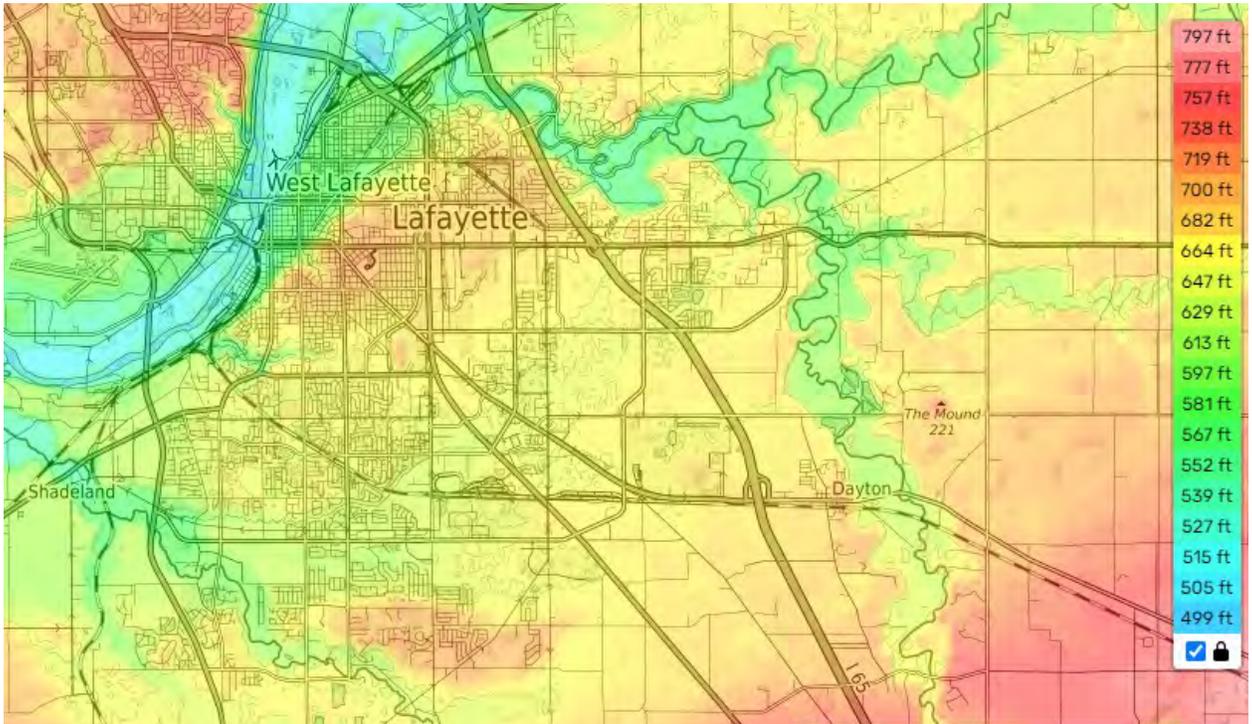
City of Lafayette Corporate Limits & Planning Area

## ❖ Features

### Geographic Features and Land Use

The city of Lafayette is located in the floodplain of its main natural feature, the Wabash River. It is an entrenched pre-glacial valley that was filled and later re-excavated. The river runs north to south through the city and Lafayette lies entirely within its drainage basin. The flood plain is very narrow for a waterway of this size: the bottom lands are one-fourth to one-half mile wide with very little variation in relief and are thus subject

to frequent flooding. Elevation points throughout the city range from 500 feet near the river to more than 710 feet. In the downtown area elevations are approximately 700.



Lafayette Topographic Map  
Source: <https://topographic-map.com>

The department has utilized the river historically and has three parks that border the river. Flooding has created challenges for recreation uses due to the damage to recreation fields and the golf course. Lybault Sports Park facilities are currently in need of renovation and field upgrades due to past flooding. The city closed their golf course in McAllister Park because of repeated flood damage. The former golf course site has been allowed to become more naturalized and is utilized for trails, remote control planes and disc golf. The department still mows some areas for maintenance. Citizens enjoy the natural areas and walking paths within the park.

The city in cooperation with West Lafayette and the County has created various master plans for the future of the riverfront. The master plans call for a wide variety of features and parkland development in the flood plain. These planning efforts were in partnership with the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC). WREC is a non-profit entity who leads these long-range planning efforts to improve the riverfront, the river corridor, and water quality.

The proposed developments included new pedestrian and vehicular bridges across the Wabash River, park development, trails, performance stage, wetlands, native planting areas, bioswales, boardwalks, permeable pavement, etc. Recent projects have

improved water quality, bridge deck repair, protected bike routes on existing bridges, trail development, and access to the river.

The Wabash Heritage Trail crosses all three park jurisdictions in Tippecanoe County. WREC actively seeks grants and funding for the implementation of the master plans. The full master plan and comprehensive study of the Wabash River can be found at their website: [www.wabashriver.net/corridor](http://www.wabashriver.net/corridor). All park departments within the county are active members of WREC and the overall planning efforts. Finding funding for these projects is a joint effort.

WREC led a five-county regional Master Plan for the Wabash River Greenway Corridor in 2021-2022. The five counties included in this master plan were Tippecanoe, Cass, Carroll, Fountain, and Warren. The Wabash River Greenway (WRG) Master Plan may be found at [www.wabashrivergreenway.com](http://www.wabashrivergreenway.com). The plan looked at the opportunities to create connections and linkages through the region utilizing the waterways and the land. This plan was instrumental in assisting the region with obtaining a \$25 million

RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation in 2023.

The grant portion specifically within the city limits will fund the development of trail linkages along the Wabash River and a new pedestrian bridge across the river at the south end of McAllister Park.

Phase One of the RAISE Project consists of six WRG pilot projects submitted as a part of the Greater Lafayette Commerce, READI (State of Indiana -Regional Economic, Acceleration, and Development Initiative) Grant Project; two State of IN Next Level Trails grant projects (WREC/City of Lafayette Sagamore Parkway Connector Trail and Friends of Panhandle Trail Extension to the WRG), and the City of West Lafayette/MPO Sagamore Parkway Connector Trail Project. These projects are funded and are under development.

### Vegetation and Soils

The city continues to protect the existing tree canopy within the city limits by monitoring their tree inventory and assessing the conditions of their trees. This has been critical to maintaining healthy and vital trees which are so critical to the quality of life of a community. The city continues to implement its forestry plan to protect and maintain existing trees and replace trees. The urban forester position is a part of the Engineering Department and coordinates with park staff. The Arbor Foundation has recognized the city for over 31 years consecutively as Tree City USA. The city has also been recognized by The Tree Cities



of the World program in 2022 for ensuring that their urban forest and trees are property maintained, sustainably managed, and celebrated. Lafayette is one of only 138 cities throughout the world to earn this honor.

Park staff and maintenance crews routinely monitor park properties for invasive species. They work with park volunteers and other city agencies to regularly remove invasive species such as Garlic Mustard, Japanese Honeysuckle, Purple Loosestrife, etc.



Native plants and groundcovers are being utilized to reduce maintenance and watering. The City in a joint program with Tippecanoe County and West Lafayette, WREC and Duke Energy Foundation has created an invasive plant swap where when a resident removes invasive trees or shrubs, as they can receive free native trees and shrubs for replacement.

The community has a variety of tree diversity including maple, oak, ash, spruce, poplar and locust. The parks department has actively been

planting trees as replacements for those that have been lost. The department works closely with the city urban forester to monitor trees at park facilities. In tandem, they implement the tree maintenance program and work to protect existing trees and plant new trees. Over 300 trees have been planted annually over the last five years.

The city's other surrounding areas are relatively flat areas which are used for agricultural purposes due to their rich loam soils. These agricultural areas have become more developed as the city has expanded and grown. Industrial and retail development have occurred near Interstate 65. Other undeveloped park land like Berlovitz Woods provide opportunities for interpretive trails to celebrate the natural tree stands that once blanketed this area in the 1800's. Residents continue to embrace natural areas. The existing geography provides other opportunities for several different recreational opportunities such as walking and bicycle trails, interpretive programs related to historical sites, wildlife, and plants. Open areas provide opportunities for sports and recreation fields, shelters, and general open space within the parks.

The department has identified various historical sites in the downtown area that are linked by interpretive trail loops and eventually to the overall trail system. The trail system has continued to expand by utilizing new bike lanes and development. of new trails and trail linkages. The Public Works Department continues to add bike lanes, and bike-pedestrian infrastructure as they maintain existing streets and build new streets.

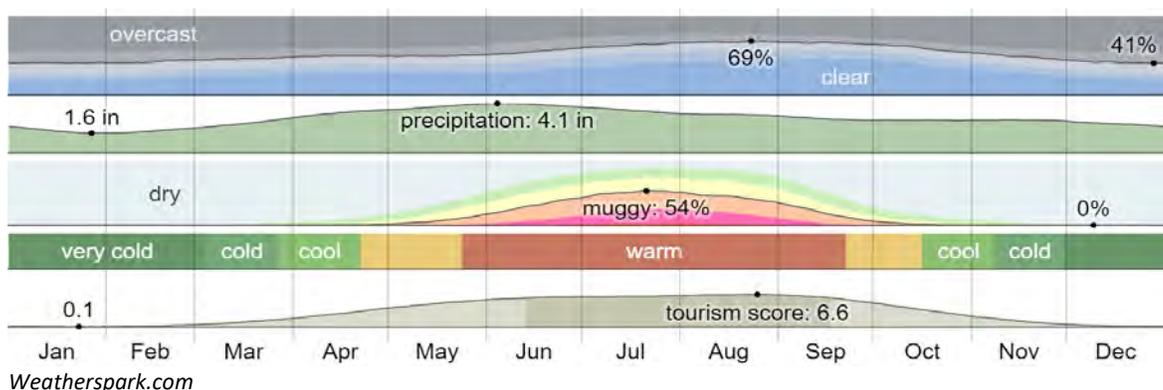


Riehle Plaza, John T. Myers Pedestrian Bridge, Riverside Promenade Deck

Credit: Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette: [www.homeofpurdue.com](http://www.homeofpurdue.com)

## Climate

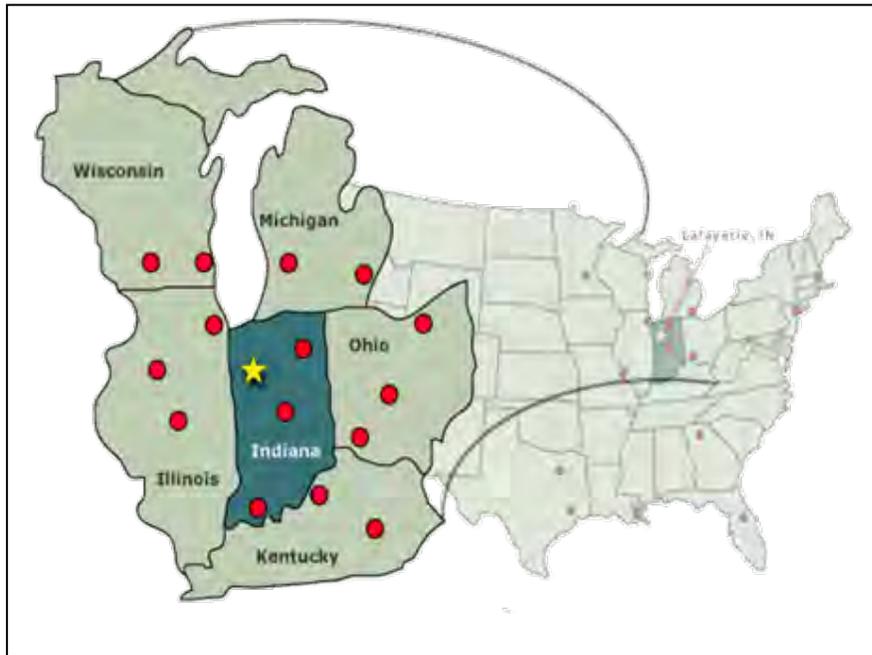
Lafayette's climate and temperature are mild; generally, there are no extreme temperatures in this Midwest region. Average temperatures range from mid-20 - 30 degrees F during the winter months to upper 80 degrees in the summer. Annual precipitation averages 38 inches. On average, there is 185 days of sunshine. Department continues to add shade through physical structures and trees. As temperature extremes throughout the year continue, shade becomes even more critical. In addition, reducing turf areas and embracing native plants has reduced maintenance and irrigation costs for the department.



## Transportation

Because of its location 60 miles north of Indianapolis and 120 miles south of Chicago, the greater Lafayette area is easily accessed by car, bus, air and rail. A major north-

south artery is Interstate 65, which connects the area with Chicago to the north and the southern part of the United States.



Lafayette -Proximity Map

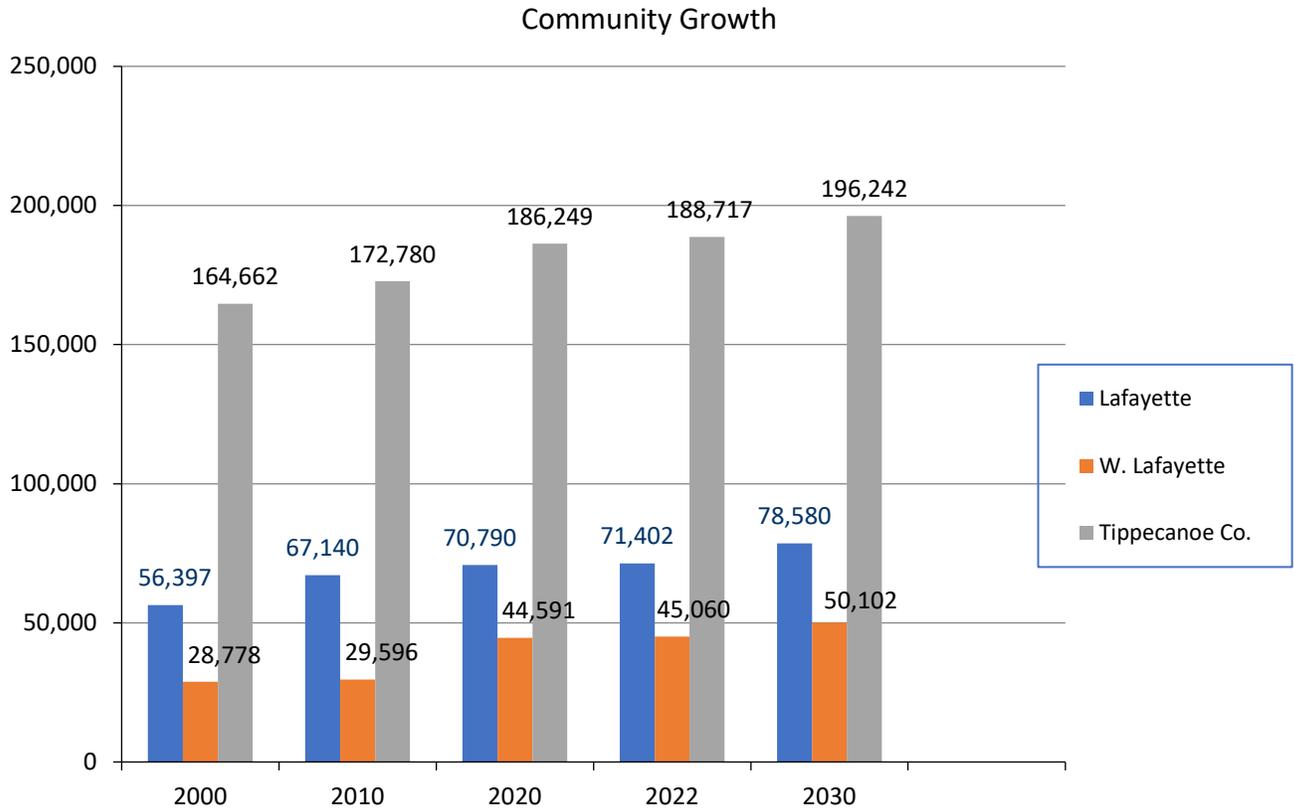
Conrail and Amtrak provide rail service. A regional airport and a daily commuter shuttle to Indianapolis International Airport allow for access to major airlines. The city has actively worked with the railroads to create connections and relocate active rail lines to encourage connectivity within downtown. Pedestrian linkages over the Wabash River were completed on SR 26 and the John R. Myers Bridge with the plans for new pedestrian bridge in design as a part of 2023 RAISE grant.

## ❖ Socio and Economic Considerations

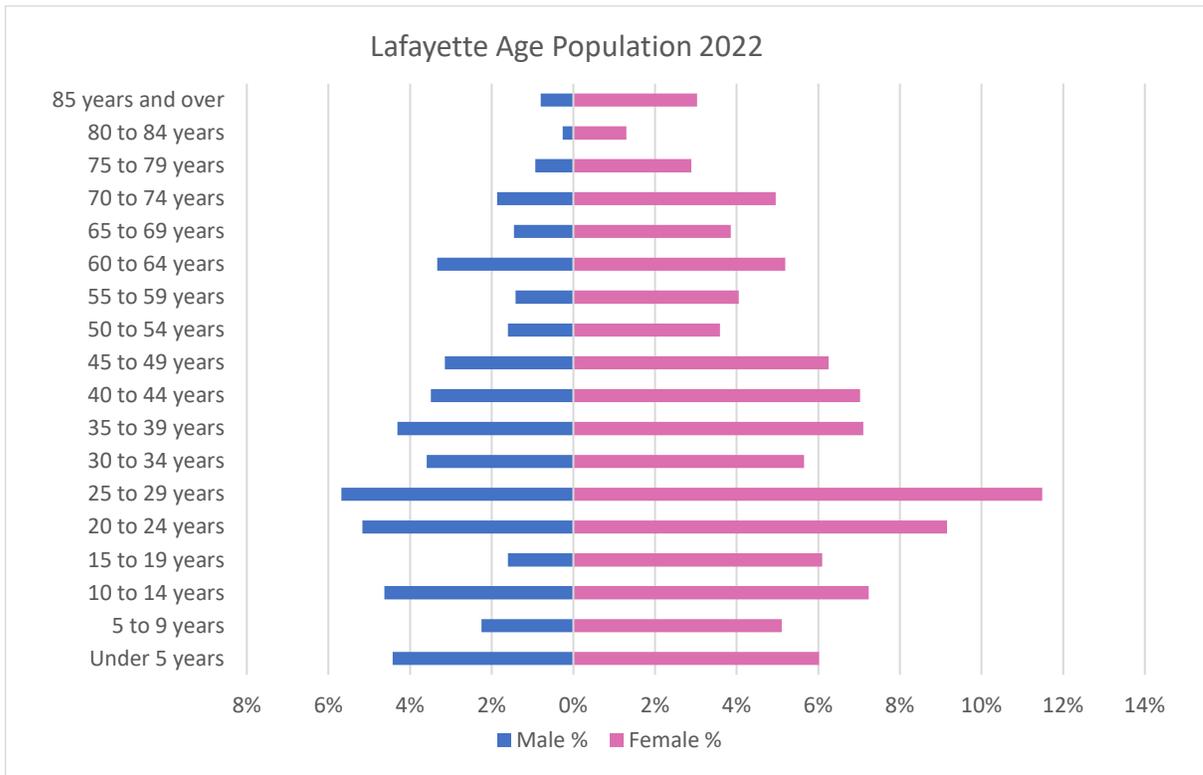
### Population and Demographics

The Lafayette Tippecanoe area has continued to have strong growth which has stemmed from the diverse economy in the Lafayette/West Lafayette area. According to Stats Indiana, the population has continued to grow approximately 12 percent from 2010 to 2020. The area has also been recognized for having one of the best housing markets in the nation in the first quarter of 2023 by the Wall Street Journal and Realtor.com for Hot Real Estate Markets and the growth continues.

Projected growth rates continue to anticipate that the area will grow by as much as 10,000 people by 2030. (Stats Indiana) The following chart shows historical demographics for the overall population of the area.



The dominant age groups for Lafayette remained steady in the 25 - 49 age group which represents 42 percent of the population. This is down slightly from 2000 by 1.2 percent. Children under age 19 represent 25.2 percent of the population. In comparison to the 2000 census it has declined by four percent.



The 20-30 age group represents 21% of the population which can likely be correlated to the proximity of Purdue University and the student population. This is not unusual in a community that is a college-town. Purdue is ranked national by Smart Asset, an online financial advisor and financial services portal, as the Best Value University in Indiana and sixth best public university nationally in 2023 for cost of tuition and education. Although most students live in West Lafayette, they still utilize park facilities which presents unique challenges in weighing the needs of city residents and non-residents. The department sees the greatest participation from college students in volunteering, disc golf, concerts, and events at Loeb Stadium. In addition, the department partners with Purdue to create educational opportunities and programs through various departments that serve not only residents but students as well.

The baby boomer generation stayed consistent in size with 60-69 still being approximately seven percent. Family households with dependent children make up most households at 53.8 percent within Lafayette city limits. These demographics correlate with the department data for program participants as they continue to see strong participation in children and adult programming and sports. Participation numbers have continued to see a steady increase over the last three years.

**Age of Lafayette Population  
2022 Estimated US Census**

AGE	Total	% of population
<b>Total population</b>	72,326	100
<b>birth to 19 years</b>	18,188	25.2%
<b>20 to 29 years</b>	15,316	21.2%
<b>30 to 49 years</b>	15,294	21.2%
<b>50 to 64 years</b>	9,242	12.8%
<b>64 plus</b>	13,936	19.6%
<b>Median age (years)</b>	32.4	NA

The median age has maintained at 32.4 according to US Census - Community Analyst. Non-residents pay a different fee for various programs and event rentals. However, the student population oscillates over a two to six-year cycle which makes determining needs, budgets and planning efforts challenging. The department has added newer event programs to attract a younger demographic to concerts and events at Loeb Stadium and downtown.

Attendance at concerts and festivals has increased over the last three years in part due to the state-of-the-art venue at Loeb Stadium.

The department continues to collaborate with the Greater Lafayette Area Plan Commission (APC) as they track city growth and where future growth is anticipated on the east and south sides of the city. This future growth impacts future park facility locations, programming and trail connections. The APC provides planning services for the Greater Lafayette area including West Lafayette, Lafayette and Tippecanoe County. The department monitors county statistics from the Asset Limited, Income constrained, Employed (ALICE) Research Center. ALICE research indicates that in 2021, 27 percent of county residents who are above federal poverty levels are struggling financially. However, not all these county residents live within the city, but it is a mirror of the current economic challenges many people face. The department offers subsidized program fees through scholarships, grants, partnerships, and donors to allow all residents to participate in programs, camps and activities.

**Housing**

According to the Hottest Housing Markets Index by Wall Street Journal and Realtor.com's in January 2023, the Lafayette area has consistently been one of the hottest locations in the United States to live and buy a home. Lafayette was rated number one. The study's findings are based on a series of metrics that fall into two areas: real-estate markets and economic health. These include real-estate supply and demand, unemployment rates, wages, commute time and small business activity. Although interest rates have continued to rise, the average median price of home in the area is still approximately a \$100,000 below the national median price of home in the first half of 2023.

In Lafayette, new residential development continues on the east and south sides of the city. The total households continue to grow to 32,604 households within the city limits with an average of 2.17 people per household. The owner-occupied housing unit rate dropped to 44.6 percent from 46.6 percent with the average value being \$162,100. Renter-occupied rate was 30.1 percent. High interest rates have slowed home purchases, however, the low cost of living in the Lafayette area teamed with the quality of life and economic growth in the area makes the area attractive. The economic growth overall leads to opportunities to provide green space downtown, and connections to amenities around the city.

The city's population remains primarily white; however, the Hispanic population dropped slightly to 11.5 percent.

#### City of Lafayette Snapshot Demographics 2020

- Median Age: 32.4
- Number of Households: 32,604
- Average family size: 3
- Median Household Income: \$51,439
- Poverty Level 16.6%
- Population per square mile: 2,420.2

## ❖ Education

The residents of Lafayette support the Lafayette School Corporation (LSC). The current school year of 2023-24 has 7,368 students enrolled according to the Indiana Department of Education. Enrollment has seen a one percent decrease annually in students since 2020. The schools are spread throughout the community and offer a variety of open lawn areas, playgrounds, and courts. The outdoor amenities and lawn areas are available for use when the schools are not in session. The department has a long-standing partnership with LSC. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Lafayette residents 25 years or older, 87.9 percent are high school graduates or higher, 25.3 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Lafayette Community Schools include the following:

- Earhart Elementary
- Edgelea Elementary
- Glen Acres Elementary
- Miami Elementary
- Miller Elementary
- Murdock Elementary
- Oakland Elementary
- Vinton Elementary

- Sunnyside Intermediate School
- Tecumseh Junior High School
- Jefferson High School
- Oakland High School
- Lafayette Adult Resource Academy
- Tippecanoe School Corporation

Lafayette School Corporation

Year	Total Enrollment
2016	7743
2017	7694
2018	7869
2019	7996
2020	8060
2021	7781
2022	7430
2023	7368

Local Private Schools

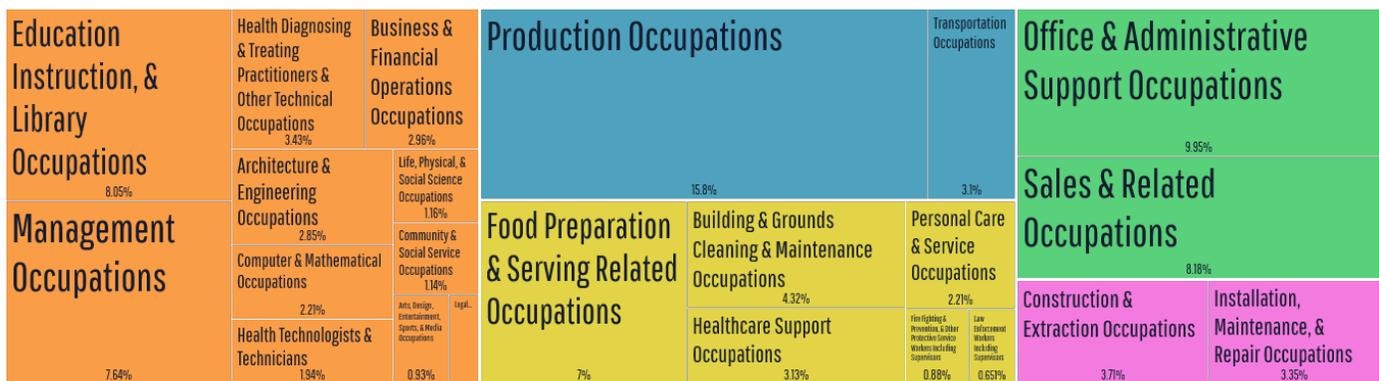
- Apostolic Christian Academy (1-12)
- Faith Christian Academy (PreK-12)
- Central Catholic Junior/Senior High School (7-12)
- Lafayette Christian School (PreK-8)
- St. Boniface School (4-6)
- St. James Lutheran (K-8)
- St. Lawrence School (Preschool-6)
- St. Mary's Cathedral School (Preschool-3)
- T.C. Harris School (Special needs 1-12)

Higher education:

- Purdue University
- Ivy Tech
- St. Elizabeth School of Nursing

## ❖ Economic Base

Lafayette has a broad employment base which offers a variety of employment opportunities within Tippecanoe County and outside the community. According to the Greater Lafayette Commerce, the community has over 300 manufacturing firms which includes robotics, biotechnology, food processing, microelectronics, instrumentation, and office/clerical industries.



The greater Lafayette area business community continues to work together as a team to attract different types of employment beyond manufacturing through such opportunities as the Purdue Technology Research and Discovery Park adjacent to Purdue. Rolls-Royce launched a \$204 million plant expansion and Saab Aeronautics opened a new facility within the last two years.

Employers continue to have challenges finding qualified staff given the low unemployed rates. Tippecanoe County unemployment rate (non-seasonally adjusted) in December 2023 was 2.3 percent. For the same period Indiana's unemployment was 3.5 percent, and the national unemployment rate was 3.7 percent. Overall, the unemployment rate in Tippecanoe County and throughout Indiana has stayed steady fluctuating under one percent over the last 18 months. The department continues to work closely with the economic development group and local employers to evaluate opportunities for programs and events and to monitor employment trends in the area.

The following list of current employers was supplied from Greater Lafayette Commerce and Hoosiers by the Numbers. The department partners with businesses and community organizations for programs, sponsorships, events, and organized volunteer days.

#### Non-manufacturing Employers

- Purdue University
- Franciscan Health Lafayette
- Tippecanoe School Corporation
- Indiana University Arnett Health
- Ivy Tech Community College
- Lafayette School Corporation
- City of Lafayette
- Tippecanoe County Government
- McDonald's Restaurants
- Great Lakes Chemical Corporation
- Kirby Risk
- Lafayette Community School Corporation
- State Farm
- Wal-Mart

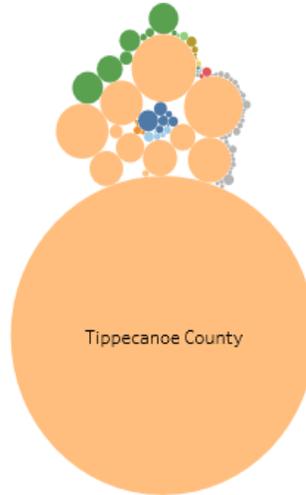
#### Manufacturers

- Subaru of Indiana Automotive
- Wabash National Corporation
- Oerlikon Balzers Coating USA, Inc.
- Caterpillar Inc.
- Evonik Corporation, Tippecanoe Laboratories
- Arconic
- Siemens Power Transmission & Distribution
- TRW Commercial Steering Division
- Tate & Lyle, North and South Plants

## Commuting

Work commuting patterns show that almost 95 percent of those living in Tippecanoe County work within the county. Residents within the Lafayette area average a 16-minute commute according to U.S. Census.

Where Tippecanoe County workers live



	Workers	Margin of Error
Tippecanoe County, Indiana	82,959	1,818
Carroll County, Indiana	3,765	311
Clinton County, Indiana	3,071	340
White County, Indiana	2,475	220
Montgomery County, Indiana	1,666	253
Benton County, Indiana	1,633	193
Fountain County, Indiana	1,060	159
Warren County, Indiana	1,011	160
Boone County, Indiana	848	203
Marion County, Indiana	793	187
Howard County, Indiana	723	171
Hamilton County, Indiana	606	322
Cass County, Indiana	596	152
Hendricks County, Indiana	396	207
Jasper County, Indiana	371	123

**Cited Sources:**

U.S. Census Bureau (2020)

U.S. Census 2022 American Community Survey

Greater Lafayette Commerce

Lafayette Economic Development

Wabash River Enhancement Corporation ([www.wabashriver.net](http://www.wabashriver.net))

[www.wabashrivergreenway.com](http://www.wabashrivergreenway.com)

Indiana Business Research Center ([www.stats.Indiana](http://www.stats.Indiana))

Economic Development Council of Greater Lafayette Commerce ([www.glpi.org](http://www.glpi.org))

**Misc. Web Resources:**

<https://www.in.gov>

<https://www.rootsweb.com>

<https://www.hometownlocator.com>

<https://www.maps-n-stats> (original source US Census Bureau)

<https://www.city-data.com>

<https://www.answers.com>

(Forstall, Richard L. (editor) (1996). *Population of states and counties of the United States: 1790 to 1990: from the twenty-one decennial censuses*. United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Population Division. ISBN 0934213488

Indiana: A New Historical Guide - Robert M. Taylor, Jr. etc., 1989

<https://theeducationview.com/purdue-university-6th-best-public-university-ranks-15th-overall-smartasset/>

# Section 3: Park Facilities & Programs

## IN THIS SECTION:

Current Park Facilities & Location Map  
Park Programs  
Americans with Disabilities Act



# Existing Park Facility & Park Land Location Map

## COMMUNITY PARKS

- 1 Armstrong Park**  
9th Street & Beck Lane
- 2 CAT Park**  
3630 McCarty Lane
- 3 Columbian Park**  
1915 Scott Street
- 4 Lyboubt Sports Park**  
1300 Canal Road
- 5 McAllister Park**  
North 9th Street
- 6 McCaw Park**  
Union Street & Creasy Lane
- 7 Munger Park**  
3505 Greenbush Street
- 8 Murdock Park**  
18th Street & Ferry Street
- 9 Shamrock Park**  
Wabash Avenue
- 10 Crosser Sports Complex**  
2200 Breckenridge Street

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- 11 Arlington Park**  
1700 Arlington Road
- 12 Centennial Park**  
6th Street & Brown Street
- 13 Hanna Park**  
18th Street & Hanna Street
- 14 Hedgewood Park**  
Hedgewood Drive & Beverly Drive
- 15 Kennedy Park**  
Beck Lane & Sequoya Drive
- 16 Linwood Park**  
15th Street & Greenbush Street
- 17 North Darby Park**  
Darby Lane
- 18 South Tipp Park**  
3rd Street & Fountain Street
- 19 Sterling Heights Park**  
Harrington Drive & Cheyenne Drive
- 20 Stockton Park**  
Erie Street & Ferry Street

## RECREATION CENTER

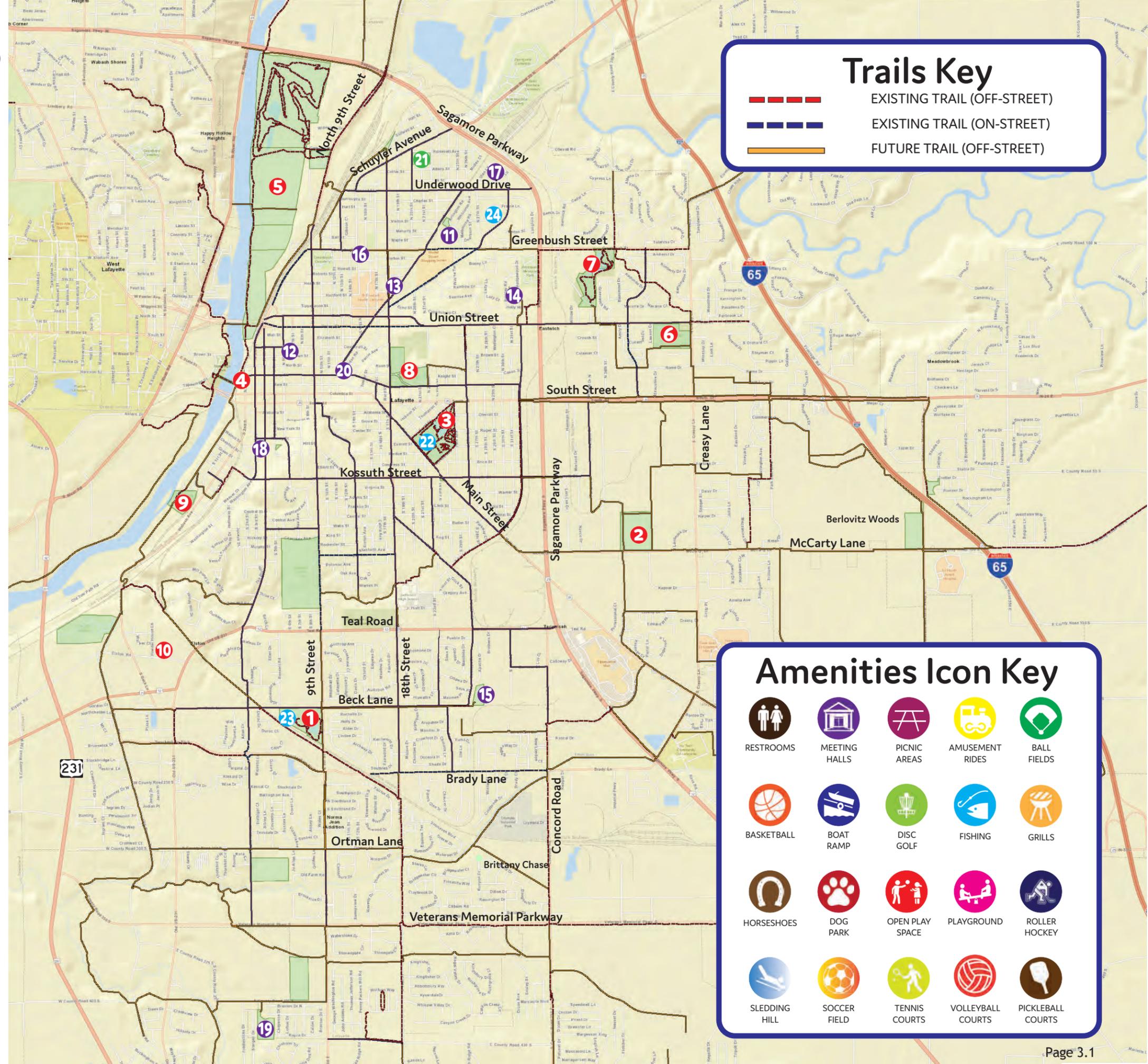
- 21 McAllister Recreation Center**  
2351 N. 20th Street

## AQUATIC FACILITIES

- 22 Tropicanoe Cove**  
1915 Scott Street
- 23 Castaway Bay**  
9th Street & Beck Lane
- 24 Vinton Pool**  
3111 Prairie Lane

### Trails Key

- EXISTING TRAIL (OFF-STREET)
- EXISTING TRAIL (ON-STREET)
- FUTURE TRAIL (OFF-STREET)



### Amenities Icon Key

RESTROOMS	MEETING HALLS	PICNIC AREAS	AMUSEMENT RIDES	BALL FIELDS
BASKETBALL	BOAT RAMP	DISC GOLF	FISHING	GRILLS
HORSESHOES	DOG PARK	OPEN PLAY SPACE	PLAYGROUND	ROLLER HOCKEY
SLEDDING HILL	SOCCER FIELD	TENNIS COURTS	VOLLEYBALL COURTS	PICKLEBALL COURTS

## ❖ Current Park Facilities

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department manages nearly 700 acres of park land within the City of Lafayette. Providing and preserving parks and open green space enhances the desirability of the community and contributes to the health and wellness of all Lafayette residents.

The Department also operates many unique facilities which include an award-winning family aquatic center, innovative playground, dog park, premier baseball stadium, zoo, amusement rides, recreation center, a linear trail system, and portions of the Wabash Heritage Trail. These facilities serve as an investment in the future well-being of Lafayette residents and contribute to the overall quality of life and viability of the city.

The Planning Area is defined as areas within five miles of the city limits of Lafayette and the city limits, which does include areas west of Interstate 65. The department allows non-residents to participate in their various programs, leagues and facilities at a non-resident rate. The department has a cooperative partnership with the Tippecanoe County Park Department and the West Lafayette Park Department to coordinate services and programs to maximize services and financial resources.

### **Columbian Park 40 acres**

The 'crown jewel' of the Lafayette Park system, Columbian Park has served the community for over a century. Major renovations have happened throughout the park and are listed in Section 1 of the report under Progress Evaluation.



Loeb Stadium

The new Loeb Stadium, a 2,600-seat multi-use baseball stadium, opened in the spring of 2021 and was re-built on the original stadium site. The field was rotated 180 degrees. Loeb Stadium hosts multiple concerts, events, family movie nights, soccer, and baseball

games. It is home field of the Lafayette Aviators, Lafayette Jefferson High School, the American Legion Post-11 League, and 13-and-older Colt League. The stadium annually hosts the Colt World Series and IHSAA tournaments.

Tropicanoe Cove Family Aquatic Center continues the long aquatic tradition in the park while meeting the leisure needs of today's families and has added new amenities as noted in Section 1.



The SIA Playground provides Lafayette children and families an exciting and adventurous place to play. The playground is fully accessible and includes distinct areas specifically designed for all ages ranging from tots to adults and is being renovated in 2024.

Columbian Park features amusement rides with a restored miniature train, pedal boats, and other rides enjoyed by smaller children. The Rush Pavilion, restored in 1990, was built in 1890 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Other features of the park are Jenks Rest (home to the Tippecanoe County Council on Aging and Junior Achievement), Memorial Island (veteran memorials and amphitheater), picnic shelters, and the Boathouse, which serves as the Parks Administrative Office.

Columbian Park Zoo was opened in 1908 and currently houses over 190 animals, representing over 90 species. The Zoo's mission is to encourage the appreciation of the world's wildlife, to enhance the preservation and conversation of biodiversity and to inspire educational discovery and exploration in a fun, family-oriented environment for all citizens of the Greater Lafayette Area.

The Bill and Donna DeFouw Education Center lies within the grounds of the Zoo and hosts the award-winning education programming and special events facilitated by Zoo staff.

## RIVERFRONT PARKS

The Department manages a complex of parks along the Wabash River comprised of over 450 acres.

### Wabash Heritage Trail

- Cooperatively maintained by Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County Parks Departments
- A 13-mile trail travels along the Wabash River and Burnett's Creek.
- Over 2-miles of the trail cross the Lafayette Riverfront Parks listed below.

### Lyboubt Sports Park 52 acres

- Three Lighted softball fields
- Basketball courts
- Horseshoes
- Picnic areas
- Portions of the Wabash Heritage Trail
- Public restrooms
- Sand volleyball court

### McAllister Park 350 acres

- Model airplane strip
- Open green space
- Portions of the Wabash Heritage Trail
- 18-hole disc golf course



Disc Golf Hole #7 Red Tee Par 3

### Environmental Interpretive Area

- Undeveloped site located north of US 52
- Wooded site with high-quality wetland.

## COMMUNITY PARKS

The Department manages seven community parks, one community recreation center, and a linear park trail system.

### Armstrong Park 30 Acres

- 0.67-mile walking trail
- Linear Parks trail 0.5-miles
- Three youth baseball fields
- Five lighted tennis courts
- Multi-age playground
- Open green space
- Public restroom
- Rentable 50-person picnic shelter
- Pond

- Wildflower areas
- Mature trees
- Castaway Bay Aquatic Center



Armstrong Park Playground Dedication

#### **Berlovitz Woods 20 acres**

- An undeveloped park property
- Woods and quality wetland.

#### **CAT Park and Soccer Fields 32 acres**

- ADA Accessible ballfield
- Eight soccer fields of varying sizes
- Small picnic shelters
- Walking trails
- Wildflower Prairie
- Restroom/concession building



CAT Park Accessible Ballfield

**Crosser Sports Complex 15 acres**

- 4 Lighted competition girls' softball fields and home of the Lafayette Girls Softball League
- Restroom/concession building
- Press box building
- Parking
- Playground
- Little Library



Softball Fields

**Linear Park Trail**

- Trailhead begins near Armstrong Park
- One mile in length

**McCaw Park 26 acres**

- Twelve lighted pickleball courts
- Two small picnic shelters
- Three lighted youth baseball fields
- Grill
- Open green space and wildflower areas
- Woodland areas
- Wetland areas
- Public restrooms
- Tot and multi-age playground
- Dog Park



McCaw Park Pickleball Courts

**Munger Park 32 acres**

- One-mile paved trails
- 110-person rentable picnic shelter
- Grill
- Multi-age playground
- Open green space and wildflower areas
- Pond
- Fishing
- The park and its development were made possible by significant contributions from Duke Energy and Thomas and Alice Munger.



Munger Park New Playground

#### **Murdock Park 39 acres**

- Largest and most forested park within the central part of the city
- 0.52-mile interpretive trail
- Two 50-person picnic shelters
- Cardinal Court (basketball)
- 18-hole disc golf course
- Grill
- Public restroom
- Sled hill/run
- Tot and multi-age playground
- Youth softball field



Murdock Park

### **Shamrock Park 11 acres**

- Basketball court
- Grill
- Horseshoes
- Open green space
- Outdoor roller hockey rink
- Parking areas
- Picnic areas
- 50-person picnic shelter
- Tot and multi-age playground
- Volleyball court

### **McAllister Recreation Center**

- Gymnasium
- Community meeting areas
- Game rooms
- Weight and fitness areas
- Open green space
- Basketball court
- Picnic shelter
- Multi-age playground.
- Programming for adults and youth.



McAllister Recreation Center



McAllister Recreation Center Playground

## **AQUATIC FACILITIES**

The Department manages three family aquatic centers. These outdoor facilities are open during the summer season to serve the aquatic needs of the community.

### **Castaway Bay in Armstrong Park**

- Beach-like entry
- Spray and play areas
- Geysers
- Bubble bench
- Play area that can be used for games or exercise

- Grass area for sunning
- Open green play space
- Modern bathhouse.

#### **Tropicanoe Cove Family Aquatic Center in Columbian Park**

- Large leisure pool with zero-depth entrance
- Lazy river
- Cove mat slide
- Water slides
- Water and sand playgrounds
- Sand volleyball court
- Bathhouse and concession building

#### **Vinton Pool**

- Z-shape pool
- Beach like entrance with playful water geysers
- Double splashdown slide and water basketball hoop

### **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**

The Department manages eight smaller parks that serve neighborhoods.

#### **Arlington Park 1 acre**

- Basketball court
- New playground
- Open green space
- Picnic shelter
- Tennis court

#### **Centennial Park 0.5 acres**

- Basketball court
- Picnic shelter
- Tot and multi-age playground

#### **North Darby Park 0.8 acres**

- Basketball court
- Multi-age playground
- Open green space

#### **Hanna Park 2.2 acres**

- Basketball court
- Grill
- Musical chimes
- Picnic shelter
- Playgrounds 2-5, and 5-12
- Tricycle path

- Serves youth programs sponsored by Hanna Center and Dennis Burton Childcare Center

**Hedgewood Park 7 acres**

- Multi-age playground
- Open green space
- Adult swing
- Picnic table

**Kennedy Park 7 acres**

- Multi-age playground
- Open green space
- Soccer field

**Linnwood Park 0.5 acres**

- Basketball court
- Picnic shelter
- Tot and multi-age playground

**SIA South Tipp Park 0.55 acres**

- Picnic shelter
- Half-court basketball
- Sports mister
- Two multi-age playgrounds
- Drinking fountain

**Sterling Heights Park 1.7 acres**

- Multi-age playground
- Green space
- Swings
- Parking
- Picnic shelter

**Stockton Park 0.5 acres**

- Drinking fountain
- Picnic shelter
- Spring-rider
- Swing
- Path

**Digby Park 5 acres**

- An undeveloped open area along the riverfront and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street near the overpass

**Brittany Chase 12.3 acres**

- An undeveloped open area located at the north end of Runyon Drive in Brittany Chase neighborhood on the southside of the city.

### Trails outside of park property:

These trails are maintained by park staff.

<u>Trail</u>	<u>Distance</u>
Munger Trail	0.76 miles - connects Greenbush Street to Creasy Lane
Linear Trail	1.12 miles - connects Beck Lane to S. 18th Street along Norfolk & Western Railroad
Wabash Heritage Trail	2.3 miles - from Sagamore Parkway to the John T. Meyers Pedestrian Bridge

### DEPARTMENT MAINTENANCE SERVICE

Maintenance services are provided to all parks and facilities utilizing park staff and contracted services which includes the following.

- 31 acres of sports turf
- 208 acres of general turf/lawn
- 73.5 acres of landscape beds, wildflowers, wetland and no-mow areas
- 12.7 acres of retention ponds
- 28 miles of paved trails
- 42 acres of pavement which includes 27 sports courts
- 18 parking lots
- 15 playgrounds
- 3 aquatic facilities
- One mile fencing
- 71 building structures consisting of
  - 25 buildings
  - 12 restroom buildings
  - 1 barn
  - 1 amphitheater
  - 1 stadium
  - 30 shelters

### PARK PROGRAMS

The parks department provides a variety of activities for all ages throughout the year. It also teams with local sports groups to provide youth and adult sports for baseball, softball, soccer, bike polo, pickleball, basketball, and volleyball. Park programs are held through the park system and at McAllister Recreation Center, Columbian Park, Tropicane Cove, Loeb Stadium, playing host for larger events and specialty programs. These programs help advance the department by drawing program users into parks. The department supports year-round programming which includes opportunities to learn, exercise, explore, interact with one another, and connect with nature. The program offerings continue to expand as opportunities become available.

Programming includes the following:

- Youth Summer Camp
- Zoo Pajama Party
- Zoo Sprouts (ages 3-4)
- Two @ the Zoo
- Boo at the Zoo
- Youth and Adult Volleyball
- Fitness on Demand
- Yoga
- Zumba
- Strong by Zumba
- Summer and Fall Tennis
- Dance Classes: 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Camps: Summer, Spring Break, Holiday, Fall Break
- Zoo Kids Night Out
- Zoo Run
- Father Daughter Dance
- Critter Class
- Wildlife Workshop
- Discovery Workshop (ages 12-14)
- Junior Counselor Program
- Stories for Shorties: Preschool reading (ages 3-5)
- Sporties for Shorties: Basketball, T-Ball, Soccer, Flag, Yoga, Weight/Fitness, Youth Dance
- Fall Boo Bash
- Football
- McAllister Spring Break Camp
- McAllister Spring Celebration
- BFF Day
- Dad's Day
- Family Fun Day(s)
- Flag Football ages 6-11
- Military Appreciation
- Grandparents' Day
- Fall Youth Basketball
- Fall and Winter Volleyball
- Winter Youth Basketball
- Holiday Drop and Shop
- Donuts with Santa
- Kids' Fishing Day
- Family Learn to Fish Day
- Learning adventure camps (ages 8-11)

### **Other Recreation Providers**

In addition, Lafayette's recreational needs are met through a variety of additional groups and facilities. Citizens may utilize programs and facilities offered by West Lafayette and Tippecanoe County Park's Department and other organizations in the below list.

- Prophetstown State Park (Indiana DNR)
- Area Schools: Lafayette School Corporation:
  - Earhart Elementary
  - Edgelea Elementary
  - Glen Acres Elementary
  - Miami Elementary
  - Miller Elementary
  - Murdock Elementary
  - Oakland Elementary
  - Vinton Elementary
  - Lafayette Sunnyside Middle School
  - Lafayette Tecumseh Junior High School
  - Jefferson High School
  - Lafayette Adult Resource Academy
  - Greater Lafayette Area Special Service
- Miscellaneous Public Facilities/Group
  - Boys and Girls Club of Tippecanoe County (north and south)
  - Lafayette YMCA
  - Lafayette YWCA
  - Fraternal Order of Eagles
  - West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Facilities
  - Tippecanoe County Parks & Recreation Facilities
- Area golf courses
  - Lafayette Elks Country Club
  - Battle Ground Golf Club
  - Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex
  - Coyote Crossing Golf Course (semi-private)
  - Ravines Golf Course
  - Lafayette Country Club
- Faith Based Providers
  - Faith East Community Center: 65,000 square feet, indoor pool, fitness center, full basketball court, room rentals, indoor walking track
  - Northend Community Center: 115,000 square feet, two lap lanes and therapeutic pool, splash pad, rooftop hockey rink, basketball courts, fitness classes, fitness center, room rentals, outdoor athletic field for pickup games; co-working studio, etc.

### **Community Partners and Collaborators**

The Department continues to work collaboratively with governmental agencies, local organizations, and area businesses to better serve the community.

- American Red Cross

- Community Appearance Task Force
- Community and Family Resource Center
- Downtown Business Center
- Friends of Downtown
- Friends of Columbian Park Zoo
- Greater Lafayette Commerce
- Dog Park Association of Greater Lafayette
- Greater Lafayette Convention and Victors Bureau
- Hanna Community Center
- Honeywell Arts & Entertainment
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Indiana Urban Forest Council
- Lafayette Adult Resource Academy
- Lafayette Colt Tournaments
- Lafayette School Corporation
- Tree Lafayette
- Lafayette Parks Foundation, Inc.
- Lafayette Family YMCA
- Lafayette Urban Enterprise Association
- Lafayette Volunteer Bureau
- Leadership Lafayette
- Lyn Treece Boys and Girls Club
- Purdue University
- Tippecanoe County Health Department
- Tippecanoe County Historical Association
- Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners
- Tippecanoe County Parks and Recreation
- Tippecanoe County Public Library
- Wabash Center
- Wabash Disc Golf Club
- Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC)
- West Lafayette Parks and Recreation

The Department maintains reciprocal agreements with Lafayette School Corporation and Lafayette Catholic Schools for use of sports and educational facilities. Other sports-related agreements are held with the following groups:

- Lafayette Youth Baseball
- Greater Lafayette Recreational Soccer Alliance
- Greater Lafayette Girls Softball league
- Greater Lafayette Tennis Association
- Lafayette Area Softball Association
- Lafayette Horse Club
- Lafayette Pickleball Association

McAllister Recreation Center Partnerships include the following:

- Arni's Restaurant
- Arrowhead Bowl
- City Bus
- Dave Mecklenburg and Mary Ann Grove

- Delta Zeta Sorority at Purdue University
- Greater Lafayette Commerce
- Greater Lafayette Tennis Association Inc.
- Hammer Donuts
- Hole-in-One family Fun
- Hot Box Pizza
- Kona Ice
- Lafayette Aviators
- Lafayette Breakfast Optimist club
- Lafayette Fire Department
- Lafayette Jefferson High School National Honor Society
- Lafayette Police Department
- Lafayette Street Department
- Lausch Photography
- Playback DJ & Audio LLC
- The McAllister Foundation
- Tippecanoe Public Library
- Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Department
- Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck
- Visit Lafayette/West Lafayette Visitors Bureau

## **AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

Accessibility and the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements must be taken into consideration for every program and facility. The Department continually strives to achieve accessibility stands in all its program services, facility renovations and developments.

The ADA Compliance officer for the City of Lafayette is Ms. Amber Schaefer. Her office is located at 20 N. Sixth Street, 47901 in City Hall. Additional contact information: phone: 765-807-1000, email: HR@lafayette.in.gov. She can be contacted via phone, email, or the City's Action Center. The City's ADA public notice and grievance policy procedures are listed on the city's website or by contacting the ADA Compliance Officer at City Hall whose contact information is provided above.

The city performs regular accessibility audits for park facilities. There were no major critical findings. Since the last comprehensive park system master plan, the department has continued to add benches with armrests, sidewalk and pathway connections to park amenities, restriped all parking lots; repaired sidewalks for tripping hazards, removed low hanging tree branches over paths and sidewalks.

As standard practice the department continues to monitor their facilities for accessibility. Items such as incorporating accessible site furniture like picnic tables, benches, paving paths, trails, and play areas with resilient surfacing are all part of department protocols.

The department has invested in new park facilities and continues to develop new park amenities that are accessible which include the new accessible ballfield for those with mobility issues that included resilient surfacing at CAT Park.

They have renovated and replaced several play areas throughout the city with new play equipment, benches, and resilient surfacing. Sidewalks and pathways to park features are also being improved throughout the park system. Staff continue to work with residents to develop programming accommodations for those with sensory needs and physical needs. The \$20 million new Loeb Stadium provides a modern facility incorporating technology and other enhancements to assist all users and has been an integral asset to the community to facilitate a variety of events and recreation programming.



Loeb Stadium: Concert setup

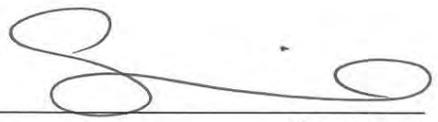
The department also incorporates various activities and options for those who have special needs in their programming at McAllister and throughout the system. The Zoo allows any caregiver free entry to assist a special needs visitor. They also partner with the Wabash Center who provides services and assists those with disabilities.

Special considerations are incorporated into park programs to allow for everyone to participate. The department desires to be flexible in their programming and allow all skill levels and abilities to participate and continues to pursue partnerships to make that programming accessible to all.

**ASSURANCE OF ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE WITH:  
ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT of 1968 (As Amended);  
SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (As Amended);  
AND TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990  
(As Amended)**

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

SIGNATURE   
Vice-President  
DAVID Mecklenburg  
(printed name)

SIGNATURE   
Secretary  
Siany Molina  
(printed name)

# Section 4: Trends & Needs Analysis

## IN THIS SECTION:

Trends in Parks and Recreation  
Health and Wellness  
Needs Analysis



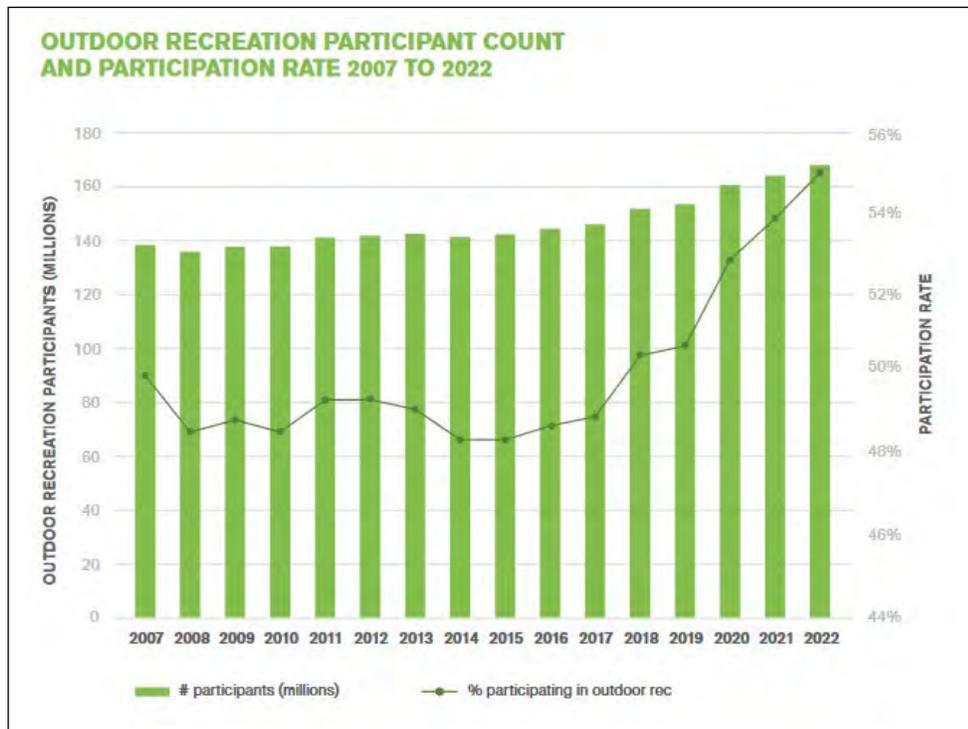
## ❖ Trends in Parks & Recreation

### National Trends

Current trends throughout the United States continue to focus on activities that can incorporate all members of the family, such as growth in fitness walking trails and individual sports, and there is still a major emphasis on health and wellness programs. These have been increasing over the last 20 years and were amplified by the COVID 19 pandemic.

In 2020, citizens sought outdoor space in unparalleled numbers to exercise and escape their homes. In some instances, communities saw 150 percent increases in park users on trails and open spaces, according to a special report, "Parks and the Pandemic" by the Trust for Public Land in 2021. In some urban communities, park use doubled. In the 2021 "Outdoor Participation Trends Report" by The Outdoor Foundation (TOF), they noted that the pandemic drove 7.1 million more participants to pursue outdoor activity than in 2019. This was the largest one-year increase they had ever recorded. This trend of outdoor park use has continued since the pandemic.

In recent years, communities have focused on all aspects of wellness. This is evidenced by the fact that more people are walking, swimming, and exercising today more than ever before. This is also evidenced by the fact that schools, businesses, and hospitals are instituting wellness programs for all ages to encourage lifelong fitness and to reduce health insurance costs.



Walking continues to be the most popular recreation activity enjoyed by approximately 109 million Americans, according to the Sports Fitness & Industry Association (SFIA). Other top activities included running/jogging, swimming, pickleball, triathlon (non-traditional/off-road), triathlon (traditional/road), kayak fishing, and paddle boarding. Trail-related recreation activities according to the 2023 Outdoor Participation Report indicates a positive three-year trend for trail running, running/jogging/hiking, mountain biking, and BMX biking. Running/jogging/hiking was their most popular activity with 55.9 million participants.

The trend of fitness continues to be confirmed by the Physical Activity Council's (PAC) 2022 Participation Report, which showed a consistent six-year trend of fitness sports participation around 67 percent. Other sport activity groups include the following:

- Outdoor Sports, 50.7%
- Individual Sports, 45.0%
- Team Sports, 23.4%
- Water Sports, 13.6%
- Racquet Sports, 13.0%
- Winter Sports, 8.25%

Racquet sports like pickleball continue to experience unprecedented growth. According to the USA Pickleball Association, pickleball grew by 42 percent from 2019 to 2020 and 620 percent over the last six years. While pickleball is still growing fast, its 4.1 million players are still a fraction of the 21.5 million who play tennis. Another new growing court sport is pop tennis, which is played in a cage. It is estimated by SFIA, that there are over 68 million members of Generation Z (Gen Z) in America (people born between 1997 and 2015), and they've been driving growth in all racquet sports. An impressive 24 percent of Gen Z played some form of racquet sports in 2022. Many departments have converted underused tennis courts to pickleball courts.

The department added twelve pickleball courts at McCaw Park. A critical consideration when determining locations for pickleball courts is the proximity of residences to the courts. Pickleball has a harder plastic ball that makes a distinctive sound which is much louder than a felt tennis ball. Racquet sports attract participants of all ages. The department is adding additional courts in 2024 to meet the needs of the community. The Lafayette Pickleball Association's membership has doubled in numbers to over 400 in just four years.



Walking and bicycling continue to grow in popularity after the pandemic, which creates even more need for connectivity between communities regionally. Regional destination trails are proven to have an even greater economic impact within communities. In Indiana, it is estimated trail visitors spend three to 10 times more than locals on lodging, shopping, and dining at \$3,500 annually per the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The department is continuing its expansion of trails through bike lanes, sidewalk connections and new trails on the Wabash River Greenway.

## Esports

One trend that is here to stay is esports. Egaming is a generic term to describe amusement or recreation using a standalone video game or desktop computer with one or more players. The Esportz Network (a global esports/gaming news, and entertainment media company) reported in August 2021, that the global esports economy growth has been underestimated and will exceed \$2.5 billion in 2022. The major gap in projections was the underestimation of growth in the mobile competitive play market. Straits Research was projecting in late summer 2022 that the United States market may reach \$5.74 billion by 2030.

Participants in the study indicated that they benefitted in multiple ways: having fun, socialization, playing together as family with others online: building community, creativity, communication, and increasing cognitive skills.



According to Entertainment Software Association in 2023, their essential fact about Esports participants:

- There are 2.5 billion gamers worldwide.
- Over 212 million adults within the U.S. consider themselves gamers.
- 65% of U.S. households own a gaming device (PC or gaming console).
- There is an average of approximately two gamers per household in U.S.
- 58% of regular gamers play multiplayer titles.
- 88% of gamers often play with another person, both in-person and online.
- Over 84% of teens have access to a gaming console within their home.
- 46% of gamers are females.

- Average play time spent: 13 hours/week.
- Total U.S. consumer spend on video games for 2022 was \$56.6 billion down from \$59.6 in 2021.

The opportunity for park agencies is to provide recreational esports programming to capture children who are unable to participate in other sports by providing places for gamers to gather and compete. Gaming also builds community and can be a multi-generational experience. Many parks' agencies have utilized esports to reach youth. Should they excel, there are esports leagues at the collegiate level which also provide scholarships. Due to this growth, Purdue University opened a new esports facility called The Boiler Game Mine in 2022. Lafayette Parks offers esports at McAllister Recreation Center through a partnership with GG Leagues, an online esports gaming company. Participants can choose from one of three age groups: youth division (ages 8-12 years), teen division (ages 13-18 years), and adult division (ages 18 plus). Games may include Madden, Rocket League, Fortnite, Super Smash Bros, and Mario Kart 8 Deluxe.

### State Trends

From a regional or state perspective, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2021-2025 reflected many of the same popular national trends. The SCORP was completed prior to the pandemic. Top participation activities included walking, hiking, or jogging as the most popular with camping, hiking, fishing, boating/water skiing/sailing/wakeboarding rounding out the top five. Survey respondents also indicated that they participated in the following top five activities weekly: walking/hiking/jogging, bicycling, fishing, gardening, and swimming. Walking/running/jogging has been the top activity in Indiana for over 25 years and nationally since 1990.

Swimming continues to be in the top 10 activities in recreation. Over 27 million Americans over the age of 6 swam for fitness in 2018. This is up from 27.14 million in 2017. Aging pools are often replaced by aquatic centers that offer more than the traditional pool and diving well. Aquatic trends in the parks and recreation industry include zero-depth pool entry, lazy rivers, water slides, natural lighting for indoor facilities, splash pads, large water structures, and larger pool areas that can allow for water polo, water fitness, and synchronized swimming. Splash pads also may be incorporated into the newer aquatic centers, or as an amenity within a community as an alternative to the larger aquatic center facility or pool. Splash pads are usually free to park users versus as a part of an aquatic center, which has a user fee. In the last 10 years, over 65 percent of respondents have added at least one splash pad within their park system. The chart on the following page shows activity trends within Indiana from SCORP.

## Activity Trends State of Indiana

	1989	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
1	Picnicking	Hiking, Walking Jogging	Hiking, Walking Jogging	Hiking, Walking Jogging	Hiking, Walking Jogging	Hiking, Walking Jogging	Walking, Running, Jogging
2	Pleasure Driving	Picnicking	Fairs, Festivals	Fairs, Festivals	Camping	Camping	Camping RV Camping
3	Walking	Swimming	Fishing	Swimming SCUBA Snorkeling	Picnicking	Fishing	Hiking Backpacking
4	Swimming	Camping	Camping	Nature Observation, Photography	Fishing	Swimming	Fishing
5	Fishing	Fishing Hunting	Picnicking	Camping	Swimming	Canoeing Kayaking Paddle Sports	Boating Wakeboarding Water Skiing Sailing
6	Bicycling	Bicycling	Swimming SCUBA Snorkeling	Fishing	Boating, Water Skiing, Personal Watercraft	Bicycling	Picnicking, Barbecue/ Cookouts
7	Camping	Boating	Nature Observation, Photography	Picnicking	Golf	Hunting	Gardening Landscaping Yard Work
8	Nature Observation	Nature Observation	Playground Use	Bicycling	Bicycling	Fairs/Festivals Outdoor Concerts	Swimming Snorkeling Diving
9	Motor Boating	Playground Use	Bicycling	Off-road Motorized Vehicle Use	Hunting	Boating Water Skiing Sailing	Bicycling
10	Golf	Off-road Motorized Vehicle Use	Boating, Water Skiing, Personal Watercraft	Boating, Water Skiing, Personal Watercraft	Horseback Riding	Off-road Motorized Use	Golf

IDNR stated in the 2021-2025 SCORP that the definition of “critical county” in Indiana had changed due to the decrease in the state’s overall population-growth rate. Level of service (LOS) is defined as recreation acreage provided in three categories: Local, State/federal and Total (statewide). These are defined as follows:

- **Local (County, Township, City or Town) recreation areas:** Land owned by municipal, township and county governments as well as land privately owned but open for public use.
- **State/federal recreation areas:** Land owned mostly by State or federal governments and does not include some non-profit sites (such as those owned by Land Trust) open for public recreation use.
- **Total (Statewide) recreation areas:** Total of all statewide public recreation land that is owned by all the entities in the other two categories.

The State of Indiana took the above categories and created LOS guidelines for publicly owned parks, recreation and open space for all Hoosiers. Indiana's guidelines for outdoor recreation in terms of acres per 1,000 people are:

- Local LOS: 20 acres per 1,000 people (.02 acres per person).
- State/Fed LOS: 35 acres per 1,000 people (.035 acres per person).
- Total (Statewide) LOS: 55 acres per 1,000 people (.055 acres per person).

A critical county for public outdoor recreation land is as follows:

- A county that does not have the recommended supply of outdoor recreation acres of 55 acres per 1,000 population or greater.
- A population growth rate higher than the 2014 to 2018 estimated Indiana statewide population growth rate of 1.44% (data obtained from the U.S. Census 2014 and 2018 population estimates).

Per 2021-2025 SCORP, Tippecanoe County is considered a critical county based on total of acres.

2018 Population: 193,048  
Recommended Acres Total 55a/1000: 10,617.64  
Sum of actual County Total Acres: 5,771.6  
Difference (4,845.88) deficit

In fact, Tippecanoe County is deficient in all three Levels of Service (LOS) recommendations for Local, State/federal, and Total (statewide). The need for more park land is reflected not only in this level of service calculation but also in the need for more parks at the city level which is defined further in the Needs Analysis later in this Section.

## The Effects of Recreation on Wellness

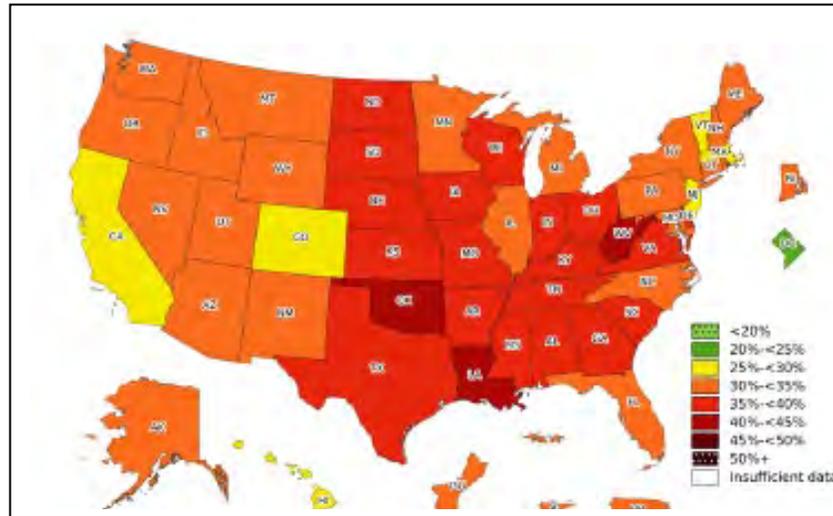
Recreational opportunities and facilities have a profound effect on the health and wellness of a community. Ideally, through careful planning of green space, parks, facilities, and programs, a community creates an environment that offers multiple opportunities and choices for healthy lifestyles - opportunities which easily incorporate physical activity into the daily lives of its citizens.

Indiana's obesity prevalence is 37.7 percent. Statistics released by the Surgeon General indicate that 60 percent of the U.S. population is inactive or underactive; conditions that have fueled the growing epidemic of obesity, diabetes, and related disorders. A growing body of evidence indicates that community design plays a role in fostering or inhibiting an active lifestyle. A few of the elements that have been identified as creating healthy, walkable communities include:

- Safe and accessible sidewalks, crosswalks, and bike paths.
- Transportation alternatives with pedestrian access to buses and transit systems.
- Safe, attractive, and convenient parks and recreation facilities.
- Shopping and services that can be accessed without automobiles.

Availability and accessibility of attractive bike paths, walking paths, exercise facilities and the overall aesthetics of an environment play a role in citizens determining the type and amount of physical activity in which they will engage.

Prevalence of Self-Reported Obesity among U.S. Adults  
By State and Territory, BRFSS, 2022



The 2023 Annual Report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirms that inactivity increases with age and is more common among women than men, and among people with lower income and less education. Physical activity also declines dramatically with age during adolescence.

Supporting statistics:

- 60 percent of American adults were sedentary in 2022.
- Only 25 percent of adults and 27 percent of youth (grades 9-12) engage in recommended levels of physical activity.
- Children born today have a lower life expectancy than their parents.

Any age, gender, and economic or cultural group can achieve greater health benefits by increasing physical activity. This public health challenge exists for every community in America. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the University of Wisconsin Population of Health Institute (UWPHI) collaborated to create the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program. This program is intended to help communities identify and implement solutions that make it easier for people to be healthier in their schools, workplaces, and homes. The program ranks almost every county in America. In 2023, Tippecanoe County ranked 13th out of 92 counties in Indiana based on the overall health of the county.



# Needs Analysis

## Park Classifications and Land Requirements

The Master Plan preparation process includes reviewing recreation guidelines developed by organizations including the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and the master plans for communities of similar size. In addition, specific characteristics such as local natural resources, economic conditions, land use availability, cultural preferences, and community needs contribute to the formation of a community's recreation standards.

The recommended guidelines for park classifications and land area requirements are described below and itemized in Table 1. The park classifications conform to one of three general categories: places for active recreation, resource-oriented areas and specialized facilities. Space requirements, typical facilities and programs, and unique environmental features further define the park types.

### State or National Park

A state park serves several communities or a multi-county region within a one-hour driving distance. Approximately 10 acres per 1,000 population is served, and the park is generally 1,000 acres or more. A state park is an area of natural ornamental quality that provides diverse and unique natural resources for nature-oriented outdoor recreation such as nature viewing and study, wildlife habitat conservation, hiking, camping, canoeing, and fishing. Usually, 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20% of the site developed for active recreation. Active recreation areas consist of play areas and open fields for informal use and can include specialized activities like golf, boating, hiking, lodging, and a conference center. It is common for these types of parks to become specialized in their offerings to the public. Many state parks can be considered a 'destination park.' *Exhibit A* illustrates a typical state park. Prophetstown State Park located northeast of Lafayette is an example of a regional park that is near the Lafayette planning area.

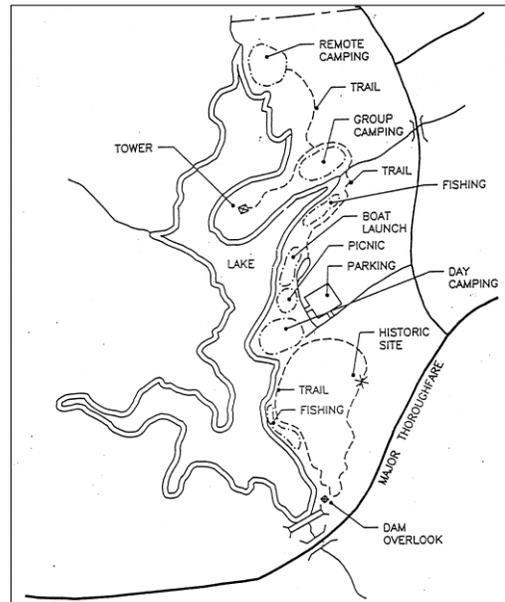


Exhibit A - State Park

## Regional Park

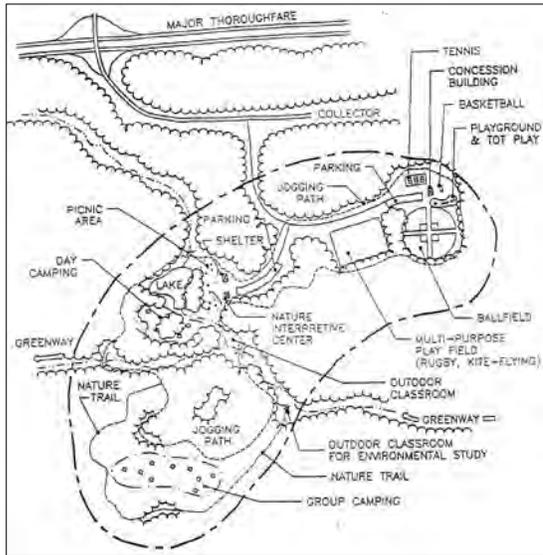


Exhibit B - Regional Park

A regional park provides more diverse recreational opportunities than a regional park, yet on a smaller scale. Like a state park, a regional park emphasizes passive recreational opportunities, but it also includes active recreational facilities. A regional park is easily accessible by the population it serves and maintains a 5-mile service radius. The park contains a minimum of 5 acres per 1,000 population and is usually 200-400 acres in size. Regional parks normally include an indoor recreation building, or an interpretive center that reflects the character of the park. Active recreational facilities located in a regional park include active play areas, ball fields, hard surface courts, golfing, swimming,

boating, multi-purpose play fields, picnic facilities, and various types of trails. Many regional parks are specialized in their offerings to the public and draw participants from throughout the community. Columbian Park is an example of a regional park.

## Community Park

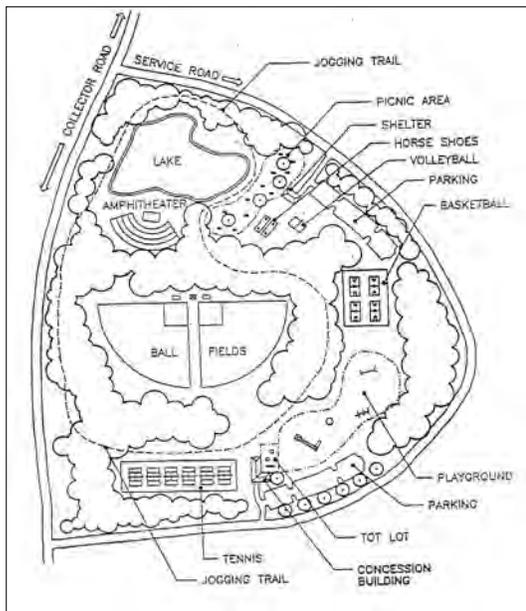


Exhibit C - Community Park

Community parks are easily accessible to a single or several neighborhoods depending on local needs and the population distribution at the time it was developed. When possible, the park may be developed adjacent to a middle or elementary school. A community park provides recreational opportunities for the entire family and contains areas suited for intense recreational purposes such as a recreation center building, athletic fields, swimming, tennis, and walking/jogging trails. The park may also have a recreation center and/or have areas of natural quality for outdoor recreation such as viewing, sitting, and picnicking. Community parks have an average service area of 2 miles and require a minimum of 3 acres per 1,000 population served and should be between 16 and 75 acres

(typically 40 acres). The size is variable due to the type of facilities located within the

park. *Exhibit C* illustrates a typical community park. Municipalities usually provide community parks. Armstrong and Munger Parks are examples of a community park.

### Neighborhood Park

A neighborhood park is designed to serve a population of up to 5,000, but in many instances may serve more. The park requires 3 acres per 1,000 population served and should be between 5-15 acres; however, often they are smaller. Neighborhood parks are typically characterized by family oriented recreational activities such as court games, crafts, playground apparatus, picnicking, and space for quiet/passive activities.

The service radius for a neighborhood park is one-half mile and is easily accessible to the neighborhood population through safe walking and bicycle access. Parking may or may not be required. Where feasible, the activity use areas are divided equally between quiet/passive activities and active play areas.

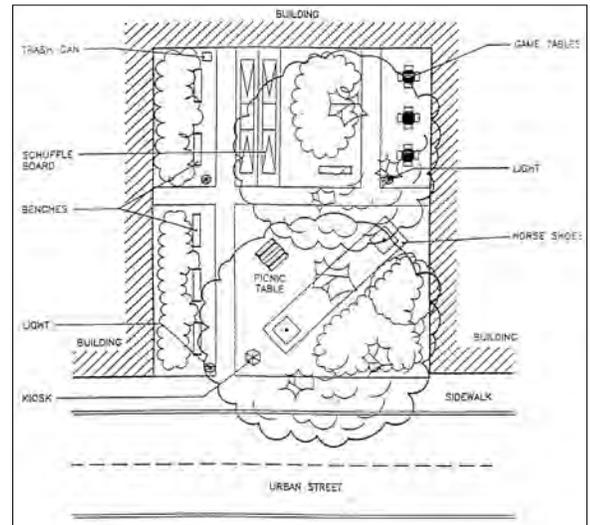


Exhibit D - Neighborhood Park

This type of park may be developed as a school/park or neighborhood center facility. *Exhibit D* illustrates a typical neighborhood park. Municipal governments normally provide neighborhood parks. Centennial, Edgelea, and Kennedy Parks are examples of neighborhood parks within this planning area.

### Greenway/Linear Park

A greenway park is an area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel such as hiking and biking. The greenway park will often be developed to connect recreational facilities as well as schools and residential neighborhoods. The acreage and service area of a greenway park is variable and subject to existing natural and manufactured features, the existence of public right-of-way, and the public demand for this type of park. In some cases, a greenway park is developed within a large land area designated for protection and management of the natural environment, with the recreational use as a secondary objective. *Exhibit F* illustrates a typical greenway park. All levels of government provide these parks. The Wabash Heritage Trail is a linear Park.

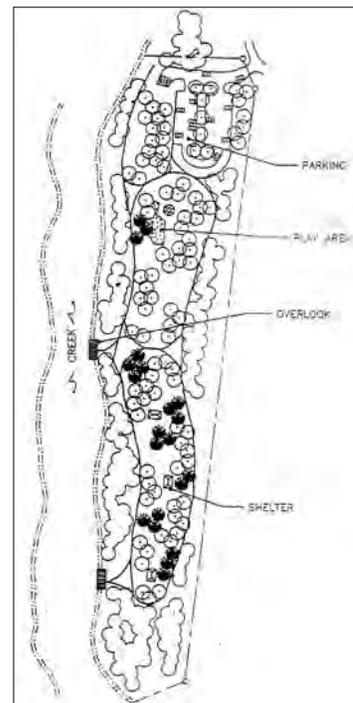


Exhibit F—Greenway/Linear Park

## Special Sites or Facilities

The unique or special areas are park types that exist to enhance or utilize a special man-made or natural feature. They can include beaches, aquatic facilities, museums, golf facilities, parkways, historical sites, sites of archeological significance, arboretums, conservation easements, flood plains, river access, etc. Minimum standards relating to acreage or population have not been established by the park and recreation industry for this category. A size that is sufficient to protect and interpret the resource, while providing optimum use, is considered desirable. Other specialized facilities require space sufficient to accommodate the program planned for the site. All levels of government provide special use parks. Reihle Plaza and the Big Four Depot Community room are examples of special use sites and facilities.

## Recommendations

Park facilities were labeled per their actual use within the community, not by the actual acreage. As the charts on the following two pages will demonstrate, there are two park categories noticeably short of national averages in park acreage: regional and neighborhood parks as earlier defined in this section.

Future park sites also need to be identified due to the anticipated growth within the community. The park system will need to continue to develop partnering opportunities with local developers and the School Corporation to potentially share and develop recreational facilities. The community has a variety of recreational providers. Consequently, the system needs to focus on continuing to provide a high level of service at their existing facilities, while providing new facilities in growing areas of the community. Pedestrian linkages are also an important element to the future success of the park system as it continues to grow over the next five years.

The Crosser Sports Complex was developed to meet an underserved need for softball fields within the community through the last planning process. The department is keenly aware of the growth within the community. Citizens agreed that new facilities will be needed and should be developed in the underserved areas on the east and south sides of Lafayette. In addition, as downtown continues to add residential housing, the need for green space downtown should be included to facilitate small groups, concerts, and informal gatherings. Downtown residents frequently mentioned that a small plot of grass in the downtown areas would be welcome. Undeveloped existing park properties such as Berlowitz Woods and Brittany Chase will help provide future recreational opportunities in the south and east.

This issue will only become magnified as the community continues to grow. Consequently, it will be critical for the Department to identify potential future park sites within the current corporate city limits and in the surrounding growing areas.

It also is important to note the impact that trails are having within the community which allow the citizens more mobility between public spaces and neighborhoods. The development of future trails and parks is being coordinated with other city departments and through partnerships with West Lafayette, WREC and Tippecanoe County. This includes trail and mixed-use development along the riverfront as downtown development continues to expand and as the Wabash River Greenway segments provide additional connections to the north and south along the river. Trails continue to be important to residents for transportation and recreation. City staff in all departments continue to pursue opportunities to make connections through bike lanes, sidewalk improvements, trails and road improvements.

Creative programs and funding will be critical to the future success of the program as the community continues to grow. The parks have become, and will continue to be, the place where the citizens have a sense of community and greater purpose. In addition, residents desire a skate park/BMX/pump track and a splash pad along with updating existing park facilities. This input is key as the department looks to the future to provide a variety of facilities and programs within the system.



Pickleball Courts

The minimum park land guideline (in acres) for the total population of the Lafayette planning area is provided in Table 1 located on the next page. The acreage guideline is based upon the population ratio method (acres of park land per 1,000 population) established for each park classification.

<b>TABLE 1 National Park and Land Area Guidelines</b>				
<b>Park Type Standard</b>	<b>Acres/1000 Population</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Population Served</b>	<b>Service Area</b>
<b>State Park</b> National Recommended	10 10	1000 1000	Several Communities 50,000-100,000	1 hr. drive 50 mi. radius
<b>Regional Park</b> National Recommended	5-10 5	200 76-200	Several Communities 10,000-50,000	15-20 minute drive 5 mi. radius
<b>Community Park</b> National Recommended	5-8 3	25+ 25+	Several Neighborhoods 5,000-15,000	1-2 mile radius 2 mile radius
<b>Neighborhood Park</b> National Recommended	1-2 2	15+ 5-15	5,000 5,000	¼-½ mile ½ mile
<b>Greenway/Linear Park &amp; Special Use</b> National Recommended	Varies Varies	Varies Varies	Varies Varies	Varies Varies

The minimum park land requirement (in acres) for the total population of the Lafayette planning area is provided in Table 2. The acreage requirement is based upon the population ratio method (acres of park land per 1,000 population) established for each park classification as shown in Table 1.

The types of parks that will be needed by the end of the planning period (2028) are based upon the acreage standards provided in Table 2. They include regional parks, community parks, neighborhood parks, linear park/special use, and open space areas.

**TABLE 2**  
**City of Lafayette Total Park Sites and Acreage Guidelines**

PARK TYPE	PLANNING AREA Year/Population and National Guidelines		
	Existing Properties in 2023	Required per NSR 2024 (71,902) <sup>5</sup>	Required per NSR 2028 (73,936) <sup>5</sup>
<b>State Parks<sup>1</sup></b> +1000 acre park (10 Ac/1000)	N/A <sup>1</sup> N/A	N/A <sup>1</sup> N/A	N/A <sup>1</sup> N/A
<b>Regional Parks*</b> 76-400 acre park (5 Ac/1000)	418 acres <sup>2</sup> 2 sites	359 acres <sup>2</sup> 1 site	369 acres <sup>2</sup> N/A
<b>Community Parks</b> +15-75 acre park (3 Ac/1000)	210.7 acres <sup>3</sup> 11 sites <sup>3</sup>	215 acres 5 sites	221 acres 6 sites
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b> 0.5-15 acre park (2 Ac/1000)	21.7 acres <sup>4</sup> 11 sites <sup>4</sup>	143.8 acres 11 sites	147.8 Acres 12 Sites
<b>Special Use Parks</b> Not Applicable	NA	NA	NA

<sup>1</sup> Prophetstown State Park is near the planning area.

<sup>2</sup> Regional Parks: Columbian, Riverfront: Youth Activity Park, former Golf Course, Overlook, Lyboubt Sports, McAllister Heritage Trail

<sup>3</sup> Community Parks: Armstrong, CAT, Crosser Sports Complex, McAllister Recreation Center, McCaw, Munger, Murdock, Shamrock Berlovitz (undeveloped)

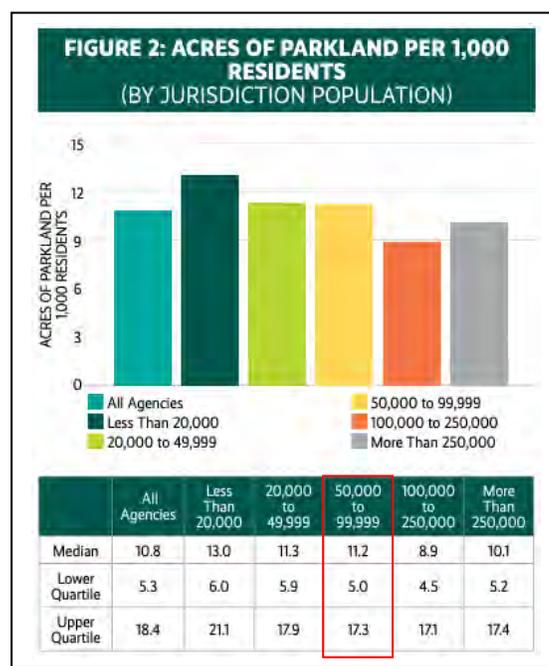
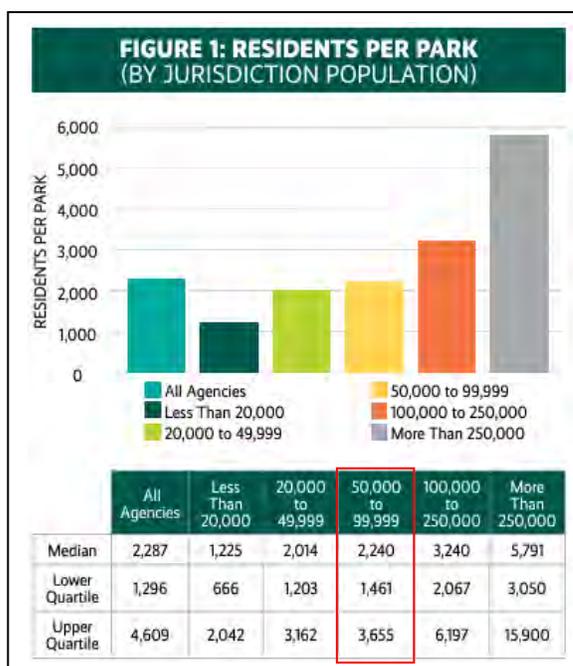
<sup>4</sup> Neighborhood Parks: Arlington, Centennial, North Darby, Hanna, Hedgewood, Kennedy, Linnwood, SIA South Tipp, Sterling Heights, Stockton, Vinton Pool, Brittany Chase (undeveloped), Digby (undeveloped)

<sup>5</sup> Population estimates based on information from US Census Bureau Population Division, Estimated growth of 0.7%.

**Standards Resources:**

- Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2021-2016
- Mertes, James and Hall, James, Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, a publication of the National Park and Recreation Association, 1996

NRPA Park Metrics is the most comprehensive source of data standards and insights for park and recreation agencies which was launched in 2009 by NRPA previously known as PRORAGIS. Local and regional park and recreation agencies differ significantly in size and the types of facilities they offer. The typical agency participating in the 2023 NRPA Park Metrics serves a jurisdiction - town, city, county and/or region - of 45,000 people. Lafayette's population falls in the 50,000 to 99,999 columns in Figure 1 and Figure 2 below with the median number of 2,240 residents per park and 11.2 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. As populations rise the number of residents per park also grows, which is typical. Currently, Lafayette has 2,765 residents per park and 9.1 acres of parkland per 1000 residents. Lafayette's park land acreage includes property that is undeveloped but owned by the department.



Park and recreation agencies oversee a wide variety of facilities and features for which they are responsible. These facilities vary by the size of the community and other services providers within the community. Ninety-five percent of park and recreation agencies provide playground facilities, typically managing fourteen playgrounds. At least half of those agencies provide basketball courts, ball diamonds for softball and baseball, tennis courts, dog parks, multipurpose recreation fields/youth soccer, community gardens, and outdoor swimming/aquatic area.

The chart on the following page indicates the department's metrics based on NRPA 2023 Park Metrics for types of facilities. These guidelines are a useful place to begin for future planning and should be adjusted as dictated by the needs of the individual community. Some facilities can be designed for multi-purpose uses and should be considered to facilitate the best use of park land and finances. Not all park type facilities are provided by a park department due to the size and individual character of each community.

The National Park and Recreation Association publishes standards for recreation facilities that provide valuable guidance in future planning (see chart below).

TABLE 3 City of Lafayette Park Facility Guidelines			
PARK AREA	PLANNING AREA		
	(Municipal Owned) Existing Properties in 2023	Suggested base on population 2023 (71,402)	Suggested base on population 2028 (73,936)
Baseball Diamonds (1/7,300)	8	10	10
Softball Diamonds (1/12,000)	7	6	6
Basketball Courts (1/8,790)	11	6	12
Tennis Courts (1/5,577)	5	13	13
Skate Park (1/62,992)	0	1	1
Soccer Fields (1/7,200)	9	10	10
Pickleball Courts (1/11,500)	12	4	4
Splash Pad (1/100,000)	0	1	1
Recreation Center (1/38,000)	1	1.8	1.8
Dog Park (1/54,100)	1	1	1
Playgrounds (1/3,799)	18	19	19
Outdoor Aquatic Center (1/60,000)	1	1	1

Benchmark data for facilities per population are from National Park Recreation Agency (NRPA) 2023 Park Metrics for cities with 50,000 - 99,999. Splash pad benchmark data was based on Trust for the Public Land (TPL) 2023 City Park Facts.

NRPA 2023 Metrics: Trail miles averaged 16 miles up from 10 miles in 2018. Lafayette has 28 miles of trails.

# Section 5: Community Engagement

## IN THIS SECTION:

Public Input Summary  
Stakeholder Feedback  
Public Meeting Summaries  
Questionnaire Results and Summary



## ❖ Community Engagement

Public engagement is a critical component of the master planning process so that the city can include those programs and facilities that are most desired by residents. The master planning process included numerous opportunities for citizens to provide their thoughts and opinions, including stakeholder group meetings, interviews, online and printed questionnaire, and public meetings. Opportunities for input were posted on the park website, city website, social media, local newspaper, advertised in the paper and physically posted at park facilities.

Throughout the community engagement process the goal was to receive feedback from citizens on their insights of needs and expectations for their parks and programs. The community's perceptions are key to creating and improving services in the future. The Parks and Recreation Department receives input daily for individual programs and projects.

Throughout the community engagement, it was clear that the residents and park users are complimentary and appreciative of the department and their efforts. A consistent theme was the quality of parks and the level of care which is taken to maintain and improve park facilities. Citizens recognize that there is limited funding available, but they had nothing but praise for the continued efforts and commitment of the department to the community.

### Summary Recommendations from Public Engagement

Highest needs and priorities based on input priorities are as follows:

- Finish Columbian Park: carousel and parking
- Continue creating trails and trail connections
- Maintain to the highest standard existing facilities
- Add splash pad
- Continue to remove invasive species
- BMX, pump track and skate park
- Dog park - downtown, south
- Flexible multi-use recreational sports fields
- Sports recreation fields
- Disc golf
- Downtown green space
- Access to river
- Planning for future park locations and amenities including Master Plans for Brittany Chase and Berlovitz Woods
- Safety and security in the parks
- Programming for youth and teens
- Nature areas

- Upgrade existing parks like Lybault
- Community awareness of park programs and facilities (public relations)
- Continue maintenance of parks

The following are the findings from the public engagement process.

### A. Interviews and Stakeholder Group Meetings

A series of stakeholder group meetings were held on April 26, May 3 and June 12. Nine separate groups of five to fifteen people were invited for 50-minute brainstorming sessions to discuss the existing parks system and their dreams for the future. The nine groups included individuals:

- City Departments
- City Council
- Economic Development
- Tourism
- Youth and adult sports league providers and volunteers
- Recreation groups: Baseball, Cloud Jockeys, Pickleball, Disc Golf, Roller Hockey, Soccer, Trails, etc.
- Lafayette School Corporation
- Park Board Members
- Park staff
- Park volunteers
- Park program users
- Special Needs groups
- Veterans and senior groups
- Wabash River Enhancement Corporation
- Special activities
- Interested citizens

#### Attendance numbers for Stakeholder Meetings

April 26: 9:00 - 2 people, 10:00 - 3 people, 11:00 - 3 people

May 3: 12:30 - 2 people, 1:30 - 7 people, 3:00 - 7 people, 4:00 - 7 people

June 12: 1:00 - 22 people, 3:00 - 4 people

The participants were very knowledgeable about parks and recreation needs and issues and represented different organizations with the community including local schools, citizens, park user groups, park partners. Each group was prompted with the same interview questions created by the project team to ensure consistency.

#### Concerns and needs mentioned:

- Activate downtown green spaces including dog park, green space, programming and event planning

- Gathering space downtown
- Public awareness of facilities and opportunities
- Finish Columbian Park: carousel and additional parking
- Trails and trail connections including bike lanes
- Access to Wabash River
- Winter activities and programming
- More multi-purpose recreation fields
- Dog park
- Marketing communication strategy
- Open green space
- Maintenance funding for staff and equipment
- New parks to serve east and south sides of community
- Park upgrades i.e. Lyboulton or Shamrock
- Skate park
- Evening festivals
- Master plans for parks: Berlowitz Woods and Brittany Chase Property
- Ice hockey or skate rink
- Promote programs
- Artificial turf sports fields
- Develop parks on south and east sides of city where growth is occurring.

#### Big Ideas for Future

- Build new downtown concert venue at Lyboulton Park
- Indoor pool facility
- Ice skating rink
- Trail connections
- Trail like Celery Bog that goes through wooded area
- Splash pads
- Skate Park
- Parking garage for Columbian Park
- Fitness equipment along trail or within park
- Wintertime use of Loeb Stadium: holiday lights through stadium and ice sculpture contest
- More ballfields for youth
- Kayak and boat ramps to Wabash River
- Use new public safety building roof deck for events
- New disc golf course at new park on east or south side of city
- Six-field sports complex
- Indoor pickleball courts and sports use

#### B. Public Meetings

## Public Open House - July 11, 2023

A public input open house was held on July 11, 2023 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm and was held at Rush Pavilion in Columbian Park. Public outreach was included on the park website, social media and announcement boards at park facilities. Sixteen citizens stopped by the Open House and provided their input on needs and priorities. In addition, Cornerstone did random interviews as people entered the event which added 24 additional comments. Their input was consistent with other input that had been received.

### 1. What are the Department's strengths and your favorite parks or programs?

- Columbian Park (16)
- Armstrong Park (10)
- Variety of parks (16)
- Parks well maintained (16)
- Variety of programs (12)

### 2. What concerns do you believe still need to be addressed by the department in the park system?

- Fix playground equipment that is broken in Columbian Park
- Security: Do we need security cameras and officers in Columbian and Armstrong Park? How to best protect investment and still encourage others to utilize parks. How do you provide security while protecting privacy.

### 3. What is your big idea on how we can improve or add park amenities, programs, and activities?

- Need splash pad
- More dog park(s)
- More downtown greenspace
- Connecting bike trails throughout the city
- Bike routes to downtown that families can utilize
- Create Juneteenth event like Arts in the Park

Other opportunities for public input included park board meetings:

## Park Board Meetings

Board meetings throughout the planning process provided additional opportunities throughout the planning process in 2023 and 2024.

The Board meets once a month September through March on the third Monday at 4:00 pm. From April through August, the Board meets twice a month on the second and fourth Monday at 4:00 pm.

A list of all Park Board meetings held during the planning process that allowed for public comment and input are noted on this next page. All meetings were advertised and promoted through the newspaper, city website and social media channels.

## Park Board Meeting Dates

<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
April 17	January 14
May 15	February 12
June 12	March 18
June 26	
July 10	
July 24	
August 14	
August 28	
September 18	
October 16	
November 20	
December 18	

Meeting summaries below are provided where input was received.

### **Public Input Park Board Meeting - April 17, 2023**

Cornerstone provided an overview of the master plan process and reviewed the upcoming stakeholder meeting process and a draft of the proposed public questionnaire. Ten members of the general public in attendance.

### **Public Input Park Board meeting - June 12, 2023**

Cornerstone provided an update of the master planning process and a summary of public input to date, park inventory and analysis of existing park system. Cornerstone responded to questions from the Park Board and general public. Eight members of the general public were in attendance.

### **Public Input Meeting & Park Board meeting - August 28, 2023**

Cornerstone provided an update of the master planning process and a master plan draft presentation which included summary of all public input and results of the public questionnaire, needs analysis, trends, and priorities. Next steps to gather feedback on the draft and collaborate with staff to determine action plan based on community priorities. Cornerstone answered questions from the Park Board and general public. Five members of the general public were in attendance.

### **Public Input Meeting & Park Board meeting - October 16, 2023**

Cornerstone provided the Park Board with an update on the action plan and reviewed a draft of the plan. The public has been supportive of the action plan. Park staff and city staff are reviewing available funding sources for the action plan. Ten members of the general public were in attendance.

### **Public Input Park Board meeting - January 8, 2023**

Cornerstone provided the Park Board with an update on the final master plan which has incorporated general comments and revision on the action plan. Cornerstone thanks the

### **Public Input Park Board meeting - January 8, 2023**

Cornerstone provided the Park Board with an update on the final master plan which has incorporated general comments and revision on the action plan. Cornerstone thanks the public for their input and support of the master plan process. 48 people were in attendance.

### **Public Input Meeting & Park Board meeting - February 12, 2023**

Cornerstone reviewing the final master plan in its entirety and answered questions from the general public and the Board. The master plan has been well received and embraced. Twenty people were in attendance.

### **Public Input & Park Board meeting - March 18, 2023**

Cornerstone presented the adoption resolution for the Five-Year Park System Master Plan. The Park Board adopted the master plan in its entirety. Four people from the general public were in attendance.

## **C. Public Input Questionnaire**

The department has tremendous participation in this planning effort. Almost three times as many residents completed the online questionnaire than in previous years. Over a ten-week period from May 8 through July 18, 2023, an online questionnaire was completed by 1,122 individuals. It was available online and in printed form at park facilities, city hall and events. All respondents utilized the online option for responding to the questionnaire. The questionnaire was promoted through social media, emailing past park program users, public meetings, city, and park events. Historically, the Department has excellent support from residents and visitors. The recent questionnaire confirms that the community continues to be pleased and supportive of the Department's efforts. The facilities were given a combined 80 percent for their overall quality.

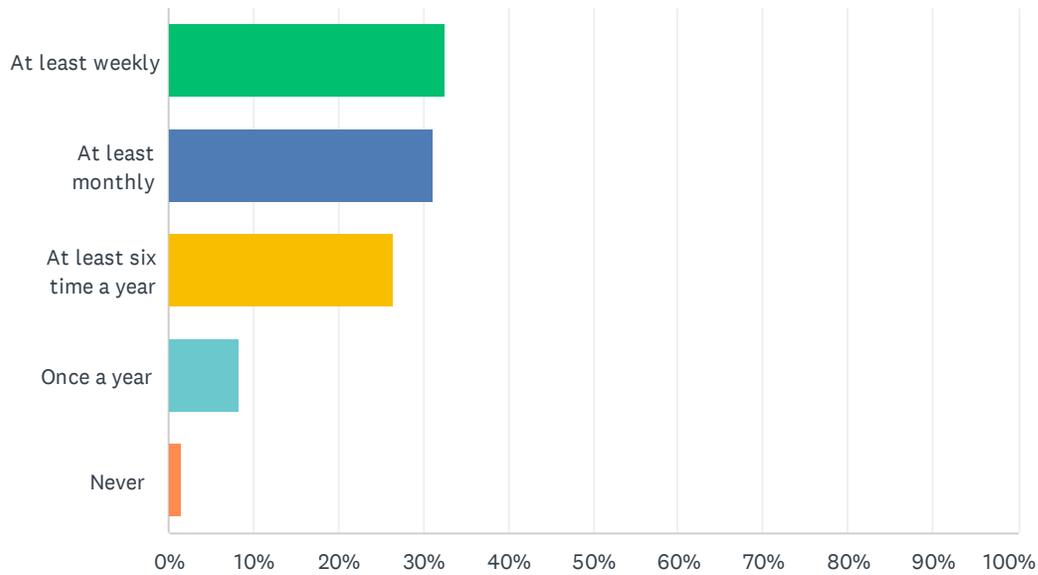
Over 60 percent of respondents currently visit a park facility or attend a program/event on a monthly or weekly basis which is higher than previous years.

Consistent with the stakeholder input, the respondents felt the higher priorities of trails and trail connections and renovation of existing park facilities were critical in the next five years. Future facility needs and priorities were trails, splash pads, finishing Columbian Park, adding dog parks, and planning and expanding new facilities. These results mirrored input from stakeholders, and staff.

The questionnaire responses are summarized with details, individual comments, or responses on the following pages.

## Q1 How often do you use Lafayette parks and recreation facilities?

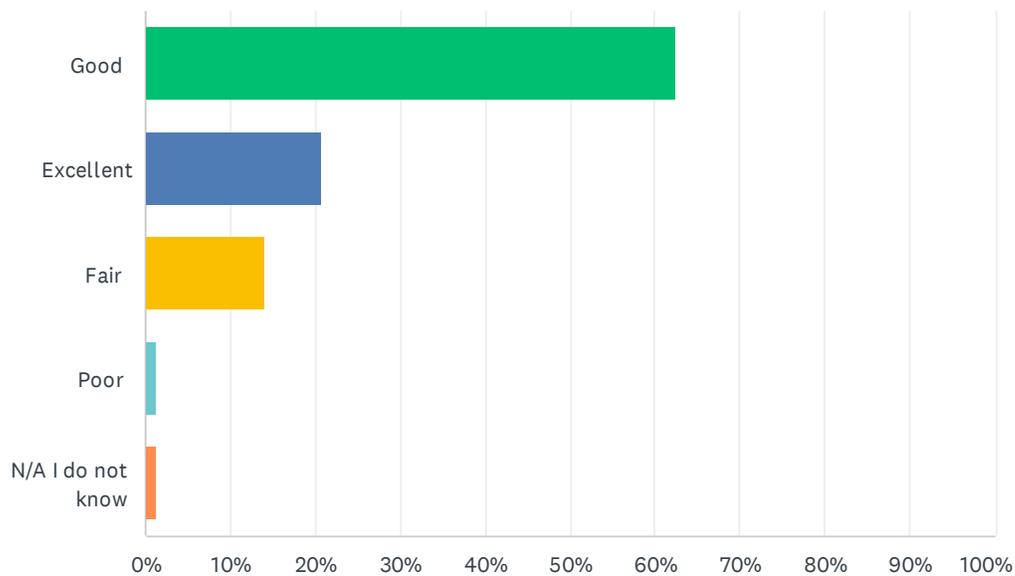
Answered: 1,122 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
At least weekly	32.62%	366
At least monthly	31.11%	349
At least six time a year	26.38%	296
Once a year	8.38%	94
Never	1.52%	17
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,122</b>

## Q2 How would you rate the overall quality of our park facilities?

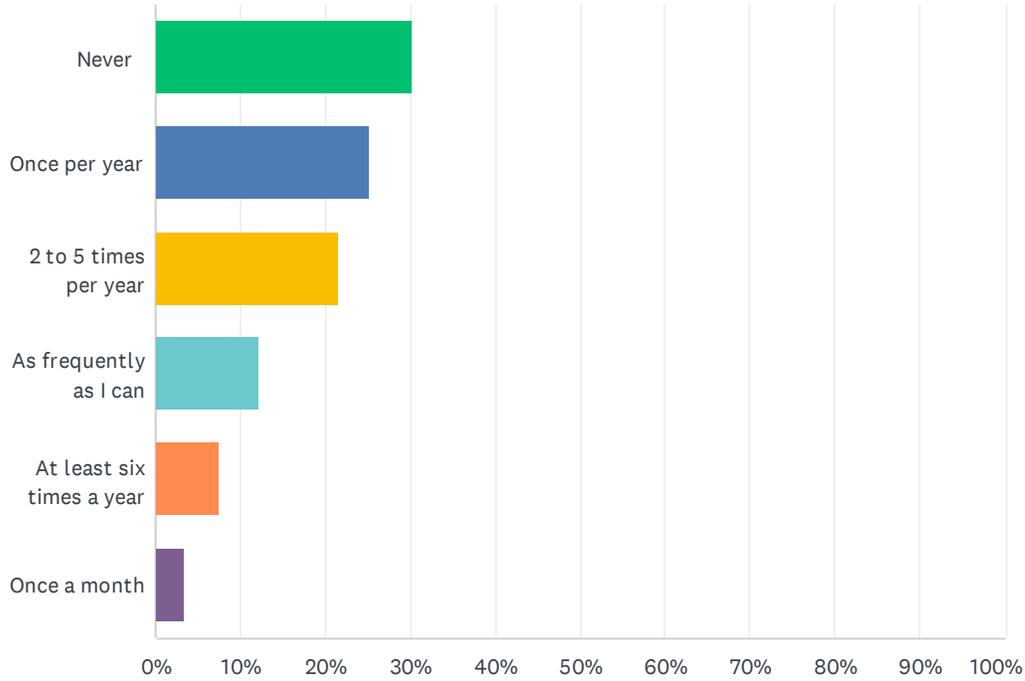
Answered: 1,122 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Good	62.57%	702
Excellent	20.59%	231
Fair	14.17%	159
Poor	1.34%	15
N/A I do not know	1.34%	15
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,122</b>

### Q3 How often do you participate in any Lafayette Parks and Recreation programs?

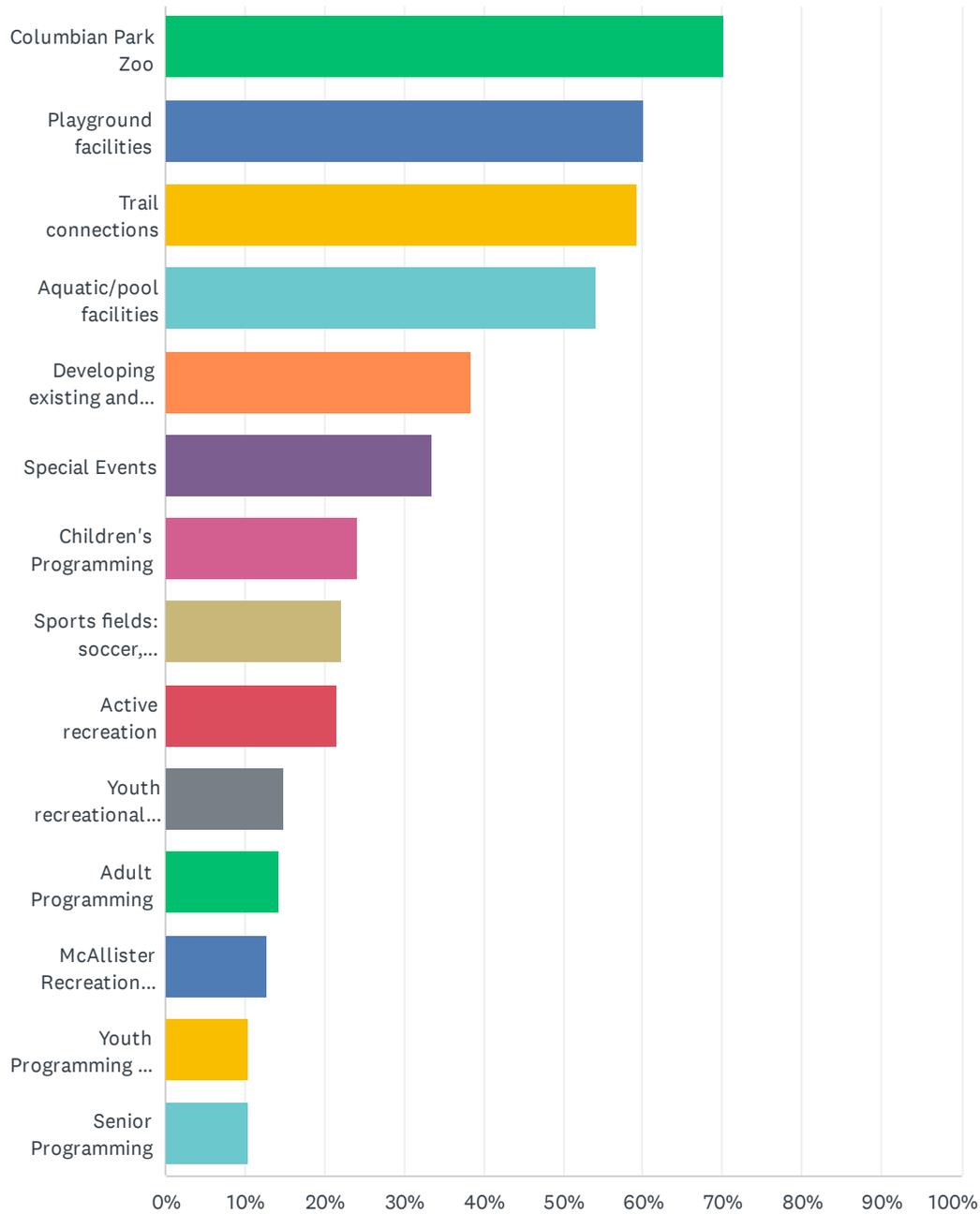
Answered: 1,122 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Never	30.21%	339
Once per year	25.22%	283
2 to 5 times per year	21.57%	242
As frequently as I can	12.21%	137
At least six times a year	7.40%	83
Once a month	3.39%	38
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,122</b>

## Q4 Please check the recreation facilities/services that are the most important to you!

Answered: 1,120 Skipped: 2

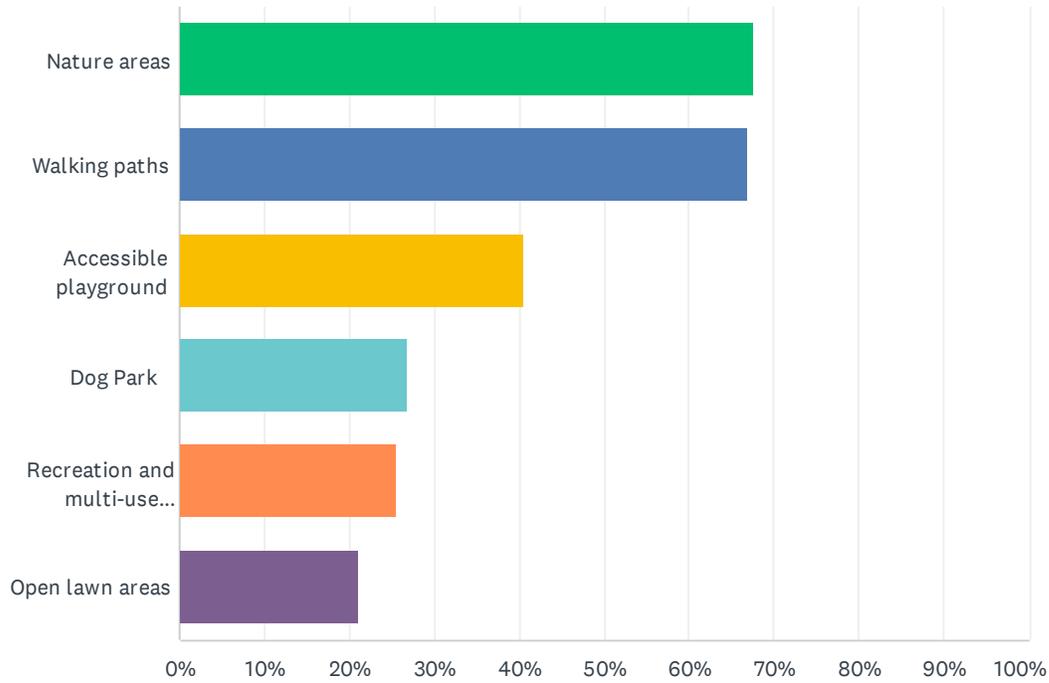


Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Columbian Park Zoo	70.09%	785
Playground facilities	60.09%	673
Trail connections	59.38%	665
Aquatic/pool facilities	54.11%	606
Developing existing and undeveloped park properties	38.30%	429
Special Events	33.39%	374
Children's Programming	24.20%	271
Sports fields: soccer, softball, baseball etc.	22.23%	249
Active recreation	21.52%	241
Youth recreational sports	15.00%	168
Adult Programming	14.20%	159
McAllister Recreation Center	12.77%	143
Youth Programming for Teenagers	10.54%	118
Senior Programming	10.45%	117
Total Respondents: 1,120		

## Q5 As Lafayette continues to grow, what types of park amenities would you like to see on the east or south side of the city?

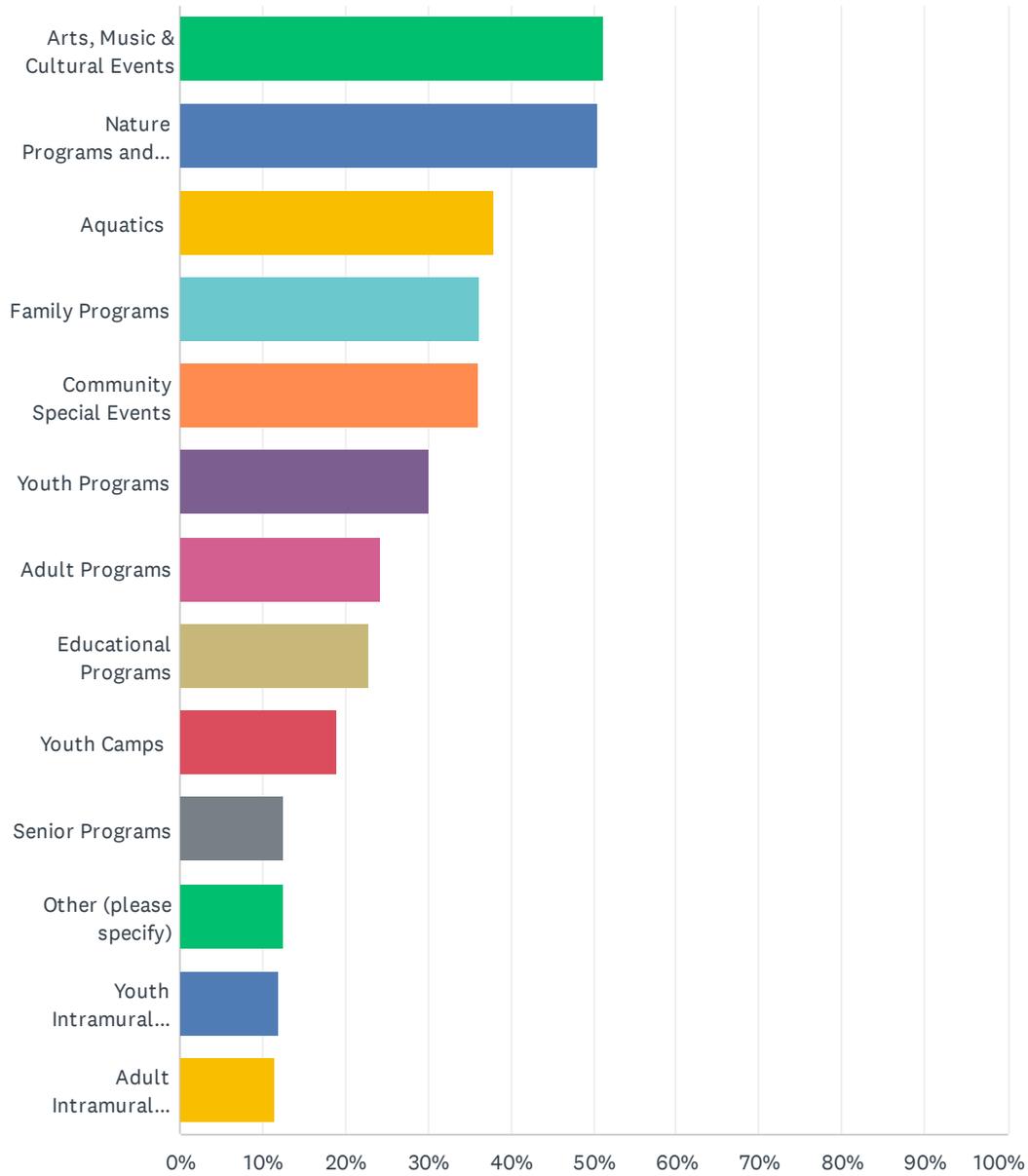
Answered: 1,122 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Nature areas	67.65%	759
Walking paths	66.84%	750
Accessible playground	40.46%	454
Dog Park	26.92%	302
Recreation and multi-use sports fields	25.58%	287
Open lawn areas	21.12%	237
Total Respondents: 1,122		

## Q6 What programs are you most interested in?

Answered: 1,122 Skipped: 0

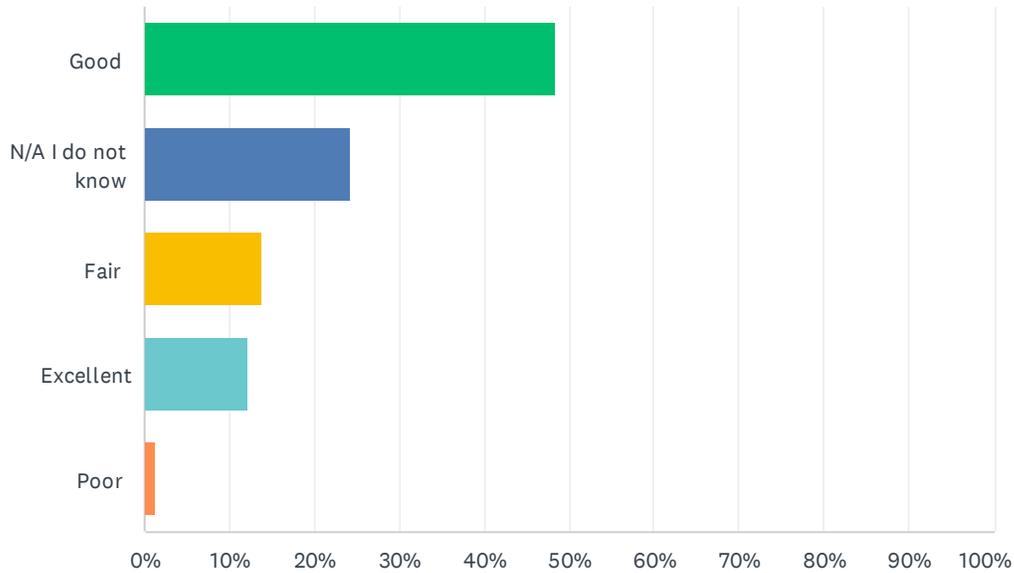


## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Arts, Music & Cultural Events	51.16%	574
Nature Programs and Activities	50.53%	567
Aquatics	37.88%	425
Family Programs	36.19%	406
Community Special Events	36.10%	405
Youth Programs	30.04%	337
Adult Programs	24.24%	272
Educational Programs	22.91%	257
Youth Camps	18.98%	213
Senior Programs	12.57%	141
Other (please specify)	12.57%	141
Youth Intramural Athletics	11.94%	134
Adult Intramural Athletics	11.59%	130
<b>Total Respondents: 1,122</b>		

## Q7 How would you rate the overall quality of our recreation programs and special events?

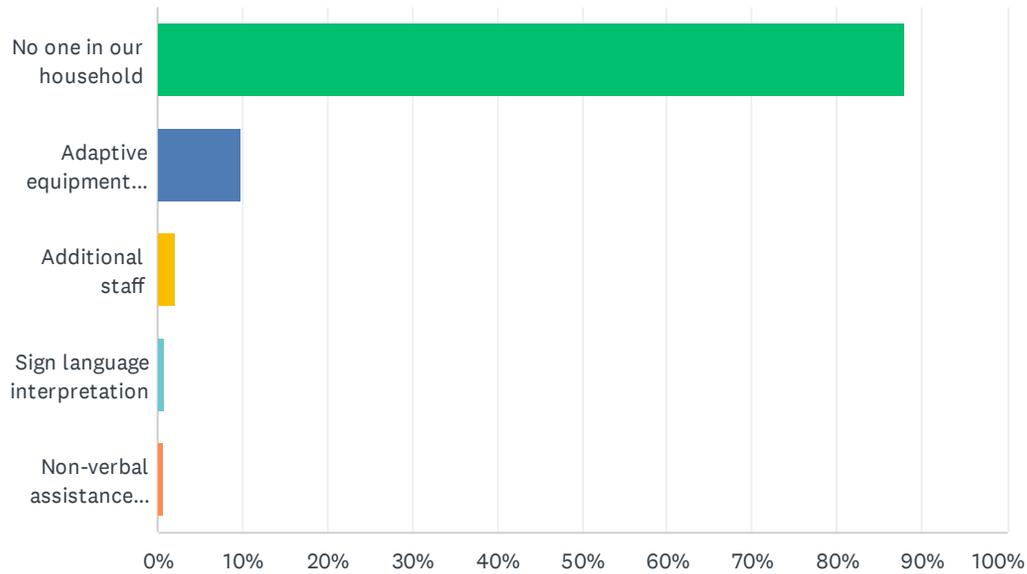
Answered: 1,122 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Good	48.40%	543
N/A I do not know	24.33%	273
Fair	13.90%	156
Excellent	12.12%	136
Poor	1.25%	14
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,122</b>

### Q8 Do any members of your household have a disability as defined by the American with Disabilities Act? If so, what type of accommodations are needed to serve those with disabilities in your family? Check all that apply

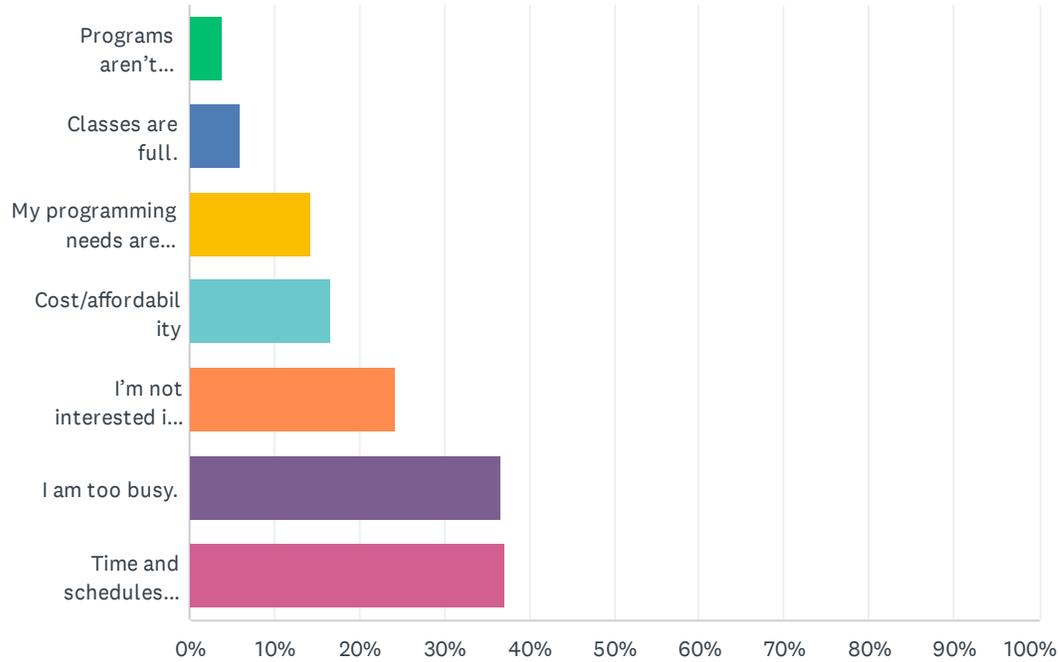
Answered: 1,089 Skipped: 33



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No one in our household	87.97%	958
Adaptive equipment (i.e., cane, walker, wheelchair, or motorized scooter)	9.73%	106
Additional staff	2.11%	23
Sign language interpretation	0.83%	9
Non-verbal assistance (braille)	0.64%	7
Total Respondents: 1,089		

## Q9 What prevents you from participating in Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department programs? (check all that apply)

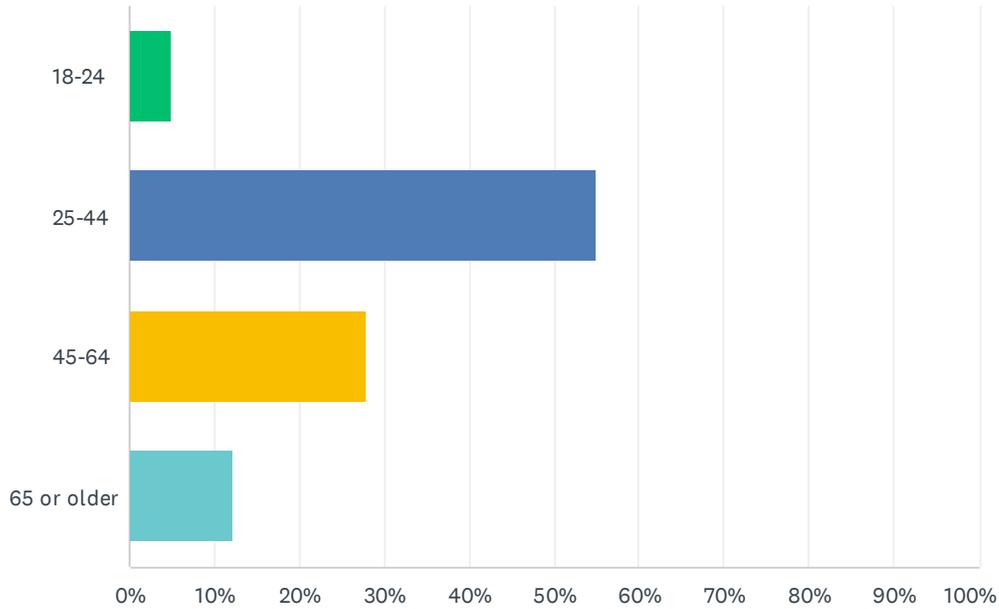
Answered: 980 Skipped: 142



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Programs aren't accessible for people with disabilities.	3.88%	38
Classes are full.	6.02%	59
My programming needs are fulfilled by other organizations.	14.29%	140
Cost/affordability	16.63%	163
I'm not interested in the activities offered.	24.29%	238
I am too busy.	36.63%	359
Time and schedules aren't convenient.	37.14%	364
Total Respondents: 980		

## Q10 Which age group best describes you?

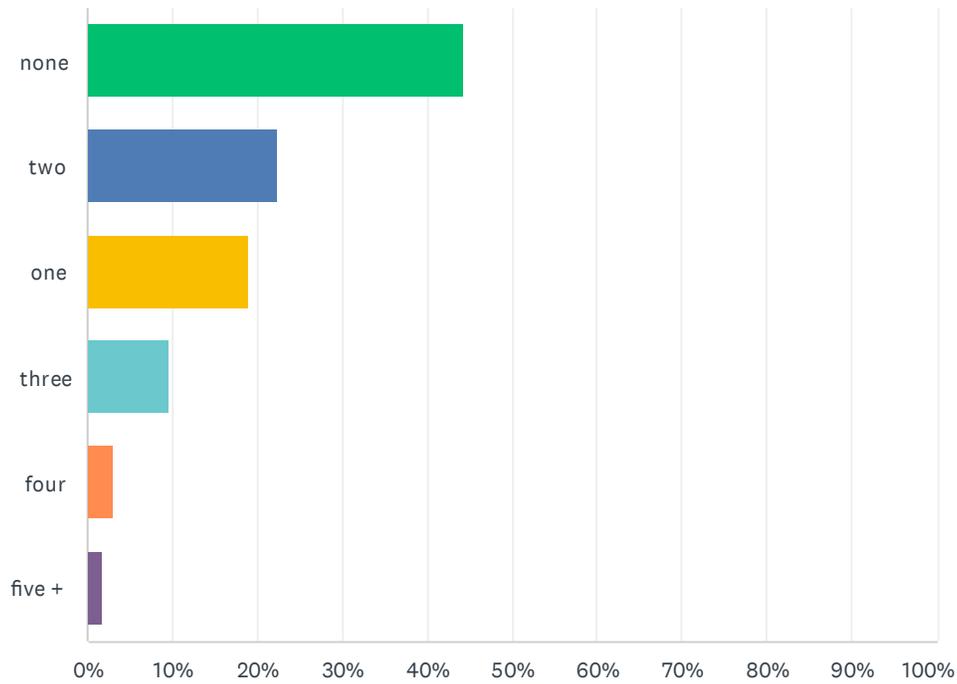
Answered: 1,122 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
18-24	4.90% 55
25-44	54.99% 617
45-64	27.99% 314
65 or older	12.12% 136
TOTAL	1,122

## Q11 How many children do you have living at home under the age of 18?

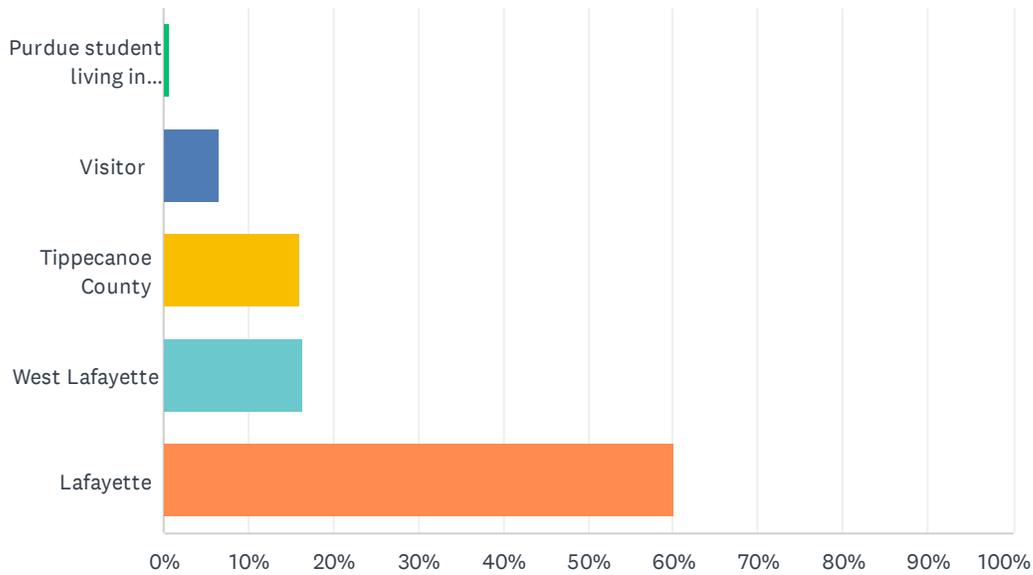
Answered: 1,122 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
none	44.30%	497
two	22.37%	251
one	18.98%	213
three	9.54%	107
four	3.03%	34
five +	1.78%	20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,122</b>

## Q12 Please indicate where your legal residence is the Lafayette area?

Answered: 1,122 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Purdue student living in Lafayette	0.71%	8
Visitor	6.60%	74
Tippecanoe County	16.04%	180
West Lafayette	16.49%	185
Lafayette	60.16%	675
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,122</b>

## Q13 Thank you for your participation! If you have any other comments or suggestions for the Lafayette Parks and Recreation, please share those here.

Answered: 430 Skipped: 692

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Programs: Lafayette Citizen's Band! Thank you for preparing the carousel! Hopefully, Vic is well enough to attend the opening since he has bugged Claudine and others to bring back the merry-go-round and other rides within the carousel.	7/18/2023 10:01 AM
2	Please, please, please restructure the playground! The giant hill in the middle has been a menace since the day the playground was installed. Most people have more than one child/grandchild of different ages with them at the playground. The hill in the middle prevents parents/grandparents from watching kids at two different play areas at the same time. I have a five-year-old grandson and two year old granddaughter. My grandson only wants to play at the top of the hill. The top of the hill is too large/dangerous for the two year old to play on. It is nearly impossible to take them there. We are members of the zoo and visit frequently, but I have to distract them from the playground as it is nearly impossible to take them there at the same time. This has been an issue since the beginning, when my four children were young. I have talked to many people over the years that had the same issue. It would be so much better. It's a Playground were flat.	7/17/2023 11:15 AM
3	The Park and Rec website isn't very good. It's very hard to find any information on it and it's not updated well. As someone who works closely with a Parks and Rec Specialist on many CRPOS and Park Master Plans, giving a "facelift" to three major community parks at once leaving families with small kids limited places to play during the summer wasn't a good idea. That should have been phased better. The reconstruction on the tennis courts has also taken a very long time. My son has been begging to play tennis all summer, but there are no courts there. And the Columbian Park playground is in desperate need of a good Master Plan done by a landscape architect. The playground has too many blindspots. We don't ever do playdates there because every mother I know agrees with me on that.	7/16/2023 10:55 PM
4	Regarding the disabilities question, we have an autistic child with multiple sensory processing deficiencies. He hates the new Loeb Stadium and refuses to go with us to Aviators games because it's sensory overload, especially noise. There was no option to request sensory accommodations.	7/16/2023 9:09 PM
5	We need a splash ad/park for kids to enjoy during the hot summer.	7/15/2023 7:51 PM
6	The playground at Columbian Park is awful. That hill in the middle makes it impossible to keep an eye on multiple children who have to be in different spaces due to age.	7/15/2023 11:28 AM
7	- have a playground incorporated into the new monkey exhibit (St.Louis Zoo has this - it's a tree fort playground that has the exhibit built in). Amazing for children. - have antique car ride (on a track) at Columbian Park and have students from GLCA (career academy locally) upkeep / service the modified cars. The teacher is Craig Locker who teaches the automotive class - <a href="mailto:clocker@glca.k12.in.us">clocker@glca.k12.in.us</a> - have watch parties at the park for large sporting events (Purdue games, colts games, world cups, Olympics) - add in more local splash pads throughout Lafayette parks	7/14/2023 10:07 PM
8	My toddlers absolutely love the water play area just inside the entrance to the zoo grounds.	7/14/2023 9:31 PM
9	Safety is a big concern. We don't visit in the evenings.	7/14/2023 6:51 PM
10	A lot of Purdue students do not know about Tropicanoe Cove. The season pass is very expensive for a single college student, so some kind of student discount or single person season pass would be great!	7/13/2023 9:55 PM
11	Dog parks could really use improvement and increased locations on the south side and east side would be very beneficial.	7/13/2023 9:02 PM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

12	More shade near playgrounds, like McCaw where the sun just beats down on the playground and nearby area, maybe by planting trees and/or adding some shade structures.	7/13/2023 1:41 PM
13	I'm interested in nature programs. I always wish that Murdock Park could be turned into a nature/learning center with marked trails and a facility like what's at the Celery Bog in W. Lafayette. Remove the disk golf! The people who use that course have trampled the ground and it killed the undergrowth. Also, is this going to happen? <a href="https://www.jconline.com/story/opinion/columnists/dave-bangert/2016/05/04/bangert-whats-next-old-lafayette-golf-course/83881112/">https://www.jconline.com/story/opinion/columnists/dave-bangert/2016/05/04/bangert-whats-next-old-lafayette-golf-course/83881112/</a>	7/12/2023 4:38 PM
14	Lafayette Parks and Recreation needs to expand to include facilities west of Old US 231. My wife and I live in the Old Romney Heights Subdivision and two places we think could be considered for potential acquisition are the section of land at the intersection of Twyckenham and Old Romney Road which is currently agricultural land and the section of Ortman Road which ends at new US 231 but does not exit onto this highway. This land on the northside of Ortman is basically overgrown weeds, but close to a new apartment complex and other subdivisions. My wife and I have lived here for over 22 years and have seen significant housing growth in this area which includes 2020 U.S. Census tract maps 15.01 and 16.01 <a href="https://www.stats.indiana.edu/maptools/maps/boundary/tracts-2020/2020-tracts_Tippecanoe.pdf">https://www.stats.indiana.edu/maptools/maps/boundary/tracts-2020/2020-tracts_Tippecanoe.pdf</a> Thank you for your consideration. Bert Chapman chapmanb@purdue.edu	7/12/2023 8:50 AM
15	Would love to see splash pads (free access) added to existing parks. A playground similar to the one at Butterfly Park in Valparaiso would be amazing. A new recreation center similar to the one in West Lafayette with an indoor swimming pool.	7/12/2023 8:33 AM
16	A splash pad!	7/11/2023 7:55 PM
17	in ground trampolines and parks with new activities for all ages	7/11/2023 6:48 PM
18	Build a skate park and BMX pump track. Lafayette Also needs to focus on multi use trails as a right and a public good not a recreational amenity. The South Street and Creasy lane areas are awful and could have large paths like West Lafayette has on its major roads.	7/11/2023 5:38 PM
19	Invest more into the teenage demographic. There is very little specifically geared towards them. Obviously there are school programs, but a skate park and/or bmx/ mountain biking course would be awesome! I understand the liabilities that can come from such things, but so do the teens. Also, use Katie's Cabin for disc golf concessions! Like a golf course pro shop. Sell discs, shirts, concessions etc and promote the courses. More small concerts aimed at a younger demographic! Some things take time to build (promote), but I believe in the long run, Lafayette could be an awesome destination for smaller bands.	7/11/2023 8:06 AM
20	I would like to see more summer concerts. I like the Country Music Venues and 70's, 80's, and 90's Pop/Rock/Country	7/11/2023 8:04 AM
21	I have seen a lot of updating at many parks in the Lafayette area. But one that needs to repair is the large playground at the top of the hill in Colombian Park. The broken areas have been boarded off for at least a year now. This is such a popular park and should not be allowed to fall into disrepair.	7/10/2023 5:17 PM
22	Please replace the changing tables in the bathrooms outside the zoo and please make sure there are changing tables on both the men's and womens restrooms	7/10/2023 4:44 PM
23	Better promotion of events and or classes.	7/10/2023 4:02 PM
24	Need to build turf baseball and softball fields. More tournaments need to be hosted in Lafayette. Hire someone to promote tournaments. The economic impact would be greatly effected.	7/10/2023 3:57 PM
25	Get rid of the zoo director	7/10/2023 3:40 PM
26	I would like to see more focus on native plants and pollinator gardens and more invasive removal. A skate park for kids would be nice. An ice skating rink would be great.	7/10/2023 3:26 PM
27	Lafayette's parks are top notch. I'm very proud of what our community has to offer in terms of outdoor amenities!	7/10/2023 3:24 PM
28	It would be fantastic to have an ice rink in the area. We have to drive for an hour to find one currently.	6/28/2023 10:41 PM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

29	We should be building on the wonderful mountain bike trails at Hoffman Nature area. Look into Velo Solutions Pump tracks. I am aware of various groups of kids and adults who travel regularly to Brown County State Park and Griffin Bike Park to ride bikes on fun trails every weekend. Let's keep them in Lafayette to spend their money here every weekend. Let's build bike trails for kids, trails with more wooden features like ramps and jumps and bridges, and a pump track. We can make Lafayette a mountain biking destination as good as our neighbors in Nashville and Terre Haute Indiana!	6/27/2023 11:40 AM
30	Thanks for doing a survey. I hope bike trails become a thing	6/24/2023 12:07 PM
31	Bike trails have improved but it would be nice if there were more. It's a great way for all ages to get exercise. Paved and non-paved trails for mountain biking are nice.	6/23/2023 4:11 PM
32	More mountain bike trails would be nice	6/23/2023 2:34 PM
33	The Wabash Heritage Trail should be designated as cycling safe; the organizations in the county are responsible members of the community and would not trash the trail when conditions are suboptimal. The Heritage Trail is a major connector for families and community groups to access the Fort or Prophetstown from the city.	6/23/2023 11:28 AM
34	I am let down that this survey doesn't even mention bike trails. We need more opportunities to take kids bike riding on dirt trails in nature like at the amphitheater. Look into skills parks and bike pump tracks. Kids love riding bikes and it is a great mental and physical health activity. We focus too much on locked up baseball fields at our parks, team sports are not for all kids, and can be too competitive and unhealthy. We need kids to be able to experience nature and exercise in a fun and exciting way, not just riding bikes on the sidewalks of their neighborhood. As an adult I also would love to be able to ride my bike across town, get my car off the road, but not have to worry about getting run over. We need bike trails that have physically protected lanes, I am an experienced rider and do not feel safe riding close to cars in this town. Check out the pump track and skills park at Griffin Bike Park that Vigo Parks & Rec manages in Terre Haute. Kids get SO excited about these simple to build and maintain bike trail features. Lafayette can be so much more than the typical Midwest town that only focuses on sitting around watching their kids stand around playing team sports. Let's create some more progressive and exciting parks for more diverse interests and get on the map! Check out Griffin & Brown County in Indiana. Bend Oregon and especially Bentonville Arkansas. Bentonville is a small town that has become a tourist destination, bringing in money because they understand families want to be on trails together, seeing nature, being together, challenging themselves and having fun on bike trails!	6/23/2023 8:56 AM
35	Love what you're doing with the Hoffman Nature trail.	6/23/2023 8:44 AM
36	More Mountain Bike trails, connector trails. Open Heritage to bikes	6/22/2023 9:23 PM
37	More commitment to accessible trails via bicycle. Work with local groups to create that connection and also establish new areas.	6/22/2023 8:25 PM
38	Please help grow safe natural trail connections for cyclists!!! It would help the community by having safe connectors to mountain bike trails and support for the Tippecanoe Mountain Bike Association (TMBA) - which is a non-profit of volunteers creating trails for the community in Tippecanoe County. Right now we have to drive to go from trail to trail as there are NO safe routes that allow cyclists to be free from heavy traffic and aggressive drivers. I have lived this experience as being run off the road on 9th street multiple times and having drinks thrown at me while I'm on my bike. This is not acceptable. If we can provide education to the community and more space for safe cycling, then we can grow a healthy and supportive community. I appreciate all that the Parks & Rec do and hope that you can help with this ask.	6/22/2023 6:09 PM
39	Would love to see more mountain bike trails and bike paths	6/22/2023 5:45 PM
40	The new paved trail on Salisbury has used lots of resources and doesn't seem safe or user friendly. It's very dangerous to have a bike trail right next to a street bike trail that crosses so many streets and driveways. The road is now less safe for traffic due to the reduced size. I'm a little frustrated that the goals seem to be with good intentions, but we are so concerned with executing the exact idea without thorough thought process that might impact safety and benefiting-the-good-of-the-community to say "look we added/connected a trail." I love the trail system and use them frequently, but sometimes I feel the city gets lost in ideas.	6/22/2023 12:42 PM
41	Develop something like the old police bmx track down by the old golf course. The area would be great for a pump track that would serve bikers skaters and scooters. As a member of the	6/22/2023 7:16 AM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

cycling community the younger riders need closer places to ride our trail systems at the amphitheater and Americus or not close enough

42	Hey, ever visited zionsville or carmel? How about those multiple FREE splash pads and green spaces? If lafayette wants to attract and keep young families, we need these community amenities. Lots of indiana cities have them. Why can't we? Splash pads are low effort for families of young children to pack up and get to! And what's up with the pool hours? So limited! Do better, lafayette. If we want people to enjoy living here and staying here, we can start with these basics. Thank you for asking for opinions and best of luck with your plans.	6/21/2023 4:43 PM
43	Please make a splash pad on the west side!	6/20/2023 9:09 AM
44	Safety: Sufficient lighting along trails and security of some some kind. We love the trails but often feel unsafe on them especially if it is just myself and the kids.	6/20/2023 7:58 AM
45	I would love to see a splash pad for children added to our community!!	6/19/2023 10:28 PM
46	Love all our parks but would be happy with some new nature areas or waking paths	6/19/2023 10:14 PM
47	More pocket parks in neighborhood communities. Having a park/pocket park within reasonable walking distance or neighborhoods or downtown areas. ADA accessible parks. Maintenance of ongoing established water parks/zos. Colombian Park is a benchmark of what all parks should be. A place that is inviting for everyday use and to hosting community events.	6/19/2023 2:32 PM
48	There seems to be a lack of ethnically diverse music events!	6/19/2023 2:29 PM
49	Pickleball Courts!	6/18/2023 2:19 PM
50	Lafayette's parks are some of the finest in the state. I look forward to what's coming next!	6/18/2023 10:59 AM
51	My family loves nature trails like Happy Hollow. We love to cookout with our family and scout troop. I'd enjoy art, exercise and gardening classes in the park. Safety and keeping our parks beautiful are important.	6/17/2023 10:55 PM
52	Bring back the merry-go-round	6/17/2023 3:24 PM
53	bring back turn pikes and rides for all ages	6/17/2023 2:42 PM
54	Columbian park children's play area needs redone. New and better equipment on top of that hill	6/17/2023 8:58 AM
55	I didn't know there was programming thru parks so going to look them up now!	6/16/2023 11:23 PM
56	Would like to have obstacle courses, excercises, motivations, at more parks, like what they had about 20 years ago at happy hallow park.	6/16/2023 8:27 PM
57	The parks need to focus on sustainability and encouraging young people to engage with nature. Think about how inaccessible the buses can be, how few sidewalks, etc. one should not have to ride in a car to be able to enjoy nature but that is very much the case here. Every undeveloped corner should become a community gathering place, with accessible transportation and walk ability included as apart of its access.	6/16/2023 11:20 AM
58	Where is the Merry Go Round? More Parking Swing bottoms back to the wide hard rubber More infant swings More Food trucks Separate park for young adults/no kids with places to swing/read with trees/shade structures, water feature, pool for lap swimming & lazy river floating/water walking, indoor structure with restroom facilities and cafe, study areas/rooms.	6/16/2023 10:47 AM
59	I truly feel that our area is in great need of a bike/skateboard park. With Faith East tearing theirs down, there is a great need for this. We drive to Indy or Kokomo to access these facilities. Just a suggestion that seems could be a great addition to an already thriving community and county. Thank you.	6/16/2023 10:44 AM
60	Parks and Rec does a fantastic job in Greater Lafayette. We especially enjoy the West Lafayette Wellness Center facilities and would like to single out Heather Wiltse for doing such a great job there!	6/16/2023 9:46 AM
61	GLRSA needs more soccer fields!!!! We need SAFE parks and playgrounds that mothers feel comfortable visiting with children.	6/16/2023 8:38 AM
62	Stop importing low income garbage, we understand jobs here need "bodies" but they're lazy and undesirable not to mention a complete burden to our economy as a hole. I'm looking to move before my child hits the educational system. As for the parks, I don't want my child	6/16/2023 3:23 AM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

rubbing elbows with the garbage that often floods the parks sometimes. What ends up happening is those that pay the taxes don't end up using the parks in a capacity in which people who pay little to nothing in taxes. Those low income people should be charged admission fees.

63	I've always thought there is a baseball field shortage in Lafayette. Can we invest in an 8 field park to ease the pressure at Armstrong park's 3 fields trying to take care of so many ages? And be a place to host tournaments and bring in people/business from out of town?	6/16/2023 12:13 AM
64	Lafayette and Purdues campus have a rapidly growing disc golf course, and adding a new course to a park within the city would bring a lot of traffic into town from surrounding areas. Outside of Lafayette there is a real shortage of courses within 40 miles, and with the McAllister courses, a new course could make Lafayette a real hub for the sport in Indiana!	6/15/2023 10:21 PM
65	Disc Golf is a very slow investment option. Course upkeep is important but only really involves regular mowing/trimming. We love your local club and courses and visit as often as we return. Thanks!	6/15/2023 10:06 PM
66	If restrooms aren't available, could portable toilets be available	6/15/2023 9:20 PM
67	I visit other cities and see their parks. Greater Lafayette seems to lack a good budget for our parks dept. Lack of trash receptacles, mowing, maintenance, etc...	6/15/2023 9:13 PM
68	My only other comment is how grateful I am that the Lafayette Parks Department has invested in disc golf! I love being out in nature with a purpose, and disc golf is my favorite way to do it.	6/15/2023 9:05 PM
69	It would have been nice to see Disc Golf as an option for several of the questions	6/15/2023 8:41 PM
70	Please continue to improve the disc golf courses and look into adding new ones... perhaps one at Lake Harner.	6/15/2023 8:39 PM
71	Disc golf is among the top of fastest growing sports. It's affordable and family friendly. I have donated/volunteered hundreds of hours over the last several years with the local club. It would be nice if the city/parks department would step up and chip in more on efforts to build and maintain the great work the disc golf club has done. Courses are lacking trash cans, restroom facilities...	6/15/2023 8:34 PM
72	One more dedicated disc golf course would set the Lafayette area as a major destination for recreational and competitive disc golf in the state. Looking at examples such as emporia Kansas and Peoria Illinois there's amazing potential for our city.	6/15/2023 8:05 PM
73	More disc golf	6/15/2023 7:38 PM
74	DISC GOLF	6/15/2023 7:13 PM
75	Expanding the walking/jogging trail system.	6/15/2023 7:06 PM
76	I wish the parks department did more to help build and improve our disc golf options in the area.	6/15/2023 6:53 PM
77	I would love to have a big ice skating rink! Also other winter sports activities. Waking trails would be nice. Biking trails would be nice, too.	6/15/2023 6:24 PM
78	Would love to see more/improvements disc golf courses in the area	6/15/2023 6:07 PM
79	Love the parks!! Utilize the disc golf course primarily	6/15/2023 6:00 PM
80	Disc golf was no where on survey!!	6/15/2023 5:33 PM
81	Love the big disc golf scene in Lafayette Thank you for giving it to us!	6/15/2023 5:18 PM
82	I do a home daycare so answered based on the daycare needs not so much our family. I do have an older handicapped daughter so I do appreciate accessible items in the parks too. I wish those would have been there when she was young. Thanks for all the hard work! The parks are really getting AMAZING! I miss the big pool at Columbian Park, but I do love all the things that have been done to turn it into an absolutely beautiful park!	6/15/2023 5:16 PM
83	Used to live in Lafayette, moved to Rossville last year but still work and play in Lafayette. We utilize park facilities weekly. Restrooms at parks are important to our family with young children. Would love to see a splash pad at a park for free or small cost	6/15/2023 5:14 PM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

84	I appreciate the fact that we have several disc golf courses locally, and really like the Murdock upgrades. I would love to see more improvements to disc golf!!	6/15/2023 5:04 PM
85	More physical restrooms with running water and toilets that flush in parks, especially McAllister Park!! Also give access to these toilets all year around.	6/15/2023 4:29 PM
86	Please continue with the improvements made at Columbian park and others. Also consider keeping public pools open PAST the start of school, maybe on the weekends?	6/15/2023 3:36 PM
87	Get rid of the zoo.	6/15/2023 2:43 PM
88	The zoo is deplorable. Those poor animals are miserable.	6/15/2023 2:41 PM
89	Need something on far south side. Maybe by the new Wea library. Pool. Trails.	6/15/2023 2:27 PM
90	I spend most of my time in Armstrong Park. I love how the areas are separated so it feels intimate and not overly busy. Those of us enjoying the natural areas aren't bothered by the people enjoying the sports areas loudly. Super family friendly, lots of visible wildlife. Keep up the good work!! The abundant native plants are very important to me. Our community includes the healthy plant-insect-bird-turtle (etc) community!!	6/15/2023 2:24 PM
91	One suggestion would be security walking throughout the park. There are too many weirdos and trouble that goes on at many of the parks that if I would want to take my daughter by myself I would not feel comfortable.	6/15/2023 2:04 PM
92	Please please please develop Kennedy Park further! It's a wonderful little area that lots of people visit. It would be great to have a better playground and bathrooms there.	6/15/2023 2:01 PM
93	I would use more if I felt safe. I'm old. Easy target. Parking is also issue.	6/15/2023 1:55 PM
94	We would love to have a playground on the south side of town by Wea Ridge Library.	6/15/2023 12:55 PM
95	Can we please get some parks that either have fences or don't have a body of water? My son is autistic and I am terrified to take him and my other child to the park because there is nothing between the playground equipment and the water. At Armstrong park the playground is on a steep hill directly above the water. All it takes is a short run and a fall. I'm surprised no one has drowned yet, and I'm wondering how many other parents are just choosing not to use parks instead of being constantly paranoid about safety. In CA, all the parks have fences to keep kids out of the roads. I wouldn't think that would be hard to implement.	6/15/2023 12:27 PM
96	A splash pad for kids would be nice.	6/15/2023 12:25 PM
97	Getting information out about Lafayette parks and recs programs and services could be strengthened. I'm really interested in doing more but don't hear of what is going on	6/15/2023 11:54 AM
98	I know we're adding more Pickleball courts but I'm wondering if that will be enough. I'm amazed at crowds at mccaaw compared to a year or so ago.	6/15/2023 11:45 AM
99	I just want to reiterate the absolute need for more homeschool and special needs things. There really is a large community of both in this area. You could make a lot of money and provide an invaluable service by offering things to those groups.	6/15/2023 11:02 AM
100	I love the larger parks, especially Columbian Park. I would love to see some money go towards updating the smaller neighborhood parks across town.	6/15/2023 10:57 AM
101	Need pickleball courts on the south end of town with adequate parking available. Too bad that Lafayette missed the boat on building a nice, multi-field complex to host travel/club youth baseball tournaments. Lafayette area teams drive to Kokomo, Indy area, Columbus, Crown Point every weekend for tournaments at those very nice venues contributing lots of \$\$\$ to those local economies rather than bringing that revenue (from non-local teams) to Lafayette. I do really like the current concept of hiring youth to help maintain and operate the local parks...a win-win in my opinion (if you can find responsible kids willing to work).	6/15/2023 10:31 AM
102	Love Art in the Park	6/15/2023 10:31 AM
103	A park that incorporates water, art, music and food with retail. Look at Mishawakas Beutter Park area. Diverted the river into the park and made it a great way to enjoy the river. Great multi use space that generates activity all year long. Incorporates Farmers Market. Too much is downtown here, not as easily accessible. Beutter has large parking area that can be used for events as well.	6/15/2023 10:29 AM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

104	Adaptive programs and sensory equipment for individuals with autism would be nice. A sensory free swim day where there was no music playing or fountains running would be lovely.	6/15/2023 10:26 AM
105	Would love to see some free splash pad area at local parks! This is a very common thing. At parks in the Carmel and Fishers area.	6/15/2023 10:13 AM
106	It would be great to have an updated roller hockey rink. The Shamrock Park facility is not maintained, and a proper rink/multi-use facility will get much more community involvement.	6/15/2023 10:10 AM
107	Lafayette's trail connection should be improved (being developed very randomly)	6/15/2023 6:55 AM
108	Columbian Park playground equipment could use an update	6/14/2023 4:29 PM
109	Could we make or bring a smaller slide to Hedgewood park? It's my neighborhood park and when my daughter was a toddler the slide that is there was way too tall. It's dangerous for little toddlers in our neighborhood.	6/14/2023 12:49 PM
110	All of the pools close at 6pm, except for an occasional 8pm closing. It would really benefit parents and grandparents for pools to be open until 8pm. There are not enough things in Lafayette to do, and the pool is a great way to create more family time and keep kids active during the summer months.	6/14/2023 10:23 AM
111	Would love to see more kids water features at parks (simple things like the water jets at the entry to the Zoo). And an increased budget for maintaining or replacing playground equipment. The Columbian Park playground seems to always have portions that are broken. Let's budget for quicker repairs or more frequent replacements of equipment, knowing that it wears down quickly.	6/14/2023 8:14 AM
112	I think that West Lafayette/Lafayette area need better skating facility. There are a few options: 1) hockey-sized indoor ice rink Or 2) Increase the size of existing Riverside Skating Rink and make a roof to extend the season.	6/13/2023 9:32 PM
113	We need a hockey rink	6/13/2023 5:58 PM
114	Develop those trail missing links! Thanks!	6/13/2023 5:55 PM
115	In the original master plan for the Columbian park pool, there was a pool for lap swimming. I would like to see this happen. Lafayette does not have any place to lap swim outdoors that is open to the public. Lafayette parks should provide things that I can not do at my house, like a 25 yard swimming pool and multi use trails for biking and walking. The playground at Columbian park also needs to be replaced.	6/13/2023 5:45 PM
116	More multi-use rail trails would be super great! And maybe more pocket parks.	6/13/2023 5:00 PM
117	There are more disabilities that need assistance than what you are offering in the one question about what is needed to accommodate the disabled (question no 8), at least add an other section with a text box.	6/13/2023 4:33 PM
118	No	6/13/2023 3:44 PM
119	Splashpad, PLEASE!! (One not connected to the expensive aquatic facilities). We have such great Parks overall, it's hard to believe we have to drive to Remington, Frankfort, Indy, etc for any kind of splashpad selection. Also a better playground for "big kids" would be awesome (bigger/steeper slides, more of a challenge to climb up to them, bigger obstacle course apparatus, etc., ex: Inlow Park in Carmel).	6/13/2023 2:23 PM
120	Wednesday in the Wild is excellent. Securing more land especially by creeks and the Wabash for recreation is important	6/13/2023 1:40 PM
121	I find it interesting that Question 5 only deals with the South and East side of Lafayette. (I tried to not answer, but you would not accept my survey). You are totally ignoring the North End. I'm talking about the area North of Union Street and west of 9th Street. The South side has several beautiful parks. We find none of that in the North side. I do not consider the Northside Community Center because it is not a Park and is run by Faith Church having many limiting rules...no dancing etc. It is not very welcoming. As for green space parks, we have none; sad because this neighborhood desperately needs this. To access a park, we have to walk a great distance or drive or take the bus. I realize we do not have a lot of areas of size available for a pond that you can walk around, or a dog park, or courts, etc. but this end of town is part of Lafayette. We pay our taxes just like every citizen. When will you invest money into one of the	6/13/2023 1:37 PM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

oldest neighborhoods of the city? I'm also pretty sure you will not receive a lot of surveys from this end of town.

122	Most urban areas this size have an indoor skating rink for hockey, figure skating and recreational skating. Please include this in your future plans! Thank you!	6/13/2023 12:19 PM
123	Please consider doing an adult sand volleyball or golfing league as well. The adult sports leagues around here as a whole don't offer many options.	6/13/2023 11:51 AM
124	It would be great to have an ice skating facility which would also allow for playing hockey all year around.	6/13/2023 11:36 AM
125	The city needs indoor hockey size ice rink.	6/13/2023 7:38 AM
126	We'd love to see adult tennis and pickleball leagues available and would participate in evening or weekend dance classes for adults if offered.	6/13/2023 5:30 AM
127	Would be really nice with a real indoor ice rink. The Riverside skating center is too small and the season is too short. Feels like our city is big enough to sustain a real full-sized rink. That's what I would prioritize investing in.	6/12/2023 10:47 PM
128	1. Develop a network of walking/biking trails that connect all of the Lafayette and West Lafayette parks. 2. Develop additional rails to trails paved linear parks. A trail from Lafayette Parks to Prophetstown State Park would be an excellent addition. Another leg of that trail could continue on to historic Battle Ground and Wolf Park. Compared to many other parts of Indiana, Tippecanoe County is definitely way behind in developing paved rail/trails. 3. Repave the Lafayette Linear Park from 18th street to the bench under the Twyckenham Blvd. overpass.	6/12/2023 10:44 PM
129	I would love to see movie nights in the park, baby playgrounds (padded - no mulch and low to the ground equipment), splash pads, and more hiking trails in Lafayette.	6/12/2023 10:41 PM
130	Ur life guards should stop wearing bikinis it is inappropriate for children	6/12/2023 3:51 PM
131	I have 9 grandchildren ages 1 to 18 that live in Tippecanoe and 7 others that visit. I am always looking for low cost activities I can take them to. I love to take my 1, 3, 5, and 7 year old grandchildren to the zoo and Columbian Park. Sometimes my older grandchildren come too. I have a grandparent's pass to the zoo.	6/12/2023 3:41 PM
132	I wish you would bring back evening water walking and lower the cost of participating in it. At this time, it is more expensive than a summer pool pass if you went every day and paid for the 11 weeks it's running.	6/12/2023 1:49 PM
133	I wish the Columbian Park had a paved path and/or steps leading up the hill to the largest playground. It is such a hassle going up that giant hill with kids and a stroller!	6/12/2023 1:16 PM
134	Would be nice to have an option for a hockey sized ice rink.	6/12/2023 1:14 PM
135	As most, I grew up with several adult and children options at the Columbian Park. It is now for children only. Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, Scrambler, Twister, Large slides, Large swings... There is also no reason for penquins to live in this climate.	6/12/2023 12:30 PM
136	Please add trails to Lafayette side of the community! The West side has done such a good job, but it's not always convenient to go to the other side of the community to bike and walk. The Lafayette side is growing so quickly, please be thinking about putting trails in before it's too late to incorporate them well. Also, a note about adult activities and programming - I do like water walking during the summer. Sometimes it doesn't fit my schedule, but I do enjoy it. As far as arts/music/other adult programming - I have signed up for classes offered by the West Lafayette Parks and Rec before. I've done several dance classes, yoga, and art. Enjoyed those things tremendously. McAllister is maybe too far north in town to put all of that kind of programming at that facility, but please think about offering similar programming on either south or east side of Lafayette.	6/12/2023 12:03 PM
137	#9 I don't hear about what programs you have to offer.	6/12/2023 11:52 AM
138	I urge Lafayette Parks and Recreation to keep the Roller Rink open at Shamrock Park. I have been playing roller hockey there since the 1990s.	6/12/2023 11:49 AM
139	Downtown needs children's activities/pocket playground. Also more dog friendly. The streetscape left dogs out.	6/12/2023 11:31 AM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

140	I would love to see splash pads in some neighborhoods. The park pools are too expensive for families to use. The pools seem to be only for the elite. I can afford to go, but what about the families who can't? Splash pads are great for grandparents to take grandchildren to. Cities like Mishawaka have them. Great for handicapped children. They should not charge a fee to be used.	6/12/2023 10:58 AM
141	a hockey-sized ice or roller rink	6/12/2023 10:40 AM
142	Splash pads for kids. Places for middle school kids to go. Skate park. Bike park with jumps.	6/12/2023 10:18 AM
143	European type parks	6/12/2023 10:04 AM
144	Please consider better parking at Murdock, and expanding current shelters at other parks. We are hoping more pickleball courts at other parks will be considered in future plans after the new courts are added at McCaw.	6/12/2023 9:42 AM
145	Please keep adding bike paths and safe spaces for bikes and walkers so we can easily get fitness into our lives	6/12/2023 9:26 AM
146	Need to add pickleball courts on the south side.	6/12/2023 9:14 AM
147	Please connect Lafayette south side via a trail system to downtown! We want to walk and bike to downtown but there is no safe way to get there.	6/12/2023 9:05 AM
148	More nature areas and walking paths. I have no clue what recreation programs are offered. I am always at armstrong park.	6/12/2023 8:28 AM
149	I would like to see an actual swimming area at Tropicanoe Cove. I use this facility the most with grandchildren who enjoy swimming. The slides are excellent, but not enough space to swim.	6/12/2023 8:23 AM
150	The cost of using the parks amenities is outrageous. The facilities may be very nice, but many of the children in the vicinity of Colombian Park cannot afford them, especially the aquatic center. Perhaps this is part of the "master plan."	6/12/2023 8:08 AM
151	Bike paths that link to West Lafayette trails	6/12/2023 7:00 AM
152	There is a lack of any ice hockey within a 1 hour radius. There is an opportunity for Lafayette to serve as a destination for both youth and adult ice hockey in addition to skating and figure skating if an indoor, hockey sized ice rink is built.	6/12/2023 6:44 AM
153	Lafayette is in dire need of a skatepark. All the surrounding cities have one, with Indy being the most. Its a great activity to be active and it brings in a lot of visitors to our city who also will spend money.. Dont let Faith Community Church try and fill this void. They dont do any upkeep to their park , which is now gone, and have no interest in what the local participants have in its features.	6/12/2023 6:15 AM
154	The area needs an indoor ice rink	6/12/2023 2:10 AM
155	I think it is very important for the community that the zoo remain free.	6/11/2023 11:17 PM
156	Developing an municipal aviary would be cool.	6/11/2023 10:56 PM
157	This area is the largest metropolitan area in Indiana without a hockey sized skating rink. My family had to give up ice skating and hockey upon moving here. The area needs a quality rink	6/11/2023 9:40 PM
158	More downtown lawn/landscapes open space. The lack of an area to relax in nature, take a picnic or just relax during a workday lunch in downtown puts Lafayette at a disadvantage and negatively impacts the physical and mental health of the population.	6/11/2023 9:28 PM
159	One thing that is missing in our parks is outdoor gym with exercise equipment for adults.	6/11/2023 9:15 PM
160	We (I as mom) don't find any environment actually safe anymore. Guns and syringes everywhere. It's not the parks, it's the crime that is soooo out of control.	6/11/2023 8:39 PM
161	My biggest woe which is not mentioned above surprisingly, is the website. The antiquated cumbersome website causes our family to miss out on events and classes we would like to attend. There have been many times when I have signed and said, I would sign up but that freaking website is too much of a nightmare! And I'm not too far behind technologically... I'm on Facebook and Instagram - Not Snapchat or Tik Tok, but I do use Venmo and I shop primarily online. Your website is the most difficult I encounter. The location where one would go to find	6/11/2023 7:59 PM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

basketball for your 4 year old, or swim lessons for adults, so on and so forth are so counter intuitive. I has the most lovely person help me sign up for a Zoo Encounter and she was so proficient - but because of the complexity of the system, it took two days. This woman emailed me and we spoke on the phone several times, in order to both select my options and then pay for them. I've had friends call me for help with this system, and I have also had to call friends for help. I can't imagine a senior or neurodivergent person trying to use this website to enroll for things. I think the greatest impact could be made in the ease of enrollment and gathering info online categories. We belong to the Wellness center and appreciate so much, the marketing and advertising they do. My husband loves bringing home print outs of class schedules and upcoming events. If the website was just for the wellness center and didn't pop up I over to parks and rec, I think it would be better..

162	Lafayette/WL needs a public splash pad.	6/11/2023 7:39 PM
163	We need disability parking near the zoo!	6/11/2023 7:29 PM
164	Programs specifically for kids with special needs would be amazing. They would require safety areas for eloping and additional staff.	6/11/2023 7:11 PM
165	I'd like to have an adult only night at Tropicanoe Cove, maybe 1/month? McAlister Center is great for my son,10, but would like to see bus for field trips they take 2x/week	6/11/2023 6:34 PM
166	You should bring back miniature golf Cornhole or horseshoe pits	6/11/2023 5:49 PM
167	Would love to see the walking trail along South River Rd extended out to the Fort. Also trails in southern Tippecanoe Co	6/11/2023 4:24 PM
168	It's important to obtain new and maintain current "green spaces". We utilize various walking paths in this county (i,e, Happy Hollow, Prophetstown) and didn't realize there importance prior to the pandemic.	6/11/2023 4:22 PM
169	I use the disc golf and pickleball facilities a lot as weather permits. I'm excited about the changes to McCaw. The parks I use the most are McCaw, Columbian, and Murdock.	6/11/2023 3:55 PM
170	We need an outdoor pool that has deeper water for swimming and a diving board. The water parks are fun but they don't take the place of real swimming pools.	6/11/2023 3:49 PM
171	For me the most important improvement needed is CONNECTED biking/walking trails. This needs to be a higher priority, not just building an unconnected trail here or there when there is a road project.	6/11/2023 3:05 PM
172	Where can I find a list of provided programs?	6/11/2023 2:54 PM
173	I am not aware of the Lafayette Parks and Recreation programs that are offered.	6/11/2023 1:40 PM
174	Answer to "What prevents you from participating in Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department programs? (check all that apply)": Other, I didn't know about these programs	6/11/2023 1:35 PM
175	You are welcome!	6/11/2023 1:10 PM
176	Now that the Citizens' Band is playing at the Memorial Island, it is necessary to replace the very uncomfortable seating for the audience. I have long advocated for stadium seats for installation, like those used at professional baseball stadiums. These could even be numbered for ticketed events. The evening sun is also a nuisance for those on stage on in the audience. Some sort of sun shield should be installed.	6/11/2023 1:03 PM
177	Lafayette parks need to have more basketball courts available. Removing ALL of the basketball courts at McCaw was a slap in the face to teens and younger adults in particular. Also, having an area where people can actually SWIM at Tropicanoe Cove and Castaway Bay would be beneficial.	6/11/2023 12:58 PM
178	I'm a lifelong resident and have seen great strides in park development. Keep up the good work!	6/11/2023 12:46 PM
179	lower the price of Tropicanoe season pass	6/11/2023 7:30 AM
180	we need more things like amusement parks and such to be able to stay in Lafayette and enjoy family	6/10/2023 7:13 PM
181	Would love a splash park.	6/10/2023 3:56 PM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

182	Clean up after the geese. Their poop is on walkways and green areas. Birth control, anyone?	6/10/2023 3:40 PM
183	Handicap accessibility (specifically wheelchairs & motorized scooters) in EVERY park is such a necessity. Not just for children, but for caretakers and all individuals with this need. I cannot stress enough how disappointing it is for children, parents, and grandparents to not be able to access any park on any given day due to this.	6/10/2023 3:24 PM
184	Tropicanoe water is extremely too cold How can we fix this? We would attend more often	6/10/2023 2:01 PM
185	My thoughts on Lafayette parks to make it better for the future for a great community add a miniature golf course for the whole family and look see a not Pro soccer team at Lopez stadium just like the something kind of like the aviators	6/10/2023 11:14 AM
186	Please fix existing playgrounds that have boarded up sections. Also, please consider putting some pocket parks in the near south side. There are so many parks in the North side but we really need some in the nearby area of 9th and kossuth. There are no parks walkable from this neighborhood. Could the field by the old highland park school be turned into a playground?	6/10/2023 10:13 AM
187	Would love to have an outdoor RC race car track!	6/10/2023 9:27 AM
188	Just keep investing. I grew up 3 blocks from Columbian Park and went about every day. Still go frequently. Fond memories!	6/10/2023 9:06 AM
189	I would like to commend the Parks Department for the beautiful improvements made to the lagoon and surrounding area. The transformation is stunning. However, I urge the department to extend these efforts to the area in front of Tropicanoe Cove. The maintenance shed, poorly manicured grass field, and the looming pole barn over the water reservoir are aesthetically unappealing. With the new carousel soon to be installed, this part of the park deserves similar enhancements as the lagoon area. Suggested improvements include relocating or redesigning the maintenance shed, enhancing the landscaping, and incorporating aesthetic elements to the pole barn to harmonize it with the surroundings. The park's beauty should be consistent throughout.	6/10/2023 8:50 AM
190	Dog park and pickleball courts for the southside of town! If you are going to make changes to Armstrong Park, where are the pickleball courts! Far more people playing pickleball than tennis.	6/9/2023 10:44 PM
191	I like to walk downtown alot. Essentially every morning. Part of that involves the pedestrian bridge and the trails leading into and out of it. I can say there are a number of material things I'd like to see done to improve that area. For one, the pedestrian bridge's decking is starting to crumble--it's getting time to replace those pavers. While at it why not a replace those weird looking concrete "mushroom" planters with about a dozen symmetrically placed planters for some small shade trees on the bridge? Another thing--the Wabash River Enhancement guys have some really cool suggestions concerning connecting the trails north of downtown up with pedestrian bridges both across Brown Street and at the base of Happy Hollow Road. I'd love to see those bridges in place before the end of the decade. Thanks, --Matt Lapcheska	6/9/2023 10:12 PM
192	More slides/features at the Cove would be great	6/9/2023 7:51 PM
193	I think the pond area and walking paths should have patterned lights like on Sagamore parkway	6/9/2023 7:30 PM
194	I believe Lafayette could benefit from more parks along creeks and rivers. Additionally, more water parks would be nice.	6/9/2023 6:45 PM
195	It would be good to have an "other, please specify" option on question 8!	6/9/2023 6:26 PM
196	Baseball fields that aren't locked would be awesome! My son and I drive out to Wea when we want to practice.	6/9/2023 6:06 PM
197	Develop indoor pickleball, perhaps at the fairgrounds. The facilities could be used for pickleball when other events aren't going on.	6/9/2023 5:32 PM
198	Thank you for doing this survey. Please have the pools stay open longer and later. Closing pools at 6:00 is extremely disappointing and it almost seems wasteful.	6/9/2023 5:18 PM
199	We need to diversify our sports by offering bicycling facilities for our families. Access to BMX tracks, pump-tracks, and dirt or paved trails for riding. Many cities are building pump-tracks with great results, such as Kokomo, IN. They require minimal space and maintenance. They offer a safe and fun place for all ages to enjoy their bikes and stay healthy.	6/9/2023 5:14 PM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

200	Federal Hill commens in Noblesville puts on an amazing concert series throughout the summer! Would love to see Lafayette do something like theirs!!!! Brings people together, of all ages--its kid friendly, with food trucks etc I would much rather stay in Lafayette rather than groups of us traveling to another city.	6/9/2023 5:10 PM
201	More nature, fewer adult playgrounds please	6/9/2023 5:05 PM
202	Look at what Bentonville, Arkansas is doing. We need safe ways to get more kids on bikes. Trails, pump tracks, skills areas for bikes. Standout from the rest of the Midwest, we don't need more baseball or football fields, let's diversify our sports and get people in nature.	6/9/2023 5:05 PM
203	The parks are vastly improved from the parks of the past. Keep up the good work!	6/9/2023 4:40 PM
204	I think Lafayette Parks should put a Volleyball Courts in different parks including McAllister. I would like to see more security at the Columbian Park. I would like to see security out walking around the park especially around the playground	6/9/2023 4:28 PM
205	As a member of the Lafayette Citizen's Band, Columbian Park serves as an INCREDIBLE venue for the concerts now that the park has been renovated greatly. As a resident with a visual disability (I am unable to drive), I'm also a huge advocate for bike/walking trails because I want our community to have other forms of transportation available besides having to rely solely on cars to get places. A good bike/walking infrastructure makes for a much better community!	6/9/2023 3:58 PM
206	We live in Illinois but visit Lafayette weekly and take our grandchildren to the parks. Lafayette has the best city parks we have ever seen. Excellent!	6/9/2023 3:51 PM
207	More Public bathrooms and water fountains are always important to me. The electric scooters are also very convenient, don't ban them.	6/9/2023 3:41 PM
208	It's a big miss to adult swimmers and young swimmers that not one pool has a place to swim laps! Lazy river is only good for lazy people. I'd love to swim laps. Trails need to connect, we've got a lot of dead-ends, or get off get on (I know some of this is a county issue. It's like we're the 3rd world compared to Sheridan, Nobelsville, and Carmel. I know Carmel is not worth comparing to, they have overcooked everything they do.	6/9/2023 3:34 PM
209	I would like to see a larger pool area. Not just a wadding pool. A pool to swim in. It doesn't have to be deep. Could be similar to what is at the Cove, just a larger area. The ones in town are often crowded. Also, more crowd control would be great. A lot of children roam free, they are disobedient and rude. Maybe make them have to be a certain age or can not enter without an adult.	6/9/2023 3:11 PM
210	Thank you.	6/9/2023 2:18 PM
211	We appreciate your efforts!	6/9/2023 2:17 PM
212	I really wish Lafayette had a more nature-related park. I am at the Celery Bog in West Lafayette constantly and so are a lot of people I know. We just don't have a space for birding, photography, outdoor running, etc in Lafayette and it is a real disservice because I know there are properties here that could be utilized in similar ways, it's just not prioritized.	6/9/2023 1:30 PM
213	More activities for adults that are are well marketed in advance.	6/9/2023 1:13 PM
214	Would love to see more pickleball or tennis courts	6/9/2023 1:07 PM
215	Would love a nature walk area on the south side of town to walk my dogs!	6/9/2023 1:01 PM
216	The city should purchase the plot of farm land at Haggerty and Veterans Memorial parkway west of Subaru property and put in a multiple turf field complex for youth baseball/softball. City could make money by allowing teams to host tournaments. Armstrong and McCaw parks could still be used. Tropicanoe Cove is creeping on 25 years old. Might be time to look at adding more things to that complex. The new slides are great and give Loeb Stadium a cool backdrop... but TC is getting old. Larger swimming area, and a larger kid area. So maybe take out current child area and make a larger swimming area, but then build a new, larger, revamped kiddie area.	6/9/2023 12:51 PM
217	Less grass areas and more nature areas, especially in areas with less foot traffic. Also lots of native flowers that could replace grass, which don't have to be mowed/as often	6/9/2023 12:43 PM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

218	Please develop munger park. It needs basketball and aquatics closer to Chatham square and better traffic control on Greenbush for children crossing to the park. I love two apartment buildings from the speed hump and no one does 25 through this area. Especially at night fall children out walking are hard to see. We need an aquatics feature on this side of town. Maybe just a fountain or area with water jets similar to the Indy zoo.	6/9/2023 12:40 PM
219	Our family is very much looking forward to the Armstrong Park playground upgrade	6/9/2023 12:22 PM
220	Splash Pad	6/9/2023 12:22 PM
221	Need a pool at the park. One for swimming laps and just swimming period. Playground equipment needs to be more fun. What we have is really pretty boring and can be found on any school playground.	6/9/2023 12:08 PM
222	Lafayette parks are very nice keep up the good work!	6/9/2023 9:56 AM
223	Please develop Berlovitz Woods! It's the perfect spot for a nature trail and maybe a small playground. With all of the development in the area, we need something in that spot.	6/8/2023 5:01 PM
224	Sad that the zoo is right next to Loeb stadium, one of the loudest places in Columbian Park neighborhood when events are going on. Not a great way to treat the animals (or humans living in the area). I wish there was more consideration of noise pollution when it comes to community events.	6/8/2023 2:55 PM
225	We like to walk daily either at Columbian Park or Prophetstown.	6/8/2023 4:41 AM
226	More Green space downtown and community. We need more native plants grown in parks, easements to decrease mowing and increase beauty and interest.	6/7/2023 8:22 PM
227	We need a skateboard park .... You told us 15 yrs ago ,you was planning on one ...still fucking waiting on it ....	6/7/2023 5:35 PM
228	My wife and I really enjoy the parks and greenspace's around town. It will be interesting to see what can be expanded on. I would really like to see an area near downtown that connects to the Wabash with a nice park be developed. Lafayette is a great place!	6/7/2023 4:42 PM
229	Better restrooms and water access. Parking areas, vending areas, get rid of cameras invading our privacy.	6/7/2023 4:22 PM
230	We love the upgrades to Columbia park but either return to free zoo admission or charge less for train and paddle boats!	6/7/2023 2:39 PM
231	multipurpose area for rollerskate/skateboarding, bike polo, hockey, futsol, &c.	6/7/2023 1:46 PM
232	Bike polo courts! Or fenced, single tennis/pickleball courts with removable nets/poles.	6/7/2023 1:27 PM
233	A BICYCLE PUMP TRACK AT ARMSTRONG PARK WOULD BE A GREAT DESTINATION FOR PURDUE STUDENTS TO UNITE THE LAFAYETTE AND WEST LAFAYETTE COMMUNITIES.	6/7/2023 12:24 PM
234	A new park on the south side of town is needed badly. Something similar to Armstrong or Munger. South of Veterans Memorial near 18th street. It is possible to make a continuous green corridor from 52 to 231 with connected park spaces.	6/7/2023 11:48 AM
235	I mostly enjoy the fishing ponds at Armstrong and Munger parks. And I am especially looking forward to being able to fish at Columbian Park.	6/7/2023 11:42 AM
236	Do more advertising! I wasn't aware of all the different things that were offered.	6/7/2023 10:25 AM
237	Lafayette remains devoid of any dedicated soccer fields or complexes for the youth in our area. Currently, the city relies on volunteers from GLRSA to setup and tear down the fields after each Spring and Fall season - We're VERY thankful for them but the burden is a heavy one when considering the manpower needed to perform the setup and tear down from season to season. How is it possible that a city the size of Lafayette still doesn't have dedicated fields for soccer, when surrounding smaller cities have been able to provide this? The land exists and the need is quite clear considering GLRSA serves over 3,000 kids each year. I sincerely hope the Parks Department strongly considers the need and places a focus on the budding youth soccer movement that remains a part of the fabric of Lafayette families and their activities.	6/7/2023 9:54 AM
238	Fix Columbia park play ground.	6/7/2023 9:31 AM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

239	Columbian Park is overcrowded with activities and is no longer a "park" but more like an amusement park. A new regional park is desperately needed, 100+ acres with natural features, plan ahead, get it done.	6/7/2023 9:25 AM
240	I've been wanting to organize some youth street hockey at Shamrock. I coached basketball at McCallister and enjoyed working with the kids. I'm into devoting some time if there is any community interest/backing. Feel free to contact me. aaronzernack@gmail.com	6/7/2023 9:17 AM
241	Maybe start utilizing locally-connected design firms to participate in planning community amenities, instead of spending thousands on out-of-town firms such as MKSK.	6/7/2023 9:15 AM
242	Cleanup the moss in the lagoon.	6/7/2023 9:06 AM
243	As the smaller surrounding communities adapt outdoor recreation with bike parks, pump tracks, and connecting adults with outdoor activities what is Lafayette's vision?	6/7/2023 9:02 AM
244	Adult and youth program options are narrow and limited. Would appreciate more program diversity and opportunity to experience different recreational pursuits...xx skiing, snowshoeing, disc gold (league/tournament), kickball, broomball, more movie nights at stadium, splash pad, outdoor adventure.	6/7/2023 8:52 AM
245	Please provide shade and windbreaks. We need trees, lots more trees and bird habitat.	6/7/2023 8:22 AM
246	I think it would be neat for the park to have native animals For everyone to learn more about Indiana...	6/7/2023 8:18 AM
247	I live near Columbian park and I love it. I walk my dog through it almost every day. Excited to see new developments with the zoo.	6/7/2023 8:18 AM
248	ParkRun at McAllister was great when it was occurring pre-Covid. If ParkRun could stat again at McAllister or another park in the city, that would be amazing. <a href="https://www.parkrun.us/">https://www.parkrun.us/</a>	6/7/2023 8:16 AM
249	We would love to see more splash pads on the south side of Lafayette. Also, more playgrounds.	6/7/2023 7:24 AM
250	Safety and lighting	6/7/2023 7:19 AM
251	Put the bench swings back up !!!!!!!!!!!!! there is not to many places to sit when the grand kids are playing. Also add the ones back to the north side of the pond or somewhere in the shade !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! old farts like me like to swing !!!!!!!!!!!!!	6/7/2023 6:29 AM
252	Please work on the hertiage trail for improvment and extension	6/7/2023 6:20 AM
253	i am not aware of most park programming. maybe more advertisement. would like to see a riverfront district including rec areas for the cities.be developed.	6/7/2023 6:03 AM
254	More trails please.	6/7/2023 5:54 AM
255	I want the cost of using Tropicanoe to go bk to \$6/visit & the hrs. to be up to 9pm, since it's hot in summer from 6-9p & that's when most who work days or sleep days want to go-!!! MostCan'tGo w/the cost@\$10 when we aren't wntg a season pass-!! It's not fair to us to make us pay more to go2a pool so you'll have more\$ to pay4other things!!! NoWayShouldWePay2go into the park to pay for the stadium or other things you want-!!!! Your survey makes us ans.#5 when it has no 'nothing' on the list-! The space across from the courts+pool, etc. on BeckLn. is a big waste of land!! Much could be there, like grills, benches, trails, things for kids, etc.!!! I'll ans.#5 w/a made-up answer. I didn't understand sev. '?'s bc no examples were given; I know of no programs except aquatic, senior & baseball.	6/7/2023 5:43 AM
256	There is so much traffic on the streets and they are too narrow for bicycles. We need safe biking trails in Lafayette, so we don't have to travel to bike trails in West Lafayette or other cities in Indiana.	6/6/2023 10:26 PM
257	Every neighboring town has a splash pad. We need something locally!	6/6/2023 9:28 PM
258	More disc golf courses and maintenance	6/6/2023 9:21 PM
259	Love the updates to all the parks, especially Columbian.	6/6/2023 9:01 PM
260	we need more pickleball courts	6/6/2023 8:55 PM
261	Need Pickleball on southside	6/6/2023 8:53 PM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

262	I really appreciate the city for continuing to upgrade park and rec facilities all throughout the city. I know this is a big price tag, but looking at the wabash river central reach plan created by mksk. I think this would be very beneficial. Adding a park downtown, getting rid of a parking lot (everyone can agree getting rid of parking lots and replacing them with building or parking garages are much more appealing to the eyes), and then a possible second pedestrian bridge to further enhance pedestrian connectivity between west lafayette and lafayette. If you have any further questions for me feel free to reach out. My name is Geno Christofanelli, I'm a Purdue student and you can reach me at (219) 775-3586 or genoxc29@gmail.com Thanks, and have a great day!!	6/6/2023 8:45 PM
263	Please explain the asterisks. Our city bike "paths" are so dangerous. Who can I talk to about this? Jean Terry 765-491-0188.	6/6/2023 8:27 PM
264	I lived in Lafayette for 46 years before moving to Fountain County. We visit often due to our grandchildren living in Tippecanoe County, but will never move back.	6/6/2023 8:20 PM
265	Would LOVE to see development of the riverfront park. Anything close to the published plan for the Wabash Avenue Neighborhood would be a major victory for our community. With the trail extending to the South, it will be perfectly connected to the downtown. Leave the areas to the north available for residential development as described in the plan.	6/6/2023 8:00 PM
266	Please stop using pesticides. They are not good for anything. They are used in the parks where people walk their dogs, and where kids play. Bad for everyone and everything. Also, please plant more native/regional plants, and trees and shrubs. Less watering and maintenance. We need more walking paths in Lafayette. If I want to go and walk somewhere where I feel safe, it is usually WL.	6/6/2023 7:56 PM
267	I've greatly enjoyed the ponds for fishing. With that being said I've noticed quite a bit of trash left in the ponds. Also I've noticed the word is getting out about the fish in the pond and other anglers have been fishing it. It would be awesome to have DNR come out every so often to ensure everyone is playing by the rules and is acquiring a fishing license to fish it. This would eliminate the possibility of the marine life being wiped out by illegal fish poaching...	6/6/2023 7:10 PM
268	Needs more security and cameras. People causing problems should be banned from facilities after 2nd time causing issues. If children are causing problems parents need help accountable. Restrictions on youths being at facilities without adult supervisions. We do not take our grandkids to any of the swimming pools or Lafayette parks any longer due to unsupervised kids. When something like a slide or swing is broken it needs replaced immediately or removed until it can be fixed and not roped off. Building an indoor swimming area would be nice.	6/6/2023 7:06 PM
269	More trails south of town	6/6/2023 6:59 PM
270	Love the park and visit the zoo a couple times a year. I want to see big cats again	6/6/2023 6:52 PM
271	This did not happen to me but to a coworker. His young daughter was starting softball, beforehand he wanted to take her to hit some balls. He went to Armstrong and the park with fields near Creasy and Union. He was ran out of both fields by a groundskeeper whom told him he was not allowed to be there to use the fields. He was told the Parks department does not have control over the fields. How is it that a city park baseball field can not be used by a community member?	6/6/2023 6:44 PM
272	Thank you for making Armstrong park improvements !!	6/6/2023 6:44 PM
273	Burlovitz Woods at McCarty & Veteran's Memorial Pkwy ... Bill Hoover needs direction on Lafayettes plan for this property!!! Please!!!	6/6/2023 6:28 PM
274	I would like to see the Ferris wheel return! It was a lot of fun when I was growing up!	6/6/2023 6:24 PM
275	Security is my primary concern. The Columbian Park neighborhood has become a dangerous area of domestic disturbances; reckless driving; large, loud, disruptive outdoor gatherings; and even gun fire. Until until this is brought under control, I won't be bringing my family to the park.	6/6/2023 6:16 PM
276	We need a true bike/walking trail on 9th st between kossuth and CC. ( west side of street) I dare the park board to walk or ride from the north end of the golf course to Teal rd. It is dangerous and there is no reason the golf course can not be modified to allow a path on their property except they are too entitled to have people walk on their property .	6/6/2023 6:16 PM
277	More surveillance video and police.	6/6/2023 6:13 PM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

278	I completed this with/ for my father who resides in Tippecanoe near the park	6/6/2023 6:10 PM
279	How about a skate park?	6/6/2023 6:10 PM
280	The main reason I don't participate is probably lack of awareness. Not that you don't publicize, but it's usually in a transient medium like social media, so it gets lost. I live in WL and the WL hardcopy newsletter is a good example of what would help. It's also online.	6/6/2023 5:59 PM
281	More parks available for R.C. recreation .	6/6/2023 5:58 PM
282	Park security is needed for all times of the day.	6/6/2023 5:17 PM
283	Park staff overall are very professional, parks generally are beautiful and well maintained. Columbian Park needs more trees, more shade canopies, benches in the area in front of tropic cove.	6/6/2023 5:15 PM
284	Pickleball Courts on the south side PLEASE! :)	6/6/2023 12:43 PM
285	We really love the weekly concerts by the Lafayette Citizens Band and the remodel at Colombian Park.	6/6/2023 12:01 PM
286	I have seen hardly any for seniors. Would be interested in that. Also interested in ping pong , cards , games other seniors activities besides the hours at North end.	6/6/2023 11:51 AM
287	Myself, my family and friends would love to see more tennis courts other than Armstrong. Maybe Munger Park? It's a bummer the Northside doesn't have a lot of tennis options. More people might have used Arlington Park tennis courts if the courts were kept in better condition. Thank you for all you do. It has been great to see all the improvements and updates in other areas!	6/6/2023 11:19 AM
288	I live across the street from columbian park. During the weekends and summer hours. There needs to be better security. At the pavilions there's always fights or something going on. People sit in there cars and smoke weed. I would like to see a splash pad.	6/6/2023 7:54 AM
289	I really enjoyed the Adult Zoo Camp experience. That was a lot of fun. It was nice to see cool critters and not have to plan anything. I miss "field trips" as a kiddo where you don't have to plan stuff.....just show up and have fun. This program filled that need. I also enjoy water walking. However, it looks like water walking is only available in the morning and not the evening. I would love to see some evening options available. There's water walking at Prophetstown, but that's not exactly convenient. I would like to see more biking trails available in the community. I like to bike and roller skate. Big THANK YOU to you fine folks for opening up Tapawingo Park as a roller derby practice venue. We love using this facility. It is very hard to find practice venues.	6/5/2023 2:58 PM
290	Free family nights would be great or where people with food stamps low income can get free or discounted	6/5/2023 1:52 PM
291	We don't use the park or go to the Zoo nearly as much as we want to as the area surrounding it isn't safe. This needs significant addressing.	6/5/2023 8:52 AM
292	Nice splash pad for little ones or preschoolers	6/4/2023 3:33 PM
293	There needs to be a good splash pad park. It would be great in the summer. Especially for those that can't afford water parks.	6/3/2023 9:54 AM
294	I wish the zoo were still free	6/3/2023 7:03 AM
295	This town needs a skatepark, Been waiting since 2006 .....	6/2/2023 10:56 PM
296	A free splash pad would be beneficial to our community!	6/2/2023 7:42 PM
297	More actives for senior age 60 plus. I work with this age and hard to find stuff to do. Affordable activities. Plus need more benches and shade at Columbian park. Parking is hard for ones with walkers. Picnic tables near zoo area.	6/2/2023 5:55 PM
298	Trying to patiently wait for carousel to finally be in. Would like to see more exhibits at zoo soon. General upkeep and cleaning of playground equipment.	6/2/2023 3:28 PM
299	The playgrounds don't have shade. The slides get really hot really quick in the summer. Some shade sails would be awesome.	6/2/2023 3:02 PM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

300	Would love a place to splash around in the summer that also has other play/nature features nearby. Also, I have trouble finding sports sign ups and other programming availability on the parks and Rec website.	6/1/2023 1:04 PM
301	We like to say we are park experts at our home with three kiddos under 5 we go to parks daily. Lafayette needs to invest in a splash pad park. We drive to Carmel and Indianapolis for this amenity. I know inside the pool at Armstrong park there is small splash pad. I'm sure you are familiar with the splash pads in Indy that are free and open to the public- they are typically paired up with a playground section. This would be hugely popular and desperately needed for a community for our size. Charters just got a splash pad in their parks department. They are a small town. I am talking about ones that are not ticketed and not within a pool. Lafayette so badly needs this and my mom and school circles often discuss this need.	6/1/2023 12:46 PM
302	Lafayette is in need of a bike park. The old city golf course would be a great location.	6/1/2023 11:06 AM
303	I would love to have a splash pad in Lafayette!	5/31/2023 9:29 PM
304	I would like to see Columbian Park open later during summer months. It is daylight until 9pm. I remember when families could come after work and dinner.	5/31/2023 6:57 PM
305	I very much wanted to work at the Colombian Park Zoo or even work for the Lafayette Parks and Recreation business this summer but the pay was something I could not afford even working 40 hours a week.	5/31/2023 11:01 AM
306	Shaded spaces by play equipment would be so helpful. We had a group of moms/kids meet at Munger Park last summer because it was one of the only parks with shade and bathroom access. Also - we've loved the addition of Tuesday night Art in the Parks during summer and that they highlight the different parks!	5/30/2023 5:33 PM
307	Sensory friendly options	5/30/2023 2:34 PM
308	Unlock family restrooms at Columbian Park or any of the parks. Witnessed a mom of two have to change her kid in her stroller because there was no changing station available...that is ridiculous. Also, was at crosser sports complex and the caretaker drove through the ball park entrance instead of getting out to walk up to see what was going on. Who does that when there are kids running around!?!	5/30/2023 1:29 PM
309	I wish that the parks shared the names and faces to their staff so I know who they are.	5/30/2023 12:50 PM
310	More multi use sports courts that aren't only used by pickle ball or tennis players.	5/30/2023 9:59 AM
311	"Bicycle Safety Town" is located in the town I grew up in....my siblings and I absolutely loved it....it could be a great way to add to the park system. <a href="https://peoriaparks.org/places/bicycle-safety-town/">https://peoriaparks.org/places/bicycle-safety-town/</a>	5/29/2023 6:22 PM
312	Please, please, please create or repurpose a space that can be used as a bike polo court/other activities. The court we currently use at Shamrock Dog Park has not been well maintained and has a lot of cracks which makes it hard to play on. It is also rumored that this space will be rezoned to be used as a parking lot for Cargil which means we won't have a space to regularly play. This community has meant a lot to me over the past few years and I would be very sad to lose it because we're not able to have a space to play.	5/28/2023 7:18 PM
313	The play ground set needs fixed at Columbian Park. Everything us getting redone and then you go to the play set and you have wood boards trying to keep children off an area that needs fixed. If you aren't going to fix it then redo it.	5/28/2023 3:08 PM
314	We need a splash pad and something in our area like what Remington has with their town park facilities. I would love to see walking/biking trails in the Wildcat Creek area.	5/28/2023 1:34 PM
315	We truly appreciate what you all do and we are incredibly thankful for our parks and events! This may not be for you, but a free splash pad would be great to have and/or water/sensory play area. Also, more preschool, youth activities available during the day. A drop in event at parks that may include sensory play, activities, art, crafts, etc. Year round would be great, once a week, every other week or once a month would be great as well! I think this would be a great opportunity for homeschool groups!	5/28/2023 9:11 AM
316	Better upkeep on the road through Ross Hills Park	5/28/2023 12:09 AM
317	It would be nice to have a real splash pad in city and if the city would keep existing playgrounds in good condition such as repairs and parts replacement instead of boarding off	5/27/2023 10:42 PM

# Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

	broken things or completely tearing out playgrounds for new ones.	
318	More adaptive/accessible playground equipment is a high need! As well as paths to/from the equipment that can be traversed with wheelchairs, canes, & walkers.	5/27/2023 7:20 PM
319	Would love to have a splash pad!	5/27/2023 5:25 PM
320	I'd like to see completion of the carousel!	5/27/2023 5:20 PM
321	We love the zoo programs and staff and how accommodating they are for our son with special needs ;o)	5/27/2023 4:04 PM
322	Bigger playgrounds. Similar to those in camel, westfield	5/27/2023 3:47 PM
323	Is it possible to clear out some of the trees in Wea Creek to improve safety? I took my boys to play in the creek one day at 10am and there was a man who appeared passed out and homeless laying on the ground near a tent by the creek. Not a safe setting. It is too secluded.	5/27/2023 3:22 PM
324	A splash pad is a necessity for lafayette! Please please please consider this as so many families would benefit.	5/27/2023 3:12 PM
325	Please pay the zoo workers MORE. And renovate the existing outdated buildings (like the one that houses the gibbons and spider monkeys). The fact that you have unpaid interns is disappointing. Pay your workers and pay them a living wage.	5/27/2023 2:21 PM
326	I think Lafayette needs more parks on our south side. Armstrong okay equipment is small, so glad to hear it's getting new equipment. But I'd like to see at least one more on the south side. But more than anything I think we need a large splash pad. One that is accessible for all. There is very little for small kids to do at Tropicanoe Cove or Castaway Bay. The parking in West Lafayette for their fountains makes it a nightmare for those with multiple kids. Frankfort has a nice facility, maybe we could use that for inspiration and make ours even better!	5/27/2023 12:54 PM
327	Upgrade Hedgewood Neighborhood park. Work on more parking for Columbian park near playgrounds and all the shelters.	5/27/2023 8:31 AM
328	Thank you for asking for our input!	5/27/2023 1:39 AM
329	You guys are the best! Keep it up! ❤️	5/27/2023 12:05 AM
330	I think Lafayette would enjoy a splash pad. Increased patrols around parks or on-site safety officers at the parks would be helpful, as well.	5/26/2023 11:20 PM
331	Splash pad!	5/26/2023 11:14 PM
332	More trails- hiking and biking! And outdoor events like concerts in the park	5/26/2023 9:21 PM
333	Please include culturally inclusive activities, not just Halloween Xmas, Easter.	5/26/2023 8:23 PM
334	We LOVE the zoo! We travel an hour south for the zoo! We would love to see the zoo continue to grow!	5/26/2023 8:09 PM
335	We would love a splash park for our little ones :)	5/26/2023 7:59 PM
336	Please get splash pads!	5/26/2023 7:59 PM
337	Please plant more TREES!	5/26/2023 7:56 PM
338	We love Columbian Park. Crime in the area is a deterrent from visiting more often.	5/26/2023 7:54 PM
339	More access to nature paths , more trash cans , doggy bag stations and water sources . A nature biking trail would be awesome !	5/26/2023 7:26 PM
340	Would love to hear more news about the carousel!!!! 🎠	5/26/2023 7:22 PM
341	Wish you would bring more to columbian park like from when I was a kid in the 90's :)	5/26/2023 7:06 PM
342	Splash pad!	5/26/2023 6:40 PM
343	I love the zoo and would love to see it grow and open new exhibits!	5/26/2023 6:20 PM
344	Shade sails or something that makes a little more shade at Columbia Park Zoo. I love it there but in the summer it's miserable.	5/26/2023 5:42 PM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

345	I would love at least a small dog park on the East or South side of Lafayette, with some walking trails nearby, and maybe a playground for children. It could be added to the Armstrong Park?	5/26/2023 5:42 PM
346	I have an older daughter with Rett Syndrome so I do think it's nice to have accessible places even though she doesn't live with us any more. I do a home daycare so the things for children are sometimes helpful for me. I miss our old park we grew up with; especially that awesome pool, but the changes are making Columbian Park a really beautiful park!! I do love the changes with the zoo and think the animals there are much happier than years ago.	5/26/2023 5:23 PM
347	I believe we need a free splash pad for kids to enjoy on the hot days!	5/26/2023 5:01 PM
348	Sports facilities including baseball fields should be available for public use/teams. Not just certain local teams. It should benefit the entire community.	5/26/2023 3:55 PM
349	Free splash pad area for kids!	5/26/2023 3:41 PM
350	Splash pad please!	5/26/2023 3:35 PM
351	We absolutely need free splash pads. I hate having to drive to Indy or Remington for a splash pad. Also need more parks with playgrounds south of town	5/26/2023 3:33 PM
352	Keep improving the zoo	5/26/2023 3:32 PM
353	I would love to see a splash pad for kids	5/26/2023 3:24 PM
354	Please consider replacing the main playground equipment at Columbian park. We hardly choose that park anymore because it is so run down. There are boarded up areas that are not safe for children. It shocks me that it is still open and available to play on. It's not safe at all.	5/26/2023 3:10 PM
355	Something that intellectual disability children and adults can do and feel proud of doing. And have fun	5/26/2023 3:02 PM
356	Ge the carousel finished!! Include a train ride with zoo admission. Fix playground equipment at Columbian Park. Would love to see more exhibits at the zoo!	5/26/2023 2:48 PM
357	More adult swings	5/26/2023 2:48 PM
358	Provide the zoo with more money, people travel hours to visit so put some respect on its name	5/26/2023 2:48 PM
359	Please complete the carousel!!	5/26/2023 2:47 PM
360	We would love a splash park!	5/26/2023 2:47 PM
361	I know it's a different department but the expansion of the public bussing system would help tremendously. Longer hours, especially on the weekends.	5/26/2023 2:33 PM
362	Please put a park on the Southside of town! So many houses have gone up south of veterans but the closest park is Armstrong, which is usually busy because there are plenty of families around that part of town	5/26/2023 2:20 PM
363	Hoping Columbian Park Zoo will offer more adult education opportunities!	5/26/2023 2:17 PM
364	Are you going to put in a carousel soon?	5/26/2023 2:16 PM
365	Replace broken or old playground equipment!	5/26/2023 2:06 PM
366	My family just moved to the area from MS we are still navigating but thus far we love it here and the parks are great!	5/26/2023 2:06 PM
367	Shout out to the zookeepers at the zoo! We love you.	5/26/2023 2:03 PM
368	I truly enjoy the parks. I use either Armstrong or Macallister every day with my dog. Columbian is great too. He loves the water. The staff we meet are always friendly.	5/26/2023 12:58 PM
369	More summer camps for kids like camp tecumseh. Include things that are environmentally friendly or give back to nature.	5/26/2023 12:58 PM
370	Would love more tennis courts!!	5/26/2023 8:00 AM
371	We have a large Spanish population maybe hire interpreters from LUNA agency to interpret festivals, speeches, and bilingual flyers	5/25/2023 8:12 PM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

372	I walk Columbian park daily. It is a very nice park	5/25/2023 3:03 PM
373	Please, please, please add a dog park for Lafayette! As I'm sure you know, the west side recently added one. The only real option here is Shamrock, which 1) isn't free, and 2) is, quite frankly, a frequently-flooded dump. Lafayette should have a beautiful dog park with lots of benches, amenities for the dogs (tunnels, ramps, water stations, shade areas), and a special area for little pooches. We have a wonderful parks department but this seems to be a glaring omission. I hope you'll give it serious consideration. Thank you and great work!	5/25/2023 2:32 PM
374	one question asked what i would like to see on the south and east side, i live on the north end off 9th st. I would love to see any parks development up there	5/25/2023 10:47 AM
375	Lafayette like most of Indiana has no terrain. Build a giant terraced hill somewhere for people to climb and look around. You could fill in the hole from the earth material with water and have a cool area. Japanese gardens are also nice!	5/24/2023 12:44 PM
376	One thing the Lafayette/Greater Lafayette would greatly benefit from is a smaller version of Grand Park, or a Field of Dreams type facility like Noblesville has. We have the infrastructure, hotels, shopping, and restaurants to support the extra people. These things tend to generate a considerable amount of money for the cities. We need a local team to house the faculty like the Bulls have with Pro X or the Mustangs have with Rountripper in Westfield. So many teams need indoor practice space during the winter months and this area would greatly benefit from a space like this.	5/23/2023 4:35 PM
377	newer park facilities & amenities seem to be rather extravagant. simple parks facilities (sans gold plating) can provide much utility to the community.	5/23/2023 2:58 PM
378	The disc golf course at Murdock could use some updates. The course is not well marked as to where the next hole is. Although the baskets themselves are nice, the rest of the course is in poor condition.	5/23/2023 1:55 PM
379	Great job. Keep up the good work. You are appreciated.	5/23/2023 12:54 PM
380	Any chance the Zoo might add a Beaver or Bison exhibit?	5/23/2023 12:53 PM
381	1) A 3 on 3 basketball league at McAllister during the winter months could be a great addition to programming 2) If the City ever has an opportunity to bring back a City golf course (even a 9 hole course or executive course), I think it'd be very well received. Battleground CC just isn't the same as the City course, and I talk to people regularly who really miss having a City course.	5/23/2023 10:52 AM
382	I would like something by the interstate that would draw people off 65 to see a "snapshot" of Lafayette. Maybe like a photo op for them or a dog park or picnic type area.	5/23/2023 10:30 AM
383	Would like to see more trails on the east side of Lafayette. Also, more family events throughout the year!	5/23/2023 10:25 AM
384	The upgrades the Parks Dept. has done has really improved the facilities. Safety is a huge concern around town, so that would definitely be a top priority. Citizens need to know that when they park in a designated parking lot that their vehicles/belonging will be safe.	5/23/2023 10:19 AM
385	I think if there were more Prince Charmings added to the zoo, the world would be a better place.	5/23/2023 10:14 AM
386	Make the baseball diamonds open to the public. I get scheduled events but there should be public access and be asked to leave.	5/23/2023 10:12 AM
387	Need more actual accessible and handicap equipment. Not just swings people have to lift people in. Accessible paddle boats and more playground equipment and anything else that comes with the park that others can enjoy. Everyone should be able to feel included, not just those that want to change their gender.	5/22/2023 6:57 PM
388	Bring back the rides like the cars	5/18/2023 9:07 PM
389	I would love to see more activities and trips for seniors. As an example, Lebanon seniors rake field trips, Diamond bus tour getaways, movies, a large number of weekly activities. We need a senior center in south Lafayette that offers numerous activities for seniors. I could be the event planner! HeeHee.	5/15/2023 11:08 AM
390	We are thrilled for the McCaw playground bathroom facilities, but disappointed that there is no	5/15/2023 6:22 AM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

way to use the playground right now. Currently using Munger playground instead.

391	Under 29, lack of participation is sometimes due to lack of awareness. Finding out about opportunities is generally an after the fact thing. Local media is useless and checking daily is bothersome.	5/14/2023 3:11 PM
392	Tell everyone that I say hi! -Brock Owens	5/12/2023 9:04 PM
393	Absolutely love columbian park, kind of a center park for Lafayette, but its got its share of issues with folks that visit. I honestly tell my oldest daughter to not take her kids there, it just isnt safe. Working on safety and security is key to keep that the park everyone wants it to be.	5/12/2023 3:25 PM
394	I walk on the Wabash Heritage Trail every day, absolutely love it! Amazing that we have such a beautiful trail that leads into our downtown. Our trails and parks are one of my favorite things about Lafayette and what makes me want to keep living here.	5/12/2023 1:26 PM
395	It would be nice if there were bathroom facilities at McAlister Park. A playground there would also make it more attractive for kids, preferably down the trail a bit so they have to hike to get there! I would love to see a Splash Pad for kids at a Lafayette park. I saw there will be a dog one installed at McCaw? Why not one for kids? It would also be great to have water slides available at Tropicanoe Cove for smaller children, perhaps with no minimum height or 36". It is hard to be there with kids who want to be on the slides, but can't because they aren't tall enough. I'm hoping you will still do the Workreation program this year as both my kids will be old enough now!	5/12/2023 10:43 AM
396	We need a trail for walking and biking that extends from 9th street where it ends before Ortman Lane to Veteran's Memorial. That section of roadway is currently narrow and unsafe for walkers and bikers.	5/12/2023 6:03 AM
397	More Rides at columbian park	5/11/2023 10:49 PM
398	More advertisement of community programs	5/11/2023 10:14 PM
399	Please! Repaint or temple the animal statues at Columbian Park along the train tracks. They are so out of place.	5/11/2023 9:19 PM
400	Bring back evening water walking!!	5/11/2023 8:44 PM
401	would be great to have more youth sporting possiblilites to allow less travel teams outside our area. Lafayette would be a perfect spot between Indy, Chicago, and Fort Wayne. Why not invest in bring travel teams here and not have to travel outside our city. Also more indoor rental facilities open all year that are handicap accesible.	5/11/2023 8:27 PM
402	The park at Columbia park is a mess. That same slide has been broke for 2 years. It's a shame all the work that has been done for the main park area to look like trash	5/11/2023 7:57 PM
403	Good job on keeping the parks and restrooms clean. I frequent all for nature and walking almost daily all year round.	5/11/2023 7:33 PM
404	Pool is not a pool. Would be nice if you had a place to swim. Need more security, not safe	5/11/2023 7:26 PM
405	A splash pad would be a great addition!	5/11/2023 6:24 PM
406	Please close the zoo. It's pathetic and the animals are visibly miserable. It's cruel.	5/11/2023 5:19 PM
407	Splash pad!	5/11/2023 4:37 PM
408	Columbian park playgrounds could use some TLC. The main playground on top of the hill has been in poor condition for awhile now.	5/11/2023 4:32 PM
409	Would like to have some tennis courts back in multiple areas instead of so much pickleball	5/11/2023 4:03 PM
410	More sensory friendly activities, water safety lessons for children with autism, more evening and weekend activities.	5/11/2023 4:00 PM
411	South side is a playground desert! There is nothing for the neighborhoods west of Columbian park, north of downtown, excepting South Tipp park (which is great). There are so many families who would benefit from parks and playgrounds in the area. Columbian park would be much improved by concessions or even coffee/snacks - it would be so wonderful to buy a coffee and look at the newly restored lagoons at the boathouse, or even to have some caffeine to keep up with the kids at the playground. Columbian park has also had boarded up	5/11/2023 3:23 PM

## Lafayette Parks & Recreation 5 Year Master Plan Questionnaire 2023

playspaces for years now. Protected bike lines, rather than painted lines that suddenly vanish at intersections, are a must as the city becomes more connected and bike friendly. There is too much confusion now with newly painted lines as drivers swerve through them and cyclists have to cross multiple lanes in their transit. Working splashpads and parks with bathrooms would be wonderful to have as temperatures continue to rise in the city. As shootings rise across the country, many people with small children will feel safer in our parks if these spaces were gun-free zones. Too many people open carry in the parks, which makes the rest of us feel uncomfortable. The young men wearing with gigantic guns and confederate flags do not make this feel like a safe, sweet town to raise a family in. They make it feel like a white supremacism rally. Surely can understand why we do not want single, angry men with AR-15s around toddlers. Guns are banned in our courthouses and schools, we can do it in the parks where we play with kids too. A reasonable first reaction when a person with a gun on them walks through a playground is to run away.

412	The monkeys need to come out of the old animal house.	5/11/2023 3:21 PM
413	We need trails that connect to each other and you can ride your bike safely away from cars for more than a mile. We need a pump track and kids bike trails and jumps and bmx track. Kids love riding bikes in this city and doing laps around Armstrong pond isn't enough. Let's optimize great outdoor exercise for children!	5/11/2023 2:11 PM
414	Thanks for continuing to support disc golf in Lafayette. I play almost daily at Murdock or McCallister Park! I wouldn't mind some extra security patrols through the wooded area of Murdock park. I frequently encounter drug deals going on, people experience homelessness living back there, among other things that feel a bit unsafe.	5/11/2023 2:03 PM
415	Take the street out along the lagoon and raise the grade to provide a more level greenspace.	5/11/2023 1:58 PM
416	Before expanding to new builds, please consider reviewing existing parks for improvements.	5/11/2023 1:56 PM
417	Playgrounds need splash pads! The lack of splash pads here so disappointing. Summer is so hot, we need a free option to let kids cool off. It would be hugely popular!	5/11/2023 1:48 PM
418	I walk in Murdock Park most days because it is near my work, and I am SO grateful to have this patch of nature available to me!! I love the signage, and a very much appreciated the recent work to repave the trail behind the school. Thank you!	5/11/2023 1:45 PM
419	I think there's huge potential for a park on the south side with all the new development. Connecting it with all the neighborhoods and the proposed Big 4 trail would be game changing for the south side of town.	5/11/2023 1:26 PM
420	I'd love to see a revitalization of some of the playground equipment at Columbian Park	5/11/2023 1:23 PM
421	Would love to see more natural areas; forests, prairies, native habitats!	5/11/2023 1:20 PM
422	I would love to see the large playground at the top of the hill at Columbian park repaired, the slide and stairs have been broken for over a year. We would also love more free concerts at Columbian park.	5/11/2023 1:09 PM
423	A splash pad for littles would be amazing. I would be there all day every day during the summer!	5/11/2023 1:08 PM
424	You installed solar powered crosswalk lighting near Columbian park (close the corner of South Street and Park Avenue). Many times it doesn't work, and when it does it is ignored by the traffic. I have witnessed several pedestrians almost being hit by cars trying to use the crossing system. Could a speed bump be installed on South Street similar to the ones on 26th Street by Sunnyside to slow the speeding cars?	5/11/2023 1:04 PM
425	Disc golf is a family friendly fast growing sport that would be great to have an area on the south side of Lafayette	5/11/2023 1:01 PM
426	An arcade like when they converted the Dark Ride into back in the day would be cool and also a small ferris wheel would be awesome. Oh and don't forget that carousel we already paid for twice.	5/11/2023 1:00 PM
427	Would love to see a splash pad added to the community!	5/11/2023 12:59 PM
428	manage invasive plants to make your green spaces healthier!	5/11/2023 12:54 PM
429	Need more trash cans on south street at Columbian park	5/11/2023 12:35 PM

430

Columbian park playground equipment is needing updated (top of hill), would love more parks like McCaw (we love the ground of the play ground!)

5/11/2023 12:27 PM

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# Section 6: Priority Action Plan

## IN THIS SECTION:

Community Needs Summary  
Action and Priority Plan  
Funding Opportunities



Columbian Park SIA Playground Renovation 2024

## ❖ Community Needs and Issues

After reviewing all the public input, issues, existing park facilities and needs as stated by the community, city staff, Park Board and park staff, there was a consistent theme of upgrading facilities to replace aging infrastructure and providing new facilities and programming.

<b><i>Needs Assessment Summary</i></b>	Online/ Printed Survey	Interview and Stakeholder Meetings	Level of Service Analysis	Trends
Walking and bike trails: Increased connectivity	●	●	●	●
Columbian Park Playground update	●	●	●	●
Splash pads	●	●		●
BMX, Pump track & skate park	●	●		●
Basketball courts	●	●		
Pickleball courts	●	●		●
Nature areas	●			●
Youth Programming	●	●	●	●
Tennis	●	●		
Ballfields	●	●		
Aquatic/Swimming	●	●		●
Accessibility	●			
Downtown pocket park	●	●		●
Disc Golf	●	●		
Events/Festivals/Concerts	●	●		●
Dog parks	●	●		●

After reviewing and analyzing the issues identified by the Park Board, staff and citizens, major needs were categorized into the following list:

- Columbian Park & Zoo
- SIA Playground in Columbian Park
- BMX, pump track and skate park facility
- Shade structures at dog park
- Trail connections
- Park amenity additions: splash pad, new 18-hole disc golf course
- Land acquisition for future parks: focus on east and south sides of city
- Downtown pocket park or green space

- On-going maintenance

It should be noted that although some specific items listed in the chart are not exclusively listed in the above list that does not imply that they are not a part of the overall future project development.

Overall, the Department continues to strive to meet the needs of the citizens through working with other city departments, economic development groups and is creating partnerships to leverage city budget dollars to improve and enhance the facilities and programs for the citizens of Lafayette. The city remains committed to the development of great parks and recreation spaces and programming.

The staff and the Park Board are committed to finding ways to provide funding for the variety of needs that were identified by the public and staff. The Department will continue to focus on maintaining all facilities at a high level and increasing programming opportunities for all citizens.

Trail infrastructure and routes are a team effort with other city departments, and Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC). Trail infrastructure funding is not included in this action plan. The city is committed to providing connections throughout the community and greater Tippecanoe County through their transportation infrastructure at all levels. The largest trail infrastructure project which received RAISE funding in 2023 is Phase 2 of the Wabash River Greenway which will develop the North Ninth Street section of the river greenway including a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge over the Wabash River, ADA and safety improvements on the existing Ninth Street trail, bus stop connections, and parking. This project is currently under development in conjunction with improvements on the west bank of the Wabash River and at the north end in the county.

The action and priority list on the following page demonstrates a road map for the next five years. The action plan is meant to be flexible to maximize the Board's ability to take advantage of future funding and partnering opportunities as they become available.

Priority Action Plan		Year of Project				
		24	25	26	27	28
ADMIN	Evaluate potential new park locations based on City growth: south and east	X	X	X	X	X
ADMIN	Evaluate staffing needs as City growth and park facilities/programming grow	X	X	X	X	X
ADMIN	Skate and BMX/Pump Track Planning & Design		X			
ADMIN	Skate and BMX/Pump Track construction				X	
ADMIN	Splash pad				X	
ADMIN	Downtown green space				X	
ADMIN	New 18-hole Disc Golf Course				X	
	<b>Capital Improvement: Park Specific</b>					
Columbian	Carousel (ongoing)	X	X	X		
Columbian	Playground Renovation	X				
Columbian	Zoo: Commissary Building: Construction	X				
Columbian	Zoo: Primate Exhibits and Holding Building - Design	X				
Columbian	Zoo: Exhibits Renovation of North American River Otters and Bald Eagle - Design	X				
CAT	Restroom/Concession Building and All-Inclusive Playground	X				
McCaw	Pickleball courts and walking path		X			
Shamrock	Shade structure at Dog Park		X			
Columbian	Shade structure at playground		X			

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

A variety of funding opportunities are available through grants and not-for-profit organizations to assist in the development and planning of programs and facilities. Some of these potential sources are listed below.

### STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS

#### PRESIDENT BENJAMIN HARRISON CONSERVATION TRUST FUND

- Formerly known as The Indiana Heritage Trust, which was established in 1992. This fund ensures that Indiana's rich natural heritage will be preserved and enhanced for present and succeeding generations. The purpose of the Harrison Conservation Trust is to acquire state interests in real property that are examples of outstanding natural resources and habitats or have historical or archaeological significance or provide areas for conservation, recreation, protection, or restoration of native biological diversity within the state of Indiana. The Indiana Heritage Trust buys

land from willing sellers to protect Indiana’s rich natural heritage for wildlife habitat and recreation.

#### INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (IDNR) – DIVISION OF FORESTRY

- Arbor Day Grant: \$500 - \$1,000 grant. Any activity that assists in promoting Arbor Day.
- Urban Forest Conservation (UFC) Grants: These grants are intended to help communities develop long-term programs to manage their urban forests. Grantees may conduct projects that target program development, planning, and education. Projects funded in the past include activities such as conducting tree inventories; developing tree maintenance and planting plans; writing tree ordinances, conducting programs to train municipal employees and the public; purchase or development of publications, books, and videos; hiring consultants or city foresters, etc. Local municipalities, not-for-profit organizations, and state agencies are eligible to apply for \$2,000 to \$20,000.

#### IDNR DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

- Indiana Trails Program: This program replaced the Recreation Trails Program in 2021 funded through the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. It provides funds for trail development including the following:
  - Construction of trails.
  - Acquisition of easements or property for trail development.
  - Development of trailheads and other support facilities.
  - Construction of bridges, boardwalks, motorized and non-motorized trails, and trail related projects.The program provides 80/20 percent reimbursement/match assistance for eligible projects (\$50,000 to \$250,000 maximum available). The application deadline is March 1.
- Next Level Conservation Trust (NLCT): The NLCT was created in 2022 to preserve and protect important conservation, recreation, and historic areas throughout Indiana. Funds are for the purpose of property acquisition. Property acquired with this fund will become part of the public trust to ensure that the land is protected for future generations of Hoosiers to use and enjoy. The NLCT is designed to encourage local participation, so each project requires \$3.00 of NLCT funds to \$1.00 match. The match could be provided by local governmental, nonprofit, or philanthropic organizations; private or corporate donors; or by bargain sale. Funds cannot be used for capital improvements, stewardship, or programming.
- Next Level Trails: This fund is open to local units of government and non-profit organizations. Eligible projects include regional or local trail construction, land

acquisition, design and engineering, and trail amenities. Consideration is given to collaboration with other communities; project is a part of a national or multi-state trail system; connections with nature; trail accommodates multiple types of trails uses. Counties deficient in trail miles per capita and providing access to a population not within a five-mile radius are also criteria. The grant requires a minimum 20 percent match. The program provides a minimum of \$200,000 to \$2,000,000 maximum available for a local project per year. Maximum amount may be increased dependent on current budget at the federal level. The application deadline is June 1.

#### INDIANA OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND RURAL AFFAIRS (OCRA)

- Main Street Revitalization Program (MSRP): MSRP grants are funded with federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The goal of the Main Street Revitalization Program is to encourage communities with eligible populations to focus on long-term community development efforts.

#### INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (INDOT)

- Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program: This grant is for the improvement of transportation systems such as trails, sidewalks, and street improvements. Additional activities may include on-road and off-road facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation; developing safe routes for non-drivers; conversion of abandoned railroad corridors for trails; and historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities. Funds 80 percent of construction cost with 20 percent match by applicant.
- Safe Routes to School Fund (SRTS): Non-infrastructure activities will be limited to a cost of \$75,000. Infrastructure projects will be limited to a cost of \$250,000. SRTS activities and projects must be programmed in the statewide transportation improvement program to receive federal funds. A school must be within a two-mile radius of the construction improvements project.

#### UNITED STATES (U.S.) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY FACILITY GRANTS

- This program provides grants to communities with fewer than 20,000 residents to construct and renovate facilities used for public service, health care, recreation, community service, and public safety. Funds are also used to purchase equipment that is needed to operate the facilities. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, municipalities, towns, districts, and tribal government agencies. Areas with the lowest population and income levels receive higher grant considerations. Up to 75 percent of the project costs are covered by the grant. The amount of funding is dependent on the median income and population of the applicant entity.

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- Public Works Grants is a grant program of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. Funds can be used to revitalize, expand, and upgrade a community's physical infrastructure to attract a new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, and generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investment. [www.eda.gov/programs/eda-programs](http://www.eda.gov/programs/eda-programs).
- Economic Adjustment Assistance Program: This program provides technical, planning and infrastructure assistance in distressed economic regions. [www.eda.gov/programs/eda-programs](http://www.eda.gov/programs/eda-programs).

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

- Grants from this program are used to acquire real estate property for public use, demolish blighted structures, and construct and renovate public service facilities, recreational facilities, and public and private buildings. Funds are also used to support economic development activities, including assisting micro-enterprises. Grants are administered by states to cities and counties with fewer than 50,000 and 200,000 residents, respectively. Up to three percent of the grant can be allocated to cover technical assistance and administrative expenses.

## PRIVATE AND NONPROFIT GRANTS

### INDIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (INPS)

- Small grants to promote the appreciation, presentation, conservation, utilization, and scientific study of the flora native to Indiana. INPS seek to educate the public about the values, beauty, diversity, and environmental importance of indigenous species.

### MIRACLE'S GRANTS FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN

- Up to \$5 million in grant money is available to schools and parks around the country who want to purchase new playground equipment through Miracle's Grants for America's Children program. Miracle, a playground manufacturer for over 80 years, awards grants for purchase of equipment based on an assessment of the current playground equipment proposal, size of project, and amount of grant funding available.

KaBOOM!

- Dr. Pepper Snapple & KaBOOM! offer \$15,000 grants to qualifying U.S.-based organizations to be used toward the purchase of playground equipment that will be built using the KaBOOM! community-build model. These partners also offer \$750 grants to communities who want to make their playgrounds cleaner, safer, and more inviting. In addition, this group offers joint-use grants for communities who partner with schools to open recreation facilities to the public during non-school hours. These grants are solely for the expansion or creation of joint use agreements. There is a rolling deadline for this set of grants.

#### SHADE STRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

- The American Academy of Dermatology's Shade Structure Grant Program awards grants to public schools and non-profit organizations for installing permanent shade structures for outdoor locations that are not protected from the sun, such as playgrounds. Each grant is valued at up to \$8,000, which includes the structure and installation.

#### LEGO CHILDREN'S FUND

- Lego aims to help local and national non-profit organizations committed to helping children develop their creativity and learning skills through constructive play. It awards quarterly grants with special interest paid to collaborative efforts and in providing matching funds to leverage new dollars into the receiving organization. Typical awards range between \$500-\$5,000.

#### LET'S PLAY INITIATIVE

- Dr. Pepper Snapple Group has made a three-year, \$15 million commitment, as part of KaBOOM!'s "Let's Play Initiative", to help construct and improve playground areas. Municipalities and non-profit organizations with a playground or outdoor recreational space that is currently unsafe for children can apply for construction grants. The Initiative also offers Let's Play Completion Grants, which can be used toward the completion or improvement of an existing playground. This grant program has an ongoing deadline. In addition, there are also opportunities for communities to partner with school districts to apply for Joint Use Grants to open school recreation facilities to the public during non-school hours.

#### KIDSGARDENING.ORG

- The National Gardening Association has sponsored this grant for four years, aiming to support community organizations with child-centered garden programs. Priority is given to programs that have these components: educational focus or curricular/program, integration to reinforce academics, life skills, instruction, (e.g., nutrition, growing one's own food, learning to be responsible) developing environmental stewardship, and encouraging students to make positive choices for

themselves and the planet. As the title implies, grants are available to states in the Midwest including Indiana.

#### TONY HAWK FOUNDATION SKATEPARK GRANTS

- Opportunity for charities and state or local agencies to apply for Tony Hawk Foundation Skatepark Grants to facilitate and encourage the design, development, construction, and operation of new skatepark facilities, primarily located in low-income communities in the United States. Grant cycles are typically January and July of each year.

#### MISCELLANEOUS FUNDING SOURCES

Below are some funding options that may be available to the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department and City Council:

- Tax Incremental Financing
- Cumulative Building Fund
- Private Foundations
- Indiana Committee for the Humanities
- Indiana Arts Committee
- Indiana Department of Aging and Community Services
- Environmental Education Act, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Indiana Federal Property Program
- Indiana Department of Commerce
- Economic Development Administration
- Department of Education
- President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports
- The Nature Conservancy
- Acres, Inc.
- The Trust for Public Land
- The Lilly Community Assistance Program
- Fish America Foundation
- Memorial Giving
- Deferred Giving
- Capital Fund Drive Campaign

#### FUNDING STRATEGIES

Funding strategies rely on multiple revenue options, not on one or two sources, to make the Parks Department and individual programs more self-supporting. Park agencies across the country are successfully supplementing proceeds with alternate funding sources.

Advertising Sales: This revenue source is selling tasteful and appropriate advertising for park and recreation-related items such as program catalogs, and other visible products or services that are consumable or permanent. This opportunity will expose the advertiser's product, information, or service to many people.

Catering Permits and Services: This is a license to allow caterers to work in the park system on a permit basis for a specific period of time. A set fee or a percentage of food sales is returned to the Parks Department.

Concession Management: Concessions come from retail sales or rentals of soft goods, hard goods, or consumable items. A park department contracts for the service or receives a portion of the gross percentage or a portion of the full revenue dollars, which incorporate a profit after expenses.

Cost Avoidance: Any park department must take the position that it cannot be everything for everyone. The department must be driven by the market/demand and stay with the department's core mission. By altering its role as direct provider, the park department will save money as it decides whether to provide a particular facility or program. Savings could be realized through partnering, outsourcing, or deferring to another provider of a service and/or facility.

Easements: This revenue source is available when any park department allows utility companies, businesses, or individuals to develop an improvement below ground on its property for a set period of time and a set dollar amount, which is received by any park department annually.

Equipment Rental: The revenue source is available when equipment such as tables, chairs, tents, stages, bicycles, skates, roller blades, and other items are rented and used for recreation.

Entertainment Fees: This fee is on ticket sales for major entertainment venues such as concerts, tourneys, special events, or sporting events. This fee is based on the earnings vendors receive from their ticket sales.

Foundation/Gifts: These dollars, raised from tax-exempt, non-profit organizations, are established with private donations to promote specific causes, programs, activities, or issues. They offer a selection of opportunities to fund projects such as capital campaigns, gift catalogs, fund-raisers, endowments, and sales of items.

Greenway Utility: When greenway utilities are established, they are used to finance the acquisition of greenways and greenway/trail development by selling the development rights underground for fiber-optic types of businesses.

Irrevocable Remainder Trusts: These trusts are set up with individuals who desire to leave a portion of their wealth to a park department in a trust fund that allows the fund to grow over time. The department may use a portion of the interest to support specific park and recreation facilities, or programs designated by the trustee.

Land Trust: Many communities have developed land trusts to help secure and fund the cost of acquiring land that needs to be preserved and protected for open space and greenway purposes.

Licensing Rights: This revenue option allows a park department to license its name on all resale items that private or public vendors use when they sell clothing or other items

containing the name of the park department. The typical licensing fee is 6 to 10 percent of the cost of the resale item.

Life Estates: This source is available when a person wants to leave his or her property to a park department in exchange for living on the property until his or her death. This revenue source is popular for wealthy individuals because their estates will otherwise be heavily taxed upon their death and their children might have to sell this property because of probate costs. This opportunity allows the individual to receive a fair tax deduction annually on the property while leaving a life estate.

Merchandising Sales: This revenue source comes from the public or private sector on resale items from gift shops and stores for either all sales or a set gross percentage.

Naming Rights: Many cities have begun selling the naming rights for new buildings or renovations of existing buildings and parks to cover the associated development cost.

Non-Profit Land Holder: It can be very helpful to have a non-profit land holder to initially accept donations of land intended for open space and parkland. These can serve to facilitate tax benefits to the donors and can help to deal with acquisition timing issues.

Parking Fees: This fee applies to parking at selected destination facilities to help offset capital and operational costs.

Permits (Special-Use Permits): These special permits allow individuals to use specific park property for financial gain. The park department either receives a set amount of money or a percentage of the gross service revenues.

Special Fund-Raisers: Many parks and recreation departments have annual special fundraisers to help cover specific programs and capital projects.

Ticket Sales/Admissions: This revenue source is based on accessing facilities for self-directed activities. These user fees help offset operational costs.

Utility Roundup Programs: Some park and recreation agencies have worked with their local utilities to set up a program that allows a consumer to “round up” the consumer’s actual utility invoice to the nearest dollar, with revenues being dedicated to parks and recreation.

The potential funding sources are not intended as an exhaustive list of available sources. In carrying out its responsibilities, the department will continue to research various federal grant-in-aid programs and private sector resources, which could be utilized in the development of park and recreation projects.

