

# HUNTINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



## 2011-2015 MASTER PLAN

PREPARED FOR:  
**HUNTINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
1205 WEST PARK DRIVE  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA 46750

PREPARED BY:



**DRAFT - OCTOBER 19, 2010**



Huntington Parks  
and Recreation  
Department

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### **City Officials**

Steve Updike, Mayor  
Christi Scher, City Clerk

### **Council Members**

Erv Ebersole - 1st District  
Brooks Fetters - 2nd District  
Steve McIntyre - 3rd District  
Jason Fields - 4th District  
Joe Blomeke - 5th District  
Keith Eller - At Large  
Jack Slusser - At Large

### **Parks and Recreation Board**

Peter Kitchen, President  
Sue Leedy, Vice President  
Bob Allen  
Chris Eckert  
Rex Baxter

### **Parks and Recreation Staff**

Denise Bard, Superintendent  
Jennifer Hotchkiss, Assistant  
Superintendent

### **Huntington Parks and Recreation Department**

1205 West Park Drive, Huntington, Indiana 46750  
Telephone (260) 358-2323  
FAX (260) 358-2324  
Web site: [www.huntington.in.us](http://www.huntington.in.us)

### **Consultant**

Patrick S. Brown, ASLA

### ***SiteScapes, Inc.***

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This report documentation was prepared under contract for the  
City of Huntington - Parks and Recreation Board by:

Patrick S. Brown, ASLA, President, SiteScapes, Inc.  
Landscape Architecture and Planning, Mishawaka, Indiana 46544

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**HUNTINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
1205 West Park Drive, Huntington, Indiana 46750

**RESOLUTION 10 – 01**  
**2011-2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

**WHEREAS**, the Huntington Parks and Recreation Board is aware of the park and recreation needs of the residents of the City of Huntington, and

**WHEREAS**, the Huntington Parks and Recreation Board is desirous of providing aesthetic and functional park and recreation facilities and programs to the residents of the City of Huntington to meet their needs, and

**WHEREAS**, the Huntington Parks and Recreation Board realizes the importance of sound planning in order to meet the needs of its residents, and

**WHEREAS**, the Huntington Parks and Recreation Board is continually aware of the value and importance of leisure opportunities, recreational programs and facilities for the future of the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department and its programs, and to the residents of the City of Huntington,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE HUNTINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**, by unanimous declaration, does adopt the Huntington Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2011 to 2015 as its official plan for the growth and development of parks and recreation opportunities in Huntington, Indiana over the next five years. The Huntington Parks and Recreation Board is committed to an annual review and update of the goals and objectives of this Master Plan.

Adopted and signed the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, Two Thousand and Ten

**HUNTINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Kitchen, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Allen, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Leedy, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Eckert, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rex Baxter, Member

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Denise Bard, Superintendent

**HUNTINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
1205 West Park Drive, Huntington, Indiana 46750

**RESOLUTION 10 – 02**  
**Americans with Disabilities Act**

**WHEREAS**, the Huntington Parks and Recreation Board is aware of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336), and

**WHEREAS**, the Huntington Parks and Recreation Board desires to provide the highest level of accessibility possible and feasible for persons with visual, hearing, mobility, and mental impairments, consistent with the obligation to conserve park resources and preserve the quality of the park and recreation experiences for everyone.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE HUNTINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**, will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and will make every effort, including a self evaluation of its policies and practices, to ensure all services, programs, and activities of the Department, or its contractors, will provide the highest level of accessibility possible; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Huntington Parks and Recreation Board that the Board designates the Park Superintendent to act on behalf of the Board in resolving complaints and grievances pertaining to this Act.

Adopted and signed the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, Two Thousand and Ten.

**HUNTINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Kitchen, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Allen, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Leedy, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Eckert, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rex Baxter, Member

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Denise Bard, Superintendent

**HUNTINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
1205 West Park Drive, Huntington, Indiana 46750

**Assurance of Compliance Section 504  
of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

The Huntington Parks and Recreation Board has received and read the guidelines for compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 issued by the United States Department of the Interior and will comply with these guidelines and the Act.

Adopted and signed the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, Two Thousand and Ten.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Kitchen, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Allen, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Leedy, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Eckert, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rex Baxter, Member

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Denise Bard, Superintendent

**REQUEST FOR ELIGIBILITY**  
**Land and Water Conservation Fund**

We hereby request eligibility to participate in the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

HUNTINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION Board  
1205 West Park Drive  
Huntington, Indiana 46750  
Telephone (260) 358-2323  
FAX (260) 358-2323

Park Board President: Peter Kitchen

The Huntington Parks and Recreation Board was established under the provisions of Section 201, Chapter 311, Article II of the Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana for 1965. In 1982, the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department was re-established under the current provisions of Indiana Code 36-10. A copy of the ordinance is enclosed in this Master Plan. This Act empowers the Board to plan, construct, operate and maintain recreation and park facilities.

By virtue of the powers vested in our Board by the Indiana General Assembly we agree, if approved, to abide by all applicable State and Federal laws and the provisions outlined in the Guidelines for Local Agencies participating in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program.

Adopted and signed the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, Two Thousand and Ten.

**HUNTINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Kitchen, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Allen, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Leedy, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Eckert, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rex Baxter, Member

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Denise Bard, Superintendent



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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*Draft 10-19-10*





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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*“Every city should have a park at its heart.”* Frederick Law Olmsted

The City of Huntington has a tradition of meeting the leisure and recreation needs of its residents. The Huntington Parks & Recreation Department is in charge of 10 parks with over 180 acres of open space and manages over 20 recreation programs serving over 11,000 people each year.

Parks represent a notable investment and community asset in cities in addition to the substantial impact they have on a city’s quality of life and economic soundness. Across the country, city leaders realize that an outstanding park system contributes not only to enriching and enjoyable public spaces for its residents, but also spurs special events and tourism, assists in attracting new residents and retaining current residents, and strengthen property values.

*In the City of Huntington, the quality of parks, recreation and cultural opportunities improve our physical and mental health, create opportunities to develop and build community pride, and provide positive opportunities for use of leisure time. Huntington Parks also provide for business, tourism, art and cultural interests and needs. Our parks plays an important role in daily community life in Huntington and reflect local culture and values.*

*It is support from the City Administration and commitment by the Parks and Recreation Board/Department that makes a community strong and attractive for both residents and visitors and to support the high quality of life.*



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## *Executive Summary*

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The Huntington Parks and Recreation Department is facing several significant challenges. Even though population growth has decreased in recent years, the need for recreation programs, community parks and open space has increased. Changing demographics have increased the number of adults and senior citizens, and have left unmet needs for programs, trails and recreation areas. There is also the need to upgrade aging park facilities and correct functional inefficiencies in many older parks. These challenges must be effectively addressed in order to maintain and enhance the high quality of life that residents of Huntington enjoy. Each year the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department experiences challenges as it strives to meet increased demands and needs as the caretaker of one of the city's largest assets.

The focus of this Master Plan is, first and foremost, to maintain and improve the resources we have. One will see that much of the proposed action plan is devoted to repair, maintenance and program improvements. Funds for these projects will come mainly from the Parks and Recreation property tax levy and non-reverting accounts devoted to parks. Grants, user fees and donations will also help make these projects a reality.

This Master Plan establishes goals, actions and implementation tools to provide a quality system of parks, greenspaces, trails and recreational opportunities for all residents of Huntington. This Master Plan acknowledges what residents desire and enjoy in their community and leads to healthier individuals and a healthier community.

A Park and Recreation Master Plan is a very important guide that has four distinct objectives.

1. It helps determine the recreational needs of the community, identify sites or areas to meet these needs and to develop methods and programs to preserve and/or develop these sites and areas.



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2. It will aid the community in recognizing the importance of wise utilization and preservation of its natural resources.
3. It will help to broaden the community's view of itself in terms of the use of these natural resources for recreational activities.
4. It will aid the community in recognizing the importance of good fiscal planning in the utilization of public funds.

### **Method of Approach**

Park and Recreation planning need to be addressed on different levels to fully review and provide specific directions for growth and development. Traditionally, park and recreation systems prepare a master plan that will serve a guide for physical open space and park land of the community. But such a plan may not encompass other major elements such as administration, staffing, finance, programming, marketing and maintenance. Due to the many competing interests in a community, park and recreation departments need to be more strategic in their planning. A typical park and open space master plan may no longer be able to meet the growing needs of a park and recreation system.

Other plans that may help guide future decision making include:

Strategic Plan. A strategic plan sets the overall mission, direction and vision for the entire park and recreation system.

Park and Open Space Master Plan. A parks and open space master plan establishes the direction for parkland and facility needs for the community.



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*Executive Summary*

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Market Plan. A market plan is a study to determine how much of the market a particular park facility or program presently or potentially could serve.

Business Plan. A business plan is a study for a single-focus activity, facility or program.

Resource Management Plan. A resource management plan addresses the overall approach to natural systems and environmental issues within a park system.

Trail & Greenway Plan. A trail and greenway plan addresses the array of potential transportation routes and linkages across the community.

The Huntington Parks and Recreation 2011-2015 Master Plan incorporates a little of each type of planning to develop a comprehensive master plan that strives to address needs of the community and residents. This comprehensive planning effort examined the existing issues and provides recommendations for future park acquisitions, recreational program needs, renovation of existing facilities and development of new facilities. The goal of the Five-Year Master Plan is to provide a road map for the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department to better address the needs of its residents.

Public input was sought to identify the “demand and need” of recreational and leisure activities in Huntington. Public input is the source and core of a Master Plan. Various methods were used to reach as many residents as possible to identify their feelings, wants and desires for recreational activities in Huntington. Input was gathered through a series of special public meetings, a written public survey, review and comments at Park Board meetings, and work sessions with Park Board and Park Staff.



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*Executive Summary*

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The 2011-2015 Huntington Parks and Recreation Master Plan focuses on the following:

- Includes demographic data to project population growth and its impact on community park and recreation needs.
- Identifies gaps in facilities, programs and services and recommends ways to address the gaps.
- Identifies the need for future land acquisition to meet future needs.
- Provides guidance to assist in applying for grant funds for park and recreation improvements.
- Guides Park Board, Staff and City leaders in determining where and how parks funding should be allocated over the next 5-10 years.

The Huntington Parks and Recreation Master Plan is intended to be a guide that identifies park and recreational opportunities in the community. The method of approach and planning process offered insight into the changing needs, trends and events of the past. This master plan is based on current and specific data, policies and goals in place at this time. Huntington, like most other areas of Indiana, will continue to develop. The planning process needs to be continuous and receptive to changes of conditions, new demands and needs, and new opportunities. This 2011-2015 Master Plan should not become a *final plan*, but it should be subject to re-evaluation as changes occur. It should become an on-going process with the Parks and Recreation Department conducting “annual reviews” to facilitate future actions.



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The following is a brief summary of the 2011-2015 Huntington Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

### **Park Board/Department**

An evaluation of the Park Board and Department, their role and responsibility, provided an opportunity to examine the mission, purpose and goals of the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department. This evaluation resulted in confirmation of the mission statement and an expanded set of goals for the department. As part of this evaluation process, the structure of the department was reviewed to determine if it was organized to meet the growing needs of the community. Suggestions for the Park Board and Department are:

1. *The Huntington Parks and Recreation Board review and adopt the mission statement and goals of the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department.*
2. *The Huntington Parks and Recreation Board and Department aggressively searches alternative funding sources and grants to address the growing park and recreational needs of the community.*
3. *The Huntington Parks and Recreation Board and Department need to become a stronger entity in promoting programs, services, budget requests, etc. and maintain standards that have been achieved.*
4. *As guardians of public tax dollars, the focus of the Huntington Parks and Recreation Board and Department needs to be on making the delivery of park services and programs as efficient as possible, since inefficiency cannot be afforded.*





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## **Key Issues**

The main issues identified in the planning process through public input were: maintaining current parks and facilities; expanding recreational opportunities, long-range planning; staffing; and budget/financial planning. Each issue was assigned a level of priority. Those issues receiving the highest priority were placed in the five-year action plan for implementation.

### **Existing Parks and Facilities**

Preserve, protect and maintain existing parks and facilities were key issues identified. Main concerns focused on trails, picnic areas (shelters and restrooms) and general maintenance and clean-up.

**Memorial Park** – is the second largest park in the city and one of the most used parks. Key issues to be addressed include: additional picnic shelters, renovation of pavilion, new picnic grills, renovation and expansion of the walking trail, improved parking areas and renovation of the Sunken Gardens ponds/water features and preservation of this unique area. Proposed developments include a new tennis complex to consolidate various tennis courts in the parks; and the concept of a Veterans Memorial Garden to honor those who served from the Huntington community. Adjacent to Memorial Park are the Park Offices and Park Maintenance Facilities. Both facilities are too small and in need of expansion and/or replacement.

**Hier's Park** – this 19-acre park is the busiest park in the park system. It hosts the 4-H Fair and the Pioneer Festival each year. The main concerns focus on the existing softball diamond and how to accommodate the growth/expansion of 4-H Fair facilities without over development and loss of green space.

**Drover Park** – neighborhood park with a small play area, shelter and a water splash park. Recent developments include parking and a restroom/concession facility. No additional improvements are planned for Drover Park in the next five years.



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**Elmwood Park** -- is a small neighborhood park that serves the west end of the city. The main concerns are focused on park drive & parking improvements, pavilion renovations, renovation of the basketball, and a the need for a restroom facility. Elmwood Park is one of two park sites that provide direct access to the Little Wabash River. The opportunities for bank fishing and canoe access are excellent and are recommended to pursue.

**Yeoman Park** – this large neighborhood park serves the greater portion of the east side of Huntington. Issues identified to be addressed are parking lot & drive improvements, additional shelters and picnic sites. Public input identified the need for trails in the community and Yeoman Park offers an opportunity for the development of a perimeter walking trail.

**Erie Park** – is a small tot lot located adjacent to Yeoman Park. Improvements at Erie Park will need to be coordinated with Yeoman Park. Needs identified are construction of accessible walks, replacement of the drinking fountain and renovation or replacement of the picnic shelter.

**General Slack Park** – former 2-acre school site converted to a city park in 2002. Developments have occurred each year to create a neighborhood park. Main concerns are completing the park development with the construction of accessible walks to the restrooms and pavilion and parking improvements.

**Laurie Park** – this 1-acre park offers a picnic shelter, basketball court, playground and an open play field. Issues that should be considered are paving the parking lot and accessible walk to pavilion. The storage building used for the S.P.A.R.K. program needs to be replaced.

**River Greenway Park** – recent development in 2008 includes a linear trail along the Little Wabash River and a trailhead parking lot. Issues include trail extension to Memorial Park and a possible small shelter at the parking lot.



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**Evergreen Park** – is the latest park property added to the system. Main issue is the continuation of the development with future phases. Future development includes renovation of the softball diamonds, parking lot improvements, additional picnic shelters, play areas and walking trails. The park site also offers opportunities for winter activities.

**Recreation Center** – this building is used for park programs and a public rental facility. Main concerns are the lack of parking, improving usage of the facility, door and window replacements and mechanical/electrical updates.

**Neighborhood Park Development** - As a goal to provide recreational opportunities to all residents of the community, improvements to neighborhood areas are needed. Northeast Huntington is an area experiencing growth with no public park and limited recreational opportunities being provided. There is a need for park development, such as a small picnic shelter and playground for the children in the neighborhood. Land acquisition for a new park should be investigated.

### **Trails**

Trails and greenways are vital for the recreation and health of a community. The Lime City Trail and the Huntington Trails & Greenways Master Plan demonstrates the commitment to trails and greenways in the community. Public comment indicated priorities for trails should include 1) connection of Memorial Park to Forks of the Wabash, 2) connection of Memorial Park to Elmwood Park, 3) connection between Yeoman Park and north side of Huntington, and 4) development of river greenway trail along the Little Wabash River in downtown Huntington.

The following recommendations are suggested:

- 1) *Continue working on the implementation of the Lime City Trail.*
- 2) *Continue searching funding opportunities for trails and greenway development.*
- 3) *Conduct periodic reviews of the Trails & Greenways Trail Master Plan to adjust for changes and opportunities.*



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**Wabash River Development** - The Wabash River and Little Wabash River offers many opportunities for recreation. Elmwood Park and River Greenway Park are adjacent to the Little Wabash River which provide direct access. On the west side of Huntington, is the site of the historic Forks of the Wabash, where the Little Wabash River joins the Wabash River. The development of a river greenway trail along the entire river through the City would be an excellent benefit to the community.

### **Staffing**

The goal of the Parks and Recreation Board is to provide adequate staffing at the levels required to provide and maintain quality parks and program opportunities in Huntington. The reduction of 7 full-time maintenance to 4 full-time staff has been a stress on the department to maintain the parks in a manner expected by the residents. The re-establishment of park maintenance staff to previous levels will need to be investigated each year as budget may allow. A key issue identified in the public meetings and written survey was additional and improved recreational programming, specifically those to meet the change in demographics. The re-establishment of the Recreation Program position to the park staff would allow the Huntington Parks and Recreation Dept. to grow and offer additional recreational programming to the community.

### **Recreational Programs**

Additional and more diverse recreational programs were identified by the public as a need. The challenge to the Park Department is to identify those program opportunities and implement them. The following recommendations are suggested:

- 1) *Expand private-public partnerships to enhance recreational programs.*
- 2) *Solicit input from teens and seniors to identify specific programs that would be of interest to them.*
- 3) *Expand and improve the use of the Park Department's web site for program announcements and program evaluations and registrations.*



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**Budget/Finance**

Presently the Parks and Recreation Department operates on a general budget account. In addition, there is a park gift account, a non-reverting operating account and a non-reverting capital account.

A review and analysis of the past budgets was done in preparation of the proposed five-year budget for the master plan. The proposed budgets represent the expanded maintenance and recreation needs and development. An annual review of each year's implementation actions should result in adjustments to the remaining year action steps.

Adequate funding of parks and recreation programming and development is a continuing challenge for any park and recreation board. The Huntington Parks and Recreation Board should continually search for additional funding sources, possible grants, foundations and other methods of creative financing to assure implementation of the Action Plan to meet the recreational needs in Huntington.

The following are options that are suggested:

1. Require all recreational programs be self-supporting as much as feasible.
2. Re-evaluate rental/usage fee schedule annually.
3. Investigate the possibility of updating the ordinances for non-reverting accounts to better address the collection and use of these funds.
4. Work closely with local organizations, businesses and foundation on special projects.



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The success of this Master Plan will require:

Partnerships – *as budgets tighten, it will necessitate increased levels of inter-departmental, inter-jurisdictional and public-private cooperation.*

Patience and Perseverance – *as resources are focused on specific priorities, patience and strong perseverance will be needed to stay the course.*

Commitment – *to support the master plan and funding sources for the implementation of the priorities to meet the growing needs of the residents of Huntington.*

The preparation of this master plan and commitment by the Parks and Recreation Board and Department is the most significant goal achieved. The City of Huntington and its residents are fortunate to have a dedicated Parks and Recreation Board and Staff that exhibit the qualities necessary to lead park and recreation in Huntington into the future.

Draft 10-19-10

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# **AGENCY PROFILE**

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Department

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## Huntington Parks & Recreation Department Mission and Goals

*The Huntington Parks and Recreation Department shall strive to develop and maintain quality parks and facilities; to preserve open/natural spaces; and to provide recreational programs and services which will enhance the physical, social and emotional well-being of all residents of Huntington.*

To achieve our mission, we will:

- Promote community involvement and actively seek input in the planning, operation and participation of the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Allow for an orderly growth, acquisition and development of the physical and natural resources, and to utilize the natural characteristics of the land, when evaluating its potential for parks and recreation purposes.
- More effectively coordinate the parks and recreation department with other city departments, organizations, and schools to improve the overall service to the community.
- Offer comprehensive, quality recreational programming aimed at satisfying the needs of varying age levels, physical abilities and special interests.
- Maintain and improve the appearance and safety of our parks and facilities at the highest level of available resources.
- Provide efficient and effective leadership and coordination for quality recreational and leisure activities for the community.



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To carry out the mission and to achieve our goals, the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department value the following:

***HONESTY & INTEGRITY:***

Committed to preserving and nurturing the trust placed in us by the public and hold ourselves accountable to the highest standards of conduct.

***SAFETY:*** Ever mindful of our personal safety and the well being of all program participants, park users, and fellow employees, as we carry out our daily responsibilities.

***ATTITUDE:*** Approach our work with a positive and cooperative attitude and willingly assist the public and the people with whom we work.

***DEDICATION:*** Committed to our mission with the will and resourcefulness to carry out our diverse responsibilities.

***EXPERIENCE/KNOWLEDGE/***

***SKILLS:*** To highly value employees who are experienced in performing their duties and who are skilled in a variety of tasks and to invest resources in our staff to ensure their proficiency and provide them with opportunities for professional growth.

***EXCELLENCE:*** Strive for excellence in all we do in an effort to achieve a level of performance that exceeds expectations.

***DIVERSITY:*** Recognize the benefits of having a diverse workforce and to provide programs and facilities to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse community.

If the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department is to improve and grow, it must answer two basic questions "What do we need?" and "Where do we need it?" for the following:

- The ongoing care and maintenance of park grounds, facilities and infrastructure.
- The renovation and rehabilitation of existing facilities.
- The development of additional facilities and/or programs on existing lands keeping pace with demand as well as current trends.
- The acquisition or control of key property and complementary land for future parks and facilities, and for the preservation of significant and/or cultural resources.



Huntington Parks and Recreation Department

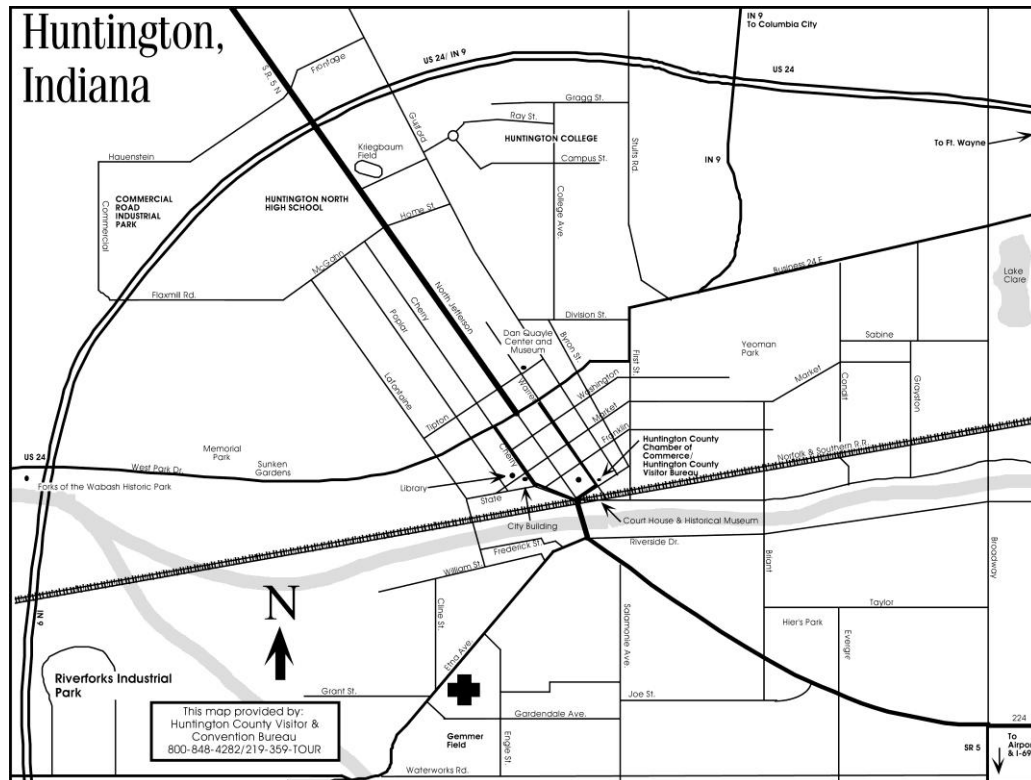
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### Location/Planning Area

Huntington is located in Huntington County, Indiana and is the county seat. As of 2009, the city had a total population of 16,521.



For the purposes of this Master Plan, the planning area is defined as the city limits of Huntington including all populations contained therein.



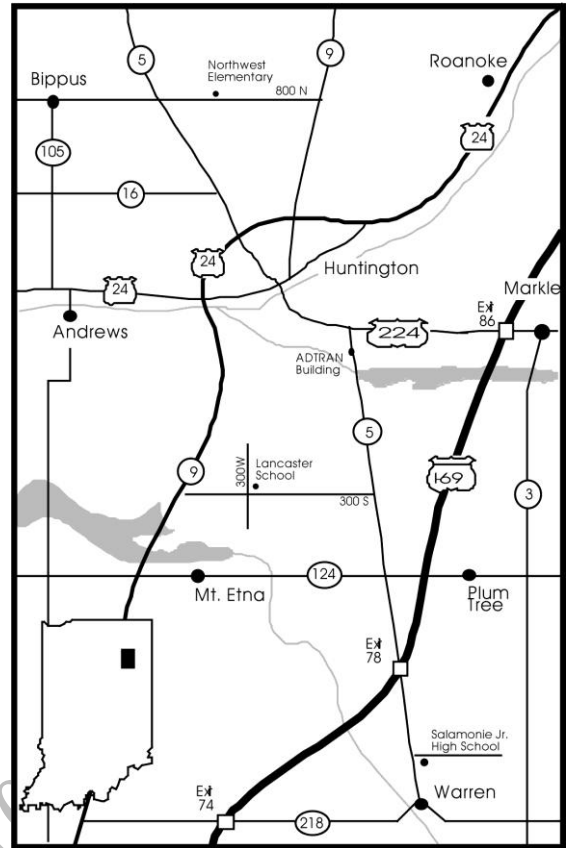


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## Community Description

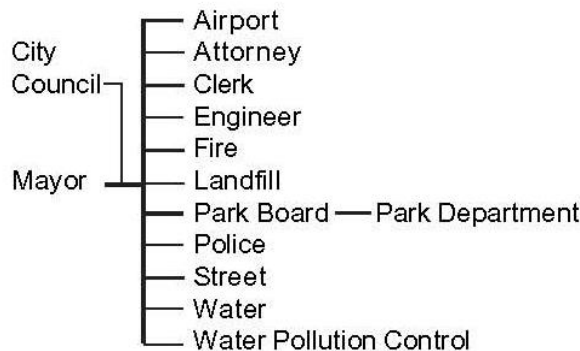
Huntington is located in Huntington Township, Huntington County; in the northeast portion of the State of Indiana. Other communities surrounding Huntington include Bippus, Roanoke, Markle, Andrews, Mt. Etna, Plum Tree and Warren. *(Huntington County map provided by Huntington County Visitor & Convention Bureau)*



## Local Government

Huntington municipal government is comprised of a mayor elected to 4-year term and a seven member City Council. The Parks and Recreation Department is one of many departments within the city and is governed by the Huntington Parks and Recreation Board.

## Organizational Chart





Huntington Parks  
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### History

In the early 1800's, an American Land Grab idealized the transfer of a vast central portion of Indiana to the United States, requiring the Indians to leave their land. Specifically, portions along the all-important transportation artery of the Wabash and Maumee Rivers were required as part of Washington's vision to connect the Ohio River with the seaboard via the Tippecanoe, Wabash, and Maumee Rivers along with Lake Erie and the St. Lawrence. A vital part of this corridor required the acquisition of the land, northeast of Huntington, in the Fort Wayne area. This area was known as the Forks of the Wabash, where land would serve as a critical portage point for the water artery between the upper waters of the Wabash and Maumee Rivers.

Settlement of that area was hindered by the resistance of the Miami Indians in giving up their ancestral land and the struggle over the territory by the French and the English. The land along the Wabash, including the area of Huntington was fertile for farming and ideal for Colonial settlement. Indian villages at the Forks of the Wabash became the targets of American troops, who in 1812, were sent to destroy Miami lodges. By 1826, titles to all area lands required for the transfer were yielded except for certain Miami "reserves".

On March 2, 1827, Congress granted land to Indiana equal to one-half of five sections on each side of a canal route, every alternate section to be reserved to the United States. The donation was generous: 527,271.24 acres in a strip five miles wide and about 160 miles long from the mouth of the Tippecanoe River to the Wabash to the mouth of the Auglaize River on the Maumee. By 1829 the policy of the United States Government supported the removal of Native Americans from the land east of the Mississippi to locations in western territories. To achieve this removal, the United States Government negotiated treaties with representatives of the various tribes to purchase the land and transport the tribal members west. In the Forks of the Wabash area, Chief LaFontaine presided over the dissolution of the Miami Nation in Indiana and its removal to Kansas Territory. By the 1830's the removal of the Potawatomis was complete and the Miamis had emigrated to the Kansas City area by the 1840's. Treaties ordinarily provided for a few individual



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reservations of land to certain prominent Indian leaders and their families. Chief LaFontaine was granted such a treaty, with reservation land in the Huntington area. But on his return trip from the Kansas area, Chief LaFontaine died. He was buried in Huntington.

As the Indians were forced out, the influx of white people into all parts of the state caused Indiana's population to double and then redouble between 1820 and 1840. The first white settlers to what is now the City of Huntington were brothers, Joel and Champion Helvey, who came from Ohio in 1830 with their sisters. In the early 1830's, sale of government lands for settlement in the Huntington County area began. The Helveys sold land to General John Tipton and his agent, Capt. Elias Murray. Murray laid out the town in 1832 for land agent John Tipton.

Although first called Flint Springs, the town was later renamed for Murray's uncle, Samuel Huntington: lawyer, a signer of the Declaration of independence and Governor of Connecticut. Governor James Whitcomb later provided for Huntington's town status on February 16, 1848. The town included the original plat and the Helvey, Johnson, Murray and Chief LaFontaine additions. In 1850 the population was 594. On September 17, 1873, Huntington had the requisite population of 3,000 to become a fifth class city. City Hall occupied a frame building then located on the southwest corner of Market and Cherry Streets. At that time Huntington had eight churches, a three-story brick public school 2 parochial schools, 26 major industries, and numerous businesses. Wood and lime were major products.

By the end of the 19th century, the City of Huntington had survived the cholera outbreaks of 1849 and 1854, lost many sons to the Civil and Spanish-American Wars, and experienced the boom brought by two railroads (Lake Erie, Wabash & St. Louis in 1852 and Chicago & Atlantic in 1873). Huntington heralded the 20th century with the building of the Carnegie Library on the northwest corner of Matilda (Park Drive) and Warren Streets. In 1904 the city dedicated its new City Hall on the southwest corner of Cherry and Market Streets. A new stone courthouse was



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constructed in 1904-1906 at its current location. Unique buildings over the Jefferson Street bridges were built in 1912. By 1914 Huntington had a fourth-class city status.

A new Huntington High School was built in 1916 on the Northeast corner of Guilford and John Streets, and the fire department building was replaced on its present location in 1917. The U.S. Post Office was erected in 1918 at the northwest corner of Market and Warren Streets. Memorial Park and the famous Sunken Gardens were developed in the early 1900's and by 1930 the City of Huntington had adopted the petunia as its official flower.

During the next 60 years many changes occurred. Huntington established a Y.M.C.A., erected Kriegbaum Athletic Field, built a municipal airport, saw the arrival of gas, electricity and indoor plumbing, and experienced automobiles, telephones and televisions, in addition to participating in World Wars I and II, and wars in Korea, Vietnam, and Kuwait/Iraq. City centennial celebrations were held in 1948 and 1973. Yearly Heritage Days festivals began in 1963; and since 1969 a yearly "Chief of the Flint Springs" is honored for community leadership.

A new post office was built in 1967 on the northeast corner of Market and Oak Streets. That same year the schools consolidated throughout the county, forming one corporation. Huntington North High School was built on McGahn Street in 1969. The U.S. Route 24 By-Pass was finished then, and the following year, 1970, the downtown business mall was constructed, spurred by the growth of the area shopping centers on the north and south sides of the city. A new city public library was constructed in 1987 on the corner of Market and Poplar Streets. In 1989, the buildings over the Jefferson Street bridge were razed and the Riverfront Plaza constructed. The City Building was rededicated in 1990 after a \$2.3 million remodeling; and the downtown business mall was reconverted to through traffic in 1991. *(History description adapted from City of Huntington Park & Recreation Master Plan 2006-2010)*



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### **Geography**

Huntington is located at 40°52'55" North, 85°29'44" West (40.882083, -85.495595). According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 21.8 km<sup>2</sup> (8.4 mi<sup>2</sup>). 21.6 km<sup>2</sup> (8.4 mi<sup>2</sup>) of it is land and 0.2 km<sup>2</sup> (0.1 mi<sup>2</sup>) of it is water. The total area is 1.07% water.

The community area is described in the Indiana Geological Survey as being within the Tipton Till Plain Area. This vast region accounts for the majority of land located in the north central portion of the State. Historians describe that glacial meltwaters produced a predominately flat terrain area while conversely carving deep canyons along the Wabash River Valley and its tributaries. Cool ravines remain in some of these modest canyons that exhibit plant life more common in northern forests.

*Geography Impact: These geological features provide a variety of recreational opportunities throughout the county which is seen in the rolling topography of Memorial Park, river access at Elmwood Park and the high overlooks of the Wabash River at Evergreen Park.*





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**Demographics** (Source: Huntington County Department of Community Development)

Huntington City's population has remained relatively stagnant from 1960 to 1990 with a population increase of 204 and a growth rate of 0.5%. There was a slight increase from 1980 to 1990, but the city's population significantly increased from 1990 to 2000 with a growth rate of 6.5% and increase of 1,061 people. However, the based on 2009 information, the population decreased at 5.3% and 16,521 people.

The household composition has changed considerably over the last decade in Huntington. From 1990 to 2000, the total number of households increased 9.5% or 583 households, with a grand total of 6,717 households. However, 2009 household data is not available and it is assumed that households decrease accordingly with the drop in population.

The city's population age has changed considerably between 1990 to 2000. The younger population, from ages 0 to 9, decreased by 10.5%, while the teenage population, from age 10 to 19, increased significantly by over 50%. Additionally, those in middle ages, from 20 to 59, increase by over 60% and the senior population, 60+ years, grew by 48%. However, 2009 population data is not available and it is assumed that age groups decrease with the drop in population.

*Demographics Impact: The impact of population changes can greatly affect park and recreation programs. An increase in population can stress park sites and facilities. An increase in age groups will affect recreational programming and opportunities. Fortunately, with the current population in Huntington near the population count from 1990, the overall impact on the park system is minimal. The Park Department has experienced a change in recreational programming and staff over the last 5 years and have been making adjustments to better meet the needs of its residents, primarily addressing the increasing teenage and older adult population.*



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Historical Populations

Census	Pop.	%±
1850	594	—
1860	1,664	180.1%
1870	2,925	75.8%
1880	3,863	32.1%
1890	7,328	89.7%
1900	9,491	29.5%
1910	10,272	8.2%
1920	14,000	36.3%
1930	13,420	-4.1%
1940	13,903	3.6%
1950	15,079	8.5%
1960	16,185	7.3%
1970	16,217	0.2%
1980	16,202	-0.1%
1990	16,389	1.2%
2000	17,450	6.5%
2009	16,521	-5.3%

**Educational Opportunities** *(Source: Huntington County Economic Development)*

Huntington County Community School Corporation

Huntington County is among the few counties in the State of Indiana with a totally consolidated, county-wide school corporation. Eight elementary buildings, three junior high buildings and one high school serve the entire county. Huntington North High School has approximately 2,000 students enrolled in grades 9-12. The entire system serves approximately 6,900 students with nearly 500 teachers and instructional assistants. The average class size is 17 students.

Huntington Catholic Schools

Huntington Catholic Schools in partnership with parents offers a Christ-centered learning environment from preschool to grade eight. With the support of the faith communities, out of school reinforces Catholic family values by; teaching Catholic faith and values, fostering Christ-like relationships by developing self-esteem and promoting service to others, and by providing a strong academic curriculum emphasizing the development of the whole person. Enrollment preschool to grade



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eight is 210 as of October 2008. Student to faculty ratio is 19:1. Non-catholic students are welcome.

Vocational Training

Huntington County high school students can receive specialized, intensive training in the Huntington Vocation Technical Building. Several area Colleges and Universities also offer vocational training beyond high school. Area programs and instructors are available for Lean Six-Sigma and other industrial training programs.

Major Colleges and Universities

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
Huntington University	Local	1,200
Ball State University	55 miles	19,500
Indiana Wesleyan University	30 miles	14,756
Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne	30 miles	11,000
IIT Technical Institute	30 miles	750
Indiana Tech	30 miles/Local	3,000
Ivy Tech State College	30 miles	3,500
Manchester College	25 miles	1,200
Taylor University	40 miles	1,800
University of Saint Francis	30 miles	2,000

Adult Degree Completion

Huntington University offers a Bachelor of Science Degree via a non-traditional schedule designed for working adults.

On-location Training and Adult Education. Classes designed for the individual needs of your workers can be arranged on an “in-plant” basis via Ivy Tech State College and other training providers. Adult education classes are also available via Huntington North High School.



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**Employment and Industry**

Huntington's diverse manufacturing base also includes a number of nationally recognized firms such as Good Humor-Breyers Ice Cream, Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, and Schneider Electric/Square D Co. United Technologies Electronic Controls (UTEC), a division of Carrier, is one of the county's largest employers. UTEC manufactures a wide variety of electronic controls for the commercial, industrial, and consumer markets. These firms use the excellent infrastructure, US-24, US-224 and Interstate 69 (I-69), to reach over 80% of the nation's population within 24 hours.

<b>Company</b>	<b>Product</b>	<b>Approx. # of Employees</b>
Advanced Engineering	Precision Machining	40
ALH Building Systems	Housing	100
Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems	Automotive Components	400
Cequent Towing Products Towing	Hitch Distribution	20
Dean Foods/Schenkel Dairy	Milk/Dairy Products	150
Ecolab	Commercial Cleaning Supplies	120
Fogwell Manufacturing	Machined Parts	25
General Aluminum	Aluminum Castings	90
Gerdau/MacSteel Heat Treat	Steel Heat Treating	35
Good Humor-Breyers	Ice Cream	190
Homier Distributing	Hardware Distributors	50
Huntington Sheet Metal	Metal Stampings	56
Lime City Manufacturing	Metal Stampings	35
M & S Industrial Metal Fabrication	Industrial Metal Fabricators	85
Midwest Industrial Metal Fabricators	Metal Stamping & Forming	40
Mignone Communications	Commercial Printing	90
NIPAC, Inc.	Corrugated & Foam Packaging	75
Novae Corporation	Manufacturing of Utility Trailers	100
Onward Manufacturing	Manufacturing of Gas BBQ Grills	110
Our Sunday Visitor	Religious Printing/Publishing	270
PHD, Inc.	Hydraulic Manifold	130
Pulley-Kellam, Inc.	Electronic enclosures/medical furniture	60
Shuttleworth, Inc.	Custom Conveyor Systems	75
Schneider Electric/Square D	Electric Transformers	150
Transwheel Corporation	Aluminum Wheels	155
United Technologies Electronics Div.	Carrier Air Conditioners/Components	800
Wabash Technologies	Electronic Sensors	150
Wayne Metal Products	Metal Fabrication	250



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## Parks and Recreation Board

The present Huntington Parks and Recreation Department was re-established in 1999, under I.C. 36-10-3, when an ordinance was passed by the Huntington Common Council. Four members of the Parks and Recreation Board are subject to appointment by the Mayor. The appointments are four year terms and in staggered succession so two terms should not expire in the same year. There shall be no more than two of one political party serving under appointment. The Board shall further be composed of one ex-officio member who shall be appointed by the governing body of the School Corporation, accounting for the five member board.

### Current Parks and Recreation Board Member are:

President Peter Kitchen (*term expires January 2013*)  
1944 Bedford Court, Huntington, Indiana 46750

Vice President Sue Leedy (*term expires January 2012*)  
57 Quayle Run, Huntington, Indiana 46750

Member Chris Eckert (*term expires January 2011*)  
1306 Byron Street, Huntington, Indiana 46750

Member Bob Allen (*term expires January 2014*)  
236 Oak Street, Huntington, Indiana 46750

Member Rex Baxter (*School Board appointee*)  
1231 Green Street, Huntington, Indiana 46750

### Park and Recreation Board mailing address:

Huntington Parks & Recreation Board  
1205 W. Park Drive, Huntington, Indiana 46750



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*The Huntington Parks and Recreation Board meets regularly on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Neighborhood Recreation Center. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.*

The duties and powers of the Board are outlined are as follows:

**IC 36-10-3-10 Board of park and recreation; duties**

Sec. 10. (a) The board shall:

- (1) exercise general supervision of and make rules for the department;
- (2) establish rules governing the use of the park and recreation facilities by the public;
- (3) provide police protection for its property and activities, either by requesting assistance from state, municipal, or county police authorities, or by having specified employees deputized as police officers; the deputized employees, however, are not eligible for police pension benefits or other emoluments of police officers;
- (4) appoint the necessary administrative officers of the department and fix their duties;
- (5) establish standards and qualifications for the appointment of all personnel and approve their appointments without regard to politics;
- (6) make recommendations and an annual report to the executive and fiscal body of the unit concerning the operation of the board and the status of park and recreation programs in the district;
- (7) prepare and submit an annual budget in the same manner as other executive departments of the unit; and
- (8) appoint a member of the board to serve on another kind of board or commission, whenever a statute allows a park or recreation board to do this.



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**IC 36-10-3-11 Board of park and recreation; powers**

Sec. 11. (a) The board may:

- (1) enter into contracts and leases for facilities and services;
- (2) contract with persons for joint use of facilities for the operation of park and recreation programs and related services;
- (3) contract with another board, a unit, or a school corporation for the use of park and recreation facilities or services, and a township or school corporation may contract with the board for the use of park and recreation facilities or services;
- (4) acquire and dispose of real and personal property, either within or outside Indiana;
- (5) exercise the power of eminent domain under statutes available to municipalities;
- (6) sell, lease, or enter into a royalty contract for the natural or mineral resources of land that it owns, the money received to be deposited in a nonreverting capital fund of the board;
- (7) engage in self-supporting activities as prescribed by section 22 of this chapter;
- (8) contract for special and temporary services and for professional assistance;
- (9) delegate authority to perform ministerial acts in all cases except where final action of the board is necessary;
- (10) prepare, publish, and distribute reports and other materials relating to activities authorized by this chapter;
- (11) sue and be sued collectively by its legal name, as the "\_\_\_\_\_ (unit's name) Park and Recreation Board", with service of process being had upon the president of the board, but costs may not be taxed against the board or its members in any action;
- (12) invoke any legal, equitable, or special remedy for the enforcement of this chapter, a park or recreation ordinance, or the board's own action taken under either; and



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- (13) release and transfer, by resolution, a part of the area over which it has jurisdiction for park and recreational purposes to park authorities of another unit for park and recreational purposes upon petition of the park or recreation board of the acquiring unit.
- (a) The board may also lease any buildings or grounds belonging to the unit and located within a park to a person for a period not to exceed fifty (50) years. The lease may authorize the lessee to provide upon the premises educational, research, veterinary, or other proper facilities for the exhibition of wild or domestic animals in wildlife parks, dining facilities, swimming facilities, golf courses, skating facilities, dancing facilities, amusement rides generally found in amusement parks, or other recreational facilities. A lease may be made for more than one (1) year only to the highest and best bidder, after notice that the lease will be made has been given by publication in accordance with IC 5-3-1.
- (b) Notwithstanding subsection (b), the board may lease buildings or grounds belonging to the unit for a period of more than one (1) year without soliciting the highest and best bidder or providing notice under IC 5-3-1 if:
- (1) the buildings or grounds are leased to an Indiana nonprofit corporation;
  - (2) the buildings or grounds are operated as a public golf course; and
  - (3) the golf course remains subject to rules and regulations promulgated by the board.





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## Parks and Recreation Department

The Huntington Parks and Recreation Department has the responsibility of maintaining park sites and facilities in the community. The park system is comprised of ten (10) parks and a recreation center. In total, approximately 180 acres are managed and maintained.

Park facilities include:

- |                         |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (8) ball diamonds       | Outdoor stage                   |
| (12) horseshoe courts   | (4) indoor rental facilities    |
| (13) pavilions/shelters | (7) restroom facilities         |
| (9) playgrounds         | (3) sand volleyball courts      |
| (7) tennis courts       | (3) ponds                       |
| Skate park              | Multiple flower & display areas |
| (10) basketball courts  |                                 |

In addition to park sites, the Huntington Parks and Recreation Dept. is responsible to maintain numerous sites throughout the city. These include:

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Jefferson Park Mall       | City parking lot at Market & Warren St. |
| (2) Entrances to the City | City park lot – City Building           |
| (2) City triangles        |   |

Each year the Park Dept. is responsible for an extensive holiday lighting displays in the Sunken Gardens at Memorial Park. The display runs from Thanksgiving until after the New Year. It has been an on going challenge to maintain, install and store the various lighting displays each year.



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The present Huntington Parks and Recreation Department is comprised of 6 full-time staff. In 2010 there were no seasonal or temporary staff.

- Full Time Staff    Park Superintendent
- Assistant Park Superintendent
- (3) Machine Operators
- (1) Park Laborers

Present Departmental Chart:

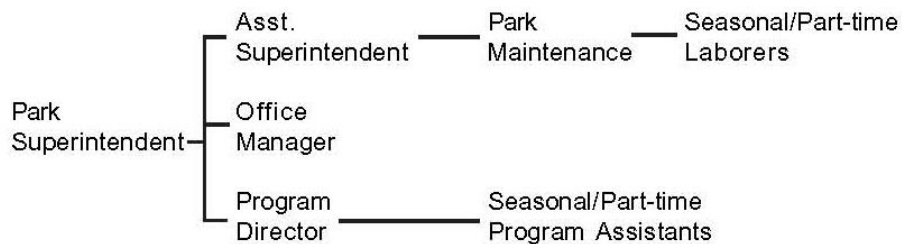


The following positions were cut during the City of Huntington 2009 staff reductions due to financial restraints of the City.

- Full Time Staff    Program Director
- Office Manager
- (2) Machine Operators
- (1) Park Laborers

Part Time/Seasonal Staff: All cut from budget

Departmental chart prior to 2009 staff reductions:





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## **Maintenance Practices**

In many instances, Huntington's Parks and Recreation Department image is developed on how well parks and facilities are maintained. Parks are known to be the front door to many cities, and first impression to visitors and guests is critical. Huntington is fortunate to have beautiful parks. As steward of parks and facilities the Parks Maintenance Division seeks to create, retain, and improve the beauty of the City's parks and recreation facilities for the people in the community.

### **Current Park Maintenance Procedures:**

The Parks Maintenance Division is responsible for the care and maintenance of parks, playgrounds, athletic facilities, municipal grounds and several street medians. The current staff consists of 4 full time employees and supplements its labor force by utilizing community service workers and volunteers.

Staff maintains, plans and implements improvements to park sites including sports fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playgrounds and restrooms. Responsibilities include pre-season preparation of fields, turf grass maintenance, installation and maintenance of goals, layout and lining of fields, and the maintenance of bleachers, fences and other improvements.

Daily maintenance tasks encompass' playground equipment, picnic facilities, planting, fertilizing, pest management, trees, shrubs, planter beds, walking paths, parking areas, and turf grass maintenance. They also provide and install annual Christmas decorations.

- Central maintenance facility.
- Maintenance reviews conducted on daily site visits.
- Trash pick up in all parks.
- Grass mowing at all parks
- Work orders given by Park Superintendent
- Periodic inspections conducted on all play equipment.



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## **Recreational Programming**

The Huntington Parks and Recreation Department currently provides limited recreational programming due to 2009 staff and budget reductions. The Department is open to ideas and is willing to try new programs. The success of recreational programs will be dependent on park staff, cooperation with other agencies and the residents of the community. Huntington Parks has a strong community commitment to youth and strives to provide a diverse palette of recreation programs.

A few popular programs offered include:

### **Free Walking Program**

Our fall/winter free walking program is in full swing at Heritage Hall. The heated building is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 7 am to 9 am for anyone in the community to enjoy. This is a great way to start or continue your exercise program! Only eighteen quick laps around the inside equals one mile. Additional days were added in the fall of 2010 due to growing demand.

### **Letters from Santa & Baby's First Christmas Letter**

Santa is busy at the North Pole getting ready for Christmas Eve, but he will take time out of his schedule to write a personalized letter to your child! Parents need to fill out the registration form at our office or online to let Santa know what your child would like for Christmas.

Since 2009, the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department has been forced to reduce or drop recreational programs that were marginal, poorly attended or had a high expense cost. The Park Department is focusing on recreational programs that will help meet the increasing need of teenagers and older adults as seen by the increase in demographics and public response.





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## **Progress Evaluation**

To properly plan for the future, a review of the past achievements must be taken. Huntington Parks and Recreation Department, has made the following improvements during the 2001-2010 period.

### **2010**

- Renovation of kitchen facilities in the Family Living Building at Hier's Park
- Resurfaced tennis courts at Memorial Park
- Installed handicap swings at General Slack Park
- Completed tot lot at Hier's Park and installed handicap swings
- Restoration of stonework in Sunken Gardens
- Implemented Angel Fund for SPARK program
- Partnered with many local organizations to accomplish the following:
  - volunteers assisted with maintenance in parks
  - Boys & Girls Club planted downtown planters/park clean up
  - Arbor Day recognition in form of tree give-away with Boys Scouts
  - Summer Concert Series offered with Lafontaine Arts Council, funded by Psi Iota Xi Chapter
  - Canine Capers 4-H group installed Dogi-Pot stations in Hier's Park
  - weekly park clean-up with Jaycees representative and local youth
- Due to the reduction in our work force the biggest accomplishment achieved was maintaining the parks to a high standard in addition to continuing to offer many quality programs
- Increased marketing plan by implementing monthly e-newsletter and utilizing social media

### **2009**

- Installed a new tot lot playground at Hiers Park with financial assistance from the Mueller-Scherger Foundation.
- Re-roofed two outdoor pavilions.
- Paved the Memorial Park sledding hill parking lot.
- Installed a perimeter sidewalk around Hiers Park large playground.
- Completion of the Drover Park restroom facility.
- Completion of the trail at the Forks of the Wabash.
- Installation of outfield fence at Hiers Park ball diamond.
- Updated park web site, added Facebook, and implemented a monthly e-newsletter.



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**2008**

- Paved the drive through Yeoman Park.
- Paved the drive and parking lots at Elmwood Park.
- Seal coated walking trail at Evergreen Park.
- Seal coated north walking trail at Memorial Park.
- Expanded Christmas displays into north end of Memorial Park. Incorporated animated displays.
- Disc golf course installed at Memorial Park through an Eagle Scout project.
- Installed new play equipment at Neighborhood Recreation Center.
- Constructed new restrooms/storage/shelter at Drover Park.
- Restore west bridge in Sunken Gardens.
- Permanent benches installed at Laurie, Yeoman and General Slack Park.
- Conducted building analysis on Park Office.
- Conducted burning of prairie at Evergreen Park.

**2007**

- Completion of LWCF grant project for Evergreen Park including new restroom facility, benches, additional 800 lineal feet of walking trail, perimeter border around play area and upgraded electrical at picnic shelter.
- Constructed mini-shelter in Shakespeare Gardens.
- Constructed new parking lot on south side of Memorial Park.
- Installed benches at Drover Park.
- Installed new water lines and drinking fountain at Drover Park.
- Installed drain tiles in ball diamond at Hiers Park.
- Planted trees throughout all city parks to replace trees lost and damaged in storms.
- Annual tree give-away as part of Tree City USA. Provided 1,400 saplings to residents.
- With assistance of the Huntington Co. Schools, police, fire and numerous volunteers the Park Dept. coordinated the Indianapolis Colts Vince Lombardi Trophy.
- Re-built wooden bridges in Memorial Park.
- Established wildflower plots at Yeoman Park.





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**2006**

- Installation of playground equipment and horseshoe and volleyball court at Evergreen Park.
- Renovation of picnic shelter at Evergreen Park.
- Construction of three overlook decks along the Wabash River at Evergreen Park.
- Installed fencing and signage at the former pauper cemetery at Evergreen Park.
- Renovation of Shakespeare Gardens with new walks, fencing and electrical.
- Beautification project with Huntington Leadership Academy for renovation of Butterfly Gardens in the Sunken Gardens.
- Annual tree give-away as part of Tree City USA. Provided 600 trees to residents.
- Expansion of playground at Drover Park.
- Resurface basketball court at Drover Park.
- Constructed splash pad and parking lot at Drover Park.
- Added 8 new decorations for Sunken Gardens Christmas display. Displays created in-house by Park maintenance staff.
- Implemented GIS mapping of the infrastructure of all parks with assistance from City Engineering Dept.
- Installed new access drive and water line to Lions Building at Memorial Park.
- Took possession of new building from 4-H at Hiers Park

**2005**

- Construction of shed for Drover Park for the S.P.A.R.K. Program
- Renovation of the concrete floor in the Family Living Building
- Face lift of the interior of the Recreation Center
- Removal of pea gravel at the Yeoman Playground
- Maintenance Crew began site work for the installation of a new playground at Memorial Park
- Construction of a second shed for S.P.A.R.K. Program at Memorial Park
- Removal of dead trees in parks, painting and spring clean-up
- Starting of Ordinance calls and clean up
- Pepsi machines were delivered to 6 park sites
- Final grading around the Dr. Stanton E. Cope Memorial basketball court
- Construction of the General Slack Park Monument, dedication held June 18th
- Volunteer Work Day by the men's & women's soccer teams that provided general clean-up at Memorial Park, Shakespeare Gardens and City Hall
- New chain link fence was installed around perimeter of the horseshoe courts and around the softball diamond at Memorial Park
- Workday in conjunction with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, planted flowers at Shakespeare Gardens
- Installed three new water fountains at Hier's, Laurie and Yeoman Parks



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## **2005 - continued**

- Provided clean-up for Heritage Days
- Ball diamond lights at Evergreen Park were re-worked for the Church League
- Evergreen Park trail has been graded to subgrade and holes for the overlook decks have been excavated
- Joe Mertz Center at Huntington University had a workday with their volunteers and did some clearing for the overlook decks
- Maintenance crew constructed the new pavilion in Drover Park
- Splash Park donation signs were installed at City Building and at Drover Park
- Chip and seal of driveways at Sunken Gardens and the Memorial Park parking lot on Hitzfield Dr. were completed by the Street Dept.
- Retaining wall blocks were put in place for the new playground at Memorial Park
- Surfacing for the Dr. Stanton E. Cope basketball court was completed
- Maintenance staff is working on some new Christmas displays
- Eagle Scout project at General Slack Park was installation of a wood fence around the basketball court, along with tree plantings and permanent benches
- Official lighting of Sunken Gardens was on Sunday, Nov. 27
- With the retirement of one employee and the transfer of another, we have two new employees

## **2004**

- Built and repaired park benches and tables
- Repaired park roads
- Installed new play equipment
- Installed Christmas lighting and displays

## **2003**

- Clean-up of Evergreen Park
- Removed and constructed new gazebo in Sunken Gardens
- Repaired outfield fence at Hier's Park ball diamond
- Built concrete structure of the Waltonian fountain
- Repaired damaged doors at Hier's Park
- Constructed Birthday Bear for rentals
- Installed plumbing & duct work for maintenance laundry area
- Installed new drinking fountain at Memorial Park tennis courts
- Constructed new concrete sidewalks in Sunken Gardens
- Installed monument sign at General Slack Park
- Painted shed at Memorial Park horseshoe courts
- Tree plantings at General Slack Park and Memorial Park
- Installed concrete wall blocks around basketball court at General Slack Park





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### **2003 - continued**

- Installation of play equipment for Cope Memorial Playground at Drover Park
- Installed sign at Drover Park
- Re-landscape entrance to Hier's Park
- Built asphalt walk in north end of Memorial Park (Eagle Scout project)
- Built asphalt walk for access to large pavilion in Hier's Park
- Installed safety surfacing under swings at Erie Park
- Installed Christmas lighting and displays

### **2002**

- Constructed new Christmas displays
- Removed damaged scoreboard at Hier's Park
- Tree trimming throughout parks
- Installed old pump drinking fountain at Hier's Park
- Installed split rail fence at Yeoman Park
- Re-landscape entrance to Yeoman Park
- Re-laid stone fountain in north end of Memorial Park
- Painted bridges in north end of Memorial Park
- Painted Sunken Gardens steps
- Removed monkey bars at Memorial Park playground
- Installed new volleyball posts at Elmwood Park
- Installed safety surfacing under play equipment at Erie Park
- Created John Bullock for memorial bed
- Prepared site for new pavilion at Hier's Park, including water lines
- Constructed concrete retaining wall at General Slack Park
- Installed water lines and drinking fountain at General Slack Park
- Repaired picnic tables
- Installed precast restroom at Laurie Park
- Installed swings at General Slack Park
- Upgraded electrical lines at tennis courts in Memorial Park
- Constructed concrete sidewalk at General Slack Park
- Installed flagpole and benches at General Slack Park
- Created memorial bed for Kristen
- Brick sidewalk through Memorial at play equipment
- Aerated parks
- Constructed sidewalk to drinking fountain at Memorial Park
- Installed Christmas lighting and displays
- Installed basketball goals at General Slack Park





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**2002 - continued**

- Vehicle and equipment maintenance
- Initial clean-up of Evergreen Park
- Constructed work benches in park maintenance
- Painted park office reception area

**2001**

Hier's Park

- Repaired underground water lines
- Installed drinking fountain at playground
- Rebuilt & installed electrical panels
- New flower beds
- Construction of Heritage Hall
- Plumbing update at 4-H restrooms
- Renovated diamond bleachers and constructed pads
- New plumbing fixtures in old green restrooms

Elmwood Park

- New flower beds
- New drinking fountain
- Installed drainage line for ball diamond
- Installed concrete pads under new bleachers
- New shed
- Installed new roof on pavilion

Eric Park

- Removed old play equipment
- Removed old backstop

Yeoman Park

- New flower beds at entrance signs
- Fence skateboard park & grass seeded
- Constructed access drive from Market Street to Old US 24
- Installed skateboard pad and equipment
- Aerated park and fertilized ball diamond
- New skateboard park signage
- New water & electrical lines for skateboard park





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**2001 - continued**

Memorial Park

- Removed old volleyball court and grass seed area
- Renovated flower beds at park entrance
- Removed steps to airplane
- Installed new pump and fountain at north end
- Installed access walk from Dimond Street to bridge & play equipment
- Bridge work completed
- New drinking fountains
- Repaired bridges in wooded area

Sunken Gardens & Shakespeare Gardens

- Removed old split-rail fencing
- Renovated flower beds
- Constructed two trellises
- Installed flagpole
- Rebuilt covered picnic table
- Rebuilt deck over bomb shelter
- Cleaned ponds

General Slack Park

- Planted trees
- Installed new play equipment
- Installed new signs

Recreation Center

- Painted inside of building
- Stripped and rewaxed floor
- Installed new doors

Miscellaneous Work

- Removed old wood posts in various parks
- Removed old, unnecessary park signage
- Replaced old chains on swings
- Removed stumps in various parks
- Established a tree nursery at Water Dept.
- Landscaped the Huntington Welcome signs
- Made and purchased new Christmas decorations
- Reconstructed Park Superintendent and Program Director's offices
- Moved trees and aerated lawn at old hospital site



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## **Fiscal Resources**

The past history of the Parks and Recreation Department budgets, amount of indebtedness, sources of revenue other than council appropriations and the general city attitude toward funding and expanding facilities and programs, all add important information to the master plan process. It is essential that an action plan be established that recognizes financial constraints of the City and the Parks and Recreation Department. Every proposal made should have a reasonable source or method of funding to turn it into a reality.

The present budget configuration of the department is comprised a general fund account. In addition, there is a Park Gift Fund Account and non-reverting accounts. Presently, the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department has no outstanding bond debt.

The Huntington Parks and Recreation Department budget consists of four categories, as prescribed by the State Board of Accounts:

### ***Personal Services***

*Monies within this category cover all salaries and wages of full time, part time and seasonal employees, as well as insurance, retirement and social security benefits.*

### ***Other Services /Charges***

*This category cover services performed for the department by others then employees. It also includes the use of equipment and furnishing of materials.*

### ***Supplies***

*This classification covers commodities which, after use, are either entirely consumed or show a definite impairment or depreciation after a short period of use.*

### ***Capital Outlays***

*Monies within this category cover the cost of capital items relating to land, buildings and equipment.*



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## **Fiscal Planning**

Good fiscal planning with public funds is the responsibility of a Parks and Recreation Board. In Huntington, as with other communities in the State, the stress of demands and needs with budgets restraints can be felt. It is crucial that every dollar received is utilized to the maximum benefit of the residents of Huntington. Proper fiscal planning would require scrutiny of each program, facility, operations and expense while attempting to increase revenue. The challenge to the Park Board is how to operate a Park Department with revenue fluctuating year to year and not knowing what the next year will bring. This is largely due to the changes in property assessment and tax restructuring in the State of Indiana.

The Parks and Recreation Department, one of many departments within a community, plays a vital and supportive role. Parks contribute to a community more than most realize. They are aesthetic, greenspace areas that contribute to the well-being of a community and its residents. They provide recreation opportunities for the young and old alike. Parks can help add the color and spark to a community, they tend to draw people and businesses to settle down and enjoy the area. Parks are for people and people make a community.

While the needs and demands from other City Departments are growing, as well as the needs and demands of the Parks and Recreation Department, the available funding is getting tighter. The Parks and Recreation Department is fortunate in that it is one of the few departments that can generate revenue to help offset budget needs. The future of Parks and Recreation Departments may depend on the amount of income they can produce in order to survive. The ability to generate income is vital when the fluctuation of tax rates and available appropriation monies can vary year after year.



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### **Cost Benefit Analysis**

The Huntington Park and Recreation Dept. offers a variety of programs and services throughout the year. Typically, park development, maintenance and operations are subsidized through tax dollars. Programs are supported with a mix of user fees and tax dollars. In 2010, the Park Department conducted an extensive cost benefit study of its services and programs.

### **Determination of Services**

The first step was to list the services and programs and determine the type of service. Services were broken down into 3 categories - Core, Level 1 and Level 2.

- Who benefits from the service?
- Who generated the need therefore the cost?
- What is the commitment or intensity of the program?
- Do community values support subsidy?
- Are we obligated to provide this service?
- Will the level of the fee affect the demand for the service?

**Core Service:** provide open or general use of facilities as a benefit to the community as a whole. Cost of services borne by the Park Dept.

**Level 1 Service:** provide facilities or programs that benefits both the community and individuals. Cost of services shall be borne primarily by the user and partially by the Park Department.

**Level 2 Service:** provide facilities or programs for individual benefit rather than the community . Cost of services shall be borne totally by the user.

The cost benefit analysis study calculated the all costs and expenses associated with each service and program in order to determine the actual cost to provide the service or program. The results of the study provided information for the Park Board to



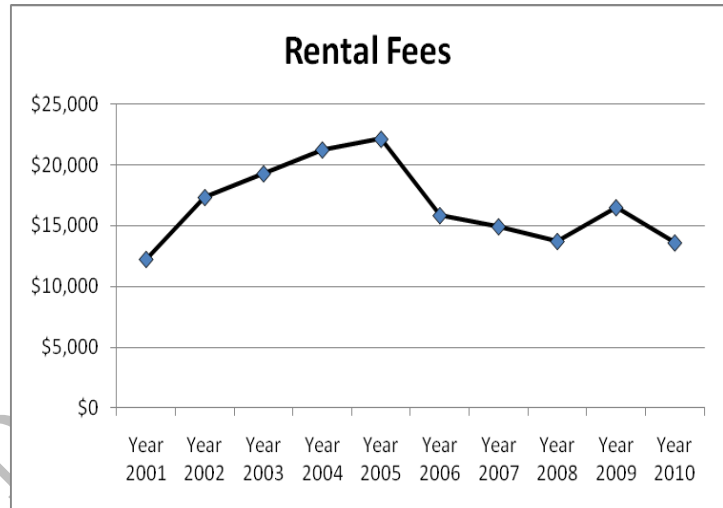
adjust costs and fees to be more in line with expenses. Thus users and participants are providing more of the program expenses.

**Rental Income from Park Buildings, Pavilions & Shelters**

Huntington Parks have experienced ups and downs in rental and use of its buildings, pavilions and shelters. Currently rental fees are deposited into the City's General Fund. It is recommended that a new Non-Reverting Capital Fund be established so that these fees collected from buildings, pavilions and shelter rentals be deposited for renovation and/or replacement of pavilions and shelters.

Rental Income

2001	\$12,250
2002	\$17,345
2003	\$19,295
2004	\$21,257
2005	\$22,137
2006	\$15,848
2007	\$14,934
2008	\$13,725
2009	\$16,507
2010	\$13,603



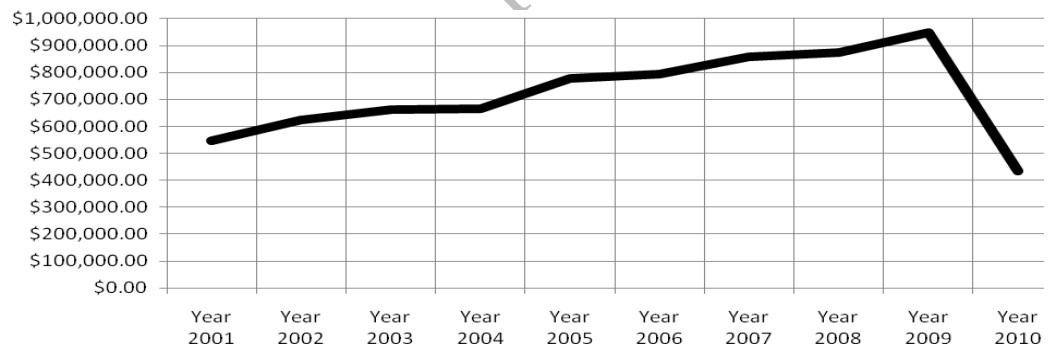


The following is a review of park budgets for the years 2001-2010. A review of past park developments and improvements with their budgets is a good resource for projecting future projects and budgets.

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**2001-2010 Budget Summary**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Personal Services</b>	<b>Supplies</b>	<b>Other Services and Charges</b>	<b>Capital Outlays</b>	<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>% Difference</b>
<b>2001</b>	\$359,082.58	\$55,745.99	\$84,575.25	\$46,432.63	\$545,836.45	---
<b>2002</b>	\$408,296.98	\$55,558.10	\$82,486.28	\$79,115.61	\$625,456.97	14.6%
<b>2003</b>	\$418,886.71	\$53,940.92	\$99,490.90	\$90,642.92	\$662,961.45	6.0%
<b>2004</b>	\$405,396.17	\$58,023.81	\$122,617.08	\$80,107.04	\$666,144.10	0.5%
<b>2005</b>	\$489,203.00	\$61,050.00	\$133,850.00	\$94,000.00	\$778,103.00	16.8%
<b>2006</b>	\$483,288.33	\$66,327.79	\$132,289.20	\$111,579.13	\$793,484.45	2.0%
<b>2007</b>	\$507,991.23	\$84,530.19	\$147,859.91	\$116,978.27	\$857,359.60	8.0%
<b>2008</b>	\$563,391.91	\$84,998.31	\$108,698.54	\$117,087.70	\$874,176.46	2.0%
<b>2009</b>	\$563,391.91	\$60,059.54	\$165,879.26	\$158,945.10	\$948,275.81	8.5%
<b>2010</b>	\$232,554.00	\$77,200.00	\$125,700.00	\$0.00	\$435,454.00	-54.1%



**2001-2010 Budgets**

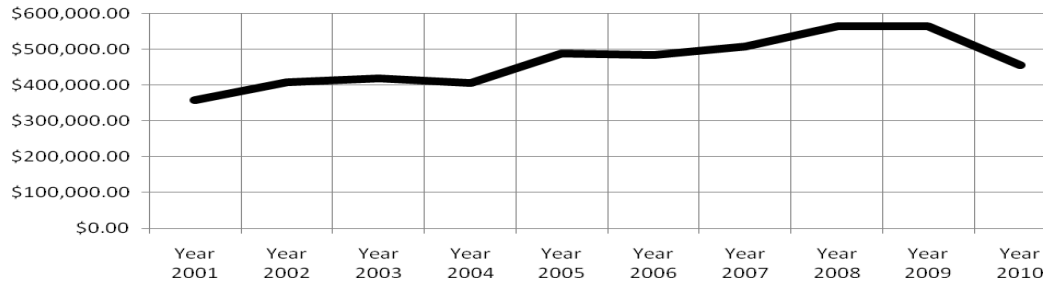




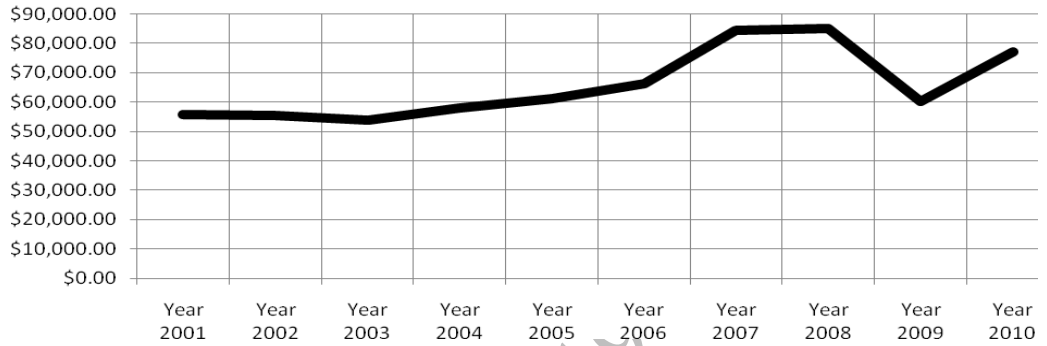
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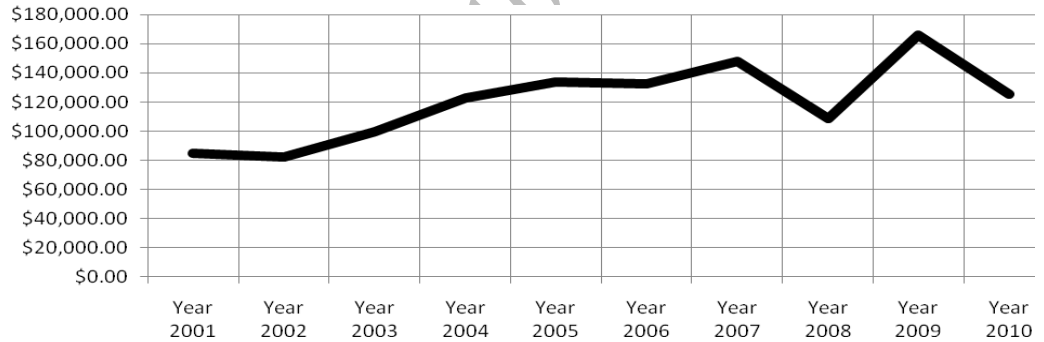
Personnel Services



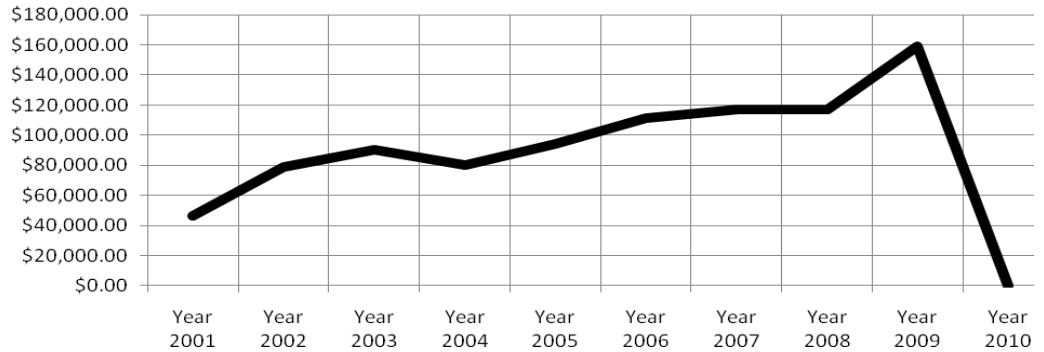
Supplies



Other Services and Charges



Capital Outlays





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*Agency Profile*

Trying to balance increased demands for recreation and facilities with available monies will be the challenge to the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department. There will be a greater pressure to raise revenue and reduce expenditures in order to balance the budget.

In order to meet budget requirements, the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department will need to control expenses very carefully and raise income at the same time. Possible suggestions include:

1. *All new recreational programs should be evaluated to their effectiveness and cost. Recreational programs need to be self-supporting.*
2. *Develop and maintain “partnerships” with local businesses and organizations to help with the development and improvement of Huntington parks.*
3. *Annual review of all fee and rental schedules of parks facilities.*
4. *Increase solicitations for gifts, donations and volunteers.*
5. *Work with local foundations/ organizations on future projects to maximize grant opportunities.*





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**Inventory**

An inventory of existing recreational areas and facilities is the starting point in identifying the needs and demands of the community. Recreational needs are compared to existing sites and facilities to identify potential areas for expansion, development or improvement.



The Huntington Parks and Recreation Department is comprised of ten (10) park sites and a recreation center for a total of 180 acres. In a community of 17,040 people this provides 10.6 acres per 1000 population.

**Elmwood Park**

Located on William Street. This splendid 10.6 acre park will accommodate many activities.

Elmwood offers:

- Lighted ball diamond
- Lighted basketball court
- Lighted Tennis court
- Playground equipment
- Picnic area w/grill
- Sand volleyball courts
- Outdoor pavilions
- Restrooms

**Hier's Park**

Located at Briant and Taylor Streets and covers a vast 19.07 acres of land.

This splendid park contains:

- 4-H Fairgrounds
- Auditorium
- Band stand
- Basketball court
- Lighted Ball diamond
- Playground equipment
- Two enclosed buildings
- Picnic area w/grills
- Restrooms
- Pavilion



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**Laurie Park**

Located at Kocher and Swan Streets. Laurie Park covers 1.05 acres of rich land, and includes:

- Basketball court
- Picnic area w/grill
- Outdoor pavilions
- Playground equipment
- Restrooms

**Erie Park**

Located at Woodlawn and Second Streets. Erie Park covers one acre of land for your outdoor activities. The park's many facilities include:

- Basketball court
- Picnic area w/grill
- Outdoor pavilion

**General Slack Park**

This two acre site is located in a large neighborhood. This park contains:

- Playground
- Full-size basketball court
- Pavilion
- Restrooms
- Picnic area

**Evergreen Park**

Located on Evergreen Road, this park has 85 total acres of open space. This setting will include the New Gemmer Ball Park for Huntington Baseball, Inc. The park's many facilities include:

- Ball diamonds
- Playground equipment
- Walking trail
- Picnic area w/grill
- Outdoor pavilion
- Restrooms
- Sand volleyball
- Overlook decks

**Yeoman Park**

Located at Market Street and Old U.S. 24 East. This distinct park covers 8.90 acres of land and offers:

- Softball facilities
- Soccer field
- Skateboarding facilities
- Playground equipment
- Picnic area
- Pavilion
- Restrooms



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### **River Greenway**

The picturesque River Greenway is located between Jefferson and LaFontaine Streets. The park covers 5 acres and provides:

- Walkways

### **Neighborhood Recreation Center**

Located on Condit Street and covers .05 acre of land. The Recreation Center contains:

- Basketball Court
- Tennis Court
- Enclosed Building
- Picnic Area
- Playground Equipment
- Restrooms

### **Drover Park**

Located on Etna Avenue and covers 5.34 acres of land and includes:

- Basketball court
- Picnic Area
- Playground Equipment
- Splash pad
- Pavilions
- Restrooms

### **Memorial Park**

Located at West Park Drive and Bartlett Streets, this vast, beautiful park is 48.17 acres of fun. Memorial Park's spacious facilities provide:

- Two ponds
- Flower gardens
- Lighted ball diamond
- Lighted basketball courts
- Lighted horseshoe courts
- Walking trails
- Sledding facilities
- Playground equipment
- Picnic areas w/ grills
- Outdoor pavilions
- Restrooms
- Disc golf course



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### **Sunken Gardens/Shakespeare Gardens**

Is located at West Park Drive and Dimond Street and is part of Memorial Park. Originally dedicated to Huntington in 1924, the park flourished for many years. However, time and the lack of monies caused the gardens to lose their luster. From 1964 to 1967, the city took on a revitalizing plan to restore the gardens to their once magnificent glory.

This enchanting park, where graceful fieldstone footbridges span a u-shaped pond, and stone stairways lead visitors to the gardens below, was erected out of an old abandoned stone quarry. The

quarry's natural rough-hewn stonewalls provided a living amphitheater, which architects incorporated in the designing of the ponds, walks, bridges, flowers and foliage. Today, the addition of a Christmas light display during the winter season has attracted thousands to this multi-level heaven.

Sunken Gardens / Shakespeare Gardens are a historical show place. It continues to be respected landmark of restored beauty and community pride. In 2010, a grant provided funds for the restoration of the historic stonework.



## Area Recreation and Facilities

Surrounding Huntington are several recreation opportunities available to the community, including state and municipal recreation areas in Huntington County.

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#### **Salamonie Lake** - 11,594 acres - 2,855 acre lake

The lake and environs comprise over 14,000 acres. The land and water, except the dam area, are leased to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources from the Corps of Engineers for management and operation. It contains the following IDNR state recreational areas: Lost Bridge West SRA, Lost Bridge East SRA, Dora-New Holland SRA, Mount Etna SRA, Mount Hope SRA.

#### ***Activities and Facilities***

- Amphitheatre
- Basketball Courts
- Boating / Launch Ramps/ Marina
- Bridle Trails
- Cross-country Skiing - no rental
- Fishing / Ice Fishing
- Fishing Pier (open when water level permits)
- Hiking Trails
- Horseshoe Pits
- Hunting / mandatory check stations
- Nature Center
- Picnicking / Shelterhouse
- Playgrounds
- Snowmobile Trails
- Swimming / Beach (See Swim Alert)
- Volleyball Courts
- Waterskiing

#### ***Camping***

- Electric / 246 sites
- Primitive / 30 sites
- Horsemen's Camp - Primitive / 38 sites
- Youth Tent Areas
- Dumping Station



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**J. Edward Roush Lake - 8,217 acres - 870-acre lake**

One of three Upper Wabash Valley reservoirs operates primarily as a unit with Mississinewa and Salamonie Reservoirs to control flood waters along the Wabash River Basin. Huntington Reservoir and environs comprise 8,217 acres. At the summer pool level of 749 elevation, water forms an 870 acre lake. The land and water, except the dam area, are leased to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources from the Corps of Engineers for management and operation. It contains the following IDNR state recreational areas: Little Turtle SRA and Kil-So-Quah SRA.

***Activities and Facilities***

- Archery Range
- Basketball Courts / 3 (Beach & Campground)
- Mountain Bike Trail
- Boating / 2 Launch Ramps
- Fishing / Ice Fishing
- Fishing Pier / Corps Pond
- Accessible Fishing Piers (2)
- Hiking Trails (Reservable Shelters)
- Hunting (Mandatory check station)
- Interpretive Services
- Radio-Control Flying Field
- Paid Pheasant Hunting
- Picnicking / Shelterhouse
- Playground Equipment
- Shooting Range
- Sled Dog Trail
- Swimming / Beach (See Swim Alert)
- Waterskiing

***Camping***

- Primitive / 130 sites
- Youth Tent Areas





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### **Historic Forks of the Wabash**

Historic Forks pays tribute to two hundred years of settlement by the Miami Indians, to the woodsmen and traders who first brought western goods and ideas to this land, to the craftspeople and laborers who built the canal and the towns, to the businesspeople and farmers who brought prosperity to the Wabash Valley, and to the school teachers and artists who brought Western culture to these lands. The Forks preserves the story of the interaction between the Miami Indian nation, the European settlers, and the American government.

In about 1834, Miami Chief Jean Baptiste Richardville ordered construction of a council house at the Forks of the Wabash. This council house was built in preparation for the treaty negotiations which were held at the Forks in that year. According to several historical sources, this council house survives as "the Chief's House" at Historic Forks of the Wabash.



Today, at the Forks you will find the 1840's restored Chiefs' House. This elegant Federal style home served as the headquarters for the Miami, and three treaties with the U.S. Government were signed on its lawn. The Forks is also home to a restored school house, and the Nuck log cabin. The Nuck family came from Germany and worked for the Miami Chiefs Richardville and LaFontaine. The Visitors Center and Museum holds exhibits relating to the Wabash & Erie Canal and to the Miami along with a Gift Shop filled with traditional arts and crafts.

*(History description adapted from Historic Forks of the Wabash brochure and website)*

### **Lake Clare**

Located just east of Huntington, Lake Clare offers camping, fishing, swimming and picnic areas. In the spring the park hosts motor boat championships. Lake Clare is formed from an abandoned stone quarry that had filled with water.



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### **Markle Park & Pool**

Exit 86 off of I-69 in Markle, this park is for relaxation and family entertainment. The Markle Fish and Game Club Park is equipped with baseball diamonds, basketball, tennis, horseshoe pits, pavilion rentals, picnic areas, fishing, a new playground, and quarry swimming.

### **Camp Timberlake**

Camp Timber Lake has secluded pristine camping. CTL has 60 campsites. Fifteen of them are Class AA, 35 Class A, and 10 Primitive sites. Most of the sites are well wooded and have views of the 9 acre lake, surrounded by a native woods.

### **Tel-Hy Nature Preserve**

Southwest of Huntington in Huntington County. A gift in 1995 from Hy and Lorry Goldenberg contains 41 acres with over a mile of trails. In Hebrew, "Hy" means life and "Tel" means high. The preserve is aptly named, with high bluffs giving a splendid view of the winding Wabash River, and the preserve is alive with wildflowers and large, old trees.

### **Thornhill Nature Preserve**

Huntington University operates Thornhill Nature Preserve for the educational enrichment of its own students and the regional community. The 77-acre property includes a variety of diverse habitats, including evergreen and deciduous forest, a woodland pond, meadows, and wetlands. The diverse ecosystem supports a wide variety of wildflowers, mammals, and birds. Thornhill provides outdoor educational opportunities through the Reiff Nature Center, MindScape Program, MindScape Academy, community events, and the Thornhill Leadership Challenge Course. Thornhill is located 8 miles north of Huntington, Indiana.



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**Area Golf Courses**

Clear Creek Golf Course - 18 holes,  
Huntington, IN.

LaFontaine Golf Club - 18 holes,  
Huntington, IN.

Norwood Golf Club - 18 holes,  
Huntington, IN.

Frazanda Golf Course - 9 holes,  
Huntington, IN.

Etna Acres Golf Course - 18 holes,  
Mt. Etna, IN.

Dogwood Glen Golf course - 9 holes,  
Warren, IN.

**Pulse Opera House** in Warren. Built in 1884 by Capt. Silas Pulse, the opera house has now been restored and is home to productions in the turn-of-the-century style. This charming venue has become a regional favorite for young and old alike.

**Roanoke Area Heritage Center** you'll find displays on local history and the Wabash & Erie Canal. Roanoke was the site of a Canal lock, and much of the Center's exhibition space is devoted to the history of the Canal and its impact on Huntington County.

**Cultural, Historical Opportunities**

**The Quayle Vice Presidential Learning Center.** The only vice-presidential museum in the country, it houses a permanent exhibit on the vice-presidency and rotating exhibits of social, political and historical interest.

**The Sheets Wildlife Museum,** showing a unique collection of nearly 200 species of wild animals and fish from around the world.

**Huntington County Historical Museum.** Explore the wide and varied history of Huntington County.



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### Huntington University

Founded in 1896 as Huntington College as a Christ-centered liberal arts institution of higher education, located in Huntington Indiana with a strong historic and ongoing relationship with the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, USA. With the conviction that all truth is God's truth, the University exists to carry out the mission of Christ in higher education.

As a Christian university, Huntington is committed to developing the whole person, assisting students to understand all areas of human knowledge from the perspective of a Christian worldview, and preparing them to impact their world for Christ.

Huntington College officially re-opened as Huntington University with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and special chapel service on Thursday, September 1, 2005 after changing their name.

The **Huntington University Arboretum and Botanical Garden**, formerly **Huntington College Arboretum and Botanical Garden**, also known as the **Loew Botanical Garden and Arboretum**, is an arboretum and botanical garden located on the campus of Huntington University at 2303 College Avenue, Huntington, Indiana.

The arboretum was established in 1935. It is located on hilly terrain with creek bottom, ravines, banks, and naturally wooded upland areas. Parts of the original arboretum were flooded in the 1960s to create Lake Sno-Tip. The botanical garden includes a specimen of every plant growing in Huntington County, Indiana. The university also houses the Huntington College Herbarium, founded in 1903, and now totaling approximately 10,000 specimens. Most were collected from Huntington County and the Upper Wabash Valley Basin between 1905 and 1950.



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## **Future Park Lands and Acquisition**

The Huntington Park and Recreation Board is committed to the preservation of open space and will pursue all opportunities as they develop. Areas of particular interest include: trail corridors, natural sites, access to rivers, cultural and historical sites, surplus and abandoned lands and property adjacent to existing parks.

### **Land Acquisition Strategy**

*To protect natural resources and secure park land for future growth and recreational needs for the residents of Huntington.*

As residential development continues and the population grows, additional parks and open space lands will be required to meet the recreation needs of the public. Even though new residential developments can provide smaller neighborhood parks it is important to also consider the need for larger-scale community or regional parks that provide significant opportunities for active and passive recreation, park programming and natural resource protection areas. Land that can protect natural resources, provide additional access to water or provide important linear linkages for bicycle and pedestrian trails, and large parcels suitable for development of major recreation facilities are important to the vitality of the community served by the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department.

This acquisition strategy focuses on the following basic premises:

- Purchase fee simple.
- Land trades and exchanges.
- Purchase fee simple or preserve through conservation easement and lease back.
- Cooperative agreements with public and private partners, and interagency coordination.
- Purchase development rights.
- Conservation easements (conservation areas only, not parks).
- Recreational use easement. Good for trail corridors.



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- Revolving fund for park acquisition.
- Transfer of development rights.

This mechanism allows for the preservation of lands by transferring the development rights to another property, increasing the density on

the receiving lands while preserving parks or conservation lands on the area from which the rights are being transferred.

- Donation estate plans.
- Gifts.

### **New Facilities Location Map**

Due to sensitivity of land acquisition and development of new facilities, a map of specific sites and facilities has not been prepared. In general, the key priorities for the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department are:

- Land adjacent to existing park sites.
- Land along the Wabash River and Little Wabash River.
- Railroad corridors.
- Natural resource sites (woods, wetlands, prairies, etc.)

Draft 10/19/10



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## Universal Design and Accessibility

The Huntington Parks and Recreation Department is committed to provide park and recreation facilities and its programs to people of all ages and abilities. Significant accessibility improvements have been made such as: accessible walks and picnic sites in parks and construction of new accessible playgrounds.

Huntington Parks & Recreation Department 2011-2015 Master Plan: Specific items to be addressed to improve accessibility include:

- Continue annual review and update ADA evaluation of all park sites and facilities for changes in facilities and programs.
- Construction of accessible edging around play areas.
- Construction of accessible walks to play areas.
- Construction of accessible walks to shelters and pavilions.
- Replacement or renovation of restroom facility at Memorial Park

It is the policy of the Huntington Park and Recreation Department that all new park facilities and programs be accessible, including renovation of any existing facilities and to follow the Universal Design principles as developed by “The Center for Universal Design (1997). The Principles of Universal Design, Version 2.0. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina State University.”

Universal Design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. The authors, a working group of architects, product designers, engineers and environmental design researchers, collaborated to establish principles to guide a wide range of design disciplines including environments, products, and communications. Seven design principles may be applied to evaluate existing designs, guide the design process and educate both designers and consumers about the characteristics of more usable products and environments.



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The Principles of Universal Design are presented here, in the following format: name of the principle, intended to be a concise and easily remembered statement of the key concept embodied in the principle; definition of the principle, a brief description of the principle's primary directive for design; and guidelines, a list of the key elements that should be present in a design which adheres to the principle. (Note: all guidelines may not be relevant to all designs.)

**PRINCIPLE ONE: Equitable Use**

The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.

Guidelines:

- 1a. Provide the same means of use for all users: identical whenever possible; equivalent when not.
- 1b. Avoid segregating or stigmatizing any users.
- 1c. Provisions for privacy, security, and safety should be equally available to all users.
- 1d. Make the design appealing to all users.

**PRINCIPLE TWO: Flexibility in Use**

The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

Guidelines:

- 2a. Provide choice in methods of use.
- 2b. Accommodate right- or left-handed access and use.
- 2c. Facilitate the user's accuracy and precision.
- 2d. Provide adaptability to the user's pace.





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**PRINCIPLE THREE: Simple and Intuitive Use**

Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.

Guidelines:

- 3a. Eliminate unnecessary complexity.
- 3b. Be consistent with user expectations and intuition.
- 3c. Accommodate a wide range of literacy and language skills.
- 3d. Arrange information consistent with its importance.
- 3e. Provide effective prompting and feedback during and after task completion.

**PRINCIPLE FOUR: Perceptible Information**

The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.

Guidelines:

- 4a. Use different modes (pictorial, verbal, tactile) for redundant presentation of essential information.
- 4b. Provide adequate contrast between essential information and its surroundings.
- 4c. Maximize "legibility" of essential information.
- 4d. Differentiate elements in ways that can be described (i.e., make it easy to give instructions or directions).
- 4e. Provide compatibility with a variety of techniques or devices used by people with sensory limitations.



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**PRINCIPLE FIVE: Tolerance for Error**

The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

Guidelines:

- 5a. Arrange elements to minimize hazards and errors: most used elements, most accessible; hazardous elements eliminated, isolated, or shielded.
- 5b. Provide warnings of hazards and errors.
- 5c. Provide fail safe features.
- 5d. Discourage unconscious action in tasks that require vigilance.

**PRINCIPLE SIX: Low Physical Effort**

The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.

Guidelines:

- 6a. Allow user to maintain a neutral body position.
- 6b. Use reasonable operating forces.
- 6c. Minimize repetitive actions.
- 6d. Minimize sustained physical effort.

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# MASTER PLAN

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## **MASTER PLAN**

A master plan should serve as a "guide" to provide recreation in the community. The planning process for the master plan offered insight of the trends, needs, and changing events in Huntington. Also, attempts were made to receive as much public input as possible. There were work sessions conducted with Park staff and a written survey questionnaire distributed in the community. Also time was permitted in each monthly Park Board meeting to review the master plan and receive comments. The results were invaluable and used as the framework in the development of the action plan.

It was through this "hands-on" approach to master planning that the following accomplishments were made:

1. Evaluation of current parks and recreation system effectiveness.
2. Identification of recreational facilities and programs that are in need.
3. Priorities for improvements and changes.
4. Establishment of an Action Plan that outlines the proposed implementation and costs.

The following analysis and master plan, prepared with the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department, provides general location, size and facility requirements for the next 10 years, and a specific program of development for each of the next five years. As the master plan is implemented over the next several years, the long range general plan should be updated and a new five year program developed.

### **Issues**

The key to any park and recreation master plan is the identification of issues. If the issues facing a park and recreation department can be identified and defined, then they can be prioritized in an orderly manner. The process used in the development of Huntington's Park and Recreation Master Plan attempted to reach as many residents as possible to identify and reach a consensus on the issues. Citizen input is the core of this master plan. It is a compilation of feelings, wants, desires and needs of those residents. It is the involvement of residents and citizens that makes a master plan legitimate and not a shelf study.

Methods to collect input and identify issues were:

- Park Board meetings
- Park Staff work sessions
- Public meeting
- Site visits
- Written community needs survey





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Other methods of public input were considered such as telephone surveys. But due to financial restraints placed on the Park Department, funds were not available to conduct extensive surveys. Public input opportunities were limited to available resources and funding.

The following meetings/ public input opportunities were provided:

- January 18, 2010      **Park Board meeting**  
*Review of the park & recreation master plan process and proposed schedule. Attendance: 15 (7 - Park Board & Staff, consultant, 7 - residents). Opportunity for public comment provided - no response.*
- January 19, 2010      **Special Public Meeting**  
*Solicitation of residents needs, wants and desires. Attendance: 15 (7 - Park Board & Staff, consultant, 7 - residents). Refer to public meeting summary for details of input and responses.*
- February 16, 2010      **Park Board meeting**  
*Presented master plan update. Attendance: 14 (6 - Park Board & Staff, consultant, 2 - residents). Opportunity for public comment provided. Resident inquired about access to Wabash & Little Wabash Rivers and if Park Dept could provide canoe rentals. Park Board response that previous investigation found initial cost for establishing a canoe rental program would be costly for equipment, trailers, etc.; especially will today's financial situation with the City and Park Dept. The resident asked about community donations for the program and volunteered to check with other communities on how canoe rentals are done. It was suggested to look into the program "National March for Parks" as a method to raise funds for programs.*
- March 16, 2010      **Park Board meeting**  
*Presented master plan update. Attendance: 9 (6 - Park Board & Staff, consultant, 3 - residents). Opportunity for public comment provided - no response.*
- March 18 - May 20      **Public survey period**  
*500 written surveys distributed throughout the City. 74 surveys returned. Refer to survey summary for details.*
- April 20, 2010      **Park Board meeting**  
*Presented master plan update. Attendance: 13 (8 - Park Board & Staff, consultant, 5 - residents). Opportunity for public comment provided - no response.*
- April 20, 2010      Staff work session & site visits to parks with consultant.
- May 7, 2010      Staff work session & site visits to parks with consultant.



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- May 18, 2010 **Park Board meeting**  
*Presented master plan update. Attendance: 14 (7 - Park Board & Staff, consultant, 7 - residents). Opportunity for public comment provided - no response. Residents attended meeting for discussions on upcoming Pioneer Festival and Vietnam War Memorial Wall display.*
- June 8, 2010 **Special Public Meeting**  
*Presentation of survey results and initial master plan priorities. Attendance: 11 (4 - Park Board & Staff, consultant, 7 - residents). Refer to public meeting summary for details of input and responses.*
- June 15, 2010 **Park Board meeting**  
*Presented master plan update with initial draft of proposed 5-year action plan. Attendance: 9 (7 - Park Board & Staff, consultant, 2 - residents). Opportunity for public comment provided. Resident inquired about improving handicap accessibility at the playgrounds, especially equipment such as swings. Park Superintendent will look at purchasing 1 or 2 accessible swing seats. Resident suggested installation of swing seats at General Slack Park and Memorial Park would be ideal. Park Board will look into getting together a community task force for the development of an accessible playground. Possible participation may include Huntington University, Huntington Schools, Parkview Hospital and Pathfinders.*
- July 20, 2010 **Park Board meeting**  
*Presentation of master plan draft of action plan. Attendance: 9 (7 - Park Board & Staff, consultant, 2 - residents). Opportunity for public comment provided - no response.*
- August 17, 2010 **Park Board meeting**  
*Review of updated 5-Year Action Plan. Opportunity for public comment provided - no public in attendance.*
- September 21, 2010 **Park Board meeting**  
*Presentation of master plan update and review of revised Action Plan and proposed 5-Year Proposed Budget. Opportunity for public comment provided - no public in attendance. Attendance: 8 (7 - Park Board & Staff, consultant).*
- October 19, 2010 **Park Board meeting**  
*Presentation of 2011-2015 Park and Recreation Master Plan draft. Park Board approval for submission to IDNR. Opportunity for public comment provided - \_\_\_\_\_.*
- November 16, 2010 **Park Board meeting**  
*Public review of master plan draft and IDNR review comments. Opportunity for public comment provided - \_\_\_\_\_.*



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December 21, 2010 **Park Board meeting**  
*Adoption of 2011-2015 Park & Recreation Master Plan.*

The key issues identified in the process were existing parks and facilities, riverwalk and trail development, Wabash River access, recreational programs, staffing and budget. Each issue was assigned a level of priority according to the following criteria:

1. Financial feasibility
2. Available manpower
3. Existing facilities
4. Need and overall impact
5. Practicality

### Public Meetings

A series of public meetings were conducted to obtain public input and present components of the proposed master plan for review and comment. The first public meeting was held January 19, 2010 to gather information on needs, wants and desires from residents for parks in Huntington. The second public meeting was held on June 8, 2010 to present master plan priorities and an outline of the 2011-2015 action plan. The third public meeting was held November 16, 2010 to present the draft of the five-year master and solicit public comment.

#### **1st Public Meeting** – Solicitation of residents needs, wants and desires

A special public meeting was held on January 19, 2010 at the Neighbor Recreation Center to solicit and discuss the needs and issues of the parks. Poster-sized sheets were used for discussion and to encourage participation.

Attendance: 15 total people (5 Park Board members, 2 Park Dept. staff, 1 Mayor, 1 City Council member, 5 Residents and 1 Consultant)

Below are the responses and input received at the meeting:

#### **Recreational Programs:**

*What programs do you like?*

- Walking program.
- S.P.A.R.K.
- Instructional programs.
- Youth dances.
- Softball programs.
- Summer concerts.





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*What programs should be discontinued?*

- Snowball softball tournament.
- Meet the Team (University Soccer Team).
- Photography.
- Plant Swap (to be provided by others).
- Western dance (to be provided by others).
- Back to School Bash.
- Make It / Take It.

*What programs would you like to see offered?*

- Expanded adult programs.

### **Trails & Greenways:**

*What additional trail routes would you like to see?*

- Connection between Elmwood Park and Memorial Park and/or Forks of the Wabash.
- Riverwalk through town.
- Bike lanes throughout city/county.
- Connection from downtown to Huntington University.
- More trails within parks.
- Upgrade walkway within Memorial Park.

*If only one trail could be built in the next five years, what trail should it be?*

- Connection between Elmwood Park and Memorial Park and/or Forks of the Wabash.

### **Park Improvements:**

*What specific improvements would you like to see in the parks?*

#### Memorial Park

- Repair/replace brick walks, damaged by vandals.
- Repair footbridge approaches, some are dangerous.
- North Pond – stagnant, bugs, trash, etc. Can it be filled in landscaped?
- Drainage swale at north end of pond – remove weeds.
- Expand disc golf course.

#### Hier's Park

- The recent children's play area was a nice idea.
- Need band stand improvements, maybe fixed seating.

#### Drover Park

- Miniature golf.
- Putting green.



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General Slack Park

- Parking lot surfacing needed.
- Resurface/restripe basketball court.

Yeoman Park

- Parking lot surfacing needed.

Evergreen Park

- Renovate softball diamonds.

Elmwood Park

- New restroom building.

*Are there any areas of the community that are lacking in park & recreation opportunities?*

- Carlisle Crossings (north of K-Mart).

**Finances:**

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*What is the best way to pay for park improvements?*

- Grants.
- Service clubs.
- Scouts.
- Corporate/business sponsors.





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## **2nd Public Meeting** – Presentation of Priorities and Action Plan

A special public meeting was held on June 8, 2010 at the Neighbor Recreation Center to present priorities for the master plan and a draft of the 2011-2015 action plan for public review and comment. Poster-sized sheets were used for discussion and to encourage participation.

Attendance: 11 people total (5 residents, 2 local media, 3 Park Board members and 1 Park Staff)

### **Recreational Programs:**

*What suggestions do you have that might improve park programs?*

- Programs for seniors - active sports
- Stripe tennis courts for "Pickleball"
- Can "Pickleball" be indoor at Heritage Hall?
- Develop mountain bike trail for kids

### **Park Improvements:**

*What specific improvements would you like to see in the parks?*

#### Accessible Play

- Develop an accessible playground
- Construct accessible walks to all play grounds
- Install accessible swings with large backs in parks

#### Memorial Park

- Concerned about safety of jet plane and kids
- Clean up north drainage ditch

#### Evergreen Park

- Develop winter activities - sledding, x-country skiing, ice skating.
- Sledding hill can be used as outdoor amphitheater for summer concerts

#### Elmwood Park

- Renovate basketball courts, full regulation size
- Improve river access

#### Riverside Park

- Develop river access

#### General Comments

- Investigate to consolidate or close smaller parks



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**3rd Public Meeting** – Presentation of Master Plan draft

A special public meeting was held on November 16, 2010 at the Neighbor Recreation Center to present the draft of the 2011-2015 Park & Recreation Master Plan for public review and comment. Copies of the draft plan for review were available for 30 days prior to the public meeting at Park Office, City Hall and Huntington Public Library.

Attendance:

Comments:





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## Public Opinion Survey

A written survey was specifically created to gather information from residents to learn about the recreational interests and provide an opportunity to express opinions concerning the programs, activities and the quality of the parks within the city.

Approximately 500 surveys were printed and distributed. Survey forms were available on-line for download on the Park Department web site.

Results based on 74 surveys returned, approximately 14.8% return. (28 survey handouts; 5 on-line download surveys; 41 youth soccer photo day surveys).

### Park Facilities

Please list any specific changes or improvements you would like to see in the parks.

#### Memorial Park

- Parking
- More seating around play area for adults (2)
- Clean up drainage ditch (2)
- Repair tennis courts (2)
- Repair trails (2)
- Stone work on paths
- Sign up sheet for tennis courts
- Better maintenance

#### Hier's Park

- Parking
- Sell property to 4-H
- More seating at play areas for adults
- Tennis courts
- Nice restrooms at ball diamonds

#### Drover Park

- Close park (2)
- Keep trash picked up

#### General Slack Park

- Parking (2)
- Very nice park

#### Yeoman Park

- More trees
- Water fountain
- Eliminate park

- Tennis courts
- Gross restrooms!

#### Evergreen Park

- Mow ball diamonds & weed
- Repair potholes
- More trash cans along trail
- Clean up parking lot trash
- Great walking trail!

#### Laurie Park

- Close park (2)

#### Elmwood Park

- Diamond outfield needs rolling
- Redo restrooms
- Riverwalk & connection to the Forks of the Wabash

#### Erie Park

- Close park (2)
- Eliminate park
- Get rid of

#### Recreation Center

- Update tennis courts
- Evening programs
- Program about Miami Indian history in our community

### Are there any areas of our community that are lacking park and recreation facilities and opportunities?

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| a) The river! We don't even know it exists unless we cross a bridge. We need to connect to our beautiful river again. We forget that it is the reason there is a Huntington. | d) No (2)                    |
| b) More parking at Yeoman Park   | e) More greenways (2)        |
| c) Park needed at north end of town  | f) Public Swimming Pool (2)  |
|  | g) Dog waste removal company |
|  | h) More paved trails         |



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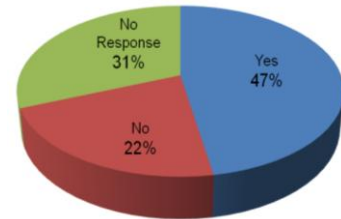
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The Park Board and Department have made a commitment to trails and greenways to make Huntington a more livable, healthy community. Please rank the priority of these trail routes (1 high to 4 low):

1 - Forks of the Wabash to Memorial Park	(191 pts)
2 - Elmwood Park to Memorial Park	(136 pts)
3 - Downtown Riverwalk	(131 pts)
4 - Downtown to Huntington University	(126 pts)

Are you in favor of renovating the outdoor bandshell / stage in Hier's Park and provide fixed seating?

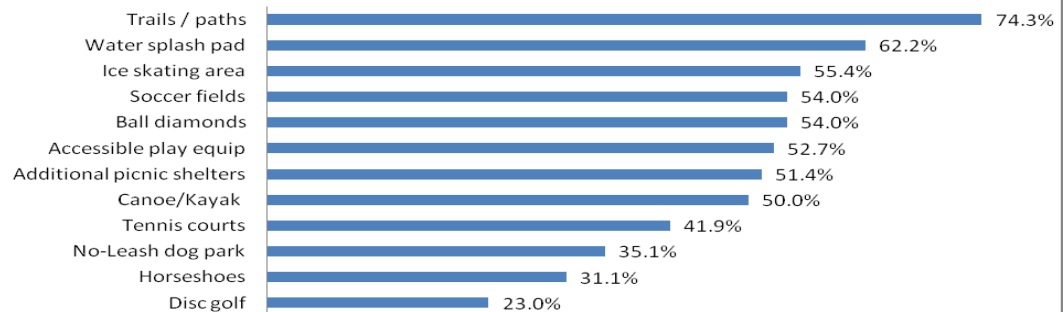
Yes	47.3% (35)
No	21.6% (16)
No Response	31.1% (23)



How do you feel about adding or improving the following facilities in the city park system?

Facility	Yes	No	No Response
Trails / paths	74.3% (55)	9.5% (7)	16.2% (12)
Water splash pad	62.2% (46)	21.6% (16)	16.2% (12)
Ice skating area	55.4% (41)	29.7% (22)	14.9% (11)
Soccer fields	54.0% (40)	21.6% (16)	24.4% (18)
Ball diamonds	54.0% (40)	20.3% (15)	25.7% (19)
Accessible play equip	52.7% (39)	21.6% (16)	25.7% (19)
Additional picnic shelters	51.4% (38)	23.0% (17)	25.6% (19)
Canoe/Kayak	50.0% (37)	27.0% (20)	23.0% (17)
Tennis courts	41.9% (31)	35.1% (26)	23.0% (17)
No-Leash dog park	35.1% (26)	37.8% (28)	27.1% (20)
Horseshoes	31.1% (23)	43.2% (32)	25.7% (19)
Disc golf	23.0% (17)	50.0% (37)	27.0% (20)
Other	Pool (2), Grills, Camping		

### In Favor of Adding/Improving in our Parks





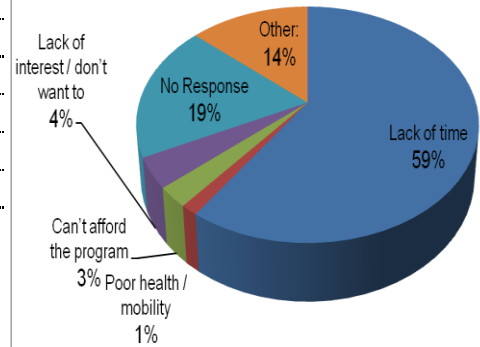
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**Recreation Programs**

**What is the single most important thing that prevents you from using the parks or programs more?**

Lack of time	59.5% (44)
Poor health / mobility	1.4% (1)
Can't afford the program	2.7% (2)
Lack of interest / don't want to	4.1% (3)
No Response	18.8% (14)
Other:	13.5% (10)
– Weather	– Too far away
– Don't take advantage of	– Need more notification of events
– Handicap swing	– Not knowing what is available
– Lack of toddler play areas	
– Family reasons	



**Do any of these physical barriers restrict or prevent you using the parks or programs?**

Physical access to the park or facilities	0.0% (0)
Lack of accessible parking	5.4% (4)
Parks too far away	9.5% (7)
No Response:	82.4% (61)
Other:	2.7% (2)
– Wheelchair	
– Some of the other park patrons prevent us from using some parks	

**What specific type of recreational programs or activities would you like to see offered?**

- Canoe/kayaks (2)
- Football for kids (2)
- More walking trails
- Family weekend campout
- Walking for those who work
- More bike trails
- Activities for people who work 8-5
- Variety of programs
- T-Ball and Coaches pitch
- Fix what we have, now is not the time for big spending
- Camping
- Swimming
- Hockey
- Bull riding
- Dog training

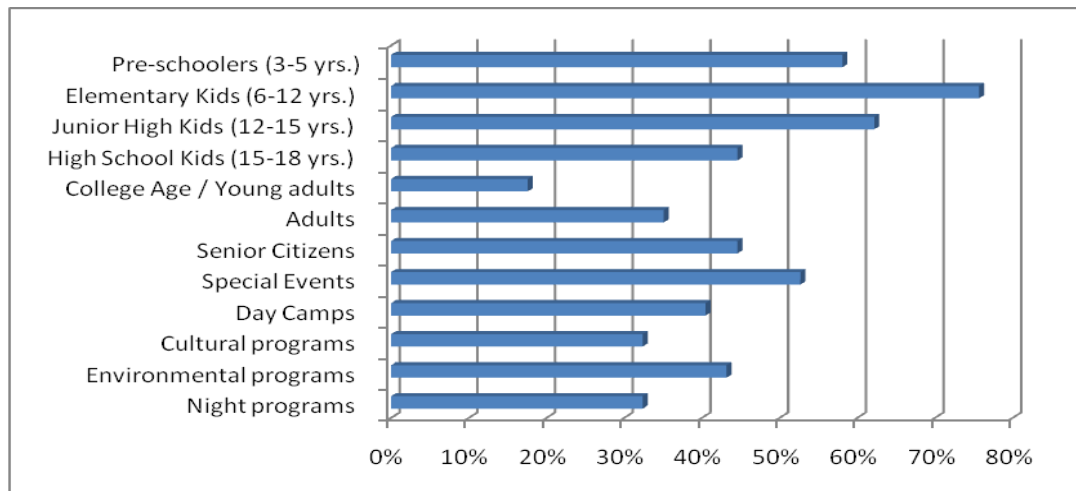
**Please indicate the priority the Huntington Park and Recreation Dept. should give towards the following programs:**

Program	High	Low	No Response
Pre-schoolers (3-5 yrs.)	58.1% (43)	20.3% (15)	21.6% (16)
Elementary Kids (6-12 yrs.)	75.7% (56)	5.4% (4)	18.9% (14)
Junior High Kids (12-15 yrs.)	62.2% (46)	13.5% (10)	24.3% (18)
High School Kids (15-18 yrs.)	44.6% (33)	27.0% (20)	28.4% (21)
College Age / Young adults	17.6% (13)	48.6% (36)	33.8% (25)
Adults	35.1% (26)	36.5% (27)	28.4% (21)
Senior Citizens	44.6% (33)	25.7% (19)	29.7% (22)
Special Events	52.7% (39)	20.3% (15)	27.0% (20)
Day Camps	40.5% (30)	32.4% (24)	27.1% (20)
Cultural programs	32.4% (24)	39.2% (29)	28.4% (21)
Environmental programs	43.2% (32)	31.1% (23)	25.7% (19)
Night programs	32.4% (24)	39.2% (29)	28.4% (21)



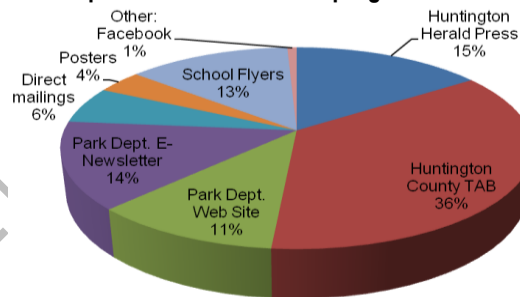
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**How are you kept informed of Huntington Park & Recreation Department activities and programs?**

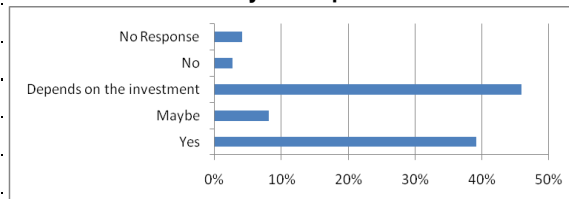
Huntington Herald Press	28.4% (21)
Huntington County TAB	66.2% (49)
Park Dept. Web Site	20.3% (15)
Park Dept. E-Newsletter	25.7% (19)
Direct mailings	10.8% (8)
Posters	6.8% (5)
School Flyers	24.3% (18)
Other: Facebook	1.4% (1)



**Park Funding**

**Would you like Huntington Park & Recreation Department to invest more money in the parks?**

Yes	39.2% (29)
Maybe	8.1% (6)
Depends on the investment	45.9% (34)
No	2.7% (2)
No Response	4.1% (3)



**Are you willing to pay for improvements in the Huntington Parks using any of the following methods?**

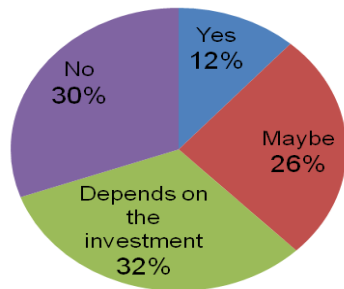
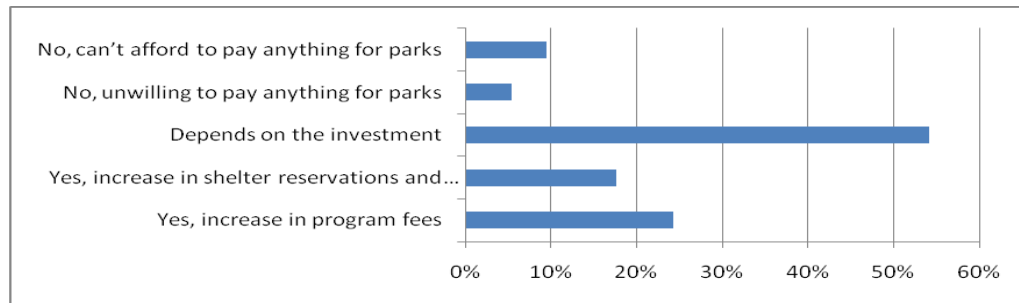
Yes, increase in program fees	24.3% (18)
Yes, increase in shelter reservations and building rentals cost	17.6% (13)
Depends on the investment	54.1% (40)
No, unwilling to pay anything for parks	5.4% (4)
No, can't afford to pay anything for parks	9.5% (7)





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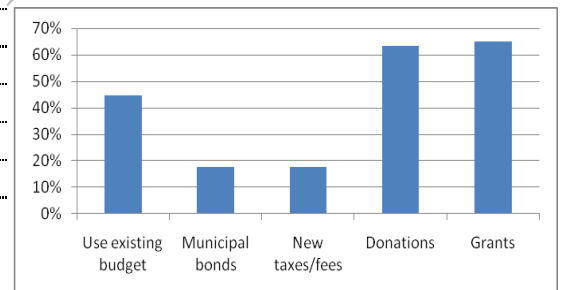


**Are you willing to pay new taxes or user fees to help pay for improvements in the Huntington Parks?**

Yes	10.8% (8)
Maybe	24.3% (18)
Depends on the investment	29.7% (22)
No	28.4% (21)

**How would you like Huntington Park & Recreation Department to pay for new amenities and investments in the parks?**

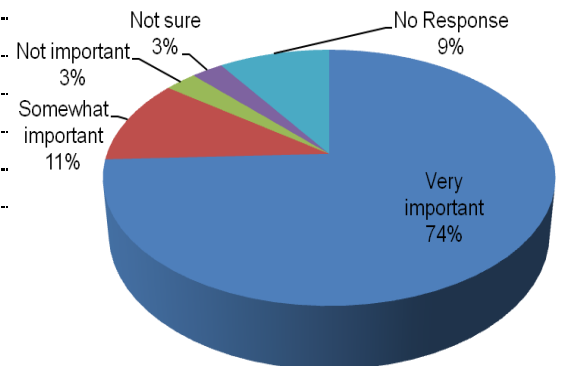
Use existing budget	44.6% (33)
Municipal bonds	17.6% (13)
New taxes/fees	17.6% (13)
Donations	63.5% (47)
Grants	64.9% (48)



**Park Functions**

**Operate and maintain city parks and facilities.**

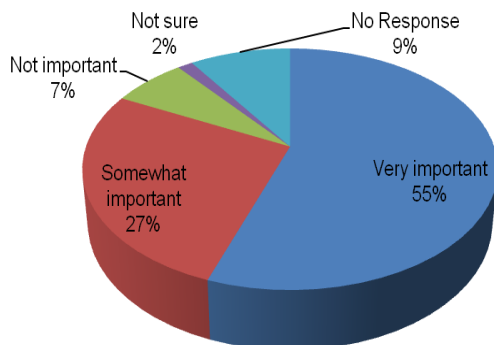
Very important	74.3% (55)
Somewhat important	10.8% (8)
Not important	2.7% (2)
Not sure	2.7% (2)
No Response	9.5% (7)





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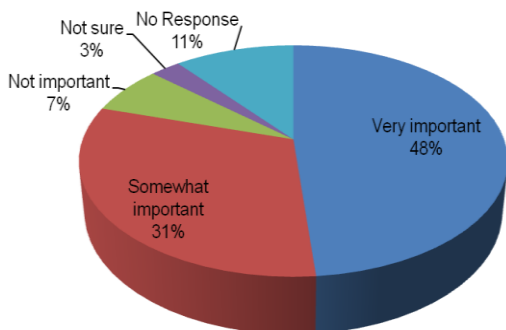
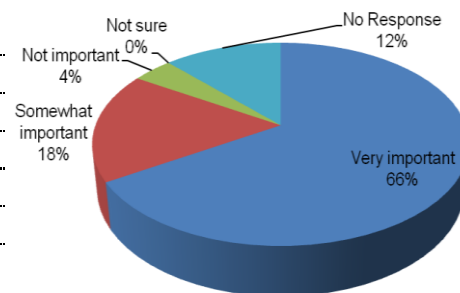


**Preserve the environment and provide passive open space:**

Very important	55.4% (41)
Somewhat important	27.0% (20)
Not important	6.8% (5)
Not sure	1.4% (1)
No Response	9.4% (7)

**Provide places for outdoor sports programs:**

Very important	66.2% (49)
Somewhat important	17.6% (13)
Not important	4.1% (3)
Not sure	0.0% (0)
No Response	12.1% (9)



**Allocate resources equally across the community:**

Very important	48.6% (36)
Somewhat important	31.1% (23)
Not important	6.8% (5)
Not sure	2.7% (2)
No Response	10.8% (8)

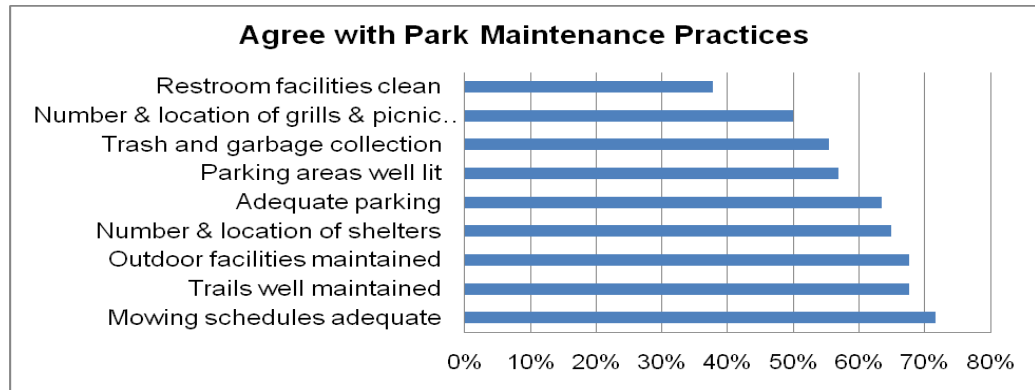
**Park Maintenance**

Mowing schedules	Agree	71.6% (53)	Disagree	13.5% (10)	No Response	14.9% (11)
Trash and garbage	Agree	55.4% (41)	Disagree	25.7% (19)	No Response	18.9% (14)
Restroom facilities	Agree	37.8% (28)	Disagree	43.2% (32)	No Response	19.0% (14)
Outdoor facilities	Agree	67.6% (50)	Disagree	16.2% (12)	No Response	16.2% (12)
Adequate parking	Agree	63.5% (47)	Disagree	18.9% (14)	No Response	17.6% (13)
Grills and picnic tables	Agree	50.0% (37)	Disagree	29.7% (22)	No Response	20.3% (15)
shelters	Agree	64.9% (48)	Disagree	16.2% (12)	No Response	18.9% (14)
areas well lit	Agree	56.8% (42)	Disagree	20.3% (15)	No Response	22.9% (17)
Trails	Agree	67.6% (50)	Disagree	6.8% (5)	No Response	25.6% (19)



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**Additional Comments and Suggestions:**

- I love the new walking trail and look forward to more.
- Parks are too much burden on taxpayers. Do away with Park Board.
- Softball for 40+ adults.
- We have too many parks.
- Please keep Park Dept. up & running, they are very important to the city.
- Parks should not be closed at night.
- Parking areas can be more attractive - curbing & landscaping.
- Memorial Park trail needs maintenance.
- Evergreen Park and Forks trails are wonderful.
- Elmwood restrooms are awful.
- More greenways.
- Park Dept. does very well with all softball programs.
- Even though our city is in very tough economic times, we still need to make our parks a priority. Keep up the good work!
- I would like to be able to walk to any park instead of driving there. If the parks were connected by trails, I would use them more.
- I feel you do a 'great' job with the parks and programs on your budget.
- We love to see off-leash dog park.
- Do away with Park Board.
- More greenways.
- Make sledding at Memorial Park safer or supervised.
- Good job under current budget restrictions.
- Turn off lights on tennis & basketball courts at night.
- The parks are an asset to this community and a vital park of the municipal well-being. More and better funding and staffing are needed to continue service and commitment.





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## Determination of Recreational Needs

A method used to determine recreation needs in Huntington and supplement information received from public input and the written survey are the Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). These guidelines are useful in determining the minimum requirements, however it is recommended that Huntington Parks and Recreation Department establish their own standards based on the community's needs, economic and maintenance capabilities and limitations.

The following standards and guidelines are reprinted from NRPA:

### ***Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines***

*The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recognizes the importance of establishing and using park and recreation standards as:*

- *A national expression of minimum acceptable facilities for the citizens of urban and rural communities.*
- *A guideline to determine land requirements for various kinds of park and recreation areas and facilities.*
- *A basis for relating recreational needs to spatial analysis within a community-wide system of parks and open space areas.*
- *One of the major structuring elements that can be used to guide and assist regional development.*
- *A means to justify the need for parks and open space within the overall land-use pattern of a region or community.*

*The purpose of these guidelines is to present park and recreation space standards that are applicable nationwide for planning, acquisition, and development of park, recreation, and open space lands, primarily at the community level. These standards should be viewed as a guide. They address minimum, not maximum, goals to be achieved. The standards are interpreted according to the particular situation to which they are applied and specific local needs. A variety of standards has been developed by professional and trade associations which are used throughout the country. The standard derived from early studies of park acreages located within metropolitan areas was the expression of acres of park land per unit of population. Over time, the figure of 10 acres per 1,000 population came to be the commonly accepted standard used by a majority of communities. Other standards adopted include the "percent of area" approach, needs determined by user characteristics and participation projections, and area use based on the carrying capacity of the land. The fact that some of the standards have changed substantially is not an indication of their obsolescence. Changes are a measure of the growing awareness and understanding of both participant and resource (land, water, etc.) limitations. Parks are for people. Park, recreation, and planning professionals must integrate the art and science of park management in order to balance such park and open space resource values as water supply, air quality.*



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ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
<b>Badminton</b>	1620 sq. ft.	Singles – 17'x44' Doubles – 20'x44'	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ -1/2 mile	Usually in school, recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or bike access.
<b>Basketball Youth High School Collegiate</b>	2400-3036 sq. ft. 5040-7280 sq. ft. 5600-7980 sq. ft.	46-50'x84' 50'x84' 50'x94' with 5' unobstructed space on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
<b>Handball (3-4 wall)</b>	800 sq. ft. for 4-wall 1000 for 3-wall	20'x40' – Minimum of 10' to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20' overhead clearance	Long axis north-south. Front wall at north end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minute travel time	4-wall usually indoor as part of multi-purpose facility. 3-wall usually outdoor in park or school setting
<b>Ice Hockey</b>	22,000 sq. ft. including support area	Rink 85'x200' (minimum 85'x185') Additional 5000 sq. ft. support area	Long axis north-south if outdoor	Indoor – 1 per 100,000 Outdoor – depends on climate	½ - 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multi-purpose facility.
<b>Tennis</b>	Minimum of 7,200 sq. ft. single court (2 acres for complex)	36'x78'. 12' clearance on both sides; 21' clearance on both ends.	Long axis north – south	1 court per 2000.	¼-1/2 mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood/community park or adjacent to school
<b>Volleyball</b>	Minimum of 4,000 sq. ft.	30'x60'. Minimum 6' clearance on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as other court activities (e.g. badminton)
<b>Baseball Official Little League</b>	3.0-3.85 A minimum  1.2 A minimum	Baselines – 90' Pitching distance 60 ½' foul lines – min. 320' Center field – 400'+ Baselines – 60' Pitching distance – 46' Foul lines – 200' Center field – 200' – 250'	Locate home plate to pitcher throwing across sun and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitchers mound run east-north-east.	1 per 5000 Lighted 1 per 30,000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.
<b>Field Hockey</b>	Minimum 1.5 A	180' x 300' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Fall season – long axis northwest to southwest. For longer periods north-south	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
<b>Football</b>	Minimum 1.5 A	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Same as field hockey.
<b>Soccer</b>	1.7 – 2.1 A	195' to 225'x330' to 360' with a minimum 10' clearance all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
<b>Golf-driving Range</b>	13.5 A for minimum of 25 tees	900'x690' wide. Add 12' width for each additional tee.	Long axis southwest-northeast with golfer driving toward northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time.	Part of a golf course complex. As separate unit may be privately owned.
<b>¼ Mile Running</b>	4.3 A	Overall width – 276' Length –	Long axis in sector from north	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes	Usually part of high school, or in community



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<b>Track</b>		600.02' Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32'.	to south to north-west-south-east with finish line at northerly end.		travel time	park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.
<b>Softball</b>	1.5 to 2.0 A	Baselines – 60' Pitching distance- 46' min. 40' women. Fast pitch field Radius from Plate – 225' Between foul Lines. Slow Pitch – 275' (men) 250' (women)	Same as baseball	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	¼ - ½ mile	Slight differences in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.
<b>Multiple Recreation Court (basketball, volleyball, tennis)</b>	9, 840 sq. ft.	120' x 80'	Long axis of courts with <i>primary</i> use is north-south	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles.	
<b>Trails</b>	N/A	10' width, maximum average grade is 5% not to exceed 15%. Capacity rural trails – 40 hikers/day/mile. Urban trails – 90 hikers/day/mile.	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	
<b>Archery Range</b>	Minimum 0.65 A	300' Length x Minimum 10' wide between targets. clear space behind targets minimum of 90'x45' with bunker.	Archer facing north = or – 45 degrees.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional or metro park complex.
<b>Swimming Pools</b>	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually ½ to 2 A site.	<i>Teaching</i> - minimum of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3 to 4 ft. <i>Competitive</i> – minimum of 25 m x 16 m. Minimum of 27 square feet of water surface per swimmer. Ratios of 2:1 deck vs. water.	<i>None</i> -although care must be taken in siting of lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun.	1 per 20,000 (Pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at a time.)	15 to 30 minutes travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
<b>Golf Par 3 (18 hole) 9-hole standard 18-hole standard</b>	50-60 A Minimum 50 A Minimum 110 A	Average length vary 600-2700 yd. Average length – 2250 yards Average length 6500 yards	Majority of holes on north-south axis	-- 1/25,000 1/50,000	½ to 1 hour travel time	9 hole course can accommodate 350 people/day. 18 hole course can accommodate 500-550 people/day. Course may be located in community or district park, but should not be over 20 miles from population center.
<b>Beach Areas</b>	N/A	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sq. ft. of water per user. There should be 3-4 A supporting land per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Should have sand bottom with slope maximum of 5 % (flat preferable). Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas.



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## Park and Recreation Standards

Another source and reference that can be used as a guide in determining recreational needs for a community are state park and recreation standards. The following are from SCORP 2000 – Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

### Regional Park Standards

Purpose	To provide outdoor recreational opportunities with strong emphasis on the natural environment.
Character	Vegetation and topographic variety, spaciousness and uniqueness are the important qualities of this park classification. Variety takes the form of wooded areas and meadows, steep terrain and level land, panoramic views and screened vistas. Spaciousness is exhibited in the form of visual and sound separation of facilities and activities and the retention of extensive areas of undeveloped lands. Uniqueness is defined in terms of the special geologic, biologic, historic and visual features.
Undeveloped Land	50-80 percent of total park area, including support acreage.
Service Area	Within one hour of travel time.
Size	1,000 acres minimum.
Special Features	Include lake, reservoir or stream for water-based activities.
Facilities and Activities	Picnic areas, campgrounds, golfing (in activity-dominated parks), winter sports, playfields, trails (hiking, bridle, bicycling, vehicle), nature study area, nature center, food & lodging and water recreation (swimming, boating, water skiing/personal watercraft).

Source: IDNR SCORP 2000

### District Park Standards

Purpose	To provide easily accessible and more intensive recreation activity, for a region, within a natural environment, that is less extensive and dramatic than a regional park environment.
Character	Variety and openness are the important qualities of this park classification. Variety as defined in the regional park but with less dramatic terrain and vegetation features. Openness is expressed in the form of undeveloped land, wooded areas and scenic views.
Undeveloped Land	40-60 percent of total park area, including support acreage.
Service Area	Within one-half hour of travel time.
Size	400-800 acres
Special Features	Should include water for swimming.
Facilities and Activities	Picnic areas, campgrounds, golfing, winter sports, playfields, trails (hiking, bridle, bicycling, vehicle), nature study area, nature center and water recreation (swimming, fishing, boating).

Source: IDNR SCORP 2000

### Community Park Standards

Purpose	To provide an activity-dominated recreation area with a moderate amount of managed undeveloped land that can sustain continued, heavy use.
Character	Variety and high use capacity are important qualities of this park classification. Variety in the form of moderate slopes, rolling land forms, partial tree cover. High use capacity in the form of good drainage, stable soil conditions, relatively level land. Many community parks, especially those in rural settings, include sports complexes for activities such as softball, baseball and soccer.
Undeveloped Land	20-40 percent of total park area, including support acreage.
Service Area	Within 15 minutes of travel time.
Size	100-400 acres
Special Features	None
Facilities and Activities	Picnic areas, golf, winter sports, playfields, trails (hiking, bridle, bicycling), nature study area, nature center and water recreation (swimming, fishing, boating).

Source: IDNR SCORP 2000



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### Neighborhood Park Standards

Purpose	To provide active and passive recreation facilities for all age groups within walking distance to urban neighborhood residents.
Character	High use capacity and access are the important qualities of this park classification. High use capacity means site has good drainage, open areas and rolling to level land. Access means there are minimal road, terrain and structural barriers between park and residents.
Undeveloped Land	15-30 percent of total park area, including support acreage.
Service Area	Within 20 minutes of walking time.
Size	5-50 acres
Special Features	Develop in conjunction with school grounds whenever feasible.
Facilities and Activities	Playgrounds, playfields, recreation building/community center, swimming, skateboard area, greenspace & wooded areas, and walking paths.

Source: IDNR SCORP 2000

### Block Park / Tot Lot Standards

Purpose	To provide protected areas for young children in residential areas and space and activities for families and the elderly.
Character	High use capacity and access are the important qualities of this park classification. High use capacity takes form in of good drainage and level land. Access is provided by designing no road or other physical barriers between park and residents.
Undeveloped Land	10-20 percent of total park area, including support acreage.
Service Area	Within 5 minutes of walking time.
Size	1/4 to 5 acres
Special Features	None
Facilities and Activities	Playground, shelter(s), sitting/picnic areas, court areas (basketball, horseshoes, shuffleboard, tennis), greenspace and walking paths.

Source: IDNR SCORP 2000

### Natural Resource Areas Standards

Purpose	Protect, conserve and perpetuate outstanding natural resources. It should be noted that as communities become more successful and development continues to expand, in many cases open space becomes the outstanding natural resource to be protected. Greenways provide movement corridors for wildlife and connections between habitats.
Character	The character of the natural resources area is determined by the type(s) of natural resource to be managed.
Undeveloped Land	100 percent of total park area, not including support acreage.
Service Area	Sites to be selected more on the basis of the location of the resource rather than on the proximity to population centers.
Size	The natural resources areas can be divided into four categories.
Special Features	Forests, Fish & Wildlife Areas, Nature Preserves, Greenways
Facilities and Activities	Picnicking, camping, trails (nature, hiking, bicycling, jogging, bridle), water recreation (fishing, boating, launch), hunting, wildlife observation and/or photography, nature study, research, environmental education

Source: IDNR SCORP 2000





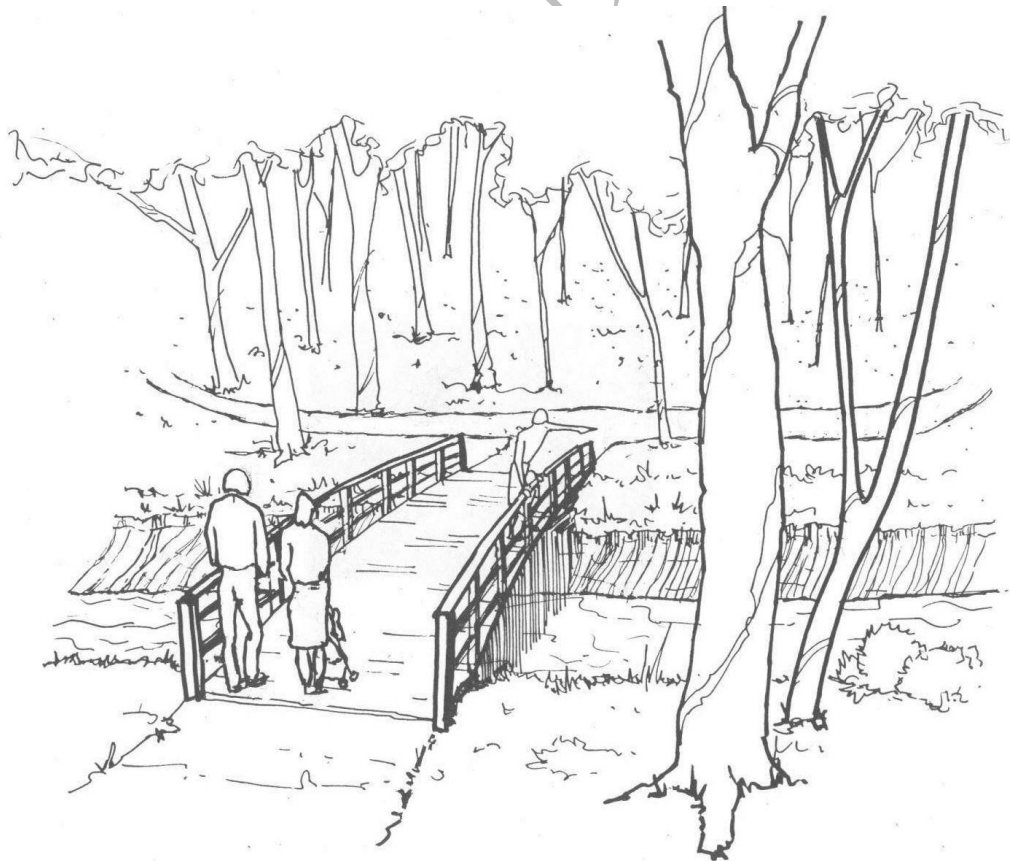
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**Trail Systems Standards**

Purpose	Trails within a park setting provide access to the natural environment. Connector trails emphasize safe travel for users. Trails may be a link to a destination or a destination themselves. Multi-use and single use trails accommodate activities such as hiking, jogging, walking, in-line skating, horseback riding, bicycling and off-road vehicle riding. Water trails provide destination activities for traveling by canoe, kayak or boat.
Character	The character of the trail is determined by the type(s) of setting in which it is located and by the intended purpose of the trail. Accessibility is inherent in terms of relative ease of movement along the trail.
Undeveloped Land	All areas except access points, support areas (i.e. parking, restrooms) and the trail.
Service Area	Proximity is based on the intended purpose(s) of the trail. Park trails support service areas recommended by the type of park. Generally, trails should be located within walking distance for community based trails and within 20 minutes driving radius for long distance trails.
Size	Where possible, 1 mile or more, depending on intended use and location.
Special Features	Trails located outside parks and organized recreation areas should lead to or past points of interest. These points of interest may be scenic, social, historic, cultural, or activity-oriented recreation areas. The width of trails varies according to natural conditions, but the surface must safely accommodate the intended use.
Facilities and Activities	Camping, hiking/walking trails, jogging trails, bicycle trails, vehicle trails, bridle trails, water trails (motorized & non-motorized), launching areas, nature study and transportation (motorized and non-motorized).

Source: IDNR SCORP 2000





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### Park Acreage Needs

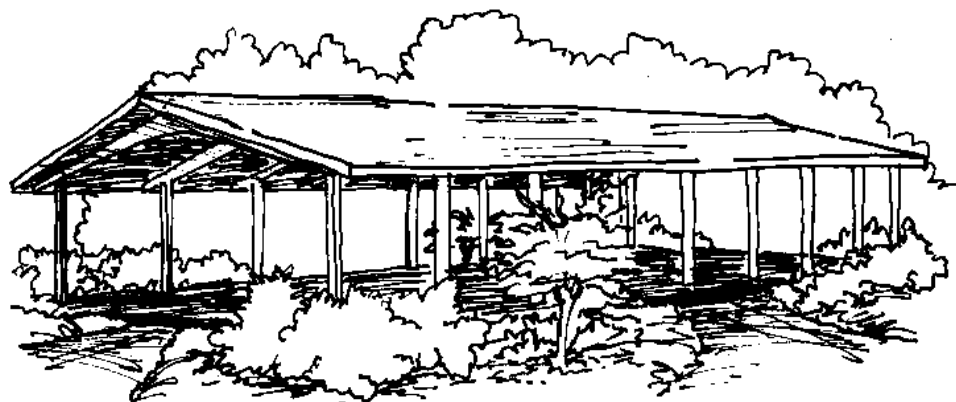
The following chart identify the park acreage needs for Huntington based on standards and guidelines. These are suggested standards and guidelines and not all may fit a particular community. Each deficiency is to be reviewed to see if it will fit specific needs. As new housing and development occurs in Huntington and surrounding areas, the need for park acreage increases.

PARK SITES	RECOMMENDED ACREAGE	EXISTING ACREAGE	GUIDELINES FOR 2004 POPULATION (17,040 pop.)	GUIDELINES FOR PROJECTED 2010 POPULATION (17227 Pop.)	RECOMMENDED ACREAGE TO FILL GAP FOR PROJECTED 2010 POPULATION
<b>Regional Park</b> (IDNR) J. Edward Roush Lake / Huntington Reservoirs	1,000 acres	8,217 acres	---	---	---
<b>District Park</b> Hier's Park	400-800 acres	19 acres	n/a	n/a	n/a <sup>1</sup>
<b>Community Park</b> Evergreen Park Memorial Park	100-400 acres	133 acres	0 acres	0 acres	<b>0 acres</b>
<b>Neighborhood Park</b> Elmwood Park Laurie Park General Slack Park Yeoman Park Drover Park	5-50 acres	28 acres	0 acres	5-20 acres	<b>5-20 acres</b>
<b>Block Park/Tot Lot</b> Erie Park	¼ - 5 acres	1 acre	0 acres	1-4 acres	<b>1-4 acres</b>
<b>Natural Resource Areas</b>	varies	0	n/a	n/a	--- <sup>2</sup>
<b>Trail Systems</b> River Greenway Park	1 mile	2 miles	1 mile	1 mile	<b>0</b>

Notes:

1 – Hier's Park serves as a district park as home of the Huntington County 4-H Fair.

2 - Regional IDNR properties provide Natural Resources Areas.





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### Recreational Needs

The following charts identify the recreational needs for Huntington based on standards and guidelines. These are suggested standards and guidelines and not all may fit a particular community. Each deficiency is to be reviewed to see if appropriate for the community and if it will fit specific needs.

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED FACILITIES PER POPULATION	EXISTING FACILITIES IN HUNTINGTON PARKS	RECOMMENDED FACILITIES FOR 2004 POPULATION (17,040 Pop.)	RECOMMENDED FACILITIES FOR PROJECTED 2010 POPULATION (17227 Pop.)	RECOMMENDED FACILITIES TO FILL GAP FOR PROJECTED 2010 POPULATION
Badminton	1 per 5000	0	3.4	4	4
Basketball	1 per 5000	9	3.4	4	0
Handball	1 per 20,000	0	1	1	1 <sup>a</sup>
Ice Hockey	Indoor – 1 per 100,000 Outdoor – depends on climate	0	---	---	---
Tennis	1 court per 2000	2	8.5	9	7 <sup>b</sup>
Volleyball	1 per 5000	3	3.4	4	1
Baseball	1 per 5000 Lighted 1 per 30,000	0	3.4 non-lighted	4	4 <sup>c</sup>
Field Hockey	1 per 20,000	0	1	1	1 <sup>d</sup>
Football	1 per 20,000	0	1	1	1
Soccer	1 per 10,000	1	2	2	1
Golf-driving Range	1 per 50,000	0	---	---	---
Running Track	1 per 20,000	0	1	1	1 <sup>e</sup>
Softball	1 per 5,000	7	3.4	4	0
Multiple Recreation Court (basketball, volleyball, tennis)	1 per 10,000	0	1.7	2	2
Trails	1 system per region	0.	1	1	1
Archery Range	1 per 50,000	0	---	---	---
Combination Skeet and Trap Field (8 Stations)	1 per 50,000	0	---	---	---



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<b>Golf</b>	-- 1/25,000 1/50,000	0	---	---	---
<b>Swimming Pools</b>	1 per 20,000 (Pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at a time.)	0	1	1	1
<b>Beach Areas</b>	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A

Notes:

- a – Handball: Shown as a deficiency, not recommended until community need.
- b – Tennis: Shown as a deficiency, courts at local schools, exceeds community needs.
- c – Baseball: Community needs met through private diamonds and school facilities.
- d – Field Hockey: Shown as a deficiency, not recommended until community need.
- e – Running Track: Shown as a deficiency, provided at local schools, exceeds community needs.

Each of the above deficiencies was reviewed and those meeting specific community needs were identified as a priority and incorporated into the 5-Year Action Plan.

## Summary of Key Issues

### **Existing Parks and Facilities**

Preserve, protect and maintain existing parks and facilities were key issues identified. Main concerns focused on trails, picnic areas (shelters and restrooms) and general maintenance and clean-up.

**Memorial Park** – is the second largest park in the city and one of the most used parks. Key issues to be addressed include: additional and replacement of restroom facilities, renovation of large pavilion, removal of the softball diamond and development of a tennis/horseshoe complex, new picnic grills and improved parking areas. Also, there is a need for the renovation and expansion of the walking trails through the park. Located within Memorial Park are the Sunken Gardens. Key issues are renovation of ponds/water features and preservation of this unique area. Adjacent to Memorial Park are the Park Offices and Park Maintenance Facilities. The Park Office building is too small and in need of replacement. The construction of a new park office facility within Memorial Park should be considered when looking at other potential sites/buildings in the city.

**Hier’s Park** – this 19-acre park is the busiest park in the park system. It hosts the 4-H Fair and the Pioneer Festival each year. The main issues include construction of an accessible walk to the playground and the existing softball diamond. The diamond is in need of upgrades, however this diamond could be removed if a softball complex is developed in the future, which would open more space in the park,

**Elmwood Park** -- is a small neighborhood park that serves the west end of the city. The softball diamond, basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball courts and small playground provides a recreational outlet for children in the area. The main



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concerns are focused on park drive & parking improvements, picnic shelter renovations, renovation of the basketball and tennis courts, and the need for a restroom facility. Elmwood Park is one of two park sites that provide direct access to the Little Wabash River. The opportunities for bank fishing and canoe access are excellent and are recommended to pursue.

**Yeoman Park** – this large neighborhood park serves a large portion of the east side of Huntington. Park features include a lighted softball diamond, soccer field, skatepark, playground and picnic shelter. Issues identified to be addressed are parking lot & drive improvements, additional shelters and additional picnic sites. Public input identified the need for trails in the community. Yeoman Park offers an opportunity for the development of a perimeter walking trail.

**Erie Park** – is a small tot lot located adjacent to Yeoman Park. Improvements at Erie Park will need to be coordinated with Yeoman Park. The continuation of a walking trail from Yeoman Park, through Erie Park to the adjoining neighborhood would be an added benefit. It should be investigated to either remove improvements instead of renovation and return the park to green space. Survey response indicated that this park should be closed and property sold.

**Drover Park** – a new play area, water splash pad and shelter was recently added to the park. Other improvements include parking and a restroom/concession facility. There are no issues identified for this park.

**General Slack Park** – this former 2-acre school site was converted to a city park in 2002. Developments have occurred each year to create a neighborhood park. Main concerns are completing the park development with the construction of accessible walks to the restrooms and pavilion, parking improvements and landscape enhancements.

**Laurie Park** – this 1-acre park offers a picnic shelter, basketball court, playground and an open play field. Issues that should be considered are accessible walks to shelter, basketball court, restrooms and playground. The storage building is planned to be replace in the 5-year action plan.

**River Greenway Park** – offers an excellent opportunity for the development of a linear trail and access to the Little Wabash River. The first phase of the trail along the historic Forks of the Wabash was completed in 2009. Trails and Greenways plans indicate extension of the Forks trail to Memorial Park, crossing the Little Wabash River to Elmwood Park and continuing into downtown Huntington.

**Evergreen Park** – in 2004, the Park Department was successful in acquiring an IDNR Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant for the first phase of development and was completed in 2006. Improvements include drive and parking improvements, walking trail, playground, volleyball, horseshoes, restroom, renovation of the picnic shelter and wood decks overlooking the Wabash River. Main issue is the continuation of the development with future phases. Future



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development includes renovation of the softball diamonds, parking lot improvements, additional picnic shelter, play areas and walking trails. Long range plans may include development of a sledding hill and winter recreation activities.

**Recreation Center** – this former commercial building is shared with Huntington Fire Department. A portion of the building is used for park programs and public rental facility. A small playground and tennis courts are adjacent. The main concern is lack of parking, improving usage of the facility and renovation of the building.

### **Neighborhood Park Development**

As a goal to provide recreational opportunities to all residents of the community, improvements to neighborhood areas are needed. Schools can provide a recreational outlet with their playgrounds and open play fields. Coordination and cooperation with schools and the Park Dept. can help improve existing playgrounds and opportunities. As schools change or close, the Park and Recreation Board should study each area to determine the best methods to continue the recreational opportunities in that area.

Northeast Huntington is an area of town experiencing growth with no public park and limited recreational opportunities being provided. There is a need for park development, such as a small picnic shelter and playground for the children in the neighborhood. It should investigate possible land acquisition for development of a neighborhood park.

### **Wabash River Development**

The Wabash River and Little Wabash River offers many opportunities for recreation. Elmwood Park, Riverside Park and Forks of the Wabash Trail are adjacent to the Little Wabash River which direct access. Enhancements for river access at Elmwood Park should be pursued as first phase.

### **Staffing**

The goal of the Parks and Recreation Board is to provide adequate staffing at the levels required to provide and maintain quality parks and program opportunities in Huntington. In 2009, the City of Huntington encountered a financial hardship and budget cuts were made throughout the City. Currently, the Parks and Recreation Department has 6 full-time employees, 2 in park administration and 4 in park maintenance. Five full-time employees and all seasonal/part-time employees were eliminated from the Park Department..

A key issue identified in the public meetings and written survey was additional and improved recreational programming. The challenge is how just a limited staff and budget to grow and offer additional recreational programming to the community.





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## Priorities

The issues were identified and broken down into components and prioritized. Below are the priority listings for the Huntington Parks and Recreation Board and Department. The top priorities that have been identified to be accomplished and implemented as part of this five year master plan.

Several issues were identified as a long term priority or action that may not be feasible to be accomplished during the five year master plan period. Even though the some of the following issues may not be implemented in the next five years, they are listed here to help provide direction for the second five years and beyond. These were important issues to the residents and are documented so they will not be lost and forgotten.

Each item was rated as:           “A” – to be addressed within five years  
  “B” – long range plans

### **Priority Elmwood Park**

A	Replace restroom building
A	Consolidate play equipment, construct concrete walk perimeter around play area
A	Purchase and install fixed benches
A	Construct accessible walk between parking and pavilion
B	Extend water service to shelter for drinking fountain and foot wash for volleyball
B	Upgrade lighting at volleyball
B	Upgrade sports lighting at ball diamond
B	Develop small parking area for canoe/fishing area
B	Replace and install higher sideline fence along 3rd base line
B	Remove tennis courts
B	Color coat & striping for tennis courts

### **Priority Hier's Park**

A	Construct accessible walk to play area
A	Install benches around playground for adults
B	Renovate interior of Family Living Building
B	Convert park restroom building to storage
B	Update/replace park entry sign on Briant Street
C	Upgrade sports lighting at ball diamond

### **Priority Riverside Park**

B	Improve access, develop park drive and small parking area
B	Develop boat/canoe launch

### **Priority Laurie Park**

A	Replace storage shed (used for SPARK)
B	Pave parking area on west side of shelter, construct accessible walk to shelter



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**Priority Yeoman Park**

A	Install drinking fountain
A	Renovate parking lot at ball diamonds
B	Install fixed seating and tables
B	Pave parking by skatepark
B	Renovate restrooms
B	Establish tree planting program
B	Development wildflower/native grass plantings around park perimeter

**Priority Recreation Center**

A	Exterior renovation - front door & windows
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**Priority General Slack Park**

A	Construct paved parking area
A	Develop accessible parking space and walkway to restroom
A	Update picnic sites (possible relocate existing sites) with concrete pad, grill, etc.
A	Install bike rack
A	Replace wood benches with new standard benches

**Priority Evergreen Park**

A	Ball Diamonds - need to determine use. Currently only the lower diamond is used by Church League. Option: renovate upper diamond, remove lower diamond. Construct sledding hill in area of lower diamond, create bowl at foot of sledding hill. Sledding hill can be used for outdoor amphitheater in summer for concerts, programs, etc.
B	Renovate parking lot
B	Develop cross-country ski trails.

**Priority Trails and Greenways**

A	Construct trail from Memorial Park to Forks of the Wabash along W. Park Drive
A	Establish road signage/stripping for on-road bike lanes
B	Construct trail from Elmwood Park to Memorial Park with footbridge over river
B	Construct downtown Riverwalk from Briant St. to Jefferson St.
B	Construct trail from Huntington University to downtown







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**Priority Memorial Park**

A	Construct sidewalk along W. Park Drive from Sunken Gardens to Hitzfield Street
A	Construct sidewalk to Memorial Small Pavilion from main sidewalk
A	South Pond - dredge and reseal with clay, seal leak in earth dam
A	Develop Veterans Memorial Garden. Relocate tank and jet plane. Develop honor wall for Huntington County veterans, flag plaza with US flag and flags from all branches of service, incorporate other military vehicles and equipment. Possible location is the tennis courts along W. Park Drive.
A	Replace restroom facility
A	Install benches around playground for adults
A	North Pond - replace brick walkway
A	Establish tree planting/reforestation plan for Memorial Park
A	Renovate horseshoe courts - reduce from 12 to 6 courts, upgrade courts, lighting, benches, etc. Construct small open shelter.
A	Remove ball diamond (no longer in use), develop green space
B	Waltonian Gardens - replace old wood benches and trash receptacles
B	Pave aggregate walking trail
B	Waltonian Gardens - replace brick walk with colored stamped concrete walk
B	Hire arborist, prune trees throughout park
B	Shakespeare Gardens - landscape enhancements
B	Improve gravel parking area by horseshoe courts.
B	Repair/reconstruct headwall at culvert on St. Felix Drive ditch
B	Expand disc golf course 18 holes
B	North End Gazebo - replace brick walk with colored stamped concrete walk
B	North Pond - develop sitting areas overlooking pond
B	Memorial Large Pavilion - total renovation: roof, fascia, stonework, electrical, etc.
B	Construct 6 new tennis courts on site of former ball diamond.
B	Replace chain link fence along creek at basketball court
B	Construct concrete grill pad & countertops at Memorial Small Pavilion
B	Waltonian Gardens - restore brick fish pond
B	Upgrade tennis courts lighting





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## Indiana Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan 2006-2010

### **“Hoosiers Moving Forward”**

The State of Indiana Department of Natural Resources has adopted the Indiana Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan 2006-2010 “Hoosiers Moving Forward” (SCORP) with priorities that are recommended for 2006-2010. The State’s priorities are based on the overall objectives of providing for a wide range of recreational opportunities and experiences.

### **SCORP Plan Vision Statement:**

*“The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan examines Indiana’s recreation resources for the social, physical and economic benefit of the State’s citizens through evaluation of the status of outdoor recreation in Indiana.*

*We envision that readers will use the SCORP as an informational resource that promotes research, cooperation and partnerships for effective guidance and planning in recreation decision-making.”*

### **2006-2010 SCORP Goals:**

- Qualify Indiana for Land and Water Conservation Funds.
- Establish outdoor recreation funding priorities, including those for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Recreational Trails Program, and any existing and/or future funds available through the State budget process.
- Conduct an investigation of recreation supply and demand.
- Help improve the provision of outdoor recreation for all users.

It is important to recognize and identify Huntington's priorities and opportunities in their relationship with the State’s priorities and goals. Support that Huntington can provide in assisting the State meet their goals will improve the overall state-wide recreational opportunities and enhance its position in competition with federal and state funds.





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## Action Plan

Limitations on the City of Huntington to fund the variety of programs and facilities in need by the community are challenges to address. Overcoming these limitations and constraints will require use of the various sources of funds available. Below is a brief description of the principal resources available to the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department for implementing programs and developing facilities for recreational purposes within the community.

### Funding Opportunities

Parks and Recreation General Budget – Annual tax allocations from the General City Tax Levy, Auto-Air Excise Tax and other local funding could be utilized for both staffing and financing capital improvements within the Parks and Recreation Department. However, general tax dollars may be limited or unavailable for extensive capital improvements.

Non-Reverting Account Funds -- Monies collected from certain fees and rentals can be placed in one of two non-reverting accounts. Funds are available from the Non-Reverting Operating Account to offset operation costs from administration of programs within the Park and Recreation Dept. Funds from the Non-Reverting Capital Account are available for capital improvements in the Parks and Recreation Dept.

Gifts and Donations Fund -- Donations of money, land and time are important resources to any Parks and Recreation Department. Donations are important from the point that they can be used to match grants from other sources.

Lease Purchase – Traditional mechanism used to finance capital projects including equipment and vehicles. City Council must annually levy a tax payable from property taxes sufficient to pay lease rentals, except that the levy may be reduced any year to the extent other money is pledged or available for the payment of the lease rentals (I.C. 36-10-1).

Cumulative Capital Improvement Funds – The Park and Recreation Law 36-10-3-20 allows money to be placed in a fund for the purposes of acquiring land or making specific capital improvements. The Parks and Recreation Department can also make requests to the City Council for funds from the general city CCI Fund for specific projects.

Street and Road Funds – The City of Huntington receives a designated amount from the State of Indiana for public road improvements. Park drives and parking lot lots are for public use and funds from this account could be appropriated to parks by the City Council.





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County Economic Development Income Tax (CEDIT) -- Income tax specifically for roads and road improvement projects.

General Obligation Bond -- General obligation bonds, which are retired by tax money, provide a funding source for implementation of large-scale projects. The Huntington Parks and Recreation Board's bonding power cannot be in excess of two percent (2%) of the assessed valuation of the taxing district. Hearings must be held and approval is required by the City Council.

**SAFETEA-LU** - Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users

On August 10, 2005, the President signed into law the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. With guaranteed funding for highways, highway safety, and public transportation totaling \$244.1 billion, SAFETEA-LU represents the largest surface transportation investment in our Nation's history. The two landmark bills that brought surface transportation into the 21<sup>st</sup> century—the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) and the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21)—shaped the highway program to meet the Nation's changing transportation needs. SAFETEA-LU builds on this firm foundation, supplying the funds and refining the programmatic framework for investments needed to maintain and grow our vital transportation infrastructure. SAFETEA-LU continues the TEA-21 concept of guaranteed funding, keyed to Highway Trust Fund (Highway Account) receipts.

Safe Routes to School - This program will enable and encourage primary and secondary school children to walk and bicycle to school. Both infrastructure-related and behavioral projects will be geared toward providing a safe, appealing environment for walking and biking that will improve the quality of our children's lives and support national health objectives by reducing traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

Recreational Trails - A total of \$370 million is provided through 2009 to continue this program to develop and maintain trails for recreational purposes that include pedestrian, equestrian, bicycling and non-motorized snow activities as well as off-road motorized vehicle activities. New eligibilities are provided, including construction and maintenance equipment, real estate costs, educational program costs, State administration costs, and assessment of trail conditions.



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### Indiana Heritage Trust

The Indiana Heritage Trust was established in 1992 to ensure that Indiana's rich natural heritage would be preserved and enhanced for present and succeeding generations. The purpose of the Indiana Heritage Trust Program (IHT) 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 use of the power of eminent domain to carry out its purposes is expressly prohibited. The Indiana Heritage Trust buys land from willing sellers to protect Indiana's Rich natural Heritage for wildlife habitat and recreation. General Assembly appropriations, Environmental License Plate sales and additional donations are the three ways we've been able to protect over 45,000 acres since the program's inception.

### IDNR Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

#### Historic Preservation Fund

Type of funds: Federal

Program occurrence: Annual

Total funds available: Variable

Maximum grant award: Variable, usually \$50,000

Matching share ratios: 50% federal / 50% local for most projects

70% federal / 30% local for survey projects

Length of program: 15 months

Eligible applicants:

- Municipal government entities
- Educational institutions
- Not-for-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) status

Project categories: Architectural and Historical, Archaeological, and Acquisition and Development (Rehabilitation)

Each year, the DHPA receives funding under the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Program, which is administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. The HPF Program helps to promote historic preservation and archaeology in Indiana by providing assistance to projects that will aid the State in meeting its goals for cultural resource management. Of Indiana's annual HPF allotment, about 85% is set aside to fund a matching grants program and cooperative agreements to foster important preservation and archaeology activities, such as co-sponsorship of the annual Cornelius O'Brien Conference on Historic Preservation. The remainder of this funding pays for office interns, Archaeology Month and Preservation Week programs, printing and mailing of the Division's newsletter and other public education materials, and the purchase of necessary office equipment for the Division.

Under the HPF matching grants program, grant awards are made in three project categories. When applying for grant funds, applicants must be certain to request and complete the appropriate application packet for their project category.



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Architectural and Historical projects include: historic sites and structures surveys for cities and counties; survey publication and printing; National Register nominations for eligible historic districts; public education programs and materials relating to preservation, such as workshops, training events, publications, and brochures; feasibility studies, architectural and engineering plans, and specifications for the rehabilitation and/or adaptive reuse of National Register-listed properties; historic structure reports for National Register-listed properties; and historic context studies with National Register nominations for specific types of historic resources.

Archaeological projects include: survey, testing, and research focused on specific geographic areas or cultural groups; National Register nominations for individual or multiple archaeological sites; and public education programs and materials relating to archaeology, such as workshops, training events, public and mock digs, publications, and brochures.

Acquisition and Development projects include the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and acquisition of National Register-listed properties. This category is often referred to as “bricks and mortar money,” and is used to help save buildings and structures that are severely threatened or endangered. Note that properties not listed in the National Register are not eligible to receive federal HPF funds.

### **IDNR Division of Fish & Wildlife** **Lake and River Enhancement Program**

The Lake and River Enhancement Program (LARE) goal is to ensure the continued viability of public-access lakes and streams by utilizing a watershed approach to reduce non-point source sediment and nutrient pollution of Indiana's and adjacent states' surface waters to a level that meets or surpasses state water quality standards.

To accomplish this goal, the LARE Program provides technical and financial assistance for qualifying projects. Approved grant funding may be used for one or more of the following purposes:

1. Investigations to determine what problems are affecting a lake/lakes or a stream segment.
2. Evaluation of identified problems and effective action recommendations to resolve those problems.
3. Cost-sharing with land users in a watershed above upstream from a project lake or stream for installation or application of sediment and nutrient reducing practices on their land.
4. Matching federal funds for qualifying projects.



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5. Watershed management plan development.
6. Feasibility studies to define appropriate lake and stream remediation measures.
7. Engineering designs and construction of remedial measures.
8. Water monitoring of public lakes.

The LARE program may fund 75 percent of the cost of construction actions (up to \$100,000 for a specific project, or \$300,000 for all projects on a specific lake or stream). The program also will cost share up to 80 percent on approved watershed land treatment practices. LARE may fully fund diagnostic or feasibility studies, design plans, and special projects.

### **IDNR Division of Forestry**

#### Urban Forest Conservation Grants

The Urban Forest Conservation (UFC) Grants are intended to help communities develop long term programs to manage their urban forests. Grantees may conduct any project that helps to improve and protect trees and other associated natural resources in urban areas. Community projects that target program development, planning and education are emphasized. 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. Certified Tree Cities may spend up to 20% of the grant funds on demonstration tree planting projects. Local municipalities, not-for-profit organizations and state agencies are eligible to apply for \$2,000 to \$20,000.





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## IDNR - DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION SUMMARY OF GRANT PROGRAMS

*Grant rounds and funding may vary pending state or federal approval.*

<b>GRANT PROGRAM</b>	<b><u>HOMETOWN INDIANA</u></b>	<b><u>WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR FUND</u></b>	<b><u>RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP)</u></b>	<b><u>LAND &amp; WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)</u></b>	<b><u>SHOOTING RANGE</u></b>
	<i>Applications may include land acquisition and/or facility construction and renovation. Indoor and outdoor facilities are eligible for assistance.</i>	<i>Applications may include land acquisition and/or facility development, conservation, or enhancement along the historic transportation corridor of the Wabash River.</i>	<i>Applications may include land acquisition and/or development, maintenance, and ethics education of multi-use trails.</i>	<i>Applications may consist of land acquisition and/or outdoor recreation facility construction or renovation.</i>	<i>Application may consist of development (not purchase) of rifle, handgun, shotgun, and archery opportunities.</i>
<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	State Legislature	State Legislature	Federal	Federal	Federal
<b>% MATCH</b>	50/50	80/20	80/20	50/50	75/25
<b>MIN/MAX AMOUNT</b>	\$10,000-200,000	\$10,000-250,000	\$10,000-150,000	\$10,000-200,000	\$10,000-No Cap
<b>GRANT ROUNDS</b>	Funds not currently available	Funds not currently available	Applications due by May 1st	Applications due by June 1st	Funds not available until 2007
<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>	Municipal Corporation & 5-Year Park and Recreation Plan	Units of Governments (preferably Park Boards) and 501(c)(3) not-for-profits. Projects must be located in one of the 19 counties along the Wabash River Corridor	Units of Governments and 501(c)(3) not-for-profits	Park Board & 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan	Units of Governments and Not-for-profit corporations
<b>FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	Approx. \$900,000	Federal Appropriation undetermined. Estimated \$1 million	\$0





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### Other Funding Sources

A funding strategy must rely on a multiple of revenue options, not on one or two sources, to make the Park Department and individual programs more self supporting. Park agencies across the country are successfully supplementing proceeds with alternate funding sources. Below are a few funding options that the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department/Board that should investigate. These potential funding sources are not intended as an exhaustive list of available sources. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Huntington Parks and Recreation 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.

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.*

Private Concessionaires: *This is an agreement or contract with a private business to provide and operate desirable concessions at various recreational activities with additional compensation paid to the Park Department.*

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 Park Department.*

Easements: *This revenue source is available when the Park Dept. 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 the Park Dept. 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, etc..*

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 for underground utilities.*

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.*

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.*



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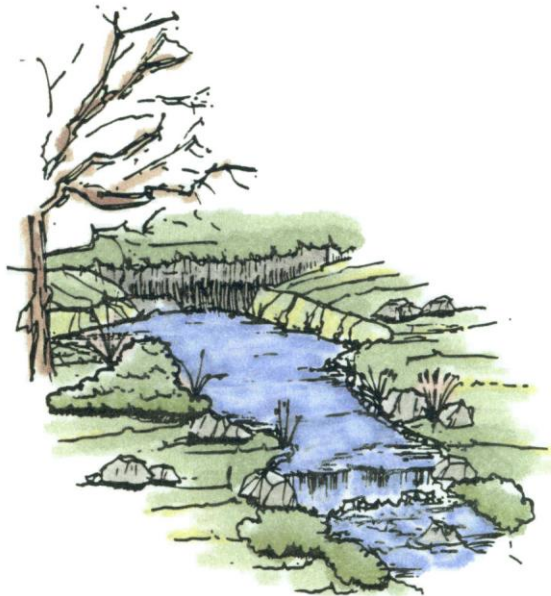
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Permits (Special-Use Permits): *These special permits allow individuals to use specific park property for financial gain. The Park Dept. either receives a set amount of money or a percentage from the gross service revenues.*

Special Fund-Raisers: *Many park and recreation departments have annual special fund-raisers to help cover specific programs and capital projects.*

Recreation Service Fees: *These are dedicated user fees, established by a local ordinance or other government procedures, for constructing and maintaining recreation facilities. Fees can apply to all organized activities that require some type of reservation. Examples of such activities include basketball, volleyball, and baseball/softball leagues; and special-interest classes. The fee gives participants the opportunity to contribute to the upkeep of facilities being used.*

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**A MATRIX OF LOCAL FINANCING TOOLS**

Type of Financing	What It Is	Who Pays	How Funds are Being Used	Why It's Being Used	Areas It's Being Applied	How Long It Lasts
Property Tax	tax on real property	commercial and residential property owners	park, open space, and recreation: maintenance, operations, and capital improvements	increased usership and demand; growth management; water quality improvements; public safety issues	urban, suburban, and rural areas	tax ongoing or increased for a defined time period
Special Assessment District	separate units of government that manage specific resources within defined boundaries	residents of the district through property taxes, user fees, or bonds	park, open space, and recreation: maintenance, operations, acquisition, and capital improvements	increased usership and demand; growth management; water quality improvements; public safety issues	typically urban and suburban areas	tax ongoing or increased for a defined time period
Sales & Use Tax	tax on the sales of goods or services	purchase of goods or services	park, open space, and recreation: maintenance, operations, acquisition, and capital improvements	increased usership and demand; growth management; water quality improvements; public safety issues	urban, suburban, and rural areas	tax ongoing or increased for a defined time period
Real Estate Transfer Tax	tax on the sale of property	sometimes the seller, sometimes the buyer	park and open space: acquisition	increased usership and demand; growth management	typically fast-growing rural and suburban areas	one-time cost to home seller or buyer
Impact Fee	one-time fee to off-set costs of infrastructure caused by new development	developer of a project	park, open space, and recreation: acquisition and development	growth management	typically fast-growing rural and suburban areas	one-time cost to developer
Bond-General Obligation	loan taken out by a city or county against the value of the taxable property	city or county through taxes paid by property owners	park, open space, and recreation: acquisition and capital improvements	increased usership and demand; growth management; water quality improvements; public safety issues	urban, suburban, and rural areas	bonds are typically issued for 15, 20 or 30 years
Bond-Revenue	loan paid from the proceeds of a tax levied or fees charged for the use of a specific public project,	city or county through taxes paid by general population or user of a service	park, open space, and recreation: acquisition and capital improvements	increased usership and demand; growth management; water quality improvements; public safety issues	urban, suburban, and rural areas	bonds are typically issued for 15, 20 or 30 years
Mitigation	developer set-aside of land	developers of a project	wetlands and natural areas: acquisition and protection	natural resource protection	suburban and rural areas	one-time cost to developer
User Fee	fee that covers the cost of a service	anyone who chooses to take advantage of a service	park, open space, and recreation: maintenance and operations	increased park usership	urban, suburban, and rural areas	one-time cost to user
Tax Increment Financing	financing used to stimulate economic development in a blighted area	property owners when redevelopment results in increased property values	park: acquisition and capital improvements	economic development	urban areas	ongoing



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## ACTION PLAN

The issues have been identified, analyzed and ranked by priority. The Action Plan matrix is a probable implementation schedule using only the top “A” priorities. The proposed Action Plan may need to be modified and adjusted as indicated to be a flexible working document, and some adjustments should be anticipated. Quantifiable benchmarks should be established to review and forecast for progress evaluation, based on a reasonable time frame.

It should be recognized that not all Park Budget references in the Funding Source column means a specific capital budget allocation. Accomplishments may be acquired donations or other sources of funding. Many items may be completed within “in-house” by use of staff and with monies for materials budgeted within the appropriate line of the operating budget.

The following pages reflect the proposed Action Plan matrix for each individual year of the Master Plan (2011-2015). The action schedule outlines the Proposed Plan of Action, Site or Facility, the Estimated Costs and possible Funding Sources.

**PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION** – Identifies the proposed implementation element established from the priority list.

**SITE OR FACILITY** – Identifies location for the proposed implementation element.

**ESTIMATED COST** – Indicates what estimated costs should be anticipated for the element of action. (All dollar estimates are a result of certain assumptions, and may not reflect actual costs. They are strictly preliminary estimates to be used as budgeting tools.)

**FUNDING SOURCE (S)** – Each Action Plan item has source(s) of possible funding identified.





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## Action Plan Matrix

<b>2011</b>		<b>Cost</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Administration	Staff - add Park Maintenance Laborer	\$35,000	Park Budget
Elmwood Park	Replace restroom building	\$30,000	Park Budget #421
General Slack Park	Develop accessible parking space and walkway to restroom	\$1,000	Park Budget #433
General Slack Park	Install bike rack	\$1,000	Park Budget #243
Hier's Park	Construct accessible walk to play area	\$4,000	Park Budget #433
Hier's Park	Install benches around playground for adults	\$3,000	Park Budget #243
Laurie Park	Replace storage shed (used for SPARK)	\$2,000	Park Budget #361 / NR Operating
Memorial Park	Construct sidewalk to small pavilion from main walkway	\$4,000	Park Budget #433 / NR Capital
Memorial Park	Replace restroom facility	\$42,000	Park Budget #421 / NR Capital
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$87,000</b>	

<b>2012</b>		<b>Cost</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Administration	New Park Office	\$150,000	Park Budget / City Funds
Administration	Staff - add Park Secretary	\$30,675	Park Budget
Administration	Replace 1995 John Deere 970 for ball diamonds	\$20,000	Park Budget
Administration	Replace 1994 Chevy Pick Up Trash Truck	\$14,000	Park Budget
Elmwood Park	Purchase and install fixed benches	\$3,000	Park Budget / Donations
Erie Park	Install drinking fountain	\$2,000	Park Budget
General Slack Park	Replace wood benches with new standard benches	\$3,500	Park Budget / Donations
Memorial Park	Construct sidewalk along W. Park Drive from Sunken Gardens to Hitzfield Street	\$23,520	Park Budget / City Funds
Memorial Park	Remove ball diamond & fencing (no longer in use), develop green space	\$500	Park Budget
Yeoman Park	Install drinking fountain near soccer field	\$2,000	Park Budget / NR Operating
Trails and Greenways	Construct trail from Memorial Park to Forks of the Wabash along W. Park Drive	\$350,000	INDOT Grant / Park Budget
Trails and Greenways	Establish road signage/stripping for on-road bike lanes	\$2,500	Park Budget / Grants
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$601,695</b>	



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2013		Cost	Funding Source
Administration	Park Maintenance - renovate cold storage building	\$30,000	Park Budget / City Funds
Administration	Staff - add Park Program Director	\$32,000	Park Budget
Administration	Replace 2000 GMC 3/4 truck with plow	\$15,000	Park Budget
Elmwood Park	Construct accessible walk between parking and pavilion	\$1,500	Park Budget / NR Capital
Elmwood Park	Consolidate play equipment, construct concrete walk perimeter around play area, install drinking fountain	\$11,500	Park Budget
General Slack Park	Construct paved parking area	\$12,000	Park Budget
Hiers Park	Heritage Hall - window replacement	\$9,000	NR Capital
Laurie Park	Pave parking lot	\$8,000	Park Budget
Memorial Park	Develop tennis complex and shelter	\$450,000	Park Budget / City Funds / TIF
Trails and Greenways	Establish road signage/stripping for on-road bike lanes	\$2,500	Park Budget / Grants
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$571,500</b>

2014		Cost	Funding Source
Administration	Staff - add Park Maintenance Laborer	\$35,000	Park Budget
Administration	Replace 1989 Case 1845 Tractor (Bobcat)	\$30,000	Park Budget
Administration	Replace 1999 GMC 1-ton diesel truck	\$15,000	Park Budget
Evergreen Park	Ball Diamonds - need to determine use. Renovate upper diamond, remove lower diamond. Construct sledding hill in area of lower diamond, create bowl at foot of sledding hill. Sledding hill can be used for outdoor amphitheater in summer for concerts, programs, etc.	\$50,000	Park Budget / NR Operating
General Slack Park	Update picnic sites (possible relocate existing sites) with concrete pad, grill, etc.	\$1,000	Park Budget / NR Capital
Hires Park	Reroof Family Living Building	\$8,000	Park Budget
Memorial Park	South Pond - dredge and reseal with clay, seal leak in earth dam	\$20,000	Park Budget
Memorial Park	Develop Veterans Memorial Garden. Relocate tank and jet plane. Develop memorial for Huntington County veterans, flag plaza with US flag and flags from all branches of service, incorporate other military vehicles and equipment. Possible location is the tennis courts along W. Park Drive.	TBD	Donations
Memorial Park	Renovate horseshoe courts - reduce from 12 to 6 courts, upgrade courts, lighting, benches, parking lot, etc. Improve Memorial Lane and Bartlett Street	\$180,000	Park Budget / City Funds / Donations
Recreation Center	Exterior renovation - front door & windows	\$7,000	NR Operating
Yeoman Park	Renovate parking lot at ball diamonds	\$15,000	Park Budget
Trails and Greenways	Establish road signage/stripping for on-road bike lanes	\$2,500	Park Budget / Grants
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$363,500</b>

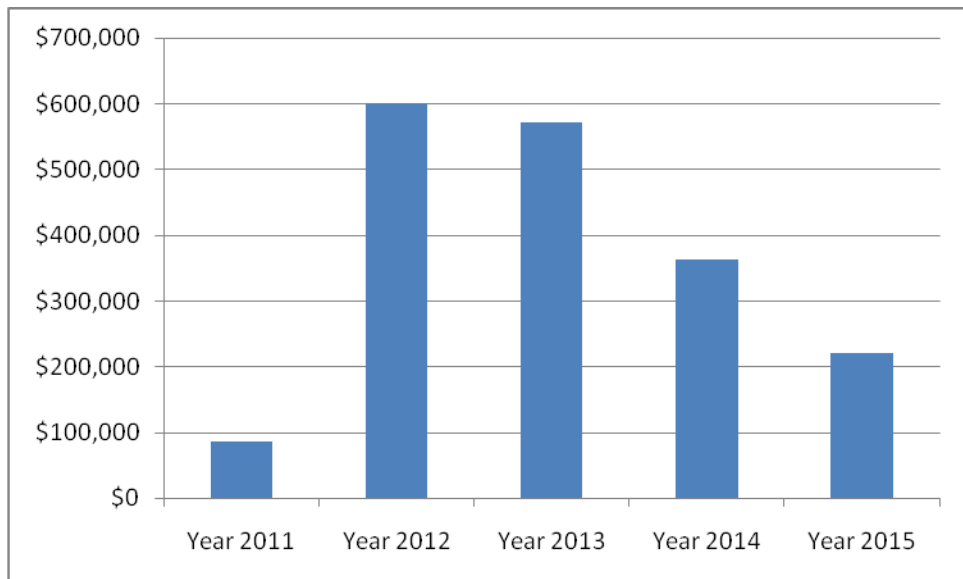


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<b>2015</b>		<b>Cost</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Administration	Replace 1997 Chevy Ext. Cab Pick up	\$12,000	Park Budget
Evergreen Park	(continuation) Ball diamonds / sledding hill development	\$50,000	Park Budget
Memorial Park	Waltonian Gardens - replace brick walks with colored stamped concrete	\$20,000	Park Budget / NR Operating
Memorial Park	North Pond - replace brick walkway, extend walkways through park	\$150,000	Park Budget / Grants
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$220,000</b>	

**2011-2015 Master Plan**





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## 2011-2015 Master Plan Breakdown

### Administration

2011	Staff - add Park Maintenance Laborer	\$35,000	Park Budget
2012	New Park Office	\$150,000	Park Budget / City Funds
2012	Staff - add Park Secretary	\$30,675	Park Budget
2012	Replace 1995 John Deere 970 for ball diamonds	\$20,000	Park Budget
2012	Replace 1994 Chevy Pick Up Trash Truck	\$14,000	Park Budget
2013	Park Maintenance - renovate cold storage building	\$30,000	Park Budget / City Funds
2013	Staff - add Park Program Director	\$32,000	Park Budget
2013	Replace 2000 GMC 3/4 truck with plow	\$15,000	Park Budget
2014	Staff - add Park Maintenance Laborer	\$35,000	Park Budget
2014	Replace 1989 Case 1845 Tractor (Bobcat)	\$30,000	Park Budget
2014	Replace 1999 GMC 1-ton diesel truck	\$15,000	Park Budget
2015	Replace 1997 Chevy Ext. Cab Pick up	\$12,000	Park Budget

**Total \$418,675**

### Elmwood Park

2011	Replace restroom building	\$30,000	Park Budget #421
2012	Purchase and install fixed benches	\$3,000	Park Budget / Donations
2013	Construct accessible walk between parking and pavilion	\$1,500	Park Budget / NR Capital
2013	Consolidate play equipment, construct concrete walk perimeter around play area, install drinking fountain	\$11,500	Park Budget

**Total \$46,000**

### Erie Park

2012	Install drinking fountain	\$2,000	Park Budget
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**Total \$2,000**

### Evergreen Park

2014	Ball Diamonds - need to determine use. Renovate upper diamond, remove lower diamond. Construct sledding hill in area of lower diamond, create bowl at foot of sledding hill. Sledding hill can be used for outdoor amphitheater in summer for concerts, programs, etc.	\$50,000	Park Budget / NR Operating
2015	Ball diamonds / sledding hill development (continuation)	\$50,000	Park Budget

**Total \$100,000**





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**General Slack Park**

2011	Develop accessible parking space and walkway to restroom	\$1,000	Park Budget #433
2011	Install bike rack	\$1,000	Park Budget #243
2012	Replace wood benches with new standard benches	\$3,500	Park Budget / Donations
2013	Construct paved parking area	\$12,000	Park Budget
2014	Update picnic sites (possible relocate existing sites) with concrete pad, grill, etc.	\$1,000	Park Budget / NR Capital

**Total \$18,500**

**Hier's Park**

2011	Construct accessible walk to play area	\$4,000	Park Budget #433
2011	Install benches around playground for adults	\$3,000	Park Budget #243
2013	Heritage Hall - window replacement	\$10,000	NR Capital
2014	Reroof Family Living Building	\$8,000	Park Budget

**Total \$25,000**

**Laurie Park**

2011	Replace storage shed (used for SPARK)	\$2,000	Park Budget #361 / NR Operating
2013	Pave parking lot	\$8,000	Park Budget

**Total \$10,000**

**Recreation Center**

2014	Exterior renovation - front door & windows	\$7,000	NR Operating
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**Total \$7,000**

**Yeoman Park**

2012	Install drinking fountain near soccer field	\$2,000	Park Budget / NR Operating
2014	Renovate parking lot at ball diamonds	\$15,000	Park Budget

**Total \$17,000**



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**Memorial Park**

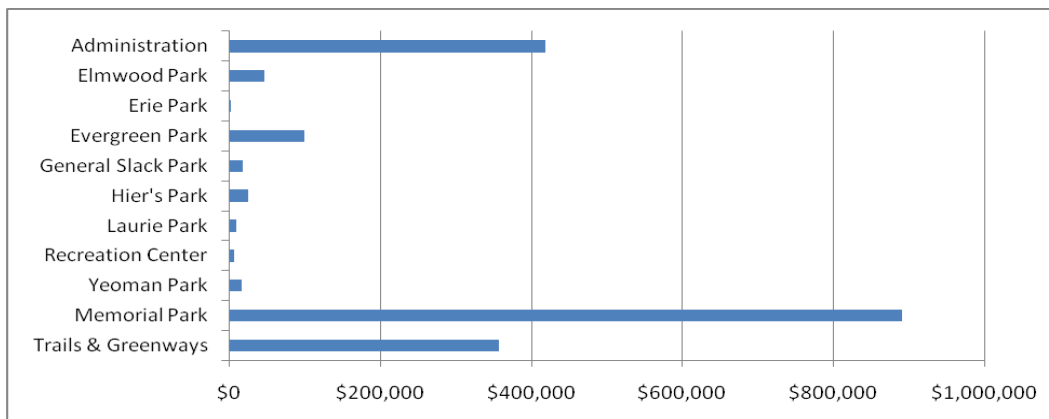
2011	Construct sidewalk to small pavilion from main walkway	\$4,000	Park Budget #433 / NR Capital
2011	Replace restroom facility	\$42,000	Park Budget #421 / NR Capital
2012	Construct sidewalk along W. Park Drive from Sunken Gardens to Hitzfield Street	\$23,520	Park Budget / City Funds
2012	Remove ball diamond & fencing (no longer in use), develop green space	\$500	Park Budget
2013	Develop tennis complex and shelter	\$450,000	Park Budget / City Funds / TIF
2014	South Pond - dredge and reseal with clay, seal leak in earth dam	\$20,000	Park Budget
2014	Develop Veterans Memorial Garden. Relocate tank and jet plane. Develop memorial for Huntington County veterans, flag plaza with US flag and flags from all branches of service, incorporate other military vehicles and equipment. Possible location is the tennis courts along W. Park Drive.	TBD	Donations
2014	Renovate horseshoe courts - reduce from 12 to 6 courts, upgrade courts, lighting, benches, parking lot, etc. Improvements on Memorial Lane and Bartlett Street	\$180,000	Park Budget / City Funds / Donations
2015	Waltonian Gardens - replace brick walks with colored stamped concrete	\$20,000	Park Budget / NR Operating
2015	North Pond - replace brick walkway, extend walkways through park	\$150,000	Park Budget / Grants

**Total \$890,020**

**Trails and Greenways**

2012	Construct trail from Memorial Park to Forks of the Wabash along W. Park Drive	\$350,000	INDOT Grant / Park Budget
2012	Establish road signage/stripping for on-road bike lanes	\$2,500	Park Budget / Grants
2013	Establish road signage/stripping for on-road bike lanes	\$2,500	Park Budget / Grants
2014	Establish road signage/stripping for on-road bike lanes	\$2,500	Park Budget / Grants

**Total \$357,500**





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## Budget / Financing

The challenge for the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department, as it is with any parks and recreation department, is finding and generating adequate revenue to provide and maintain parks, facilities and programs at the levels desired by the community. Coordination with Huntington's Common Council is vital to maintain adequate budgets. Also, the need to look for and to generate additional income will need to be increased. All possibilities for grants, donations, volunteers should be explored to help achieved the goals of the Master Plan.

The possibility of updating the non-reverting account ordinance should be investigated. These accounts could be for specific facilities and programs and tied to users fees associated with that facility or program. With this method, the monies collected from the users could be used to improve or provide those particular facilities or programs, thus allowing tax monies, collected from both users and non-users of the parks, to be used in other needed areas. In the future, the Huntington Parks will have to investigate the possibility of creative financing or other revenue generating activities to maintain the Huntington parks. A trend that is beginning to grow is partnerships with private groups to develop facilities in parks for both private and public use.

### **Park and Recreation Department Five-Year Budget Planning**

Base on the proposed funding sources and Action Plan, projected budgets were prepared for the 2011-2015 period. The following chart illustrates the impact the proposed Action Plan would have on the budget.

100	PERSONNEL SERVICES	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
111	Superintendent	\$41,754	\$42,754	\$43,754	\$44,754	\$45,754
112	Secretary	---	\$30,675	\$31,000	\$31,500	\$32,000
113	Labor	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$178,500	\$218,855	\$225,421
114	Asst. Superintendent	\$37,420	\$38,420	\$39,420	\$40,420	\$41,420
115	Temporary Help	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
116	Program Assistant	---	---	\$32,000	\$32,500	\$33,000
117	Summer Program	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
118	Board Members	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
119	Overtime	\$10,000	\$11,000	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$14,000
121	Longevity	\$11,000	\$12,300	\$12,460	\$12,780	\$12,780
122	Clothing Allowance	\$3,300	\$3,300	\$3,300	\$3,600	\$3,600
131	Instruction	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,800	\$1,800
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$327,974</b>	<b>\$362,949</b>	<b>\$406,934</b>	<b>\$452,209</b>	<b>\$462,775</b>

200	SUPPLIES	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
211	Office Supplies	\$1,300	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,500	\$1,500
221	Gasoline/Diesel	\$15,200	\$15,200	\$15,200	\$15,200	\$15,200
222	Oil	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$1,000	\$1,000
223	Tires & Tubes	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
224	Household Supplies	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000



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*Master Plan*

231	Garage/Motor Supplies	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$8,000	\$8,000
232	Street/Alley/Sewer/Mtr	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
233	Buildings & Structures	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$23,000	\$15,000
234	Equipment Repair	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
235	Chemicals	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
240	Splash Pad	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
242	North End Supplies	\$850	\$850	\$850	\$1,000	\$1,000
243	Playground Supplies	\$6,550	\$6,550	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
244	Lawn Maint. Supplies	\$3,400	\$3,400	\$3,400	\$3,400	\$3,400
245	Christmas Supplies	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$75,200</b>	<b>\$75,800</b>	<b>\$73,750</b>	<b>\$82,100</b>	<b>\$74,100</b>

<b>300 OTHER SERVICES &amp; CHARGES</b>		<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
311	Instruction by Dept.	\$0	\$300	\$300	\$400	\$400
312	Attorneys	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
313	Board Secretary	\$0	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600
321	Telephone	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,800	\$3,800
351	Electric Current	\$40,000	\$42,000	\$44,000	\$46,000	\$48,000
352	Gas	\$15,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$26,000	\$26,000
353	Water - Parks	\$6,000	\$6,200	\$6,400	\$6,600	\$6,800
354	Water - Splash Pad	\$5,250	\$5,500	\$5,750	\$6,000	\$6,250
361	Buildings & Structures	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$23,000	\$16,000
362	Equipment Repair	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
363	Radio/Computer Repair	\$2,000	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$3,500	\$2,000
364	Local Match - Grants	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$40,000
365	Street Trees	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
391	Misc/Flowers & Shrubs	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
392	Subscriptions & Dues	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,250
395	Park Promotions	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$129,150</b>	<b>\$143,200</b>	<b>\$144,400</b>	<b>\$157,750</b>	<b>\$163,700</b>

<b>400 CAPITAL OUTLAYS</b>		<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
421	Buildings & Fixed Equipment	\$72,000	\$150,000	\$518,000	\$265,000	\$70,000
433	Playground	\$8,000	\$0	\$8,000	\$0	\$0
441	Motor Equipment	\$0	\$72,000	\$15,000	\$45,000	\$12,000
451	Furniture & Fixtures	\$0	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
452	Office Equipment	\$0	\$10,000	\$2,500	\$0	\$0
453	Building & Shelter Renovation	\$17,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$97,000</b>	<b>\$232,800</b>	<b>\$544,300</b>	<b>\$310,800</b>	<b>\$82,800</b>

**TOTAL**      **\$629,324**      **\$814,749**      **\$1,169,384**      **\$1,002,859**      **\$783,375**

Less Proposed Non Reverting Operating Funds	\$3,440	\$3,440	\$2,440	\$29,440	\$12,440
Less Proposed Non Reverting Capital Funds	\$14,000	\$0	\$21,000	\$10,000	\$0

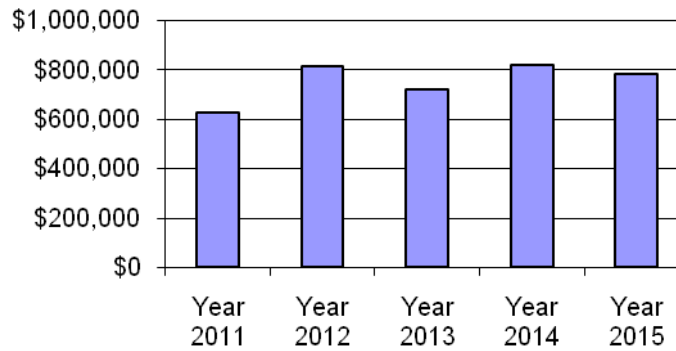
**NET TOTAL BUDGET**      **\$611,884**      **\$811,309**      **\$1,145,944**      **\$963,419**      **\$770,935**



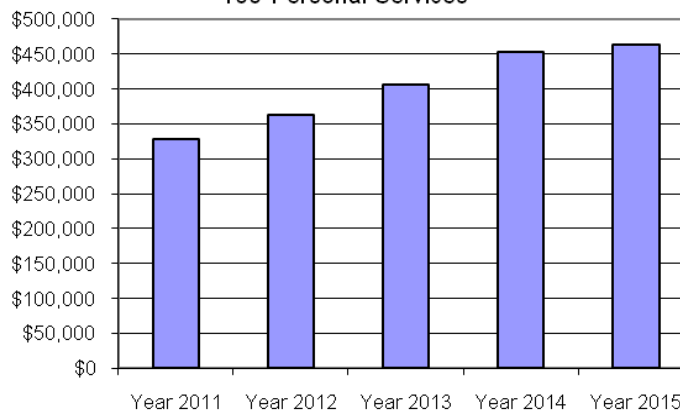
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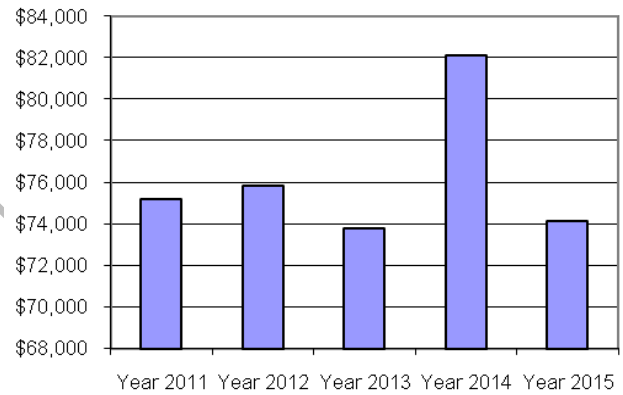
**Proposed Budgets**



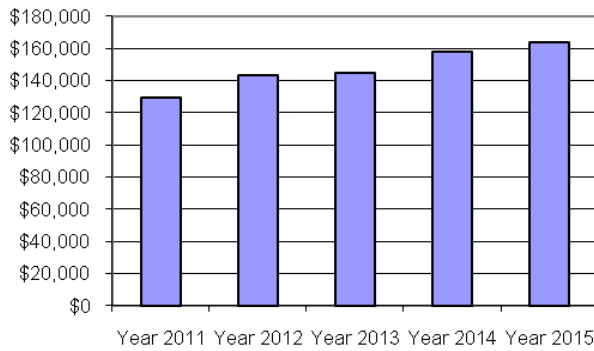
**100-Personal Services**



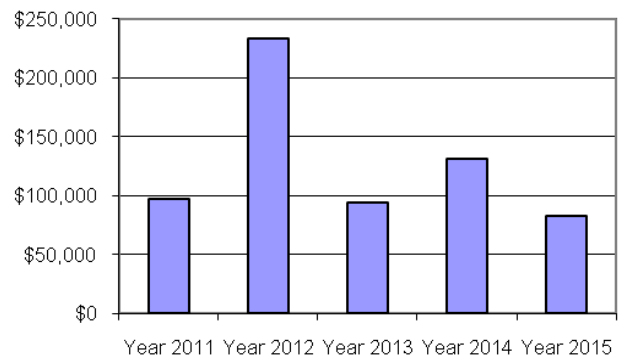
**200-Supplies**



**300-Other Services and Charges**



**400-Capital Outlays**





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**Non Reverting Accounts**

The Park Department operates two non-reverting accounts - an operating account for recreation programs and a capital account for park improvements. These accounts are used to offset expenses from the Park General Budget.

Below are proposed budgets for the non-reverting accounts, based on proposed improvements of the 2011-2015 Action Plan.

**Non-Reverting Capital - Proposed Budgets**

<b>2011</b>		
Memorial Park	Construct sidewalk to small pavilion from main walkway	\$2,000
Memorial Park	Replace restroom facility	\$12,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$14,000</b>
<b>2012</b>		
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$0</b>
<b>2013</b>		
Elmwood Park	Construct accessible walk between parking and pavilion	\$1,000
Hiers Park	Heritage Hall - window replacement	\$10,000
Memorial Park	Tennis Complex development	\$10,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$21,000</b>
<b>2014</b>		
Memorial	Horseshoe court development	\$10,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>2015</b>		
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$0</b>



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**Non-Reverting Operating - Proposed Budget**

**2011**

Laurie Park	Replace storage shed (for SPARK)	\$1,000
Programs	SPARK supplies	\$800
Programs	Walking	\$400
Programs	Yoga	\$200
Programs	Summer concert series	\$1,000
Programs	Letters from Santa	\$40
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,440</b>

**2012**

Yeoman Park	Install drinking fountain near soccer field	\$1,000
Programs	SPARK supplies	\$800
Programs	Walking	\$400
Programs	Yoga	\$200
Programs	Summer concert series	\$1,000
Programs	Letters from Santa	\$40
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,440</b>

**2013**

Memorial Park	Tennis Complex development	\$10,000
Programs	SPARK supplies	\$800
Programs	Walking	\$400
Programs	Yoga	\$200
Programs	Summer concert series	\$1,000
Programs	Letters from Santa	\$40
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,440</b>

**2014**

Recreation Center	Exterior renovation - front door and windows	\$7,000
Evergreen Park	Ball Diamond renovation	\$10,000
Memorial	Horseshoe court development	\$10,000
Programs	SPARK supplies	\$800
Programs	Walking	\$400
Programs	Yoga	\$200
Programs	Summer concert series	\$1,000
Programs	Letters from Santa	\$40
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$29,440</b>

**2015**

Memorial Park	Waltonian Gardens - replace brick walks with colored stamped concrete	\$10,000
Programs	SPARK supplies	\$800
Programs	Walking	\$400
Programs	Yoga	\$200
Programs	Summer concert series	\$1,000
Programs	Letters from Santa	\$40
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$12,440</b>



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## Trails & Greenways

Conversion of railroad and river corridors to an urban trail and greenway opens a remarkable opportunity for community revitalization. Trails and greenways have the potential to significantly improve the quality of life in City of Huntington. Residents would be able to live, work, enjoy daily breaks, take a walk or bike ride to local restaurants, shops, entertainment and recreation areas through a trail system. Soon, recreation and relaxation will become part of everyday life in Huntington.

The trails and greenway system has the potential to become Huntington's largest non-motorized corridor connecting residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, downtown areas, civic and cultural buildings and other common destinations.

### Mission Statement

*To develop and maintain a trails and greenways system to enhance and preserve quality of life that makes the Huntington community a healthier, more prosperous and more enjoyable place to live, work and visit.*

### Goals & Objectives

The identification of goals and objectives will help direct the Trails & Greenways program to become more effective. As individual objectives are accomplished, it will be one step closer to reaching a goal. The primary goal of the Huntington Trails & Greenways system is to provide a network of various trails, walks and bikeways which will promote a healthy lifestyle in the community.

### Connectivity

*To develop, implement and maintain a safe trail and greenway system that links residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, cultural sites/facilities, work places and other common destinations to each other.*

- Develop trail, greenway and bikeway network that is within a reasonable distance and accessible by each residential neighborhood.
- Connect parks and schools to the trails and greenway system.
- Develop an interconnected system of shared use trails, sidewalks and bikeways.
- Designate a comprehensive on-street and off-street bicycle/pedestrian network for commuters.
- Identify destination points in the bicycle/pedestrian network to link residents to their places of work, shopping and play.





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### Transportation

*Provide corridors and routes that pedestrians, bicyclists and others can use as an alternative to vehicular use.*

- Develop of greenway system along Wabash River, Little River and rail corridors as regional connections to areas outside of Huntington.
- Development of an area-wide bikeway network for local connections.
- Designation of bikeways with signage.
- Publication of brochure promoting Bikeways of Huntington.

### Recreation, Health & Fitness

*Design a trail and greenway system that offers an opportunity for residents to utilize their leisure time to maintain a fit and healthy lifestyle.*

- Create trail and greenways with public access connections to other recreational resources.
- Promote trails and greenways as a destination for health and fitness activities, for special events and daily use.
- Trail links to each city park.
- Trails links to each school.
- Trail link to YMCA.
- Trail link to Parkview Hospital
- Trail link to Huntington University
- Trail link to P.A.L.
- Trail link to IDNR J. Edward Roush Lake property

### Historical / Cultural / Education

*To develop a greenways system that protects, enhances and promotes the significant historical and cultural resources, places and people of the local community; and promotes opportunities for learning about them.*

- Develop trail links to:
  - Forks of the Wabash
  - Huntington University
  - Schools and Libraries
  - Historical Museum
  - Historical Districts
- Develop and install interpretive signage along trails and greenways.
- Work with local schools, Huntington University and Huntington Parks & Recreation Department to develop and promote environmental education programs and outdoor classrooms along the greenways.



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### Environment / Natural Resources

*To develop, implement and maintain a greenways system whose function is to protect, preserve and restore the natural resources and open spaces of the community.*

- Acquire land ownership or easement rights for development of greenways along the Wabash River and Little River.
- Protect and enhance riparian and other natural areas along greenways that will support a diversity of native flora and fauna.

### Economics

*Encourage the trail and greenway edges as setting for investments that has multi-objective benefits resulting in a positive economic impact on the community.*

- Promote the value-added characteristics of trails, greenways and bikeways as an economic and recreational asset to neighborhoods, property owner and the entire community.
- Promote destination points along trails and greenways that will benefit from increase and visit of users (restaurants, shopping, library, museum, etc.)
- Promote Huntington Trails & Greenways for tourism dollars.
- Promote trails and greenways as an asset that will
  - Enhance the quality of life.
  - Reduce health care costs associated with a healthier and fitter population.
  - Reduction in transportation costs.
  - Improved air quality.

### Planning

*To establish a framework for the continual effort to the planning and guidance of the Huntington Trails & Greenways program.*

- The Huntington Trails & Greenways Master Plan will best be implemented through a public-private partnership and will require a coordinated effort by the City of Huntington and private citizens. To develop this partnership the following should be considered:
  - Establishment of a private, non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation formed to serve as a parks, recreation, trails & greenways foundation to raise money from the private sector for use on parks, recreation, trails & greenways.
  - Creation of a Trails & Greenways Advisory Committee by the City of Huntington comprised of private citizens, local organizations and business leaders to provide input and guidance in the development of trails and greenways. Be a local and regional strong advocate of trails and greenways. Work closely with city departments.



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- Encourage implementation of the Huntington Trails & Greenways Master Plan through regulation, City and County Comprehensive plan updates, plan administration, capital improvement budgeting and other strategies.
- Work with City and County Planning Departments to create and establish a “Greenway” zoning classification for the protection of natural resources and open spaces.
- Establish a Bicycle Advisory Committee to review bikeway routes, provide feedback on route changes and new routes, provide ideas for a bicycle program, and to provide policy guidelines on bicycle issues.
- Work with City and County officials to promote trails and greenways as an integral element in transportation planning.
- Work with City and County Planning Department to encourage new residential developments to provide trails within the development with links to the overall trail and greenway system.
- Encourage development of greenways and greenspace in revitalization projects.
- Establish an “Adopt-a-Greenway” and “Adopt-a-Trail” programs to include participation among local businesses, industry, neighborhood and civic organizations.

The success of the Huntington Trails & Greenways System will require:

Partnerships – *it will necessitate increased levels of inter-departmental, inter-jurisdictional and public-private cooperation.*

Patience and Perseverance – *as resources are focused on specific priorities, patience and strong perseverance will be needed to stay the course.*

Commitment – *to support the trails & greenways master plan and funding sources for the implementation of the priorities.*





Huntington Parks  
and Recreation  
Department

2011-2015  
MASTER PLAN

## 20-Year Long Range Vision

Below is a summary of ideas, concepts and dreams of future park and recreation opportunities for Huntington Parks and Recreation Department.

### **Basic Long Range Goals**

**Planning:** Develop and maintain comprehensive, master and strategic plans which provide direction for the future operations of the Department.

**Recreation and Educational Programs:** Provide quality recreational, cultural and educational programs and services which meet the needs of all age groups; and promotes a healthy lifestyle in the community.

**Parks and Recreation Facilities:** Plan, finance, develop and maintain quality parks and recreation facilities which meet the diverse leisure needs of participants in all age groups.

**Public Relations:** Improve the Department's image through effective and proactive public relations. Increase and improve communication with all participants, visitors and the community. Increase opportunities for community input.

**Land Acquisitions:** Develop and implement a land acquisition and development plan which gives to the community open spaces and greenways.

**Personnel:** Adequately train, evaluate, support and provide a qualified team to operate and maintain the parks and facilities at a quality level.

**Finance:** Administer the Department's finances in a sound and accountable fiscal manner.

**Customer Satisfaction:** Develop operation, monitoring and feedback systems which assure a high degree of customer satisfaction.

**Safety:** Provide a safe environment for the Department personnel and visitors.

### **Sport Complex(s)**

Consolidation of several tennis courts into one central tennis complex.

Consolidation of several ball diamonds into one central diamond complex.

### **Trails and Greenways**

The development of multi-use trails throughout the community connecting parks, schools and other key points. Extension of trails to be connected into trail systems of surrounding communities and counties. An emphasis should be placed on linear greenways and trails.



Huntington Parks  
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2011-2015  
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### Land Acquisition

To protect natural resources and secure park land for future growth and recreational needs of Huntington.

As residential development continues and the population grows, additional parks and open space lands will be required to meet the recreation needs of the public. Even though new residential developments can provide smaller neighborhood parks it is important to also consider the need for larger-scale community or regional parks that provide significant opportunities for active and passive recreation, park programming and natural resource protection areas. Land that can protect natural resources, provide additional access to the Wabash River and Little Wabash River corridors or provide important linear linkages for bicycle and pedestrian trails, and large parcels suitable for development of major recreation facilities are important to the vitality of the community served by the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department.

This acquisition strategy focuses on the following basic premises:

- The competition for land will become more intense as the Huntington area continues to develop, meaning that land appropriate for parks and open space will become less available and more costly.
- Selected existing privately owned larger open space parcels should be added to the public domain through acquisition, as they become available. A priority should be placed on land adjacent to existing park sites and facilities.
- Additional riverfront and natural areas sites should be added to the public domain to encourage environmental education, public access to the riverfront and to add to the linear parks that provide access throughout various areas of the city and surrounding community.
- The Park Department should work closely with the City of Huntington and Huntington County Planning Departments to ensure that as new subdivisions are developed, adequate land is set aside to serve residents, preserve natural areas and provide linkages to other publicly held park and open space acreage.





Huntington Parks  
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Department

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## The Direction of Park Maintenance

To become more effective in park maintenance operations, all methods, organization and performance must be reviewed and taken under consideration. There must be a sound, basic understanding of the purpose, goals and objectives of park maintenance to operate at top efficiency. Park maintenance is a service targeted at maintaining park sites and facilities, which allows optimum use by the public.

Huntington Park Maintenance main responsibilities should include:

1. To provide an opportunity for the best conceivable recreation experience for users.
2. To protect both the natural and man-made resources of park sites and facilities.
3. To enhance existing park facilities by incorporating the safest and newest amenities available while maintaining the environmental integrity of the site.
4. To increase the level of the maintenance at existing parks sites in order to preserve and improve their aesthetics and usability for area residents.
5. Support and reinforce the goals of the other divisions within our department.

The identification of goals and objectives for park maintenance operations will help direct the department to become more effective. As individual objectives are accomplished, it will be one step closer to reaching a goal.

**Goal #1:** Park and recreation areas and facilities should have a clean, orderly appearance at all times and maintained to create a healthful and safe environment.

Objectives:

- Follow established maintenance standards for daily tasks.
- Repair or replace damage facilities and equipment as quickly as possible.
- Conduct regular inspections to perform preventative maintenance to get optimum life from facilities and equipment.

**Goal #2:** Develop a comprehensive maintenance manual to provide a systematic approach to accomplish maintenance tasks, justify budget requests, and serve as a communication tool.

Objectives:

- Develop base maps of each park site with site utility information.
- Organize safety manuals for OSHA requirements.



Huntington Parks  
and Recreation  
Department

2011-2015  
MASTER PLAN

**Goal #3:** Develop and maintain a 10-year preventative maintenance program for park sites, facilities, equipment and vehicles.

Objectives:

- Update 10-year preventative maintenance program *annually*.

**Goal #4:** Develop and maintain quality staff.

Objectives:

- Provide *in-service training and continuing education*.
- Provide *good supervision that is responsive to the needs of the staff*.
- Provide *good communications*.
- Maintain *staff levels to meet the needs of park maintenance and services*.



## The Future of Recreational Programming

### **Guidelines for Recreation Programming**

The Huntington Parks and Recreation Department attempts to meet the recreational and leisure needs of the individual and groups. To improve recreational and leisure opportunities in a community, the following statements, as outlined by Dr. Charles Hammersley, should be used as guidelines:

- Every park user has the right to pursue recreation and leisure in a manner that relates to their individual needs. Each park user must be viewed as having equal opportunity to pursue and fulfill a leisure lifestyle.
- The Parks and Recreation Department should have an understanding of the wants, needs, desires and expectations that the park user has in relation to the recreation and leisure experience.
- The Parks and Recreation Department should provide programs that appeal to a full spectrum of potential park users.
- Recreation and leisure programs should afford every park user a quality environment that is safe, accessible, affordable and pleasing.
- Park users must be viewed in the holistic sense, not as a commodity to be quantified.
- Every park user has the right to be treated in a dignified manner, with full respect for his or her heritage, age, sex, religion, condition of life and ability.



Huntington Parks  
and Recreation  
Department

2011-2015  
MASTER PLAN

### **Recreation Program Goals & Objectives:**

The identification of goals and objectives for recreation programs will help direct the Park Department to become more effective. As individual objectives are accomplished, it will be one step closer to reaching a goal. The primary goal of the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department is to provide quality recreational, cultural and educational programs and services which meet the needs of all age groups; and promotes a healthy lifestyle in the community.

#### **Goal #1: Determine Recreation Needs and Trends**

##### *Objectives:*

- *Solicit suggestions are taken from participants while participating in activities sponsored by the department.*
- *Maintain membership in state and national organizations to keep informed of trends and new programming ideas. An example of a national group is LERN, a non-profit organization called Learning Education Resources Network. LERN provides programming information practical research and information on recreation programming on a regular monthly basis including what programs are being offered in various Park and Recreation Departments throughout the United States as well as what practices have proven successful.*
- *Maintain open communications with other Indiana park and recreation departments to share ideas and thoughts on program opportunities, problems and solutions, and changes in services and trends.*
- *Continue evaluating and re-evaluating current programs and activities.*

#### **Goal #2: Provide accessible and efficient program information and services.**

##### *Objectives:*

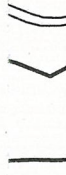
- *Develop partnership with local businesses and organizations to promote park programs.*
- *Maintain information of park and recreation programs and services on the Department's web site.*
- *Expand web site to accept on-line pre-registration via web page.*
- *Expand web site to accept suggestions for programs via web page.*
- *Develop annual or semi-annual program guide of park programs.*

#### **Goal #3: Develop and maintain a high level of qualified Recreation Staff and Personnel.**

##### *Objectives:*

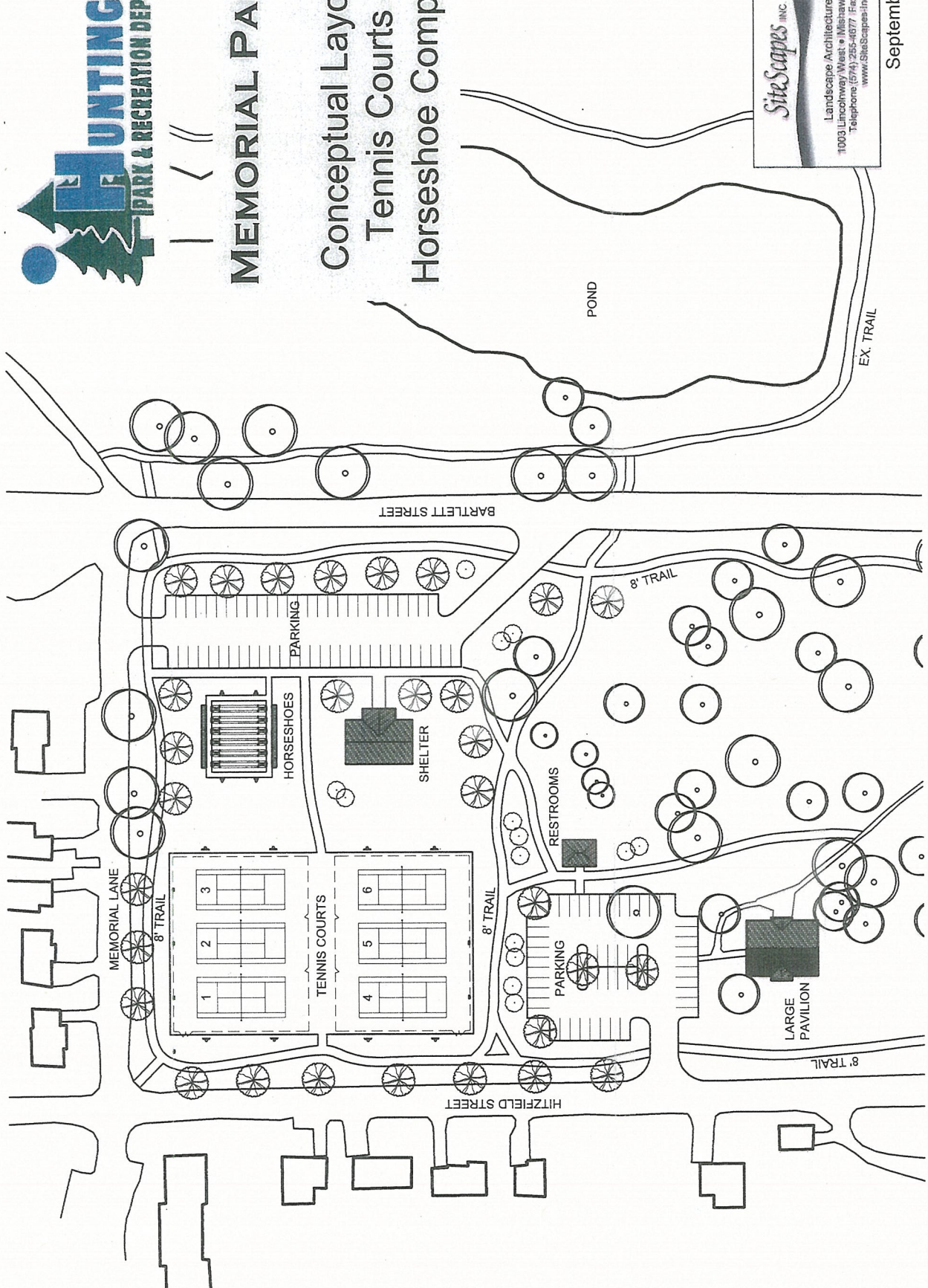
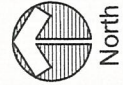
- *Develop and maintain a training program for staff and volunteers.*
- *Promote and support continuing education programs for staff.*
- *Utilize available student internships for summer assistance.*





# MEMORIAL PARK

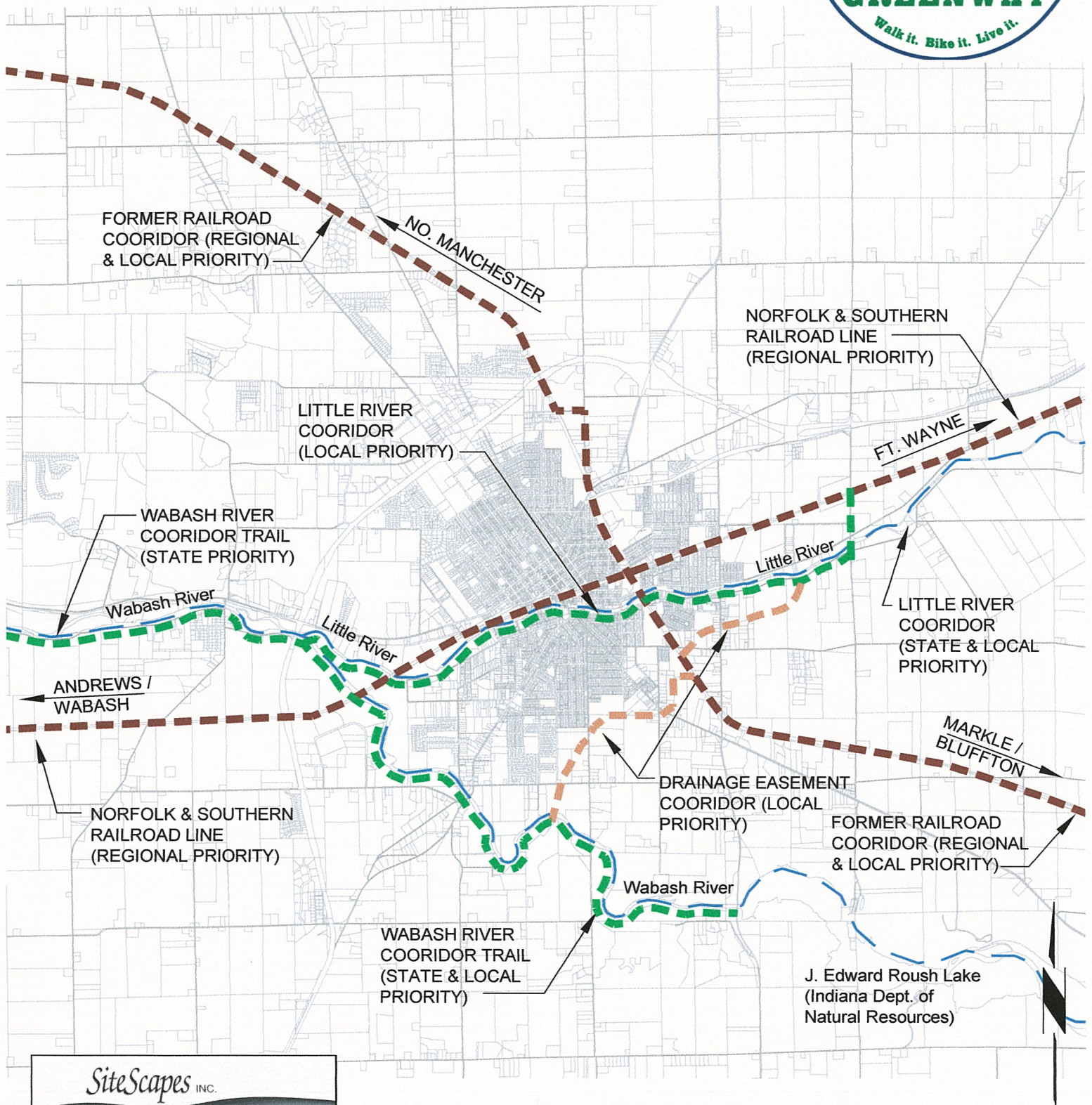
## Conceptual Layout Tennis Courts / Horseshoe Complex



**SiteScapes INC.**  
Landscape Architecture & Planning  
1003 Lincolnway West • Mishawaka, Indiana 46544  
Telephone (317) 925-4877 Fax (317) 217-7680  
www.SiteScapes-Inc.com

September 13, 2010

# HUNTINGTON GREENWAYS



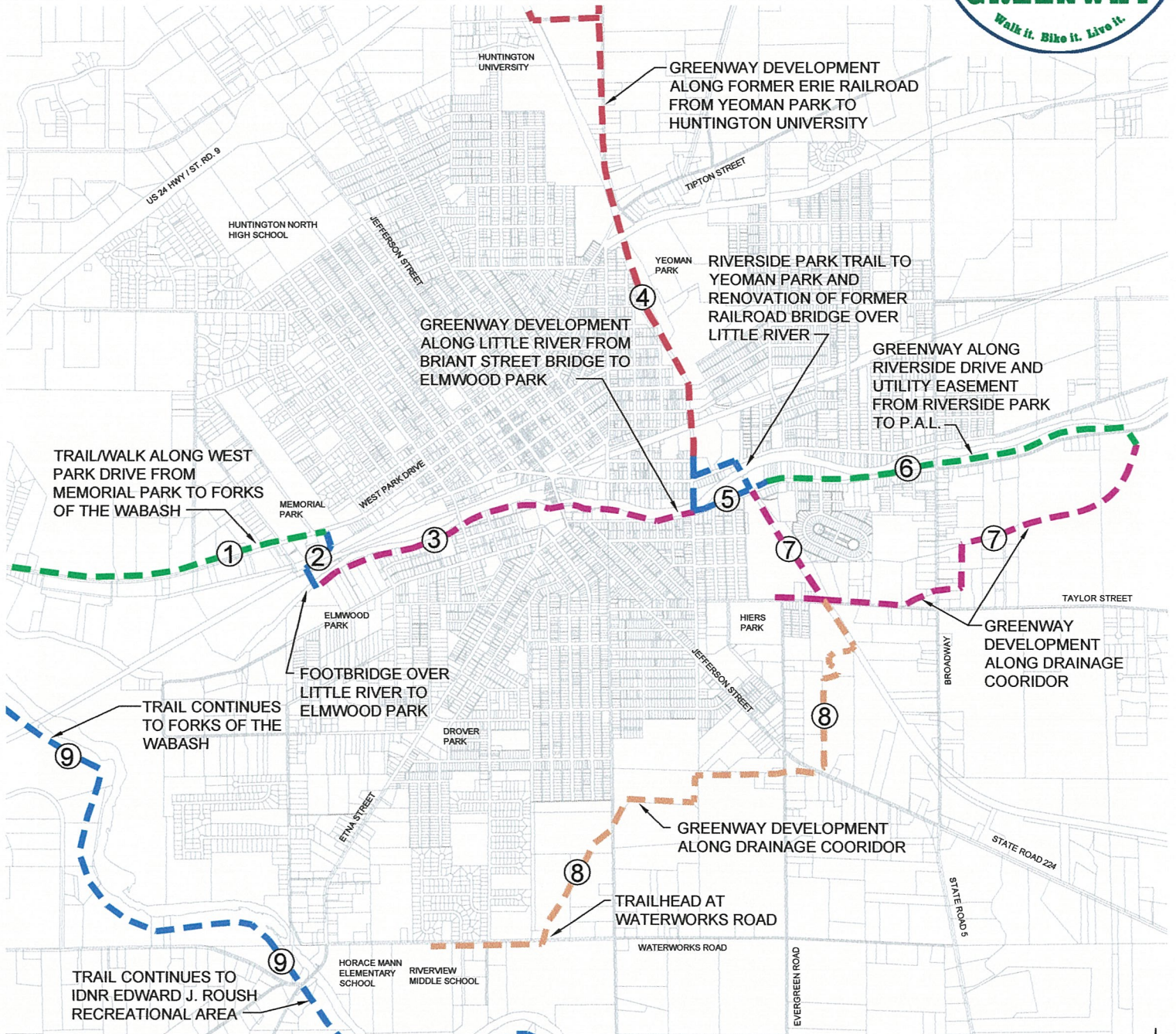
## Proposed Greenway Routes

*SiteScapes* INC.

Landscape Architecture & Planning  
1003 Lincolnway West • Mishawaka, Indiana 46544  
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October 4, 2010

# HUNTINGTON GREENWAYS PRIORITIES



## PRIORITIES

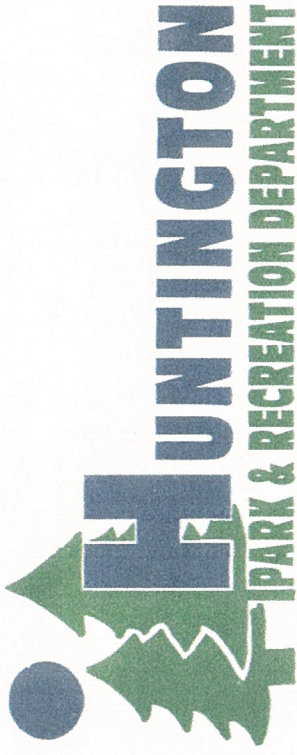
- ① Memorial Park to Forks of the Wabash
- ② Memorial Park to Elmwood Park
- ③ Riverwalk - Briant St. to Elmwood Park
- ④ Yeoman Park to Huntington University
- ⑤ Riverside Park to Yeoman Park
- ⑥ Riverside Park to P.A.L. along Riverside Dr.
- ⑦ P.A.L. to Riverside Park - south loop
- ⑧ Taylor Street to Waterworks Road
- ⑨ Forks of the Wabash to IDNR Edward J. Roush Recreational Area

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October 4, 2010





# **10-Year Preventative Maintenance Program**

**2011-2015  
Parks & Recreation Master Plan**

Draft September 13, 2010

Huntington Park and Recreation Department  
2011-2015 Master Plan

EQUIPMENT & FURNISHINGS RENOVATION PROGRAM  
Draft September 13, 2010

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Memorial Park</b>											
Play Equipment			(4) \$1,000			(4) \$1,000			(4) \$1,000		
Tennis Courts	(3,9) \$1,500				(3) \$1,000				(3) \$1,000		
Basketball Courts	(3) \$50		(3) \$50		(3) \$50		(3) \$50		(3) \$50		(3) \$50
Horseshoe Courts		(2) \$250				(2) \$250				(2) \$250	
Picnic Tables & Grills			(1) \$2,000								(1) \$2,000
Benches			(2) \$500			(2) \$500			(2) \$500		
Softball Diamond	(5) \$750		(5) \$750		(5) \$750		(5) \$750		(5) \$750		(5) \$750
Drinking fountains	(1) \$2,000						(1) \$2,000				
<b>Hier's Park</b>											
Play Equipment		(4) \$1,000			(4) \$1,000			(4) \$1,000			(4) \$1,000
Basketball Court			(3) \$50			(3) \$50			(3) \$50		
Picnic Tables & Grills				(1) \$2,000				(1) \$2,000			
Benches		(6) \$5,000	(1) \$2,000								(6) \$5,000
Softball Diamond	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750
Drinking fountains			(2) \$1,200								
<b>Elimwood Park</b>											
Play Equipment	(4) \$1,000				(4) \$1,000				(4) \$1,000		
Volleyball	(6) \$1,500			(3) \$300					(3) \$300		
Tennis Courts				(3) \$600							
Basketball Court	(3) \$50			(3) \$50			(3) \$50			(3) \$50	
Picnic Tables & Grills			(2) \$500			(2) \$500				(2) \$500	
Benches			(2) \$500								
Softball Diamond	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750
Drinking fountains	(6) \$3,500										
<b>Yeoman Park</b>											
Play Equipment		(4) \$1,000			(4) \$1,000			(4) \$1,000			(4) \$1,000
Skate Park			(9) \$600								
Picnic Tables & Grills	(2) \$500					(2) \$500					(2) \$500
Benches											
Soccer Field	(3) \$300				(3) \$300				(3) \$300		
Softball Diamond	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750	(5) \$750
Drinking fountains	(8) \$1,500										
<b>Drover Park</b>											
Play Equipment	(4) \$600						(4) \$600				(4) \$600
Picnic Tables & Grills		(2) \$500				(2) \$500				(2) \$500	
Benches											
Drinking Fountains	(2) \$1,500							(2) \$500			
Basketball Court	(3) \$50			(3) \$50			(3) \$50			(3) \$50	
Splash Park											

- (1) New and/or additional
- (2) Repair and/or replace existing
- (3) Replace nets
- (4) Safety surface topdressing
- (5) Diamond surfacing topdressing

- (6) Repair and/or replace diamond bleachers
- (7) Repair and/or replace fencing
- (8) New drinking fountain
- (9) New bleachers
- (10)

- (11)
- (12)
- (13)
- (14)
- (15)

Huntington Park and Recreation Department  
2011-2015 Master Plan

EQUIPMENT & FURNISHINGS RENOVATION PROGRAM  
Draft September 13, 2010

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>General Slack Park</b>											
Play Equipment			(4) \$1,000			(4) \$1,000			(4) \$1,000		
Basketball Court			(3) \$50			(3) \$50			(3) \$50		
Picnic Tables & Grills		(2) \$500				(2) \$500			(2) \$500		
Benches		(2) \$500				(2) \$500			(2) \$500		
Drinking Fountain					(2) \$800						
<b>Laurie Park</b>											
Play Equipment		(4) \$800			(4) \$800			(4) \$800			
Basketball Court			(3) \$50			(3) \$50			(3) \$50		
Picnic Tables & Grills	(2)	\$500			(2) \$500					(2)	\$500
Benches		(2) \$500								(2)	\$500
Diamond Backstop						(7) \$2,500					
Drinking Fountain											
<b>Erie Park</b>											
Play Equipment		(4) \$800		(4) \$800			(4) \$800			(4) \$800	
Basketball Court			(3) \$50				(3) \$50				
Picnic Tables & Grills		(2) \$500					(2) \$500				
Drinking Fountain			(2) \$2,000								
<b>Evergreen Park</b>											
Play Equipment	(4)	\$1,000		(4) \$1,000			(4) \$1,000			(4) \$1,000	
Horseshoes	(2)	\$300		(3) \$150		(2) \$300				(3) \$150	(2) \$300
Volleyball											
Picnic Tables & Grills		(2) \$500		(2) \$500			(2) \$500				
Benches	(5)	\$1,500	(5) \$1,500	(5) \$1,500	(5) \$1,500	(5) \$1,500	(5) \$1,500	(5) \$1,000	(2) \$500	(5) \$1,000	
Softball Diamond											
Drinking Fountain					(2) \$1,500						
<b>Recreation Center</b>											
Play Equipment			(4) \$1,000			(4) \$1,000			(4) \$1,000		
Tennis Courts											
Basketball Courts	(3)	\$50		(3) \$50			(3) \$50				
<b>River Greenway</b>											

<b>ANNUAL TOTALS</b>	<b>\$17,900</b>	<b>\$19,300</b>	<b>\$22,200</b>	<b>\$10,100</b>	<b>\$10,450</b>	<b>\$15,950</b>	<b>\$8,250</b>	<b>\$9,150</b>	<b>\$9,800</b>	<b>\$9,350</b>	<b>\$13,350</b>				
	(1) New and/or additional	(2) Repair and/or replace existing	(3) Replace nets	(4) Safety surface topdressing	(5) Diamond surfacing topdressing	(6) Repair and/or replace diamond bleachers	(7) Repair and/or replace fencing	(8) New drinking fountain at ball diamond	(9) New drinking fountain at restroom	(10) New drinking fountain at volleyball court	(11) New drinking fountain at pavilion/shelter	(12) New benches at tennis courts	(13) Replace goals	(14)	(15)

Huntington Park and Recreation Department  
2011-2015 Master Plan

PAVEMENT RENOVATION PROGRAM  
Draft September 13, 2010

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Memorial Park</b>											
Park Drive		(5) \$25,000		(12) \$100,000							
Parking Lots	(2) \$3,200					(2) \$3,200					(2) \$3,200
Basketball Court	(2) \$1,800					(2) \$1,800					(2) \$1,800
Tennis Courts								(2) \$10,000			
Sunken Gardens Walk											
Shakespeare Gardens Walk											
Walking Trails			(3) \$3,000					(3) \$3,000			
<b>Hier's Park</b>											
Parking Lots											
Basketball Court			(2) \$1,800		(3) \$2,800						
Main Drive											
<b>Elmwood Park</b>											
Parking Lot		(2) \$2,800					(2) \$2,800				
Basketball Court			(2) \$1,800					(2) \$1,800			
Tennis Courts			(5) \$5,000								
Park Drive		(3) \$3,500									
<b>Yeoman Park</b>											
Park Drive				(3) \$3,800							(3) \$3,800
Parking Lot	(2) \$3,200			(6) \$15,000							
Basketball Court		(2) \$1,800									
Skate Park											
<b>Drover Park</b>											
Basketball court				(2) \$1,800						(2) \$1,800	
Parking Lot		(2) \$3,000						(2) \$3,000			
<b>General Slack Park</b>											
Basketball court	(2) \$1,800						(2) \$1,800				
Parking Area		(1) \$12,000	(2) \$1,000								
<b>Laurie Park</b>											
Basketball court			(6) \$6,000	(2) \$1,800							
Parking Area				\$800							

- Notes:
- (1) Construct new parking lot
  - (2) Sealcoat and restripe
  - (3) Sealcoat
  - (4) Replace existing walk
  - (5) Repair/repave existing

- (6) Pave existing gravel parking lot
- (7) Pave existing gravel drive
- (8) Remove ex. basketball court, construct 1/2 court
- (9) Construct new walking trail
- (10) Construct new park drive

- (11) Remove tennis courts, expand existing parking lot
- (12)
- (13)
- (14)
- (15)

Huntington Park and Recreation Department  
 2011-2015 Master Plan

PAVEMENT RENOVATION PROGRAM  
 Draft September 13, 2010

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Erie Park</b>											
Basketball court	(3) \$300										
<b>Evergreen Park</b>											
Parking lot		(2) \$2,400									
Walking Trail			(3) \$4,000								
Park Drive	(3) \$2,400					(3) \$2,400					
<b>Recreation Center</b>											
Parking Lot				(2) \$2,200							
Tennis Courts											
Basketball Court	(2) \$1,800										
<b>River Greenway</b>											
<b>ANNUAL TOTALS</b>	<b>\$12,700</b>	<b>\$52,300</b>	<b>\$24,600</b>	<b>\$125,400</b>	<b>\$2,800</b>	<b>\$7,400</b>	<b>\$4,600</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>	<b>\$4,800</b>	<b>\$1,800</b>	<b>\$8,800</b>

- Notes:
- (1) Construct new parking lot
  - (2) Sealcoat and restripe
  - (3) Sealcoat
  - (4) Replace existing walk
  - (5) Repair/repave existing

- (6) Pave existing gravel parking lot
- (7) Pave existing gravel drive
- (8) Remove ex. basketball court, construct 1/2 court
- (9) Construct new walking trail
- (10) Construct new park drive

- (11) Remove tennis courts, expand existing parking lot
- (12)
- (13)
- (14)
- (15)



Huntington Park and Recreation Department  
2011-2015 Master Plan

FACILITY RENOVATION PROGRAM  
Draft, September 13, 2010

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Memorial Park</b>											
Pavilion	(4) \$500	(2) \$1,500	(5) \$8,000		(5) \$3,000	(2) \$800					
Shelter	(2) \$800										
Restrooms	(6) \$35,500										
Sunken Gardens Gazebo		(2) \$1,000									
Park Office		(6) \$150,000									
Park Maintenance			(6) \$30,000								
<b>Hier's Park</b>											
Heritage Hall			(10) \$10,000								
Community Building											
Family Living Bldg.				(5) \$8,000							
Softball Diamond Bldg.		(1) \$1,500									
H Pavilion											
Snow Ring Bldg.											
Rabbit Bldg.											
Bandstand											
Restrooms											
<b>Elimwood Park</b>											
Pavilion #2					(2) \$1,000	(5) \$2,500					
Shelter	(2) \$600					(2) \$600					
Restrooms	(6) \$30,000										
Softball Diamond Bldg.			(2) \$600								
<b>Yeoman Park</b>											
Shelter		(2) \$600		(5) \$2,000							
Softball Diamond Bldg.		(1,2) \$4,000									
<b>Drover Park</b>											
Shelter		(1) \$800	(2) \$800	(5) \$2,000							
<b>General Slack Park</b>											
Gazebo					(5) \$2,500						
Restrooms		(2) \$500									
<b>Laurie Park</b>											
Shelter					(2) \$850	(5) \$3,000					
Restrooms			(2) \$500								
Gazebo		(1) \$500			(2) \$500						
<b>Erle Park</b>											
Shelter		(5) \$1,500									

- Notes:
- (1) Repairs
  - (2) Paint and/or seal
  - (3) New construction
  - (4) Construct concrete pad for grills
  - (5) Reroof
  - (6) Replace - construct new
  - (7) Relocate and/or construct new park offices
  - (8) Renovate and/or expand maintenance facilities
  - (9) Renovate existing
  - (10) Window replacement
  - (11)
  - (12)
  - (13)
  - (14)
  - (15)

Huntington Park and Recreation Department  
 2011-2015 Master Plan

FACILITY RENOVATION PROGRAM  
 Draft: September 13, 2010

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Evergreen Park</b>											
Large Shelter		(2)	\$900		(2)	\$900					
Small Shelter			\$700		(2)	\$700					
Restroom				(2)							
Overlook Decks		(2)	\$300								
<b>Recreation Center</b>											
Building			(1)	\$2,000							
<b>River Greenway</b>											
Gazebo											
<b>ANNUAL TOTALS</b>	<b>\$68,900</b>	<b>\$161,600</b>	<b>\$52,600</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>	<b>\$8,750</b>	<b>\$4,600</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

- Notes:
- (1) Repairs
  - (2) Paint and/or seal
  - (3) New construction
  - (4) Construct concrete pad for grills
  - (5) Reroof
  - (6) Replace - construct new
  - (7) Relocate and/or construct new park offices
  - (8) Renovate and/or expand maintenance facilities
  - (9) Renovate existing
  - (10)
  - (11)
  - (12)
  - (13)
  - (14)
  - (15)





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# APPENDIX

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Draft 10-19-10



Huntington Parks  
and Recreation  
Department

**2011-2015  
MASTER PLAN**



ORDINANCE 13-C-99 (1263)

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 99 OF THE CODE  
OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON TO  
ESTABLISH A DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND  
RECREATION AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES  
IN CONFLICT THEREWITH

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Common Council of the City of Huntington, Indiana:

SECTION I.

Under the provision of The Park and Recreation Law Act of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, there is hereby established a Department of Parks and Recreation composed of the Board of Parks and Recreation, a superintendent, and such other personnel as the Board shall determine.

SECTION II.

The Board shall be composed of four (4) members. The Mayor shall select the regular members on the basis of their interest in and knowledge of parks and recreation but not more than two (2) members shall be of the same political party.

The Board shall further be composed of one (1) ex-officio member who shall be appointed by the governing body of the School Corporation. Said member shall be selected on the basis of their interest in and knowledge of parks and recreation and shall have the same rights of regular members, including the right to vote.

SECTION III.

Upon the establishment of a Board, the terms of the members initially appointed shall be one (1), two (2), three (3) and four (4) years. Thereafter as a term expires, each new appointment shall be for a four (4) year term. All terms shall expire on the first Monday of January, but an appointee shall continue in office until his successor is appointed.

SECTION IV.

At its first regular meeting in each year, the Board shall elect a president, and a vice-president shall have authority to act as the president of the Board during the absence or disability of the president.

ORDINANCE 13-C-99

SECTION V.

The Board shall have the general power to perform all acts necessary to acquire and develop sites and facilities to conduct such programs as are generally understood to be park and recreation functions, including powers and duties listed in IC 36-10-3-10 and 36-10-3-11 of The Parks and Recreation Law, as aforesaid.

SECTION VI.

The Board may create an advisory council and special committees composed of citizens interested in the problems of parks and recreation in accordance with IC 36-10-3-17.

SECTION VII.

The Board shall prepare and submit an annual budget in the same manner as other departments of the City government. The Board may accept gifts, donations and subsidies for parks and recreation purposes.

SECTION VIII.

All ordinances, resolutions or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions and intent of this ordinance are hereby repealed, effective the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December 1999.

SECTION IX.

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval, according to the laws of the State of Indiana, as of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 2000, and upon organization the Board shall have the authority to expend and direct the expenditure of the year 2000 Parks and Recreation Budget in the sum of \$515,746.

SECTION X.

To the extent permitted by law, employees of the Department of Parks and Recreation shall be subject to and entitled to all benefits, policies and responsibilities applicable to other employees of the City of Huntington, Indiana, excluding the special laws applicable only to policemen and firemen, it being the intent of this provision to provide for application of insurance benefits, unemployment and workmen's compensation benefits, vacation benefits, retirement benefits, sick leave policies and policies relating to discharge.

SECTION XI.

After the creation of the Park Board by this Ordinance, all books, papers, documents and other property relating to Park and Recreation shall be transferred to and become the property of the Board.



ORDINANCE 13-C-99

Adopted by the Common Council of Huntington, Indiana on the 12 day of

October, 1999.

COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

By [Signature] As Council  
(Larry D Buzzard) President

By [Signature] As Council  
(Robert C Brown, Jr) Member

By [Signature] As Council  
(James Cole, Sr) Member

By [Signature] As Council  
(Judy A Coleman) Member

By [Signature] As Council  
(Ervin Ebersole) Member

By [Signature] As Council  
(David E Funk) Member

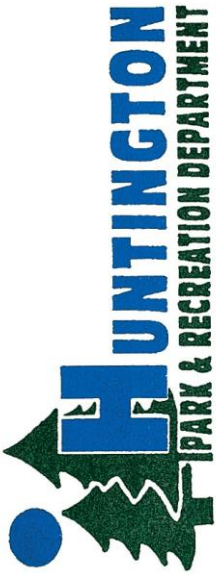
By [Signature] As Council  
(Jack Slusser) Member

Approved by me this 12 day of October, 1999.

[Signature] As Presiding  
(Robert J. Kyle) Officer and Mayor

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
(Jay R Lahr) Clerk-Treasurer



## 2010 Public Survey

The Huntington Park and Recreation Department is updating its Five Year Master Plan. This survey was specifically created to gather information from residents to learn more about the recreational interests and to provide an opportunity to express opinions concerning the programs, activities and the quality of our parks.

### Park Facilities

Please list any specific changes or improvements you would like to see in the parks.

- Memorial Park \_\_\_\_\_
- Hier's Park \_\_\_\_\_
- Drover Park \_\_\_\_\_
- General Slack Park \_\_\_\_\_
- Yeoman Park \_\_\_\_\_
- Evergreen Park \_\_\_\_\_
- Elmwood Park \_\_\_\_\_
- Laurie Park \_\_\_\_\_
- Erie Park \_\_\_\_\_
- Recreation Center \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any areas of our community that are lacking park and recreation facilities and opportunities?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Park Board and Department have made a commitment to trails and greenways to make Huntington a more livable, healthy community. Please rank the priority of these trail routes (1 high to 4 low):

- \_\_\_\_\_ Elmwood Park to Memorial Park (with footbridge over river)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Forks of the Wabash to Memorial Park
- \_\_\_\_\_ Downtown Riverwalk – Briant St. to LaFontaine St.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Downtown to Huntington University/Parkview Hospital and the YMCA

Are you in favor of renovating the outdoor bandshell / stage in Hier's Park and provide fixed seating?

- Yes  No

How do you feel about adding or improving the following facilities in the city park system?

- Water splash pad  Yes  No
- Ice skating area  Yes  No
- Tennis courts  Yes  No
- Horseshoes  Yes  No
- Additional picnic shelters  Yes  No
- Trails / paths  Yes  No
- Accessible play equipment  Yes  No
- Canoe/Kayak rentals & launches  Yes  No
- Soccer fields  Yes  No
- Disc golf  Yes  No
- Ball diamonds  Yes  No
- No-Leash dog park  Yes  No
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Recreation Programs

What is the single most important thing that prevents you from using the parks or programs more?

- Lack of time
- Poor health / mobility
- Can't afford the program
- Lack of interest / don't want to
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Do any of these physical barriers restrict or prevent you using the parks or programs?

- Physical access to the park or facilities
- Lack of accessible parking
- Parks too far away
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What specific type of recreational programs or activities would you like to see offered?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the priority the Huntington Park and Recreation Dept. should give towards the following programs:

Programs for:	circle one
Pre-schoolers (3-5 yrs.)	High Low
Elementary Kids (6-12 yrs.)	High Low
Junior High Kids (12-15 yrs.)	High Low
High School Kids (15-18 yrs.)	High Low
College Age / Young adults	High Low
Adults	High Low
Senior Citizens	High Low
Special Events	High Low
Day Camps	High Low
Cultural programs	High Low
Environmental programs	High Low
Night programs	High Low

How are you kept informed of Huntington Park & Recreation Department activities and programs?

- Huntington Herald Press
- Huntington County TAB
- Park Dept. Web Site
- Park Dept. E-Newsletter
- Direct mailings
- Posters
- School Flyers

### Park Funding

Would you like Huntington Park & Recreation Department to invest more money in the parks?

- Yes
- Maybe
- Depends on the investment
- No

Are you willing to pay for improvements in the Huntington Parks using any of the following methods?

- Yes, increase in program fees
- Yes, increase in shelter reservations and building rentals cost
- Depends on the investment
- No, unwilling to pay anything for parks
- No, can't afford to pay anything for parks

Are you willing to pay new taxes or user fees to help pay for improvements in the Huntington Parks?

- Yes
- Maybe
- Depends on the investment
- No

How would you like Huntington Park & Recreation Department to pay for new amenities and investments in the parks?

- Use existing budget
- Municipal bonds
- New taxes/fees
- Donations
- Grants

### Park Functions

From the following list of functions that could be performed by the Huntington Park & Recreation Department, please rate the level of importance of each one:

**Operate and maintain city parks and facilities.**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Not sure
- Not sure

**Preserve the environment and provide passive open space:**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Not sure

**Provide places for outdoor sports programs:**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Not sure

**Allocate resources equally across the community:**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Not sure

### Park Maintenance

This question will help the Park and Recreation Department in upgrading its current maintenance practices to better meet the needs of the citizens. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with each statement below.

- |  | <u>Agree</u>             | <u>Disagree</u>          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Mowing schedules are adequate                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Trash and garbage containers are emptied frequently              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Restroom facilities are clean and sanitary                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Outdoor facilities are properly maintained                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Adequate parking facilities provided                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • The number and location of grills and picnic tables are adequate | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • The number and location of shelters are adequate                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Are the parking and recreation areas well lit                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Trails are well maintained                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Additional Comments and Suggestions:**

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Please provide your e-mail address to receive monthly updates of park activities and programs:

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Please return completed surveys to:  
**Huntington Park and Recreation Department**  
1205 West Park Drive  
Huntington, Indiana 46750  
Thank you for your participation in this public survey!!  
Contact the Park Department at 358-2323  
Web site: [www.Huntington.IN.US](http://www.Huntington.IN.US) **Thank You!**



January 12, 2010  
For Immediate Release

## **Huntington Parks Needs Input From Residents**

The Huntington Park and Recreation Board will be conducting a public meeting on Tuesday, January 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Neighborhood Recreation Center at 745 Condit Street. The Park Board is in the early planning stages for the 2011-2015 Park and Recreation Master Plan and is looking for information on what residents would like to see developed or changed in the parks for the next five years. The Park Board is asking residents for their ideas, wishes, comments and concerns to help identify the needs and priorities for the years 2011 through 2015.

Residents are encouraged to provide information what specific improvements at individual parks can be made; which recreational programs they like, which programs can be discontinued and what new programs they would like to see; input on how the parks are maintained and what can be done better; and any other observations or suggestions they may have.

The Park Board has made a commitment to the development of trails and greenways to make Huntington a more healthy and livable community. Park Board members would like to know what trail routes residents would like to see and if there is only money for one new trail in the next five years what trail route should it be. Most important in these times of financial strain, the Park Board is open to ideas and suggestions on the best way to address the needs and improvements in the parks. Money and budgets are very tight and Huntington Park and Recreation Board need to make sure they are working on the priorities desired by the residents and spending tax dollars in a wise and orderly manner. It is important that residents provide input through these public meetings so the Park Board members understand their needs and desires for the parks.

Residents are encouraged to attend on Tuesday, January 19th and provide input on the future growth and development of Huntington parks.

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Questions or additional information, please contact:

Denise Bard, Superintendent Huntington Parks & Recreation Department  
e-mail: [denise.bard@huntington.in.us](mailto:denise.bard@huntington.in.us)  
Telephone: (260) 358-2323

## Huntington Parks board needs input

The Huntington Park and Recreation Board will be conducting a public meeting At 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Neighborhood Recreation Center at 745 Condit St.

The Park Board is in the early planning stages for the 2011-2015 Park and Recreation Master Plan and is looking for information on what residents would like to see developed or

changed in the parks for the next five years. The Park Board is asking residents for their ideas, wishes, comments and concerns to help identify the needs and priorities for the years 2011 through 2015.

Residents are encouraged to provide information what specific improvements at individual parks can be made; recreational programs they like, which programs can be discontinued and what new programs they would like to see; input on how the parks are maintained and what can be done better; and any other observations or suggestions they may have.

The Park Board has made a commitment to the development of trails and greenways to make Huntington a more healthy and livable community. Park Board members would like to know what trail routes resi-

dents would like to see and if there is only money for one new trail in the next five years what trail route should it be. Most important in these times of financial strain, the Park Board is open to ideas and suggestions on the best way to address the needs and improvements in the parks.

Money and budgets are very tight and Huntington Park and Recreation Board need to make sure they are working on the priorities desired by the residents and spending tax dollars in a wise and orderly manner. It is important that residents provide input through these public meetings so the Park Board members understand their needs and desires for the parks.

Residents are encouraged to attend on Tuesday, Jan. 19 and provide input on the future growth and development of Huntington parks.

## Park Board seeks input on best use of tax dollars

Huntington residents who have ideas about how parks and trails throughout the city can be improved are invited to bring their wish lists to a public meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Neighbor-

hood Recreation Center, 745 Condit St.

The Park Board will use the input received at that meeting as it begins working on its 2011-2015 Park and Recreation Master Plan, explains Denise Bard, superintendent of the

Huntington Parks and Recreation Department.

As residents offer information on what they would like to see developed or changed in the parks during the next five years, the Park Board will determine needs and priorities for that

time period.

Residents are encouraged to provide suggestions about specific improvements at individual parks; what recreational programs should be kept, discontinued or added;

**Cont. on Pg. 3**

## Park Board seeks input **Cont. from Pg. 1**

maintenance issues at the parks; and any other observations or suggestions regarding the parks.

The Parks Department is developing trails and greenways throughout the

city, and the Park Board wants to know what trail routes are preferred by residents and how they should be prioritized.

"Most important in these times of financial strain, the

Park Board is open to ideas and suggestions on the best way to address the needs and improvements in the parks," Bard says.

"Money and budgets are very tight and the Hunting-

ton Parks and Recreation Board needs to make sure they are working on the priorities desired by the residents and spending tax dollars in a wise and orderly manner."

**Monday, January 18, 2010 The TAB Page 3**



**PRESS RELEASE**

Huntington Parks & Recreation Department • 1205 West Park Drive • Huntington, IN 46750  
(260) 358-2323 • Fax: (260) 358-2324  
[www.Huntington.IN.US](http://www.Huntington.IN.US)

**For Immediate Release: June 2, 2010**

**PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT FOR HUNTINGTON PARKS MASTER PLAN**

The Huntington Park and Recreation Board seeks input at a Public Meeting to be held 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 14, 2010 at the Neighborhood Recreation Center located at 745 Condit Street in Huntington. The regularly scheduled monthly Park Board meeting be held Tuesday June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Neighborhood Recreation Center.

The Huntington Park and Recreation Board is updating their Master Plan to guide decisions about park development for the next 5-20 years. The levels of growth, changing demographics and financial challenges in Huntington make the Master Plan's development more important than ever. This public meeting creates an exciting opportunity for residents to have a say in the future of parks in their neighborhood, park land, trails & greenways, facilities and programs!

A key component of the Master Plan is public input. "We need to know what the public wants for Huntington Parks in order to ensure our Master Plan properly addresses their wants and needs," explains Denise Bard, Superintendent of Parks. To gain information a public written survey was recently conducted. Fortunately, a great many of you responded to our call by completing the survey. This is a tribute to our resident's willingness to get involved in local government.

**Parks Survey a Success!**

Overall, this was a successful survey with a nearly 15 percent response rate.

The purpose of this survey was to learn 1) about the quality of our programs & facilities, 2) the needs and desires of park users, and 3) how we can improve our parks. In generally, residents seem pleased with the quality and number of activities that are provided throughout the year. On the other hand, residents did see room for improvement in our park facilities, the promotion of our facilities and activities, and the funding and development of parks.

There also seemed to be strong support for the following: trails, splash pads, and playgrounds. Safety was another concern at our facilities. Another prevalent theme throughout this survey was the importance of the Park Department to operate and maintain city parks, preserve the environment and passive open space, and to provide places for outdoor recreation and sports. There is a desire to not increase resident's tax burden in order to renovate or provide new and/or improved facilities and activities, but rather support for additional funding depending on specific proposed renovations and improvements.

The Huntington Park and Recreation Board wishes to thank everyone who participated in its recent parks survey. Those of you who answered the survey greatly assisted the city in its efforts to update its Parks and Recreation Master Plan. For those of you who missed the survey or would still like an opportunity to voice your opinion, please be advised that the parks board is not yet finished. There will be opportunities to review the draft plan and make comments before the plan is adopted by the Park and Recreation Board. Citizen input is critical to a successful planning process for a variety of reasons:

- rather than making top-down decisions, the Park Board believes in listening to its residents;
- voicing your comments/concerns allows us to build a park and recreational system that is tailored to Huntington's specific needs;
- the most important needs can be prioritized for action by the Park Board;
- donations and grant funding is heavily influenced by the amount of citizen involvement; and
- planning is an democratic process that depends on you.

**Highlights of the survey:**

- Development of a trail connector between Memorial Park and the Forks of the Wabash was rated high by a substantial margin.
- Respondents were generally satisfied with the amount of park land, variety of park facilities, access to parks and park maintenance.
- Most respondents agreed that parks and recreation facilities are worthy of increased taxpayer support.
- By a wide margin, most respondents agree that Huntington should expand its trails & greenways system.
- The main reason residents do not use city parks and recreation facilities more often is their lack of time (59%)
- Residents who participate in parks and recreation programs get information about the programs from the local newspapers (51%), Parks Department web site or e-newsletter (25%), and school fliers (13%).
- More than half of the residents surveyed agreed maintenance practices of existing parks and recreation facilities are satisfactory.
- Residents would be most willing to fund the improvements of parks and trails with new tax dollars or user fees that are dedicated to parks and recreation. Only 30% of respondents indicated no new taxes should be implemented.

For additional information on the Master Plan, questions, or to provide additional ideas about the future of the Huntington park system, contact the Park Office at 260-358-2323.

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**Contact:** Huntington Parks & Recreation Department  
**Phone:** 260/358-2323  
**E-mail:** Denise Bard <denise.bard@huntington.in.us>





# 2011 - 2015 MASTER PLAN

Public Meeting  
Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Your comments are important to help determine the development and direction of the our parks for the next five years.

## COMMENTS:

Lined area for writing comments.

If you wish to be kept informed of the Master Plan, future public meetings, etc., please provide your contact information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide your comments:

Leave this comment sheet with a Park Staff member tonight after the meeting, or drop, mail, fax or e-mail your comments to the Huntington Park & Recreation office:

Mrs. Denise Bard, Superintendent  
Huntington Parks & Recreation Department  
1205 West Park Drive  
Huntington, IN 46750  
Telephone (260) 358-2323  
Fax (260) 358-2324  
E-mail: denise.bard@huntington.in.us

Mr. Patrick S. Brown, ASLA, LEED-AP

*SiteScapes* INC.  
Landscape Architecture & Planning  
1003 Lincolnway West • Mishawaka, Indiana 46544  
Telephone (574) 255-4677 Fax (574) 217-7890  
www.SiteScapes-Inc.com

# The show will go on at parks despite budget cutbacks

By **MATT MURPHY**

Despite budget cuts by the City of Huntington, the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department is returning this summer in full swing, with programs and events scheduled for all ages.

Every event scheduled last year is returning this year, with the exception of a fitness class, which was canceled due to low enrollment.

Parks Department Superintendent Denise Bard says that events such as the concert series, which were almost fully-backed financially and manpower-wise

by the department in the past, are now co-sponsored with another organization, which, in the case of the concert series, is the LaFontaine Arts Council.

"The philosophy of the parks board is to have well-rounded programs," Bard says. "We've very lucky for what we have. We don't want to change what we're offering."

According to the department's 2009 annual report, all department-sponsored events drew more than 16,000 participants.

Financially, the parks department has been faced with the task of balancing its budget after the city

funding cuts, but ended up in the black. Unfortunately, Bard says, that balance resulted in the cut of several employees — two administrative staff and three full-time maintenance staff.

Although the parks department does hire several part-time workers in the summer months, the loss of positions has strained — though certainly not broken — the maintenance efforts of the department, Bard says.

"We have to do everything we've done before, but with fewer people," Bard says.

And the efforts by the

department to keep the same quality and amount of service in light of the financial cuts have not gone unnoticed by the local community.

Bard reports a significant increase in the amount of everyday citizens coming to the department to volunteer for everything from removing graffiti to pulling weeds.

"They're doing those tedious tasks that take time," Bard says, adding that the performance of the volunteers frees up time for the maintenance staff to work on larger projects. "There

is no task too small at this point."

The Huntington Parks Board, the governing body of the department, is completing its Master Plan study, which will allow the department to see where money is better spent and how to improve public awareness of the park system.

"We need parks for a good quality of life," Bard says. "Life isn't all about going to work and taking care of bills."

Upcoming events for the department include the Summer Parks and Recre-

ation for Kids (SPARK) program from June 7 through July 16. Dates for the Summer Concert Series, Ladies' SNAG golf lessons and swimming lessons will be announced later.

For the latest information on park events and registration information, visit [huntington.in.us/city/departments/HDD=110](http://huntington.in.us/city/departments/HDD=110).

## Parks staff wants input from Hgtn. residents

The staff of the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department wants to know what Huntington residents want in their parks.

The comments will be reviewed by the Park Board, which next meets on Tuesday, June 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the Neighborhood Recreation Center.

The survey was distributed through the Parks Department's website and to members of several local service organizations. It was also available at the Park Department office and other sites in Huntington.

Survey results, Bard says, indicate that residents are pleased with the quality and number of activities provided throughout the year. However, she adds,

**Cont. on Pg. 2**

"We need to know what the public wants for Huntington parks in order to ensure our master plan properly addresses their wants and needs," Bard says.

They have some idea, gathered from a survey of a smattering of city residents, but they want to open it up for comments during a public meeting on Monday, June 14, at 6 p.m. at the Neighborhood Recreation Center, 745 Condit St. in Huntington.

The comments at this meeting, and at future meetings, will help guide the development of a master plan for the next five to 20 years, explains Denise Bard, superintendent of the Parks and Recreation Department.

"We need to know what the public wants for Hunt-

**FREE**

Page 2 The TAB Monday, June 7, 2010



Earl Guingrich (left) and Stan Hippensteel enjoy a game of tennis on the courts at Memorial Park on Thursday, June 3. The Huntington Parks and Recreation Department is seeking citizen input as it generates a new master plan for the city's parks. Photo by Cindy Klepper.

## Parks Cont. from Pg. 1

the respondents see room for improvement in the park facilities, in the promotion of the facilities and activities and in the funding and development of parks. They want to see the parks maintained without increasing taxes, she says.

Grants and donations are available, Bard says, and the Parks Department is more likely to receive that funding if more citizens are involved in the plan-

ning process.

Highlights of the survey include:

- Many respondents want to see a trail connecting Memorial Park and the Forks of the Wabash Historic Park.
- Respondents were generally satisfied with the amount of park land, the variety of park facilities, access to parks and park maintenance.
- Most respondents

agreed that parks and recreation facilities are worthy of increased taxpayer support, with 30 percent saying that no new taxes should be implemented.

• By a wide margin, most respondents say Huntington should expand its trails and greenways system.

• The main reason residents don't use city parks and recreation facilities

more often is lack of time, with that reason cited by 59 percent of the respondents.

"For those of you who missed the survey or would still like an opportunity to voice your opinion, please be advised that the Parks Board is not yet finished," Bard says. "There will be opportunities to review the draft plan and make comments before the plan is adopted."

## Public input sought for parks master plan

The Huntington Park and Recreation Board seeks input at a public meeting to be held at 6 p.m. on Monday at the Neighborhood Recreation Center located at 745 Condit St. in Huntington.

The Huntington Park and Recreation Board is updating its Master Plan to guide decisions about park development for the next 5 to 20 years. The levels of growth, changing demographics and financial challenges in Huntington make the Master Plan's development more important than ever. This public meeting creates an exciting opportunity for residents to have a say in the future of parks in their neighborhood, park land, trails and greenways, facilities and programs.

The regularly-scheduled monthly Park Board meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Neighborhood Recreation Center.

6/14/10



### **PRESS RELEASE**

Huntington Parks & Recreation Department • 1205 West Park Drive • Huntington, IN 46750  
(260) 358-2323 • Fax: (260) 358-2324  
[www.Huntington.IN.US](http://www.Huntington.IN.US)

**For Immediate Release: July 12, 2010**

## **PARK BOARD TO LOOK AT TRAILS AND BIKE PATHS**

Are there more trails and bike paths in Huntington's future? Conversion of railroad and river corridors to an urban trail and greenway opens a remarkable opportunity for community revitalization. Trails and greenways have the potential to significantly improve the quality of life in City of Huntington. Imagine the Huntington community where residents can live or work and enjoy daily breaks, taking a walk or bike ride to local restaurants, shops, entertainment and recreation areas through a trail and greenway network. Soon, recreation and relaxation will become part of everyday life in Huntington.

The trails and greenway system has the potential to become Huntington's largest non-motorized corridor connecting residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, downtown areas, civic and cultural buildings and other common destinations. Trails have several specific goals & objectives.

Connectivity - To develop, implement and maintain a safe trail and greenway system that links residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, cultural sites/facilities, work places and other common destinations to each other.

Transportation - Provide corridors and routes that pedestrians, bicyclists and others can use as an alternative to vehicular use.

Recreation, Health & Fitness - Design a trail and greenway system that offers an opportunity for residents to utilize their leisure time to maintain a fit and healthy lifestyle.

Historical / Cultural / Education - To develop a greenways system that protects, enhances and promotes the significant historical and cultural resources, places and people of the local community; and promotes opportunities for learning about them.

Environment / Natural Resources - To develop, implement and maintain a greenways system whose function is to protect, preserve and restore the natural resources and open spaces of the community.

Economics - Encourage the trail and greenway edges as setting for investments that has multi-objective benefits resulting in a positive economic impact on the community.

The Huntington Park and Recreation Board is seeking resident input for trail and bike path development at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20th at their monthly Park Board meeting held at the Neighborhood Recreation Center, 745 Condit Street in Huntington. The Park Board is updating their Master Plan to guide decisions about park development for the next 5-20 years. Trails, greenways and bike paths are an important part of the master plan.

A trails and greenways system will enhance and preserve quality of life that makes the Huntington community a healthier, more prosperous and more enjoyable place to live, work and visit. Residents are encouraged to attend the Park Board meeting to help improve our community.

For additional information on the Master Plan, questions, or to provide additional ideas about the future of the Huntington park system, contact the Park Office at 260-358-2323.

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**Contact:** Huntington Parks & Recreation Department  
**Phone:** 260/358-2323  
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By  
**DY KLEPPER**

The crowd was small, but the ideas were big.

A call for input in updating the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department's master plan drew suggestions from the public for more activities for Senior Citizens and better opportunities for river access from city parks.

The park board also had a few suggestions of its own — a new tennis complex and a softball complex, and the development of a "winter destination" park complete with sledding, ice skating and cross country skiing.

Given the city's current financial situation, consultant Pat Brown says, the more costly of the ideas won't become reality anytime soon.

"They're not going to happen tomorrow," Brown says. "The parks department can't afford it."

But, he says, the department needs to have a direction for the next five years.

Brown is president of SiteScapes, a landscape architectural and planning firm based in Mishawaka. During the public comment session on Monday, June 14, Brown used charts and graphs to show results from a community survey on the future of the parks.

Those at the meeting had some ideas of their own — including a request that the parks' tennis courts be utilized for a game known as pickleball.

The game, say Huntington County residents Max and Clara Beck, is similar to tennis but is played on a

could be added to the area.

• The tank and plane at Memorial Park could then be moved to the current location of the tennis courts as the centerpiece of a new veterans' memorial that would be easily visible from West Park Drive.

• All the city's softball fields could be consolidated in one location to serve the adult and co-ed

softball programs.

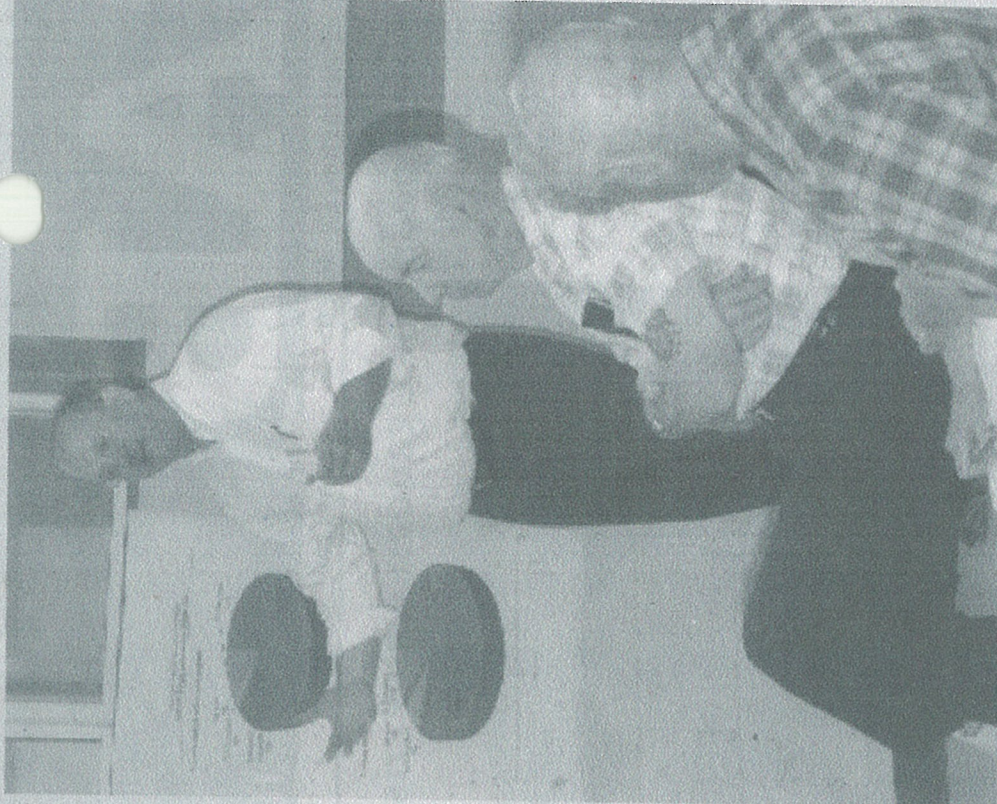
• An unused ball diamond at Evergreen Park could be developed as a sledding hill which could also be used as an amphitheater in the summer. The park could become a winter destination, complete with cross country skiing and ice skating.

• Trails and paths will continue to be developed,

dealing with the top response received on the recent survey.

• Playgrounds and equipment will continue to be upgraded to make them accessible to handicapped children.

The parks department hopes to complete a draft of its five-year master plan this fall, with a final plan in place next spring.



**Consultant Pat Brown (standing) explains a chart detailing responses to a community survey about the future of the Huntington parks during a session on Monday, June 14, seeking additional comment. Looking on are park board member Bob Allen (center) and Huntington county resident Max Beck. Photo by Cindy Klepper.**

sometime in the next month and the new lines for pickleball could be added then. She told the Becks she'd be calling them to help get the activity started, and they agreed to help.

Another suggestion was to increase river access from the city parks so that residents would have a place to fish and to eat.

Other ideas the park board is considering:

• Consolidating all tennis courts in one location, possibly at an unused ball diamond on the north end of Memorial Park. The nearby horseshoe courts could be upgraded and restrooms and a pavilion

# Parks Dept. looks five years ahead

## Future includes extended paths, maintained parks

BY DREW STONE  
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The parks department has set its sights to five years and beyond.

Monday evening, the Huntington Parks and Recreation Department held its first in a series of meetings for the master planning process. There, guests were invited to share what they would like to see changed in the city parks over the next five years that would improve its quality and attractiveness.

Leading the meeting was Pat Brown of SiteScan Inc., a landscape architectural and planning firm. From surveys previously taken, Brown said by far what people in Huntington want to see more of is an expansion of the trails and greenways.

"Number one was (to) get the trails continued from the (Historic) Forks (of the Wabash) to the park," Brown said. "...They love walking the trails; they like the paths."

Other significant data collected showed that the vast majority of those surveyed said they think the parks should give priority to children between 6 and 15. Also, around 74 percent responded it was "very important" that the parks department maintains and operates its facilities and around 66 percent responded it was "very important" that the parks provide outdoor sports.

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## Looks: Plans formed for park river access

Continued from Page A1

Other suggestions to add or improve upon in the parks system included:

- Consolidating the tennis courts to create a single tennis complex.

- Consolidating the horseshoe courts.

- Moving the jet and tank to a single location and create a veterans memorial center.

- Creating greater handicap access to the parks.

- Consolidating the softball fields into a single softball complex.

- Developing river access for activities like fishing, canoeing and kayaking at Riverside and Elmwood parks.

Meeting attendee John Newsome said he was especially fond of the idea

to create greater river access.

"That's going to be very popular," Newsome said. "I see a lot of people donating money to that cause."

One of the suggestions that will see a more immediate result is a repainting of some of the tennis courts, adding in extra lines for a new game called "pickleball." Huntington Parks and Recreation Superintendent Denise Bard said she expects the courts to be finished by early July.

Pickleball is typically played on tennis courts with slightly raised nets and paddles instead of rackets. The game is often played by seniors and resembles closely to playing on a giant ping pong table.

Meeting attendees Max and Clara Beck said they were quite pleased to hear the news as they have fallen in love with the game but have to go to the Fort Wayne parks to play it.

"We're quite interested in active sports for seniors," Max Beck said.

And while some of the other ideas may not be feasible to accomplish within the next five years, Brown said it certainly doesn't hurt to have long-term goals in mind.

"This is not just a five-year plan," Brown said. "We're looking long-term as well."

Those wanting to offer their suggestions to improve the parks and recreation department are encouraged to call its office at 358-2323.