



# 2022-2026 MASTER PLAN

*Submitted by Superintendent Ed Shinn  
and Assistant Superintendent Shannon Eason  
on 12/01/21*

100 E. Michigan Boulevard  
Suite 2  
Michigan City, Indiana 46360  
219.873.1506  
[www.michigancityparks.com](http://www.michigancityparks.com)

---

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	Page 3
Definition of Planning Area .....	Page 4
Goals and Objectives.....	Page 8
City Officials, The Park Board and Park Department .....	Page 9
Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs .....	Page 17
Natural Features and Landscape .....	Page 87
Man-made, Historical and Cultural .....	Page 94
Social and Economic Factors (2020 US Census).....	Page 113
Accessibility and Universal Design .....	Page 120
Assurance of Accessibility Compliance .....	Page 124
Public Participation .....	Page 125
Needs Analysis .....	Page 285
Priorities and Action Schedule .....	Page 299
Final Presentation of Plan .....	Page 314
Resolution No. 951 Adopting the 2022-2026 Master Plan.....	Page 323

# INTRODUCTION

The Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department's 2022-2026 Master Plan will serve as a blueprint for our city as we move forward through the next five years.

The planning process included a thorough inventory of existing programs and facilities, the condition of our existing facilities and public and stakeholder input.

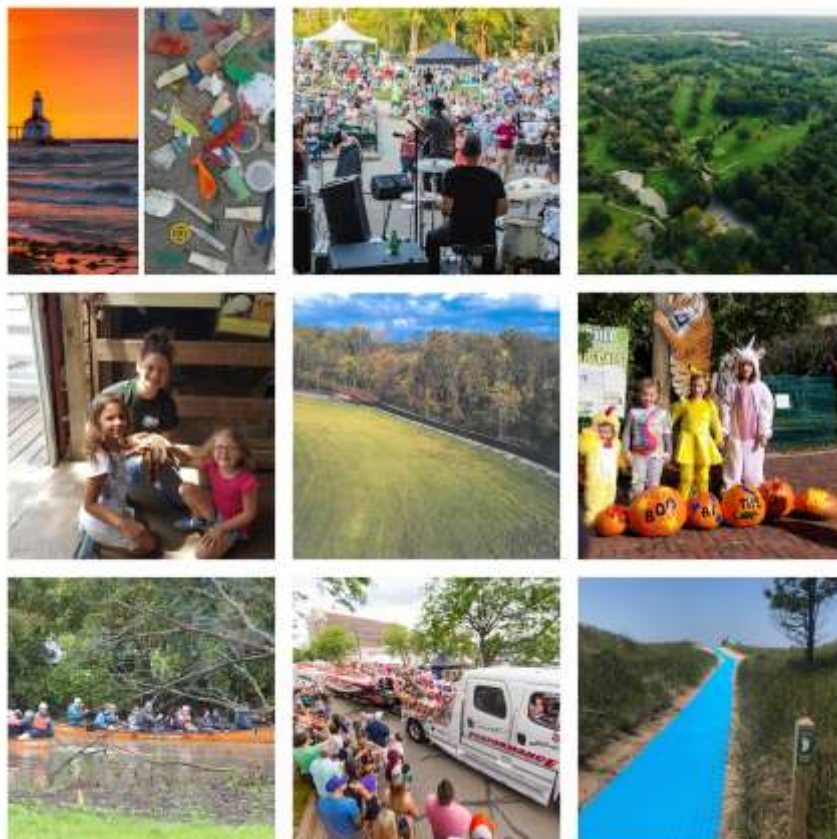
Inventory and input was analyzed, prioritized and incorporated into our 2022-2026 Action Plan.

Implementation of all recommendations will require a significant investment by the City of Michigan City. We realize not all recommendations can, or will, be implemented during this five year period, but this document will serve as a guideline to aid decision makers in the task of evaluating projects and purchases that will affect our department's future.

This plan is dynamic and can change based on emerging social,

economic, environmental, demographic, and technological trends. This report is reviewed and updated annually and is a tool that helps us create our annual budgets and seek funding sources outside of the city's budget. The plan will be reviewed and updated at least annually to evaluate our progress.

Due to the pandemic, we are not using any 2020 numbers for comparison purposes.



# DEFINITION OF PLANNING AREA

The planning area is the same as our service area. The local 46360 zip code is composed of the City of Michigan City and the additional towns of Long Beach, Michiana Shores, Pottawatomie Park, The Pines, and Trail Creek. Coolspring, Michigan, Pine, and Springfield Townships are also included in our service area. We serve an extensive area outside of our municipal boundary which is unsupported by the local tax base. The Michigan City Park Department serves it's residents with 17 neighborhood parks ranging in size from one to thirty acres.

Michigan City Park Department serves the regional community of Chicago, Illinois, LaPorte, Lake, Porter and St. Joseph Counties in Indiana as well as southwest Michigan with Washington Park, a 99 acre lakefront community park on the shores of Lake Michigan, Patriot Park sports complex, The Washington Park Zoo, The Michigan City Municipal Golf Courses, The Michigan City Skate Park, and the Michigan City Senior Center. In total, the Michigan City Park Department maintains over 700 acres of park land.

The planning area also includes over 162 acres of undeveloped natural areas including Bismarck Hill, Karwick Nature Park (owned by City but maintained by Park Department), Krueger Memorial Park (forest preserve), Motts Woods (forest preserve), Ruby Woods (forest preserve), Sheridan Beach Esplanade (natural dune), and Winding Creek Cove Park, and portions of Trail Creek which offer hiking, paddling, fishing, and wildlife observation opportunities. A complete description of these properties is included in Section 5 of this report.

## **Physical Location**

Michigan City, Indiana is located on the southern shore of Lake Michigan adjacent to the Indiana Dunes State Park. The city, which is located in the northern most part of LaPorte County, is 55 miles east of Chicago and 10 miles southwest of the Michigan state line.

Location: Northwest Indiana

County: LaPorte County, 656 square miles

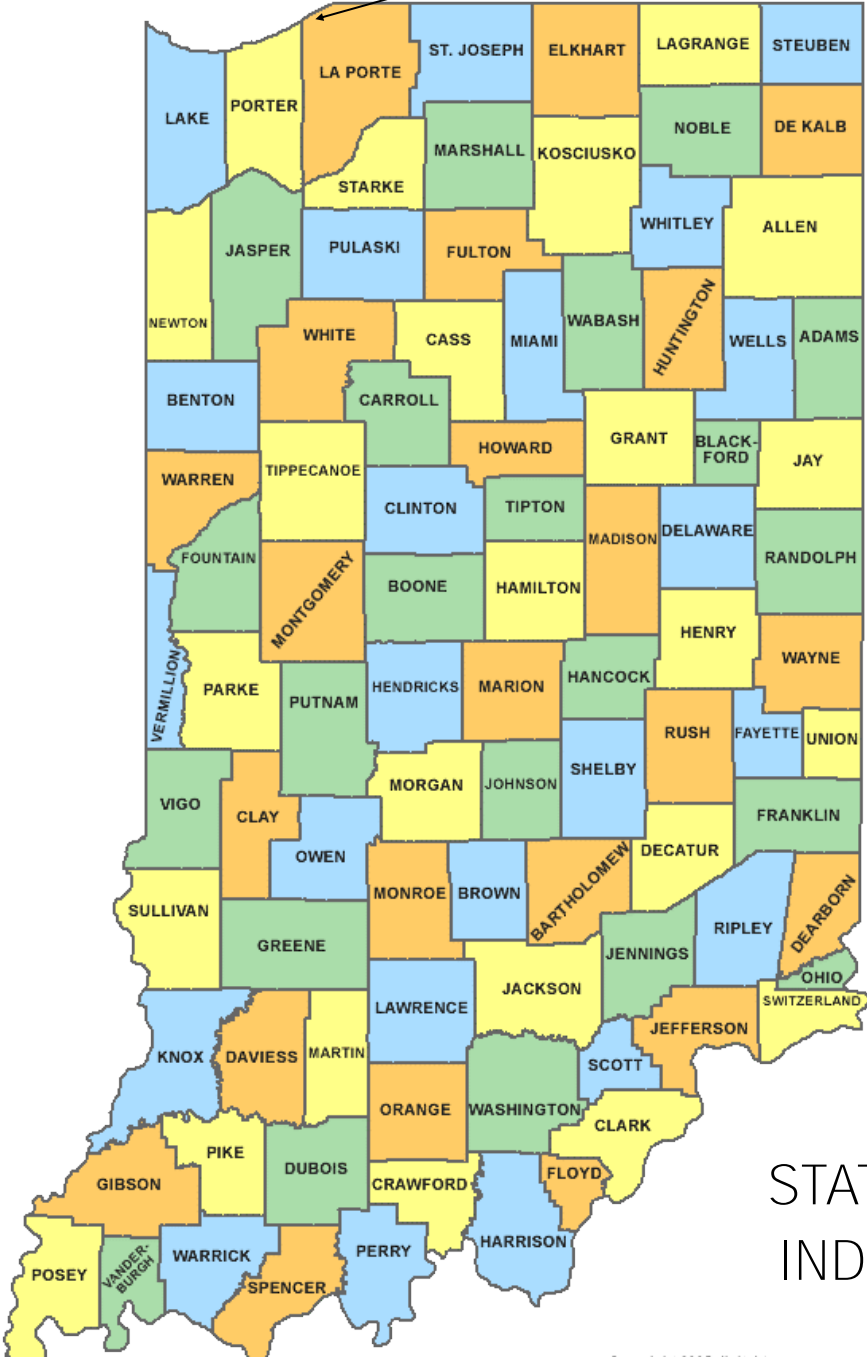
Michigan City: 19.6 square miles

Elevation: 625 feet, Lake Michigan 580 feet



MICHIGAN CITY

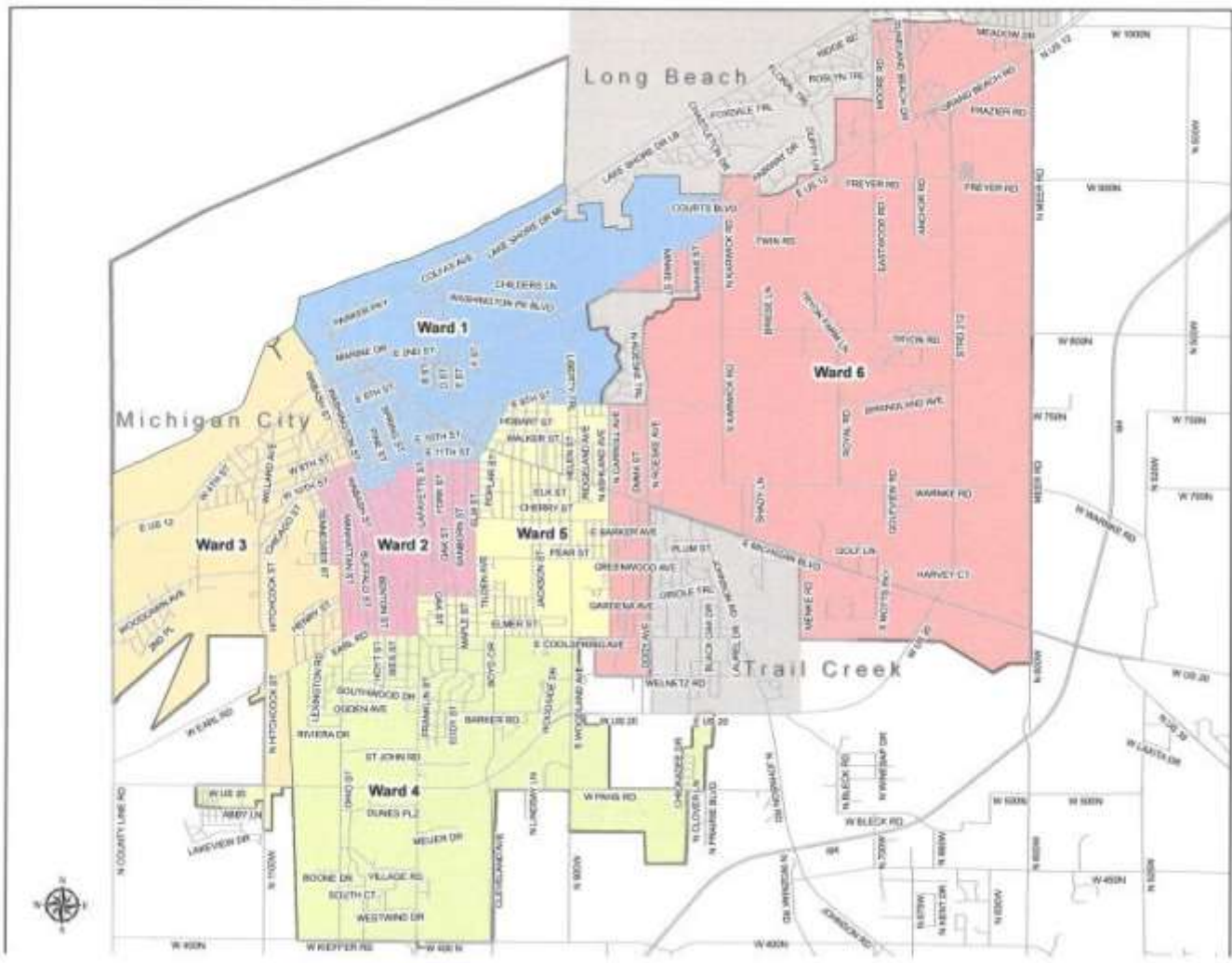
LAKE MICHIGAN



LAPORTE  
COUNTY

STATE OF  
INDIANA

# Civil City Boundaries



The civil city (tax district) of Michigan City is divided into 6 political districts, or wards. Each district is represented by one City Council member. In addition there are 3 at large council members making up the 9 member council. All properties under the Park Department's jurisdiction are within the civil city boundaries of Michigan City with the exception of Patriot Park, which is located in Coolspring Township, LaPorte County, Indiana.

# Park Facilities

ID	Facility	Address	Category	Accessibility	Acres	Sq Ft
1	Adams Park	307 Village Road	Neighborhood	Accessible	12.0	
2	Beachwalk	Lake Shore Drive Stop #7	Beach Access Boardwalk	Accessible	1.0	
3	Bismarck Hill	Lake Shore Drive	Community Park	Partially	31.2	
4	California Avenue Parking Lot	California Avenue	Parking Lot	Accessible	1.0	
5	Canada Park	300 Center Street	Neighborhood	Accessible	1.0	
6	Charles R. Westcott Park	Hwy 12 & Michigan Blvd	Community Park	Accessible	4.0	
7	Gardena Park	900 Gardena Street	Neighborhood	Accessible	12.0	
8	Hansen Park	100 E. Street	Neighborhood	Accessible	17.5	
9	Jernegan's Hill Park	801 E. 8th Street	Undeveloped Parcel	Partially	1.0	
10	Joe Hawkins Memorial Park	1501 W. 8th Street	Neighborhood	Accessible	1.0	
11	Krueger Memorial Hall	801 Liberty Trail	Rental Hall	Partially		12,300
12	Krueger Memorial Park	801 Liberty Trail	Nature Park	Partially	37.0	
13	Maintenance Facility	2011 E. Highway 12	Maintenance Facility	Partially	3.3	
14	Michigan Blvd Parcel (Billboard)	Michigan Blvd	Parcel	Accessible	0.3	
15	Millennium Plaza	Heisman Harbor Road	Community Park	Accessible	0.5	
16	Mott's Woods	2000 Johnrue	Undeveloped Woods	Partially	35.0	
17	Municipal Golf Course - North	675 Warnke Road	Enterprise Facility	Partially	66.0	
18	Municipal Golf Course - South	4000 E. Michigan Blvd.	Enterprise Facility	Partially	90.0	
19	Oak Hills Park	716 Martin Luther King Dr	Neighborhood	Accessible	5.0	
20	Oasis Splash Park	8 on the Lake	Splash Park	Accessible		10,500
21	Patriot Park	2224 N. 950 W	Sports Complex	Accessible	120.0	
22	Pullman Park	550 W. 4th Street	Community Park	Accessible	10.0	
23	Ridgeland Park	620 Ridgeland Avenue	Neighborhood	Accessible	1.0	
24	Ruby Woods	3535 Franklin Street	Nature Park	Partially	35.0	
25	Senior Center	2 On The Lake	Community Use	Accessible		14,000
26	Sheridan Beach & Esplanade	N/A	Nature Park	Partially	66.0	
27	Singing Sands Trail ph I & II	Calumet Trail to Liberty Tr	Trail	Accessible	6.1	
28	Tall Timbers Park	3100 Springland Avenue	Community Park	Accessible	30.0	
29	Walker Street Park	900 Walker Street	Neighborhood	Accessible	1.0	
30	Washington Park	6 on the Lake	Community Park	Accessible	99.0	
31	Washington Park Zoo	115 Lake Shore Drive	Enterprise Facility	Partially	6.0	
32	Water Tower Park	301 Broadway	Neighborhood	Accessible	5.3	
33	Winding Creek Cove	8th & Dickson Streets	Neighborhood	Partially	6.7	
<b>Totals</b>					<b>704.8</b>	<b>36,800</b>

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals included in this Master Plan are a tool to guide parks and recreation planning in Michigan City, even as Board members and staff change. The goals will serve as a guiding force for the continued improvement of the parks and recreation system during the next 5 years.

In addition to being eligible to apply for grants, which we plan to do, the Master Plan will provide the Park Department with a common sense approach to decision making and will help us evaluate available alternatives, set priorities and implement courses of action to meet identified needs. We will continue to incorporate and analyze new information so that our plan will always remain current.

1. Gather information from as many residents, user groups, civic organizations, businesses, service leagues, government officials, etc. Assemble and analyze the data received
2. Adhere to national recreation benchmarks while conducting a thorough needs analysis of our properties and programs
3. Identify priorities for park properties and programming using the following elements:
  - A. An understanding of the demographics we serve
  - B. Awareness and appreciation of our natural resources and the knowledge to preserve and conserve them
  - C. Promote fitness of the mind and body
  - D. Incorporate vision, imagination, creativity, integrity, sensitivity, and common sense
  - F. Community involvement
4. Explore ways to increase revenue streams, especially through tourism related amenities and events
5. Explore ways to decrease expenses while maintaining operating standards
6. Create programming without duplicating existing programs and services of other area agencies
7. Present the plan to local government and citizens and gain acceptance of the plan
8. Submit the 5-year Master Plan to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Outdoor Recreation by January 15, 2022 for initial review, and by April 15, 2022 for final approval
9. Receive approval from IDNR for eligibility to submit grant applications
10. Create a plan which is flexible and dynamic for unknown and unanticipated issues that may be encountered in the future

# CITY OFFICIALS, THE PARK BOARD AND PARK DEPARTMENT



## **City of Michigan City, Indiana**

Mayor Duane Parry—[mayorparry@emichigancity.com](mailto:mayorparry@emichigancity.com)

City Controller Yvonne Hoffmaster—[yavonneh@emichigancity.com](mailto:yavonneh@emichigancity.com)

City Clerk Gale Neulieb—[galen@emichigancity.com](mailto:galen@emichigancity.com)

## **Michigan City Common Council**

1st Ward ..... Bryant Dabney—[bdabney@emichigancity.com](mailto:bdabney@emichigancity.com)

2nd Ward ..... Paul Przybylinski—[pprzybylinski@emichigancity.com](mailto:pprzybylinski@emichigancity.com)

3rd Ward ..... Michael Mack—[mmack@emichigancity.com](mailto:mmack@emichigancity.com)

4th Ward ..... Sean Fitzpatrick—[sfitzpatrick@emichigancity.com](mailto:sfitzpatrick@emichigancity.com)

5th Ward ..... Tracie Tillman—[ttillman@emichigancity.com](mailto:ttillman@emichigancity.com)

6th Ward ..... Gene Simmons—[gsimmons@emichigancity.com](mailto:gsimmons@emichigancity.com)

At Large ..... Dalia Zygas—[dzygas@emichigancity.com](mailto:dzygas@emichigancity.com)

At Large ..... Angie Nelson Deutch—[anelson@emichigancity.com](mailto:anelson@emichigancity.com)

At Large ..... Donald Przybylinski—[dprzybylinski@emichigancity.com](mailto:dprzybylinski@emichigancity.com)

## The Michigan City Park Board

### President

Phil Latchford  
439 Boyd Circle  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
Email: latchfordp@s-vt.com  
Term expires 01/01/24

### Vice President

Phil Freese  
1012 Georgetown Road  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
Email: philip1012@comcast.net  
Term expires 01/06/25

### Secretary

Kent Lange  
404 S. Porter Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
Email: knjlange@sbcglobal.net  
Term expires 01/02/23

### Member

Christine Espar  
302 Elmwood Drive  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
Email: cnespar@gmail.com  
Term expires 01/03/22

### SUMMARY:

The Michigan City Park Board was created and established on July 9, 1956 by City of Michigan City, Indiana, Common Council Ordinance No. 1727, pursuant to authority granted by the Indiana Legislature in the 1955 Park and Recreation Law (now known as the 1965 Park and Recreation Law). Under the "Home Rule Law", Indiana Code 36-10-3-3, the Michigan City Common Council ordained on August 30, 1983, that said Board and Department be re-established.

### MEMBERS:

The Park Board consists of four (4) members appointed by the Mayor of Michigan City, Indiana. Not more than two members of the Park Board shall be of the same political party. In the event of a vacancy on the Board, the Mayor shall appoint a member to fill the unexpired term caused by such vacancy.

### TERM OF SERVICE:

Park Board members are appointed by the Mayor to serve a four-year term, which expires on the first Monday in January of the year following the respective term, except that a member whose successor has not been appointed shall continue in office until such successor is appointed and qualified.

### MEETINGS:

Park Board meetings are open to the public and are typically held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall. The Park Board must meet, by Statute, at least quarterly.



# The Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department

## Park Office

100 E. Michigan Blvd., Suite 2 (located on the lower level of City Hall)  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
Park Office 219-873-1506  
[www.emichigancity.com](http://www.emichigancity.com)

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department strives to preserve, protect and manage natural, historical and recreational resources and facilities in order to offer professionally managed leisure activities and programming in which ALL citizens can participate.*

*Our Park Board and Staff are dedicated to fiscal responsibility and efficiency thru proper planning. We will pursue cooperation and partnerships with fellow City Departments, groups and agencies in our community to achieve these philosophies.*

*Our combined efforts will enhance and ENRICH the quality of life of our citizens, visitors and future generations to come.*

## ENRICH

Enjoyment of Natural Resources Integrating our City's History

## Full Time Staff Members

Superintendent Ed Shinn—[eshinn@emichigancity.com](mailto:eshinn@emichigancity.com)  
Assistant Superintendent Shannon Eason—[season@emichigancity.com](mailto:season@emichigancity.com)  
Budget Clerk Melissa Moore—[mmoore@emichigancity.com](mailto:mmoore@emichigancity.com)  
Payroll Clerk Sally Williams—[swilliams@emichigancity.com](mailto:swilliams@emichigancity.com)  
Office Assistant Eric Williams—[ewilliams@emichigancity.com](mailto:ewilliams@emichigancity.com)  
Maintenance Director Pat Voltz—[pvoltz@emichigancity.com](mailto:pvoltz@emichigancity.com)  
Zoo Director Jamie Huss—[jhuss@emichigancity.com](mailto:jhuss@emichigancity.com)  
Greens Superintendent John Marshal—[jmarshall@emichigancity.com](mailto:jmarshall@emichigancity.com)  
Senior Center Director Tara Miller—[tmiller@emichigancity.com](mailto:tmiller@emichigancity.com)

## Michigan City Parks and Recreation Staff Structure

The Superintendent and Park Department are governed by a four-member, Mayor appointed Park Board. The Park Board is responsible for setting policy direction, while the Superintendent is charged with carrying out policy and overseeing operations of the department.

The Superintendent is supported by four administrative staff members including an Assistant Superintendent, a Budget Clerk, a Payroll Clerk, and an Office Assistant who are responsible for all administrative duties related to operating the department. There are Directors assigned to each department below and the full time, part time and seasonal staff in each department report directly to the Director. The Directors report to the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. Approximately 110 various seasonal positions are hired each year to supplement the full time staff during our busy spring, summer and fall seasons.

### Full Time Staff Members

5	Administration
9	Maintenance
7	Zoo
3	Golf
<u>1</u>	Senior Center
25	Total

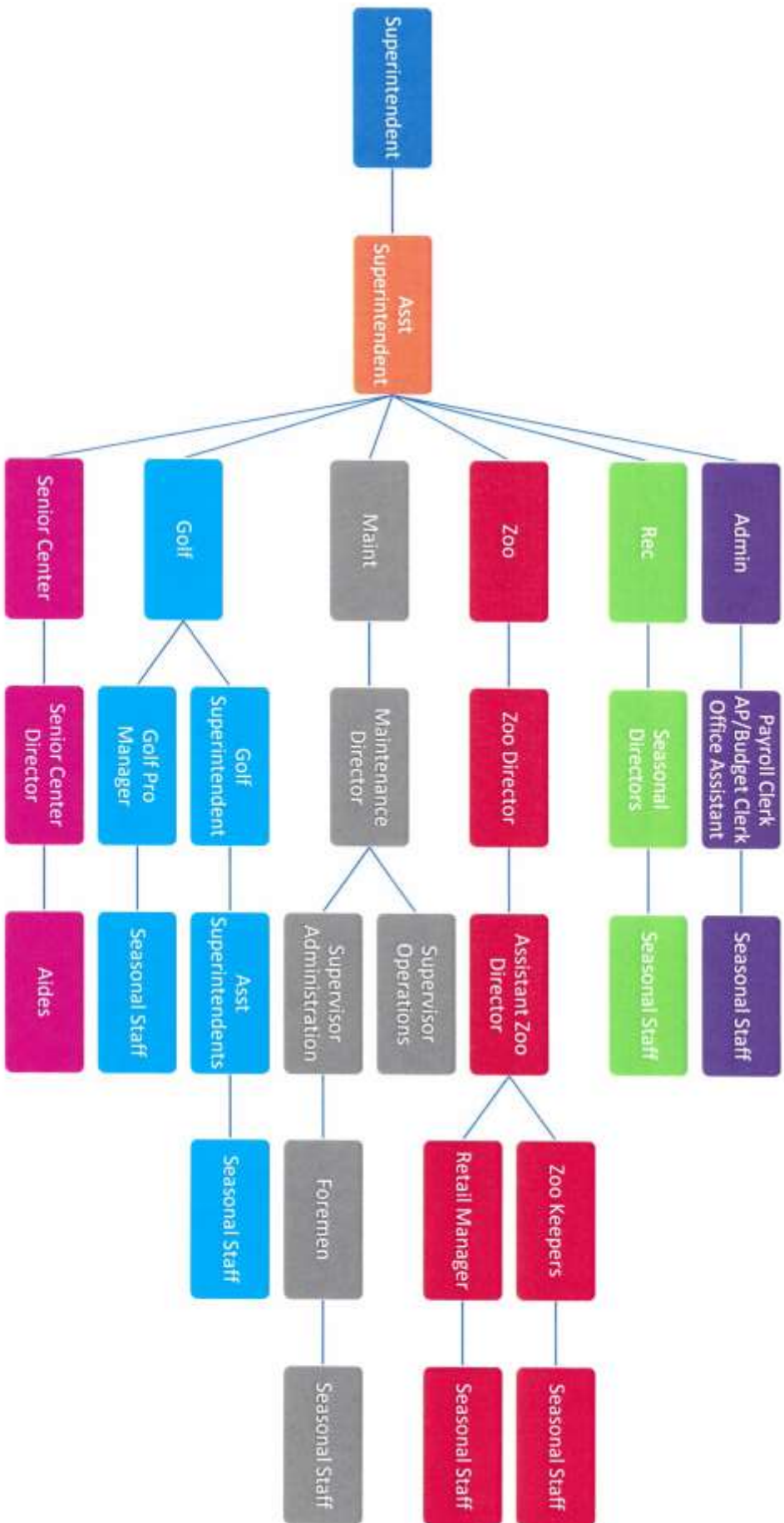
### Part Time, Non-Seasonal Staff Members

2	Senior Center Aids
---	--------------------

### Seasonal Staff Positions

10	Concession Attendants
12	Day Camp Staff
7	Golf Maintenance Laborers
15	Golf Pro Laborers
15	Lifeguard Team
15	Maintenance Laborers
4	Parking Sticker Clerks
19	Parking Operation Supervisors and Attendants
3	Splash Park Operators
<u>10</u>	Zoo Staff
110	Total

It is important to note, due to tax shortfalls in LaPorte County in 2007 through 2015, 25% of our full time staff, or 9 positions, were eliminated between 2007 and 2016. One full time maintenance position was reinstated in 2021. In an effort to maintain acceptable levels of services and programming, while bringing on new amenities to draw tourists to Michigan City, we submitted a request for additional full time positions in the 2022 budget for the zoo, golf course and maintenance departments. It is important to note that approximately 60% of our seasonal positions were not filled due to the pandemic. In order to have a full Washington Park Lifeguard Team in 2021, we had to raise our lifeguard pay by 115% to attract employees.



## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Our operating budgets have remained stagnant while there has been a substantial rise in insurance, water, sanitation, and energy costs. Adding the loss of full time positions we realize the importance of our volunteers to help run programs, clean and maintain our parks and beach, assist at events, and coach and officiate our youth sports. With their dedication we are able to provide quality parks and programs for our residents.

Volunteer opportunities:

- Monday Mornings beach cleaning events (every Monday April through October)
- Comcast Cares Day
- Opportunity Enterprises (garden maintenance in Washington Park and Zoo)
- Festival of Holiday Lights event
- Lakeside Correctional Center (labor hours for park maintenance)
- LaPorte County Clean it Up Day event
- Michigan City Golf Course (free golf for hours worked)
- Michigan City Senior Center (reception, program instructors, Advisory Board members)
- Michigan City Youth Baseball League (coaches and officials)
- Washington Park Zoo (curators, animal care, event staff, internships)

## **Partnerships**

### **Barker Welfare Foundation**

### **Michigan City Area Schools (MCAS)**

The Michigan City Park Department has had a long standing Memorandum of Understanding with MCAS for the use of school gyms and the pool for park programs.

In 2016, we began a new program under an MOU with MCAS to begin an outdoor learning service program for approximately 100 college bound high school students in environmental science curriculum. The Michigan City Wolves Environmental Restoration Team students earn their Indiana Department of Natural Resources “Junior Indiana Master Naturalist” certificate while helping us restore and very importantly, maintain our natural resources. The program was suspended during the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 school years due to the pandemic. We hope to begin work again in the 2021/2022 school year.

We also have partnered with MCAS, since 2016, to provide free breakfast and lunch to all children 18 years old or younger during the summer months when school is out at various parks throughout the city.

### **Michigan City Historical Society (MCHS)**

Michigan City owns the historic 1958 Old Lighthouse. The city has leased the building to MCHS since 1965 to operate the Old Lighthouse Museum. The city invested \$250,000.00 in 2017 for exterior repairs to the building. In 2018 the Park Department received a grant from IDNR’s Lake Michigan Coastal Program to complete the exterior repairs. The MCHS donated \$10,000.00 toward the project. As a result of the partnership, MCHS donated \$5,000.00 in 2020 for the Park Department’s Old Bandstand Preservation Project in Washington Park.

### **Town of Trail Creek**

The Park Board entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Trail Creek to use four of their baseball diamonds since 2017 to expand our youth baseball and softball programs. This is another great example partnering with other agencies to expand programming with little or no cost to the taxpayers.

### **Save the Dunes**

The Department partners with Save the Dunes on many environmental restoration projects. The most recent was the “Stay on Designated Trails” campaign outlined in detail later in this report. The Park Department has waived the rental fees for the Guy Foreman Amphitheater in Washington Park for the Save the Dunes’ annual fundraising event “Jammin with Save the Dunes” in exchange for in-kind services including environmental assessments and public outreach campaigns.

### **Storm Water Advisory Group**

The Michigan City Park Department serves on the Michigan City Sanitary District's Storm Water Advisory Group. The group was formed to advise on storm water infrastructure, advancement of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) goals, public outreach programs, implementation of the Trail Creek Watershed Management Plan, monitoring of storm water quantity and quality, address public concerns, and to maintain good housekeeping at governmental facilities. Most recently, the group developed the Adams Park Storm Water Control and Wetland Restoration Project which is outlined in detail in the Adams Park section of this report.

### **Trail Creek Watershed Partnership**

The Park Department is a partner of this volunteer group who serves to assess water quality issues and development meaningful implementation strategies targeted to improve the quality of life within the Trail Creek watershed through water quality enhancement and realization of long-term goals with regard to the environmental and recreational uses of Lake Michigan and Trail Creek. We partner to provide Trail Creek Week, a place based, hands on environmental learning experience for local elementary school students, and the Creekness Stakes fundraising canoe race which supports the program, both of which are outlined in detail later in this report.

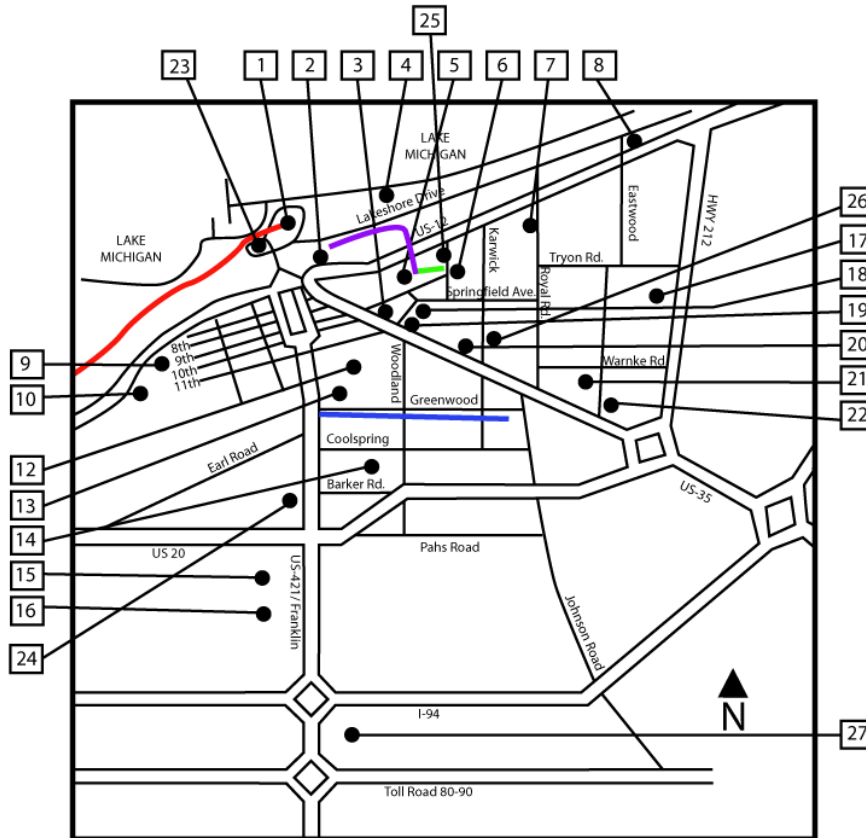
### **Walker Street Community Garden**

In 2018 we partnered with Purdue University's College of Agriculture and the Community Development Block Grant Program to start a community garden at Walker Street Park which is outlined in detail in the Walker Street Park section of this report.



## PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES & PROGRAMS

### FACILITIES



Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department	
1 Washington Park	17 Tall Timbers Playground
2 Canada Park	18 Ridgeland Park
3 Jerrigan's Hill Park	19 Walker Street Park
4 Beachwalk	20 Water Tower Park
5 Hansen Park	21 Municipal Golf Courses
6 Krueger Memorial Park	22 Mott's Woods
7 Oak Hills Park	23 Millenium Plaza
8 Pinewood Avenue Triangle	24 Ruby Woods
9 Pullman Field ( Skate Park)	25 Winding Creek Cove
10 West 8th Street Tot Lot	26 Karwick Nature Park
	27 Patriot Park
12 Cleveland Avenue Park (Eastport)	Trail Creek Greenways Phase 1
13 Zilla Square Park	Singing Sands/Lighthouse Trail, Phase 1
14 Gardena Park	NIPSCO Greenways Phase 1
15 Adams Park	Peanut Trail
16 Henry Lake Area	

# ADAMS PARK

## 307 Village Road

Adams Park is a 12 acre neighborhood park that serves the southern most section of Michigan City in the Southgate neighborhood. The park features two ball diamonds, playground equipment, a picnic shelter, a drinking fountain, a full court basketball court and an 86 space asphalt parking lot.

This park has very poor soil and extensive drainage issues. In 2009 the Michigan City Common Council allocated \$75,000 for preliminary engineering and design work to create a Master Plan for the redevelopment of Adams Park. Input from area residents determined they no longer wanted the ball diamonds or organized play in their neighborhood park. The City Council was approached for funding to move the two existing ball diamonds. Ball diamonds are used 5 days per week for organized sports leagues, so the fields would have to be constructed at Patriot Park prior to commencing work on Adams Park so league play will not be affected. However, funding has not yet been allocated.

**ACTION ITEMS:** The west diamond fencing needs to be replaced. The north diamond backstop needs repairs where the concrete is exposed creating a trip hazard. Bleachers and player benches are in poor condition and need to be replaced. Wooden timbers south of the west diamond should be removed and backfilled. ADA and playground safety compliance needs to be addressed at this park and are scheduled for 2023. The large playset installed in 2000 can be modified to meet current standards. All other play equipment must be removed and/or replaced and ADA connections made to all amenities. The shelter should be replaced with a steel frame and roof structure. The drinking fountain should be replaced with an ADA, vandal proof fountain. ADA parking spaces need to be added to the parking lot. The park entry sign is missing and needs to be replaced. Rules need to be posted. The sports field lighting cannot be repaired and should be removed including poles, fixtures and wiring.



## ADAMS PARK (continued)



# ADAMS PARK (continued)

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	PURCHASED
LAND	307 VILLAGE ROAD - 12 ACRES	1969
PLAYGROUND	BENCH-GREEN METAL PLAYER BENCH #3	1978
PLAYGROUND	BENCH-GREEN METAL PLAYER BENCH #4	1978
PLAYGROUND	BENCH-GREEN METAL PLAYER BENCH #5	1978
PLAYGROUND	BENCH-GREEN METAL PLAYER BENCH #6	1978
BLDG	SHELTER - SHINGLED ROOF 24' X 16'	1979
LAND IMPRV	FENCE - 8' CHAIN LINK	1990
LAND IMPRV	FENCE - 8' CHAIN LINK	1990
LAND IMPRV	FENCE - 6' CHAIN LINK	1990
PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT-4 SEAT SWING SET ITEM 3B (4 SEATS - 2 SECTIONS)	1999
PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT-LARGE PLAY SYSTEM STRUCTURE ITEM 1D	1999
PLAYGROUND	BENCH-PARSONS CONTOUR CANTILEVER PARK BENCH 2X4X6' SECOND SITE	1999
PLAYGROUND	BENCH-PARSONS CONTOUR CANTILEVER PARK BENCH 2X4X6' SECOND SITE	1999
PLAYGROUND	BISON BASKETBALL SYSTEM - 1/2 COURT	1999
PLAYGROUND	BISON BASKETBALL SYSTEM - 1/2 COURT	1999
SIGN	SIGN WOODEN ENTRANCE	2001
LAND IMPRV	ASPHALT BASKETBALL COURT - RESURFACE/REMARK COURT	2003
LAND IMPRV	FENCE - 550' 5' HOME RUN FENCE	2005
BLDG	SHELTER	UNKNOWN
LAND IMPRV	ASPHALT PARKING LOT	UNKNOWN

# CANADA PARK

Canada Park is a 1 acre neighborhood park, nestled between two forested dunes, that serves the northern most section of Michigan City in the Canada and Sheridan Beach neighborhoods. The park features one multi-use play set and off street parking for five vehicles. Our last master plan called for the removal of the play equipment when the Washington Park destination playground is completed. However, the neighborhood is seeing an influx of younger families who are expressing an interest in new playground equipment. The upgrade is scheduled in 2023 in our three year capital list and will require city funding.

Canada Park is now the access point for the two new trails on Bismarck Hill constructed in 2017. The park and trails are dog friendly and two pet waste stations have been installed. Twenty additional off street parking spaces were added to the west side of Center Street in 2018 increasing access to the park and trails.

It was determined this area is not large enough for a fenced in, no leash dog park. The city is looking at another location outside of the Park Department's jurisdiction.

By City Ordinance, a member of the Michigan City Park Department serves on the Michigan City Public Art Committee (MAC). One of MAC's Master Plan goals is to bring public art into the neighborhoods. Canada Park has a concrete block wall, 130' long x 4' tall, on the east end of the park near the street. The Park Department is working in partnership with MAC to create a community mural project on the wall.

**ACTION ITEM:** ADA and safety upgrades to playground. Remove outdated play equipment. Add a new entrance sign. Complete a mural project.



CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	YEAR
LAND	CENTER ST. AT FOGARTY ROAD 1 ACRE	UNKNOWN
PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT -MEDIUM PLAY UNIT	1985
PLAYGROUND	DOG WASTE STATION	2020
PLAYGROUND	DOG WASTE STATION	2020



# GARDENA PARK

## 900 Gardena Street

Gardena Park is a 12 acre neighborhood park serving the Greenwood neighborhood. Because of it's central location in Michigan City and many amenities, it draws people from the entire community. This park features two ball diamonds, one full basketball court with adjustable hoops, four picnic shelters, a drinking fountain, a Vietnam war memorial, a half mile asphalt walking trail, indoor restrooms open seasonally and a playground. There are 25 parking spaces on Wrobel Avenue, 40 spaces in the northwest gravel lot, and 54 spaces in asphalt parking lot on north east side. The park has a Vietnam Memorial for Kenneth L. Scott, a Michigan City resident killed in action in the Vietnam conflict in 1966. The park was renovated in 2016. ADA routes were added to the shelters, restrooms and playground equipment. New additions included a ship themed playground for 5-12 year old's, a toddler playground, a new swing set with an adaptive swing and parent-toddler double swing, a new drinking fountain, a new picnic shelter, 3 concrete ADA parking spaces on Wrobel Avenue, and a new flag pole.

**ACTION ITEMS:** ADA parking spaces need to be added to both parking lots on the north side of the park and ADA routes need to be constructed to each ball diamond. East diamond player benches and bleachers need to be replaced. West diamond player benches need to be replaced. ADA signs for the exterior of the men's and women's restrooms need to be added. Service gates on the north side need to be replaced. The drinking fountain at the west diamond needs to be replaced. Replace roof on north shelter with metal roof. Remove fence on north of northwest parking lot.





# GARDENA PARK (continued)

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	PUR- CHASED
BLDG	SHELTER #2 STEEL BEAM 20'X28' CEDAR SHINGLES	1978
PLAYGROUND	GREEN METAL PLAYER BENCH #10	1978
PLAYGROUND	GREEN METAL PLAYER BENCH #11	1978
PLAYGROUND	GREEN METAL PLAYER BENCH #12	1978
PLAYGROUND	GREEN METAL PLAYER BENCH #13	1978
PLAYGROUND	4' CHAIN-LINK FENCE	1990
PLAYGROUND	6' CHAIN-LINK FENCE	1990
PLAYGROUND	FIELD AG LIME INFIELD LARDE FIELD	1994
PLAYGROUND	PARKING LOT GRAVEL WROBEL & GARDENA ST	1999
PLAYGROUND	ASPHALT PARKING LOT	1999
PLAYGROUND	ASPHALT WALKING TRAIL 8' WIDE	1999
PLAYGROUND	WOODEN ENTRANCE SIGN	2001
BLDG	RESTROOM WITH SHELTER	2002
PLAYGROUND	SHIP THEMED PLAY SYSTEM	2016
PLAYGROUND	TODDLER PLAY SYSTEM	2016
PLAYGROUND	SWING SET WITH ADAPTIVE SWING, PARENT/ TODDLER SWING	2016
PLAYGROUND	RUBBERIZED SAFETY SURFACING	2016
PLAYGROUND	CONCRETE ADA ROUTES	2016
PLAYGROUND	PICNIC SHELTER 15'x20'	2016
PLAYGROUND	BASKET BALL COURT 40' X 70' CONCRETE	2016
PLAYGROUND	2 BASKETBALL GOALS	2016
PLAYGROUND	3 CONCRETE ADA PARKING SPACES 32'X24'	2016
PLAYGROUND	DRINKING FOUNTAIN	2016
PLAYGROUND	BRICK MONUMENT	2016
PLAYGROUND	FLAG POLE	2016
LAND	GARDENA PARK 900 GARDENA ST 12 ACRES	UNKNOWN
BLDG	SHELTER #1 WOOD FRAME 12 X 24	UNKNOWN

# HANSEN PARK

## 100 E. Street

Hansen Park is a 17.5 acre neighborhood park serving the extreme northeast section of Michigan City and the Canada neighborhood. The park features a 9 space asphalt parking lot, 1 1/2 acre, spring fed pond, observation deck, ADA playground equipment with safety tile surfacing, picnic shelter with stationary picnic tables and trash receptacles, 2 basketball 1/2 courts, information sign kiosk, walking trail, kayak launch, 2 space ADA launch parking lot, and a parking lot for a truck and kayak trailer.

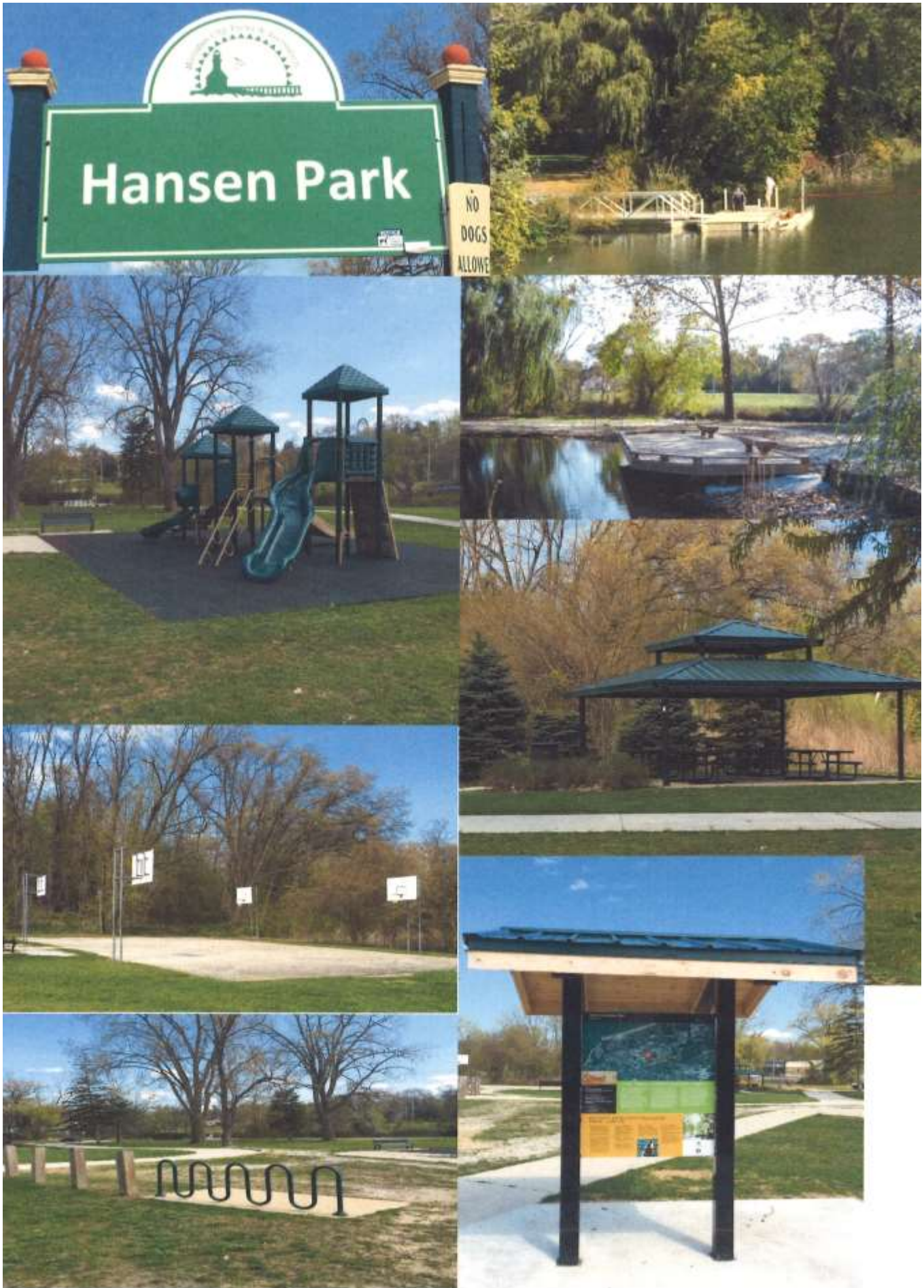
The pond is relatively clean and supports a variety of aquatic fauna and flora. The pond is not deep enough to prevent a total freeze which prevents any substantial fish population from developing. A 1 acre mow zone has been established around the pond to trap pollutants, filter storm water run off, stabilize the soil, prevent bank erosion, and control goose populations.

In 2014, the Michigan City Park Department was successful seeking funding from IDNR's Lake Michigan Coastal Program, the Michigan City Council, and the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission to install an ADA kayak launch system on Trail Creek in Hansen Park. A new ADA compliant route was constructed consisting of a 13' wide concrete route from the main parking lot to the launch system, both launch parking lots, one of which is ADA parking only, and back to the main parking lot. Concrete connector routes were added to the existing shelter, playground and observation deck. An informational kiosk was added displaying the history of Trail Creek, paddling safety guidelines and a Trail Creek water quality sign. This project received the Indiana Bicentennial Legacy Project Endorsement from the 2016 Indiana Bicentennial Commission.

Hansen Park meets all current ADA standards. The equipment and amenities are all in good shape.

**ACTION ITEM:** Add a rules sign, resurface and restripe basketball court, add kayak lockers, add cover to electric outlet, remove broken light poles at basketball court.







# HANSEN PARK (continued)

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	PUR- CHASED
LAND	HANSEN PARK - 100 E. STREET - 17.5 ACRES	1962
LAND	BARRIER POSTS - BOLLARDS AT HANSEN PARK	1990
LAND IMPR	NEW SIDEWALK, CURB/GUTTER AT HANSEN PARK	2001
PLAYGROUND	SIGN WOODEN ENTRANCE SIGN - HANSEN PLAYGROUND	2001
LAND IMPR	ASPHALT PARKING LOT & TURN AROUND (12) REGULAR PARKING SPACES (1) ADA SPACE	2006
PLAYGROUND	BENCH - METAL, MOUNTED IN CONCRETE #1	2006
PLAYGROUND	BENCH - METAL, MOUNTED IN CONCRETE #2	2006
PLAYGROUND	BENCH - METAL, MOUNTED IN CONCRETE #3	2006
PLAYGROUND	BENCH - METAL, MOUNTED IN CONCRETE #4	2006
PLAYGROUND	BENCH - METAL, MOUNTED IN CONCRETE #5	2006
PLAYGROUND	BENCH - METAL, MOUNTED IN CONCRETE #6	2006
PLAYGROUND	BENCH - WOOD, MOUNTED ON OBSERVATION DECK #1	2006
PLAYGROUND	BENCH - WOOD, MOUNTED ON OBSERVATION DECK #2	2006
PLAYGROUND	BIKE RACK MOUNTED IN CONCRETE	2006
PLAYGROUND	DECK - OBSERVATION DECK OVER HANSEN PARK POND	2006
PLAYGROUND	FISHING PAD - EAST HANSEN PARK	2006
PLAYGROUND	FISHING PAD - WEST HANSEN PARK	2006
PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT 5-12 AGE GROUP	2006
PLAYGROUND	SHELTER - PICNIC - OCTAGON - STEEL FRAME	2006
PLAYGROUND	TABLE - PICNIC #1, MOUNTED IN CONCRETE IN SHELTER	2006
PLAYGROUND	TABLE - PICNIC #2, MOUNTED IN CONCRETE IN SHELTER	2006
PLAYGROUND	TABLE - PICNIC #3, MOUNTED IN CONCRETE IN SHELTER	2006
PLAYGROUND	TABLE - PICNIC #4, MOUNTED IN CONCRETE IN SHELTER	2006
LAND IMPR	TRAIL - WALKING TRAIL, CRUSHED LIMESTONE, 850' X 6'	2006
PLAYGROUND	TRASH RECEPTACLE MOUNTED IN CONCRETE #1	2006
PLAYGROUND	TRASH RECEPTACLE MOUNTED IN CONCRETE #2	2006
PLAYGROUND	TRASH RECEPTACLE MOUNTED IN CONCRETE #3	2006
PLAYGROUND	TRASH RECEPTACLE MOUNTED IN CONCRETE #4	2006
PLAYGROUND	TRASH RECEPTACLE MOUNTED IN CONCRETE #5	2006
PLAYGROUND	TRASH RECEPTACLE MOUNTED IN CONCRETE #6	2006
LAND IMPR	ADA ROUTE, PARKING AND KAYAK LAUNCH SYSTEM	2015
PLAYGROUND	ASPHALT BASKETBALL COURT - 80' X 50' - (4) HALF COURTS	UNKNOWN

## HENRY LAKE

### 630 Southwind Drive

Henry Lake is a 6 acre undeveloped water retention area deeded to the Michigan City Board of Works on December 26, 1974. The property is located on the south side of Michigan City in the Southgate neighborhood. A small shallow pond exists but does not support fish. The park department mowed this property for years but in 2018 it was turned over to the Michigan City Sanitary District for maintenance because it is a storm water control facility.



## JERNEGAN'S HILL

### 801 E. 8th Street



Jerneagan's Hill is a 1 acre undeveloped parcel, located on a hill overlooking Trail Creek. The property was deeded to the City of Michigan City on April 5, 1887. The property is in close proximity to the North End Development Zone and should be maintained for future use and development as part of the Trail Creek Corridor Plan.

# JOE HAWKINS MEMORIAL PARK

## 1501 W. 8th Street

This 1 acre park serves the extreme northwest section of Michigan City. The park is dedicated to Joe Hawkins, a community activist who spent his life improving the lives of others. A limestone pillar supports a bronze plaque honoring Mr. Hawkins at the entrance of the park.

In 2014 the Michigan City Park Department received a grant from Variety Children's Charity in the amount of \$32,000.00 and a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$70,000.00 for ADA and safety upgrades. Duromat safety tiles were installed under the existing playset for 5-12 year old's. A new toddler play area with safety tile was added as well as a funnel ball toss feature and new swing set. Concrete walks were added connecting all park amenities making the park ADA compliant. All amenities in this park are in good condition.

ACTION ITEMS: Add a rules sign.





# JOE HAWKINS MEMORIAL PARK (continued)

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	PUR- CHASED
LAND	HAWKINS PARK - 1501 W. 8TH STREET	1971
LAND	SHELTER STEEL BEAM 16' X 20' CEDAR SHINGLES, REPLACED WITH STEEL ROOF IN 2013	1999
PLAYGROUND	MONUMENT - FLAGSTONE BASE WITH BRONZE PLAQUE	2007
PLAYGROUND	PLAY STRUCTURE - MIRACLE SMALL 1 A	1999
PLAYGROUND	BIKE RACK - GALVANIZED STEEL	1999
PLAYGROUND	38' X 38' CONCRETE PAD WITH DUROMAT SAFETY TILES - 7' FALL HEIGHT FOR TAG	2013
PLAYGROUND	40' X 40' CONCRETE PAD WITH DUROMAT SAFETY TILES - 5' FALL HEIGHT NEW TODDLER AREA	2013
PLAYGROUND	XCCENT FUSION EC TOD PD CLIMBER W/BOUNCING BRIDGE, WORMHOLE CLIMBERS, PEEKABO PANEL	2013
PLAYGROUND	XCCENT TEETERING TULIP, DIZZY DAILY, BLOSSOM BENCH	2013
PLAYGROUND	XCCENT ADA DRIVER PANEL, BALL TURN PANEL, ADA DOUBLE BONGO PANEL	2013
PLAYGROUND	SIDEWALKS - 300' CONCRETE CONNECTING PARK AMENITIES	2013
PLAYGROUND	BENCHES - 1 AT EACH PLAY AREA	2013



# KRUEGER MEMORIAL PARK

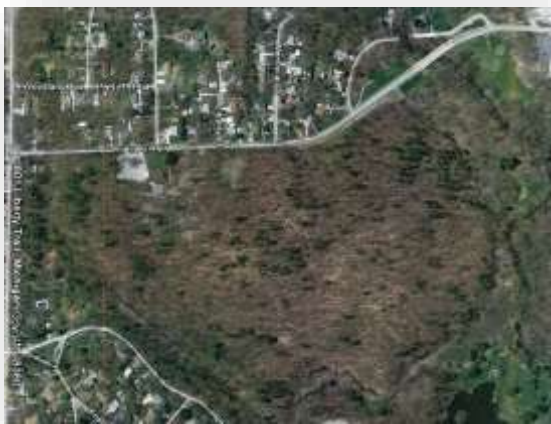
## 801 Liberty Trail

Located in the northeast section of Michigan City, this 37 acre nature preserve serves the Krueger Neighborhood. The park features nature trails, a basketball court, rental hall and off street parking. The park was given to the City by Mayor Krueger in honor of 17 Michigan City soldiers who died in World War I.

The park provides adequate open space for unorganized play and tree shaded picnic areas on a rolling terrain. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry presented the City with a 10 year stewardship plan in 2011. However, no restoration work has been completed. The Park Department should seek grant funding to remove the invasive Bush Honeysuckle outlined in the stewardship plan.

The park has a two-level, 300 person capacity, rental hall which features two fireplaces, kitchen, bar and restrooms. The hall is a well maintained log structure built from trees which were cut from the site using W.P.A. funds during the Great Depression. The hall hosts gatherings ranging from family reunions, club meetings, showers and wedding receptions. In 2008 the facility was renovated with new electric, plumbing, HVAC, doors and windows. A concrete ADA ramp was added to the upper level next to the stair case leading to the porch and entry doors. Men's and women's ADA restrooms were added to the upper level, and existing restrooms on the lower level were updated to ADA standards. There is currently ADA access from the parking lots to the upper level and lower level of the hall. However, there is no interior way to transport someone between levels.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Exterior repairs to the log structure including aluminum soffit repair, secure lighting rod ground wire in 2 places, replace 3 log timber columns, exterior porch concrete stair nosing repair, repair concrete foundation wall at downspout discharge, divert downspout discharge away from concrete foundation, exterior concrete spillway replacement, secure exterior beadboard soffits (buckled above south porch), and add guy wire to support power pole on NE corner of upper parking lot. Surface prep, prime and paint basketball backboard and supports and restripe courts. Remove broken concrete sidewalks and parking area in the back of the hall and replace with new. Post a new rules sign. Add a chair lift or elevator. Purchase a new ice machine. Remove invasive bush honeysuckle.



# KRUEGER MEMORIAL PARK (continued)

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	PURCHASED
FIRE EXT	FIRE EXTINGUISHER	1989
FIRE EXT	FIRE EXTINGUISHER	1989
FIRE EXT	FIRE EXTINGUISHER	1989
SMALL TOOL	AIR CONDITIONER	1998
SMALL TOOL	QTY 4—BOX FAN	1998
BLDG IMPRV	NEW DOORS & WINDOWS AT MEMORIAL PER CONTRACT W/MEYER GLASS & MIRROR	2001
SMALL TOOL	EMERGENCY EXIT LIGHT AND FIXTURE	2001
BLDG IMPRV	INSTALL (2) DARK BRONZE ANODIZED ALUMINUM ENTRY DOORS, (4) 4'X4' SINGLE HUNG WINDOWS	2002
BLDG IMPRV	INSTALL 360 SQ.FT. NEW VELLUM FLOORING AT MEMORIAL HALL KITCHEN	2002
BLDG IMPRV	INSTALL TRANE XF90 FURNACES, AND ALL DUCTWORK AT MEMORIAL PARK	2002
FURNITURE	QTY 6—TABLE 8' X 30" FOLDING TABLE, WHITE PLASTIC	2002
FURNITURE	QTY 20—TABLE, 6', WHITE PLASTIC	2002
FURNITURE	QTY 4—60" ROUND PLYWOOD TABLE	2002
SMALL TOOL	CRC COMMANDER REFRIGERATOR	2005
ART	MURAL - PAINTED ON KITCHEN WALL 4 SEASONS AT MEMORIAL HALL	2008
BLDG IMPRV	MEMORIAL HALL RENOVATION PROJECT -RESTROOMS, WINDOWS, FLOOR, ADA ACCESS	2008
FURNITURE	TABLE METAL FRAME WITH WOOD 4' X 8', ROLLING FOR KITCHEN	2008
FURNITURE	TABLE, "12' BANQUET (CUSTOM MADE)	2008
SMALL TOLLS	HUMIDIFIER	2008
SMALL TOOL	AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEM	2008
SMALL TOOL	DRINKING FOUNTAIN	2008
SMALL TOOL	DRINKING FOUNTAIN	2008
KITCHEN	BEER COOLER REFRIGERATION SYSTEM	2009
MEDICAL	DEFIBRILLATOR - MEDTRONIC LIFEPAK	2009
SMALL TOOL	13 GALLON HUMIDIFIER	2009
SMALL TOOL	13 GALLON HUMIDIFIER	2009
IMPRV	FLOORING LOWER LEVEL KRUEGER HALL	2011
BLDG IMPROV	GARAGE RENOVATION - MEMORIAL HALL	2015
FURNITURE	CHAIRS QTY 160 LIFETIME, PLASTIC, ALMOND, FOLDING CHAIRS	2015
IMPRV	GARAGE RENOVATION, DOORS, WINDOWS, LENTILS, ROOF, TUCK POINTING	2015
FURNITURE	CHAIRS QTY 128 LIFETIME, PLASTIC, ALMOND, FOLDING CHAIRS	2016
FIRE EXT	FIRE EXTINGUISHER	2989
FURNITURE	CRYSTAL D.J. BALL	UNKNOWN
FURNITURE	SHELF - 6 SHELF STORAGE UNIT	UNKNOWN
FURNITURE	SHELF - 6 SHELF STORAGE UNIT	UNKNOWN
PLAYGROUND	HALSEY TAYLOR WATER FOUNTAIN	UNKNOWN

# MAINTENANCE FACILITY

## 2011 E. Highway 12

The Park Maintenance facility serves as the central hub for all park properties. It houses our fleet and all equipment and serves as storage for holiday lights, picnic tables, trash barrels, barricades, etc. It contains a mechanic shop, wood shop and offices. The facility sits on a 3.2 acre parcel. The building was constructed in the 1960's as a car dealership. The City purchased the building around 1991. The windows and doors are original to the building and need to be replaced.

Recent repairs include new multi-ply membrane roof and new oil burning furnace in garage in 2010, building exterior was painted in 2012, new hanging furnace in main garage in 2014, new exterior perimeter fencing was installed on the north side in 2015, asbestos ceiling tiles were tested and removed and new electric service and lighting was added to the entire facility in 2016.

The City has made major investments to this facility in recent years. We need to address the curb appeal of this facility, parking lot, façade improvements. It is located between a regional attraction, International Friendship Gardens, and a Michigan City Fire Station.

**ACTION ITEMS:** New windows, man doors, overhead doors, asphalt drive and parking lot, replacement of 2 old furnaces.





# MICHIGAN BOULEVARD PARCEL

Located in the northeast section of Michigan City, this .078 acre parcel, just east of Carroll Avenue on the south side of Michigan Boulevard, is undeveloped land that serves no purpose to the Park Department. An adjacent property owner has expressed interest in acquiring the property, and our last Master Plan suggested selling this surplus real estate to eliminate our maintenance costs and put it back on the tax rolls. However, since the last plan, the city has expressed interest in creating a dog park in this area and has already acquired adjacent property from the Michigan City School Corporation to facilitate the project.



# MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

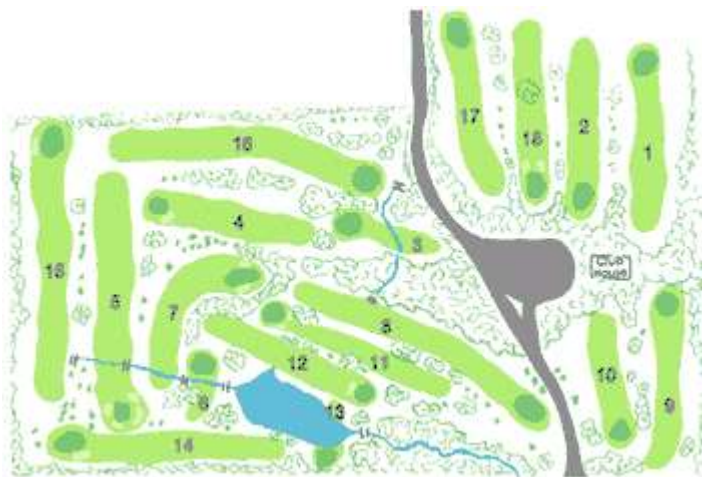
## 4000 E. Michigan Boulevard

This 156 acre facility is located in the extreme east section of Michigan City in the Golfview neighborhood. The golf course serves the region with two 18-hole courses, the only 36 hole facility in LaPorte County and one of very few in northwest Indiana.

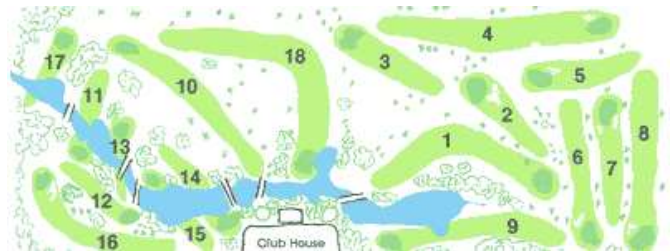
The North Course features executive style golfing, including 3,531 total yards and a challenging par of 60. Featuring an exciting mixture of both par three and par four holes, this course is perfect for the beginner with fewer complex distractions while offering several golfing challenges such as hills, dog-legs, short holes, sand traps and water hazards. The South Course features a challenging 18-hole course, with a par of 72. Playing to a total of 6,169 yards, the South Course is a favorite to all golfers, from the new-comer to the seasoned player. On the South Course, you'll find a mixture of exciting golf challenges such as hills, short holes and long holes, dog legs, sand traps and water hazards. Besides great golfing, we also offer outings, clubs, and junior golf programs.

Recent repairs include new blacktop parking lot in 2001, new snack shop constructed in 2002, South Course Water Control Structure and North Course Culvert Replacement Project was completed in 2015. The original drainage and pond development project was completed in 1994. A complete tree assessment and removal project and the rebuilding of the 1998 irrigation pumps from computerized irrigation system originally installed in were completed in 2016.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Add driving range for revenue generation (land acquisition required), replace cart paths, update both pro shops, improve communication system/remote monitoring of north and south course pump stations, professional engineering for drainage improvements. Replace 22 golf carts—1 of 4 rotations (first round).



SOUTH COURSE



NORTH COURSE

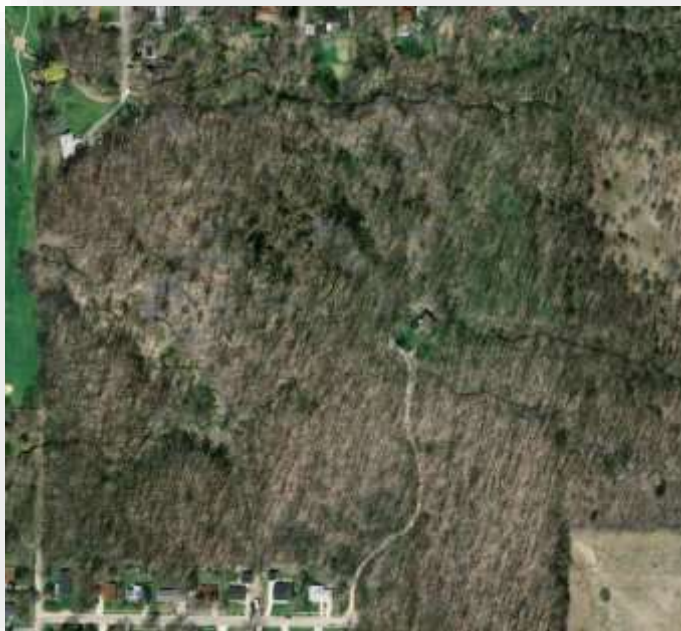
# MOTT'S WOODS

## 2000 Johnrue Avenue

This is a 35 acre undeveloped forest located on the east side of Michigan City. The property has a deed restriction on 20 acres which reads “This property is given to the City of Michigan City as an example of the primeval forest growth which once covered Northern Indiana, and is granted on the express condition that it shall be preserved forever in its present natural state as a forest and wild flower preserve, and that the timber shall never be cut from same; except that dead timber shall be removed when a tree or trees shall have died from natural causes, and driveways may be kept cleared whenever necessary.” The Indiana Department of Natural Resources’ Division of Forestry presented the City with a 10 year stewardship plan in 2011.

This preserve cannot be developed and offers no future recreational opportunities. The Park Department should investigate donating this parcel. Shirley Heinz Land Trust has expressed interest in accepting a donation of this land from the City. The property is in very close proximity to other restoration sites they operate and fits their goals and mission “to protect habitats and ecosystems of Northwest Indiana through acquiring, restoring and protecting environmentally significant landscapes for present and future generations; and to inspire and educate people of all ages about the value of land conservation to protect our natural world and enrich our lives.”

ACTION ITEM: Land donation





# OAK HILLS PARK

## 716 Martin Luther King Drive

This 5 acre neighborhood park serves the extreme northeast section of Michigan City. Amenities include a ball diamond, basketball court, picnic shelter, drinking fountain, playground equipment, and off street parking. There are many shade trees and plenty of open space. The park is located directly across the street from the Martin Luther King Center and greatly enhances recreational opportunities in the neighborhood. ADA upgrades and playground safety compliance needs to be addressed at this park. Renovation is scheduled for 2022. The large play-set installed in 2000 can be modified to meet current standards. All other play equipment must be removed and replaced and ADA connections made to all amenities. We will seek a Community Development Block Grant for this project.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Replace the shelter with a steel frame and roof structure. The entrance sign should be replaced. ADA parking spaces need to be added to the parking lot. Needs rules sign. Repair damaged gable on picnic shelter, repair two damaged landings on play equipment. ADA upgrades.

TAG	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	YEAR	PRICE
LAND	LAND IMPRV	OAK HILLS	ASPHALT BASKETBALL COURT - 80' X 50', OAK HILLS	UNKNOWN	11,400
LAND	LAND IMPRV	OAK HILLS	FENCE - 4' CHAIN-LINK AT OAK HILLS	1988	7,900
LAND	LAND IMPRV	OAK HILLS	ASPHALT - PARKING LOT/BASKETBALL COURT	1999	20,000
LAND	LAND IMPRV	OAK HILLS	FENCE - 217 FT OF 10 FT/9 GAUGE GALVANIZED CHAIN-LINK BASKETBALL FENCE	2000	4,070
9332	PLAYGROUND	OAK HILLS	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT BUNKER HILL 4 WAY CLIMBER	1999	913
9335	PLAYGROUND	OAK HILLS	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT DELUXE MOUNTAIN CLIMBER	1999	1,302
9337	PLAYGROUND	OAK HILLS	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT MEDIUM PLAY SYSTEM DARK GREEN/BLUE/BEIGE	1999	11,162
9805	PLAYGROUND	OAK HILLS	GRILL PEDESTAL MOUNT GRILL W/UTILITY SHELF	1999	99
11163	PLAYGROUND	OAK HILLS	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT 6 SEAT SWING SET ITEM 3A (4 SEATS - 2 SECTIONS)	1999	1,186
11222	PLAYGROUND	OAK HILLS	BIKE RACK GALVANIZED STEEL	1999	277
11243	PLAYGROUND	OAK HILLS	BISON BASKETBALL SYSTEM - 1/2 COURT	1999	465
11244	PLAYGROUND	OAK HILLS	BISON BASKETBALL SYSTEM - 1/2 COURT	1999	465
11155	PLAYGROUND	OAK HILLS	TABLE 6' LONG AMERICAN TABLE WITHOUT BACK, 4"X4" SLATS, PINE, WALNUT STAIN	2000	719
LAND	PLAYGROUND	OAK HILLS	FENCE - PERIMETER FENCE OAK HILLS	2008	20,300



# PATRIOT PARK

## 2224 North 950 West

This 120 acre community sports complex is located 2 miles south of the civil city boundaries. Amenities include (4) fully drained and professionally lit baseball/softball diamonds, (1) additional baseball field, 2 press boxes, a public address system, on-site concession stand, ADA accessible restrooms with infant changing stations, ADA accessible playground, a 1-mile non-motorized asphalt walking trail, picnic shelters, picnic tables, ADA designated parking areas, and an on-site maintenance facility. Fully drained soccer fields were added in 2007.

This award winning, 120 acre sports complex opened in 2000 and quickly became one of the premiere sports complexes in Northern Indiana. Quality tournament play, professionally managed events and recreational class programs draw more and more people to Patriot Park and the greater Michigan City area. The design and engineering invested into this park draws national and regional events as well as media attention.

Patriot Park has received the National Softball Association/Baseball Player's Association's "Outstanding Park of the Year" award every year since opening in 2000. In further recognition of an outstanding facility and programming, the Michigan City Park Department was inducted into the NSA/BPA Hall of Fame in November of 2011.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Construct two new large ball diamonds, new parking lots and a new building, which will house a concession stand, restrooms and storage for the soccer program. Design and engineering for these projects was completed in 2010. All park signage needs to be replaced. Repair fencing, backstops and gates. Recrown three fields. Replace four scoreboards and public address system.



# PATRIOT PARK (continued)

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	PURCHASED
BLDG	WATER SOFTENER TANK - C SERIES CARBON FILTRATION UNIT	2003
BLDG	WATER SOFTENER TANK - C SERIES IRON FILTRATION UNIT	2003
EQUIPMENT	GAS CLUB CAR #04	2001
EQUIPMENT	GAS CLUB CAR #06	2001
EQUIPMENT	GAS CLUB CAR #09	2001
EQUIPMENT	WISE 5" HD BENCH VISE	2001
EQUIPMENT	DEFIBRILLATOR - MEDTRONIC LIFEPAK	2002
EQUIPMENT	PUBLIC ADDRESS - (8) SPEAKERS FOR P.A. SYSTEM AT PATRIOT PARK	2005
EQUIPMENT	HAND DRYER - WHITE 110/120 V	2011
EQUIPMENT	HAND DRYER - WHITE 110/120 V	2011
EQUIPMENT	HAND DRYER - WHITE 110/120 V	2011
EQUIPMENT	HAND DRYER - WHITE 110/120 V	2011
EQUIPMENT	STIHL 65CC BLOWER	2012
EQUIPMENT	WATER REEL TURBINE DRIVE	2014
EQUIPMENT	WHITE WATER COOLER	2015
EQUIPMENT	STIHL 65CC BACKPACK BLOWER	2015
FURNITURE	TABLE 6' x 30" FOLDING TABLE	2001
FURNITURE	TABLE 6' x 30" FOLDING TABLE	2001
FURNITURE	TABLE 6' X 30" FOLDING TABLE	2001
LAND	PATRIOT PARK - 2224 N 950 W - 100 ACRES	1997
LAND	PATRIOT PARK - 2224 N 950 W - 20 ACRES	1997
LAND	ASPHALT PARKING LOT - PAVING ASPHALT - PATRIOT PARK - 100 PARKING SPACES	1998
LAND	FENCE 30' CHAIN LINK FENCE AT PATRIOT PARK - BACKSTOP	1998
LAND	FENCE 4' CHAIN LINK FENCE AT PATRIOT PARK	1998
LAND	FENCE 6' CHAIN LINK FENCE AT PATRIOT PARK	1998
LAND	WELL - 2" WELL LOCATED BETWEEN MTCE BARN & OFFICE	1999
LAND	BLDG 30' X 10' POLE BARN, 10' EYES, 4" CONCRETE, STEEL ROOF & SIDES	2000
LAND	BLDG CONCESSION AND RESTROOM BUILDING PATRIOT PARK	2000
LAND	ELECTRIC HOOK TO MAINT POLE BARN AT PATRIOT PARK	2001
LAND	ELECTRIC HOOK UP TO SCOREBOARDS AT PATRIOT PARK	2001
LAND	FIELD LIGHTING AT PATRIOT PARK	2001
LAND	FIELD LIGHTING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR PATRIOT PARK	2001
LAND	FLAG POLE 110' STEEL FLAGPOLE W/BALL, ROPE, WINCH, COLLAR	2001
LAND	LIGHTING - SPOT LIGHT ON FLAG POLES AT PATRIOT PARK	2001
LAND	SCREENINGS/LIMESTONE FOR BASE OF BLOCK FLOORS IN SHELTERS	2001
LAND	FLAG POLE 20' (USED FROM FRANKLIN SQUARE) #1	2001
LAND	FLAG POLE 20' (USED FROM FRANKLIN SQUARE) #2	2001
LAND	SHELTER - MESSAGE CENTER 6' X 9' DOUBLE SIDED BOARD, HUNTER GRN METAL ROOF	2002
LAND	SHELTER - PITTSBURGH HEXAGONAL SHELTER, 28', HUNTER GREEN METAL ROOF #1	2002
LAND	SHELTER - PITTSBURGH HEXAGONAL SHELTER, 28', HUNTER GREEN METAL ROOF #2	2002
LAND	SHELTER - PITTSBURGH HEXAGONAL SHELTER, 28', HUNTER GREEN METAL ROOF #3	2002
LAND	SCORE BOARD INSTALLATION OF (4) SCORE BOARDS AT PATRIOT PARK	2002
LAND	BLDG PATRIOT PARK STAFF OFFICE	2003
LAND	BLDG PRESS BOX #1 DOYLE/BANNWART FIELDS	2003
LAND	ASPHALT WALKING PATH - 8' WIDE ASPHALT - 1 MILE	2003
LAND	SIGNS - RULES/FIELD NAMES	2003

# PATRIOT PARK (continued)

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	PURCHASED
LAND	ASPHALT PARKING LOT - PAVING ASPHALT - PATRIOT PARK	2004
LAND	ELECTRIC - INSTALLED ELECTRIC FROM CNCSSN BLDG TO PRESS BOX 2 LAROCCO/KARSTENS	2004
LAND	FIELD - DUNLAND FIELD - PATRIOT PARK - CONSTRUCTED 2004	2004
LAND	ASPHALT SERVICE ROAD BETWEEN CONCESSION BLDG TO PRESSBOX #1 AND WALKING PATH	2005
LAND	DRAINAGE - INSTALL UNDERDRAIN AND ANIMAL GUARDS UNDER SOCCER FIELDS	2005
LAND	SOCCER FIELDS - 35,000 CU YARDS SANDY FILL FROM SANITATION DEPT. EARL RD BASIN PROJECT	2005
LAND	BLDG PRESS BOX #2 KARSTENS/LAROCCO	2006
LAND	BRICK PAVERS AND LANDSCAPING AT 4 ORIGINAL FIELDS (BLEACHERS/FIELD ENTRANCE AREA)	2006
LAND	ELECTRIC & LIGHTING FOR PLAYGROUND	2006
LAND	SOCCER FIELDS - PATRIOT PARK	2006
LAND	BLDG PRESS BOX #2 - SMALL FIELDS	2008
LAND	PATRIOT PARK FIELD RENOVATION	2009
LAND	FIELD RECROWNING - DOYLE-BANNWART-KARSTENS-LAROCCO FIELDS	2009
LAND	TREES - RIVER BIRCH - (18) SMALL AND (42) LARGE	2009
LAND	FIRST AID - POCKET MASK, PED COLLAR, BACKBOARD, PEDI SPLINT KIT, HEAD IMMOBILIZER	2010
LAND	BASEBALL FIELD DUGOUT - LAROCCO	2012
LAND	BASEBALL FIELD DUGOUT- LAROCCO	2012
LAND IMPR	ASPHALT PAD BETWEEN LARGE AND ASPHALT PAD BETWEEN SMALL FIELD	2007
PLAYGROUND	LIGHT POLE METAL 60' W/12 FIXTURES	1998
PLAYGROUND	LIGHT POLE METAL 60' W/5 FIXTURES	1998
PLAYGROUND	LIGHT POLE METAL 60' W/7 FIXTURES	1998
PLAYGROUND	LIGHT POLE METAL 60' W/8 FIXTURES	1998
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS - ALL ALUMINUM TRANSPORTABLE BLEACHERS #1	2001
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS - ALL ALUMINUM TRANSPORTABLE BLEACHERS #3	2001
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS - ALL ALUMINUM TRANSPORTABLE BLEACHERS #4	2001
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS - ALL ALUMINUM TRANSPORTABLE BLEACHERS #5	2001
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS - ALL ALUMINUM TRANSPORTABLE BLEACHERS #6	2001
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS - ALL ALUMINUM TRANSPORTABLE BLEACHERS #7	2001
PLAYGROUND	BENCH 15' TEAM BENCH WITH BACK	2001
PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND EQUIP PLAY SYSTEM - 2 DECK - AGES 2-5	2002
PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT MEDIUM PLAY SYSTEM PATRIOT PARK	2002
PLAYGROUND	PITCHING MACHINE	2002
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS ROYAL BLUE 3 ROW 15' IN SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS ROYAL BLUE 3 ROW 15' IN SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS ROYAL BLUE 3 ROW 15' IN SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS ROYAL BLUE 3 ROW 15' IN SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS ROYAL BLUE 3 ROW 15' IN SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS ROYAL BLUE 3 ROW 15' IN SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS NAVY 3ROW 15' IN SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS NAVY 3ROW 15' IN SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS NAVY 3ROW 15' IN SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS NAVY 3ROW 15' IN SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS NAVY 3ROW 15' IN SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS NAVY 3ROW 15' IN SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS RED 3 ROW 15' SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS RED 3 ROW 15' SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS RED 3 ROW 15' SEAT COLORS	2007

## PATRIOT PARK (continued)

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	PURCHASED
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS RED 3 ROW 15' SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS RED 3 ROW 15' SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS FOREST GREEN 3ROW 15' IN SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS FOREST GREEN 3ROW 15' IN SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS FOREST GREEN 3ROW 15' IN SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS FOREST GREEN 3ROW 15' IN SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS FOREST GREEN 3ROW 15' IN SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	BLEACHERS FOREST GREEN 3ROW 15' IN SEAT COLORS	2007
PLAYGROUND	LARGE BLUE RECYCLE BARRELL WITH LID	2008
PLAYGROUND	LARGE BLUE RECYCLE BARRELL WITH LID	2008
PLAYGROUND	LARGE BLUE RECYCLE BARREL WITH LID	2008
PLAYGROUND	PORTOLITE GAME MOUND YOUTH 6" REDUCED LENGTH	2014
PLAYGROUND	PORTOLITE GAME MOUND YOUTH 6" REDUCED LENGTH	2014
PLAYGROUND	PORTOLITE GAME MOUND YOUTH 6" REDUCED LENGTH	2014
PLAYGROUND	PORTOLITE GAME MOUND YOUTH 6" REDUCED LENGTH	2014
PLAYGROUND	PORTOLITE GAME MOUND YOUTH 6" REDUCED LENGTH	2014
SIGN	SIGN RECYCLED PLASTIC ENTRANCE SIGN WITH POSTS FOR PATRIOT PARK	2001
SIGN	SIGN RECYCLING SIGN - 30" X 60" BEIGE/GREEN/BEIGE RECYCLED PLASTIC	2001
SIGN	SIGN - LIGHTED ENTRANCE SIGN ON CORNER OF 950W&300N	2001
SIGN	WELCOME BASEBALL TEAMS SIGN	2007
VEHICLE	TORO UTILITY SPRAY WAGON	2012
VEHICLE	BRITE GAS RIDING STRIPER #6500	2013



# PULLMAN PARK

## 550 West 4th Street

Pullman park is a 8 acre community park located in the northwest section of Michigan City. Pullman Park is unique in our park system as it serves the neighborhood and is used widely by the community for reunions and community gatherings. The Michigan City Skate Park is one of the largest in the Midwest. The 22,000 square foot park was opened in 2005 and features 35 ramps and rails and has a regional draw. Amenities include (2) lit and professionally surfaced basketball courts, playground equipment, drinking fountains, four picnic shelters, benches, a bike rack, year round restrooms, a skate park and off street parking.

In 2015, the Park Department received a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$251,160 for ADA and safety compliance upgrades to the park. The existing play set purchased in 1999 was updated for safety compliance. All other park amenities were removed. ADA sidewalks were poured connecting all amenities in the park and providing a walking trail. A new picnic shelter was constructed with security lighting. We installed new swings and three new play features. All play areas have rubberized tile surfaces. In June of 2015 the basketball courts were dedicated to Herman Lee Wilson and a monument was constructed in his honor. All amenities are in good condition.

ACTION ITEMS Roof over skate park, repair skating equipment, needs rule signs, upgrade camera system.

### BEFORE 2015 UPGRADES





# PULLMAN PARK (continued)

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	PURCHASED
LAND	ASPHALT BASKETBALL COURT PULLMAN PARK	1990
LAND	ASPHALT - PARKING LOT 6TH STREET/ 2 BASKETBALL COURTS	2002
LAND	ASPHALT BASKETBALL COURTS-RESURFACE EXISTING 1990 COURT PROFESSIONAL SEALING/MARKING SYSTEM	2002
LAND	ASPHALT RESURFACED EXISTING BASKETBALL COURT BUILT IN 1990	2002
PLAYGROUND	GOAL BASKETBALL GOAL UNIT #1	2002
PLAYGROUND	GOAL BASKETBALL GOAL UNIT #2	2002
PLAYGROUND	GOAL BASKETBALL GOAL UNIT #3	2002
PLAYGROUND	GOAL BASKETBALL GOAL UNIT #4	2002
PLAYGROUND	GOAL BASKETBALL GOAL UNIT #5	2002
PLAYGROUND	GOAL BASKETBALL GOAL UNIT #6	2002
PLAYGROUND	SHELTER - STEEL BEAM/GABLE END, 16' X 20', BLACK ENAMEL FRAME/GREEN METAL ROOF	2003
PLAYGROUND	SHELTER - STEEL BEAM/GABLE END, 20' X 28', BLACK ENAMEL FRAME/GREEN METAL ROOF	2003
PLAYGROUND	BARRIER POSTS - BOLLARDS AT PULLMAN PARK - QTY 26	2004
PLAYGROUND	LIGHTING - BASKETBALL COURT LIGHTING	2005
PLAYGROUND	PHONE - ADA COMPLIANT EMERGENCY PHONE - PULLMAN SKATEPARK	2005
LAND	SKATE PARK AT PULLMAN FIELD	2005
LAND	ASPHALT - PARKING LOT TRIANGLE BETWEEN 4TH ST/HWY 12	2006
LAND	BLDG RESTROOM BUILDING AT PULLMAN SKATE PARK	2006
LAND	SHELTER - PICNIC SHELTER AT SKATE PARK	2006
LAND	TREE - EIGHTEEN RED MAPLE TREES, LARGE GROWING SPECIES, 90' AT MATURITY	2006
LAND	TREE - NINE SYCAMORE TREES, LARGE GROWING SPECIES, 90' AT MATURITY	2006
LAND	TREE - ONE ZELKOVA TREE	2006
LAND	TREE - SEVEN SWEETGUM TREES, LARGE GROWING SPECIES, 90' AT MATURITY	2006
LAND	TREE - SIXTEEN LOW GROWING SPECIES, 30' AT MATURITY	2006
LAND	TREE - THREE PEAR TREES	2006
LAND	TREE - TWELVE GINKGO TREES	2006
LAND	TREE - TWO CRABAPPLE TREES	2006
LAND	TREE - TWO HACKBERRY TREES	2006
PLAYGROUND	BENCHES - QTY 4 XCCENT BENCHES	2015
LAND	BRICK PAVERS	2015
LAND	CONCRETE PAD FOR SHELTER 22' X 22'	2015
LAND	CONCRETE SURFACE FOR PLAY AREA SAFETY TILES 48' X 116'	2015
LAND	ELECTRIC & LIGHTS	2015
LAND	FOUNTAIN & WATER INSTALLATION	2015
LAND	MONUMENT - HERMAN LEE WILSON BASKETBALL	2015
PLAYGROUND	PLAY EQUIP XCCENT 3 BAY SWING	2015
PLAYGROUND	PLAY EQUIP XCCENT ATOM	2015
PLAYGROUND	PLAY EQUIP XCCENT F4 SPINNER	2015
PLAYGROUND	PLAY EQUIP XCCENT GYRO	2015
PLAYGROUND	SAFETY TILE SURFACING 6,100 SQ FT	2015
PLAYGROUND	SERVICES - D & E AND PLAY TILE & EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION	2015
PLAYGROUND	SHELTER - AMERICANA ILLINI SERIES 20' X 30' GABLE GREEN SHELTER	2015
LAND	WALKING TRAIL - 1,000' X 6' CONCRETE	2015
LAND	PULLMAN FIELD 4TH STREET AT WILLARD AVE.-10 ACRES	UNKNOWN

# RIDGELAND PARK

## 620 Ridgeland Avenue

Serving the northeast section of Michigan City, this 1 acre park features playground equipment, a full basketball court, benches, a bike rack and a picnic shelter.

The shelter was built with materials from the Urban Enterprise Association using free labor from a court sponsored offenders program in 2005. All amenities are in good condition.

**ACTION ITEMS:** This park is scheduled for ADA and safety upgrades in 2022, needs rules sign



## RIDGELAND PARK (continued)



CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	PUR- CHASED
LAND IMPRV	ASPHALT BASKETBALL COURT 47' X 70' RESURFACE	1999
PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT-6 SEAT SWING SET ITEM 3A (6 SEATS - 3 SECTIONS)	1999
PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT-MEDIUM PLAY SYSTEM STRUCTURE ITEM 1C	1999
PLAYGROUND	BIKE RACK-GALVANIZED STEEL	1999
PLAYGROUND	BENCH-PARSONS CONTOUR CANTILEVER PARK BENCH 2X4X6' SECOND SITE MAPLE, VS GREEN	1999
PLAYGROUND	BENCH-PARSONS CONTOUR CANTILEVER PARK BENCH 2X4X6' SECOND SITE MAPLE, VS GREEN	1999
PLAYGROUND	BISON BASKETBALL SYSTEM - 1/2 COURT	1999
PLAYGROUND	BISON BASKETBALL SYSTEM - 1/2 COURT	1999
LAND IMPRV	FENCE - 200 FT OF 10 FT/9 GAUGE GALVANIZED CHAIN LINK BASKETBALL FENCE	2000
SIGN	SIGN WOODEN ENTRANCE SIGN	2001
LAND	600 BLOCK RIDGELAND AVENUE - 1 ACRE	UNKNOWN



# RUBY WOODS

This 35 acre nature preserve offers wooded walking trails and is centrally located between Franklin and Ohio Streets and St. John Road and Ogden Avenue. Ruby Woods rules are specific to preserving this nature park. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources presented the City with a 10 year stewardship plan in 2011. This property is owned by the City of Michigan City and is not under the legal jurisdiction of the Park Board and Department. However, the Park Department picks up trash and maintains the trails.

ACTION ITEM: Needs new rules sign



# TALL TIMBERS PARK

## 3100 Springland Avenue

This 30 acre neighborhood park serves the extreme eastern section of the city in the Lakeland area. Amenities include walking trails, playground equipment, park benches, full basketball court and a bike rack. The majority of Tall Timbers serves as a nature preserve with several trails winding through the 29 wooded acres of the park.

In 2016, the Park Department received funding from the City Council for ADA and safety compliance upgrades to the park. The existing play set purchased in 1999 was updated for safety compliance. All other park amenities were removed. ADA sidewalks were poured connecting all amenities in the park and providing a walking trail. A new picnic shelter was constructed. We installed new swings and a 2-5 year toddler play area. All play areas have rubberized tile surfaces. All amenities are in good condition.

ACTION ITEM: Needs a rule sign

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	PURCHASED
LAND	TALL TIMBERS PARK - 3000 BLOCK SPRINGLAND AVE.- 10.186 ACRES	1969
LAND	ASPHALT BASKETBALL COURT 33' X 100'	1990
11241	BISON BASKETBALL SYSTEM - 1/2 COURT	1999
11242	BISON BASKETBALL SYSTEM - 1/2 COURT	1999
9336	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT MEDIUM PLAY SYSTEM DARK GREEN/BLUE/BEIGE	1999
LAND	BENCHES - QTY 4 PLAYCRAFT BENCHES GREEN	2016
LAND	PLAY EQUIP - F4 SPINNER	2016
LAND	PLAY EQUIP - FUNBALL	2016
LAND	PLAY EQUIP - PLAYCRAFT 2 BAY SWING	2016
LAND	PLAY EQUIP - PLAYCRAFT SPIN MAX	2016
LAND	SHELTER - AMERICANA 16' X 20'	2016
LAND	SIDEWALKS & PADS FOR PLAY EQUIP & SHELTER	2016
LAND	TRASH RECEPTACLES QTY 3 SURFACE MOUNT GREEN	2016
LAND	WALKING TRAIL - CONCRETE 600' X 6'	2016



## TALL TIMBERS PARK (continued)



# SHERIDAN BEACH ESPLANADE

The esplanade contains approximately 66 acres and lies between the Dunescape complex and Long Beach and between Sheridan Beach and Lake Michigan.

The Esplanade was gifted to the Park Department under the stipulation that it remained a pristine and natural dune environment. Aside from efforts to halt construction or encroachments on the property, its natural health has degraded over the past seventy years due to the invasion of exotic shrub, tree and vine species. This has occurred because of development on the private lots north of Lake Shore Drive, which has altered natural succession. If nothing is done, the esplanade will soon be a tangle of weed trees, grape vine and poison ivy on its southernmost section.

This department recognizes that native trees, shrubbery, bushes, dune grass and other plants are a significant and valuable resource for the entire Michigan City community. The preservation of native species is necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Michigan City in order to preserve scenic beauty, prevent erosion, counteract pollutants in the air, maintain the climatic balance and decrease wind velocities. We understand the proliferation of exotic non-native plant species threatens the existence of native plant species and the integrity of the dune environment. The Park Department offers a restoration license to individuals who own property adjacent to the dunes which allows them to remove exotic non-native species and plant native species under the guidance of the City Forester. Since the inception of this program in 2005 (revised 2012), 30 property owners have obtained licenses to restore park property adjacent to their property.





# SHERIDAN BEACH ESPLANADE (continued)

In 2011, the City was awarded a Lake Michigan Coastal Program Grant from the Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$20,000, with the City providing matching funds in the amount of \$20,000. The grant was used to provide an ecological assessment of the Esplanade in 2012. In 2014 the Sheridan Beach Esplanade Dune Restoration Committee was formed to oversee the creation of the Sheridan Beach & Esplanade Public Access, Land Management and Implementation Plan. The plan was funded by a Lake Michigan Coastal Program grant in the amount of \$13,500 with a City match of \$13,500. The plan addresses access, safety and proper care of the dune ecosystem.



In 2013, the department was successful in obtaining a Lake Michigan Coastal Program grant in the amount of \$20,000 with a City match of \$25,000 for the Fedder's Alley Secondary Dune Habitat Restoration Project.

The purpose of this project was to complete the restoration efforts that are ongoing by the Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department on approximately 9 acres of Lake Michigan coastal secondary dune habitat. The Park Department in conjunction with the Urban Forester has performed an extensive invasive species removal project on this property leaving a clean slate for the installation of native dune species. This project installed approximately 2 acres of *Ammophila Breviligulata* (marram grass) and approximately 7 acres of a transitional Coastal Savannah. The project was successful in establishing new secondary dune flora and fauna. Establishment was not consistent across multiple vegetative installation units. However, adequate establishment has since been achieved across the total 9 acre project area which naturally infilled over the years.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Continue to seek grant and City funding to further implement the plan.

## BEFORE RESTORATION



## AFTER RESTORATION



# WALKER STREET PARK

## 900 Walker Street

This 1 acre neighborhood park is centrally located in Michigan City. Amenities include playground equipment, a full basketball court, a picnic shelter, a drinking fountain, benches and a bike rack. Funding in the amount of \$100,000 was secured through a Community Development Block Grant in 2016 for ADA and safety upgrades. Construction was completed in 2017 and included new concrete ADA routes, rubberized safety surface under all equipment, a new swing set with one adaptive swing, a new dome climber, two surface mounted trash receptacles, a new steel roof on the existing shelter, a new grill, and a new bench.



*BEFORE*



*AFTER*

We recognized the need to address an area in Michigan City that had limited access to affordable and nutritious food, or a food desert. In 2018 we partnered with Purdue University's College of Agriculture and the Community Development Block Grant Program to start a community garden at Walker Street Park. The garden has been extremely successful adding cooking classes, yoga, a free farm market, health & fitness programs, and other community events throughout the year. We plan to continue this partnership well into the future.





# WALKER STREET PARK (continued)

In 2021 we partnered with the Michigan City Area School middle school teachers and students and brought a recycling program to Walker Street Park, and five other parks, for “Better World Day.” The teachers and students donated over 200 hours of community service in our parks in one day. We recognized the student’s efforts by placing signs in our recycling parks. We will continue to partner with the school system on projects that teach stewardship and benefit the whole community.



CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	YEAR
LAND IMPRV	ASPHALT BASKETBALL COURT 33' X 100'	1990
LAND IMPRV	ASPHALT - PARKING LOT/BASKETBALL COURT	1999
LAND IMPRV	FENCE -60 FT OF 10 FT/9 GAUGE BASKETBALL FENCING	2000
PLAYGROUND	2 BISON BASKETBALL SYSTEM - 1/2 COURT	1999
PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT-MEDIUM PLAY SYSTEM	1999
PLAYGROUND	ADA CONCRETE ROUTES	2017
PLAYGROUND	STEEL SHELTER ROOF	2017
PLAYGROUND	SWING SET WITH ADAPTIVE SWING	2017
PLAYGROUND	DOMED CLIMBER	2017
PLAYGROUND	PARK BENCH	2017
PLAYGROUND	2 SURFACE MOUNT TRASH RECEPTACLES	2017
PLAYGROUND	RUBBERIZED SAFETY SURFACING	2017
PLAYGROUND	GRILL	2017
GARDEN	28 GROUND LEVEL GARDEN BEDS	2018
GARDEN	4 RAISED ADA GARDEN BEDS	2018
GARDEN	GARDEN FENCING	2018
GARDEN	RAIN BARRELS	2018
GARDEN	GARDEN SHED	2018



# WASHINGTON PARK

## 6 on the Lake

This 144 acre regional park is located along the southern shore of Lake Michigan directly north of the Up-town Arts District, Blue Chip Casino and Lighthouse Place Premium Outlet Mall. Amenities include an outdoor amphitheater, (5) picnic shelters, playground equipment, (3) restroom buildings, lifeguarded swimming beach, public access fishing, fish cleaning station, boat launch, and 1,200 paved parking spaces with the capacity for 300 for overflow parking for special events. Washington Park hosts many events including festivals, sporting events, and weekly summer concerts by the Michigan City Municipal Band. Features of Washington Park are outlined in this report from the west end to the east end of the park.

Michigan City residents are justifiably proud of this park. City officials recognize the importance of this unique and beautiful park and understood the need for it's own comprehensive Master Plan which can be found at <https://www.emichigancity.com/DocumentCenter/View/1294/2016-Washington-Park-Master-Plan>.



# WASHINGTON PARK (continued)

## Lighthouse

On the west end of the park is the lighthouse pier. Built in 1904 the lighthouse is the most popular symbol of Michigan City. It is the only public operating lighthouse in the State of Indiana and is under the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard but owned by Michigan City. The pier itself, which is under the jurisdiction of the Army Corp of Engineers is a favorite spot for fishing and watching sunsets and is frequently painted and photographed by local artists.

## Marina

Also to the west and adjacent to Washington Park is a 30 acre marina containing 604 boat slips. The marina is operated by the Michigan City Port Authority.

## Old Lighthouse Museum

The Old Lighthouse Museum built in 1858 is on the National Register of Historical Places and is located on the southwest side of Washington Park directly north of the marina. The Old Lighthouse is owned by the Michigan City Park Department who leases the building to the Michigan City Historical Society who operates the museum.

The city spent \$250,000 in 2017 and 2018 for exterior preservation including replacing the porches, repairing the railings, installing a new roof and wall shingles, and replacing columns.

In 2018 the Park Department was awarded a grant from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Lake Michigan Coastal Program to complete the exterior repairs which included restoration of original windows, new storm windows, copper gutter, and repair or replacement of pilasters, arches, capitals, and casings. The total project cost was \$170,000.00. This was a partnership project with the Michigan City Historical Society who also partially funded the project. We will continue this partnership to preserve the Old Lighthouse Museum to benefit the City and the Michigan City Historical Society.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

# WASHINGTON PARK (continued)

## Millennium Plaza

This 5 acre community park was constructed in 1999 and opened to the public in 2000 to celebrate the Millennium. The park was built by the City on the former site of the Smith Brothers Cough Drop factory. The park is located on the south west side of Washington Park and features a stage with Greek style theater seating, a water fountain, four built in picnic tables with checker/chess board tops, benches along the creek, two bike racks, and off street parking. The parkland portion of Millennium Plaza was assigned and placed under the jurisdiction of the Park Department for administration and maintenance on December 20, 2004 by The Michigan City Board of Public Works and Safety. Located along north bank of Trail Creek the plaza is a favorite spot for fisherman. The plaza features beautifully manicured gardens. Millennium Plaza is also home to the Michigan City Firefighters and Police Officers Memorial. The monument was erected in 2006 to commemorate the 5th anniversary of 9/11. The life size bronze statues of a kneeling firefighter along with a standing police officer consoling a child are the creation of artist Ron Pekar. The monument also features two individual podiums with bronze plaques depicting the badge of each department accompanied by the department's prayer. Behind this honorable display are five flag poles; the tallest displaying our Nation's flag which is lit continuously. The remaining flags are of our State, City, Firefighters and Police. Paving bricks can be purchased and inscribed with personal names and messages and have been incorporated into the plaza walkways. All amenities in the park are in good condition.

As a cost saving measure, the Park Department tried to do the landscape maintenance in house. We didn't have the staff to maintain the gardens properly so we returned to hiring the service out.

The plaza has been underutilized since it's initial construction. We have a handful of weddings each year that bring in minimum income. In 2021 we entered an MOU with Harbor Country Adventures. Harbor Country Adventures operates a tour boat which is moored at Millennium Plaza. They added tables, chairs, two drink vending machines, and tree lighting to the plaza. During the 2021 summer season they held five music festivals and three free magic shows at the plaza. We will continue to work with Harbor Country Adventures to promote the use of the plaza by providing quality entertainment and free family events.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Repair fountain lighting, paint railings and add a service gate on the northwest corner for equipment and supply deliveries for events.



## Beach Management

The Michigan City Park Department has jurisdiction of 1.9 miles of beach. We have a lifeguarded swimming area delineated by buoys which is 440' long and 220' deep. Lifeguards are scheduled every day from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Water quality is tested daily for E-coli by the Michigan City Sanitary District and notifications are posted daily by park staff between Memorial Day and Labor Day. In an effort to reduce E-coli, in 2009 the City adopted an ordinance prohibiting the feeding of wildlife on park property, we covered our trash cans to prevent foraging by animals and birds and we changed our beach sanitizing method to a deep tine method to dry the sand quickly. In 2010 we began a goose eradication program which has proven to be very successful.



In 2011 we began a program with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association to observe and record water data specific to rip currents. In 2012 the Park Department established a beach location flag system to assist patrons in identifying their location on the beach in emergency situations. Signage was added in 2012 with rip current and shelf ice safety information, park rules and beach safety tips. In 2013 we began a program with the United States Geological Survey to establish a predictive model for E-coli. Each year we conduct education and outreach with local newspaper feature stories, our annual Beach, Pier and Water Safety Expo, and several Adopt-a-Beach volunteer clean up events.

Over the past four to five years there has been little or no interest from lifeguard applicants. We reached out to the school system and local YMCA and found out this is a national trend. High school kids are no longer interested or are not physically fit enough to pass the in-water tests. To encourage applicants we raised wages by \$5 per hour at the beginning of the 2021 beach season. We were only able to retain 4 waterfront certified guards, not enough to safely run our lifeguard operation. In order to offer some level of safety at the beach, in 2021 we partnered with our local fire department and paid them to provide an ATV staffed with two firefighters and rescue gear to assist us and we created the Washington Park Customer Service Team. It was determined that 88% of the incidents our lifeguards responded to in recent years were land based, lost children, first aid, or medical incidents. Lifeguards were only allowed to perform water rescues with the assistance of the fire fighters. This resulted in the successful rescue of 8 individuals. We continued to try to build a full lifeguard team and on July 8, 2021 Mayor Parry issued Executive Order No. 02-2021 raising the hourly rate to \$25 to \$27 per hour. We received interest from former lifeguards who moved on to other professions including one EMT and a high school swim coach. We were able to fully staff a full team by mid July.

During the 2022 budget process, which was conducted in the fall of 2021, Mayor Parry announced he was moving the responsibilities of the lifeguard team from the Park Department's jurisdiction to the Michigan City Fire Department.



## Oasis Splash Park

The Oasis Splash Park was identified as a desired amenity in the 2006 Washington Park Master Plan and the 2007-2011 Park Department Master Plan. In 2009 and 2010 the park was constructed on the site of the former tennis courts at a cost of \$950,000. The Oasis Splash Park opened to the public on May 28, 2010. The 15,000 square foot park features 31 water features, a concession stand, public restrooms, outdoor showers and a shaded picnic area. After experiencing a decline in visitors and revenue at the splash park, we raised Washington Park parking fees by \$1 per car in 2018 generating approximately \$72,000 in additional revenue. This allowed us to offer the splash park free to everyone and still cover its approximately \$25,000 annual operating costs.

The 2016 Washington Park Master Plan outlines plans to remove the splash park and replace it with a festival area and public restrooms. The City's 2014 Lake Michigan Gateway Implementation Strategy suggested a downtown plaza with water features near the Uptown Arts District to replace it. However, this never occurred.

The park was closed during the 2020 and 2021 seasons due to the pandemic. In 2020 we were notified by OSHA specialized equipment including a hoist, self-contained air system and an air monitoring system was needed at an approximate cost of \$20,000.00. The park remained closed in 2021.

Opening and upgrading the splash park was mentioned 114 times in the 542 surveys received and was mentioned 5 times in Facebook comments. The splash park should be re-opened in 2022.



**ACTION ITEMS:** Purchase required OSHA safety equipment.



## North Pointe Pavilion

The North Pointe Pavilion was constructed in 2014/2015 at cost of \$3,477,000. The project was funded entirely by the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission. The building opened to the public on August 3, 2015. The building features an upper level observation deck with an elevator for ADA access, overlooking the lighthouse and beach. The lower pavilion offers a covered patio with a stage and indoor and outdoor patio seating, and a concession stand. There are outdoor beach showers and public restrooms. The building also supports Park Department operations with 2 seasonal offices for the parking operation, a break room, a locker room, and restrooms with showers. The project added a 146 space parking lot to Washington Park. In 2016 the Michigan City Common Council funded restaurant and lounge furniture at a cost of \$150,000.

The Park Department leased the concession area to Fire and Water Restaurant from 2015 to 2017 and to Sunset Grille Restaurant from 2018 to present. The original design was for a concession stand, not a restaurant which has caused many challenges including not enough electrical capacity, poor kitchen ventilation and lack of shade on the upper patio. Improvements made to the building to address those concerns remain the property of the Michigan City Park Department and resulted in tenant credits in excess of \$40,000 since 2015. After tenant credits were deducted, the Park Department received \$138,000.00 in lease fees from 2018 to 2021. The fees are deposited into a non-reverting fund and can be used for capital improvements.



**ACTION ITEMS:** Paint stairwells, sandblast and paint ceiling beams.

## Michigan City Senior Center

The Michigan City Senior Center is a 14,000 square foot facility located in Washington Park. It was constructed in 1997/1998 using a \$500,000 Community Focus Fund Grant received from the Community Development Division of the Indiana Department of Commerce along with Special Taxing District Bonds. It opened in August of 1998. The Park Department entered into a 50-year lease with Michigan City Seniors, Inc. giving them primary use of the facility on weekdays from August 1998 through August 2048. Michigan City Seniors, Inc. is a non-profit group organized on a non-exclusive membership type basis for the purpose of providing social, recreational and educational activities as well as social services and volunteer activities. The center is rented in the evenings and on weekends for fundraising events, weddings, showers, and other gatherings. The revenue from the rentals is held in a non-reverting fund that is used for repairs and maintenance to the facility.

In 2019, several energy efficiency projects were completed with city funding including solar panels, changing lighting to LED, a new HVAC System, and removing some parking lot lighting which saves our operating budget approximately \$19,000.00 annually.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Replace the floor, move offices to the south side of building, construct a new boardwalk for beach access, construct an observation deck and trellis.



## Washington Park Zoo

The first official Zoo Board was appointed in 1928 to create a zoological garden to furnish wholesome and free entertainment to Michigan City families and thousands of summer visitors. The zoo was further developed during the Works Progress Administration (WPA) era in the early 1930's. Projects included monkey island, the observation tower, the primate house and the engineer's castle, a replica of the Army Corps of Engineers insignia, along with many stone buildings, walkways, benches, and walls.

The observation tower was designed by Fred Ahlgrim in an Art Deco style. It was dedicated on May 6, 1937. The tower is 110' tall and sits atop a 180' sand dune offering spectacular views of the lakefront and city from it's summit. In January 2002 the WPA observation tower was closed to the public due to crumbling masonry and falling stones which created a public safety hazard. In 2005 the City spent \$700,000 to repair the tower and the tower was open for public use on April 1, 2006. Sacrificial anodes were installed to prevent the steel frame from rusting and stressing the limestone. The anodes are Sentinel-GL self-generating cathodic protection bars that are designed to deliver beneficial protective current for 10 to 20 years. The anodes were replaced in 2018 and are scheduled for inspection and possible replacement in 2030.

In 2017 the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission spent \$23,200 to fund the "Washington Park Works Progress Administration Historic Structures Report." The restoration and interpretive study of all of the city's WPA structures was performed by KW Garner Consulting and Design and Engineering Consultants Logan Cook and Ross Smith of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.



## Washington Park Zoo (continued)

Today, the Washington Park Zoo exhibits over 220 animals of over 90 different species found throughout the world. The zoo has a gift shop, two concession stands, a safari train ride, public restrooms, and stroller and wagon rentals. We offer private rentals, birthday parties, camps, and after hours and outreach programs.

The Washington Park Zoo houses 4 large cats. Federal Law regarding the housing of big cats is likely to change in the very near future. Our current exhibit would not meet the new Federal exhibit requirements. In 2021 funding was secured for an \$905,000 exhibit expansion project. Substantial completion is planned for fall of 2022.



Because of the unique nature of the zoo grounds, WPA collection and large animal collection, the Washington Park Zoo warrants it's own 5-year Master Plan. The Washington Park Zoo "2018-2022 Strategic Plan, "Guidelines for Development—Swinging into Action," which can be found at <https://www.emichigancity.com/DocumentCenter/View/2016/Washington-Park-Zoo-2018-2022-Strategic-Plan>, identifies opportunities and concepts for improving, adding and expanding facilities and operations to meet the needs, goals and mission of the Washington Park Zoo as it develops from a local family attraction into a regional destination.





## Bismarck Hill

Bismarck Hill consists of 26 acres of wooded sand dune just east of the Washington Park Zoo on the south side of Lake Shore Drive. The area is not developed except for a maintenance access road that leads to the observation tower. In 2015, with funding from The Michigan City Redevelopment Commission, the Park Department hired SmithGroup JJR to complete a vegetation, wildlife assessment and restoration plan for Bismarck Hill. The assessment was considered when developing the 2016 Washington Park Master Plan which suggests development of ropes courses, zip lines, trails and cabins. In 2016, The Michigan City Redevelopment Commission funded a 26 acre restoration project, including the removal of invasive, and planting of native species, on Bismarck Hill, Michigan City's tallest natural sand dune. The project was completed in 2017 and included .8 miles of natural surface hiking trails, giving residents and visitors new access to this natural feature. There has been no further development of this site.

ACTION ITEM: Add interpretive signage at the base of both trails for those who cannot climb the trails.

## Guy Foreman Bicentennial Amphitheater

The Guy Foreman Bicentennial Amphitheater was built in 1977 and is dedicated to Guy Foreman who directed the Michigan City Municipal Band for 62 years. The amphitheater is home to the Michigan City Municipal Band who conducts free Thursday night concerts from June through August. The amphitheater is available for rent for weddings, music festivals and other fundraising events. In 2010 the Park Department completed a renovation project at a cost of \$465,000 which included the addition of a practice and storage area for the municipal band, blasting and repainting the entire structure, the installation of 300 individual seats on lit tiers, the installation of a new concrete ADA accessible route, installation of a sound pad, electrical upgrades including a new sound panel, and new retaining walls to shore up the dune north of the structure. All amenities are in excellent condition.





## Fedder's Alley

The eastern 35 acres of Washington Park, north of Lake Shore Drive, is known as Fedder's Alley. Fedder's Alley has a small restroom facility, playground, fitness trail and a picnic shelter. Fedder's Alley has 140 parking spaces and the ability to park approximately 300 cars in the grass during major events. There are 3 sand paths from the parking lot to the beach. Following our 2014 Public Access, Land Management and Implementation Plan, in 2016 the Park Department completed a seven acre secondary dune habitat restoration project with funding from the Indiana DNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program. All amenities in Fedder's Alley are outdated and are being addressed in the 2016 Washington Park Master Plan.

**ACTION ITEM:** Construct two boardwalks, which are already engineered, in Fedder's Alley from the parking lot to the beach.

## Monuments

### Civil War "Victorious Peace" Monument



At the entrance to Washington Park stands the Civil War Monument "Victorious Peace", dedicated May 31, 1893. The inscription on the north side reads "In memory of the Soldiers of the Civil War who gave their services to perpetuate the union of the States." The inscription on the south side reads "This monument is the gift of John H. Winterbotham to Michigan City." John H. Winterbotham was a local manufacturer, bank director and senator in the late 19th century. The sculpture was designed by M. Muldoon of Louisville and sculpted by William O'Donovan and Jonathan Hartley, both New Yorkers. The monument is made of the finest quality Vermont grey granite weighing 76 tons and standing 65' from the ground to the top of the olive branch. Above the tablets is a cylindrical bronze belt cast in figures representing scenes of the war including shields of the United States and Indiana. Above the belt in Latin reads "It is sweet and glorious to die for one's country."

### WWI Doughboy Monument



The WWI Monument sponsored by the Service Star Legion War Mothers depicts a WWI “doughboy” in battlefield attire. The monument was unveiled on Armistice Day, November 11, 1926. The 13’ tall shaft consists of three stones made of Northern Pearl granite on a base of Bedford marble. The top is a 6’, bronze, life-size figure of a “doughboy.” The upper inscription reads “Lest we forget ‘our boys’ who answered their country’s call in the World War 1917—1918.” The lower inscription reads “Sponsored by the Service Star Legion War Mothers of Michigan City, IND A.D. 1926.” A double copper lined box was placed in a chiseled opening in the base. It contains the names of the servicemen, names of Michigan City’s Gold Star Mothers and War Mothers of the Service Star Legion along with the history of the monument all written in water proof ink on parchment.

**ACTION ITEM:** Masonry restoration, cleaning and mortar pointing of both monuments. The Barker Welfare Foundation has expressed interest in funding the restoration of both monuments., however, they do not fund professional services. The Park Department will need to have a professional assessment done, with specifications and estimated construction costs.

## Memorial Plaza

The Memorial Plaza, dedicated to all Veterans by a grateful community, was dedicated on Veterans' Day, November 11, 1994. The plaza is located south of the United States Coast Guard Station in Washington Park.



### PFC Daniel D. Bruce Monument

At the center of Memorial Plaza stands a monument honoring Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient PFC. Daniel D. Bruce, erected in the 1980's.. The front of the large center monument stone reads "PFC DANIEL D. BRUCE, May 18, 1950—March 1, 1969 and displays his Marine Corps Medal of Honor. The back reads "THESE OUR BOYS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY DURING THE VIETNAM CONFLICT FROM AUG. 5, 1964 TO AUG. 15, 1973." Under the inscription reads the names of those who lost their lives in Vietnam.

Around the circle are 8 monuments honoring all branches of service. The first is the citation dedicated to PFC. Daniel D. Bruce. The other monuments read "Dedicated to all men and women who have serviced their country as active or reserve members of the United States Marine Corp., United States Army, United States Air Force, United States Merchant Marine, United States Coast Guard, and United States Navy. One monument dedicated to the POW-MIA reads "Dedicated to the men and women of all branches of U.S. Military service who have suffered enemy imprisonment . . And to those whose fate is still unknown."



### **Spanish War Veterans Memorial**

Located on the grounds of the Old Lighthouse Museum, this memorial was erected in 1936 by Sheldon Morris Durbin Auxiliary of the United Spanish War Veterans. The tablet displays an image of a Spanish-American War soldier ready for battle in front of the battleship Maine. The inscription reads “You triumphed over obstacles which would have overcome men less brave and determined. President McKinley.”



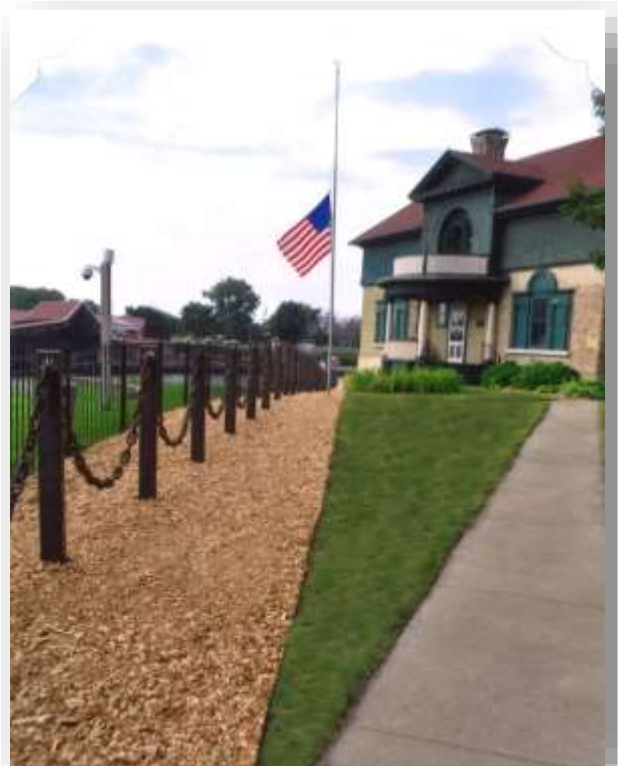
### **Grand Army of The Republic Memorial**

Located on the grounds of the Old Lighthouse Museum, this plaque on the small stone reads “In memory of The Grand Army of the Republic by Lucretial Williams Tent 38 Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865.” Inscribed at the top of the plaque is “D of U V,” or Daughters of Union Veterans.

### **S.S. Eastland Disaster Memorial**

The memorial, located on the grounds of the Old Lighthouse Museum was dedicated on July 24, 2015 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Eastland Disaster. The Hawthorne Club, made up of employees of the Western Electric Company's Hawthorne Works in Cicero Illinois, chartered several excursion ships to carry approximately 7,000 employees and family members to Michigan City Indiana's Washington Park to enjoy the annual picnic. The SS Eastland was to be the first of the ships to depart Chicago for Michigan City. Tragically, the Eastland rolled over onto its port side in about 20 feet of water while still partially tied to the wharf in the Chicago River. Eight hundred forty four of the 2,501 passengers on board perished. The victims included mostly young women and children. Twenty two entire families were lost on that fateful day. To this day, the Eastland disaster represents the single greatest loss of life in Great Lakes maritime history.

The 265’ long monument is made of (844) 6” chain links representing each life lost in the tragedy. There are bronze plaques on the north and south ends of the monument with information related to the Eastland Disaster.





### **Roger J. McKee Memorial Fountain**

The fountain in Millennium Plaza was dedicated in honor of Roger J. McKee on October 6, 2007, authorized by Park Board Resolution No. 640. A bronze plaque was installed at the fountain which reads “Roger McKee was a talented and visionary civic leader. This fountain is dedicated to his decades of public service and humanitarian causes. His proudest accomplishments were the preservation of the land on which this Millennium Plaza is located and the public acquisition of the west beach area, including Mount Baldy. His tenure of public service encompassed four years of duty in the U.S. Merchant Marines, twenty-seven years as postmaster, two terms on the city council, and five years as council president. He left an indelible mark on Michigan City by establishing numerous foundations and diligently serving on more than twenty different boards, commissions, and service organizations. Above all, Roger McKee was a tremendous advocate of Michigan City and all the people who live here. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”



### **Schoenemann Memorial Fountain**

Located west of the Old Bandstand is a short, solitary, glossy black marble column that used to serve as a drinking fountain. The plaque reads “In memory of William H. Schoenemann, one of the first Trustees of Washington Park.” It is well placed in the midst of the Old Bandstand and Rock Garden.



### **1950-2000 50 Years of Progress Exposition**

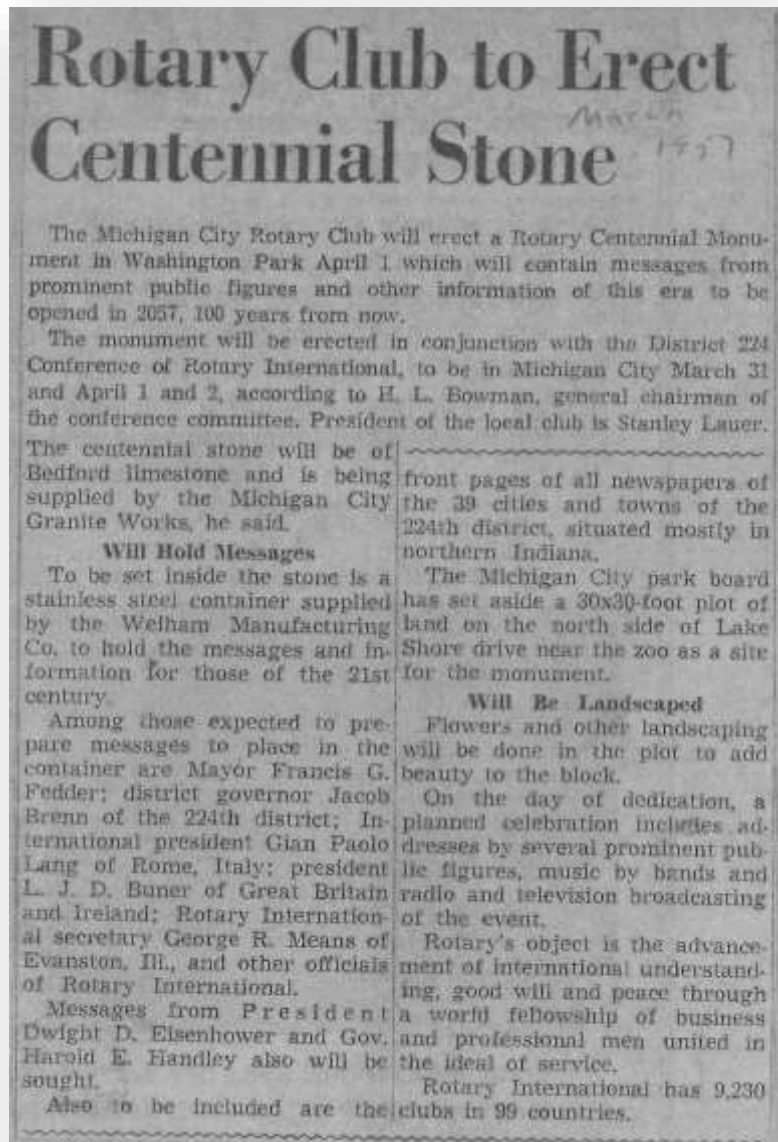
The stones were placed during the 50 Years of Progress Exposition in Washington Park which was held on September 8-10, 1950. The 1950 stone has hand prints from the winner of the “Miss Progress” contest, Nancy Carol Kanold, and the signature of Indiana’s Governor Henry F. Schriker. Over 16,000 people attended the exposition.





## Rotary Centennial Monument and Time Capsule

The Michigan City Rotary Club erected a Rotary Centennial Monument marking the location of a time capsule in Washington Park on April 1, 1957 in between the Oasis Splash Park and Lake Shore Drive. The capsule is to be opened in 2057. The monument was restored in 2017 by our Michigan City Rotary Club.



### Dickinson Memorial

The W. J. Dickinson Memorial is a quaint flower garden with a smooth concrete wall behind a concrete bench in art deco style with rubble concrete walkways. The memorial is dedicated to a man who was instrumental in the construction of the zoo and parts of Washington Park. Mr. Dickinson served on the Park Board and the Zoo Board during the years 1928 to 1937 including the Depression Years and saw the Federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) work done that forms much of the zoo and park that we still see today. The bronze plaque centered on the wall reads “W.J. DICKINSON MEMORIAL, PARK BOARD, ZOO BOARD 1928-1937.” The garden is located on the north side of Lake Shore Drive, east of Oasis Splash Park and the tennis shelter.

**ACTION ITEM:** Assess all monuments for needed repairs and seek funding.



### Public Art



Washington Park is home to artist Doug Gruizenga’s sculpture “Duet.” The piece is a replica of two neck and head sections representing string instruments. Gruizenga’s work seeks to aesthetically please and engage viewers without limiting the observer’s creative ability to interpret the subject matter. The sculpture was leased from June 2013 through June 2015 by The Michigan City Public Art Committee as part of the city’s “Sculptfusion” rotating art collection. In 2015 the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission purchased the sculpture for \$15,000.00 and gave it a permanent and fitting home in front of the Guy Foreman Bicentennial Amphitheater. The wooden mounting base was made as a temporary mounting structure.

**ACTION ITEM:** The Park Department or Michigan City Public Art Committee should investigate a permanent concrete base to preserve the sculpture, the piece should also be cleaned at least annually.

# WATER TOWER PARK

## 301 Broadway Street

This 5.5 acre neighborhood park serves the northeast section of Michigan City. The park has two baseball diamonds, one basketball court, two tennis courts, drinking fountain, shaded picnic area and playground.

The Park Department was awarded a \$250,000.00 Community Development Block Grant and a \$250,000.00 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant to completely renovate the park to include safety, ADA access, and all inclusive features.



TAG	LOCATION	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	PURCHASED	AMOUNT
LAND	WATER TOWER PARK	INFRA	ASPHALT BASKETBALL COURT WATER TOWER PARK	1990	6,200
LAND	WATER TOWER PARK	LAND IMPRV	ASPHALT WALKING TRAIL - ASPHALT - BETWEEN DIAMONDS & TENNIS COURTS	UNKNOWN	25,000
LAND	WATER TOWER PARK	LAND IMPRV	TENNIS COURTS AT WATER TOWER PARK	UNKNOWN	38,000
11221	WATER TOWER PARK	PLAYGROUND	BIKE RACK GALVANIZED STEEL	1999	277
9816	WATER TOWER PARK	PLAYGROUND	FOUNTAIN - DRINKING, WALL MOUNT W/LEG SUPPORTS	1999	1,480
11170	WATER TOWER PARK	PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT LARGE PLAY SYSTEM STRUCTURE ITEM	1999	17,665
11156	WATER TOWER PARK	PLAYGROUND	TABLE 6' LONG AMERICAN TABLE WITHOUT BACK, 4"x4" SLATS, PINE, WALNUT STAIN	2000	719
LAND	WATER TOWER PARK	PLAYGROUND	BACKSTOP, BASEBALL	UNKNOWN	5,200



# WINDING CREEK COVE PARK

## 8th & Dickson Streets

Winding Creek Cove Park is a 6.5 acre parcel which was acquired and constructed in 2006 in an effort to preserve the Trail Creek corridor. The park was constructed in conjunction with the Trail Creek Greenway Trail and upgrades to Hansen Park which were partially funded with a \$200,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. The passive park serves the north central section of the city. The park serves as a trail connection to the Trail Creek Greenway and Peanut Bridge. The park has a small paved parking lot with 3 regular parking spaces and 1 ADA parking space. There are two hiking trails through the heavily wooded area down to Trail Creek, one leads to an observation deck looking out over Trail Creek.

In 2015, the Alliance for the Great Lakes hired Global Engineering to complete a feasibility study to address water quality in Trail Creek at the Winding Creek Cove site. The study was completed funded by a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant and the study was completed in September 2014. The study identified four phases of Best Management Practices:

**Phase I—Storm Water Management.** Manage storm water run off from the parking lot and surrounding area with an engineered bio swale. This was completed in 2015 at a cost of \$15,800. This phase was completely funded by a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant through the Alliance for the Great Lakes.



**Phase II—Bank stabilization.** Stabilization of approximately 175' of bank at the site of the observation deck. Construction was completed in 2019. Funding in the amount of \$105,400.00 was provided by a Donnelly Foundation grant, a Lake Michigan Coastal Program Grant and city funding.

**Phase IV—Public Access.** Stabilization of approximately 75' of bank, constructed a new kayak launch, added permeable pavers and stone fishing pads on the bank for access to the Trail Creek Water Trail. Construction was completed in 2019. Funding in the amount of \$70,000 was provided by a Lake Michigan Coastal Program Grant and city funding.

**Phase IV—Forestry Management.** Invasive species were removed native trees planted to relieve sedimentation, reduce nutrient loading and stabilize the bank. Funding in the amount of \$21,400.00 was provided by an Urban Waters Initiative Grant and city funding. The trees were planted in 2017.



# PROGRAMS

In the past, the Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department provided a variety of recreational opportunities, striving to create and provide the community with programs offering recreational competition and opportunities in a family orientated atmosphere. We offered adult and youth activities ranging from organized leagues, camps, classes, and events.

Prior to 2015 the department had a full time Recreation Director. Due to unforeseen tax shortfalls affecting all city budgets, the department was reorganized in 2015 and the Recreation Director position was eliminated. The recreation department responsibilities currently lie mainly with the Park Superintendent, supported by office staff and a summer intern. This position should be reinstated to allow the Superintendent to concentrate on running the department and to bring back the many offerings we had in the past.

In 2018, the City created an Events and Recreation Coordinator position. The position was responsible for running our sports leagues, creating recreational programming and running city events such as the summer parade and the farmers market. Because the majority of our programming runs concurrently with city events, it was nearly impossible for one person to hand both responsibilities successfully. In 2020, the new administration changed the position to City Events Coordinator, eliminating any responsibilities related to the Park Department.

To meet the needs of our community, it is imperative to reinstate the Recreation Director position.

Since 2015, the following sports, activities, programs, events, and classes have been eliminated, some due to lack of participation, which again, leads to the need for marketing to increase interest.

The Michigan City Soccer Club disbanded in 2020. Due to the high participation in this sport, the Michigan City Park Department should seek another club to partner with, to provide a soccer program at Patriot Park.

Program	Softball, Coed Fall
Baseball, Youth BPA Travel League	Softball, Coed Softball
Basketball, Adult	Softball, Fall Big Bat Coed Teams
Basketball, Youth	Softball, Fall Men's
Class, Paint on the Patio	<b>Softball, Men's 12 "</b>
Class, The U Program	<b>Softball, Men's 16"</b>
Class, Yoga on the Beach	Softball, Youth
Dance, Ballroom	Sports, MC Elementary Schools Sports Programs
Dance, Line Dancing	Sports, Piranhas Swim Club
Event, Beach Safety Expo Participants	Sports, Punt, Pass, & Kick (Local) Participants
Event, City by the Lake Triathlon	Track, Youth Club
Soccer, Michigan City Soccer Club	Volleyball, Coed
Softball, Church Softball League	<b>Volleyball, Women's</b>

# PROGRAMS

SPORTS PROGRAM	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
BPA Travel League Teams	15	4	0	0	0
Coed Softball Teams	16	13	11	0	0
Coed Volleyball Teams	0	0	0	0	0
Fall Big Bat Coed Teams	0	6	6	0	0
Fall Softball Coed Teams	16	13	13	0	0
Fall Softball Men Teams	12	10	6	0	0
Fall Softball Big Bat Coed Teams	n/a	6	6	0	0
<b>Men's 12 Softball Teams</b>	12	12	12	0	0
<b>Men's 16 Softball Teams</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
Punt, Pass, & Kick (Local) Participants	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
<b>Women's Volleyball Teams</b>	10	6	6	0	0
Youth Baseball League Participants	335	328	346	0	280
Youth Basketball Participants	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
Youth Softball	14	38	0	0	0
Youth Travel Baseball Participants	25	12	0	0	0
NON-SPORTS PROGRAM	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020
Ballroom Dance	4	0	0	0	0
Beach Safety Expo Participants	350	200	0	0	0
Bricks Track Club	10	0	0	0	0
City Kids Day Camp Participants	78	80	70	0	0
Line Dancing	0	0	77	0	0
Paint on the Patio	28	0	0	0	0
The U Program	3	0	0	0	0
Yoga on the Beach	36	0	0	0	0

# RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

## ART



Art Space live/work/sell artist lofts  
717 Franklin Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360

Framing Station  
912 Franklin Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.879.2115

Lubeznik Center for the Arts  
101 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.874.4900

Michiana Resources Creative Concepts  
4315 E. Michigan Boulevard  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.2245

Michigan City Mainstreet Association in conjunction with the Uptown Arts District has brought Michigan City's downtown back to life. MCMA and UA sponsors many festivals and events all year long including the Farmer's Market (Saturdays between May and October), First Friday Art Walk (year round), Flame & Flair Halloween Street Festival, Super Boat International Great Lakes Grand Prix boat parade, Shelf Ice Brew Fest, and the Taste of Michigan City.

Michigan City Public Art Committee presents  
"Sculptfusion" a rotating public art program  
100 E. Michigan Blvd., Suite 2  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.1506

Southern Shore Art Association  
722 Franklin Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.879.4980

## BEACHES



Washington Park lifeguarded swimming beach  
6 on the Lake / Washington Park  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.1506

Indiana Dunes State Park and National Lakeshore  
1600 N 25 East  
Chesterton, IN 46304  
219.926.1952

Indiana Dunes National Park  
1050 N Mineral Springs Road  
Chesterton, IN 46304  
219-395-1882

## BIKING



LaPorte County Shared Bikeways  
20 bike loops totaling 420 miles throughout  
LaPorte County  
[www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org)

Singing Sands Trail  
From Calumet Trail in Porter County to Meer Road  
in Michigan City. Phase III construction scheduled  
for 2022.  
[www.michigancityparks.com](http://www.michigancityparks.com)

## BIRDING



Heron Rookery  
N. County Road 600 East  
Michigan City, IN 46360

Krueger Memorial Park  
801 Liberty Trail  
Michigan City, IN 46360

Potawatomi Audubon Society  
219.785.2765

Washington Park  
Six on the Lake  
Michigan City, IN

## BOATING



B & E Marine  
31 Lake Shore Drive  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219-879-8301

Michigan City Sailboat Charters  
200 Heisman Harbor Road  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.879.7608

Michigan City Port Authority  
Trail Creek Marina  
700 E. Michigan Blvd.  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.879.4300

Michigan City Port Authority  
Washington Park Marina  
200 Heisman Harbor Road  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.872.1712

Harbor Country Adventures  
99 Lake Shore Drive  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
Boat Tours and Rentals



## CAMPING



Michigan City Campground  
1601 N. U.S. Highway 421  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.872.7600  
[michigancitycampground.com](http://michigancitycampground.com)

Indiana Dunes State Park  
1600 North 25 East  
Chesterton, IN 46304  
219.926.1952

## CASINOS



Blue Chip Casino  
2 Easy Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.879.7711

Four Winds Casino  
11111 Wilson Road  
New Buffalo, MI  
866.494.6371

## DANCE



Dance Arts Unlimited  
215 W 10th Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.872.4221

Lakeshore School of Performing Arts  
2020 E. US Highway 20  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219-688-7982

Soul Steppers Drill Team  
1033 Providence Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.874.2607

Works in Motion Dance Company  
1227 N Indiana 39  
LaPorte, IN 46350

## DOG PARKS



Bluhm County Park  
3855 S 1100 West  
Westville, IN 46391  
219.325.8315

Creek Ridge County Park  
7943 W 400 North  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.325.8315

Luhr County Park  
3178 S County Road 150 W  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
219.325.8315

## EQUESTRIAN



Bluhm County Park  
3855 S 1100 West  
Westville, IN 46391  
219.325.8315

Ly-co-ki-we Trail  
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore  
US Highway 20 and Brummitt Road  
Chesterton, IN 46304

Red Arrow Stables  
3848 Academy Road  
Michiana Shores, IN 46360  
219.872.2114

Reins of Life  
9375 W 300 North  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.874.7519

State Line Stables  
10411 N 200 East  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
219.778.9020

Transitions Stables  
2525 E 850 N  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
219.778-9592

## EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

Mar Trash n' Treasure Sale  
Apr Buffalo Bill Fishing Tournament  
Hoosier Coho Classic Fishing Tourney  
May Mother's Day at the Zoo  
Beach, Water & Pier Safety Expo  
Jun Municipal Band Concerts every Thurs  
Flag Day Ceremony  
Kiddie Parade  
Father's Day at the Zoo  
Columbia Yacht Race  
Jul Parade  
Skamania Mania Fishing Tourney  
Pro Am Beach Volleyball Tourney  
Patriotic Program  
Spaghetti Dinner at Senior Center  
Run Wild for the Zoo 5K Race  
Cardboard Boat Dash  
Fly in pancake breakfast  
Fireworks over Lake Michigan  
Skate park Jam  
Fun Fair at the Zoo  
LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra  
Lighthouse Jazz Festival  
Soccer in the Sand Tourney  
Aug Great Lakes Grand Prix  
Reptile Day at the Zoo  
Taste of Michigan City  
Lubeznik Art Festival  
Grandparents Day at the Zoo  
Tower Run 5K Race  
Sep Tri State Yacht Race  
Hoosier Farm Day at the Zoo  
Oct Boo at the Zoo  
Dec Festival of Holiday Lights



## EXERCISE



Any Time Fitness  
4112 Franklin Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.878.8400

Curves  
1708 US Hwy 20  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.872.1020

LaPorte YMCA  
901 Michigan Avenue  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
219.325.9622

Michigan City YMCA  
1202 Spring Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.221.4055

Planet Fitness  
4067 Franklin Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.809.4348

Temple Total Fitness  
1914 E. US Hwy 20  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.879.6224

## FISHING, PUBLIC ACCESS



Clear Lake, LaPorte, IN  
Kankakee River, Kingsbury, IN  
Lake Michigan, Michigan City, IN  
Pine Lake, LaPorte, IN  
Stone Lake, LaPorte, IN  
Trail Creek, Michigan City, IN

## FISHING CHARTERS



Michigan City Port Authority  
200 Heisman Harbor Road  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.872.1712

Stylin  
Captain Darrell Stahoviak  
Captain Brad Kreighbaum  
WP Slip 7028

Shadow  
Captain Ed Svec  
WP Slip 7039  
219.926.8280  
[www.shadowland.com](http://www.shadowland.com)

Dialed In  
Captain Mike Frank  
WP Slip 7034  
269.683.6816  
[dialedincharters@hotmail.com](mailto:dialedincharters@hotmail.com)

## **FISHING CHARTERS (continued)**

Pulchritude  
WP Slip 7008  
219.874.7506

Fuzzy Bear  
Captain Carl Stopczynski  
WP Slip 7005  
574.607.2542  
[www.fuzzybearcharters.net](http://www.fuzzybearcharters.net)

Cloud Nine  
Captain Bill Wiesemann  
WP Slip 7004  
219.879.7852  
[www.fishingoncloudnine.com](http://www.fishingoncloudnine.com)

Salmon Hunter  
Captain Tony Hofstetter  
WP Slip 7060  
219.861.3681  
[www.salmonhuntercharter.com](http://www.salmonhuntercharter.com)

Crorkindill  
Captain Steve Kreighbaum  
WP Slip 7010  
219.879.8885  
[crorkindill@yahoo.com](mailto:crorkindill@yahoo.com)

Holly Lynn III  
Captain Gary Huffman  
WP Slip 7020  
812.327.4524  
[glhuffman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:glhuffman@sbcglobal.net)

Into the Outdoors Charters  
Captain Craig Koepke  
WP Slip 7018  
219.561.3405  
[craig@itocharters.com](mailto:craig@itocharters.com)

Southern Bell  
Captains Jeff & Patty Schmaltz  
TC slip 066  
574.993.0368  
[japscj@people.com](mailto:japscj@people.com)

Fire Drill Charters  
Captain Mike Kail  
WP Slip 7036  
317.710.0409  
[Mkail0409@aol.com](mailto:Mkail0409@aol.com)

## **GARDENING**

Michigan City in Bloom Contest  
100 E. Michigan Blvd.  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.1506

Walker Street Community Garden  
900 Walker Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360

## **GOLF**

Beechwood  
2222 Woodlawn Drive  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
219.362.2651

Briar Leaf Golf Club  
3233 N. State Rd 39  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
219.326.1992

Legacy Hills  
286 W. Johnson Road  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
219.324.4777

Michigan City Municipal Golf Course  
400 E. Michigan Blvd.  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.1516



## HISTORICAL / CULTURAL



Henry House (1904)  
Southeast corner of 7th and Pine Streets)  
Michigan City, IN 46360

Hesston Steam Museum  
1201 E 1000 North  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
219.872.5055

Barker Mansion  
631 Washington Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.1520

Battle of Trail Creek Marker  
801 Liberty Trail in Memorial Park  
Michigan City, IN 46360

The Brewery  
Michigan Blvd (between 8th & 9th Streets)

Congregational Church (circa 1908)  
Northwest corner of 6th & Washington Streets  
Michigan City, IN 46360

Door Prairie Auto Museum  
2405 Indiana Avenue, Suite 1  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
219.324.6767

Elston Grove Historical District  
elstongrove@gmail.com

First Log Cabin Marker  
Southeast corner of 5th & Franklin Streets  
Michigan City, IN 46360

German Methodist Church (circa 1889)  
8th & Buffalo Streets  
Michigan City, IN 46360

Great Lakes Military Museum  
360 Dunes Plaza  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.872.2702

Hutchinson House (Spiritualist Church) (circa 1870)  
220 W. 10th Street  
Michigan City, Indiana 46360

Indiana State Prison (circa 1857)  
Chicago Road & Hitchcock Road  
Michigan City, IN 46360

International Friendship Gardens (circa 1933)  
2055 E. U.S. Highway 12  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.878.9885

LaPorte County Historical Museum  
2405 Indiana Avenue, Suite 1  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
219.324.6767

Michigan Central Rail Depot (circa 1850)  
100 Washington Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360

Michigan City Lighthouse (circa 1904)  
Washington Park  
Michigan City, IN 46360

Michigan City Public Library (circa 1897)  
East 8th Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360

Michigan Road Marker (circa 1830)  
Michigan Blvd. and Washington Street (on the  
courthouse lawn)  
Michigan City, IN 46360

Old Lighthouse Museum (circa 1858)  
1 Washington Park Marina

## **HISTORICAL / CULTURAL (continued)**



Porter-Kerrigan House (1895)  
Northwest corner of Michigan Blvd. & 10th Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360

Sacred Heart Church (circa 1916)  
1001 West 8th Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360

St. John's Evangelical Church (circa 1856)  
(now The Pearl theater)  
Southwest corner of 9th and Franklin Streets  
Michigan City, IN 46360

St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception Church  
(circa 1867)  
West 10th and Buffalo Streets  
Michigan City, IN 46360

St. Paul's Lutheran Church (circa 1876)  
Northeast corner of 9th and Franklin Streets  
Michigan City, IN 46360

St. Stanislaus Kostka Church (circa 1892)  
Northeast corner of Washington and Ann Streets  
Michigan City, IN 46360

South Shore Electric Railroad (circa 1908)  
11th Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360

Trinity Episcopal Church (circa 1858)  
& Barker Hall (circa 1886)  
Southeast corner of 6th and Franklin Streets  
Michigan City, IN 46360

Washington Park WPA Works  
Observation Tower (circa 1937)  
Stone walls, pillars, benches (circa 1936)  
Rock Garden and Ponds (circa 1936)  
Rotary Children's Castle (circa 1936)

Washington Park Monuments  
Civil War Monument (circa 1893)  
Old Bandstand (circa 1911)  
PFC Daniel Bruce Memorial  
Soldiers & Sailor Monument (circa 1911)  
World War I Doughboy (circa 1926)

## **LITERARY**



Michigan City Public Library  
100 E 4th Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.3044

Coolspring Branch of LaPorte County Library  
7089 W 400 North  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.879.3272

LaPorte County Library  
904 Indiana Avenue  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
219.362.7128

## MARKETS



Garwood Orchard & Farm Market  
5911 W 50 South  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
219.362.4385

Mark's Farm Market & Greenhouse  
4374 US Highway 20  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.0624

Michigan City Mainstreet Farm Market  
8th & Washington Streets  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
Saturdays May through October

Radke Orchard & Farm Market  
8999 W 200 North  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.872.3140

Rosey's Berry Farm & Market  
1066 N 1150 West  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.874.2981

## PADDLING



Kayak / Canoe Launches

Trail Creek  
Hansen Park—ADA accessible  
100 E Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.1506

Lake Michigan  
Washington Park  
6 on the Lake  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.3873.1506

Clubs

Northwest Indiana Paddling Association  
2307 LaPorte Avenue, #2  
Valparaiso, IN 46383  
219.465.1422

Rentals

B & E Marine  
31 Lake Shore Drive  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219-879-8301

Harbor Country Adventures  
12 on the Lake  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.879.3009

## PARKS



Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department  
100 E Michigan Blvd, Suite 2  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.1506

- ◆ Adams Park, 307 Village Road
- ◆ Beachwalk, Stop 7 Lake Shore Drive
- ◆ Canada Park, 300 Center Street
- ◆ Cleveland Park, 300 Cleveland Avenue
- ◆ Gardena Park, 900 Gardena Street
- ◆ Hansen Park, 100 E Street
- ◆ Joe Hawkins Park, 1501 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street
- ◆ Karwick Nature Park, 700 S. Karwick Road
- ◆ Krueger Memorial Park, 801 Liberty Trail
- ◆ Millennium Plaza, 55 Franklin Street
- ◆ Mott's Woods, 2000 Johnrue
- ◆ Oak Hills Park, 716 Martin Luther King Drive
- ◆ Patriot Park, 2224 N 950 West
- ◆ Pullman Park, 550 W 4<sup>th</sup> Street
- ◆ Ridgeland Park, 620 Ridgeland Avenue
- ◆ Ruby Woods, West Barker Road
- ◆ Tall Timbers Park, 3100 Springland Avenue
- ◆ Walker Street Park, 900 Walker Street
- ◆ Washington Park, Six on the Lake
- ◆ Water Tower Park, 301 Broadway
- ◆ Winding Creek Cove Park, 1400 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street

LaPorte County Park Department  
0185 S. Holmesville Road  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
219.325.8315

- ◆ Bluhm Park, 3855 S. 1100 W
- ◆ Creek Ridge Park, 7943 W. 400 N
- ◆ Luhr Park, 3178 S. County Rd 150W
- ◆ Red Mill Park, 0185 S. Holmesville Road

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore  
1100 N. Mineral Springs Road  
Porter, IN 46304  
219.926.7561

- ◆ Visitor Center, 1215 N SR 39, Porter, IN
- ◆ Calumet Dune Interpretive Center, US 12 & Kemil Road, Chesterton, IN
- ◆ Mount Baldy, US 12, Michigan City, IN
- ◆ Kemil Beach, Kemil Road, Beverly Shores, IN
- ◆ Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm, Hwy 20 and Mineral Springs Road, Porter, IN
- ◆ Lake View, corner of Lake and Broadway Streets, Beverly Shores, IN
- ◆ Central Beach, Central Avenue, Michigan City, IN
- ◆ Li-co-ki-we Trail, corner of US 20 and Brummit Road, Chesterton, IN
- ◆ Douglas Center, 100 N. Lake Street, Miller, IN
- ◆ West Beach, N. County Line Road, Portage, IN
- ◆ Heron Rookery, N. County Road 600 East, Michigan City, IN
- ◆ Cowles Bog, N. Mineral Springs Road, Chester-ton, IN
- ◆ Inland Marsh, Hillcrest Road and Dunes Highway, Porter, IN

## SHOPPING



Lighthouse Place Premium Outlet Mall  
601 Wabash Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.879.6506

Uptown Arts District—Retail, Boutique, Art, Resale  
Franklin Street between 11th & 2nd Streets  
Michigan City, IN 46360



## SKATING (ICE & ROLLER)



Michigan City Skate Park  
Pullman Park, 550 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.1506

The Ice Box  
1421 S. Walnut Street  
South Bend, IN 46619  
219.288.3300

## SKIING (CROSS COUNTRY)



LaPorte County Park Department  
0185 S. Holmesville Road  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
219.325.8315

- ♦ Bluhm Park, 3855 S. 1100 W, Westville, IN
- ♦ Creek Ridge Park, 7943 W. 400 N, Michigan City, IN
- ♦ Luhr Park, 3178 S. County Rd 150W, LaPorte, IN
- ♦ Red Mill Park, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, LaPorte, IN

## SPORTS



Frisbee Golf  
Creek Ridge County Park  
7943 W. 400 North  
Michigan City, IN 46360

LaCrosse  
219.229.7541

Junior Golf Program  
Michigan City Municipal Golf Course  
4000 E. Michigan Blvd.  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.1516

Pop Warner Football  
219.874.3244

Pop Warner Cheerleading  
219.874.3244

Dunes Volleyball  
219.872.7102

Platinum Gymnastics  
219.874.7549

Piranha Swim Club  
219.872.1688

## SPORTS (CONTINUED)



## TENNIS



Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department  
100 E. Michigan Blvd., Suite 2  
Michigan City, IN 46360

- ◆ Youth Baseball
- ◆ Adult Softball
- ◆ Adult Volleyball

EVP Beach Volleyball  
312.287.5988

Piranha Swim Club  
219.872.1688

Michigan City Area Schools  
408 S. Carroll Avenue  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.2000

- ◆ Basketball
- ◆ Baseball
- ◆ Football
- ◆ Golf
- ◆ Tennis
- ◆ Softball
- ◆ Track
- ◆ Cross Country
- ◆ Soccer
- ◆ Wrestling
- ◆ Bowling
- ◆ Chess
- ◆ Volleyball
- ◆ Gymnastics
- ◆ Swimming
- ◆ Diving
- ◆ Cheerleading
- ◆ Special Olympics

Outdoor Public Courts

Congdon Park  
211 Rainbow Trail  
Trail Creek, IN 46360

Elston Middle School  
E. Ripley & Franklin Streets  
Michigan City, IN 46360

Barker Middle School  
319 Barker Road  
Michigan City, IN 46360

## THEATER



Acting Theater of Michigan City  
215 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.872.4221

Dunes Summer Theater  
288 Shady Oak Drive  
Michiana Shores, IN  
219.879.7509

Footlight Players  
1705 Franklin Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.874.4035

The Festival Players Guild  
807 Franklin Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.879.6377

## WALKING TRAILS



Michigan City, Indiana

- ♦ Gardena Park, 900 Gardena Street
- ♦ Patriot Park, 2224 N 950 West
- ♦ Streibel Pond, Hitchcock & Earl Roads
- ♦ Singing Sands Trail, access at 8<sup>th</sup> & Dickson Streets

## WATER PARKS



Deep River Water Park  
9001 E Highway 30  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
219.947.7850

Oasis Splash Park  
8 on the Lake / Washington Park  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.1506



## YOUTH SERVING AGENCIES

Boys and Girls Club  
301 East 8th Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.2298

Dunes National Lakeshore  
1100 North Mineral Springs Road  
Porter, IN 46304  
219.926.7561

## **YOUTH SERVING AGENCIES (CONTINUED)**

Hope, Inc.  
P.O. Box 164  
Michigan City, IN 46361  
219.874.4606

Hours for Ours  
817 LaFayette Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.2026 X: 311

Imagination Station  
1200 East Coolspring Avenue  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.872.6723

Leadership LaPorte County  
555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 101  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
219.325.8223

Lubeznik Center for the Arts  
101 West 2nd Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.874.4900

Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department  
100 E. Michigan Blvd., Suite 2  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.1506

Michigan City Public Library  
100 East 4th Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.3045

Minority Health Coalition and the Martin Luther  
King Center  
P.O. Box 8515  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.879.1712

North Central Community Action Agency  
301 East 8th Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.872.1201

Safe Harbor  
817 LaFayette Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.2026 X:310

The Voyager Program  
One Wolf Trail  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.877.7183

Youth Service Bureau of LaPorte County  
906 Michigan Avenue  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
219.362.9587

## **ZOOS**



Blue Spruce Alpacas  
6276 W Bleck Road  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
219.873.5900

Potawatomi Zoo  
500 S Greenlawn  
South Bend, IN 46615  
219.235.9800

Washington Park Zoo  
115 Lake Shore Drive  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.1510



# NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPE

Most of Michigan City is situated on a nearly level plain that gently slopes toward Lake Michigan. Sandy and organic soils predominate on this plain. Adjacent to Lake Michigan is a series of sand dunes rising 120 to 180 feet above the level of the lake. Most of these dunes are tree covered, however one particular dune, Mt. Baldy, has no tree cover. As a result, winds can move the bulk of the dune several feet per year.

Trail Creek, a significant stream within the City, meanders in a northwesterly direction toward Lake Michigan. Its mouth is located at the western edge of Washington Park. Scattered throughout the City are numerous wetlands. These wetlands are particularly abundant on the west side and in isolated pockets on the far eastern side of the City.

The proximity of Michigan City to Lake Michigan, the Indiana Dunes National Park and Lakeshore, wetlands, forests and fields has produced one of the richest wildlife areas in the State of Indiana. This combination of physical features, plant life and animal life, continues to thrive. Despite Michigan City's proximity to one of the country's largest urban conglomerations, there are over 1,300 native species of plants in the Indiana Dunes, including arctic plants, desert plants and carnivorous plants.

Michigan City's position at the southern tip of Lake Michigan has contributed to the variety and abundance of birds that sets this City apart from the rest of Indiana. This phenomenon is particularly apparent during the months of September, October and November. Migratory patterns of many birds tend to "funnel" into Michigan City after the long trek across Lake Michigan, these migrating birds tend to congregate along the immediate lakeshore. Literally, hundreds of species of birds can be found in the Michigan City area. The City's lakefront has long been recognized as one of the premier birding sites in the state.

Over ninety species of fish inhabit the cold waters of Lake Michigan. Fish continue to thrive in the lake despite man-induced upheavals in the lake's ecosystem. One of the more significant upheavals was the introduction of the alewife through the Wetland Canal in the mid-1950's. These fish multiplied rapidly, infesting Lake Michigan and threatening the survival of several native fish species. Over the years, predators, such as the salmon, have aided in re-establishing a semblance of a biotic balance in the lake. Numerous fishing tournaments testify to the abundance of fish in Lake Michigan. Most recently, Trail Creek has become an important breeding area of salmon and a very popular fishing site.

Michigan City and the surrounding area is very fortunate to have one of the world's greatest assets, Lake Michigan and the Indiana Dunes, right in our own backyard. Increased interest in the environment has led to the implementation of new beach management practices which have led to reduced e-coli in the sand and water.

# NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPE (CONTINUED)

## Climate

Michigan City's climate can best be described as "four seasons" and moderate. Lake Michigan has a tempering effect, cooling in the summertime and warming in the winter. The coldest month is typically January with a daily minimum of 14.9 degrees Fahrenheit and daily maximum of 30.4 degrees Fahrenheit. The warmest month of the year is typically July with a daily minimum of 62.3 degrees Fahrenheit and a daily maximum of 82.7 degrees Fahrenheit.

Climate: Annual average temperature is 58.5 degrees

Annual total average rain fall: 24.66 inches

Annual total average snow fall: 39.2 inches

## Lake Michigan

Record setting high lake levels during the past several years have caused a loss of beach acreage. Our shoreline has experienced extreme erosion and many of our public access beach paths were closed at times due to cliff shear conditions which posed a public safety hazard. High waves have also caused some minor property damage in Michigan City and have caused large amounts of natural debris and trash to be deposited onto our beaches. This resulted in increased labor hours, equipment use, and dumping fees. This will continue to be a challenge as we manage nearly 2 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline.

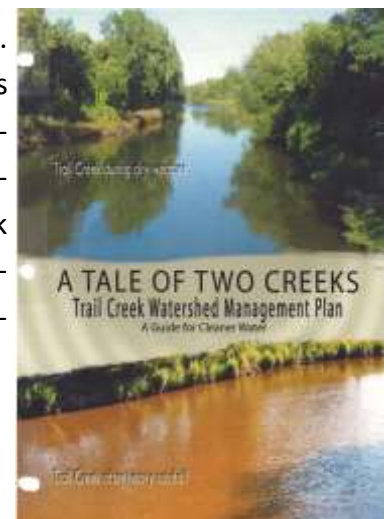
2005 to present—the Park Department offers homeowners adjacent to the Sheridan Beach Esplanade to enter into a license agreement to restore areas of the Esplanade adjacent to their property using methods specified and approved by the Park Board and City Forester. The property owner pays the total cost of the restoration work which enhances their property and views while allowing the Park Department to receive restoration work at no cost. Since 2005, 29 property owners have completed restoration projects.

- 2012 Sheridan Beach Ecological Assessment by SmithGroup JJR  
Funding Source—Lake Michigan Coastal Program grant \$20,000, City Match \$25,000
- 2014 Sheridan Beach and the Esplanade Public Access, Land Management and Implementation Plan by SmithGroup JJR  
Funding Source—Lake Michigan Coastal Program grant \$13,500, City Match \$13,500
- 2015 Fedder's Alley Secondary Dune Habitat Restoration Project by LaPorte County Landscaping  
Funding Source—Lake Michigan Coastal Program grant \$20,000, City Match \$25,000
- 2015 Winding Creek Cove—Trail Creek Water Quality Improvement Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study by Global Engineering and Land Surveying  
Funding Source—Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through the Alliance for the Great Lakes \$20,000, no City match required
- 2015 Winding Creek Cove Phase I—Storm Water Management by Woodruff & Sons  
Funding Source—Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through the Alliance for the Great Lakes \$15,800, no City match required

# NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPE (CONTINUED)

- 2017 Winding Creek Cove Phase II—Bank Stabilization (to be bid during the 1st quarter of 2017)  
Funding Source—Lake Michigan Coastal Program \$50,200, Donnelly Foundation grant \$10,000, City match \$40,200
- 2017 Winding Creek Cove Phase III—Bank Stabilization and Kayak Launch  
Funding Applied For—Lake Michigan Coastal Program \$35,000, City match \$35,000
- 2016 Winding Creek Cove Phase IV—Forestry Management by Allen Landscape Maintenance  
Funding Source—Urban Waters Forestry Grant \$21,412, City match \$21,412
- 2016 Bismarck Hill Vegetation and Wildlife Assessment and Restoration Plan by SmithGroup JJR  
Funding Source—Michigan City Redevelopment Commission \$28,050
- 2017 Bismarck Hill Restoration Project  
Funding Source—Michigan City Redevelopment Commission \$300,000
- 2017 Fedder's Alley ADA Accessible Boardwalk Engineering  
Funding Source— Lake Michigan Coastal Program grant \$50,000, City match \$50,000
- 2019 Stay on Designated Beach Paths Campaign to reduce social trails for erosion control  
Funding Source—Save the Dunes \$5,000
- 2020 Sheridan Beach Erosion Control and Public Access Project (mats on designated beach paths and planting of marram grass for sand stabilization)  
Funding Source—Lake Michigan Coastal Program \$44,500, City match \$44,500
- 2021 Stay on Designated Trails Educational Signage  
Funding Source—Lake Michigan Coastal Program \$1,025, City match \$1,025

The Assistant Superintendent sits on the Trail Creek Watershed Committee. This committee is comprised of about 25 different agencies and private citizens who work together to implement the goals of the Trail Creek Watershed Management Plan. The goals of the plan include addressing storm water management, green infrastructure, bank stabilization, and water quality in Trail Creek and Lake Michigan. This group has been very instrumental in forming new partnerships and obtaining funding to implement the goals of the Watershed Management Plan as well as the Park Department's land management plans.



# NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPE (CONTINUED)

We are fortunate to have Lake Michigan, one of the world's greatest natural resources, in our backyard. The Park Department manages just under 2 miles of beach along the shores of Lake Michigan. Our beach management plan includes water quality testing and public notification, public health and safety, methods to reduce E.coli in the lake and on the beach, partnering with other agencies to create predictive models for E.coli and rip currents.

- 2009—The Park Department began new beach management methods to reduce the E.coli in Lake Michigan and on our beaches. We installed a deep tine bar to the back of our beach sanitizer which leaves deep grooves in the sand and allows it to dry quickly reducing the growth of bacteria. We received a grant from IDEM to add lids to all of the trash barrels in Washington Park and on the beach to discourage animal foraging and defecation. The Michigan City Common Council adopted Resolution No. 4058 prohibiting the feeding of wildlife on property and waterways under the jurisdiction of the Park Department and Port Authority.
- 2010—We developed a goose eradication program. We use “bird bangers” to discourage large flocks of geese from nesting in Washington Park and the marina. The Port Authority placed fake coyotes in and around the marina, they float a fake alligator head in the harbor during the spring, summer and fall months and they planted tall grasses along the sidewalk of the harbor to discourage geese from entering the harbor from the park. The program has been successful. The average number of geese per day was reduced from approximately 200 to less than one dozen.
- 2010 to present—Annual grant from IDEM for water quality testing and public notification of water quality results. Testing is performed by the Michigan City Sanitary District.
- 2011—We partnered with NOAA to help create a predictive model for rip currents. During the beach season our lifeguard team collects and submits beach observation data daily.
- 2012—Implemented a beach marking system using colored flags so beach patrons can identify their location on the beach when calling for emergency services. We also added signs with beach tips and rules, rip current safety information and shelf ice safety information.
- 2013—We partnered with USGS to help create a predictive model for E.coli. Information is collected daily from many sources by our staff and entered into the predictive model which is submitted to NOAA for analysis.
- 2014—Formed a partnership with other beach managers and safety personnel to form the “Southern Lake Michigan Water Safety Task Force.” Through an Indiana/Illinois Sea Grant we were able to purchase rescue throw rings, rescue throw bags, adult and youth life jackets, rescue boards, rescue tubes, and whistles for our lifeguard team and police and fire units who respond to beach emergencies.
- 2015—We partnered with the EPA to conduct a Swimmer Interview and Saliva Health Study (SWISH). SWISH is part of a research project that will help to better understand the relationship between swimming at the beach and people's health.
- 2016—Through a \$13,000 grant from Arcelor Mittal, we purchased and installed 25 life ring cabinets on the east breakwater and along the banks of Trail Creek from the Franklin Street bridge the Coast Guard Station.
- 2017—Purchased a new beach UTV which has better access to emergencies than our current lifeguard truck
- 2019—Installed (4) electronic message boards on the beach with warning signage
- 2019—Installed (2) security cameras on the beach which can be monitored remotely by city staff and the United States Coast Guard



# NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPE (CONTINUED)

## ENVIRONMENTAL

The Park Department was contacted in the spring of 2017 by a Sheridan Beach homeowner who was concerned with a quickly growing sand dune adjacent to his property. The dune has grown significantly in the last 5 years and threatens to cover the back of his house.

The Park Department reached out to Natalie Johnson and Nathaneal Pilla of Save the Dunes, Derek Nimetz of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Ryan Allison of Cardno, Gia Wagner of the National Park Service, and Erin Argyilan of Indiana University NW for their expert advice. After many site visits and meetings, it was determined by all that the dunes were growing so quickly due to the over 80 social paths with exposed sand. We have outlined a multi-faceted approach to address the problem.

It is important to note our 2014 land management plan, which was funded in part by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Indiana Department of Natural Resources Lake Michigan Coastal Program, allowed for homeowners to create beach paths behind their homes using specifications outlined in a license agreement. The Park Board suspended the beach path license program on May 2, 2018 and all former license holders were notified of the program's suspension.

Victoria Wittig, Project Coordinator with Save the Dunes, in partnership with the Michigan City Park Department, developed an educational outreach program to inform residents, realtors and contractors why we need to minimize the use of social trails and maximize the use of designated access paths to preserve and protect the dunes and private property. We created printed materials and held a workshop for contractors who have been hired by homeowners to bulldoze beach paths. We held a workshop for realtors because there are many rental properties in Sheridan Beach and they helped us distribute printed materials to short term visitors.

These signs were added to all of our designated trail markers in 2020, funded by a IDNR's Lake Michigan Coastal Program small grant.



# NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPE (CONTINUED)

## ENVIRONMENTAL

Erin Argyilan PhD, Department of Geosciences, Indiana University, in partnership with the Michigan City Park Department, mapped the history of social trails using Indiana Department of Natural Resources' annual



shoreline photos that date back to 2001. This gave us the number and location of the 80 plus social paths in the 2-mile stretch of beach under our jurisdiction. Social trails below.

In 2020 the Michigan City Park Department implemented the “Sheridan Beach and The Esplanade Public Access, Land Management and Implementation Plan” by installing 4 beach access mats at California, Louisiana, Georgia and Illinois Avenues in Michigan City, and planting the exposed sand around them with marram grass per the specifications outlined in our land management plan. The mats were installed in 2020. Marram grass was planted on exposed sand no more than 3’ from each edge of the mat in the fall of 2021. Once these designated paths were installed, we began to address the closing of social paths by using designated path markers and the educational materials created with Save the Dunes. Social paths must be monitored and addressed with education, the installation of more beach mats, and if necessary, legal action.



# NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPE (CONTINUED)

## Ecotourism

The IDNR's 2021-2025 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies walking, trails, hiking, and paddling as top recreational trends. Our surveys also support this data in Michigan City.

In 2016, The Michigan City Redevelopment Commission funded a 26 acre restoration project, including the removal of invasive, and planting of native species, on Bismarck Hill, Michigan City's tallest natural sand dune. The project was completed in 2017 and included .8 miles of natural surface hiking trails, giving residents and visitors new access to this natural feature.

As interest continues to rise in paddling sports in our region, we recognized the need to install an additional kayak launch on Trail Creek at Winding Creek Cove Park. The launch was part of a bank stabilization and public access project, funded in part by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Lake Michigan Coastal Program, and was completed in 2017. This is in addition to Indiana's first ADA accessible kayak launch which was installed in 2015 on Trail Creek at Hansen Park and was also partially funded by IDNR's Lake Michigan Coastal Program. We have seen great interest in the launches with a surprising number of out of state users. They also serve as very popular fishing pads for local and visiting fishermen.

Phases I and II of the Singing Sands Trail, an off road, non-motorized, multi-use trail, was substantially completed and opened for public use in May of 2021. The Singing Sands Trail is part of the tri-state Marquette Greenway Trail connecting Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. Nearly 5 miles of trail was constructed. A segment of phase III, the final phase, will begin in October 2021. The total trail length is 9 miles. A joint maintenance plan between various city departments must be completed and a shared use maintenance equipment pool created to maintain the trail well into the future. A trail maintenance fund, funded by an advertising program is also being investigated for long term trail maintenance. New trailheads with parking, water bottle filling stations and restrooms should be pursued, especially for long distance riders using the trail system.

Birding is also an extremely popular ecotourist attraction in our region. Over 360 species of birds have been logged along the shore of Lake Michigan in Indiana. The north-south orientation of the lake creates a funnel effect in the fall as birds migrate along the east and west shores. In the spring, birds pile up on the southern shore, hesitant to fly over Lake Michigan. The dunes are an oasis for migrant song birds to fuel up before migrating along the lake into Wisconsin and Michigan. The Michigan City Park Department is partnering with the Indiana Dunes National Park, our local utility company NIPSCO, the Michigan City Public Art Committee, and the Indiana Audubon Society to construct a wildlife observation platform overlooking National Park wetlands on the west end of the Singing Sands Trail. This would provide an additional amenity for the National Park, it would be added as a stop on the Indiana Audubon Society's annual birding festival and will provide a unique space for a nature themed public art piece.

This project has been accepted by the National Park Service Trails, Rivers and Conservation Assistant Grant Program. The program provides free technical assistance by organizing stakeholder meetings, collecting public surveys, hosting public input sessions, providing design services and renderings, and identifying funding sources. We plan to have the project funded and constructed by 2023.

# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL

## ENVIRONMENTAL

The Michigan City Park Department serves on the Michigan City Sanitary District's Storm Water Advisory Group. The group was formed to advise on storm water infrastructure, advancement of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) goals, public outreach programs, implementation of the Trail Creek Watershed Management Plan, monitoring of storm water quantity and quality, address public concerns, and to maintain good housekeeping at governmental facilities.

In 2021 the group developed the Adams Park Storm Water Control and Wetland Restoration Project. The project includes the construction of a 2.5 acre wetland with an adjacent 7 acre native prairie. This project will be designed to reduce flooding in Adams Park and the surrounding neighborhood. The existing wetland features on the northwest side of the park provide an opportunity to construct a wetland basin and restored native prairie to provide a drainage solution for managing stormwater during flooding events.

There is also the potential to develop trail amenities on site that strengthen the wetland as a recreational amenity. During the 2009 Adams Park Master Plan survey process, addressing drainage and adding a walking trail were two of the top three priorities identified.

The Michigan City Redevelopment Commission has also expressed an interest in developing a wetland mitigation bank at Adams Park.

The Michigan City Park Department strongly supports this project which will provide stormwater management, improved native habitat, a wetland mitigation bank, and improved recreational opportunities for our community.

The Sanitary District submitted the project to the State of Indiana's Stormwater Investment Fund in July 2021 and also submitted a proposal for this project to the US EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Program in August 2021.

Moving the ball diamonds to Patriot Park would have to be addressed if this project is constructed. Additional parking lots would need to be constructed at Patriot Park to support the new fields. Potential funding is through the City Council and/or selling mitigation areas to the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission.



# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL

## HISTORY



Father Marquette mentioned the site of Michigan City, where Trail Creek empties into Lake Michigan, in 1674 as the place where he met and made friends with the Pottawatomie Indians. The plot for a town at the mouth of Trail Creek was made in 1830. The village became known as Michigan City in 1832, when the Michigan Road from Madison, Indiana, on the Ohio River, terminated at Trail Creek (what is now known as Michigan Boulevard).

Major Isaac C. Elston laid out the town in the early 1830's and it was incorporated as a city by a special act of legislature on February 8, 1836.

Farm products, especially wheat, were shipped out in great quantities during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, and incoming vessels brought salt, manufactured goods and lumber from Michigan forests. Fishing was also an important business.

A need for increased navigation was recognized, the first lighthouse was constructed in Michigan City in 1858. The "Old Lighthouse Museum," under the jurisdiction of the Michigan City Historical Society, is housed in the original structure today. The building is listed on the National Register of Historical Places.

By 1889, the year that Martin H. Krueger became Mayor, the bustling waterfront had deteriorated into a "no-man's land." Railroad had taken over the transporting of most farm products. The huge lumber trade was lost to the larger port in Chicago. The bridge across Trail Creek was gone and lumber yard debris was used for building squatter's shacks.

In 1893, Mayor Krueger envisioned a city park and took the necessary steps to gain political support, legislation and bond issues to fund a new bridge. Each local citizen was invited to bring a tree to plant in the new "Washington Park." The park entrance was dignified when a 60' monument was erected honoring those who serviced in the Civil War. It was a gift from John H. Winterbotham and cost \$15,000, a huge sum considering the public library was built in 1897 for a total of \$30,000.00.



# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL

## HISTORY (continued)

The next 25 years saw the flourishing of civic pride and recreational opportunities. Excursionists came by the thousands to enjoy the Indiana dunes and the public facilities in Washington Park. A bath house was installed plus a dance hall, skating pavilion and baseball field. Hoosier Slide, a giant 200' high dune attracted hikers and picnickers. As many as 10,000 steamship passengers would arrive from Chicago each weekend.

During the roaring 20's the Oasis Ballroom brought in big name bands. A large amusement park consisted of a roller coaster, merry-go-round and other concessions. The Washington Park Zoo was constructed in 1928.



Smith Brothers Cough Drop Factory, with its famous bearded figureheads, was constructed just north of the Franklin Street Bridge. More parks were built, including one in memory of four term Mayor Krueger, "Krueger Memorial Park."

By the 1930's much recreational activity had ceased due to the Great Depression and other circumstances. The excursion boat business had suffered from shipwrecks and the loss of thousands of lives. Sand mining eventually leveled the Hoosier Slide. Much of the land was then sold to the Northern Indiana Public Service Company, which operates a coal powered generating plant to the west of Washington Park, which is still in operation today but is scheduled for decommission in the year 2028.



Various governmental agencies took part in establishing public services and beautifying the north end of town. The Works Progress Administration put more than 200 unemployed people back to work building the stone park benches, walls, pillars, walkways, animal shelters, the Rock Garden and the Observation Tower at the zoo. In 2016 the Michigan City Common Council adopted Resolution No. 4651, Requesting the Stabilization, Restoration and Preservation of Historic and Culturally Significant Structures Built by the Works Progress Administration in Washington Park and the Washington Park Zoo. An assessment of all WPA works in Washington Park and The Zoo was conducted in 2016. The final report was completed in 2017.

In 1939 the U.S. Naval Armory and LaPorte County Courthouse were built and the U.S. Coast Guard took over the lighthouse service.

# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL

## HISTORY (continued)

The voices of environmentalists began to make an impact on land usage. Save the Dunes Council was established in 1952 and was instrumental in the formation of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in 1966. The park incorporated Mount Baldy and other dune land on the west edge of Michigan City.



The historic downtown found a new look with urban renewal projects in the 1960's. Franklin Street, which formerly led directly into Washington Park, was closed at the north end and transformed into a pedestrian mall. Several buildings went up in the newly-created space including City Hall and a new public library.

The lake front continues to be the pride of Michigan City and the center of recreational activities. Washington Park is on the National Register of Historic Places. The East Pierhead Light House and Catwalk that were constructed in 1904 are also on the register and are still in use today.



Our past is our foundation and the keystone of who we are as a community. It is present in our parks, which showcase many major works from past generations. It is a profound occasion to be surrounded by our own history, while making history that flows into it, compliments it, and preserves it for future generations to enjoy. A central part of the Park and Recreation mindset is to preserve our history while implementing the most contemporary plan into our public spaces. The Park Board and employees are committed to providing a full-service agency that strives to ENRICH (Enjoyment of Natural Resources Integrating our City's History) the quality of life in our community through preservation of our past. A complete listing of historical places is contained in "Area Recreational Opportunities."



# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL

## TRANSPORTATION

Michigan City is located on the southern shore of Lake Michigan in LaPorte County, Indiana. Porter County, Indiana forms the western boundary of the City. Downtown Michigan City is located about ½ mile south of Lake Michigan in the 'north end' of the City. Downtown Michigan City is located five miles from the Indiana/Michigan state line, five miles north of Interstate Highway 94, ten miles north of the Indiana East-West Toll Road, twelve miles east of the Port of Indiana, five miles east of the Indiana Dunes National Park, thirty-seven miles east of the Indiana/Illinois state line and fifty-five miles southeast of the Chicago Loop. Mt. Baldy, which is part of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, is located within Michigan City, one mile west of downtown.

Four expressway interchanges serve Michigan City, two on the Indiana East-West Toll Road (I80/I90) and two on Interstate 94. In addition, six federal routes (US 35, 421, 20, 12, 6 and 30) serve the City. These highway systems provide Michigan City with superb access to the Midwest and the nearby population centers of Chicago and South Bend. As a result, several million visitors per year utilize the various recreational opportunities in and around Michigan City, including the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Washington Park and the local marinas.

The 2006 Trails and Greenways Master Plan outlines regional and local non-motorized bike trails for safe access to open space, parks and schools.

Michigan City also owns and operates the Michigan City Municipal Airport, a general aviation airport with 50 based aircraft, including business jets and other twin aircraft. There are plans for a 30 million dollar runway extension project scheduled to be completed in 2026.

Michigan City also has Amtrak passenger service available just south of the Franklin Street Bridge.

The South Shore Railroad, operated by the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District, also serves our community with daily service to South Bend, Indiana and Chicago, Illinois. Plans to construct a double track through Michigan City are underway. Plans include a new station, parking garage, a restaurant and retail space. Commute time to Chicago will be reduced from 1 hour and 40 minutes to just 67 minutes. It is estimated this project will bring in 1,000 new jobs, \$330 million in new taxes and \$670 million in new investment. This project offers great promise for turning Michigan City into a commutable suburb of Chicago. Public transportation plays a major role in shaping where Millennials choose to live and spend time.



# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL

## HOUSING AND CULTURE

Adding housing stock will be important for the city and the double track project is already driving new investment including Washington Landing Condominiums, a \$25 million, six-story structure just west of Franklin Street near the entrance to Washington Park.



A developer plans to turn the old library on the corner of 8th and Spring Streets into luxury apartments. There are plans for a 200 unit workforce apartment complex on the corner of 8th Street Michigan Blvd. targeting nurses, law enforcement and education community members, and another 200 apartments planned for Carroll Avenue. Michigan City's goal is to add 800 multi-family units in the next ten years.

New investors and the employees they will bring to Michigan City will be looking for quality of life amenities. Michigan City currently has a lot to offer but we need to focus on the expected influx of Millennials to the city in the near future.

Millennials are looking for cultural attractions such as sports, music, art, and a vibrant entertainment scene ranging from music festivals, beer gardens, sporting events, to art galleries, all of which Michigan City has to offer. They want outdoor recreation including paddling opportunities, multi-use trails connecting to public spaces, shopping, dining, entertainment venues, and parks, along with dog friendly facilities.

A favorite local brewery, Burn 'Em Brewing, will be bringing their eclectic energy to the downtown area. Head Brewer Steve Murray stated "it is important to us to keep our business here in Michigan City. We have been on the outskirts of town for almost seven years, and downtown is important to use as we feel it will bring us closer to the city and its people."

Michigan City Redevelopment Commission President Chris Chatfield stated "For years we have been laying the groundwork for these types of projects as we look to create a vibrant downtown with even more amenities. Connectivity to downtown is a tenet of our plans as we look ahead to the 11th Street station project completion. We are cognizant of needed to beef up our hospitality side with more offerings such as Burn 'Em's new home."

The city needs to focus on increasing walkability between housing, jobs, shopping, restaurants, and cultural attractions. Several new affordable housing developments are being considered in walking distance of the Uptown Arts District, Washington Park, Blue Chip Casino, and the outlet mall. We will continue to seek funding to construct multi-use trails, enhance paddling amenities on Trail Creek, add dog friendly facilities, and bring in high quality events to Michigan City.



# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL

## CULTURE

Michigan City has many cultural attractions.

The historic north end downtown has experienced recent growth with the establishment of the “Uptown Art District.” The District hosts the “First Friday” art walk on the first Friday of each month, year round, and showcases local talents in a variety of art forms including photography, sculpture and craftsmanship.

The Michigan City Common Council formed the Michigan City Art Committee (MAC) in 2011. The committee consists of 11 voting members, one of which is the Assistant Park Superintendent. MAC has an annual operating budget of \$22,700 and a non-reverting fund for gifts and donations. In 2013 the committee created “Sculptfusion,” featuring a rotating exhibit of sculptures on public property, mainly through the Uptown Arts District. Several pieces have been purchased and are now on permanent display, two are located in Washington Park. The committee also offers grants and children’s art scholarships.

In October 2011, the Charles R. Westcott “Art Park” was dedicated by MAC. This gateway park located on U.S. Highway 12 and Michigan Boulevard features local art including hand made tiles which were incorporated into the seating walls and an art kiosk sponsored by Horizon Bank.

The City was successful in opening “Artspace” in 2016. Uptown Artist Lofts is a sustainable, mixed-use, community arts project in downtown Michigan City, Indiana. The project transformed the vacant six-story Warren Building into an affordable live/work facility containing 44 units of space for low income artists and their families, as well as ground level community arts, retail and gallery space, and art studios in the locally-designated Franklin Street Historic District of downtown Michigan City.



The Old Lighthouse in Washington Park, constructed in 1958, is owned by the City under the jurisdiction of the Park Department which leases it to the Michigan City Historical Society. The Society operates a maritime and Michigan City history museum in the lighthouse. Although the lease states the Society is responsible for maintenance of the building, it is not feasible for them to do so. The City was able to obtain a Lake Michigan Coastal Program grant in 2014 to reconstruct the lantern room on the lighthouse. The \$95,000 project was vital to saving the contents of the museum. In 2017 the park was given \$250,000.00 in city capital funding to complete repairs to the exterior of the building including the rebuilding of both porches, installing a new roof, and installing new cedar siding. In 2018 the Park Department was awarded a \$70,000.00 Lake Michigan Coastal Program grant with a city match of \$70,0000 to complete the exterior repairs which included refurbishing the original windows and pilasters, and installing new storm windows and a new gutter system.



# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL

## CULTURE

The City also offers a wide array of festivals and events during the year which feature music, dance, costumes, crafts and cuisine from a variety of ethnic and religious groups including the Lubeznik Art and Artisan Festival, church festivals, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Juneteenth Celebration, Patriotic Parade, fireworks show, Great Lakes Grand Prix, Soccer in the Sand Tournament, Memorial Day Parade, Veteran's Day Parade, and Flag Day Ceremony. Michigan City also boasts a wide variety of fine eateries featuring Asian, Mexican, Polish, Middle Eastern, Italian, French, Irish, Greek, and American Southwestern cuisines.

The City hosts a summer concert series every Thursday night in Washington Park featuring the Michigan City Municipal Band. We also host a summer concert each year with the LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra. The Guy Foreman Amphitheater in Washington Park underwent major renovations in 2009. The amphitheater is the home to many annual music festivals including "Jammin with Save the Dunes" and "Beyond the Beach Fest." LaPorte County features an annual "Indiana Idol" competition. First Presbyterian Church hosts the annual Handel's Messiah. The Michigan City Chamber of Commerce presents an annual music festival in conjunction with area churches. Many taverns and restaurants offer live bands, karaoke and open mic events every week, year round.

Michigan City is also home to five theater groups who perform at various venues throughout the year.

Michigan City also celebrates our rich history with two museums, The Old Lighthouse Museum and Barker Mansion which was owned by the City until 2021 when it was given back to the Barker Family through the Barker Welfare Foundation. Other museums in the LaPorte County include the LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, the Hesston Steam Museum, and the Door Village Auto Museum.

In 2018, Harbor Country Adventures moved some of their operations from New Buffalo, MI to Michigan City. They offer tour boat rides on the Emta II and the Sea Rocket as well as jetski, paddleboard, and kayak rentals. They also offer brewery and winery tour shuttles.



# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL

## CULTURAL

### Old Band Stand

The historic band stand was designed by H.M. Miles and was built in 1911. Today it is used primarily for weddings and the Michigan City Municipal Band's annual Independence Day concert. Since 1972 the Marquette Questers Chapter 139 have donated in excess of \$165,000 for restoration projects. In 2021 funding in the amount of \$200,000 was secured by the Park Department through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Lake Michigan Coastal Program, The Unity Foundation of LaPorte County, The Michigan City Historical Society, and the Barker Welfare Foundation for a preservation project. The project will including stripping off all paint, replacing the wood ceiling and wood balusters, repainting, adding a stair rail, and replacing the lighting fixtures with LED fixtures for energy efficiency.



ciency and reduced labor costs. Construction is scheduled for 2022.

# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL

## CULTURAL

In 2018, the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission invested \$867,000.00 to preserve the Greenhouse Building at 99 Lake Shore Drive. In April of 2021, the Park Board entered into a lease with Harbor Country Adventures to lease the office space, providing the park with an additional revenue stream. Harbor Country Adventures also offers a Visitor Center between Memorial Day and Labor Day as an added benefit to the community.



**ACTION ITEMS:** Continue to seek funding for preservation of the WPA works including Observation Tower, Monkey Island, the Rock Garden, Zoo Gardens and Pathways, and walls and pillars throughout Washington Park. In 2017, the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission contract with Kurt Garner to create the “Historic Structures Report, a Restoration and Interpretive Study” which inventories WPA structures and prioritizes the needed restoration work.



# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL

## CULTURAL

### Works Progress Administration Historic Structures

The Works Progress Administration, commonly known as the WPA, was established in 1935 and put 8.5 million Americans to work on public works projects throughout the United States during the Great Depression. Washington Park and the Washington Park Zoo have a significant collection of WPA buildings, such as the Rotary Castle, which is a replica of the Army Corps of Engineers insignia, the Greenhouse, and the Observation Tower, as well as architectural elements, such as Monkey Island, the Rock Garden, zoo gardens and pathways, designed and built by WPA workers. This collection of structures has significant historical and cultural importance to the City and the country and fosters civic pride in the accomplishments of working people. Because of the number of WPA historic structures and architectural elements, Washington Park was added to the National Register of the

Historic Places in 1991. The Washington Park Zoo is thought to be the only zoo completely designed and landscaped by the WPA. Several small buildings and elements suffered a loss of integrity due to neglect and were demolished. The City understands it is in their best interest to preserve landmarks and areas of historical and cultural significance in order to promote the economic, cultural, educational, and general welfare of the public. The Michigan City Common Council adopted Resolution No. 4651 on July 19, 2016, stating for all of the reasons stated herein, the City Council supports the preservation of these structures and recognizes the historical, architectural, and cultural significance and encourages the stabilization, restoration, and rehabilitation of these features and buildings such that it will guarantee the survival of these structures



for the enjoyment of future generations.

In 2019, the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission invested \$675,000 to preserve the Engineer's Castle at the zoo which houses a variety of exhibits including reptiles, fish, birds, and a working bee hive.



# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL

## TRAILS

The City of Michigan City recognizes the many benefits of non-motorized, multi-use trails. Benefits include economic development, alternate modes of transportation, social, civic, recreational, health, environmental and education. Quality of life issues are a high priority in people's lives today.

In 2005 the Michigan City Park Department contracted with consulting firm Butler, Fairman and Seufert to write The Michigan City Parks and Recreation Trails and Greenways Master Plan which can be found at <https://www.emichigancity.com/DocumentCenter/View/2014/2005-MC-Trails-and-Greenways-Master-Plan-Executive-Summary>. The plan outlines seven non-motorized, multi-use trails that connect to schools, parks, Friendship Gardens, the Uptown Arts Districts, breweries, wineries, restaurants, the Library, City Hall, the County Courthouse and various other businesses. The Singing Sands Trail will become a part of the Marquette Greenway Trail, a tristate trail between Illinois, Indiana and Michigan.

Other planned trails include:

Michigan City / LaPorte Trail

Monon Trail

NIPSCO Greenway Trail

Peanut Trail

South Shore Trail



The goal of the plan is to provide as many non-motorized trails as possible by utilizing existing right of ways from NIPSCO and the railroads. Once constructed, the seven trail corridors add up to almost 30 miles.



# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL

## TRAIL CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL/SINGING SANDS TRAIL

Serving the Canada and Krueger neighborhoods, this multi-use asphalt trail was constructed in 2006 in conjunction with the renovation of Hansen Park and the acquisition and construction of Winding Creek Cove Park which was partially funded by a \$200,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. The trail is 3,200 feet long and 12' wide with 2' shoulders on both sides and runs between Hansen Park and Winding Creek Cove Park along the banks of Trail Creek. The trail also features the Peanut Bridge, an old railroad bridge on the old Nickel Plate rail line, which was renovated as part of the trail system in 2006. The bridge now serves as a pedestrian way across Trail Creek and features two observation decks with benches overlooking the creek. Phases I and II of the Singing Sands trail were substantially completed in 2021 on either side of the Trail Creek Greenway Trail which has now been incorporated into the Singing Sands Trail.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Replace wood decking on Peanut Bridge.



# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL

## SINGING SANDS TRAIL

Singing Sands Trail is an integral segment of the Marquette Greenway tristate trail.



- Singing Sands Phase I (Calumet Trail to City Hall)  
Substantially complete and open to the public in May 2021
- Singing Sands Phase II (City Hall to Liberty Trail)  
Substantially completed and open to the public in May 2021





# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL & CULTURAL

Singing Sands Phase III (Liberty Trail to Highway 12 at Karwick Road). This phase was broken into 4 segments to accommodate available funding.

- Phase III-A Beginning at the end of phase II on Liberty Trail, south to maintenance drive at International Friendship Gardens, north through the gardens to the Maintenance Shop at 2011 E. Highway 12
- Phase III-B Park Maintenance Shop at 2011 E. Highway 12, east on Martin Luther King Drive to Oak Hills Park at Victory Street
- Phase III-C North on Victory Street, east on Ruth Street, north on Karwick Road to Highway 12
- Phase III-D Karwick Road, running north of the Amtrak tracks to the city's boundary at Meer Road

Segment B was chosen for construction first due to available funding and only one right of way parcel to acquire. It will not connect to phase II of the trail until phase III-A is constructed. A perpetual easement was donated by International Friendship Gardens for the project. Construction began in October 2021 with substantial completion scheduled for October 2022.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Create a trail maintenance plan for the city using labor from various departments. Create a shared maintenance equipment pool for trail maintenance. Create a trail sponsorship/advertising program to cover future trail maintenance costs.



# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL & CULTURAL

In 2016, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, the Indiana Chamber Foundation, and the Wellness Council of Indiana commissioned a study by the Ball State University Center for Business and Economic Research with the goal of creating a “Healthy, Wealthy, Wise Index” in order “to give businesses, non-profits, and local government leaders the data needed to assess wellness within counties in Indiana.” (CBEC, 2016, pg. 3) The final section of the study has an interesting discussion of the effects of local-level parks and recreation on population growth and economic development: “The policymakers also have a role in wellness and thoughtful economic development. First, over the past few decades, the United States economy has shifted from a condition where a higher share of migration was employment related. As late as the 1970’s, about one-third of household incomes and half of household spending were related to goods that could be produced anywhere. The businesses were footloose and families had to follow the jobs. However, the recent decade (especially in Indiana), there appears to be a reversal in the trend. Households now choose where they would like to live and businesses move to these workers (Hicks and Faulk 2016). The study also finds a strong correlation between the built environment and the places where people are moving, implying that households put more value on the recreational amenities. Therefore, infrastructure related to traditional wellness activities (such as trails, playgrounds, parks, and open green space) matter more than ever in where people and subsequent businesses relocate.” (CBEC, 2016, pg. 6)

The NICTD double track project, currently under construction, will make northwest Indiana an attractive option to those who work in Chicago but want to live in a smaller community.

Michigan City has an abundance of great quality of life amenities including Lake Michigan and nearly 2 miles of beaches. We have a zoo, two 18-hole golf courses, a senior center, a sports complex, Barker Mansion museum, Old Lighthouse Museum, Friendship Botanical Gardens, a robust public art program, nature and non-motorized trails, and world class sporting events, to name a few.

We are confident these amenities serve to attract new residents, new businesses and future development.

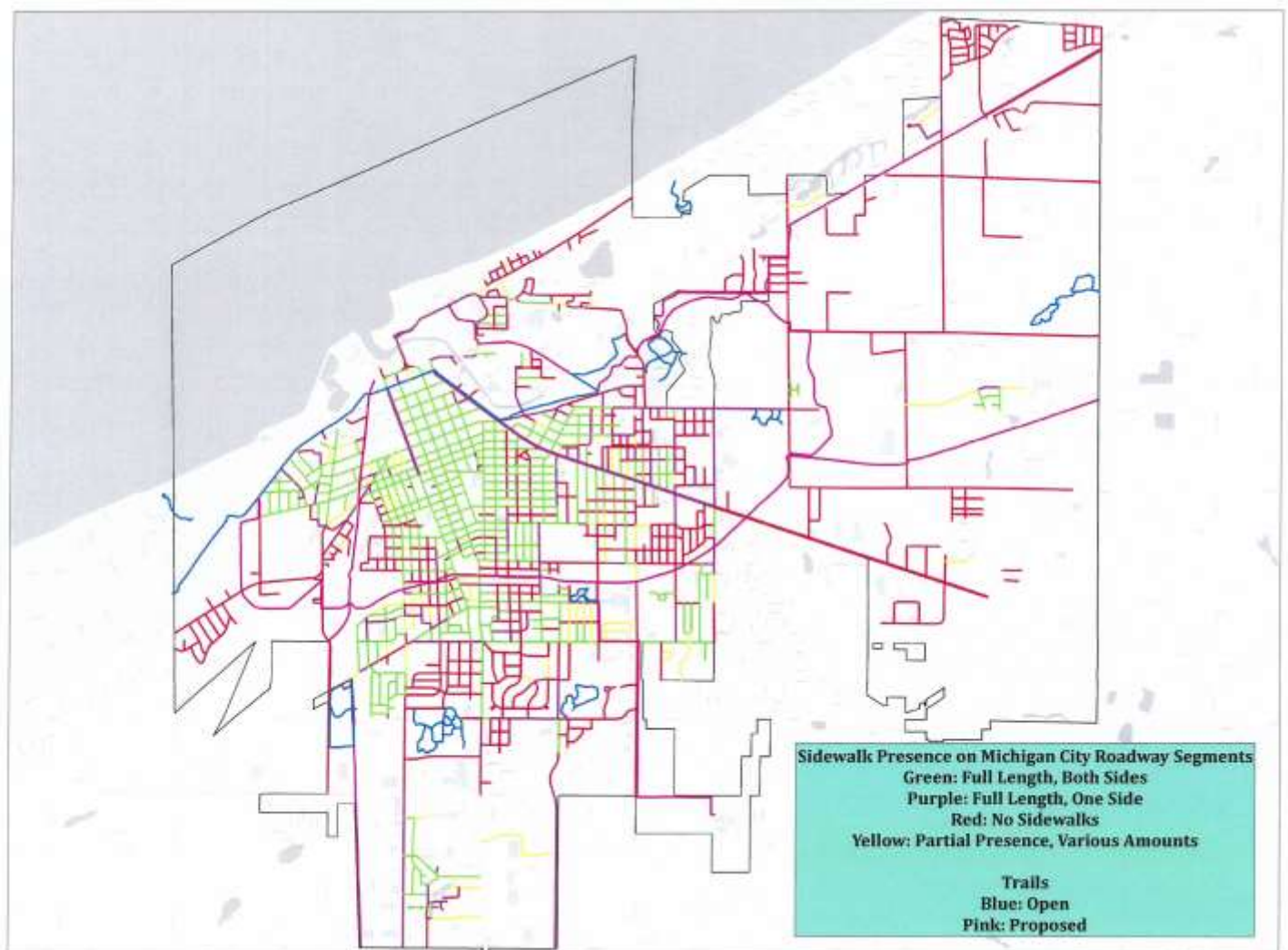




# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL & CULTURAL

Michigan City's sidewalk system is included in the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) System. The survey includes all non-State or non-Federal roadway segments within the city limits. Segments data refers to the distance from intersection to intersection along the roadway centerline.

SIDEWALKS	SEGMENTS	ROAD MILES	SIDEWALK MILES
Both Sides	800	60	120
One Side	309	25	25
None	852	80	0
Partial	51	5	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,012</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>147</b>



# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL & CULTURAL

The Singing Sands Trail currently serves neighborhoods and businesses on the north side of the city. The next priority trail is the NIPSCO Greenway Trail which will connect many neighborhoods and businesses in the center of the city. There are plans underway to construct a complete street along Liberty Trail, crossing Highway 12 to the north, to serve the Lake Hills and Beachwalk neighborhoods which will connect them to the Singing Sands Trail.

It will be important in the future to focus on making connections between the trail system and neighborhoods and businesses. The Park Department is committed to working with the Planning Department as future projects are planned and implemented.

ADA access ramps are required on new sidewalk, road and trail projects as they are constructed or improved. Audible crossing signals have been added to all high traffic road crossings on the Singing Sands trail and have been added to crossings during new construction and improvements.

To improve safety and improve access, in 2019 the city installed ADA accessible sidewalks, safety crossings, signage, and road striping at every single park and school, including private parochial schools, in Michigan City. The highlighted areas below show the new sidewalks and crosswalks in the Gardena Park neighborhood.



# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL

## CULTURAL

Michigan City hosts a variety of events each year. These events draw visitors to our community helping sustain our tourist economy. There is no shortage of entertainment in Michigan City, year round.

Barker Mansion monthly events  
Beach, Water & Pier Safety Expo  
Beyond the Beach Music Festival  
Boo at the Zoo  
Brew at the Zoo  
Cardboard Boat Dash  
City Golf Tournament  
Coho Club Fish Fry  
Father's Day at Washington Park Zoo  
Firemen's Ball  
First Friday Art Walk  
Flag Day Ceremony at Millennium Plaza  
Fly in Pancake Breakfast  
Food Truck Festival in Washington Park  
Grandparent's Day at Washington Park Zoo  
Great Lakers Auto Club Car Cruise & Show  
Hobie Cat Races  
Hoosier Coho Classic Pro Am  
Hoosier Coho Classic Pro Am  
Hoosier Farm Day at Washington Park Zoo  
Jammin' with Save the Dunes  
Kid's Day at Washington Park Zoo  
LaPorte County Clean it up Day  
LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra Concert  
Lubeznik Art & Artisan Festival  
Maple City Grand Prix Boat Race  
Memorial Day at Washington Park Zoo  
Memorial Day Parade

Michigan City Fireworks  
Michigan City in Bloom Competition  
Mother's Day at Washington Park Zoo  
Movies in the Park  
Municipal Band Concert Series  
Music Under the Stars at Friendship Gardens  
P1 Aqua X Jet Ski Races in LaPorte  
P1 Aqua X Jet Ski Races in Michigan City  
Patriotic Parade  
Patriotic Program at Millennium Plaza  
Pro Am Beach Volleyball Tournament  
Reptile Day at Washington Park Zoo  
Runnin' Wild for the Zoo 5K  
Shelf Ice Brew Fest  
Skamania Mania Fishing Tourney  
Skate Park Shred Fest  
Snowflake Parade & Festival of Holiday Lights  
Soccer in the Sand Tournament  
Soul Steppers Meet & Greet Party  
Soul Steppers Show Up & Show Out Competition  
Spaghetti Dinner at the Senior Center  
Sticker Saturday / Trash n Treasure Sale  
Super Boat International Great Lakes Grand Prix  
Veteran's Day Parade  
W.G. Jackson Research Vessel Tours  
Washington Park Zoo Bear Awareness Day  
Zoobilee Fundraiser  
Zoofari



In 2020, the City hired a full time Event Coordinator to bring large scale events to Michigan City. No new events were added in 2020 or 2021 due to the pandemic. However, plans are underway for some new and exciting events in 2022.

# SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

POPULATION	2010	2010 %	2019	2019%	VAR	VAR%
Population	31,479	100.0%	31,118	100.0%	(361)	-1.1%
AGE						
Preschool (0 to 4)	2,170	6.9%	2,351	7.6%	181	8.3%
School Age (5 to 17)	5,226	16.6%	4,892	15.7%	(334)	-6.4%
College Age (18 to 24)	2,802	8.9%	2,648	8.5%	(154)	-5.5%
Young Adult (25 to 44)	8,752	27.8%	8,838	28.4%	86	1.0%
Adult (45 to 64)	8,247	26.2%	7,672	24.7%	(575)	-7.0%
Older Adult (65 plus)	4,282	13.6%	4,717	15.2%	435	10.2%
Median age	37		36.5		-0.6	
GENDER						
Female persons	15,297	48.6%	no data	no data	no data	no data
Male persons	16,182	51.4%	no data	no data	no data	no data
RACE						
Black or African American alone	8,856	28.1%	9,152	29.4%	296	3.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	120	0.4%	42	0.1%	(78)	-65.0%
Asian alone	229	0.7%	243	0.8%	14	6.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	8	0.0%	0	0.0%	(8)	-100.0%
Two or More Races	1,177	3.7%	1,931	6.2%	754	64.1%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	20,435	64.9%	19,243	61.8%	(1,192)	-5.8%
Other	654	2.1%	507	1.3%	(147)	-22.5%
ORIGIN						
Population by Hispanic or Latino Origin	1,843	5.9%	1,957	6.3%	114	6.2%
VETERANS						
Veterans, 2015-2019	2,026	6.4%	no data	no data	no data	no data
HOUSING						
Housing Units	14,435	100.0%	14,660	100.0%	225	1.6%
Median gross rent	\$706		\$752		46	6.1%
Owner occupied units	7,129	58.7%	6,710	45.8%	(419)	-5.9%
Median value owned	\$93,300		106,250		12,950	13.9%
Renter occupied	5,874	40.7%	5,759	39.3%	(115)	-2.0%
Seasonal use	679	4.7%	664	4.5%	(15)	-2.2%
Number of households	12,136	100.0%	12,469	100.0%	333	2.7%
EDUCATION						
High school graduate or higher, persons age 25+	17,876	84.0%	18,373	86.6%	497	2.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher, persons age 25+	2,727	12.8%	3,391	16.0%	664	24.3%
HEALTH						
Persons with a disability under age 65	4,029	12.8%	no data	no data	no data	no data
ECONOMY						
In a civilian labor force, age 16+	13,272	42.2%	13,783	44.3%	511	3.9%
INCOME						
Median household income	35,710		40,631		4,921	13.8%
Per capita income in last 12 months	18,990		21,258		2,268	11.9%
Persons in poverty	8,940	28.4%	7,655	24.6%	(1,285)	-14.4%

Source: 2020 United States Census Data, 2019 Stats America Data



# SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUMMARY

The median age in Michigan City is 36.5 years while the Indiana's median age is 37.7 years. Michigan City has 1.3% more preschool age children and 1.3% less people 45 years of age and older compared to the state.

A substantial percentage of our population is between the ages of 18 and 64. This translates to 62% of our residents who are most likely in the workforce. We currently offer night and weekend adult softball and volleyball leagues in the summer, fall and winter. We offer a variety of weekend festivals throughout the summer months. Consider adding additional evening and/or weekend activities and programming year round.

Michigan City has a staggering number of families living in poverty, 24.6%, which is over double the national average of 11.4% and substantially higher than LaPorte County's average of 13.4%. Poverty levels did decline by 14% between 2010 and 2019 to 24.6% however this level of poverty indicates the need to offer free or low cost programming. Unemployment also saw a steep decline from 6% in 2010 to only 2.7% in December of 2021.

We also realize the importance of maintaining our neighborhood parks which serve poverty stricken families with no cost recreation without the requirement for transportation. We currently offer a low cost summer day camp at Lake Hills School. The program costs \$55 per week and includes breakfast and lunch. We partnered with the Michigan City Area Schools to serve free meals to all children 18 years old or younger at several city parks during the summer when school is out. The Walker Street Community Garden provides free, nutritional food to the Eastport neighborhood which is considered a "food desert." In addition to the gardening activities, weekend activities include cooking classes and health and fitness classes such as yoga. The Michigan City Park Department serves on the Michigan City Public Art Committee, who offers art scholarships to children of low income families.

Michigan City is more racially diverse than the state of Indiana as a whole. We realize the diverse population of residents and visitors we serve. We have incorporated a bilingual program in our signage and beach safety programs. We offer a variety of festivals and events that celebrate all races and cultures. Our current 5-year master plan surveys and advertising materials were available online and in paper format in Spanish.

Almost 6% of our residents are Veterans. The Michigan City Park Department partnered with the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association to provide an ADA accessible launch ramp at Hansen Park. In turn, NWIPA partnered with Valparaiso University to start a Chapter of Team River Runners. This program was designed to create an environment of healthy adventure, recreation and camaraderie for healing active duty and veteran service members and their families through adaptive kayaking. Team River Runner envisions a national network which creates innovative paddling programs designed to assist with the recovery of those injured while serving our country. Through paddle sports, TRR volunteers and partners provide local communities unique opportunities for the active, safe and positive support of healing service members and their families.

The Michigan City Economic Development Corporation estimates 1,500 people will move to Michigan City in the years following the South Shore Railroad double track project. This is a 4.8% increase to our population, the largest increase since 1970.

# SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUMMARY

Most will be in the workforce and many will have families. We have enough existing park and recreation facilities for the population growth. However, as new housing developments are planned, we need to be cognizant of their locations in proximity to existing facilities, and may have to discuss new parks to serve these developments. We also should focus on additional programming and events geared to adults and families on nights and weekends which would require the reinstatement of a Recreation Director.

The Michigan City Park Department is aware of national trend towards obesity. One third of Hoosiers are considered obese. We continually strive to create programs and play opportunities that promote physical fitness.

We created the “Passport to Summer Fun” program. This free program encourages families to visit ten parks in Michigan City and complete various physical tasks to get “stamps” on their passport. Once all stamps have been obtained, they can bring their passport to the park office for a free prize. Our City Kids Day Camp summer camp walks to Washington Park, the beach and the zoo several times a week. The camp also incorporates outdoor exercise and games to promote physical fitness. Trail Creek Week introduces kids to paddling on Trail Creek. Not only do these programs meet our goal of promoting physical fitness, but they also address the state wide movement outlined in IDNR’s Indiana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, to reconnect children with nature and these programs highlight the abundant natural resources and recreational opportunities available in Michigan City.



Our Senior Center started a weekly “Between and Walk and a Hard Pace” walking club.

In 2021, the City completed 4 miles of the Singing Sands Trail, part of the Marquette Greenway tri-state trail. Construction on the next phase began in the fall of 2021. We are actively pursuing the construction of all non-motorized, multi-use trails which are detailed in the 2006 Michigan City Parks and Recreation Trails and Greenways Master Plan.

The Michigan City Park Department has one fitness trail in Washington Park which is outdated. A new fitness trail was identified in the 2016 Washington Park Master Plan. We are currently identifying funding sources and hope to complete construction of a new fitness trail in 2022. The fitness trail at Gardena Park was removed in 2016 during a park renovation project; it was deemed outdated and unsafe and should be replaced in this high use park.

The Michigan City Senior Center has expressed interest in outdoor and indoor exercise equipment.

During four recent playground renovation projects, we focused on play equipment that builds core strength, balance and agility. We still incorporate post and deck structures, but have added spinners, climbers, and balance events as well.

# SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUMMARY

Partnering with the Michigan City Area Schools allows us to reach children who may not be able to participate in events and programs outside of school due to the cost or lack of transportation.

We partner with the Michigan City Area Schools and the Trail Creek Watershed Committee to host Trail Creek Week. This week long program is held annually in October at Hansen Park on the banks of Trail Creek. Annually, approximately 600 school children are able to experience the creek and develop a sense of ownership of this shared natural resource. Interactive learning stations feature hands on learning activities that allow students to engage in the topics. Topics include Water Quality and Assessment Methods, Michigan City History and the Significance of Trail Creek and Lake Michigan, Water Safety, and Great Lakes Fisheries-Stream Morphology, Native Fish and the Threat of Invasive Species.

After completing the learning stations, students paddle Voyageur replica canoes down Trail Creek. Six 24' canoes are supplied by Wilderness Inquiry. While paddling down Trail Creek the staff aboard the canoes points out sources of pollution, wildlife and fish habitats so the students can apply the knowledge they learned earlier in the day. The combination of hands-on, inquiry based learning and physical activity creates a high quality learning experience.



We also partner with the Michigan City Area Schools to host several Adopt-a-Beach clean up events in Washington Park annually. Approximately 150 students, teachers and parents clean up the beach each year, logging the items they pick up and learning about pollution sources that affect the health of our beaches and Lake Michigan.

# SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUMMARY

Parks provide intrinsic environmental, aesthetic and recreational benefits to our city. They are also a source of positive economic benefits. They enhance property values, increase municipal revenue, bring in homebuyers, businesses, workers, and attract retirees. The bottom line is parks are a good financial investment for a community.

We will continue our strong relationship with the LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote large sports tournaments and events to bring more tourism dollars to Michigan City.



SOCCKER IN THE SAND TOURNAMENT—WASHINGTON PARK BEACH



# SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

## **Tourism**

Tourism is a key component of LaPorte County's economy. A recent study conducted for the LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau determined that tourism generated more than \$712 million in economic impact in 2018.

The Park Department realizes Washington Park, the Washington Park Zoo, our municipal golf courses, and Patriot Park sport complex are tourism engines and are very important to the economic health of the County and City. Washington Park alone brings an estimated 450,000 visitors to the lakefront annually. Washington Park parking fees and annual parking sticker revenue generated over \$935,000.00 in 2021, or 29.5% of our total operating budget.

As facilities began to open following the pandemic shut down, we started to see a record number of visitors to our golf courses, zoo and beach. This trend continued throughout 2021. This posed challenges such as increased trash collection and dumping fees, more frequent restroom cleaning and stocking and increased utility costs which were not supported by our 2021 budget. Increases were added to our 2022 budget to cover the rising expenses.

We also faced the challenge of very low staffing during the 2020 and 2021 seasons. We believe this was partly due to fears of the pandemic and people not wanting to work with the public. Many of our revenue operations such as paid parking lots and concession stands had to be scaled back, decreasing operating hours and sometimes closing completely. Substantial raises are being proposed in the 2022 budget to be able to attract new employees and retain existing staff.

All of our employees worked very hard to keep up with the demands of our day to day operations while serving record numbers of attendees to our facilities. They are to be commended for their hard work and dedication to our department.

In 2009, we partnered with the LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau to bring the Superboat International Great Lakes Grand Prix to Michigan City. The 2019 event set records for both economic impact and attendance according to a study conducted by Certec, Inc. A total of \$13.6 million in economic impact was attributed to the race and race-related events during the three day weekend. It was reported more than \$3.6 million was in tax revenues for the government. The LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau conducted its own study and estimated more than 150,000 attended the race events in 2019. We will continue to partner with the LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau to bring this spectacular event to Michigan City.

The 2016 Washington Park Master Plan outlined plans for new amenities such as a "destination playground" which will add to our vision of making Washington Park and Michigan City a "destination." We are securing funding for the new playground and hope to construct it in 2022.

# SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

## Tourism (continued)

Beginning in 2017, we added a food truck festival in Fedder's Alley in Washington Park. Food truck events have seen growing interest in our region in recent years and this now annual event has been a huge success.

Beginning in 2020 we partnered with Hobie Fleet 126 in Michigan City to host several regattas. We look forward to hosting the Hobie North American Championship Races in Washington Park.

We will continue to seek out production companies and partners to plan events at the underutilized Guy Foreman Bicentennial Amphitheater and Fedder's Alley on weekends throughout the summer. The City hired an Events and Recreation Director in 2021 to help facilitate the planning and execution of these larger, high quality, and year round events.

In 2021, the Michigan City Park Board entered into an agreement with Harbor Country Adventures to manage events at Millennium Plaza. Five ticketed music events were held in 2021 and many free family events were added such as magic shows and pop up markets. The vendor also furnished the under utilized plaza with patio furniture and decorative lighting, drawing people to use the space.



# ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN

The Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department provides a variety of programs and activities to the general public. Programs range from youth to adult, sport to hobby. With each of our programs, we strive to create an environment that is inclusive and meets the needs of the individual. We are committed to making reasonable efforts to ensure that our facilities, programs and services are accessible to and usable by the community as well as visitors of all abilities including those with limitations. Park planning and design beyond minimum accessibility towards universal design is a comprehensive approach that considers the unique needs of all individuals.

The city of Michigan City contracted the services of Disability Access Consultants to assess all park property, programs, facilities and services for compliance in 2011. The final reports were issued in 2012 and ADA issues, outlined in the reports, are being addressed as capital funding becomes available.

All newly built or renovated facilities, parks, trail systems, playgrounds, and buildings, as well as new programs and services will adhere to the most current standards for accessible design and access. Given the vast size of the Michigan City park system, and lack of available funding, this is an evolving project.

The Michigan City Park Department has been aggressively pursuing and securing funding from a variety of sources to complete ADA and safety upgrades to our parks and playgrounds. Six parks were completed between 2014 and 2017. We plan to address another seven parks during the term of this Master Plan.

Facility	Address	Completed	Planned
Joe Hawkins Memorial Park	1501 W. 8th Street	2014	
Hansen Park	100 E. Street	2015	
Pullman Park	550 W. 4th Street	2015	
Gardena Park	900 Gardena Street	2016	
Tall Timbers Park	3100 Springland Avenue	2016	
Walker Street Park	900 Walker Street	2017	
Washington Park	6 on the Lake		2022
Water Tower Park	301 Broadway		2022
Oak Hills Park	716 Martin Luther King Dr		2022
Ridgeland Park	620 Ridgeland Avenue		2023
Patriot Park Playground	2224 N 950 West		2023
Adams Park	307 Village Road		2023
Canada Park (Sox Park)	300 Center Street		2023

# ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN

The following notice is posted on the community bulletin boards on the upper and lower lobbies of City Hall and the lobby shared by the Human Rights and Personnel Departments. The notice is also posted on the city's website at <https://in-michigancity.civicplus.com/661/ADA-Grievance-Procedure>

<b>NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT</b>
---

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the City of Michigan City will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs or activities.

**Employment:** The City of Michigan City does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title I of the ADA.

**Effective Communication:** The City of Michigan City will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the City of Michigan City's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

**Modifications to Policies and Procedures:** The City of Michigan City will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the City of Michigan City offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the City of Michigan City should contact the office of the ADA Coordinator as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.

<b>Jeffery Wright, PE</b>
<b>City Engineer/ADA Coordinator</b>
<b>100 East Michigan Boulevard</b>
<b>Michigan City, Indiana 46360</b>
<b>(219) 873-1426 (T)</b>
<a href="mailto:jwright@emichigancity.com">jwright@emichigancity.com</a>

The ADA does not require the City of Michigan City to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the City of Michigan City is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed, in writing, to the ADA Coordinator.

The City of Michigan City will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.



# ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN

The Michigan City Park Department loans beach wheelchairs to park patrons, free of charge, so physically challenged individuals can experience the same access to the beach and lakefront that the rest of us enjoy.

Beachwalk is a boardwalk structure located at Stop 7 in Sheridan Beach between Lake Shore Drive and the beach. The wooden structure is 485' long and 8' wide. There are two ADA parking spaces on Lake Shore Drive adjacent to the boardwalk.

**ACTION ITEM:** Construct two boardwalks in Washington Park which have already been engineered. Boardwalks should have a "T" shaped walk at the end to park electric scooters, strollers, and permitted golf carts, etc.



Michigan City was extremely proud to install the first ADA accessible kayak/canoe launch in the State of Indiana on Trail Creek at Hansen Park. This project also included construction of an ADA route and ADA parking lots connected to the new launch. The launch was dedicated as the Lori Kovitz Memorial Launch on Saturday, September 26, 2016. The Park Department has shared grant and project information with other communities and ten new ADA kayak/canoe launches have been installed in Northwest Indiana in recent years, furthering our region's goal of providing access to everyone.



# ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN

ADA access is particularly challenging at the Washington Park Zoo. The zoo was constructed on a sand dune and many of the pathways have steep staircases. The 180' tall observation tower was constructed by the Work Progress Administration in 1936. The only access to the tower is through the Washington Park Zoo. There are 220 steps that lead to the top level of the 70' tower. Because access to the tower base is limited by stairs and access to the interior of the tower is also limited by steps and a spiral staircase, the zoo staff erected a sign showing visitors with mobility issues what the interior of the tower looks like. The sign also shows the beautiful view of the lakefront from the tower's top level.



# ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN

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

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

SIGNATURE

  
APPLICANT PRESIDENT

Phil Latchford, Park Board President  
(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE



Kent Lange, Park Board Secretary  
(Secretary's printed name)

DATE 11/03/21

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## **Public meetings and input sessions, stakeholder interviews and surveys**

- 03/01/21 through 10/29/21 Surveys available
- 06/25/21 through 11/10/21—conducted stakeholder interviews
- 06/29/21 through 10/29/21—Facebook comments on Master Plan posts
- 07/14/21 Feature article in LaPorte County Herald Argus News Paper
- 09/29/21 Press Release for 10/06/21 Park Board meeting & public input session
- 10/06/21 Park Board meeting—survey availability and locations (no members of the public attended this meeting)
- 10/20/21 Park Board meeting—PowerPoint presentation of plan requirements (2 members of the public attended this meeting)
- 10/21/21 Northwest Indiana Times newspaper feature article
- 11/03/21 Park Board meeting—Seeking public input
- 11/16/21 Press Release for 12/01/21 Park Board meeting and draft plan presentation
- 12/01/21 Park Board meeting—Presentation of first draft of Master Plan (6 members of the public attended this meeting)
- 12/02/21 through 12/14/21—The draft plan was available on our website and in our office for review and final comments. No comments were received.
- 12/02/21 Facebook Post—link to plan on website
- 12/15/21 Park Board approved submission of the final draft plan to the Department of Natural Resources by adopting Resolution No.
- 12/16/21 Draft Master Plan submitted to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- 02/16/22 - Presentation of the final Master Plan at public Park Board meeting



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

The Michigan City Park Board and staff invested countless hours into the development of the Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department 2022—2026 Five Year Master Plan. We feel it represents a comprehensive and thorough planning document. Extensive efforts were made to gain input from stakeholders and the public.

Public input surveys were delivered to over 60 businesses and community organizations. Our survey methods included paper flyers with QR codes giving users instant access to the online survey on their smart phones, electronic links to the online survey on our website and Facebook Page, paper copies were available at the Park Office, the Michigan City Senior Center, the Washington Park Zoo, the Michigan City Golf Course, the Michigan City Public Library, LaPorte County Convention and Visitors' Bureau, and the Mayor's office in City Hall.

We noted in our 2017-2021 Master Plan that shorter surveys should be used in the future to encourage participation. We shortened the current survey from 34 questions on 11 pages, to 17 questions on 4 pages.

We made a concerted effort to obtain feedback from all demographics. We were diligent in targeting different segments of our community to represent the population according to age, race, residential status, and income level. Some of our targeting efforts are outlined below. A complete list can be found later in this report.

## AGE

To increase the number of surveys completed by those 19 years or younger, we handed out surveys to students who attended Michigan City Police Department's Youth Leadership Academy. We also conducted a group "stakeholder interview" with them, the results are recorded in the stakeholder section of this report. Surveys were also distributed through the Martin Luther King Youth Center and the Michigan City Area Schools online portal "Peach Jar."

To increase the number of surveys completed by those 20 to 49 years of age, we distributed surveys at three community Farm Markets in June, July and August 2021. Surveys were sent by blast email to all of our registered sport program families and were also distributed at Purdue University Northwest.

To reach the 50 years and up population the survey was advertised in the Michigan City Senior Center monthly newsletter.

	2017-2021 Surveys Returned	2022-2026 Surveys Returned	Variance
Age			
19 and under	7	12	5
20-49	271	285	14
50 +	217	236	19
Total	495	533	38

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## RACE

In order to increase responses from the African American community members, we reached out to Black Community Leaders on the Michigan City Common Council and Michigan City's Commission for the Status of African American Males for assistance distributing and collecting the surveys.

We worked with a member of the Hispanic Community to have the surveys (both online and paper copies) and flyers translated to Spanish. This partner also distributed the surveys to local churches with known Hispanic parishioners.

Survey responses increased for African American, Hispanic and Other residents from our previous Master Plan responses.

Race	Population	2017-2021 Surveys Re-	2022-2026 Surveys Re-	Variance
African American	29.4%	5.7%	8.0%	-21.4%
Caucasian	58.9%	90.9%	87.0%	28.1%
Hispanic	6.3%	2.0%	2.3%	-4.0%
Other	5.4%	1.4%	2.7%	-2.7%

## RESIDENTIAL STATUS

Many of our seasonal residents are homeowners, particularly in the beach areas, so it is important to get their input. Surveys were sent to the Sheridan Beach Homeowner's Association, Shoreland Hills Property Owner's Association, Beachwalk, and Dunescape Beach Club. Despite our efforts, we saw a small decrease in responses from seasonal residents. It is possible that many did not reside in Michigan City, or did for shorter periods of time, due to travel and quarantine restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Residential Status	2017-2021 Surveys Responses	2022-2026 Surveys Responses	Variance
Permanent	417	469	52
Seasonal	33	28	-5
Non-Resident	45	31	-14
Total	495	528	33

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## INCOME

With 24.6% of our residents living in poverty, it is important to understand their needs and what barriers keep them from enjoying recreational opportunities in Michigan City. To reach this population, we distributed surveys to organizations in lower income neighborhoods including events at the Walker Street Community Garden, the Martin Luther King Youth Center, the YMCA, and the Michigan City Boy's and Girl's Club.

There was no difference in responses, received from residents with income below \$20,000, compared to our last Master Plan.

Income	2017-2021 Surveys Responses	2022-2026 Surveys Responses	Variance
Under \$20,000	41	41	0
\$20,000 - \$39,999	72	71	-1
\$40,000 - \$59,999	108	83	-25
\$60,000 - \$79,999	100	79	-21
\$80,000 +	174	211	37
Total	495	485	-10

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –SURVEYS

## Targeted Surveys

Survey quantities listed as electronic on the table below were emailed. The organization was asked to distribute them widely. We don't have an actual quantity that was distributed. Paper surveys were mailed to the organizations below where quantities are listed.

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	CATEGORY	COMMENTS
Chamber of Commerce	BUSINESS	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with QR code. Emailed 08/23/21 2nd email
Artspace	COMMUNITY	emailed link, flyer, paper surveys
Citizen	COMMUNITY	emailed link, flyer
City Council Members	COMMUNITY	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with
City Hall	COMMUNITY	Flyers with QR code and dates of public input meetings posted on 6 bulletin boards in City Hall
Commission on the status of African-American Males	COMMUNITY	emailed link, surveys
Commission on the status of African-American Males	COMMUNITY	emailed link, surveys
Golf Course	COMMUNITY	20 paper surveys and 1 flyer with QR code and dates of public input meetings
LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau	COMMUNITY	20 paper surveys and 1 flyer with QR code and dates of public input meetings
LaPorte County Life	COMMUNITY	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with
Martin Luther King Youth Center	COMMUNITY	Ed emailed link, flyer, paper surveys
Mayor's Office	COMMUNITY	20 paper surveys and 1 flyer with QR code and dates of public input meetings
Michigan City Farm Market	COMMUNITY	4 paper surveys turned in
Michigan City Farm Market	COMMUNITY	4 paper surveys turned in
Michigan City Farm Market	COMMUNITY	2 paper surveys turned in
Michigan City Historical Society	COMMUNITY	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with
Michigan City Park Board & Atty	COMMUNITY	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with
Michigan City Port Authority	COMMUNITY	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with
Michigan City Public Art Committee	COMMUNITY	Emailed online survey link and flyer
Michigan City Public Library	COMMUNITY	20 paper surveys and 1 flyer with QR code and dates of public input meetings
Michigan City Senior Center	COMMUNITY	20 paper surveys and 1 flyer with QR code and dates of public input meetings
Michigan City Youth Baseball Board & Parents	COMMUNITY	emailed link, flyer
Park Office	COMMUNITY	20 paper surveys and 1 flyer with QR code and dates of public input meetings
Senior Center Newsletter	COMMUNITY	Survey will be mentioned in August newsletter
Sheridan Beach Homeowners Association	COMMUNITY	emailed link to survey, took paper copies to annual meeting 09/04/21, 12 were filled out/returned
Trail Creek Watershed Partnership	COMMUNITY	emailed link to survey
Walker Street Garden	COMMUNITY	emailed link, flyer, paper surveys



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	CATEGORY	COMMENTS
Washington Park Zoo	COMMUNITY	20 paper surveys and 1 flyer with QR code and dates of public input meetings
Youth Leadership Academy	COMMUNITY	40 surveys distributed
Purdue North Central	EDUCATION	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with
Unity Foundation	FOUNDATION	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with
All City email blast	GOVERNMENT	emailed link to survey
All City email blast	GOVERNMENT	emailed link to survey
All City email blast	GOVERNMENT	emailed link to survey
All City email blast	GOVERNMENT	emailed link, flyer, paper surveys
All City email blast	GOVERNMENT	emailed link to survey
DNR	GOVERNMENT	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with
Beachwalk	HOA	emailed link, flyer, paper surveys
Dunescape	HOA	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with
Sheridan Beach Homeowners Association	HOA	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with QR code
Michigan City Municipal Band	LEISURE	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with
Uptown Arts District	LEISURE	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with
Herald Dispatch	MEDIA	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with
The Beacher	MEDIA	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with
WEFM	MEDIA	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with QR code and survey link
<a href="http://www.emichigancity.com">www.emichigancity.com</a>	MEDIA	Flyer w/QR code and survey link
Mainstreet Association/Uptown Arts District	NEIGHBORHOOD	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with QR code
Shoreland Hills Property Owners Assoc.	NEIGHBORHOOD	
Questers Chapter #139	NON-PROFIT	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with
Save The Dunes Council	NON-PROFIT	
Washington Park Zoo Society	NON-PROFIT	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with
Michigan City Youth Baseball Board & Parents	PROGRAMS	47 surveys handed out
Piranhas Swim Club	PROGRAMS	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with QR code, email listed is not up to date
League of Women Voters	SERVICE	Emailed electronic survey and public input flyer with
Facebook	SOCIAL	Posted link to survey
Facebook	SOCIAL	Posted link to survey
Facebook	SOCIAL	Posted link to survey
Facebook	SOCIAL	Posted link to survey
Facebook	SOCIAL	Posted link to survey
Facebook	SOCIAL	Posted link to survey
Facebook	SOCIAL	Posted link to survey
Facebook	SOCIAL	Posted link to survey
Facebook	SOCIAL	Posted link to survey
Facebook	SOCIAL	Posted link to survey
Facebook	SOCIAL	Posted link to survey

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## **Paper Survey Pick Up Locations**

Available June 21, through October 29, 2021 at the following locations:

- Park Office
- City Clerk's Office
- Mayor's Office
- Michigan City Senior Center
- Michigan City Public Library
- Michigan City Municipal Golf Courses
- Washington Park Zoo
- LaPorte County Convention and Visitor Bureau
- On our website at [www.michigancityparks.com](http://www.michigancityparks.com)

## **Online Surveys**

Available June 1, through October 29, 2021 on our website [www.michigancityparks.com](http://www.michigancityparks.com) and our Facebook Page

## **Number of Surveys Returned 626**

There were a total of 84 (or 14%) paper surveys returned

There were a total of 542 (86%) surveys filled out online

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## Flyers

We added QR codes to the flyer so smart phone users could instantly access the survey. We also had Spanish flyers and surveys available.

The Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department is

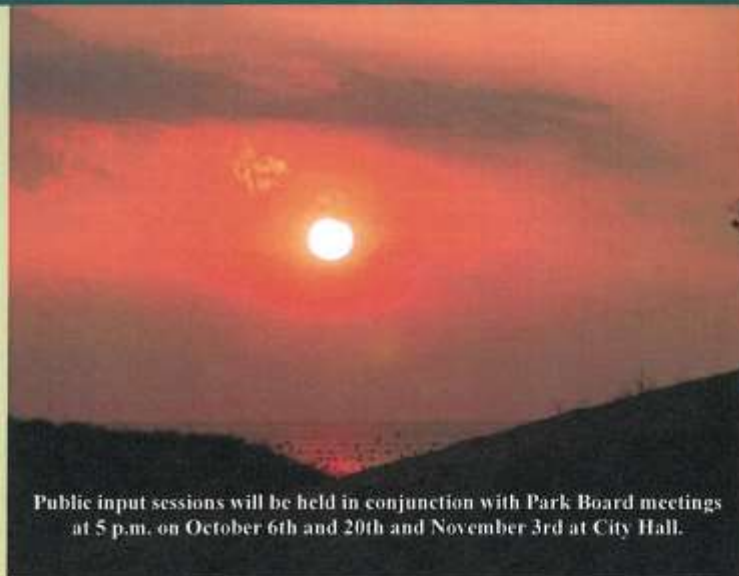
## SEEKING PUBLIC INPUT For our 5-year Master Plan (2022-2026)



**SURVEYS MUST BE  
RETURNED TO THE  
PARK OFFICE NO  
LATER THAN  
OCTOBER 29, 2021  
TO BE INCLUDED IN  
THE PLANNING  
PROCESS**



Michigan City Parks and  
Recreation Department  
100 E. Michigan Blvd./Suite 2  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
Phone: 219.873.1506  
Fax: 219.873.1540  
[www.emichigancity.com](http://www.emichigancity.com)



Public input sessions will be held in conjunction with Park Board meetings at 5 p.m. on October 6th and 20th and November 3rd at City Hall.

## To take the online survey visit

[www.emichigancity.com](http://www.emichigancity.com) then choose the Park Department under Government, then scroll to the bottom of the page. Or scan the QR Code on this flyer.

Surveys are also located at the Park Office, The Michigan City Senior Center, The Washington Park Zoo, The Michigan City Golf Course, The Michigan City Public Library, LaPorte County Convention and Visitors' Bureau, and Mayor Parry's office in City Hall and online at [www.emichigancity.com](http://www.emichigancity.com).

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS



## Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department Public Survey

The Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department is seeking public input for our 2022-2026 park system master plan. This survey was specifically created to gather information from residents and park patrons to learn more about their recreational interests and to provide an opportunity to express opinions concerning the programs, activities, and quality of parks within the City. Surveys will be received until October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. For more info call the Park Office at 219-873-1506.

### Please return this survey by to:

Michigan City Park Department, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., Suite 2, Michigan City IN 46360

By email to [season@emichigancity.com](mailto:season@emichigancity.com)

1. Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Age

- 19 or younger
- 20-49
- 50 or older

### 3. Ethnicity

- African American
- Caucasian/White
- Hispanic/Latino
- Other

4. Children in Household \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Residential Status

- Permanent Resident
- Seasonal Resident
- Non-resident

6. Do you or any of your immediate family members have any type of disability that prevents you/them from participating in recreational activities?

- Yes
- No



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

**7. Have our facilities been accessible?**

- Yes
- No

**8. How can we make our facilities more accessible?**

---

---

---

**9. Income**

- Under \$20,000
- \$20,000 to \$39,999
- \$40,000 to \$59,000
- \$60,000 to \$79,000
- \$80,000 and up

**10. List up to 5 parks/facilities that you use most often**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

**11. List up to 5 facilities you would like to see added in the future**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

12. List up to 5 activities you would like to see offered in the future

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

13. How can we better inform the community of events, activities, & programs?

---

---

---

14. Please indicate your opinion on the following topics

	Yes	No
I am satisfied with the aesthetic quality of the parks.		
I am satisfied with the current level of recreational opportunities offered.		
I am willing to pay reasonable user fees for facilities and programs.		
It is important to build new facilities.		
It is important to maintain existing facilities.		
Most of my family's recreation is done outside of Michigan City.		
Michigan City should promote recreational activities that attract tourists.		
The condition of athletic fields is satisfactory.		
The Michigan City Parks Department provides essential services to the community.		
Park Department staff are courteous and helpful.		
Park facilities are safe.		
The quality of leadership in the Park Department is satisfactory.		

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## 15. Barriers to Participation

Please indicate whether the following are barriers to participation in programs or the use of our facilities.

Barrier to Participation	Yes	No
Inadequate lighting		
Not enough parking		
Lack of maintenance		
Too few restrooms		
Transportation problems		
Safety concerns		

## 16. List your most common recreational activities

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

## 17. Any Additional Comments or Concerns

---

---

---

---

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

Departamento de Parques y Recreación de Michigan City

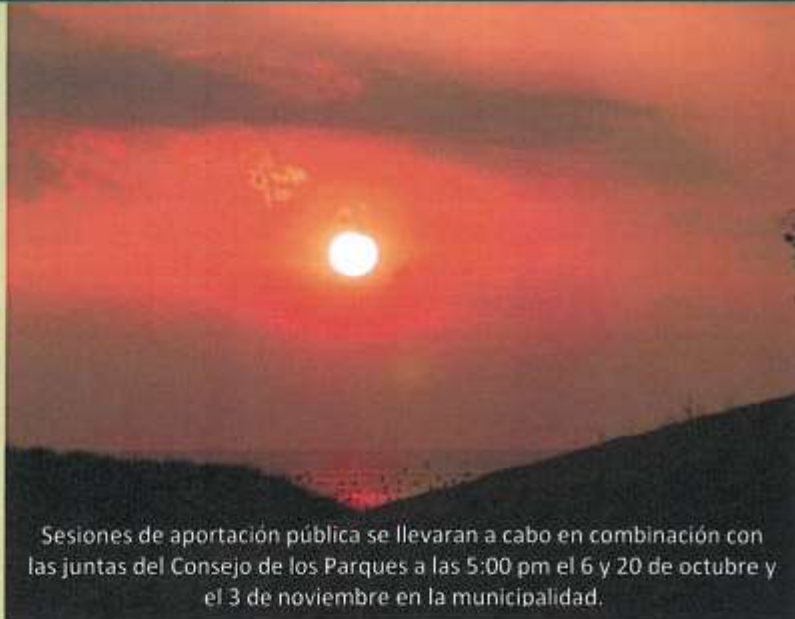
## BUSCANDO CONTRIBUCIÓN PÚBLICA Para nuestro plan maestro de 5-años (2022-2026)



**LAS ENCUESTAS DEBERÁN  
SER REGRESADAS  
A LA OFICINA DEL PARQUE  
A NO MAS TARDAR  
DEL 29 DE OCTUBRE DEL  
2021 PARA SER  
INCLUIDO EN EL PROCESO  
DE PLANIFICACIÓN.**



**Departamento de Parques y  
Recreación de Michigan City  
100 E. Michigan Blvd/Suite 2  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
Teléfono: 219.873.1506  
[www.Emichigancity.com](http://www.Emichigancity.com)**



Sesiones de aportación pública se llevarán a cabo en combinación con las juntas del Consejo de los Parques a las 5:00 pm el 6 y 20 de octubre y el 3 de noviembre en la municipalidad.

Para tomar la encuesta en línea visite la página de internet [www.emichigancity.com](http://www.emichigancity.com) luego escoja Park Department debajo de Government, luego diríjase así el final de la página o escanee el Código QR de este folleto.

Las encuestas también se encuentran en la Oficina del Parque, The Michigan City Senior Center, The Washington Park Zoo, The Michigan City Golf Course, The Michigan City Public Library, LaPorte County Convention y Visitor's Bureau, en la oficina del Alcalde Parry, en City Hall y en la página de internet [www.emichigancity.com](http://www.emichigancity.com).



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS



**Departamento de Parques y Recreación de Michigan City**  
Plan maestro de 5-años

Devolver la encuesta completada a  
**Departamento de Parques y Recreación de Michigan City**  
100 E. Michigan Blvd/Suite 2  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
Teléfono: 219.873.1506  
[www.Emichigancity.com](http://www.Emichigancity.com)

**Fecha**

Mes/día/año

**Edad**

19 o menor

20-49

50 o mayor

**Origen étnico**

Afroamericano

Caucásico/Blanco

Hispano/Latino

Otro/a:

**Número de niños/as menores de 18 años en su casa**

Su respuesta

**Estado Residencial**

Residente permanente

Residente por temporada

No residente

**¿Tiene alguien en su familia con una discapacidad que le impide participar en actividades recreativas?**

Sí

No

**¿Han sido accesible nuestras facilidades?**

Sí

No

**¿Cómo podemos hacer nuestras facilidades más accesibles?**

Su respuesta

**Ingreso de la Familia**

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

Menos de \$20,000  
 \$20,000 - \$39,000  
 \$40,000 - \$59,000  
 \$60,000 - \$79,000  
 \$80,000 o más

**Anote hasta 5 parques/facilidades que más a menudo usa**  
 Su respuesta

**Anote hasta 5 nuevas facilidades que le gustaría que añadan en el futuro**  
 Su respuesta

**Anote hasta 5 nuevas actividades que le gustaría que añadan en el futuro**  
 Su respuesta

**¿Cómo podemos informar a la comunidad mejor sobre eventos, actividades y programas?**  
 Su respuesta

	Si	No
Estoy satisfecho con la calidad estética de los parques		
Estoy satisfecho con el nivel de oportunidades recreacionales que ofrecen actualmente		
Estoy dispuesto a pagar una cuota razonable por el uso de las instalaciones y programas		
Es importante que se construyan nuevas instalaciones		
Es más importante mantener las instalaciones que ya existen		
La mayoría de actividades recreativas que hace mi familia son fuera de Michigan City		
Michigan City debe promover actividades recreativas que atraigan turistas		
La condición de los campos de atletismo es satisfactoria		
El Departamento de Parques provee servicios esenciales a la comunidad		
El personal de los Parques es cortés y servicial		
Las instalaciones de los parques son seguras		
La calidad de liderazgo del Departamento de Parques es satisfactoria		

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

Obstáculos que impiden la participación. Por favor indique si lo siguiente es un obstáculo para participar en los programas o el uso de las instalaciones de los parques.

	Si	No
Insuficiente luz		
Insuficiente estacionamiento		
Falta de mantenimiento		
Pocas facilidades de baños		
Falta de transportación		
Preocupación por la seguridad		

Anote sus actividades de recreación más comunes

Su respuesta

Comentarios o preocupaciones adicionales

Su respuesta

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department Public Survey

The Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department is seeking public input for our 2022-2026 park system master plan. This survey was specifically created to gather information from residents and park patrons to learn more about their recreational interests and to provide an opportunity to express opinions concerning the programs, activities, and quality of parks within the City. Surveys will be received until October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. For more info call the Park Office at 219-873-1506.

#### Please return this survey by to:

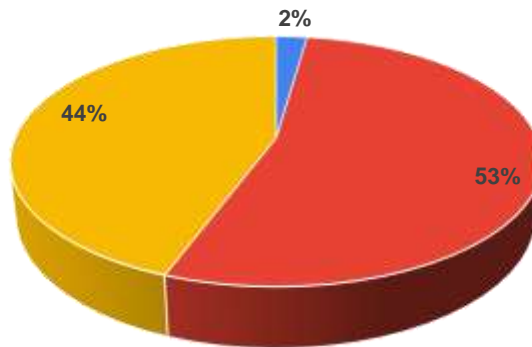
Michigan City Park Department, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., Suite 2, Michigan City IN 46360

By email to [season@emichigancity.com](mailto:season@emichigancity.com)

**1. Today's Date: Surveys were available June 1 through October 29, 2021**

#### 2. Age

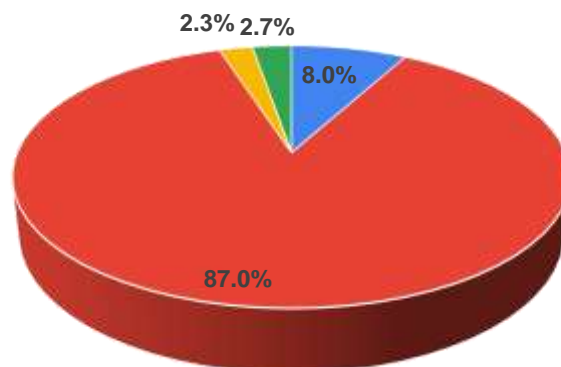
Age - 533 Responses



■ 19 and under ■ 20-49 ■ 50 +

#### 3. Race

Race 525 Responses



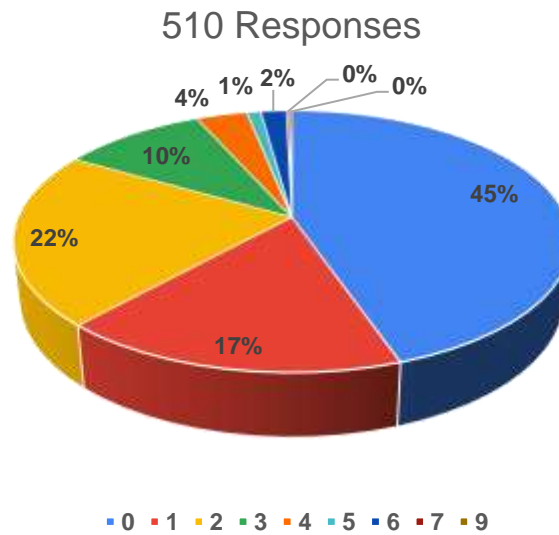
■ African American ■ Caucasian ■ Hispanic ■ Other



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

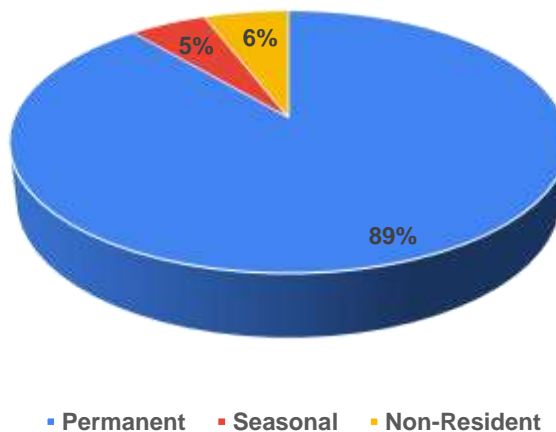
## SURVEY RESULTS

### 4. Number of Children in Household



### 5. Residential Status

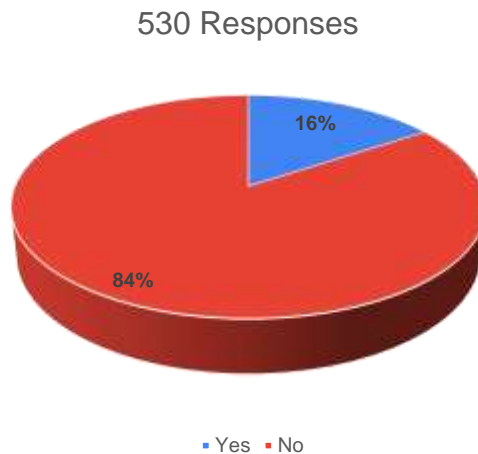
Residential Status - 495 Responses



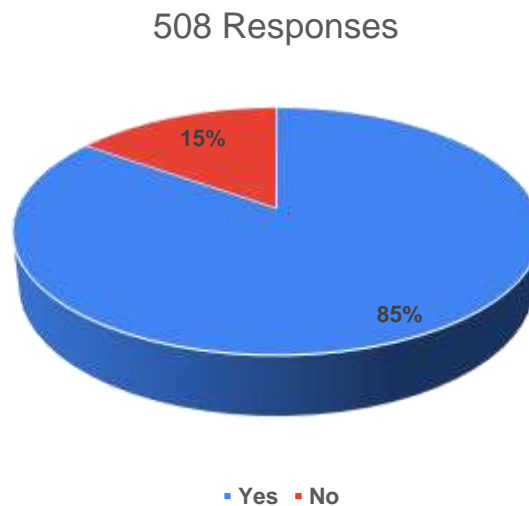
# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

**6. Do you or any of your immediate family members have any type of disability that prevents you/them from participating in recreational activities?**



**7. Have our facilities been accessible?**



**8. How can we make our facilities more accessible?**

22%	Add more beach mats
17%	Build inclusive playgrounds
12%	Address safety/lighting
10%	Need more trails and sidewalks, address potholes in parking lots and on trails and sidewalks
7%	Cleaner and more accessible restrooms

Other notable comments:

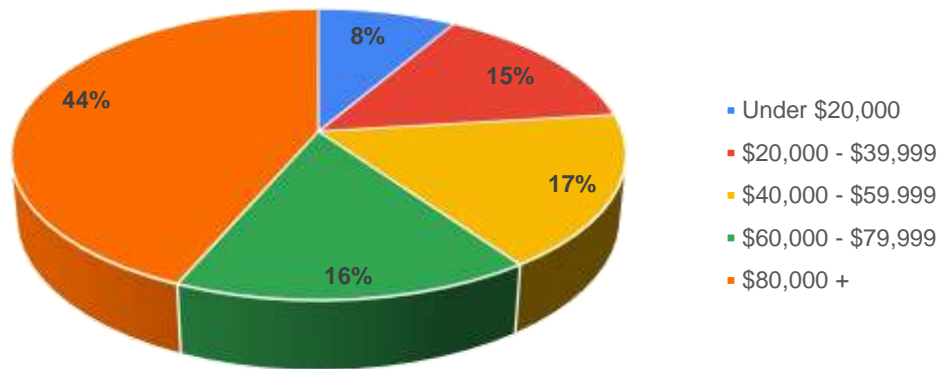
“Additional park signage as present on the trail to inform visitors, unable to climb, of the vast and delicate ecosystem surrounding Canada/Bismarck.”

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

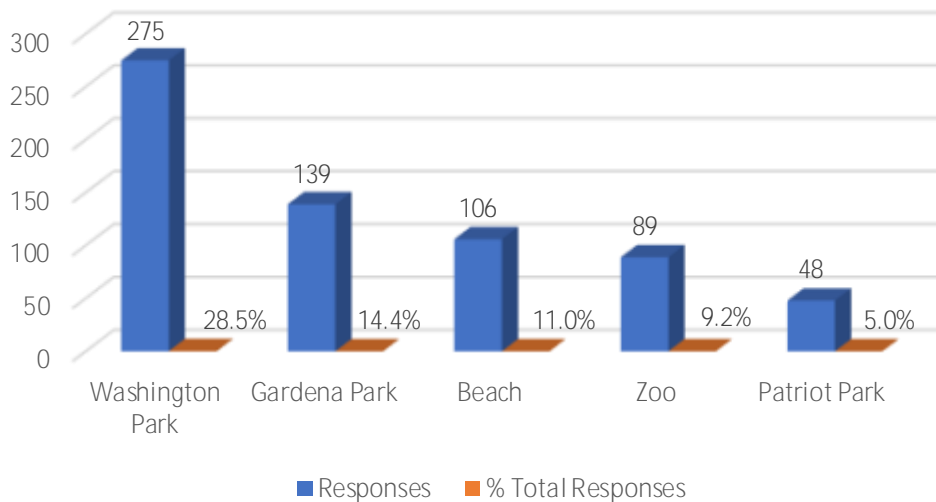
### 9. Income

Income - 495 Responses



### 10. List up to 5 parks/facilities that you use most often

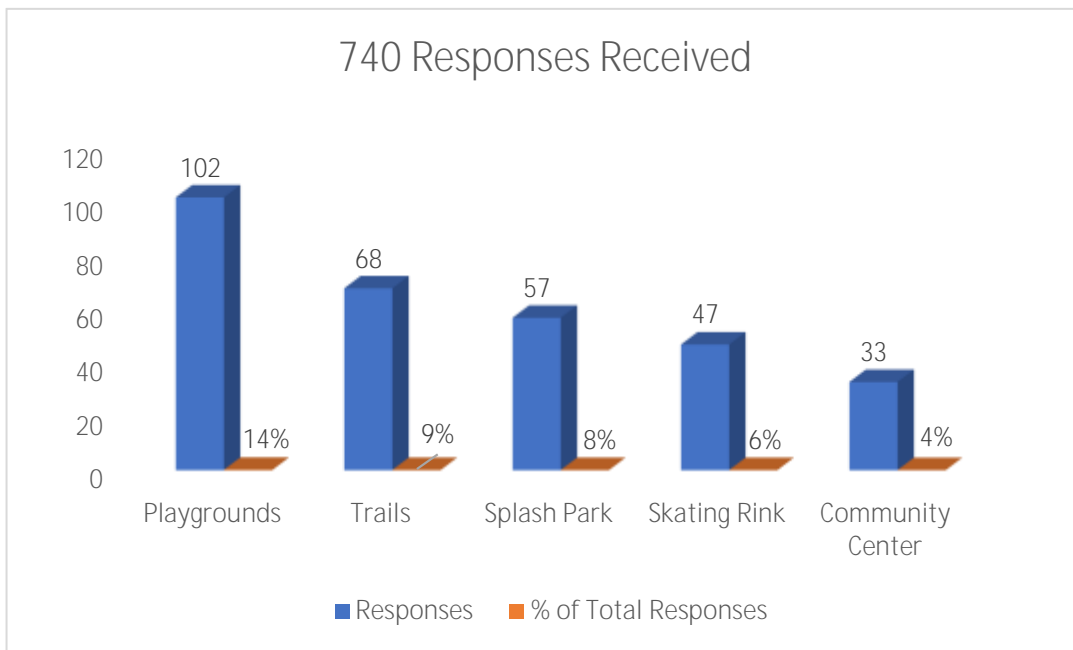
962 Responses



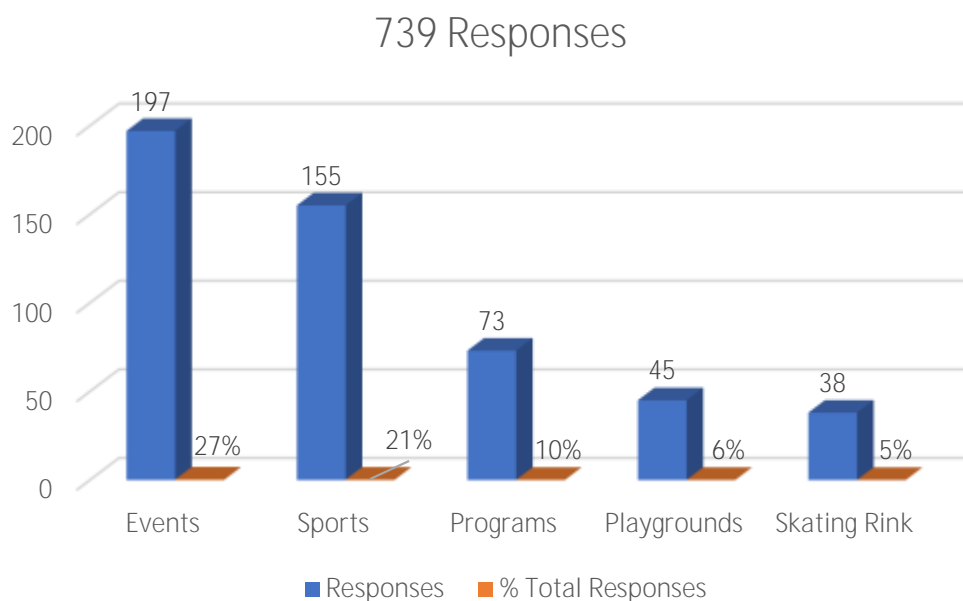
# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 11. List up to 5 facilities you would like to see added in the future



### 12. List up to 5 activities you would like to see offered in the future



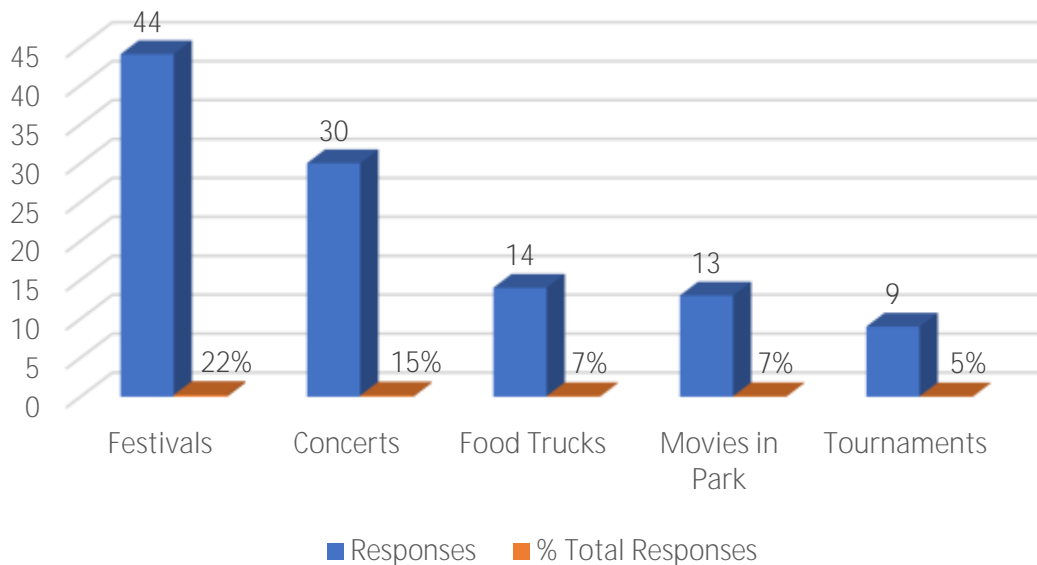


# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

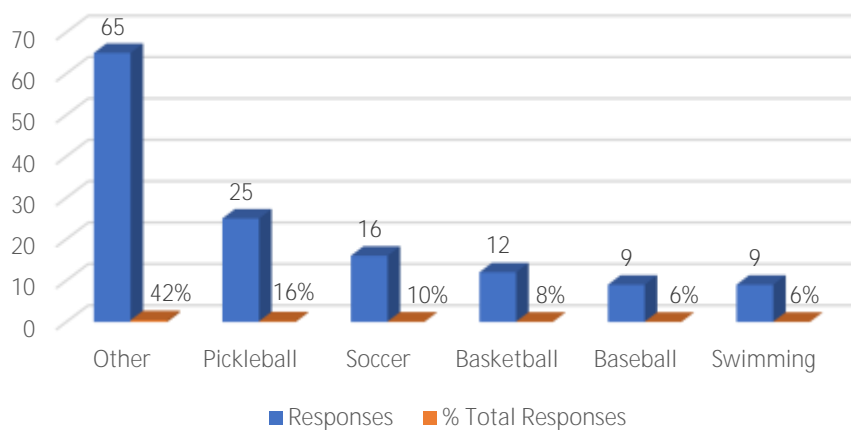
### 12. Responses broken down by category

Top 5 Events - 196 Responses



Top 6 Sports - 155 Responses

Baseball/Swimming tied for Number 5 so both were included

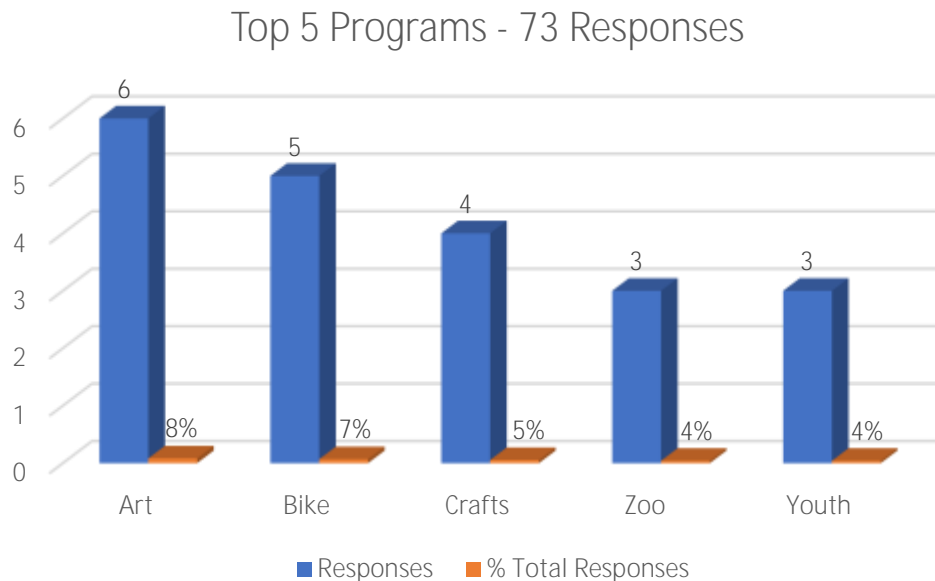


Other included badminton, bag league, biking, bowling, boxing, cheerleading, dancing, disc golf, fishing, football, golf, gymnastics, hockey, horseshoes, jogging, karate, lacrosse, laser tag, paddling, rowing, sailing, skating, skiing, softball, tennis, track, tubing, and volleyball.

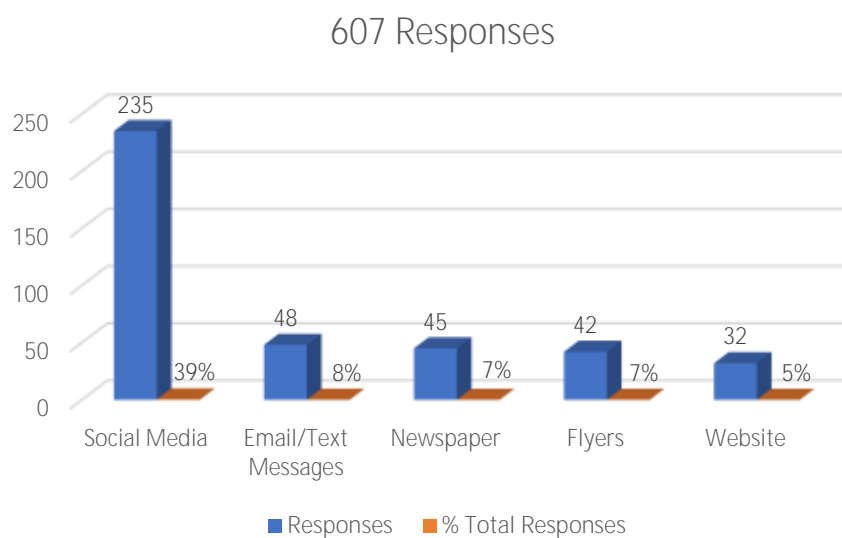
# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 12. Responses broken down by category



### 13. How can we better inform the community of events, activities, & programs?



**NOTE: Social media includes Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Tik Tok.**

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 14. Please indicate your opinion on the following topics

	Yes	No	Responses
I am satisfied with the aesthetic quality of the parks.	54%	46%	502
I am satisfied with the current level of recreational opportunities offered.	33%	67%	495
I am willing to pay reasonable user fees for facilities and programs.	85%	15%	495
It is important to build new facilities.	75%	25%	479
It is important to maintain existing facilities.	86%	14%	488
<b>Most of my family's recreation is done outside of Michigan City.</b>	43%	57%	488
Michigan City should promote recreational activities that attract tourists.	78%	22%	492
The condition of athletic fields is satisfactory.	59%	41%	428
The Michigan City Parks Department provides essential services to the community.	79%	21%	485
Park Department staff are courteous and helpful.	86%	14%	475
Park facilities are safe.	69%	31%	475
The quality of leadership in the Park Department is satisfactory.	68%	32%	448

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

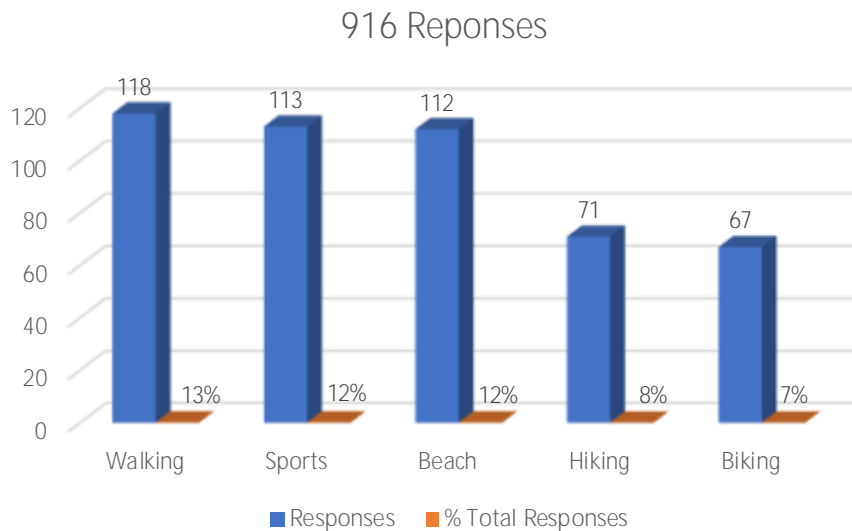
## SURVEY RESULTS

### 15. Barriers to Participation

Please indicate whether the following are barriers to participation in programs or the use of our facilities.

	Yes	No	Responses
Inadequate lighting	47%	53%	450
Not enough parking	45%	55%	449
Lack of maintenance	53%	47%	454
Too few restrooms	67%	33%	456
Transportation problems	28%	72%	431
Safety concerns	49%	51%	444

### 16. List your most common recreational activities



*Note: Sports included baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, and volleyball*



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 17. Any Additional Comments or Concerns

I would like to see more easy access points for handicapped	Access
make the pier ADA accessible	Access
nope, all clear. Just be more inclusive to everyone, all gender identities, ethnicity, sexuality.	Access
Please add more ramps on the beach	Comments
I love MC!	Comments
I love Michigan City	Comments
keep doing what you are doing	Comments
Keep up efforts at golf course, it's great for the community	Comments
MC caters to tourists, worrying about how to pull tourists in during the summer. Then the rest of the year it's as if the people who live here year round are forgotten. Worry more about pulling people into MC who want to build a life here.	Comments
MC Parks does an outstanding job!	Comments
on the whole you are doing great with what you have maybe some fund raisers to get needed funds	Comments
Sometimes you should just leave things be.	Comments
Thank you	Comments
Thank you for all MC Parks does for it's citizens and visitors	Comments
thank you for all you do.i have enjoined facilities for 65 plus years.	Comments
Thank you for all your dept does, especially for the boat races	Comments
The MC Park Dept. does a very good job.	Comments
Was an awesome day for the kids and I	Comments
We do a good job of maintaining our parks, I feel safe in most of them and appreciated the Walker Park gardens	Comments
We love visiting your cute city. We live just north of Indianapolis and it's a fantastic long weekend getaway. We have enjoyed the growth over the last 10 years and look forward to continued growth. We love the downtown shops and look forward to that growth as well.	Comments
Excited to see the future of Michigan City!	Comments
I use the washington park more than other parks, It is well cared for and accessible.	Comments
Michigan city is an amazing city! We have so much to offer with just our location alone. We need to build on that and create more places for people to enjoy recreational activities.	Comments
Rental of jet skis, kayaks, paddle boards, sunfish sailboats and paddle boats would be nice.	Comments
Thank you for providing this survey, however Michigan City is known as "survey city", please take this to the next level and act swiftly! We are sadly missing the boat around here!	Comments
Thank you mc park and recs!	Comments
The restaurant Sunset Grille needs better food. It was horrible!	Comments
There is so much potential in the future of MC. I hope you make the most of the opportunity!	Comments
too long of lines to get into Washington Park. Mayor is a clown.	Comments

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 17. Any Additional Comments or Concerns

Too many trashy ghetto punks at these parks and playgrounds to take my family to. My guess would be the continued growth and push for low income housing in this town. This accumulates a s*&% stain on our town that will never get any better without a change in leadership.	Comments
We have so much potential as a city but waste is abundant. The pitiful excuse for "roof top dining" at the beach-is a joke. The senior center at beach is a total waste of prime real estate...and the new park on the blvd...never have seen a single person there...waste....the large green space with you are beautiful...could be used for craft fairs food trucks but again waste...the parks dept need a field trip to valpo in Holland Michigan or st joe to see appropriate use of our tax dollars	Comments
We live in such a great area! We need to build around that.	Comments
We make parks for people who don't live here, and not for the people who do.	Comments
We need more family friendly buildings and venues and less government based housing so we bring people in with more money to build our city up	Communication
Get the world outside! Crowd source promo material, I'd happily supply free parks photos and videos.	Communication
We would like to be contacted when baseball or other sports for children start again	Events
food trucks at band concerts	Events
food trucks before band concerts	Events
more concerts with different bands, automatic parking,	Events
I'd love to see more music festivals in Washington Park	Facilities
Bring monkey island back	Facilities
Every community is building pickleball	Facilities
fence in the pond at Hansen Park	Facilities
finish Singing Sands Trail, need year round restroom at Gardena, bike routes on streets	Facilities
Fix and use what we have, quit spending money on stupid stuff for tourist only that your town cant afford to use or dont want,, Move the library and open up to the beach	Facilities
I am concerned of the use of public facilities for private Business use. An example would be North point pavilion being used as sunset grill.	Facilities
I am very interested in helping our visions for the Park to become reality. The Park is one of the most valuable resources to MC in developing tourist visits and a positive image of our City. Thank you for allowing the input. Please let me know how I can help. John Traub jtraub4@gmail.com Sheridan Beach resident.	Facilities

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 17. Any Additional Comments or Concerns

I believe the park district owes it to the people of Michigan City to update and improve what is already in place at Washington Park - Fedder's Alley and bring back lights, more affordable opportunities for the entrepreneurs of Michigan City to host events that welcome people from not only MC but from all over. We keep hearing about million dollar proposed investments, but there are so many regulations and hoops to get through that it is close to impossible for local organizations and private citizens to afford to put on any events at the parks. Why aren't there food trucks and items sold at the beach? Why are there minimal events throughout the city? Why are we not doing more to encourage festivals, art fairs, and live dancing in the park. All one has to do is look at what is really happening in other communities to see what could be done to bring in not only revenue but revive the current community.	Facilities
I feel like there's so much that could be done at the lake shore. Just look at other local lake Shores like Silver Beach in Michigan. The entire area that's run down that used to be activities could be used for food trucks and things like that. I feel like it would bring business to the area	Facilities
I feel that the skate could use a little maintenance. The coping on the taller end of the halfpipe is starting to come off.	Facilities
I previously submitted a form but on further reflection wanted to add that I think many of the city's playgrounds sorely need to be upgraded, including the ones in Washington Park and Canada Park.	Facilities
I was very happy to hear Mr. Shinn's comments about installing mat's on the path for the Nevada Avenue beach access during the September 4th meeting of the Sheridan Beach Homeowners Association. The vast majority of residents using this path are over 60 years old and would greatly benefit from having the mats. Also, I believe the mats would benefit the health of the dune. Because of the difficulty that people currently have traversing the dune, alternate paths have developed. As a result, the dune grass that normally would grow has been trampled down.	Facilities
I would like to see the historic features of Washington Park taken care of and preserved	Facilities
It seems like the equipment being put up in parks is smaller than it used to be. I would like to see some fundraisers happen to help defray those costs. If there are fundraisers, I'm not hearing about them. The old Washington Park circuit training course needs to be updated. I would love to see an area where adult fitness equipment was in view of children's play areas so all family members can be active at the same time. Enclosed, gated areas for small children that would keep them out of roadways would be very helpful to keep families active. There were some playgrounds we stopped using because it was too easy for small children to run into the street. Gated fenced in areas for kids 6 and under are a Godsend for parents of young children.	Facilities
It would be nice to have a large playground that is state of the art like fishers has. Maybe even something that can be educational	Facilities

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 17. Any Additional Comments or Concerns

Just find room in the budget to update the parks and add nice equipment. Show people what a beautiful city this could be.	Facilities
Just keep trying to improve the golf course & zoo, they're frequented A LOT!! Love our city and whats included here!	Facilities
Kesling Park, Michiana, Valpo and Chesterton all have Pickleball courts...none in MC	Facilities
maintain and improve golf course, drainage, sand for traps, cart path repair, upgrade equip, tree removal	Facilities
More bathrooms with wheelchair Assessable and more lights	Facilities
More comfortable shaded seats for adults to sit and watch their kids play. I am unable to take my littlest grandkids to Creek Ridge because there's no shade by the playground for toddlers.	Facilities
More owls at our zoo	Facilities
more visible ways to warn of beach hazards, maybe more warning flags	Facilities
need life grauds and fix the play ground area	Facilities
need more garbage cans at the beach	Facilities
need more upkeep at both golf courses	Facilities
Need new pro shop, driving range, increase golf rates	Facilities
new flooring, paint, carpet & blinds at Senior Center	Facilities
Our parks and sports facilities are so behind all the local communities. Merrillville, Laporte, portage, Valparaiso, Chesterton all have modern new turf fields for multiple sport use. We currently have Patriot park that has serious potential yet we put ZERO DOLLARS INTO updating or adding addition things to it. We could be hosting regional tournaments or many different sports if we updated and added fields/turf/ parking. Which in return would bring dollars to our community with hotel/food/gas and shopping.	Facilities
I am born and raised here and I have already had to start taking my children to other communities for sports because of how dated Michigan city is with everything from a recreational standpoint.	
paint lines in Washington Park parking lots, fix monkey island, handicap passes for grandparents, clean restrooms at zoo	Facilities
Park department does a nice job maintaining Washington Park and keeping the beach clean. However, the city owned lots that border the beach (Lake St, Illinois St and Nevada St) are overrun with invasive sand filled with garbage.	Facilities
Parks need to be more.dog friendly	Facilities
Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America. It can be a big draw for tournaments if courts are available. Laporte just added courts and they are full every day.	Facilities

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 17. Any Additional Comments or Concerns

Please cut back all the overgrowth at Striebel Pond. Most of that is overgrown weeds. Thank you for the zoo! Please continue to support that financially.	Facilities
Thank you for doing this survey. Our city could benefit from some investment in its parks and recreational areas. We need more upgrades to picnic tables/areas, more lighting, more parking and at Stribel Pond the water needs to be cleaned up. We need more walking trails and hiking trails that are actually maintained and safe to use ( Bismark Hill and Red Woods trails). Would love to see activities advertised via Facebook Events!	Facilities
Thank you for the lifeguards wonderful to see them there protecting our swimmers	Facilities
The fountain never works at ames field. Get a better playground and a fountain that works. It is such a nice park in a central area.	Facilities
The lighting along the sidewalk leading from Stop 1, past the pavilion and through Washington park must be fixed. People enjoy walking in the evening. It's needed and also a safety concern	Facilities
The Parks Dept does the best with what they have, but we should put more into their budget so MC parks can be better maintained, have better equipment and have a better reputation. This will draw more visitors from MC and from out of town.	Facilities
The parks listed above that we have been to this summer are looking very neglected: Weeds, bare or dried up flower beds, untrimmed trees, overgrown grass. This all reflects badly on the city, especially in Washington Park. (Even the grounds of City Hall are looking not so good.) The Washington Park renovation project per the master plan needs to be implemented ASAP. Neglect of our facilities also leads to abuse as we recently witnessed with bench damage at Westcott Park. Vandals assume no one cares so why not. There is peeling paint on the front of Foreman band shell - it's been like that all summer. All of this is why we said no to the question above about whether Park leadership is satisfactory. We shouldn't have to be telling you what is so obviously wrong.	Facilities
The playground at Washington Park is an actual safety hazard and has been for more than a decade. Rusty screws, broken parts and a lack of real play structure is embarrassing. Washington Park should have a showcase playground. The same applies at Canada Park. The play structure there is an offense. Bismark Hill is INCREDIBLE and deserves an excellent, safe playground. Hansen Park is a gem, but needs bathrooms.	Facilities
Washignton Park is the Beacon for all of Michigan City form as far away as Chicago, invest in restoring the park, lighting, statues, workout area, etc.	Facilities
Washington Park facility need attention. Old playground equipment, splash pad needs to be removed. Bring back tennis courts	Facilities
Washington Park has to be the most used facility and has to bring in the most revenue yet I feel it is the least maintained area. The paint has been stripped off the light poles, concrete is crumbling in places, the planters and landscaping are full of weeds. For as many tourists that this facility draws in, I would think making it look halfway decent would be a priority.	Facilities



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 17. Any Additional Comments or Concerns

Washington park needs a total overhaul. Weeds, dead vegetation, burnt out lights, planting of flowers, ground around gazebo, bring back old water features, monuments cleaned up. 24/7 security - a lot of people park and smoke weed, speed in and out. We witnessed and called police about a car flipped over and the people fleeing the scene. Washington park is the draw of the city and it needs to be treated as such. It should mirror the improved downtown area and it doesn't.	Facilities
Washington Park playground equipment is dangerous, old and falling apart... location is atrocious! Main playground is located in direct sun, no shade, no benches, sticker weeds everywhere... we visit the zoo numerous times throughout the summer, followed by playground and picnic.. the playground equipment is dangerous!!! Simply unusable!! DO BETTER!!!	Facilities
We are once again discussing a 5 year plan and you haven't taken care of that which was supposed to be a part of the past 10 years of plans. Incrementally the park district and Michigan City has derailed many of the very things that made Washington Park accessible to everyone by putting North Pointe Pavillion up and privatizing it. There should be ongoing vendors from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Food trucks, small shops, and live music all the time. Work with Michigan City Area Schools to make the Michigan City school year work in concert with tourism so that we have a vibrant community that is in fact tourist focused like our neighboring communities to the northeast of Michigan City. Work with the city to begin to take serious the very things that contribute to decay...buildings that have been empty since before we moved here in 2008. Look at the corridors that bring in new blood to the community are they attractive, do they invite, are they representations of a safe community? This is more than a new skate park, dog park, or zip-line park, this is a wholistic view of what we want and what message we want to send to those interested in investing to stay. Think Saugatuck, Door County, Carmel, be BOLD!	Facilities
We come to Michigan City often from Living in La Porte, we buy a beach sticker ever year and are gifted a zoo membership. We love the beach and everything it has to offer but there is definitely room for improvement! The playgrounds are the most in need of help in my opinion. Would love to see the addition rec center and improvement of things like the gazebo.	Facilities
We tear down parks and instead of upgrading they are putting in smaller play areas.	Facilities
Washington Park needs a complete face-lift. The gates aren't inviting, the restrooms are atrocious, the playgrounds are dangerous, Fedders is wasted space, the old exercise equipment at Fedders is an eyesore. The pavilion is dull. The upgrades to the zoo and the addition of the splash pad have been wonderful. Patriot is a gorgeous addition to the city as well, but it would be wonderful if the field expansions would be completed and parking expanded as well.	Facilities

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 17. Any Additional Comments or Concerns

As a resident that uses the Nevada path to the beach I was happy to hear Ed Shinn mention, at the Sheridan Beach Homeowners Association Labor Day weekend meeting, that the Nevada path is under consideration for the blue mats. The majority of the residents on Nevada are over 60 years old and I think this would be beneficial for all. I think it would also benefit the dunes health so people don't have to use the alternate paths that have been created over the years. We would also use the playground facilities at Washington Park more often with our grand kids if the playground equipment could be updated. Thanks	Facilities
Trails at Bismark Hill were impassable about a month ago.	Facilities
It's hard enough to get kids signed up to play baseball and they don't even get to use the nice fields when they do. We lose so many players and coaches to Laporte or Chesterton. Patriot Park is a nice park with great fields but they need to overhaul the parking situation. Far too long of a walk for grandparents to get back to the fields for soccer and baseball, even if you get a "close" parking spot. Also the playground floods really bad. Also would be nice to create a full court basketball court somewhere in the center of town.	Facilities
Add parks to Elston Grove!	Facilities
Parks are losing a lot of money by not capitalizing on Patriot Park. I've been all over the Midwest with travel baseball in the last 12 years and PP COULD be 1 of the best. We built it and only maintain it by cutting grass. Let's upgrade the bleachers maybe with sun shades over them like CCAC....that also keep spectators safe from foul balls. Build the 4th small field....so much money in youth travel tourneys that we're letting slip away. Build a fan shop at PP for fans to purchase shirts, batting gloves, hats or anything to generate revenue. All this brings teams back to spend money in our City thru hotels, restaurants and beach. Let's grow youth sports at PP....maybe \$1 from every team or fan goes into an account for MC kids to play for free. I'm always open to helping out with new ideas. Scotty C	Facilities
A lot of maintenance needs done on the facilities you already have. If you can't keep up on maintaining those, why would you add new things and increase the amount of upkeep needed?	Facilities
be creative and look for new exciting things not old stale every other community is doing stuff be bold	Facilities
beach showers, changing rooms	Facilities
beach showers, changing rooms	Facilities
Dog park would be a Huge boost for our community at the lake front!!!	Facilities

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 17. Any Additional Comments or Concerns

I hate that every few years we are having these surveys and talking about spending lots of money to put in new things. The issue is we spend a lot up front but don't plan for continued maintenance. Example the splash pad was put in about ten years ago and instead of working to keep it nice and adding to it every year or two we are now looking at it as an inactive eyesore.	Facilities
I live one block from the arts district and the closest park that would be walking distance is Aimes Field. The playgrounds and greenspace near the downtown/midtown area are lacking and really hurts the neighborhoods. It would be beneficial to downtown businesses and residents if there were a plaza or green space like Valparaiso and other cities in the region have. This would be vital in helping turn around the downtown area, especially with the double track project moving forward.	Facilities
I recommend shaded stands area at baseball and softball fields. A secure shade sail would be suffice as seen at various parks in Florida. Also, batting cages would be favorable to summer tournaments. Portable mounds at local fields need to be secured at end of season. I would love to be involved as a resource in an effort to develop programs and improve facilities in MC. I have served as a volunteer youth baseball coach in past. Many local references. Presently, I am a teacher at Marquette HS, president of MC Fish and Game Club and my three sons have benefitted from youth baseball. Tim Gault 219-448-0525 (cell).	Facilities
I think that we need bigger and nicer playgrounds and equipment.	Facilities
If garbage can wraps are too expensive to make beach look attractive than have local artists paint the cans. Also, we rented St. Anthony's pavilion in Washington Park this summer and very run down. New picnic shelters needed or somehow upgrade the current ones. Incorporate new shelters into existing old stone bench areas.	Facilities
Il don't use park because of un clean conditions	Facilities
Keep progressing... And help the zoo get bigger and better and more caring for the animals cages	Facilities
Keep up on the parks that we do have. Have more obstacles for kids to climb on.	Facilities
Lights are one of my main concerns at Gardena Playground. Installation of Street Lights around the East parking lot at Gardena would help deter the illegal activity that occurs there nightly. Also, the walking track needs surface attention and lighting installed so that the many people that work until 5 or 6 pm who come and walk will be able to do so year round. There are 2 street lights on the west end of the walking track just outside of the small ball diamond and only 1 of those work, but it would be great to have the entire length of the track lit. With that, the walking track needs to be plowed and salted when needed as well as the parking lots. Also at Gardena, there are many trees that are looking bad and need the attention of an Arborist to see if they need to be taken down before they fall and hurt someone.	Facilities

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 17. Any Additional Comments or Concerns

like how Hansen park has been incorporated more. The kayaking is good. Understand cost is always a concern, but keep moving forward.	Facilities
More parking in Washington Park so during big events like the boat races we can park	Facilities
need parking lot east of NPP, need boardwalk atmosphere in Fedder's, new boat launch at NIPSCO	Facilities
Our parks should be our crown jewel. Aesthetics is key. Love the gardening staff at WA Park and the Festival of Lights crew( extend it back to Fedders Alley again!)	Facilities
Overall, MC needs more recreational activities/programs for kids	Facilities
Parks department should adopt a "pristine look" type of mentality and should be a main focus to attract tourism dollars.	Facilities
Please build something new in this town for our kids, I am currently driving to Laporte for swimming, Chesterton for wrestling and we will be starting Chesterton baseball next spring because of how horrible or experience was this past spring. We also play in the dune land soccer club because Michigan City doesn't offer anything for kids. I will say my wife and I both played youth sports here and both grew up in Michigan City, but there isn't anything for our kids in this town for sports and recreation. Literally nothing is offered during the winter time other than the YMCA programs. The parks department needs to make some changes and stop only talking about change, it's all smoke and everyone here knows it. DO SOMETHING FOR OUR YOUTH!	Facilities
Remove old wooden shelters and replace with colorful shade sails. <a href="https://parkreation.com/shades/">https://parkreation.com/shades/</a>	Facilities
separate entrance for MC residents in Wash Park	Facilities
Sidewalk is needed to connect park to downtown Franklin Street. There is no sidewalk near the Mayors office city hall. So we have to walk in the road or on the property of city hall. I think connecting these two areas is beneficial to promote exercise and health. We are not full time residents, but these are things in which might attract new people to the area.	Facilities
Splash pad: do not blame covid. People are out and about in activities and it did not open this year. Its a great draw for the park, beans zoo	Facilities
Stop catering to tourists and care about the residents who live here year round. Don't close facilities in the "off season".	Facilities
Streibel pond needs better security Kids really need new equipment/splash pad at Washington Park	Facilities

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 17. Any Additional Comments or Concerns

Take care of what you have. Hire staff to take care of the place. Washington park needs love. Why add new facilities if the ones we have aren't able to be maintained? I don't want to see more abandoned ideas in my town.	Facilities
That splash pad is a hit!! But is closed ALOT even before covid. Enhance it. And charge money even for residents. If it's worth it they will pay. Everyone in MC and around talk about that splash pad and how it's loved. But many go to new Buffalo due to all the issues with ours.	Facilities
This city has brought in a large sum of money from event's held it would be nice to see Washington Park would be repaved and the lines properly painted for vehicles to park correctly, it's been so long since it's been done. Landscaping would be beneficial also to make it feel inviting. Some more police presents especially though the evening hours of the day. I really hope to see some of these things happening in the future.	Facilities
We have enjoyed many areas of the parks. I think your doing a good job.	Facilities
We have so many untapped resources that haven't been utilized in Michigan City. I hope to see something done with the empty lot along 7th St. and the lot next to Static Age that was supposed to be a plaza.	Facilities
We need a sports complex similar to the one in Hammond - it attracts people - we need basketball, soccer, volleyball or small football fields - walking tracks	Facilities
Why were the washrooms locked all year at Stop 2 beach? Rip tide sign should be posted there also. Washrooms at Washington Park bath house are constantly dirty. Facility needs to be painted. I used porta potty yesterday since bath house was closed for the season and no toilet paper or hand sanitizer. Washington Park needs updated landscaping. Lifeguards need to be hired. Always a back up at park entrance for season pass holders who have to wait behind paying guests. One side should be for pass holders only. Noodles available for purchase at concession stand.	Facilities
Need "qualified coaches," CLEAN and SAFE facilities in ALL areas of the city (and towns), need a board or committee that represents every community (elders, law enforcement and social services, parents, young and older adults who are both single and married, children ages 10 to 18 years) and have broad interests in providing services to ALL the residents (socioeconomically, ethnically, culturally diverse including all levels of physical capabilities). Age specific and integrated activities would enhance the development of social skills, tolerance and respect among this small diverse community.	Fees
I'm not against bringing in tourism because I know it is vital to the local economy. But a lot of our permanent residents live paycheck to paycheck. That can make it difficult for them to utilize attractions that require an entry fee, which in turn will make it difficult to maintain those facilities with the use of entrance fees.	Funding



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 17. Any Additional Comments or Concerns

Overall the Parks & Recreation Department does an exceptional job with the limited resources they are able to access. More Council funding would go along way to improvement to the parks and facilities, and would promote more activities/events and tourism for our City.	marketing
I feel like to get the info I need I have to go to the city facebook page. I usually find out info too late to participate. Our family would like to be more involved with community events but it doesnt seem like the info is easy to find. I also wish there are more kids programs because the ymca programs are lacking.	marketing
improve communication with parents	marketing
information on where parks are, how to access them, need exercise equip at senior center	Programming
As a parent of two young children and a teacher for MCAS, it is embarrassing the lack of youth activities and facilities we have. We do no longer have a soccer club in Michigan city, our pop Warner teams have to play at a horrible facility at elston. How can we teach our children to be good swimmers when we do not have community centers with pools.	Programming
Have more activities for permanent residents, not just tourist attractions;. Have three entrance areas to the park: one for permit parking, one for those needing to pay, and one for marina people and boats; more restrooms;.	Programming
I would be willing to pay user fees if the cost/amenities were worth it	Programming
Offering more toddler/youth activities are needed	Programming
Our baseball program through park and recreation this past year was embarrassing too many kids are leaving our area to play in other cities and our inner city kids aren't getting opportunities because of this!! It is time to invest in our kids and their futures like other nearby towns!!! IT IS TIME.	Programming
-Our youth sport programs are in much need Of some invigoration! -The parking issue at the beachfront!! Not Washington Park. But the fact that all the houses and apartments up until Long Beach just put up signs saying its private parking, when I know 100% that a good amount of it is street/public parking. Something needs to be done about this! Slum lords and homeowners there just put up their own signs rendering it impossible to know if it is actually legal to park places. -Need more Summer festivals in Washington Park. Activities that can be sponsored, which generate revenue and bring in money from outside the community.	Programming
People within our community don't have enough positive outlets. Which we are seeing is creating a higher crime rate. This is actually going to create a ripple effect kids without sports mean sports will not be as involved by the time they get to high school I get to high school. Which will cause them to spend more time on the streets around negative influences instead of having that positive coach that positive adult role model in their lives.	Programming

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION— SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 17. Any Additional Comments or Concerns

Quality control. I feel like in the past few years just anyone is allowed to be in Parades. I took my toddler to the snowflake parade a few years ago and my family were horrified to see a haunted house float with dead zombies and one carrying a dead baby !!!... I'm not saying it needs to be all santa, but families go to things like that looking for family fun for all ages, I saw many scared crying kids. Everyone loves thematic fun. Pumpkin contests in the fall would be cool! Or a haunted trail at Washington park. I feel like we focus a lot on summer activities but forget about people that are here year round and would love for things to do in the fall and winter weather. I'd love to take more with anyone about this subject. So many of my friends have moved to valpo. My husband and I do not want that for us. But to stay here we need things to start improving and changing!	Programming
see Portage Senior Center lunch program	Programming
take pictures at beginning of baseball, 2 umps per game, play more under lights	Programming
The parks are doing well but there is room for improvement that can not only serve year round residents but also visitors.	Programming
The t ball program this spring was a hot mess, poorly organized, fields were taken over by bees, lack of coaching, where parents sit tone of weeds, Dugouts have no shade.. we need better sanitation or even updated helmets and bats with proper logos on them so coaches know okay this was in the box not some kids. Also more sponsors should be allowed to sign up for a team there were multiple Culver's teams ans they were the same color.. very confusing to the children as to what team they are supposed to play to or for..let's do better for our children!! Even if new facilities can't happen let's fix up our fields.. and teams for baseball..	Programming
There needs to be more family oriented activities offered at Washington Park that can also include well-behave dogs.	Programming
We could use more activities for youth that are not just sports related	Programming
We definitely need more activities for families. Having to drive and hour away to do things all the time is not putting money back into our community.	Programming
We lack activities for our 12-20 age group	Programming
We need more things to do for kids during the winter.	Programming
What Michigan city offers is an absolute joke. I've lived here my whole life and all I see our other communities improving what they offer and Michigan city continues to have terrible programs terrible support and terrible facilities. Something Has to happen or we will continue taking our kids to other communities. I am proud to live her, but overly tired of being the laughingstock of all sports. We need facilities for our youth and programs. We need a new director	Programming

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 17. Any Additional Comments or Concerns

I would like to see the downtown area have more activities available for families	Programming
Michigan City has a wonderful natural resource in Lake Michigan and the Dunes. I don't like the Zoo as I think this is too small a facility to provide adequate humane enrichment for the animals. Close the Zoo and use that area for educating the public about our local biodiversity and how they can be better stewards of the planet. Make Michigan City a leader in eco-tourism for the Midwest. Help make us a healthy city.	Programming
Our children deserve to have fun activities to do and places to go with their families!	Programming
This city needs to have a better all improvement of activities/programs offered outside private or public school systems, the fact residents seek outside city limits is sad truth for this city, we need a turn around now more than ever!!	Programming
This park district is a disgrace. I have lived in Michigan City for 8 years and now my children are 5 and 8 and about to grow out of playgrounds and enter into school based sports. If it wasn't for the efforts of the YMCA and privately owned facilities, they would have completely missed out on important opportunities to engage in large motor activities, team based play and sports, organized classes where they can practice listening and being a part of something with their peers. Having said that, we as a family have the resources to seek out and pay for these opportunities elsewhere and will continue to do so. Not everyone is so lucky and there are thousands of kids in this community who will never have these experiences. HUGE mistake on the part of the city. Nothing makes me as angry as the lack of buy-in that the city has towards it's young families.	Rules
Enforce the no-dog rule in parks. For example, a man walks his dog every day early at Washington Park, off-leash and never cleans up after his dog.	Rules
address littering city wide, MCPD enforcement	Rules
install new signs everywhere for "no dogs in park" and enforce it. Provide means such as text to police by beach goers to report violations of dogs on beach. On signs for "no dogs on beach" put price of fine and that beach goers can report violaters. repaint all parking lot spaces, arrows showing oneways for parking, new signs for oneway directions for parking lot flows. install new No Parking signs where they should be. 10 years ago this was the best police patrolled, the best traffic, parking enforced, the best no dogs allowed beach in the entire state of Indiana. It has dropped to having absolutly the worst signage, traffic painting/control, no animal control of any park in Indiana.	Safety

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 17. Any Additional Comments or Concerns

All of the parks and Rec areas could be cleaned more frequently and checked for any safety hazards. I have stumbled upon things like needles and pipes while out for a walk.	Safety
always in fear of my car getting broken into while fishing. once is enough. happened at lamprey barrier site.	Safety
block off beach area to prevent drowning of kids	Safety
Born and raised in MC. I now live near South Bend. Until safety and security is addressed, no one wants to go near the north end of MC. There needs to be a 24/7 security presence to clear out the riff raff so people aren't afraid to be in the park after sunset.	Safety
control excessive speed, loud cars, kids in parks after hours	Safety
I do not feel as safe at Washington Park as I used to. I don't know the answer to that concern.	Safety
It was shocking that MC didn't pay what was needed to get life guards early in the season!! Pickleball is fastest growing adult sport with low costs to install and very inclusive. Can't we take over some old tennis courts and re surface?? You can fit 2 pickleball courts on 1 tennis court!	Safety
Just make things safer, things have changed over the years, more police presence to deter people who shouldn't be there.	Safety
Shebel pond does not always feel safe. Overgrown at times and lighting.	Safety
we have to find a way to provide life guards at WP beach	Safety
We need more police presence at our local parks	Safety
Children need adult supervision, or parks need to be monitored more to keep trouble down.	Safety
dangerous grade crossing at Amtrak, easy fix, bike access to Mt. Baldy would be great	Safety
dangerous grade crossing at Amtrak, easy fix, bike access to Mt. Baldy would be great	Safety
Every spring the beach is over run by people who want to fight and shoot guns. This problem is usually solved when beach goers have to pay to get in. Start charging before the beach gets over run and we won't have a reputation anymore.	Safety
The homelessness at Washington park makes it uncomfortable for walkers and tourists.	
Would like to see a lane added to Washington park for sticker holders to alleviate backup at the entrance.	
I would love to be able to go out by myself but am too afraid of mine and my child's safety.	Safety
need to address the concern of violence at the beach	Safety

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 17. Any Additional Comments or Concerns

People driving their vehicles off streets and parking areas.	Safety
There should be someone patrolling the beach to avoid dogs being brought to the beach especially those not on leases.	Sports
Adding a baseball field similar to Patriot Park closer to the center of Michigan City would be a great idea.	Sports
Frisbee golf course	Sports
Get rid of the guy in charge of the baseball program he was a total jerk and had no respect or concern for any of the players not one time did he show up at the ball field when parents complained of how things were going and kids being treated several fights between several coaches and kids poorly ran this past summer I will not be participating in sports ever again through here.	Sports
I feel we are behind other communities in providing dedicated pickle ball courts.	Staff
Chris and John at the golf course do an outstanding job.	Staff
Ed Shinn and Shannon Eason are doing an outstanding job with the limited resources that they have. With the parking fees at Washington Park & Beach going into the general fund, choices regarding more staff and increased facilities are limited. Thank you for listening to our middle school students and placing recycling containers in all of our parks. I commend them for their dedication to our parks' services and structures plus their increased accessibility and usage.	Staff
Get rid of the park board members. They have no idea what's going on in any of the parks! Maybe they should visit other municipal parks around the state to see how a park dept should be ran. You have gem with the lake & you don't utilize it. With all the tourists that come in on the weekends & there's nothing at the lakefront to draw them there. Maybe try a family concert series every Friday night, let people pack the coolers & kids. Just my thoughts, but this whole survey is a waste of time! You'll just gather the information, put it in some report & read it at the park board meeting. Nothing will changes, so stick with what your doing!	Staff
Hi Shannon!	Staff
Hiring a Full Time Recreation Director is a must!	Staff
How do you become a volunteer?	Staff
Jared has got to go at the golf course, terrible attitude, rude to people, really doesn't do anything & all he does is complain!!!! Chris is fantastic & John has done a great job!!	Staff
Tha Park and Rec Dept. is short staffed, under paid, and in need of new equipment that should be maintained.	Staff
Ed, Shannon, and their staff provide exceptional services	Staff
Kiddos to the park staff, they worked hard all summer.	Staff
The above questions vary from park to park. Some are excellent others aren't! Your staff doesn't take suggestions well.	Staff
The Park staff does a good job, considering the lack of staff, staff positions and equipment. The Park staff needs more resources and more people.	Trails
all the pieces are there. please connect the bike paths	Trails
more bike routes that are separate from motor vehicles	Trails



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULT SUMMARY

DEMOGRAPHICS	SUMMARY	CONCLUSION
Age	Responses represented our age demographics well, with the exception of those under 18 years of age	Future efforts should be made to reach younger people through schools, clubs or other youth organizations
Race	Survey responses were more diverse compared to the last master plan, responses increased for African Americans by 2.3%, for Hispanics by .3%	Efforts should continue to gain input from ethnic groups to represent the demographic make up of Michigan City
Children under 18	The majority of respondents did not have children in the household. Michigan City has 9,911 children under the age of 18, only 282, or 2.8% were	Efforts to reach more families needs to be made to determine needs for parks and programming
Residential Status	89% of respondents are residents, which is the range we expected	None
Disabilities	16% of survey respondents reported having a disability. Of those, 62% stated our facilities are accessible and only 38% stated some facilities are not	Need more wheelchairs ramps, especially one at the pier, all inclusive playgrounds, more beach mats, add interpretive signage with ADA access
Income	77% of respondents reported income above Michigan City's median income of \$35,710 per household. This does not represent the financial barriers to	Additional efforts to reach lower income families must be made when planning park improvements and programming

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULT SUMMARY

TOP 5 FACILITIES USED	SUMMARY	CONCLUSION
Washington Park	28.5% of 962 responses	This is a high use park for residents. It is also a regional destination park. Increased expenses for trash removal and custodial services needs to be addressed. Additional restrooms and beach access mats are needed.
Gardena Park	14.4% of 962 responses	Gardena has the highest use of our neighborhood parks. Future renovations should include ADA access, a new fitness trail, walking trail resurfacing.
Beach	11% of 962 responses	Better access including beach mats and ADA ramps to pier should be addressed. Beach safety/lifeguard team will be under the jurisdiction of the Michigan City Fire Department beginning in 2021.
Zoo	9.2% of 962 responses	As the majority of respondents didn't have children, this low number is to be expected. In 2021 93% of all visitors were not Michigan City residents.
Patriot Park	5% of 962 responses	This is a surprisingly high number since only 2.8% of surveys reported having children. However, many grandparents use Patriot Park to watch their grandchildren play sports. Better ADA access, especially parking, needs to be addressed.
TOP 5 NEW FACILITIES NEEDED	SUMMARY	CONCLUSION
Playgrounds	14% of 740 responses	All future playground projects should be all-inclusive. Shade components should be incorporated into all future projects. There were many requests for walking trails and seating areas (ADA access).
Trails	9% of 740 responses	Trails continue to be a needed amenity including multi use non-motorized, nature trails and walking trails. Maintenance of trails, including ADA access was a common comment.
Oasis Splash Park	8% of 740 responses	Residents want the splash park re-opened. Invest in OSHA required equipment and open in 2022.
Skating Rink (ice/roller)	6% of 740 responses	Residents want year round activities, including winter activities. The Park Department has tried building an ice skating rink at several locations during the past five years. The rink was labor intensive and due to poor weather conditions there were almost no days with skatable conditions. The city should purchase a coiled rink which would reduce labor hours and provide skatable conditions up to 50 degrees.
Community Center	4% of 740 responses	Residents want a multi-use community center for year round recreation. We currently do not have staffing or funding to support this.

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULT SUMMARY

Walking	13% of 916 responses	Trails continue to be a needed amenity including multi use non-motorized, nature trails and walking trails. Maintenance of trails, including ADA access was a common comment.
Sports	12% of 916 responses	Need a full time Recreation Director to facilitate sports leagues. We currently only offer youth baseball and adult softball. Pickleball was a common request in the surveys.
Beach	12% of 916 responses	Better access including beach mats and ADA ramps to pier should be addressed. Beach safety/lifeguard team will be under the jurisdiction of the Michigan City Fire Department beginning in 2021.
Hiking	8% of 916 responses	Trails continue to be a needed amenity including multi use non-motorized, nature trails and walking trails. Maintenance of trails, including ADA access was a common comment.
Biking	7% of 916 responses	Trails continue to be a needed amenity including multi use non-motorized, nature trails and walking trails. Maintenance of trails, including ADA access was a common comment.
TOP 5 ACTIVITIES NEEDED	SUMMARY	CONCLUSION
Events	27% of 739 responses	The new City Event Coordinator is working to bring high quality events to the city. However, a full time Recreation Director would be able to hold smaller community events for our residents such as movie nights, arts in the park, fitness activities, and game tournaments.
Sports	21% of 739 responses	Need a full time Recreation Director to facilitate sports leagues. We currently only offer youth baseball and adult softball. Pickleball was a common request in the surveys.
Programs	10% of 739 responses	Need a full time Recreation Director to develop and implement programming.
Playgrounds	6% of 739 responses	Continue to improve neighborhood playgrounds with all-inclusive amenities.
Ice Skating	5% of 739 responses	Residents want year round activities, including winter activities. The Park Department has tried building an ice skating rink at several locations during the past five years. The rink was labor intensive and due to poor weather conditions there were almost no days with skatable conditions. The city should purchase a coiled rink which would reduce labor hours and provide skatable conditions up to 50 degrees.

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULT SUMMARY

All forms	The overall consensus is that we are not doing a very good job communicating with the public.	Create communication and marketing plan. This responsibility could fall under the responsibilities of a full time Recreation Director.
OPINIONS	SUMMARY	CONCLUSION
Satisfied with aesthetic quality of the parks	54% are satisfied, 46% are not	Address staffing shortage to attain higher levels of service at all facilities
Satisfied with current level of recreational opportunities offered	33% are satisfied, 67% are not	Need a full time Recreation Director to develop and implement programming.
Willing to pay reasonable user fees	85% are willing, 15% are not	Most programs, when we offer them, are offered at cost
Important to build new facilities	75% yes, 25% no	New facilities requested included an ice skating rink, new playgrounds, pickleball courts, and trails. Consider ongoing maintenance costs when building new facilities.
Important to maintain existing facilities	86% yes, 14% no	It is important to maintain existing facilities and only build new if on going maintenance and operation costs can be sustainable.
Most recreation done out of town	43% yes, 57% no	We have an adequate amount of recreational facilities. We lack programming.
Michigan City should promote tourism	78% yes, 22% no	Tourism generates a large amount of our income including parking fees at Washington Park, zoo admission fees, and golf course fees. Annual earned income is 66% of our annual budget, while taxes contribute 34%. This income is vital to maintaining our facilities.
Condition of athletic fields is satisfactory	59% yes, 41% no	Address staffing shortage to attain higher levels of service
Michigan City Park Department provides essential services	79% yes, 21% no	Our community recognizes the important role we play in our community
Park staff is courteous and helpful	86% yes, 14% no	Continue to improve customer service, staff training and development is crucial to a successful department
Park facilities are safe	69% yes, 31% no	Continue with safety and ADA upgrades at playgrounds, investigate security options for Washington Park
The quality of leadership is satisfactory	68% yes, 32% no	Staff training and development is crucial to a successful department

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESULT SUMMARY

BARRIERS	SUMMARY	CONCLUSION
Inadequate lighting	47% yes, 53% no	Install new lighting on the north side of Lake Shore Drive in Fedder's Alley
Not enough parking	45% yes, 55% no	With the increase in events, and overall attendance in Washington Park, parking has become a real issue. There are not enough parking spaces and the park shuts down often. Off site parking and shuttle service needs to be investigated.
Lack of maintenance	53% yes, 47% no	Address staffing shortage to attain higher levels of service at all facilities
Too few restrooms	67% yes, 33% no	Residents want year round restrooms at parks. This would require heating buildings and additional custodial staff. Washington Park needs updated and new restroom facilities in Washington Park. Need a trailhead restroom facility on Singing Sands Trail.
Transportation problems	28% yes, 72% no	Review city bus routes for service to park facilities
Safety concerns	49% yes, 51% no	Continue with safety and ADA upgrades at playgrounds, investigate security options for Washington Park



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—STAKEHOLDERS

## Stakeholder Interviews

A total of 24 stakeholder interviews were held compared to 15 during the 2017-2021 master plan process. The interview had a total of 13 questions, not all stakeholders answered all of the questions. A summary of their responses follows. Due to the pandemic, most stakeholders emailed their answers to the interview questions because City Hall was closed most of the year.

ORGANIZATION	DATE	LOCATION
Police Youth Leadership Academy	6/25/2021	emailed response to interview questions
LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau	8/23/2021	emailed response to interview questions
Michigan City Port Authority	8/24/2021	Port Authority
City Council President	8/26/2021	City Hall
Senior Center Advisory Committee	8/27/2021	City Hall
YMCA	9/3/2021	City Hall
Park Board Secretary	9/22/2021	emailed response to interview questions
Park Board President	9/24/2021	emailed response to interview questions
Washington Park Zoo Society	10/8/2021	emailed response to interview questions
Michigan City Area Schools	10/18/2021	emailed response to interview questions
Mayor	10/21/2021	emailed response to interview questions
Board of Public Works & Safety President	10/25/2021	emailed response to interview questions
City Events Coordinator	10/28/2021	emailed response to interview questions
Trail Creek Watershed Committee	11/2/2021	emailed response to interview questions
Michigan City Park Department	11/4/2021	emailed response to interview questions
Michigan City Park Department	11/4/2021	emailed response to interview questions
Michigan City Park Department	11/4/2021	emailed response to interview questions
Michigan City Park Department	11/4/2021	emailed response to interview questions
Michigan City Senior Center	11/4/2021	emailed response to interview questions
Michigan City Municipal Golf Course	11/5/2021	emailed response to interview questions
Michigan City Historical Society	11/8/2021	emailed response to interview questions
Fire Chief	11/8/2021	emailed response to interview questions
Michigan City Social & Learning Institute	11/10/2021	emailed response to interview questions
Park Maintenance Department	11/3/2021	emailed response to interview questions

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—STAKEHOLDERS

## Stakeholder Response Summary

CATEGORY	# RESPONSES	% RESPONSES	COMMENTS
Facilities	103	41%	Strategic facility maintenance plans, individual park master plans, new sidewalks, walking trail, parking lots, nature center, and exercise equipment in Washington Park, new playground equipment, updated and new restrooms, preventative maintenance plans, lifecycle asset management for each park, restore Monkey Island, finish Patriot Park, new tennis courts, better routine maintenance, beautification with paint and landscaping, new event/recreation center, trail maps, pickleball courts, ice skating rink, sledding hill, roller rink, new driving range, indoor fitness center, trail heads, repairs to Senior Center, open splash park, inclusive parks/playgrounds.
Programming	54	21%	Need Recreation Director to facilitate programming/marketing, environmental, water conservation, all season, youth golf, health, arts and crafts, youth summer programs, sports, classes, soccer, yoga, BINGO, community gardens, inclusive, multi-generational, basketball, volleyball, dodgeball, pickleball, programs in neighborhood parks.
Funding	44	18%	Revenue: additional parking lots in Washington Park, indoor fitness center, finish Patriot Park for tournament revenue, Monkey Island restoration for increased gate attendance, charge for Festival of Lights, lease fees from rental vendors. Funding: parking fees back to park capital budget, foundation, recreation impact fees, tax levy, sale and lease back of park property, naming rights.
Staff	41	16%	Sustainable lifeguard program, increased staff to maintain facilities/programs, staff shortages a challenge, City invest in people to be successful, add 4 full time zookeepers to keep zoo open more often, raises for seasonal staff, need skilled coaches/supervisors for sports programs, add full time Recreation/Marketing Director position (37% of responses called for a full time Recreation Director position.
Communication	30	12%	Use Twitter, Instagram, flyers in schools, direct email and text, need Recreation Director for marketing, update website, need electronic signs, banners,
Partnerships	28	11%	Michigan City Area Schools, business community, Friends of the Park group

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—STAKEHOLDERS

## Stakeholder Response Summary

CATEGORY	# RESPONSES	% RESPONSES	COMMENTS
Image	20	8%	Need self promotion, staff & facility highlights, poor due to lack of programming, need to enforce rules, aging park system needs attention, not visible to the community
Events	7	3%	Music festivals, Smooth Jazz Festival, movies at amphitheater
Access	7	3%	Construct boardwalk at Senior Center, ADA upgrades to all parks, sidewalk connections throughout Washington Park,
Safety	6	2%	Washington Park security guards, enforce rules, beach safety/lifeguards, address traffic flow in Washington Park
Trails	6	2%	Repave walking trail at Gardena Park, add amenities to Singing Sands Trail, add walking trails to all parks.
Dog Facilities	3	1%	Need dog park and dog beach
Environmental	3	1%	Highlight restoration work being done through signage, outreach programs, protect Trail Creek and Lake Michigan from drainage from parks

The stakeholder responses for each question are listed in their entirety on the following pages.

1. As a representative of your organization, what do you believe are the priorities for the Michigan City Park Department over the next 5 years?

Funding, new and refreshed programming, workforce training and development, strategic facility maintenance and expansion, create individual park master plans, and develop comprehensive approaches to partnerships,
I would ask that the Parks Department and the Michigan City Area Schools work to develop a synergy that could really be beneficial to both parties. Xplore grants that aim at serving low income families and through a combination of grants and donations, create an incentive program that allows young athletes to participate in leagues and clinics for little to no cost provided they maintain superior academic and citizenship marks. I also encourage the revitalization of adult programs. I'm not sure of the overall health of programs such as volleyball and basketball, but I would be interested in seeing the introduction of more sports (pickleball, flag football, soccer). Get together with restaurants and bars and create incentives of the businesses to sponsor teams. Both the city and the establishments could benefit from increased participation. Finally,
Create a dog park at the beach, identify funding
We need ADA accessible and all inclusive parks. Need an all inclusive, destination playground in Washington
Funding for adequate staff to maintain our parks. Update the traffic flow in Washington P Lot #1. Need more one way signs due to out of town visitors going the wrong way. Decide who owns the Esplanade. Funding for a Washington Park police office during the beach season and increased drive-throughs during the off season, particularly in the evening to maintain security. Enforce ordinance on dogs in Washington Park. Need to know if people can have dogs on the EW pier but not on the beach along EW pier. Finish the construction of the Big
Continue to provide a safe and clean environment for our residents and visitors.
n/a
Programming, after school, summer, sports
n/a
Beach safety and sustainable lifeguard program. More youth sports and leagues. Michigan City Soccer Club closed, we need to replace a soccer program. YMCA is willing to partner on day camps, leagues, etc.
Trails, more youth activities, increase zoo outreach programs
Need more parking for all parks. Need new parking lots in Washington Park to accommodate larger, high quality events. Upgrade all restrooms. Need a full time Recreation Director and full time marketing specialist
As a representative of the Trail Creek Watershed Partnership, I would love to see the Parks Department continue to highlight the work that is being done to preserve and improve Trail Creek. This could be through signage, activities and other means. Invasive species along the Trail Creek corridor should be high priority.
Washington Park as a destination park. Park office building separate from City Hall.
Increase maintenance staffing. Capital improvements throughout the park
To make improvements in maintaining the buildings, grounds facilities, and equipment. To establish a security team to enforce the rules at Washington Park. To provide better procedures and programs that will encourage our youth to aspire to higher goals pertaining to education and sports.
Improvements to Washington Park, completion of trails. Re-instate Recreation Director and programming.
Reinstate the full time Recreation Director, adding more programming. Adding facilities that will draw more interest or revenue such as a destination playground, event center, indoor fitness center, etc.

1. As a representative of your organization, what do you believe are the priorities for the Michigan City Park Department over the next 5 years?

Funding for capital, maintenance of existing facilities, not enough resources to keep up
<b>Security in Washington Park. Might get more officers to show up if you paid them cash so they don't need to</b>
Create all season recreation activities for the community and visitors. Continue to push the promotion the recreation outside LaPorte County. Complete a plan that can be done, there are so many that are left on the
Having our foot print cover more of the city.
Playgrounds inclusive for everyone. Programming inclusive for everyone. For instance, our students who have <b>mobility issues can't visit the zoo due to the terrain. Can affordable programs be offered out in Washington</b>
The Parks Department priorities connecting people to outdoor spaces, to recreation/exercise, and connecting people to each other across Michigan City. Especially from my perspective at the Old Lighthouse Museum, I would like to see greater access to the humanities in Michigan City. This looks like supporting the facilities at the Old Lighthouse Museum, which the Historical Society leases from the City and is connected to Millennium Park. It also looks like the historical interpretation throughout the parks-particularly WPA projects in Washington Park, but also interpretation of the changes in the natural environment. In the minds of MC residents, the pier head in Washington Park is part of the history that our organization seeks to interpret.



## 2. What opportunities or needs are there for improvements to the Park Department's existing parks, open space and trails?

Additional shelters, updated equipment, additional walking trails, comprehensive preventative maintenance plan, assessment of and establishment of lifecycle asset management for each park. Align the design and amenities of each park to the neighborhood.
I would highly encourage finding a spot to facilitate pickleball. I participate in LaPorte and it is amazing to see individuals that are sometimes 30+ years separated in age participating against each other. It really is a tremendous game. If we were to find a place to facilitate several courts, I could see it creating an opportunity to lure players from around the region, state and perhaps country for tournaments - leading to business for our hotels and restaurants.
Delineate swim area, beach safety, additional lifeguard stands
Continue to restore and maintain natural areas and resources. Increase environmental awareness and education, especially to our youth.
Does the Park Department have responsibility for maintaining the Singing Sands Bike Trail? If so, there should be a few garbage cans along the way. Update the clubhouse at the North Golf Course.
Upgrade Patriot Park
<b>Move the Senior Center and assistant's offices to the south side of the building to open the view to the dunes and lake.</b> Add a chair railing to main space and NE conference room to prevent furniture from scratching the walls. New tile floor.
None
Add service entrance at Millennium Plaza for deliveries for weddings and events
Parking in Washington Park (striping, arrows) and neighborhood parks. There is good access to the neighborhood parks and the parks are beautiful.
Need sidewalks going in and out of Washington Park, need a dog park
Better maintenance of baseball diamonds. Add walking trails to neighborhood parks.
More connectivity, perhaps adding a Story Walk to existing trails. Hansen Park needs restroom facilities. Washington Park desperately needs a safe, engaging playground. Canada Park needs the same. Bismarck Hill is a gem, and there should be a high quality play area and trail head to highlight that. Millennium and Wescott Park are beautiful facilities that should be hosting festivals, symphonies, and other public events. They are both highly under utilized.
Beautification (paint, landscaping)
Senior Center needs some improvements, new flooring, open up back of windows facing the lake.
More dedicated staff members (full-time park laborers and seasonals) are needed to complete the amount of work necessary to maintain such a large quantity of property.
More opportunity to focus on nature and environment, by utilizing trails & open spaces for educational programming.
Addition of trails, improve or repair playground equipment
Yes, playgrounds.
Shaded areas to protect from heat/sun when playing. Plant trees, add more shelters. Add more landscaping, flowers and plants.
Mile markers for walking in Washington Park. New signage in Washington Park. New directional signage to the parks throughout Michigan City. Parking lot lines painted. New Washington Park restrooms. Safer Playground away from the road in Washington Park. Find a way to create a partial restoration of the rock garden, even with the support of koi pond enzymes or shock treatments to help with the water quality.
Updating to why people are using the parks and making each park a destination.
Free community gardens.
Creating greater physical access between the pier head and the Old Lighthouse Museum not only allows people at Washington Park to visit the OLM but also supports the physical and social health of residents. It also sets us up to create a walking tour, but at the moment, the Old Lighthouse Museum does not have a safe walking path from museum to the pier head.

### 3. What opportunities or needs are there for improvements to the Park Department's existing recreational facilities?

south wall to create open views to lake with expanded deck area, improved ice-skating experience (ice, heat (fire), rentals). Implementation of loaner life jacket at the beach and life rings installed along the shore. Golf course needs new cart paths and club house. Additional bathrooms at North Point Pavilion (upstairs) and a plan to make the building more functional as a restaurant and lifeguard center – plus an area to rent beach items (kayaks, stand-up paddle boards, etc.) and sell merchandise. We could easily add a disc golf course into our parks. An outdoor swimming pool (Sullair?), a dog park and a field house would be excellent additions. We should expand the Walker Street garden project to other existing parks.
Obviously funding is an obstacle, but work needs to be put in rehabilitating Patriot Park. If there are ways to see the Department partner with MCAS on the creation of an indoor facility, it could be a gamechanger for the community.
Upgrade existing facilities, finish Patriot Park
<b>Do not further develop Patriot Park. It's too far out of the city. Have youth baseball leagues at Pullman and Gardena. Softball leagues continue to have low numbers so we don't need additional fields at Patriot Park.</b>
Complete redo of Water Tower Park. Create walking paths in Memorial Park and Patriot Park.
Patriot Park is in need of many improvements
Construct a boardwalk and deck behind the Senior Center, could rent out for weddings and use for senior programming.
Need a park in the downtown area, maybe at the 7 <sup>th</sup> Street plaza
Need trailheads
<b>Need to advertise our facilities more, such as the Singing Sands Trail. The YMCA didn't know the trail was constructed.</b>
Finish Patriot Park
Upgrade playground equipment. Need a full time Recreation Director
I think that trail maps for trails at Krueger Memorial Park, Ruby Woods and Bismark Hill would be highly beneficial.
As Patriot is a sports complex, add tennis courts.
Continue to update parks to address ADA requirements
It is funding that will be needed to add improvements to our existing recreational facilities.
Need to try using more neighborhood parks for recreational events, some kids lack transportation to Patriot Park, etc.
Ensuring baseball fields and basketball courts are useable
Maintain existing facilities, update clubhouses and all buildings, need large amount of funding to catch up with our capital list.

3. What opportunities or needs are there for improvements to the Park Department's existing recreational facilities?

Maintain existing facilities, update clubhouses and all buildings, need large amount of funding to catch up with our capital list.
Fix broken baseball fences. Add dugouts to baseball fields at Gardena. Repave bike trail at Gardena Park. Add more swings. Add electrical outlets to parks.
Focus on increasing the use of the amphitheater by adding a decorative fence around the area 6-foot wood the lattice top, so vendors can rent the space and have privacy for the admission cost. Even add a concession kitchen for renters or the Park department to lease out with the North Point to host sales to the event. Of course, renovate monkey island so that we can increase our admission price to help of set future zoo expenditures. New zoo classroom and gift shop to handle more rentals and gift sales. Mt bike course behind Memorial Hall and there are organizations that will help design the course.
Open our trail systems to all users and add signage for multi-use protocol. Patriot needs new fencing, and scoreboards do not work. Lighting needs repaired / added at Gardena
Make all facilities all inclusive.
<b>If we are to consider the Old Lighthouse Museum as an existing recreational facility, we're looking at the grounds around the museum. We're looking at a more permanent walkway from the Eastland Memorial. We're looking at adding a cement slab for some of our artifacts in the yard. And, if we were to talk about a walking path from the museum to the pier head, it would invite a conversation about where that sidewalk starts and what the entry way to the museums grounds looks like.</b>

4. What opportunities or needs are there for improvements to the Park Department's exiting program offerings?

Align program funding, costs, pricing to match community ability to pay. Expand City Kids Day Camp and partner with MCAS, Boys and Girls Club and other entities providing similar services to provide year-round opportunities <b>for our youth. We desperately need to expand programing – possible programs include pickle ball, flag football, corn hole league, ping pong league, foosball league, soccer, tennis, track, yoga, photography, crafts, gardening, a bike share program, Jr. Golf expansion, day trips/excursions, regular routine wellness walks/runs with designated routes/start times/etc., summer camps for specific interests, and ANY of the programs offered by the LaPorte County Parks – they have an excellent array of programs.</b>
We need to work on communication. From afar, I think you've done a good job of utilizing Facebook, but the diminished newspaper hasn't done anybody a favor. We have to figure out a way of getting the offerings more publicly.
Park in Pinetree Court area
We need to develop more youth programming. Move the skatepark to Washington Park and use Pullman for a west side baseball league. We need a qualified Recreation Director to develop programming.
n/a
Add staff
Satisfied with program offerings for seniors.
Multi-generational programming & facilities. Need summer programming, maybe an additional site for City Kids Day Camp
Update lot #2 restrooms
n/a
City Kids Day Camp, more zoo camps and outreach programs
Need a full time Recreation Director to add more sports, soccer, etc. Add more non-sports programs such as art, dance, music, etc.
The Park Department does not offer any environmental education at all. The MC Parks have amazing properties along the Trail Creek corridor, and it would be fantastic if the Parks Department could offer additional programming to support that.
<b>Change programs to match "times" not all children are into sports. Maybe offer gaming or other activities. As sports change, leagues should change as well. Offer yoga or healthy exercise classes for adults.</b>
Expanded City Kids Day Camp
We are in need of dedicated, skilled coaches and supervisors. There seems to be a shortage of these kind of people.
Really no programs offered at this time, need a full time Recreation Directors to implement and manage new programs, not just sports related. Need children's programs such as arts & crafts, etc. year round.
With baseball being the only program offered, we need to increase the amount and variety of programming
Youth golf program, promote youth golf.

4. What opportunities or needs are there for improvements to the Park Department's exiting program offerings?

**Movies in the park at the amphitheater – you can even partner them with local groups or business (Transitions Equestrian Center has a horse that was used in the movie Albion the enchanted stallion, so have the horse come out for a meet and great before the movie OR show Zootopia and have the zoo to visit with attendees, OR Pets Life and invite the human society out with some of the adoptable pets. Band concerts at the band shell. WELLNESS WALKERS club for all ages walking activities. Archery club. Open mic event in the park. Concerts in the park instead of LaPorte's "Art in the Park" summer series we could have "Music in Michigan City".**

Adding lights to Gardena to help bring back neighborhood rec leagues. Open trails to multi user.

Need more programming and advertising of facilities, events and programs. Need full time Recreation/Marketing Director.

**The Old Lighthouse Museum has a habit of partnering with the Library to host programs, but there's no reason we can't work with the Parks Department to host programs outside – such as a history walk talking about the WPA or history of the park. People would like that.**



5. Do you think new parks, amenities or facilities are needed? Where and what type?

Align program funding, costs, pricing to match community ability to pay. Expand City Kids Day Camp and partner with MCAS, Boys and Girls Club and other entities providing similar services to provide year-round opportunities for our youth. We desperately need to expand programming – possible programs include pickle ball, flag football, corn hole league, ping pong league, foosball league, soccer, tennis, track, yoga, photography, crafts, gardening, a bike share program, Jr. Golf expansion, day trips/excursions, regular routine wellness walks/runs with designated routes/start times/etc., summer camps for specific interests, and ANY of the programs offered by the LaPorte County Parks – they have an excellent array of programs.
If there is a location that is flat and could house the pickleball courts, I would see tremendous value in that. Also, in regards the golf course, I would be interested in seeing if there is an area that could house a practice facility with a driving range.
Ice skating rink, sledding hills, winter activities
No, we could do with less neighborhood parks. If we reduced the number of parks could that pay for additional youth programming?
We are good with the 20 parks we currently have, however, is it possible to install kiosks at the zoo for smoother admission and shorter lines? The gift shop space is inadequate for the demand.
I would prefer we improve and maintain our existing facilities
Walking trail in Fedder's Alley. Indoor and outdoor exercise equipment.
More music festivals, bring back Smooth Jazz concert.
Maybe a pickleball court, then improve and maintain what exists
The City needs a state of the art fieldhouse. It could be built at one of the schools in partnership with YMCA, Park Department, MCAS, and others.
New zoo giftshop, 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary is in 2028, plan something big (new exhibit, Monkey Island). Name new cat house exhibit after the Zoo Society. Add 4 full time keepers and stay open later in the evenings. Get new features at splash park.
No new parks are needed. Need permanent restrooms at parks instead of port-a-pots. Update playgrounds. Need a community center for year round indoor activities (Washington Park).
Better bathroom and shower facilities at Washington Park. Bathroom facilities at Hansen Park. Trail Maps at the parks where trails exist. A nature center at Washington Park would be a fantastic addition. When folks come to the beach, and it is raining or not a great beach day, we should have a way of keeping them in our Parks. An indoor, Great Lakes focused nature center/Children's museum would be a fantastic way to do that.
New park office and storage building in Washington Park.
Youth Center
New parks should not be added, but our parks should be more spread out to cover the south side of town.
No, just updates to current.
Event center, ideally in Washington Park could draw in more events to area and could be used other uses such as weddings.
No, maintain existing.

5. Do you think new parks, amenities or facilities are needed? Where and what type?

Washington Park destination activities like sailing lessons, bike rental, fishing charter office. More Recreation Classes, Activities, Education opportunities. Update the fitness station in the park to promote recreation and fitness. Dog Park in MC. Horse back riding trails. Highland games at Patriot Park. Snow hill for sledding in the winter. Ice sculpture contest. Sandcastle competition. Street hockey court and lessons. Basketball camp with **Cliff Levingston – ex Chicago Bulls player.**

I feel we need to spread our footprint to cover the entire city instead of the north end. Each park needs something special to it to make it a destination ie Gardena horseshoes, pullman- skatepark. Gardena right now is our southern park even though it is center of city, we need to spread out south from there.

Walking trails in all parks. Mark trails with mile markers.

The exercise area in Washington Park gets used more than people might think, especially considering the world in the last 20 months. It is in obvious need of replacement. And again, creating safer walking trails around Washington Park would make the park more accessible. While there is a sidewalk from town to Washington **Park Blvd, there isn't one connecting the road to the beach – which would be helpful when the Old Lighthouse Museum directs people to walk to the pier head.**

## 6. Are there areas of the community underserved by a lack of parks, trails or facilities?

As mentioned above, we can do a better job at tailoring parks, programs and services to better match the neighborhoods.
I would focus on trying to create opportunities of low income families. I don't know that I see particular neighborhoods that don't have parks, but I would be interested in hearing if there are any activities that certain neighborhoods would utilize but aren't available in their neighborhood. Would a tennis court be utilized on the west side? Perhaps a fitness course similar to what we've previously had in Fedder's Alley.
n/a
No, we have plenty of parks.
I have not heard of any complaints of lack of facilities.
We need more facilities that are capable of hosting large tournaments for youth Softball and Baseball
n/a
Need a park in the downtown
No, Michigan City has plenty of parks
Programming is needed in neighborhood parks for those without transportation, needs to be affordable. The YMCA should be made a school bus stop. Need to address at risk youth from middle school to early high school.
2 <sup>nd</sup> ward needs a park and playground
Parks that have not been upgraded.
I believe there are plenty of parks, trails, etc. for everyone to utilize.
No
Yes, the south side
No
No
No
I think there are many of the out-laying parks like Adams that are not used much so it might be nice to add different amenities to different locations like a pickle ball, horseshoes and basketball to draw users of these activities to those locations.
Yes, please see #5. I feel we need to spread our footprint to cover the entire city instead of the north end. Each
Disabled individuals including hearing, sight, mobility, cognizant impairments
It was mentioned in a Water/Ways interview that having a public beach with free admission for people to park at the beach is great for people with cars. If a family without means of transportation wants to go to the beach, they have to carry a cooler over HWY 12, through the grass, and whole way through a busy parking lot. All of that after walking several streets. Then repeating the journey home. A river walk streamlines (HA! A pun!) the walk to the beach for many people.

**7. Can you think of any strategic issues facing the Park Department in the next five years that we should be thinking about?**

FUNDING! It is difficult to have any viable, comprehensive, long term strategy when our funding is controlled by a dysfunctional relationship between the administration and the council. This is not a new problem. Therefore, we need to re-think how we can get consistent, reliable funding. Some ideas include: * Property Tax Levy - the library gets a direct tax levy and they manage their own budget and ST/LT plans w/o City admin/Council interference. We would thrive under this scenario. * Recreation and Park Impace Fees - developers kick in 1% of project initial cost to park budget. * Non-revert fund - a % of annual parking, user fees, rental fees, etc. would be dedicated to capital projects. * Taxes - we implement a tax (or tax a portion of existing taxes) of transient tax, food and beverage tax, sales tax, etc. * Sale and lease back - see park property and lease back fo 50 years. * Corporate Naming Rights/Sponsorships/Advertising - Sell the name to the golf course, Washington Park, the Zoo, Patriot Park. * General Obligation Bonds. * Park Foundation 501(c)3 - A fundraising entity, with the ability to raise money for specific projects, creat events, etc. Increase efficiency in the maintenance department and by working with other city departments and MCAS to eliminate duplication of services, equipment, and effort.
Communication. Focus on communication.
The Splash Pad?? Will we keep it running as a freebie or close it down? It was so costly to build. I would like to see it continue to be available to our residents and visitors. We need to fix the carbon monoxide problem below ground. Litigation regarding the Esplanade. Keeping entrance stickers for Michigan City residents free.
Upgrading Patriot Park
Reinstate Recreation Director position, need more year round programming, need winter events/activities.
No
Building a sustainable lifeguard program. Work on this now for next season.
Raises for seasonal staff
Struggle between the City Council and City Administration is stalling progress. Funding is an issue, seek corporate sponsorships. Need full time Recreation Director and full time marketing specialist positions.
Interest is sports is declining, need to brainstorm a way to raise interest back up.
Aging WPA structures, monkey island at the zoo, lack of funding
<b>To be sure that the Park Department moves forward, I think it will be important to bring back the Director's meetings. Each of the entities' short term and long term goals should be discussed and implemented as one collective organization. To develop a strategic plan that is used as a guide to attain these goals.</b>
Employment recruiting, are changes or addtions we are making falling in line with trends? Generating interest amoung youth for sports and other programming
Can golf course be tax subsidized under the City? Administration and Council need to work together to help the city department's achieve their goals.
One of the largest issues for any plans, programs or projects is staffing. The seasonal schedule of having the limited 1,500 hours really limits the training and returnability of the personnel, as well as limits our hiring pool. In years past we had returning seasonal because they could work all but 4 pay periods, so we were not wasting hours on rehiring, and retraining new employees for work task that need to be done past the limited 6 months <b>of employment. If there were any way of changing some of these positions to part time – fulltime with or</b> without benefits I think we might be in a better spot with staffing. Another issue with us not having return seasonals is that we lose great people who can easily be promoted into fulltime positions when they come available.
<b>Seasonal employment, most people don't want it and we can't find school / collage kids to fill these anymore.</b> When we do find someone it usually comes at a cost of no drivers license or do not show for work every day.
Need a Recreation Director/Marketing for increased programming and community outreach.
Protecting the natural environment, considering drainage from many parks goes right into the lake or river.

## 8. Any ideas how the Park Department can strengthen or build new partnerships?

We have nurtured strong partnerships over the years (Zoo included). We should use those same strategies and look for strategic partnerships that would create mutually beneficial results/relationships. One example is the <b>Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte – their vision is “dedicated to empowering our residents to live healthy and well in and around La Porte to become among Indiana’s top ten healthiest communities by 2030” – and that aligns with most of our programs and services of promoting recreational opportunities. Considering the workforce challenges, building a strong volunteer pool is critical. Also, partnering with local law enforcement programs (i.e. community service requirements) and engaging the inmate population as much as possible. Reach out to local schools to offer internships. Partner with local landscapers, reduced rate for a high profile areas where they can advertise ‘Maintained by XX Landscaping’</b>
Partner with bars and restaurants. Create leagues and incentives for sponsoring teams.
MCAS use of facilities
Do we have agreements with all of our public schools? Do we have partnerships with PNW or with IU Northwest. Do we have partnerships with the Dunes National Park. The above questions are probably a moot point because Shannon has partnerships with places I have not even considered. Victor Tieri has some great ideas for better utilization at Millennium Park.
Reach out for community input
Continue to partner with MCAS teachers for programs like the Wolves Environmental Restoration Team.
No, doing a good job
Partner with the YMCA for lifeguard program, camps, leagues, etc.
Doing a good job
Corporate sponsorships. Need full time Recreation Director and fulltime marketing specialist positions
Perhaps with Purdue Northwest. Also, strengthen the relationship with the MC Historical Society and integrate the Lighthouse Museum more fully into Parks programs.
Partner with local businesses for events (i.e. during the Festival of Holiday Lights see if local coffee shops would like to set up booths to sell or give away hot cocoa or coffee).
Require all Department Heads to be on a committee of at lease one organization
<b>To re-form the “Foundation” that had been created then quickly dissolved.</b>
Somehow work closer with Michigan City Area Schools, YMCA and Convention and Visitors Bureau
Promote events or other activities of other groups.
MCAS/Golf - incorporate golf into PE classes at schools
A great opportunity for community partnerships was the October Dayz event, because it brought out so many different organizations, business, crafters, car fans, music fans of all types, etc. who came to see their favorite event/ activity but also had a chance to experience others while there.
Making the YMCA our indoor recreation partner to help bring basketball, volleyball and dodgeball leagues back to us with their help.
Reach out and talk to stakeholders for partnership opportunities. Could members of the Senior Center teach Zumba, or host cooking or music classes for our students. Most are retired and they have great expertise in many areas.
I think you are doing a great job with partnerships.



9. How would you assess the Park Department's efforts in communicating with its residents? Any ideas for improvement?

We post a lot of data on our web-site, but that leaves it up to residents to retrieve it. We do a nice job on Facebook, but we should create a comprehensive marketing program that utilizes social media (Instagram, snapchat, twitter, etc.), radio (WEFM/WIMS), direct mail, MCAS channel 98, local service clubs (Rotary, Exchange, Lions, etc.), the library and ALCO TV.
Again, I have seen the efforts made to utilize Facebook and they are admirable. We need to have more.
Excellent, none
Need a dedicated staff member to develop a good communication plan, this should be the responsibility of a Recreation Director.
Announcements are always in the paper and our meetings are televised and always open to the public. Are they also on WIMS and WEFM and Facebook as PSAs?
Very good
Good communication
Create an app that would give you a walking tour of Washington Park with event listings similar to Otocast
<b>Extremely poor. The community doesn't know about most of our facilities, parks and trails. Need more self promotion, staff highlight, facility highlights. Focus on the positive on FB, not closures and cancellations. Create an app to notify of closures and cancellations and keep FB positive news only.</b>
Doing a good job
Pretty good job on social media. Add Twitter, Instagram. Need proper staff including a fulltime Recreation Director and fulltime Marketing Specialist.
I feel like this is an area where there is a lot of room for improvement. Given the high number of small neighborhood parks in the City, direct outreach to the folks impacted would be very helpful. Setting up tables/tents directly at the Parks to seek feedback, direct mail, etc.
As social media changes, communicating through those avenues should as well. Try using Instagram, Twitter or Tik Tok.
Continue to utilize social networking platforms to keep up with ever-changing technological advances.
I have notice that public comment is only a phone call away and our entire Administrative staff is considerate of all comments and suggestions.
Seem to only do Facebook, need someone more familiar with other social media apps.
I think the effort is sincere, the results are less than ideal. More consistent social media usage across multiple platforms would be beneficial
Golf course good, Parks good. Pro shops are a mess. Need full time golf pro, make them a city employee so they can be held accountable.
It would be great to have a kiosk somewhere in Washington Park or even another in the zoo to have information about the park trails, rentals, events, etc. Push the Facebook and park webpage. Once again having this Friends of the Park committee with different members that can join demographic groups to respark <b>the VOLUNTEERISM for community betterment that has seemed to have faded since the early 90's.</b>
Low, Facebook alone is not enough. If we are going to use social media, we should use all formats, but I think it would be better doing a monthly report on our web page and advertise the reports on social media
<b>Poor, we didn't know about the new Singing Sands Trail, Walker Street Community Garden, Movies in the Park, etc. Need better marketing and outreach.</b>
I don't receive any communications form the park other than word of mouth.

10. How would you assess the Park Department's image?

It almost has to be compartmentalized: Senior Center – Very Nice. Memorial Hall – Nice. Beach – Awesome: But the restrooms and port-a-pots – Gritty. Golf – Nice. Neighborhood parks – Depends on the park. Patriot Park – Fields – Awesome, amenities – Gritty. Zoo – Nice for a town our size, but far behind other zoos. Overall – I think people feel we don't maintain what we have very well – things are showing age and are in need of TLC.
Excellent
From Michigan City residents, poor, lack of programming. From visitors, good.
I believe we have a great image. We have very dedicated employees and they are working above and beyond due to staff shortages.
Above average
Good
Average, lack of activities
Good
Poor due to poor communication.
It has taken a beating over the years due to lack of proper staff levels and programming. Need to rebrand the Park Department.
I feel as if the MC Parks Department often gets a bad rap for things beyond their control. There also appears to be concern about the results of certain revenue streams such as Washington Park parking stickers. (I.e. why <b>doesn't all of that money go directly back into the Parks?</b> )
I feel most people think highly of the Park Department. I believe with the right leadership and effort, the image can only improve.
I think our community has the image of the Park Department as a non-essential department, even though we provide excellent quality of life services for our citizens
<b>I view the Park Department's image to be one that has rules that cannot be properly enforced. But on the other hand, a department that provides 100% effort to offer the public a multitude of events, clean facilities, green spaces, and an increasing attempt to provide safety. The compliments I hear from the public certainly outweigh the negative comments, that are commonly outlandish.</b>
Probably poor, often short staffed, lack of programming, little communication
Poor, I think the community focuses on the negatives and we haven't contributed enough positive to offset that
Restructure with full time city employed golf pro. Greens Superintendent shouldn't be running the retail side of a golf course.

10. How would you assess the Park Department's image?

I don't think the community totally appreciated or recognize all the parks programs or all the facilities in the city that fall under the department. Push the Friends of the Parks -program for a focused growth and rebranding. I would even volunteer to be on the board. The parks in Michigan City are among the greatest treasures. They provide scenic resources, historical sites and a wide range of recreational opportunities. A Friends of the Parks Foundation would help the parks and recreation departments enhance, promote, protect and preserve all the parks and recreation facilities. Board Type Task: Advocate for adequate funding for parks, do targeted fundraising and seek grants to support our work. Maintain a website and Facebook page to keep the public informed of activities, programs, and park issues. Provide a club for discussion and an opportunity for citizens to get involved. Promote public awareness of the value and benefit of parks. Encourage the acquisition of green spaces and the enhancement of public parks. Assist with special events and ongoing projects. A program of cooperative efforts instead of having so many separate societies and groups it would be great to have one park organization to work with the Park Board and department heads for the benefits of the complete Park/Zoo/City Plan for the facilities, community and the supporters.

Good but I think most people think the only way we do things is for them to complain first instead of being proactive even though we try hard to be proactive.

Not visible to the community. What do you do? What do you offer?

Some people say Washington Park is a little dirty, but that's a big project to stay on top of. It's also outside of the city's control for what floats up on the beach or up through the sand. As a resident of Sheridan Beach, I would say that the beach is clean and that the city has been doing a great job with the sand sifter.

**11. Do you have any ideas for funding maintenance of existing facilities or construction of new facilities?**

FUNDING! It is difficult to have any viable, comprehensive, long term strategy when our funding is controlled by a dysfunctional relationship between the administration and the council. This is not a new problem. Therefore, we need to re-think how we can get consistent, reliable funding. Some ideas include: * Property Tax Levy - the library gets a direct tax levy and they manage their own budget and ST/LT plans w/o City admin/Council interference. We would thrive under this scenario. * Recreation and Park Impace Fees - developers kick in 1% of project initial cost to park budget. * Non-revert fund - a % of annual parking, user fees, rental fees, etc. would be dedicated to capital projects. * Taxes - we implement a tax (or tax a portion of existing taxes) of transient tax, food and beverage tax, sales tax, etc. * Sale and lease back - see park property and lease back fo 50 years. * Corporate Naming Rights/Sponsorships/Advertising - Sell the name to the golf course, Washington Park, the Zoo, Patriot Park. * General Obligation Bonds. * Park Foundation 501(c)3 - A fundraising entity, with the ability to raise money for specific projects, creat events, etc. Increase efficiency in the maintenance department and by working with other city departments and MCAS to eliminate duplication of services, equipment, and effort.
The highway department has "Adopt a Highway." See if there are any organizations that would be interested in "Adopting a Park."
small tax, park and rec tax
Is it possible to offer employees of places such as Flanigan Tires or DeVries Tire a lower price on admission to the Zoo or for a round of golf if those places can so vehicle repairs that we cannot do and do them at a lower rate to save us money?
If we would upgrade the facility at Patriot Park that could become an income stream
No
% of parking fees should go to a capital fund to fund zoo and Washington Park projects
Corporate sponsorships.
Grants, of course. Making sure that parking revenue from Washington Park goes directly back to that Park.
Allow all revenue generated by Park Department to remain in the Park Department and not go to the general fund.
<b>As I mentioned above, It has been brought to my attention that forming a "Foundation" to develop</b> relationships with the large corporations that would benefit from a business partnership with the Park Department, rather than small fundraising donations
Sponsorships or donations.
Separate zoo parking lot in lot 2 that is closed from the others lot with metal gates. Have the zoo parking lot be limited to 3-hour parking, BUT where cars can use the PAID stub from either lot entrance to enter without a second parking fee payment to visit other park amenities. The funds from the zoo lot can be shared into a capital improvement account. Complete the Friends of the MC Parks nonprofit group to have a center coordinatized park fundraising and project support booster club.
<b>Sponsorship of buildings EX Horizon banks Indoor BMX track...</b>
<b>None that you already don't know of.</b>




## 12. Do you have any ideas for new revenue streams?




FUNDING! It is difficult to have any viable, comprehensive, long term strategy when our funding is controlled by a dysfunctional relationship between the administration and the council. This is not a new problem. Therefore, we need to re-think how we can get consistent, reliable funding. Some ideas include: * Property Tax Levy - the library gets a direct tax levy and they manage their own budget and ST/LT plans w/o City admin/Council interference. We would thrive under this scenario. * Recreation and Park Impact Fees - developers kick in 1% of project initial cost to park budget. * Non-revert fund - a % of annual parking, user fees, rental fees, etc. would be dedicated to capital projects. * Taxes - we implement a tax (or tax a portion of existing taxes) of transient tax, food and beverage tax, sales tax, etc. * Sale and lease back - see park property and lease back of 50 years. * Corporate Naming Rights/Sponsorships/Advertising - Sell the name to the golf course, Washington Park, the Zoo, Patriot Park. * General Obligation Bonds. * Park Foundation 501(c)3 - A fundraising entity, with the ability to raise money for specific projects, create events, etc. Increase efficiency in the maintenance department and by working with other city departments and MCAS to eliminate duplication of services, equipment, and effort.
Franciscan? LaPorte Healthcare Foundation? Duneland Health Council.
small tax
New programs and leagues, events and competitions, partner with other organizations to develop these.
Could we have companies such as Sullair and NIPSCO or businesses in town or out of town such as steel mills or clubs, sponsor a park or have them adopt a park or perhaps an animal or group of animals for a fee. If so there could be a sign or signs indicating that. Perhaps something like Sullair Corporation is proud to sponsor the Washington Park Wolf exhibit or playful Otters keep playing with help from the Exchange Club of Michigan City. Just an idea.
If we would upgrade the facility at Patriot Park that could become an income stream
n/a
Need a marketing budget, have fundraising events (concerts, etc.), build an indoor water park.
No
Keep zoo open for more hours
Add additional parking lots to Washington Park. Corporate sponsorships, need someone to sell this, full time Marketing Specialist.
Haunted trails for Halloween. Yoga classes. Wine & Canvas night.
Charge for Festival of Lights. Allow an outside company to provide motorized water sports activities and charge them a user fee (jet skies, parasailing, etc.).
BINGO
New programs and events. All money taken in through Park should go directly back to Park Department (parking fees, rentals, etc.).
If we acquire an indoor fitness center, we can charge for usage.
On clubhouse, save on expenses, would need north course rangers. Tighten up volunteer program to benefit the course, not the volunteer. Run the beverage cart more often, especially on weekends.
Renovate monkey island so that we can increase the Zoo admission price to help of set future zoo expenditures. New zoo classroom and gift shop to handle more rentals and gift sales. Set-up a private outdoor wedding/rental area in Washington Park and the splash park is a great option because it has private restrooms. fenced surrounding area and its tucked back for privacy, plus there is a kitchen space created. Add some shade tarps, color, planters, music area, possibly move the gates further up to incorporate the covered area and kitchen access door and even install a small gazebo for weddings, graduations, etc.
Allow advertising in our parks, like what would be done in the baseball fields.
Markets, beer gardens, mini golf.






### 13. Any additional comments?

Recreation is crucial to our community. I believe the more opportunities we present for kids, the more we will see success at the high school level. But even more, I believe offering more adult programs promotes activity and health, which is important when trying to entice residents to relocate to our community.
MC needs a community center to keep youth engaged and active. Needs to be centrally located for walking access.
The department has done a great job with Washington Park !!
Senior Center Director Tara Miller does an excellent job. Overall, the seniors are happy with the Park Department. City leadership needs to maintain a good working relationship with Michigan City Seniors, Inc.
Parking fees are too high. Expand zoo across Lake Shore Drive. Donor perceive giving money to the Zoo Society as giving money to the city.
Existing staff do a great job with depleted resources. The City needs to invest in people and resources in order to be successful.
Overall, the Park Department does an excellent job taking advantage of opportunities to improve, expand, and maintain. As is with most Park Departments, it usually comes down to funding.
To streamline the bidding process will improve and expedite the maintenance of existing facilities. The bidding process for new construction may be one that needs to remain the same
Make golf pro full time city employee. Why does the pro get \$10 per person to sell outings? The outings sell themselves. Put the \$10 toward City Benefits. Clerks should be emptying trash, vacuuming, cleaning windows, etc. during down time, add this to their job descriptions.
It would be also be great to teach some water conservation and environmental facts in Washington Park with the addition of an art trash holder as bottles and non- hazard items are collected, and to then pull this message <b>into the community with a city wide "trash to art contest"</b> .
We all need more storage, and this would help not only taking care of our equipment, but it would also help with labor hours by not have to load and unload and travel time going back and forth.

POST DATE		POST CONTENT	FACEBOOK COMMENTS				SHARES				
6/29/2021		Survey	Washington Park is desperate for new kids playground equipment!! Where is the survey				11	7	0	0	  
			to Robin Hess Chubb: They've been the same since what, 20 years ago? They probably don't even put new sand in the sandbox. Lol								
6/29/2021		Survey	Update the washrooms.... That's it. Or add showers, so people can actually get cleaned after going in the lake.								
6/29/2021		Survey	Disc Golf Course								
9/2/2021		Survey	We would like to see more maintenance and upkeep in regards to the bath house and port a johns. They should be maintained and sanitized more regularly.				37	12	1	0	
9/2/2021		Survey	name the gardena big ball diamond Buck Woodard field								
9/2/2021		Survey	Updated bathrooms for the public. The rock garden ponds restored. More sidewalks coming into the park.								
9/4/2021		Destination Playground	This would be amazing. We love visiting MC and seeing all the improvements over the last 10 years. Excited for this cute city's future				29	84	26	2	
9/4/2021		Destination Playground	Done, would love to see the lights working in the park and all the way to the lighthouse. Willing to help fundraiser for this.								
9/4/2021		Destination Playground	Need an inside theme to use all year round								
9/4/2021		Destination Playground	Didn't the park board conduct a 5 year plan 5 years ago that consisted of cabins similar to the cabins in Gatlinburg and a zip line on Krueger Hill?								
9/4/2021		Destination Playground	Yes! And I noted it in my survey! Thanks for asking.								
9/4/2021		Destination Playground	Yes!								
9/4/2021		Destination Playground	Can you rehab and open the splash pad next summer???								
9/4/2021		Destination Playground	Yes!!!!								
9/4/2021		Destination Playground	How about parking for the zoo and the water park separate from the beach???								
9/4/2021		Destination Playground	More bathrooms and light in the bathroom								
9/4/2021		Destination Playground	Can we get a dog park?								

POST DATE	POST CONTENT	FACEBOOK COMMENTS	SHARES			
9/4/2021	Destination Playground	Yasss my kids would love it				
9/4/2021	Destination Playground	Absolutely				
9/4/2021	Destination Playground	Much needed!!				
9/4/2021	Destination Playground	Yes definitely				
9/4/2021	Destination Playground	Yes I would.				
9/10/2021	Zoo Animals	I'd just like to say they should get a Bigfoot	0	2	1	0
9/10/2021	Zoo Animals	Duck billed platypus, sloth, red pandas, Komodo dragons...				
9/10/2021	Zoo Animals	A Butterflies house!				
9/20/2021	Destination Playground	Make it an indoor one like bellaboo's!!!!	7	39	7	0
9/20/2021	Destination Playground	The park system can't even keep the splash pad operating.				
9/20/2021	Destination Playground	I am all for it!				
10/2/2021	Batting Cages	Yes. How about we if we also had some baseball fields around here too. Gardena Park is in poor shape and just not enough. Patriot Park is okay but always booked.	0	13	0	0
10/2/2021	Batting Cages	Sure. There used to be some a long time ago.				
10/2/2021	Batting Cages	We have some at Cascade Mountain				
10/2/2021	Batting Cages	Yes				
10/2/2021	Batting Cages	yes				
10/14/2021	Zipline	none	1	2	0	0
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	Hire someone to find grant money to supplement some of the funds necessary to implement change!	6	18	4	0
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	Reopen splash pad and update playground equipment				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	The children's playground equipment at Washington Park is dangerous and archaic! Please consider this a priority!				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	to Robin Hess Chubb: Amen lol				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	Are we ever going to open the splash pad back up? We all wanted that too and now it's there and we can't use it.				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	The problem we have in this city is we find the money to create these things but somehow skimp on the maintenance of them, and then must recreate them in ten years.				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	Isn't there already something like that in Fedder's Alley?				



POST DATE	POST CONTENT	FACEBOOK COMMENTS	SHARES			
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	to Carrie Griffin: Most of it is broken now				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	to Charlene Renee: I don't use it, so I didn't realize it wasn't usable				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	Would rather see the beach patrolled. All summer we watched people smoking pot, grilling food and bringing their dogs right by us on the beach. So much for enjoying what we used know as a nice beach. So much for posting rules if no one enforces them.				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	This is nice but it will be wrecked by vandals inside of a week				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	Silver Beach in St. Joe, Michigan. FREE splash pad, Carousel, beautiful beach, and food!				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	100%				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	Yes				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	Take the survey and enter your comments!!				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	New roads, new sidewalks, and a new playground for Meer's				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	Chicago buds in Sheridan Beach.....check it out!				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	Yes I would				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	Ice skating rink in Washington Park is a joke!				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	Pavilion/Ice skating rink in Valpo.....				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	Walls in Washington Park need fixed or replaced!				
10/28/2021	Outdoor Gym	Fedder's Ally, Chicago condos....don't bet against it! Bottom line, Washington Park is a mess!				
10/29/2021	Last Day Survey	How long are you going to fool the public with this 5 year plan bull!!!!!!?	5	4	0	0
All Posts		TOTALS	96	181	39	2

LA PORTE COUNTY

# Herald-Dispatch

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

 LPHeraldDispatch.com

## What do you want to see within Michigan City's parks?

Parks Department is seeking public input as it prepares for its next five-year plan

By KELLEY SMITH  
Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY — As the Michigan City Parks Department works to develop its five-year master plan for 2022-26, the public is invited to share its wants and needs with the parks staff in the coming months.

According to Shannon Eason,

assistant superintendent of the Parks Department, the city files a master plan with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources every five years to be eligible for various grant opportunities, such as the \$250,000 matching grant it is seeking for the Weller Tower Park playground renovation.

With the current master

plan expiring after Dec. 31, and the first draft of the new plan due by Jan. 15, Eason and her staff are reaching out to the public through surveys, stakeholder meetings and public input sessions.

"This is our community's opportunity to voice their opinions and help shape their Parks Department and



EASON

programming for the next five years," she said. "So, it's vital that we hear from them so that our action plan reflects what our community really wants and really needs."

Public input sessions will occur in conjunction with the Michigan City Parks & Recreation Board meetings at 5 p.m. on Oct. 6, Oct. 20 and Nov. 3.

But the survey is available now and must be returned to the Parks Department no later

than Oct. 1 to be considered during the planning process.

It can be accessed on the Parks Department page on the city or department website, [emichigancity.com](http://emichigancity.com) or [michigancityparks.com](http://michigancityparks.com); or at [docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScenbC-MXpF0uzddiZariXKgcMOBUd2y1POeB-RRzNjRA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScenbC-MXpF0uzddiZariXKgcMOBUd2y1POeB-RRzNjRA/viewform).

Paper copies may be obtained at the Parks

See PARKS, page A2

### PARKS

From page A1

Department or mayor's offices at City Hall; or at the Michigan City Senior Center, Washington Park Zoo, Michigan City Municipal Golf Course, Michigan City Public Library, or La Porte County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Mail completed surveys to Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., Suite 2, Michigan City, IN, 46360; fax to 219-873-1540; or scan and email to [season@emichigancity.com](mailto:season@emichigancity.com).

According to Eason, the five-year master plan takes an inventory of the city's parks and other assets, noting any upgrades to or sales of department property.

The plan for 2017-21, also available on the city's website, is nearly 250 pages long, and addresses everything from facilities and programs, to accessibility and design, social and economic factors, and history and culture.

"It's comprehensive; it covers everything from playgrounds to sports to programming, parks to trails to fishing on the lakefront — it encompasses everything," Eason said. "And the survey part is profoundly important

to the process.

"You don't want it to be what a few Parks Department employees want to do. You want it to reflect the wants and the needs of the entire community."

She likened the data collection to creating a wish list, noting it's impossible for the city to tackle every item. But it's the basis from which the Parks Department will derive its plan for the next five years.

"The biggest part is a needs analysis," she said. "... What are our needs? How do we intend to get there? Can it be done within five years?"

Eason said it takes approximately a year to develop a master plan for the following five. Many departments hire consultants to complete the job; but this is the fourth time Michigan City's Parks Department has taken it on in-house.

"It's time-consuming; it's difficult to put together; but it's worth it," Eason said. "And it's kind of like a living plan — it's not set in stone. We can adapt and make changes as needed."

The IDNR will review the local plan sometime after the Jan. 15 deadline, and send it back with comments. The city will have until April 15 to submit a final plan.



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—OUTREACH

## Press Releases

Issued to our local newspaper and radio stations.



## **PRESS** RELEASE

---

Michigan City Park Department · 100 E. Michigan Blvd., Suite 2 · Michigan City, IN 46360  
(219) 873-1506

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

email: [season@emichigancity.com](mailto:season@emichigancity.com)

## For Immediate Release

Date: September 29, 2021

### **Public Input Sought for Park Department's 5-Year Master Plan**

**Michigan City, IN** (September 29, 2021)—The Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department is currently writing our 5-year Master Plan (2022-2026). Public input is vital to the planning process; we need to know the wants and needs of the community to be able to successfully plan for the future development of parks and programming. The 1<sup>st</sup> public input session for the 2022-2026 Master Plan will be held in conjunction with the October 6, 2021 Park Board meeting at 5 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd. A survey is available on our website at [www.emichigancity.com](http://www.emichigancity.com). Surveys can also be picked up at the Park Office, City Clerk's Office, Mayor's Office, The Michigan City Senior Center, The Michigan City Public Library, The Michigan City Golf Course, The Washington Park Zoo, and the LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Ideally, the head of household representing your family's opinions should complete and return the surveys. Surveys are due by October 29, 2022.

Please return completed surveys to:  
Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION—OUTREACH

## PUBLIC INPUT SESSION NO. 1— Park Board meeting October 6, 2021



100 E. Michigan Blvd. / Suite 2  
Michigan City, IN 46360-3293  
Phone (219) 873-1506  
Fax (219) 873-1506  
[www.michigancityparks.com](http://www.michigancityparks.com)

The Michigan City Park and Recreation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at the hour of 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, City of Michigan City, Indiana.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

On the call of the roll, the following Board Members were found to be present or absent:

**Present:** Messrs. Latchford, Freese, and Lange, and Ms. Espar (4)

**Absent:** None (0)

Also present were Ed Shinn, Superintendent; Shannon Eason, Assistant Superintendent; Laura Nirenberg, Park Board Attorney; Dalia Zygas, City Council Liaison; Patrick Voltz, Maintenance Director; Terry Greetham, City Events Coordinator; and Kaleb Goodwin, City IT Department.

- On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the minutes of the September 15, 2021 Park Board meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Shannon Eason reported surveys are available for public input for the Park Department's 5 Year Master Plan until October 29, 2021. The online surveys can be found in English and Spanish at [www.emichigancity.com](http://www.emichigancity.com). Paper surveys are available at the Park Office, the Michigan City Senior Center, the Washington Park Zoo, the Michigan City Golf Courses, the Michigan City Public Library, LaPorte County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and the Mayor's Office.

- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board tabled the request submitted by the Salvation Army.
- On a motion made by Ms. Espar, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached vehicle disposition request which will be submitted to the Michigan City Board of Public Works and Safety for approval.
- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board tabled the 2022 zoo fees, hours, contracts, and programs.

- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Request for Qualifications for the Old Bandstand Preservation Project.
- ❑ On a motion made by Ms. Espar, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board tabled the 2022 Memorandum of Understanding with Windy City Kites.
- ❑ On a motion made by Ms. Espar, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached 2021 Annual Beach Management Report.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached open charge accounts.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 941 transferring money in Golf Fund 2062.000.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 942 setting premium pay for maintenance employees.
- ❑ On a motion made by Ms. Espar, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 943 transferring money in Maintenance Fund 2056.505.

Superintendent Shinn reported on the preparation of the holiday lights display, clearing of sand, winterization project, removal of beach mats, removal of furniture at North Pointe Pavilion and upcoming repair and painting projects at the Senior Center, amphitheater and North Pointe Pavilion. Superintendent Shinn received public comments regarding moving a beach marker flag, dogs on the beach and drones that are becoming a nuisance. Superintendent Shinn reported graffiti was removed at Hansen Park.

- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved city claims filed on account of appropriations for the Parks and Recreation Department in the amount of \$94,585.01.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved Payroll #20, 09/05/21 through 09/18/21, in the amount of \$58,963.39.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board accepted donations from Patrick Wilkins Entertainment for North

Pointe Pavilion security reimbursement in the amount of \$1,660.00 and from North Judson Vet Clinic for Boo at the Zoo in the amount of \$350.00.

- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the following minor transfers:

Golf Fund 2062.000

Decrease account number 423.031	Small Tools	\$2,500.00
Decrease account number 429.007	Misc. Merchandise	\$1,500.00
Increase account number 423.021	Repair Parts	\$2,500.00
Increase account number 429.001	Other Supplies	\$1,500.00

- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the following minor transfers:

Recreation Fund 2056.503

Decrease account number 411.014	Seasonal Salaries	\$3,151.00
Increase account number 411.016	Overtime	\$2,110.00
Increase account number 413.003	INPRS	\$ 546.00
Increase account number 413.005	Health Insurance	\$ 481.00
Increase account number 413.013	Compensation match	\$ 14.00

- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved payment of invoices totaling \$552.92 out of the Zoo Endowment Fund.
- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved payment of invoices totaling \$481.28 charged to the department's credit card.
- On a motion made by Mr. Freese, supported by all members of the Board, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

  
Shannon Eason, Assistant Superintendent

  
Kent Lange, Park Board Secretary

Minutes prepared by Shannon Eason

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## PUBLIC INPUT SESSION NO. 2— Park Board meeting October 20, 2021



100 E. Michigan Blvd. / Suite 2  
Michigan City, IN 46360-3293  
Phone (219) 873-1506  
Fax (219) 873-1506  
www.michigancityparks.com

The Michigan City Park and Recreation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at the hour of 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, City of Michigan City, Indiana.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

On the call of the roll, the following Board Members were found to be present or absent:

**Present:** Messrs. Freese, and Lange and Ms. Espar (3)

**Absent:** Mr. Latchford (1)

Also present were Ed Shinn, Superintendent; Shannon Eason, Assistant Superintendent; Laura Nirenberg, Park Board Attorney; Jamie Huss, Zoo Director; Elizabeth Emerick, Assistant Zoo Director; Ross Balling, EVP Academies, LLC; Pat Voltz, Maintenance Director; Mayor Parry; Angie Nelson Deutch, City Councilwoman; Doug Ross, Journalist; and Kaleb Goodwin, City IT Department.

- ☐ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the minutes of the October 6, 2021 Park Board meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Eason gave the attached presentation of the Park Department's 5-Year Master Plan.

Park Board Secretary Kent Lange commented that the Master Plan is an amazing report, and he is impressed that over 9 million dollars of projects were completed during the last 5-Year Master Plan.

Superintendent Shinn commented there was an order of repairs for the playground renovations and asked how you decide which playground to do next?

Assistant Superintendent Eason replied the playgrounds were laid out strategically. Knowing that we have been successful getting Community Development Block Grants, which don't require a city match, but have to be in low-income neighborhoods, we used a north, south, east, west approach in identifying playgrounds that qualified for CDBG grants. The playgrounds that do not qualify for CDBG grants were pushed further down on the capital list until we can identify funding for them.



Ross Balling, resident at 201 Linwood Drive, commented he has been a resident of Michigan City since 1999. He congratulated the park on their progress with the Master Plan. Mr. Ross stated he has been in the parks and recreation business for a long time and stated park staff has continued to be professional through ups and downs. Mr. Ross stated advanced professionalism like this is just going to make Michigan City better. Mr. Ross stated kudos to your team, and I look forward to working with you.

Mr. Lange commented this is a fantastic amount of work, thank you.

- ❑ On a motion made by Ms. Espar, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached request submitted by the Salvation Army to place two red kettles and two bell ringers in Washington Park on Saturday, December 4, 2021 from 4 to 9 pm.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board tabled the attached 2022 zoo fees, hours, contracts, and programs for public comment.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Memorandum of Understanding with Ross Balling of EVP Academies, LLC for the 2022 beach volleyball leagues, clinics and tournaments in Washington Park.
- ❑ On a motion made by Ms. Espar, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the 2022 season pass rules and refund policy and tabled all other 2022 golf fees and contracts for public comment.
- ❑ On a motion made by Ms. Espar, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board tabled the 2022 and 2023 administration fees and contracts.
- ❑ On a motion made by Ms. Espar, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board accepted the quote submitted by N.A. Logan in the amount of \$3,990.00 for the painting of the amphitheater fascia and awarded the contract.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board accepted the quote submitted by Deutscher Construction in the amount of \$3,500.00 for the tortoise barn concrete pad project and awarded the contract.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 944 transferring money in Concession Fund 2053.000.



Superintendent Shinn reported on the YMCA basketball program, winter operations of the Maintenance Department, a request to make all seven parking spaces on the north side of the Senior Center entrance handicap spaces, the Senior Center's new computer program, Boo at the Zoo, the repair of the zoo safari train, the water problems on the upper deck of North Pointe Pavilion, and the problems with the support columns on the Senior Center canopy.

Superintendent Shinn reported a pop machine was tipped over in Millennium Plaza and has since been picked up by Pepsi.

- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved city claims filed on account of appropriations for the Parks and Recreation Department in the amount of \$77,588.32.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved Payroll #21, 09/19/21 through 10/02/21, in the amount of \$53,486.57.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the following donations:

Devries Tire Company	Zoo Donation – Boo at the Zoo	\$	200.00
Woodland Vet Center	Zoo Donation – Boo at the Zoo	\$	200.00
Prendergast Agency	Zoo Donation – Boo at the Zoo	\$	200.00
Michigan City Fire Department	Zoo Donation – Boo at the Zoo	\$	450.00
Lakeshore Foods	Zoo Donation – Boo at the Zoo	\$	450.00
Anonymous	Zoo Donation – Wishing Well	\$	14.00
Sims Metal	Misc. Donation – scrap	\$	365.80
Anonymous	Zoo Donation – Wishing Well	\$	107.22
MC Christian Church	Zoo Donation – Boo at the Zoo	\$	350.00

- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the following minor transfer:

Golf Fund 2062.000			
Decrease account number 429.001	Other Supplies	\$	500.00
Increase account number 429.007	Misc. Merchandise	\$	500.00

- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the following minor transfer:

Concessions Fund 2053.000		
Decrease account number 429.005	Misc. Merch. Peacock	\$ 20,000.00
Decrease account number 422.031	Household	\$ 5,000.00
Decrease account number 423.031	Small Tools	\$ 3,000.00
Increase account number 429.001	Other Supplies	\$ 28,000.00

- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved payment of invoices totaling \$2,064.12 charged to the department's credit card.
- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, supported by all members of the Board, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

  
Shannon Eason, Assistant Superintendent

  
Kent Lange, Park Board Secretary

Minutes prepared by Shannon Eason

# MICHIGAN CITY PARKS & RECREATION FIVE-YEAR MASTER PLAN



# PLANNING GUIDELINES

## DNR OUTDOOR RECREATION

### Indiana Department of Natural Resources

**Must submit a draft plan by January 15, 2022 and a final plan by April 15, 2022**

- Allows the Parks Department to apply for grant funds
- Will provide the Park Department with a common sense approach to our decision making
- Will only be as realistic and useful as we make it!

# PLANNING GUIDELINES

## Indiana Department of Natural Resources

### Required Elements

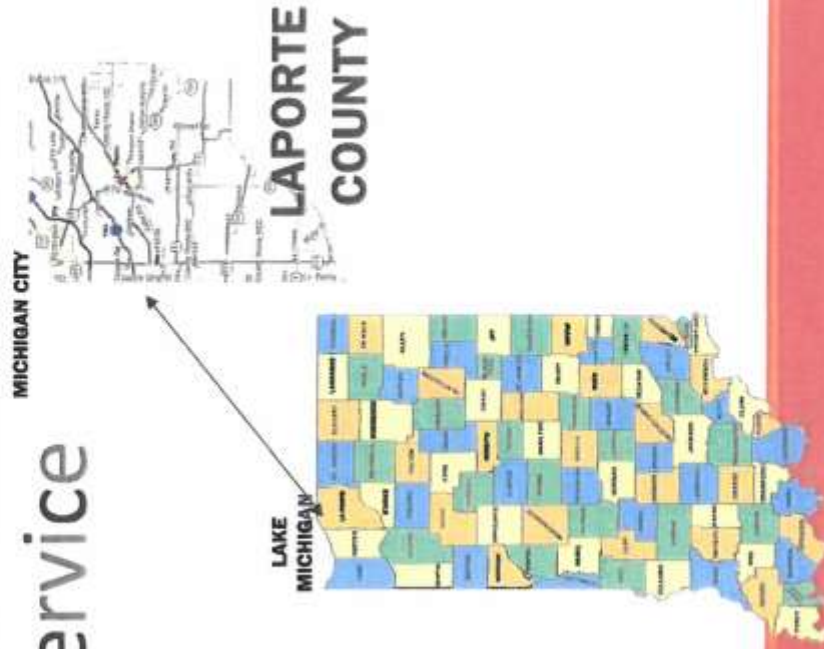
- Introduction
- Definition of the Planning Area
- Goals of the Plan
- Description of the Park Board and Park Department
- Natural Features and Landscape
- Man-made, Historical and Cultural
- Social and Economic Factors (2020 U.S. Census)
- Accessibility and Universal Design
- Public Participation
- Needs Analysis
- Priorities and Action Schedule
- Appendices
  - Washington Park Master Plan
  - Washington Park Zoo Master Plan
  - Trails & Greenways Master Plan

**DNR** OUTDOOR  
RECREATION

# DEFINITION OF PLANNING AREA

Define the area of service

- Physical location
- Climate





# GOALS OF THE PLAN

Gather input and analyze results

Adhere to National Recreation and Park Association's benchmarks while conducting a thorough needs analysis

Identify priorities using the following elements:

Understanding of the demographics we serve

Awareness and appreciation of our natural resources and knowledge to preserve and conserve them

Promote fitness of mind and body

Incorporate vision, imagination, creativity, sensitivity, integrity, and common sense

Community involvement

Explore ways to increase revenue streams

Explore ways to decrease expenses while maintaining operating standards

Create recreational opportunities and programming without duplicating existing programs and services of other local agencies

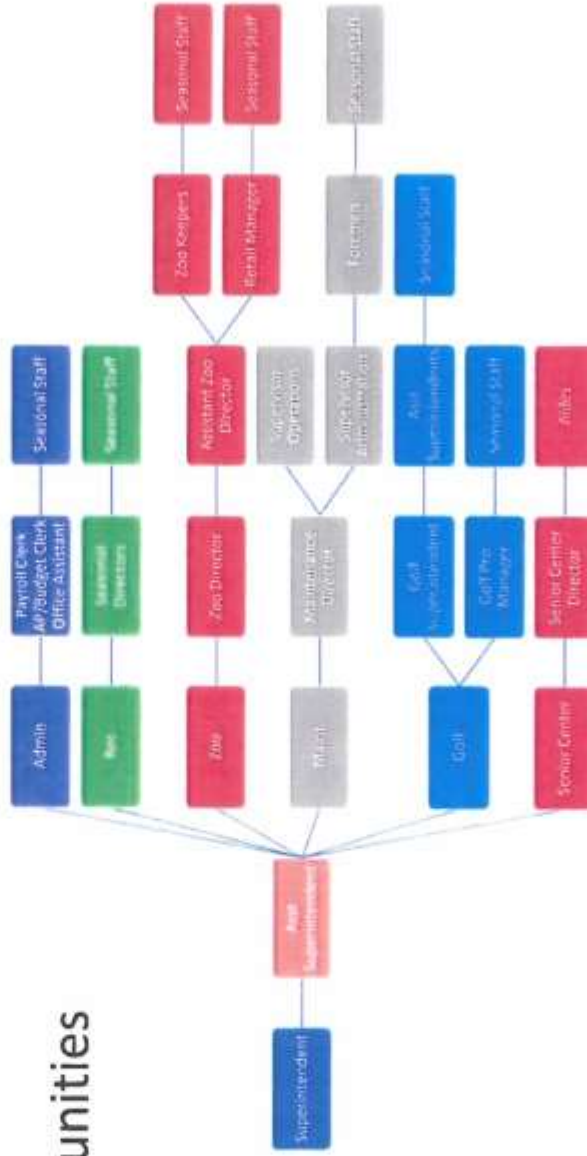
# THE PARK BOARD AND PARK DEPARTMENT

- Park Board Functions and Responsibilities

- Park Department Organizational Chart

- Volunteer Opportunities

- Labor Programs



# Facilities and Programs

Inventory of parks & amenities

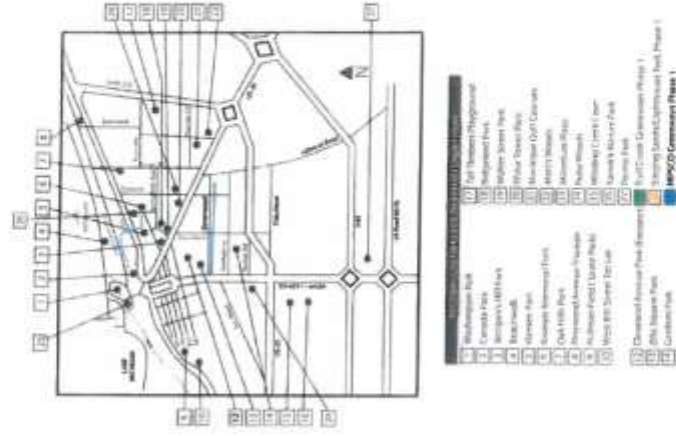
Inventory of facilities

Inventory of programming

Inventory of surplus properties

Location map

Other area opportunities



## NATURAL FEATURES & LANDSCAPE

Lake Michigan



Trail Creek Corridor

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Native Flora & Fauna



# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL & CULTURAL

## History of Michigan City

### Transportation

- State highways, Interstates

- & Federal Routes

- Rail service

- Airport

- Non-motorized trails

### Cultural Attractions

- Art

- Cuisine

- Events & Festivals

- Historic

- Music

- Theater



# SOCIAL & ECONOMIC FACTORS

## 2020 U.S. Census

### Population of Michigan City

Total residents 32,075 (31,479 in 2010)

1.8% increase from 2010 Census

Median age 36.5 (39 years in 2010)

#### Gender

51.40 male (51% in 2010)

48.6% female (49% in 2010)

#### Race

61.8 %Caucasian (64.9% in 2010)

29.4% African American (28.1% in 2010)

6.3% Hispanic (5.9% in 2010)

2.5% American Indian, Asian or other (1.1% in 2010)



## Regional Profile Data

Michigan City-LaPorte, Indiana



## ACCESSIBILITY & UNIVERSAL DESIGN

### ADA Assessment

#### Disability Access Consultants (DACTrak)

#### Report completed February 2012

Completed six playground renovations between 2014 and 2017. Seven additional playground renovations are scheduled in 2021 through 2026.

Installed Indiana's 1<sup>st</sup> fully ADA compliant kayak launch & route at Hansen Park

Beach wheelchair for use at Washington Park and beach access mats at six designated public access beach paths

Assurance of Section 504 Compliance

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

### STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Held August & September 2021

LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau  
LaPorte County YMCA  
Mayor Duane Perry  
Michigan City Area Schools  
Michigan City Common Council  
Michigan City Controller  
Michigan City Economic Development  
Michigan City Fire Department  
Michigan City Park Board  
Michigan City Planner  
Michigan City Police Department  
Michigan City Port Authority  
Michigan City Redevelopment Commission  
Michigan City Senior Center Advisory Committee  
Trail Creek Watershed Committee  
Washington Park Zoological Society

## PUBLIC SURVEYS

Available March 1<sup>st</sup> through October 29, 2021

### Paper surveys – 82 Surveys Returned

Distributed to 38 target organizations  
Available at 8 locations throughout the city  
Available on our website [www.michigancityarks.com](http://www.michigancityarks.com)  
Available on our Facebook Page

### Online Surveys – 327 Surveys Filled Out

Available on our website [www.michigancityarks.com](http://www.michigancityarks.com)  
Available on our Facebook Page  
QR codes on fliers for smart phone users

### Public Input Sessions

Part Board meeting 10/6/21  
Part Board meeting 10/20/21  
Part Board meeting 11/03/21

# WHAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED?

FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	LOCATION	ACTION ITEM	COST	COMPLETED
2017	Admin	Walker Street Park	update equip for safety & ADA	100,000	2017
2017	Admin	Winding Creek Cove Ph IV	forestry management	42,000	2017
2017	Admin	WPA assessment	Assessment of all WPA facilities	28,500	2017
2017	Admin	Washington Park	Beach wheelchair	1,400	2017
2017	All	All	800 mhz radios	5,200	2017
2017	Golf	Golf Course	replace 22 carts - year 3 of 4 year replacement plan	70,000	2017
2017	Maint	Patriot Park	bunker rake	16,000	2017
2017	Maint	Patriot Park	recrown 4 baseball/softball fields	50,000	2017
2017	Zoo	WP Zoo	Peacock Café upgrades	19,200	2017
2017	Zoo	WP Zoo	Workshop	77,400	2017
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>409,700</b>	

# WHAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED?

FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	LOCATION	ACTION ITEM	COST	COMPLETED
2017	Admin	Old Lighthouse Museum	exterior repairs	250,000	2018
2018	Golf	Golf Course	(2) turbine blowers	16,000	2018
2018	Golf	Golf Course	replace 22 carts - year 4 of 4 year replacement plan	75,000	2018
2018	Golf	Golf Course	security camera system	35,000	2018
2018	Maint	Park Maintenance	(2) Toro zero turn mowers	46,000	2018
2017	Zoo	WP Zoo	Eco Adventure Exhibit	34,250	2018
2017	Zoo	WP Zoo	feed and bedding barn	143,000	2018
2018	Zoo	WP Zoo	Hilltop Aviary block building	28,000	2018
2018	Zoo	WP Zoo	Inspect sacrificial anodes on observation tower	950	2018
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>628,200</b>	

# WHAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED?

FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	LOCATION	ACTION ITEM	COST	COMPLETED
2017	Admin	Winding Creek Cove Ph II	bank stabilization at observation deck	100,400	2019
2017	Admin	Winding Creek Cove Ph III	Public access paths and fishing/launch pad	108,000	2019
2018	Golf	Golf Course	front deck rotary mower	30,000	2019
2019	Golf	Golf Course	irrigation system sprinkler head replacement	10,392	2019
2018	Maint	Park Maintenance	replace 1 ton dump truck with plow	56,000	2019
2018	Maint	Park Maintenance	replace 5 old furnaces in maintenance facility	12,500	2019
2018	Maint	Patriot Park	bunker rake	12,700	2019
2018	Maint	Park Maintenance	heating and air system	10,500	2019
2018	Maint	Washington Park	restripe parking lots	12,000	2019
2019	Maint	Park Maintenance	new Toro zero turn mower	23,000	2019
2019	Maint	Patriot Park	new Toro zero turn mower	23,000	2019
2018	Zoo	WP Zoo	new transit wagon (trade in 2001 Tahoe)	25,690	2019
2018	Zoo	WP Zoo	Castle - exterior repairs	674,510	2019
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,098,692</b>	

# WHAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED?

FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	LOCATION	ACTION ITEM	COST	COMPLETED
2018	Admin	Washington Park	public access beach path mats	89,000	2020
		TOTAL		89,000	



# WHAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED?

FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	LOCATION	ACTION ITEM	COST	COMPLETED
2017	Admin	Singing Sands Ph I	Construct new trail	2,395,905	2021
2018	Admin	Singing Sands Ph II	City Hall to Liberty Trail	2,124,631	2021
2019	Golf	Golf Course	tree work - aerial playability and canopy establishment	100,000	2021
2018	Maint	Patriot Park	John Deere Tractor	53,000	2021
2019	Admin	Singing Sands Ph III	Liberty Trail to Meer Road	1,120,000	In progress
2021	Maint	Park Maintenance	(2) Ford F-250 pick up trucks with plows	66,000	2021
2021	Maint	Park Maintenance	F250 Pick up Truck	33,000	2021
2021	Maint	Park Maintenance	John Deere Tractor	35,000	2021
2021	Maint	Patriot Park	John Deere Tractor	62,000	2021
2021	Maint	Park Maintenance	John Deere Gator w/beach tires	17,000	2021
2021	Zoo	Zoo	Pride of Africa Exhibit	850,000	In progress
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,856,536</b>	

## WHAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED?

ACTION ITEM		COST
2017 TOTAL		409,700
2018 TOTAL		628,200
2019 TOTAL		1,098,692
2020 TOTAL		89,000
2021 TOTAL		6,856,536
TOTAL 2017 - 2021		9,082,128

# 2022-2026 ACTION PLAN

Items that will be identified in this action plan involve many facets of parks and recreation ranging from infrastructure improvements, park renovations and laws that affect accessibility in outdoor recreation. The 2022-2026 action plan will address our top priorities.

Issues will be identified in the planning process from public and stakeholder input and from analyzing the data and statistics of users and program participants.

The issues that receive the highest priority will be placed in the five-year action plan for implementation.

# 2022-2026 ACTION PLAN

The action plan will be completed once all surveys stakeholder interview comments have been analyzed.

## FUNDING SOURCES

- |        |                                   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| ▪ ACF  | Available City Funding            |
| ▪ CDBG | Community Development Block Grant |
| ▪ GO   | Grant Opportunity                 |
| ▪ MCHS | Michigan City Historical Society  |
| ▪ OB   | Operating Budget                  |
| ▪ PD   | Private Donation                  |
| ▪ RDC  | Redevelopment Commission          |
| ▪ ZE   | Zoo Endowment Fund                |
| ▪ ZS   | Zoo Society                       |





DOUG ROSS PHOTO, THE TIMES  
The pier leading to the iconic lighthouse is a popular spot for visitors to Michigan City's Washington Park.

## Michigan City asking input on park facilities

**DOUG ROSS**  
Times Correspondent

MICHIGAN CITY — Residents have until Oct. 29 to offer input on the five-year master plan for the city's parks.

Assistant Superintendent Shannon Eason updated the Park Board this week on progress toward the new plan.

As of Wednesday, 409 surveys had been filled out — 82 on paper and 327 online. In addition, stakeholders from the LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau to Economic Development Corp. Michigan City to the Trail Creek Watershed Committee have been interviewed for their perspectives.

The draft plan is due to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources by Jan. 15. After the DNR reviews it, the city has until April 15 to update it.

"It allows us to apply for grant funding" from the DNR, Eason said. Probably the most important is the public participation and needs analysis, she added.

"We have a lot of natural resources that play into parks and recreation and quality of life in Michigan City," Eason said. Michigan City not only offers a wide stretch of Lake Michigan but also the Trail Creek corridor, Indiana Dunes National Park and native flora and fauna. Those will be detailed in the master plan.

The city's history and cultural attractions are touched upon, too, as well as socioeconomic characteristics.

Eason is actively reaching out to the Hispanic community "because we typically don't hear from them," she said, and the African American community as well. Whites over age 50 are most



Washington Park Zoo offers visitors an up-close look at tropical birds and other animals. The zoo closes on Oct. 31.

likely to complete the survey, but Eason is seeking greater diversity.

Both Spanish and English versions of the survey are available at <https://tinyurl.com/mcparks-survey>.

Respondents are asked to list the parks and facilities they use most often as well as facilities and programs they would like to see added. They're also asked to evaluate parks on a variety of criteria and to identify barriers to participation.

All of this input will help the park department see how well it's serving the community's needs

and how it can improve.

The master plan involves other research as well.

"We go through and do a thorough inventory of our programs and properties," Eason said. The department attempts to avoid duplicating services. Any surplus properties are identified, too.

"I think we did a pretty good job of upgrading our playgrounds," but will identify more to address. Playgrounds in low-income neighborhoods are given priority because they qualify for Community Development Block Grant funds.

Between 2014 and 2017, six playground renovations were completed, and seven more are planned through 2026. Accessibility is key.

At Hansen Park, the park department installed Indiana's first fully ADA-compliant kayak launch and route in 2015, Eason noted, and beach access mats are used at six designated public access beach paths to make it easier to travel the sandy paths.

A needs analysis is part of the master plan. Eason plans to review it with the Park Board and City Council as well as city staff.

She has a long list of items accomplished since the last master plan. Between 2017 and 2021, \$9 million has been devoted to addressing needs in the city's parks. That includes more than \$6.8 million this year alone.

"That's a fantastic report. \$6.8 million is nothing to sneeze at," Park Board member Kent Lange said.

"The action plan is very important to this process," Eason said. "It's a little more focused than our 5-year capital list."



**100 E. Michigan Blvd. / Suite 2  
Michigan City, IN 46360-3293  
Phone (219) 873-1506  
www.emichigancity.com**

**The Michigan City Park Board** met in regular session on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at the hour of 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, City of Michigan City, Indiana.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

On the call of the roll, the following Board Members were found to be present or absent:

**Present: Messrs. Latchford, Freese and Lange (3)**

**Absent: Ms. Espar (1)**

**Also present were** Ed Shinn, Superintendent, Shannon Eason, Assistant Superintendent; Laura Nirenberg, Park Board Attorney; Patrick Voltz, Maintenance Director; Jamie Huss, Zoo Director; Terry Greetham, City Events Coordinator; Dalia Zygas, City Council Liaison; Tim Haas, Haas & Associates; Mike and Angela Vinson; and Kaleb Goodwin, City IT. Department.

- On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the minutes of the October 20, 2021 Park Board meeting.

President Latchford opened the floor for comments on the Park Department's 5-Year Master Plan. There were none.

- On a motion made by Mr. Freese seconded by Mr. Lange and vote for unanimously by the Board, the Board removed the 2022 zoo fees, hours, contracts, and programs from the table.
- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached 2022 zoo fees, hours, contracts, and programs.
- On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board removed the 2022 golf fees and contracts from the table.
- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached 2022 golf fees and contracts.
- On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board removed the 2022/2023 administration fees and contracts from the table.



- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached 2022/2023 administration fees and contracts.
- On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board removed the Windy City Kites 2022 MOU from the table.
- On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached 2022 MOU with Windy City Kites.
- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Park Department's 2021 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report.

President Latchford asked if anyone would like to submit a Statement of Qualifications for the Old Bandstand Preservation Project. There were no additional submissions, and the submission period was closed.

Assistant Superintendent Eason reported the attached two Statements of Qualifications were received on November 3, 2021, the first from Crumlish and Crumlish and the second from Kil Architecture. Mrs. Eason stated the qualifications would be reviewed and then scored by a scoring team consisting of herself, Superintendent Shinn, City Planner Skyler York, and a member of the Michigan City Historical Society. Once the scoring is completed, she will bring a recommendation back to the Park Board for approval.

- On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board agreed to send the Statements of Qualifications to the scoring team for review, scoring and a final recommendation to the Park Board.
- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached notice to bidders, bid documents, drawings and specifications for the Big Cat Expansion Project at the zoo.
- On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the request submitted by Nicole Bissonnette of Fish Camp Restaurant to operate a horse drawn carriage ride through Washington Park during the Festival of Holiday Lights for her customers contingent on approval from the Board of Public Works and Safety.
- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached 2022 zoo membership fees.
- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached request submitted by City Events Coordinator Terry Greetham to host a Festival of Holiday Lights event in Washington Park on Saturday, December 4, 2021 from 4 to 10 pm. Details will be brought to the Park Board at their next meeting.

- On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Assurance of Accessibility Compliance to be included in the Park Department's 5-Year Master Plan.
- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 945 transferring money in Maintenance Fund 2056.505.
- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No.946 transferring money in Golf Fund 2062.000.

Superintendent Shinn reported on sand removal at Washington Park, waterline winterization at Washington Park, the replacement of the landscaping at North Pointe Pavilion with marram grass, plans to hold City Kids Day Camp in 2022 at Lake Hills School, a sales meeting regarding playground equipment, the parking problem on Wrobel Avenue at Gardena Park and planned signage to address parallel parking only, leaf stock piling at the maintenance shop will no longer be allowed after this season due to the new trail head parking lot, and the collapse of a zoo retaining wall behind the train.

- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved city claims filed on account of appropriations for the Parks and Recreation Department in the amount of \$34,519.34.
- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved payroll #22, 10/03/21 through 10/16/21, in the amount of \$50,124.36.
- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board accepted donations to the zoo from the coin racers in the amount of \$9.04 and from the wishing well in the amount of \$12.00.
- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the following minor transfer:

Recreation Fund 2056.503

Decrease account number 411.014	Seasonal Wages	\$ 771.00
Increase account number 413.003	INPRS	\$ 218.00
Increase account number 413.005	Health Insurance	\$ 553.00

- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the following minor transfer:

Admin. Fund 2056.502

Decrease account number 411.014	Seasonal Wages	\$ 1,386.00
Increase account number 413.001	FICA	\$ 500.00

Increase account number 413.003	INPRS	\$ 761.00
Increase account number 413.017	Vacation Bonus	\$ 125.00
Decrease account number 422.031	Household Supplies	\$ 60.00
Increase account number 423.031	Small Tools	\$ 60.00
Decrease account number 433.010	Printing Contractual	\$ 150.00
Increase account number 433.020	Legal Notices	\$ 150.00
Decrease account number 435.040	Water	\$ 5,429.00
Increase account number 434.030	Property Insurance	\$ 5,429.00

- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the following minor transfer:

Senior Center Fund 2056.506

Decrease account number 413.014	Vacation Buyback	\$ 1,788.00
Increase account number 413.004	Unemployment	\$ 1,788.00

- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved invoices to be paid out of the Zoo Endowment fund in the amount of \$1,523.20.
- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved payment of invoices totaling \$1,460.00 paid through the November 1, 2021 Board of Works meeting.
- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved payment of invoices totaling \$671.87 charged to the department's credit card.
- On a motion made by Mr. Freese, supported by all members of the Board, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

  
Shannon Eason, Assistant Superintendent

  
Kent Lange, Park Board Secretary

Minutes prepared by Shannon Eason



# **PRESS RELEASE**

Michigan City Park Department • 100 E. Michigan Blvd., Suite 2 • Michigan City, IN 46360  
(219) 873-1506

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

email: [season@emichigancity.com](mailto:season@emichigancity.com)

## **For Immediate Release**

**Date: November 16, 2021**

### **Presentation of Park Department's 5-Year Master Plan**

**Michigan City, IN** (November 16, 2021)—The Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department is currently writing our 5-year Master Plan (2022-2026). Public input is vital to the planning process; we need to know the wants and needs of the community to be able to successfully plan for the future development of parks and programming. The 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the Master Plan will be presented at the December 1, 2021 Park Board meeting at 5 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd, Michigan City, IN. A public input session will follow the presentation. The plan will be available for final public review and comment on our website at [www.emichigancity.com](http://www.emichigancity.com) or at the Park Office from December 2, 2021 through December 14, 2021. For more information, please contact Assistant Superintendent Shannon Eason at (219) 873-1506 or by email at [season@emichigancity.com](mailto:season@emichigancity.com).





100 E. Michigan Blvd. / Suite 2  
Michigan City, IN 46360-3293  
Phone (219) 873-1506  
Fax (219) 873-1506  
[www.michigancityparks.com](http://www.michigancityparks.com)

The Michigan City Park and Recreation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at the hour of 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, City of Michigan City, Indiana.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

On the call of the roll, the following Board Members were found to be present or absent:

**Present:** Messrs. Latchford, Freese, and Lange, and Ms. Espar (4)

**Absent:** None (0)

Also present were Ed Shinn, Superintendent; Shannon Eason, Assistant Superintendent; Laura Nirenberg, Park Board Attorney; Dalia Zygas, City Council Liaison; Terry Greetham, City Events Coordinator; Pat Voltz, Maintenance Director; Mary Knaup; Eleanore Hartman; Mike and Angela Vinson; Drew White, Board of Works; Victor Tieri, Harbor Country Adventures; and Kaleb Goodwin, City IT Department.

- On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the minutes of the November 3, 2021 Park Board meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Shannon Eason presented the first draft of the Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department 5-Year Master Plan. The plan will be posted on the website tomorrow through December 14, 2021 for final public comment.

Councilwoman Zygas asked Mrs. Eason to explain the numbers on page 31. Mrs. Eason responded the numbers are the population served by each type of facility listed.

Ellie Hartman, 230 Fogarty Street in Michigan, commented she is fairly new to Michigan City and she doesn't understand why there is not a Recreation Director in the city.

Mrs. Eason explained the position was cut in 2016 due to financial constraints the city was facing due to tax shortfalls.

Ms. Hartman asked if there are no plans to hire someone in the immediate or near future because we can't afford it?

Mrs. Eason stated the plan calls for working with the Park Board, Mayor and City Council in 2022 to reinstate the position.

Ms. Hartman stated you did a beautiful job and things are looking up.

Mr. Lange suggested looking at the outdoor exercise equipment at Friendship Gardens.

- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board tabled the first draft of the Master Plan to the meeting of December 15, 2021.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the scoring committee's recommendation to choose Kil Architecture and Planning for the design and engineering of the Old Bandstand Preservation Project and gave permission to the Assistant Superintendent to begin negotiating a contract.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board ratified the attached contract with Bernal's Landscaping for the emergency repair of a retaining wall at the zoo.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached proposal submitted by Harbor Country Adventures for the non-exclusive use of Millennium Plaza in 2022 for a rental fee of \$1,200.00.
- ❑ On a motion made by Ms. Espar, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board renewed the MOU with Harbor Country Adventures dated May 30, 2022 for the use of Millennium Plaza in 2022.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board renewed the MOU with Servicscape dated April 7, 2021 for landscaping services at Millennium Plaza in 2022.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 947 transferring money in Golf Fund 2062.000.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 948 transferring money in Zoo Fund 2056.504.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 949 transferring money in Recreation Non-Reverting Fund 2011.000.



- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 950 transferring money in Maintenance Fund 2056.505.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 952 transferring money in Zoo Fund 2056.504.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 953 transferring money in Admin Fund 2056.502.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached contract with Green Leaves tree service for emergency tree removal at the zoo.

Superintendent Shinn reported on the winter golf pro shop hours and season pass sales, tree work at the golf courses, the installation of holiday lights, sand removal and leaf removal, recent playground tours with Assistant Superintendent Shannon Eason and Councilman Don Przybylinski, the painting project at the amphitheater, the repairs to the zoo retaining wall, and parallel parking signs installed at Gardena Park.

- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved city claims filed on account of appropriations for the Parks and Recreation Department in the amount of \$65,317.28.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved city claims filed on account of appropriations for the Parks and Recreation Department in the amount of \$28,886.79.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved Payroll #23, 10/17/21 through 10/30/21, in the amount of \$48,909.27.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved Payroll #24, 10/31/21 through 11/13/21, in the amount of \$45,295.43.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board accepted donations to the zoo from Rotary Club of Michigan City in the amount of \$300.00; from Floridan Exotic Species Preserve, Inc. in the amount of \$6,200.00; and from Fun Express in the amount of \$44.41.

- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the following minor transfers in Zoo Fund 2056.504:

Decrease account number 411.014	Seasonal Wages	\$ 3,500.00
Increase account number 411.16	Overtime	\$ 3,000.00
Increase account number 413.017	Vacation Bonus	\$ 500.00
Decrease account number 437.020	Rental Equipment	\$ 142.00
Decrease account number 433.030	Printing Advertising	\$ 95.00
Increase account number 435.010	Electric	\$ 237.00

- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the following minor transfers in Recreation Fund 2056.503:

Decrease account number 422.021	Household Supplies	\$ 139.00
Increase account number 423.031	Small Tools	\$ 139.00

- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the following minor transfers in Admin Fund 2056.502:

Decrease account number 411.014	Seasonal Salaries	\$ 3,953.00
Increase account number 413.003	INPRS	\$ 3,453.00
Increase account number 411.016	Overtime	\$ 500.00
Decrease account number 422.031	Household Supplies	\$ 1,000.00
Increase account number 421.005	Office Supplies	\$ 1,000.00

- On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved payment of invoices totaling \$13,326.18 out of the Zoo Endowment Fund.
- On a motion made by Mr. Freese, supported by all members of the Board, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

  
Shannon Eason, Assistant Superintendent

  
Kent Lange, Park Board Secretary

Minutes prepared by Shannon Eason

# MICHIGAN CITY PARKS & RECREATION FIVE-YEAR MASTER PLAN



2022 - 2026

# PLANNING GUIDELINES

## DNR OUTDOOR RECREATION

### Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Must submit a draft plan by January 15, 2022 and a final plan by April 15, 2022

- Allows the Parks Department to apply for grant funds
- Will provide the Park Department with a common sense approach to our decision making
- Will only be as realistic and useful as we make it!

# PLANNING GUIDELINES

## Indiana Department of Natural Resources

### Required Elements

- Introduction
- Definition of the Planning Area
- Goals of the Plan
- Description of the Park Board and Park Department
- Natural Features and Landscape
- Man-made, Historical and Cultural
- Social and Economic Factors (2020 U.S. Census)
- Accessibility and Universal Design
- Public Participation
- Needs Analysis
- Priorities and Action Schedule

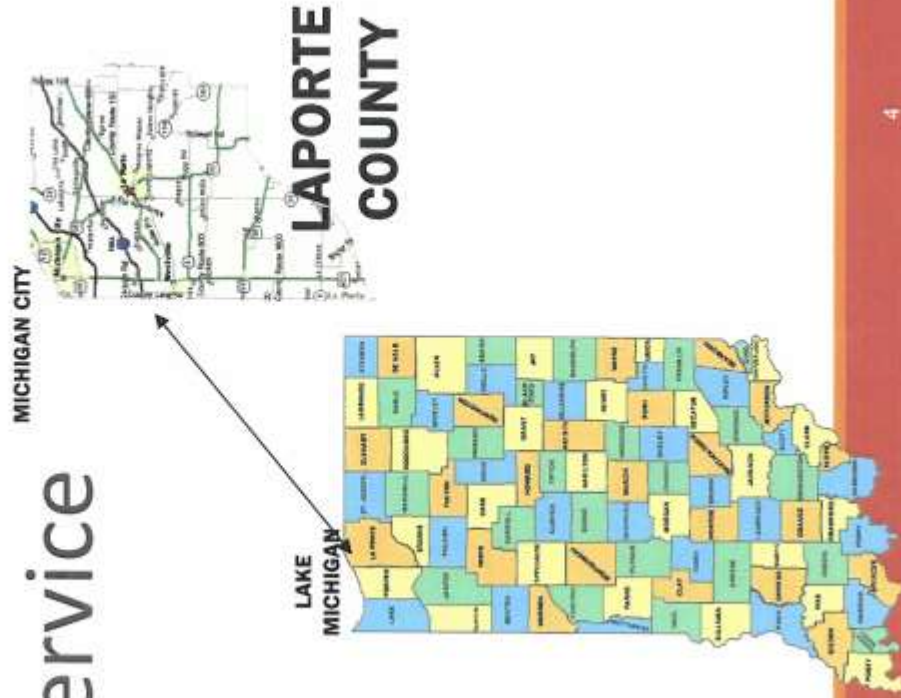
**DNR** OUTDOOR  
RECREATION



# DEFINITION OF PLANNING AREA

Define the area of service

- Physical location
- Climate



# GOALS OF THE PLAN

- Gather input and analyze results
- Adhere to National Recreation and Park Association's benchmarks while conducting a thorough needs analysis
- Identify priorities using the following elements:
  - Understanding of the demographics we serve
  - Awareness and appreciation of our natural resources and knowledge to preserve and conserve them
  - Promote fitness of mind and body
  - Incorporate vision, imagination, creativity, sensitivity, integrity, and common sense
  - Community involvement
- Explore ways to increase revenue streams
- Explore ways to decrease expenses while maintaining operating standards
- Create recreational opportunities and programming without duplicating existing programs and services of other local agencies

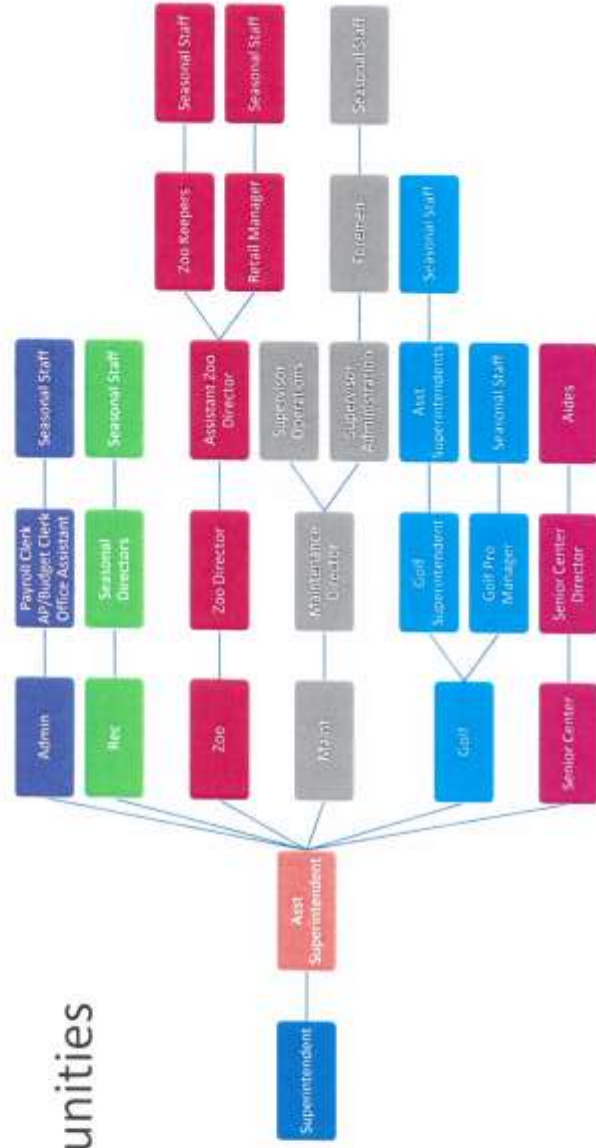
# THE PARK BOARD AND PARK DEPARTMENT

- Park Board Functions and Responsibilities

- Park Department Organizational Chart

- Volunteer Opportunities

- Labor Programs



# Facilities and Programs

Inventory of parks & amenities

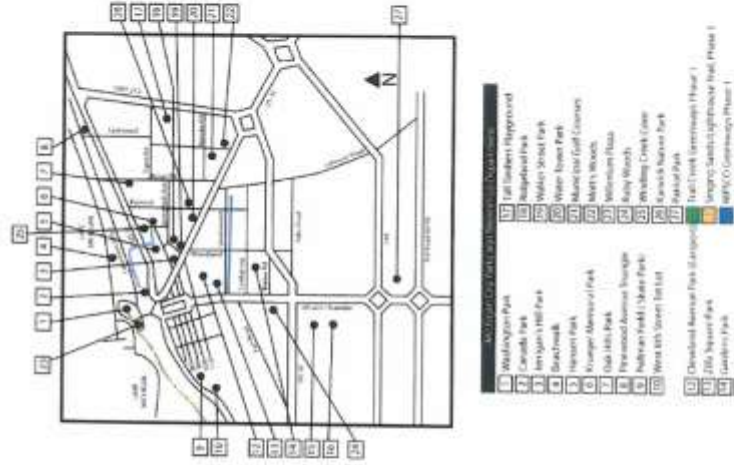
Inventory of facilities

Inventory of programming

Inventory of surplus properties

Location map

Other area opportunities



# NATURAL FEATURES & LANDSCAPE

Lake Michigan



Trail Creek Corridor



Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Native Flora & Fauna



# MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL & CULTURAL

## History of Michigan City

### Transportation

- State highways, Interstates & Federal Routes
- Rail service
- Airport
- Non-motorized trails

### Cultural Attractions

- Art
- Cuisine
- Events & Festivals
- Historic
- Music
- Theater



# SOCIAL & ECONOMIC FACTORS

## 2020 U.S. Census

- Population of Michigan City
  - Total residents 32,075 (31,479 in 2010)
  - 1.8% increase from 2010 Census
  - Median age 36.5 (39 years in 2010)
- Gender
  - 51.40 male (51% in 2010)
  - 48.6% female (49% in 2010)
- Race
  - 61.8 %Caucasian (64.9% in 2010)
  - 29.4% African American (28.1% in 2010)
  - 6.3% Hispanic (5.9% in 2010)
  - 2.5% American Indian, Asian or other (1.1% in 2010)



## Regional Profile Data

- Michigan City-LaPorte, Indiana

# ACCESSIBILITY & UNIVERSAL DESIGN

## ADA Assessment

- Disability Access Consultants (DACTrak)
- Report completed February 2012

Completed six playground renovations between 2014 and 2017. Seven additional playground renovations are scheduled in 2021 through 2026.

Installed Indiana's 1<sup>st</sup> fully ADA compliant kayak launch & route at Hansen Park

Beach wheelchair for use at Washington Park and beach access mats at six designated public access beach paths

Assurance of Section 504 Compliance

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

### STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

#### 24 Interviews held between August & November 2021

Board of Public Works and Safety  
 City Council  
 City Events Coordinator  
 Fire Chief  
 LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau  
 LaPorte County YMCA  
 Mayor Perry  
 Michigan City Area Schools  
 Michigan City Historical Society  
 Michigan City Municipal Golf Course  
 Michigan City Park Department Administrative Staff  
 Michigan City Port Authority  
 Michigan City Seniors, Inc.  
 Michigan City Social and Learning Institute  
 Michigan City Park Board  
 Michigan City Zoological Society  
 Park Maintenance Director  
 Police Leadership Academy  
 Trail Creek Water Shed Partnership

## PUBLIC SURVEYS

### Available March 1<sup>st</sup> through October 29, 2021

- 626 Surveys were completed
- Paper surveys – 84 Surveys Returned (14%)

Distributed to 38 target organizations  
 Available at 8 locations throughout the city  
 Available on our website [www.michigancityparks.com](http://www.michigancityparks.com)  
 Available on our Facebook Page

### Online Surveys – 542 Surveys Filled Out (86%)

Available on our website [www.michigancityparks.com](http://www.michigancityparks.com)  
 Available on our Facebook Page  
 QR codes on flyers for smart phone users

### Public Input Sessions

Park Board meeting 10/6/21  
 Park Board meeting 10/20/21  
 Park Board meeting 11/03/21  
 Park Board meeting 12/1/21

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## PUBLIC SURVEYS

DEMOGRAPHICS	SUMMARY	CONCLUSION
Age	Responses represented our age demographics well, with the exception of those under 18 years of age	Future efforts should be made to reach younger people through schools, clubs or other youth organizations
Race	Survey responses were more diverse compared to the last master plan, responses increased for African Americans by 2.3%, for Hispanics by .3% and for other races by 1.3%	Efforts should continue to gain input from ethnic groups to represent the demographic make up of Michigan City
Children under 18	The majority of respondents did not have children in the household. Michigan City has 9,911 children under the age of 18, only 282, or 2.8% were represented in the surveys	Efforts to reach more families needs to be made to determine needs for parks and programming
Residential Status	89% of respondents are residents, which is the range we expected	None
Disabilities	16% of survey respondents reported having a disability. Of those, 62% stated our facilities are accessible and only 38% stated some facilities are not accessible.	Need more wheelchairs ramps, especially one at the pier, all inclusive playgrounds, more beach mats, add interpretive signage with ADA access
Income	77% of respondents reported income above Michigan City's median income of \$35,710 per household. This does not represent the financial barriers to facilities and programs well.	Additional efforts to reach lower income families must be made when planning park improvements and programming



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## PUBLIC SURVEYS

TOP 5 FACILITIES USED	SUMMARY	CONCLUSION
Washington Park	28.5% of 962 responses	This is a high use park for residents. It is also a regional destination park. Increased expenses for trash removal and custodial services needs to be addressed. Additional restrooms and beach access mats are needed.
Gardena Park	14.4% of 962 responses	Gardena has the highest use of our neighborhood parks. Future renovations should include ADA access, a new fitness trail, walking trail resurfacing.
Beach	11% of 962 responses	Better access including beach mats and ADA ramps to pier should be addressed. Beach safety/lifeguard team will be under the jurisdiction of the Michigan City Fire Department beginning in 2021.
Zoo	9.2% of 962 responses	As the majority of respondents didn't have children, this low number is to be expected. In 2021 93% of visitors were not Michigan City residents.
Patriot Park	5% of 962 responses	This is a surprisingly high number since only 2.8% of surveys reported having children. However, many grandparents use Patriot Park to watch their grandchildren play sports. Better ADA access, especially parking, needs to be addressed.

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## PUBLIC SURVEYS

TOP 5 NEW FACILITIES NEEDED	SUMMARY	CONCLUSION
Playgrounds	14% of 740 responses	All future playground projects should be all-inclusive. Shade components should be incorporated into all future projects. There were many requests for walking trails and seating areas (ADA access).
Trails	9% of 740 responses	Trails continue to be a needed amenity including multi use non-motorized, nature trails and walking trails. Maintenance of trails, including ADA access was a common comment.
Oasis Splash Park	8% of 740 responses	Residents want the splash park re-opened. Invest in OSHA required equipment and open in 2022.
Skating Rink (ice/roller)	6% of 740 responses	Residents want year round activities, including winter activities. The Park Department has tried building an ice skating rink at several locations during the past five years. The rink was labor intensive and due to poor weather conditions there were almost no days with skatable conditions. The city should purchase a coiled rink which would reduce labor hours and provide skatable conditions up to 50 degrees.
Community Center	4% of 740 responses	Residents want a multi-use community center for year round recreation. We currently do not have staffing or funding to support this.

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## PUBLIC SURVEYS

TOP 5 COMMON ACTIVITIES	SUMMARY	CONCLUSION
Walking	13% of 916 responses	Trails continue to be a needed amenity including multi use non-motorized, nature trails and walking trails. Maintenance of trails, including ADA access was a common comment.
Sports	12% of 916 responses	Need a full time Recreation Director to facilitate sports leagues. We currently only offer youth baseball and adult softball. Pickleball was a common request in the surveys.
Beach	12% of 916 responses	Better access including beach mats and ADA ramps to pier should be addressed. Beach safety/lifeguard team will be under the jurisdiction of the Michigan City Fire Department beginning in 2021.
Hiking	8% of 916 responses	Trails continue to be a needed amenity including multi use non-motorized, nature trails and walking trails. Maintenance of trails, including ADA access was a common comment.
Biking	7% of 916 responses	Trails continue to be a needed amenity including multi use non-motorized, nature trails and walking trails. Maintenance of trails, including ADA access was a common comment.

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## PUBLIC SURVEYS

TOP 5 ACTIVITIES NEEDED	SUMMARY	CONCLUSION
Events	27% of 739 responses	The new City Event Coordinator is working to bring high quality events to the city. However, a full time Recreation Director would be able to hold smaller community events for our residents such as movie nights, arts in the park, fitness activities, and game tournaments.
Sports	21% of 739 responses	Need a full time Recreation Director to facilitate sports leagues. We currently only offer youth baseball and adult softball. Pickleball was a common request in the surveys.
Programs	10% of 739 responses	Need a full time Recreation Director to develop and implement programming.
Playgrounds	6% of 739 responses	Continue to improve neighborhood playgrounds with all-inclusive amenities.
Ice Skating	5% of 739 responses	Residents want year round activities, including winter activities. The Park Department has tried building an ice skating rink at several locations during the past five years. The rink was labor intensive and due to poor weather conditions there were almost no days with skatable conditions. The city should purchase a coiled rink which would reduce labor hours and provide skatable conditions up to 50 degrees.



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## PUBLIC SURVEYS

COMMUNICATION	SUMMARY	CONCLUSION
All forms	The overall consensus is that we are not doing a very good job communicating with the public.	Create communication and marketing plan. This responsibility could fall under the responsibilities of a full time Recreation Director.
OPINIONS	SUMMARY	CONCLUSION
Satisfied with aesthetic quality of the parks	54% are satisfied, 46% are not	Address staffing shortage to attain higher levels of service at all facilities
Satisfied with current level of recreational opportunities offered	33% are satisfied, 67% are not	Need a full time Recreation Director to develop and implement programming.
Willing to pay reasonable user fees	85% are willing, 15% are not	Most programs, when we offer them, are offered at cost
Important to build new facilities	75% yes, 25% no	New facilities requested included an ice skating rink, new playgrounds, pickleball courts, and trails. Consider ongoing maintenance costs when building new facilities.
Important to maintain existing facilities	86% yes, 14% no	It is important to maintain existing facilities and only build new if on going maintenance and operation costs can be sustainable.
Most recreation done out of town	43% yes, 57% no	We have an adequate amount of recreational facilities. We lack programming.



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## PUBLIC SURVEYS

OPINIONS	SUMMARY	CONCLUSION
Michigan City should promote tourism	78% yes, 22% no	Tourism generates a large amount of our income including parking fees at Washington Park, zoo admission fees, and golf course fees. Annual earned income is 66% of our annual budget, while taxes contribute 34%. This income is vital to maintaining our facilities.
Condition of athletic fields is satisfactory	59% yes, 41% no	Address staffing shortage to attain higher levels of service
Michigan City Park Department provides essential services	79% yes, 21% no	Our community recognizes the important role we play in our community
Park staff is courteous and helpful	86% yes, 14% no	Continue to improve customer service, staff training and development is crucial to a successful department
Park facilities are safe	69% yes, 31% no	Continue with safety and ADA upgrades at playgrounds, investigate security options for Washington Park
The quality of leadership is satisfactory	68% yes, 32% no	Staff training and development is crucial to a successful department

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## PUBLIC SURVEYS

BARRIERS	SUMMARY	CONCLUSION
Inadequate lighting	47% yes, 53% no	Install new lighting on the north side of Lake Shore Drive in Fedder's Alley
Not enough parking	45% yes, 55% no	With the increase in events, and overall attendance in Washington Park, parking has become a real issue. There are not enough parking spaces and the park shuts down often. Off site parking and shuttle service needs to be investigated.
Lack of maintenance	53% yes, 47% no	Address staffing shortage to attain higher levels of service at all facilities
Too few restrooms	67% yes, 33% no	Residents want year round restrooms at parks. This would require heating buildings and additional custodial staff. Washington Park needs updated and new restroom facilities in Washington Park. Need a trailhead restroom facility on Singing Sands Trail.
Transportation problems	28% yes, 72% no	Review city bus routes for service to park facilities
Safety concerns	49% yes, 51% no	Continue with safety and ADA upgrades at playgrounds, investigate security options for Washington Park

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

CATEGORY	% RESPONSES	COMMENTS
Facilities	41%	Strategic facility maintenance plans, individual park master plans, new sidewalks, walking trail, parking lots, nature center, and exercise equipment in Washington Park, new playground equipment, updated and new restrooms, preventative maintenance plans, lifecycle asset management for each park, restore Monkey Island, finish Patriot Park, new tennis courts, better routine maintenance, beautification with paint and landscaping, new event/recreation center, trail maps, pickleball courts, ice skating rink, sledding hill, roller rink, new driving range, indoor fitness center, trail heads, repairs to Senior Center, open splash park, inclusive parks/playgrounds.
Programming	21%	Need Recreation Director to facilitate programming/marketing, environmental, water conservation, all season, youth golf, health, arts and crafts, youth summer programs, sports, classes, soccer, yoga, BINGO, community gardens, inclusive, multi-generational, basketball, volleyball, dodgeball, pickleball, programs in neighborhood parks.
Funding	18%	Revenue: additional parking lots in Washington Park, indoor fitness center, finish Patriot Park for tournament revenue, Monkey Island restoration for increased gate attendance, charge for Festival of Lights, lease fees from rental vendors. Funding: parking fees back to park capital budget, foundation, recreation impact fees, tax levy, sale and lease back of park property, naming rights.

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

CATEGORY	# RESPONSES	% RESPONSES	COMMENTS
Staff	41	16%	Sustainable lifeguard program, increased staff to maintain facilities/programs, staff shortages a challenge, City invest in people to be successful, add 4 full time zookeepers to keep zoo open more often, raises for seasonal staff, need skilled coaches/supervisors for sports programs, add full time Recreation/Marketing Director position (37% of responses called for a full time Recreation Director position).
Communication	30	12%	Use Twitter, Instagram, flyers in schools, direct email and text, need Recreation Director for marketing, update website, need electronic signs, banners,
Partnerships	28	11%	Michigan City Area Schools, business community, Friends of the Park group
Image	20	8%	Need self promotion, staff & facility highlights, poor due to lack of programming, need to enforce rules, aging park system needs attention, not visible to the community



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

CATEGORY	% RESPONSES	COMMENTS
Events	3%	Music festivals, Smooth Jazz Festival, movies at amphitheater
Access	3%	Construct boardwalk at Senior Center, ADA upgrades to all parks, sidewalk connections throughout Washington Park,
Safety	2%	Washington Park security guards, enforce rules, beach safety/lifeguards, address traffic flow in Washington Park
Trails	2%	Repave walking trail at Gardena Park, add amenities to Singing Sands Trail, add walking trails to all parks.
Dog Facilities	1%	Need dog park and dog beach
Environmental	1%	Highlight restoration work being done through signage, outreach programs, protect Trail Creek and Lake Michigan from drainage from parks



# Needs Analysis

## NATIONAL PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (NRPA) PARK METRICS REPORT

- Michigan City's data is uploaded to NRPA's database annually
- Compares specific measures of efficiency and effectiveness against thousands of other agencies
- Derived from 2018-2020 data entered as of February 1, 2021
- Compares Michigan City to other agencies with a population density of 500 to 1,500 per square mile (Michigan City has a population density of 1,395 per square mile)

# Needs Analysis

## NATIONAL PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (NRPA) PARK METRICS REPORT

Agency Effectiveness	Lower			Upper	
	MC Park	Quartile	Median	Quartile	Quartile
Operating expenditures per acre of parkland	\$1,974	\$1,577	\$3,150	\$5,836	
Operating expenditures per capita	\$98	\$46	\$82	\$150	
Acres of parkland per 1,000 residents	22.4	5.6	13	21.5	
Revenue per capita	\$79.87	\$5.14	\$14.10	\$47.69	
Revenue as a % of operating expenditures (cost recovery)	81.3%	8.7%	20.5%	39.7%	
Agency Effectiveness Ratios	Lower			Upper	
	MC Park	Quartile	Median	Quartile	Quartile
Total tax expenditures per capita	\$48.32		\$58.46		
Operating expenditures per FTE	\$77,971		\$94,623		
FTE's per 10,000 population	12.6		8.1		
Number of residents per park	1,499		2,050		
Number of acres per park	34		24		

# Needs Analysis

## NATIONAL PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (NRPA) PARK METRICS REPORT

Agency Operations		MC Park	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Agency's total annual operating expenditures		\$3,171,421	\$1,573,147	\$3,681,863	\$9,486,118
Percentage of agency's total operating expenditures for the following categories:					
		MC Park	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
a. Personnel services		65.0%		52.0%	
b. Operating expenses		35.0%		39.3%	
Percentage of agency's total operating expenditures from the following sources:					
		MC Park	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
a. General fund tax support		41.0%		62.0%	
b. Dedicated levies		0.0%		8.8%	
c. Earned/generated revenue		56.2%		22.3%	
d. Other dedicated taxes		2.8%		1.7%	
		MC Park	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Agency's total non-tax revenues		\$1,990,528	\$233,648	\$638,336	\$2,218,504

# Needs Analysis

## NATIONAL PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (NRPA) PARK METRICS REPORT

Personnel	Lower			Upper	
	MC Park	Quartile	Median	Quartile	Quartile
<b>Number of funded employees at your agency</b>					
a. Number of full-time employees	26	8	23	62	
b. Number of non-full-time employees	66	20	56	131	
c. Total annual hours worked by non-full-time employees	28,420	6,000	21,900	56,215	
d. Total number of full-time equivalent employees (FTE's)	39.7%	12.3%	35.7%	97.2%	
<b>Percentage of total full-time equivalents (FTEs) involved in the following operational areas:</b>					
a. Administration	15.0%		17.8%		
b. Operations/Maintenance	62.0%		47.9%		
d. Programming parks and rec facilities	19.0%		26.9%		
e. Capital development	4.0%		2.9%		
f. Other	0.0%		4.5%		



# Needs Analysis

## NATIONAL PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (NRPA) PARK METRICS REPORT

Workload	MC Parks	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
<b>Number of individual parks or non-park sites the department/agency maintains and/or has management responsibility over:</b>				
a. Total number of parks	25	8	17	32
b. Total park acres	698.3	136	440	1,376.50
c. Total number of non-park sites	8	0	2	12
d. Total acres of non-park sites	6.6	0	8	87.5
Total number of parks + non-park sites (a+c)	33	10	25	50.5
Total acres of parks + non-park sites (b+d)	704.8	159.5	486	1482.5
<b>Number of acres of developed and undeveloped open space for which the department has management responsibility over or maintains:</b>				
a. Developed	493	75	262.5	777.4
b. Undeveloped	212	20	131.4	594.3
Total number of trail miles managed or maintained by the agency	9.8	3	11	35.9
<b>Number of buildings and the square footage of the buildings operated by the agency:</b>				
a. Number of operated buildings	25	3	5	17
b. Square footage of operated buildings	73,853	15,400	50,000	165,435
<b>Number of programs the agency offers annually and the number of people (i.e., contacts) served by these programs:</b>				
a. Total number of programs offered	75	29	110	456



# Needs Analysis

## NATIONAL PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (NRPA) PARK METRICS REPORT

Agency Responsibilities	MC Parks	Median
Manage large performance outdoor amphitheaters	Yes	3.9%
Maintain or manage beaches	Yes	15.3%
Operate, maintain, or contract golf courses	Yes	31.0%
Operate, maintain, or contract tourism attractions	Yes	33.8%
Administer community gardens	Yes	38.0%
Administer or manage tournament/event quality outdoor sports complexes	Yes	61.6%
Operate, maintain, or contract water parks	Yes	67.1%
Operate and maintain non-park sites	Yes	67.6%
Include in its operating budget the funding for planning and development functions	Yes	70.4%
Operate, maintain, or manage special purpose parks and open spaces	Yes	73.6%
Conduct major jurisdiction wide special events	Yes	77.3%
Operate, maintain, or manage trails, greenways, and/or blueways (TGB)	Yes	81.0%
Have budgetary responsibility for your administrative staff	Yes	85.2%
Operate and maintain indoor facilities	Yes	89.4%
Provide recreation programming and services	Yes	93.5%
Operate and maintain park sites	Yes	98.2%

# Needs Analysis

## NATIONAL PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (NRPA) PARK METRICS REPORT

Agency Responsibilities		MC Parks		Median
Operate, maintain or contract marinas		No		7.4%
Manage or maintain fairgrounds		No		8.8%
Administer or manage professional or college-type stadium/arena/racetrack		No		8.8%
Administer or manage tournament/event quality indoor sports complexes		No		14.4%
Maintain, manage or lease indoor performing arts center		No		17.6%
Administer or manage farmer's markets		No		21.8%
Operate, maintain, or contract campgrounds		No		24.5%
Operate, maintain, or contract indoor swim facility/water park		No		27.8%
Operate, maintain, or contract tennis center facilities		No		53.7%

# Needs Analysis

NATIONAL PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (NRPA) PARK METRICS REPORT

Facilities	MC Park	Median
Performance amphitheater	32,075	41,055
Senior centers	32,075	43,055
Community centers		21,605
Recreation centers		22,367
Arena		46,000
Stadiums		50,978
Teen centers		52,490
Ice rink		66,215
Nature centers		121,317

# Needs Analysis

## NATIONAL PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (NRPA) PARK METRICS REPORT

Facilities	MC Park	Median
Rectangular fields: soccer field - youth	2,004	6,671
Playgrounds	2,467	3,422
Basketball courts	2,673	6,913
Diamond fields: softball fields - youth	4,009	9,679
Diamond fields: baseball - youth	4,009	5,518
Diamond fields: softball fields - adult	4,582	11,057
Diamond fields: baseball - adult	4,582	16,054
Community gardens	32,075	23,965
Skate park	32,075	36,606
Tennis courts (outdoor only)		5,363
Rectangular fields: multi-purpose		7,674
Overlay field		10,592
Rectangular fields: soccer field - adult		11,492
Ice rink (outdoor only)		13,243
Multise courts - basketball, volleyball		17,536
Rectangular fields: football field		18,745
Rectangular fields: lacrosse field		19,263
Multipurpose synthetic field		32,479
Dog park		36,275
Rectangular fields: cricket field		310,042

# Needs Analysis

## NATIONAL PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (NRPA) PARK METRICS REPORT

Facilities	MC Park	Median
<b><i>Jurisdiction population per golf facility:</i></b>		
Regulation 18-hole courses	32,075	80,000
Executive 18-hole course	32,075	no data
Driving range stations		40,815
Regulation 9-hole courses		69,043
Par 3; 18-hole courses		328,152
Executive 9-hole courses		440,059
Par 3; 9-hole courses		no data
Executive 9-hole courses		440,059
Executive 18-hole courses		no data
Par 3; 18-hole courses		328,152
Par 3; 9-hole courses		no data
<b><i>Jurisdiction population per swimming facility:</i></b>		
Swimming pools (outdoor only)		26,813
Therapeutic pool		34,067
Indoor competitive swimming pools (25 meters)		38,516
Aquatic centers		41,304
Indoor pool designated exclusively for leisure		41,629
Total indoor competitive swimming pools		46,616
Indoor separated diving well		55,000
Other indoor competitive swimming pools		88,388
Indoor competitive swimming pools (50 meters)		199,997



# Needs Analysis

## NATIONAL PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (NRPA) PARK METRICS REPORT

Facilities	MC Park	Median
<i>Percentage of agencies offering the following activities:</i>		
Golf	Yes	38.4%
Cultural crafts	Yes	50.7%
Natural and cultural history activities	Yes	51.7%
Trips and tours	Yes	53.2%
Safety training	Yes	67.0%
Fitness enhancement classes	Yes	76.4%
Health and wellness education	Yes	76.9%
Team sports	Yes	83.3%
Social recreation events	Yes	84.7%
Themed special events	Yes	86.7%
Running/cycling races	No	42.9%
Visual arts	No	54.7%
Performing arts	No	55.2%
Racquet sports	No	63.6%
Aquatics	No	65.5%
Martial arts	No	69.8%
Individual sports	No	72.9%

# Needs Analysis

## NATIONAL PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (NRPA) PARK METRICS REPORT

Facilities		MC Park	Median
<i>Percentage of agencies offering the following Out-of-School-Time (OST) activities:</i>			
Specific senior programs		Yes	70.6%
Summer camp		Yes	71.8%
Full day care		No	9.7%
Before school programs		No	14.5%
Preschool		No	28.5%
STEM programs		No	48.1%
After school programs		No	49.3%
Programs for people with disabilities		No	55.1%
Specific teen programs		No	56.4%

# Needs Analysis

Tally results from all input methods

- Public Surveys
- Public Comment
- Stakeholder Interviews

Review of results by Park Board and Park Staff

Prioritize results and add to Action Plan

- Identify funding strategies

# Needs Analysis

## NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY INDIANA DNR'S 2021-2025 STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

1. More and varied kinds of trail or trail-related facilities (especially pedestrian) are needed
2. Natural resource-based recreation of many kinds is still a major need among Hoosiers including bird watching, nature photography, camping, swimming, hunting, fishing, wild food gathering, water-based recreation such as boating, canoeing, splash pads, and water parks
3. Community and individual health and wellness needs are becoming a greater priority
4. Use of, and demand for local parks and recreation appears to be growing
5. Communities are responding to economic and social pressures and parks and recreation are being viewed as economic engines in local communities
6. Funding is tight for parks and recreation, adaptation and innovation are vital

# Needs Analysis

## NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY PARK BOARD, STAFF AND MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

1. Protect and enhance our natural and cultural resources  
Provide funding for parks, programs and operations, seek grant funding, continue cost saving initiatives, get 501(c)(3) status for Park Foundation, expand volunteer programs, consider recreation impact fees, tax levies, corporate sponsorships and/or naming rights, sale and lease back of property, percentage of park generated revenue dedicated to park capital improvements
2. Improve and update park facilities and equipment  
Address ADA and safety recommendations at all facilities, develop amenities that establish parks and destination sites such as the skatepark and a new destination playground in Washington Park, develop all-inclusive facilities and programs, open the Oasis Splash Park  
Develop new programming  
Fitness based, youth, sports, environmental, winter activities, events. Reinstate the full time Recreation Director position
4. Trails  
Continue to construct non-motorized trails, fitness trails, walking trails in neighborhood parks, and hiking trails
5. Hire staff to address our actual needs  
Hire one full time Recreation Director, one Maintenance Laborer, two zookeepers, and one zoo maintenance laborer
6. Implement the Washington Park Master Plan



# Needs Analysis

## NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS AND STAKEHOLDER

1. **Facilities**  
New ADA and all-inclusive playgrounds, improve restrooms and keep them open year-round, address public safety including lighting, build new pickleball courts, open the Oasis Splash Park, construct an ice/roller rink, build a community center, add more public access beach mats, maintain what we already have
2. **Develop new programming**  
Fitness based, youth, sports, environmental, winter activities, events. Reinstate the full time Recreation Director position.
3. **Communication**  
Social media, email/text notification, flyers at businesses, electronic signs, banners, newspaper, and radio
5. **Staff**  
Hire a Recreation Director to develop new programming and events
6. **Continue to develop trails**  
Multi-use, non-motorized, fitness trails, nature trails, and maintain trails and sidewalks for ADA access and safety including repairing cracks, potholes, and adding curb cuts

# 2022-2026 ACTION PLAN

Items identified in this action plan involved many facets of parks and recreation ranging from infrastructure improvements, park renovations and laws that affect accessibility in outdoor recreation. The 2022-2026 action plan addresses our top priorities.

The issues that received the highest priority were placed in the five-year action plan for implementation.

# 2022-2026 ACTION PLAN

The action plan will be completed once all surveys stakeholder interview comments have been analyzed.

## FUNDING SOURCES

- |        |                                   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| ▪ ACF  | Available City Funding            |
| ▪ BWF  | Barker Welfare Foundation         |
| ▪ CDBG | Community Development Block Grant |
| ▪ GO   | Grant Opportunity                 |
| ▪ MCHS | Michigan City Historical Society  |
| ▪ LCHF | LaPorte County Welfare Foundation |
| ▪ OB   | Operating Budget                  |
| ▪ PAF  | Prosecuting Attorney Fund         |
| ▪ PD   | Private Donation                  |
| ▪ RDC  | Redevelopment Commission          |
| ▪ ZACK | Zack Grant                        |
| ▪ ZE   | Zoo Endowment Fund                |
| ▪ ZS   | Zoo Society                       |

Adequate funding of parks and recreational programming and development is a continuing challenge for all park and recreation departments. The Michigan City Park Department and Park Board should continually search for additional funding sources including grants, public/private partnerships, foundations, and other methods of creative financing to assure implementation of the Action Plan to meet the recreational needs of Michigan City.

Of the action plan items identified during the 2017-2021 Master Plan, only 42% were funded. Unfunded items have been moved into our 2022-2026 action plan as shown below.

It is critical moving forward that we actively seek alternate forms of funding, or our aging park system will continue to decline.

2017-2021 Capital Requests	
2017	3,528,905
2018	7,718,997
2019	1,882,000
2020	7,816,282
2021	302,270
Total	21,248,454
2017-2021 Funded Capital	
2017	409,700
2018	628,200
2019	1,098,692
2020	89,000
2021	6,856,536
TOTAL	9,082,128
Unfunded	12,166,326

The Singing Sands Trail accounted for \$5,640,536 of the above funding.

2022-2026 Capital Requests	
2022	\$13,974,703
2023	\$9,437,850
2024	\$890,000
2025	\$6,893,031
2026	\$3,000,000
Total	\$34,195,584

# 2022-2026 ACTION PLAN

FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CR	IBC	GRANT	CITY GRANT MATCH	CITY CAPITAL	PAF	ENDOWMENT	OTHER	SOURCE
2022	Admin	Project	Adams Park	park renovation project	1,000,000					1,000,000			ACF/NDC	2010 preliminary plans & cost estimates by Parks, revised from 2022
2022	Admin	Project	Burns Hall	Add interlative signs to base of stairs for ADA Access	2,000	2,000								
2022	Admin	Project	Canada Park	update equip for safety & ADA	175,000									
2022	Admin	Project	Canada Park	NWC mural project	1,500			75,000		100,000			ACF	revised from 2022
2022	Admin	Project	Communication	Create effective public communication plan				1,500						NAC project
2022	Admin	Project	Gardens Phase II	Completed ADA updates	250,000					250,000			ACF	
2022	Admin	Equipment	Millersburg Plaza	security camera system	20,000									
2022	Admin	Project	Mott's Woods	Donation - survey and title work	2,500	2,500				20,000			ACF	based on Gardner sys in 2024
2022	Admin	Project	North Pointe Pavilion	Paint stairwells, sandblast and paint ceiling beams	30,000	30,000								
2022	Admin	Project	Oak Hills	update equip for safety & ADA	200,000			100,000		100,000			CDRG - Out 2018	revised from 2010, 2020, 2022
2022	Admin	Project	Old Sandstand	Strip, repair wood, gaint - install LED lighting on roof & ceiling	200,000			200,000					IMC/Unity /Barker/MC Historical Society	MAC painting/napisais Closures
2022	Admin	Equipment	Pullman Park	security camera system	20,000					20,000			ACF	based on Gardner sys in 2014
2022	Admin	Equipment	Pullman Park	Add rules sign	1,000	1,000								
2022	Admin	Project	Highland Park	update equip for safety & ADA	100,000			75,000	25,000					CDRG Grant, revised from 2021
2022	Admin	Equipment	Reddy Wood	Add rules sign	1,000	1,000								
2022	Admin	Equipment	Tall Timbers	Add rules sign	1,000	1,000								
2022	Admin	Equipment	Washington Park	security camera system	125,000					125,000			ACF/NDC	estimate from IT
2022	Admin	Project	Washington Park	Replacement play equipment and fitness trail in Feeder's	2,000,000			1,000,000		1,000,000				2020/2021 - cancelled by Mayor due to budget - contracts/COVID-19 revised to 2021
2022	Admin	Project	Washington Park	Construct west boardwalk in Feeder's Alley	1,811,271					1,811,271			ROC/ACF	2017 King's cut a 3.5% inflation a 5 years
2022	Admin	Project	Water Tower Park	update equip for safety & ADA	1,000,000			3,000,000						CDRG/IMC
2022	Admin	Project	Washington Park	Assessment of Victorian Peace and Dough Boy	3,500	3,500								
2022	Admin	Funding	N/A	Apply for SCLIC status for Park Foundation	\$									
2022	Golf	Equipment	Golf Course	Toro 175 gallon turf sprayer	40,000					40,000			ACF	2020/2021 - cancelled by Mayor due to budget - contracts/COVID-19
2022	Golf	Equipment	Golf Course	3) Toro putting green mowers	60,000					60,000			ACF	
2022	Golf	Equipment	Golf Course	Toro rough trim mowers	35,000					35,000			ACF	
2022	Golf	Equipment	Golf Course	replace 22 carts - 1 of 4 (left round)	60,000					60,000			ACF	



# 2022-2026 ACTION PLAN

FUNCTIONING YEAR	DEPT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CR	RSC	GRANT	CITY MATCH	CITY CAPITAL	PAF	INDOWMENT	OTHER	SOURCE
2022	Golf	Project	Golf Course	Asphalt cart path	300,000					100,000			ACF	2020/2021- cancelled by Mayor due to budget constraints/COVID-19
2022	Golf	Project	Golf Course	Improved communication/permits monitoring of re & re pump stations	30,000					20,000			ACF	
2022	Golf	Project	Golf Course	Golf course clubhouse renovation	125,000					125,000				
2022	Golf	Project	Golf Course	Professional engineering for drainage improvements	25,000					25,000				
2022	Golf	Equipment	Pro Shops	Security camera system	8,000					8,000			ACF	
2022	Maint	Project	Hawkins Park	Add new sign, bench & replace steel court, remove light poles, cover outlet	5,000	5,000								
2022	Maint	Equipment	Hawkins Park	Add new sign	1,000	1,000								
2022	Maint	Equipment	Maintenance	New Toro Zero Turn Mower	23,000					23,000				
2022	Maint	Project	Memorial Hall	Exterior repairs, roof painting, sealing, ceiling grouts	100,000					100,000			ACF	obtaining quotes
2022	Maint	Equipment	Orchids	OSHA safety equipment	30,000					20,000				2016 Feb quote from H&M through City parking plan obtaining quotes in 2015
2022	Maint	Project	Park Maintenance	Install 34g new parking lot (patch & resurfacing)	100,000					100,000			ACF	
2022	Maint	Project	Park Maintenance	Upgrade windows, doors, etc. for energy efficiency	50,000					50,000			ACF	
2022	Maint	Project	Park Maintenance	Mem Hall back parking lot replacement	40,000					40,000				
2022	Maint	Equipment	Patriot Park	5 new 1000lb boards	40,000					40,000			ACF	
2022	Maint	Project	Patriot Park	CR, parking lot, 2 diamonds	3,500,000					3,500,000			ACF	2010 est costs from
2022	Maint	Project	Patriot Park	sooner/commission/restaurant building	288,382					288,382				
2022	Maint	Equipment	Patriot Park	2 new water tanks	30,000					20,000			ACF	
2022	Maint	Project	Pullman Park	Repaint to update equipment	1,000	1,000								will require add'l appraise and must be added to 2023 budget
2022	Rec	Staff	Staff	Reinitiate full time Recreation Director	77,200	77,200								Based on 2014 estimate of \$350,000 + 3% per year
2022	Senior Ctr	Project	Senior Center	replace floor	175,500					175,000				2020/2021- cancelled by Mayor due to budget constraints/COVID-19
2022	Zoo	Equipment	WP Zoo	New pickup truck to replace Tahoe	45,000					35,000				
2022	Zoo	Project	WP Zoo	Monkey Island Renovation	1,300,000					490,000				
2022	Zoo	Project	WP Zoo	New Gift Shop	400,000					650,000			Indowment	
2022	Zoo	Project	WP Zoo	Alligator winter enclosure	93,000					52,000			Indowment	raised from 2018
2022	Zoo	Project	WP Zoo	all season parker greenhouse enclosure	100,000					200,000				
2022	Zoo	Project	WP Zoo	Aman Trail	25,000					25,000			Indowment	2021
2022	Zoo	Project	WP Zoo	African Watering Hole	35,000					50,000				
2022 PARK TOTALS					13,979,209	125,200	2,850,000	1,451,500	25,000	9,999,509	0			827,000

# 2022-2026 ACTION PLAN

FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	OB	IIDC	GRANT	GRANT MATCH	CITY CAPITAL	PAF	ENDOWMENT	OTHER	SOURCE
FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	OB	IIDC	GRANT	GRANT MATCH	CITY CAPITAL	PAF	ENDOWMENT	COMMENTS	SOURCE
2023	Zoo	Project	WP Zoo	New Gift Shop	500,000							500,000	Endowment	
2023	Admin	Project	Rock Garden	Rock Garden Preservation	750,000		375,000			375,000				
2023	Maint	Project	Millennium Plaza	Repair fountain and lighting, paint stair railings, install service gate	35,000					35,000				
2023	Maint	Staff	Staff	Reinstate 2 full time laborers	131,500	131,500								will require add'l approp and must be added to 2023 budget
2023	Zoo	Staff	Staff	Reinstate 2 full time keepers and 1 maintenance craftsman	196,350	196,350								will require add'l approp and must be added to 2023 budget
2023	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Complete Rock Garden Restoration	800,000		250,000			250,000			RDC/ACE	
2023	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Restore Observation Tower	1,000,000		500,000			500,000			RDC	
2023	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	New entrance	6,000,000		6,000,000						RDC	
2023	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Implement Year 2 of Task 2 Bismarck Hill Restoration	115,000		57,500			57,500			RDC	
2023	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Prepare topography survey of Task 3 Access to Lakefront	20,000		10,000			10,000			RDC	
2023	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Design and Engineer Task 4 Signage	50,000		25,000			25,000			RDC	
2023	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Prepare topography survey of Task 5 Senior Center	20,000		10,000			10,000			RDC	
2023	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Prepare topographic survey of Task 6 Promenade	50,000		25,000			25,000				
2023	Admin	Project	Washington Park	Repair, seal and clean monuments	30,000			30,000						
2023	Admin	Project	Peanut Bridge	Replace wood decking and railings	40,000		20,000			20,000				
2023 PARK TOTALS					9,437,850	327,850	7,272,500	30,000	0	1,907,500	0	500,000		

# 2022-2026 ACTION PLAN

FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	OB	RDC	GRANT	CITY GRANT MATCH	CITY CAPITAL	PAF	ENDOWMENT	OTHER	SOURCE
FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	OB	RDC	GRANT	GRANT MATCH	CITY CAPITAL	PAF	ENDOWMENT	COMMENTS	SOURCE
2024	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Design and Engineering Task 3 Access to Lakefront	40,000		20,000			20,000				RDC
2024	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Complete construction of Task 4 Signage	100,000		50,000			50,000				RDC
2024	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Design and engineer Task 5 Senior Center	150,000		75,000			75,000				RDC
2024	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Design and engineer Task 6 Promenade	600,000		300,000			300,000				
2024 PARK TOTALS					890,000	0	445,000	0	0	445,000	0	0	0	0

FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	OB	RDC	GRANT	CITY GRANT MATCH	CITY CAPITAL	PAF	ENDOWMENT	OTHER	SOURCE
FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	OB	RDC	GRANT	GRANT MATCH	CITY CAPITAL	PAF	ENDOWMENT	COMMENTS	SOURCE
2025	Admin	Project	Washington Park	Construct east boardwalk in Fedder's Alley	1,953,031					1,953,031				2017 eng's est x 3.5% inflation x 9 years
2025	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Implement Year 3 of Task 2 Burnard Hill Restoration	40,000		20,000			20,000				RDC
2025	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Complete construction of Task 3 Access to Lakefront	400,000		200,000			200,000				RDC
2025	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Start construction Task 5 Senior Center	750,000		375,000			375,000				RDC
2025	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Complete construction of Task 5 Senior Center	750,000		375,000			375,000				
2025	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Start construction of Task 6 Promenade	3,000,000		1,500,000			1,500,000				
2025 PARK TOTALS					6,893,031	0	2,470,000	0	0	4,423,031	0	0	0	0

The plan will be available online  
beginning 12/02/21 through 12/14/21  
for final public comment

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



# QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

MICHIGAN CITY PARKS & RECREATION  
FIVE-YEAR MASTER PLAN



2022 - 2026



## Approval of Submission of Final Draft Plan to DNR — 12/15/21 PARK BOARD MEETING



100 E. Michigan Blvd. / Suite 2  
Michigan City, IN 46360-3293  
Phone (219) 873-1506  
Fax (219) 873-1506  
[www.michigancityparks.com](http://www.michigancityparks.com)

The Michigan City Park and Recreation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at the hour of 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, City of Michigan City, Indiana.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

On the call of the roll, the following Board Members were found to be present or absent:

**Present: Messrs. Latchford, Freese, and Lange, and Ms. Espar (4)**

**Absent: None (0)**

**Also present were** Ed Shinn, Superintendent; Shannon Eason, Assistant Superintendent; Laura Nirenberg, Park Board Attorney; Dalia Zygas, City Council Liaison; Scott Kuchta, Haas & Associates; Matt Gariup, Gariup Construction; Clayton Trueblood, Holladay Construction; Mike and Angela Vinson; Terry Greetham, Director of Special Events; and Kaleb Goodwin, City IT Department.

- ☐ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the minutes of the December 1, 2021 Park Board meeting.
- ☐ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Sheridan Beach Public Access and Erosion Control Project Final Report.
- ☐ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the submission of the first draft of the Park Department's 2022-2026 5-Year Master Plan to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

President Latchford if anyone had a bid to submit for the Zoo Cat House Exhibit Expansion Project. There were none and he closed the submission period.

Assistant Superintendent Eason opened and read aloud the following bids submitted for the Zoo Cat House Exhibit Expansion Project:

Gariup Construction Company, Inc.	base bid \$1,793,700.00, 224 days to complete
Holladay Construction Group, LLC	base bid \$1,670,000.00, 200 days to complete
Larson Danielson Construction Company, Inc.	base bid \$1,751,404.00, 240 days to complete

- ❑ On a motion made by Ms. Espar, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached 2022 events, to be held in Washington Park, submitted by Director of Special Events Terry Greetham.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board renewed the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the 3-year lease for the Patriot Park concession operation with Kim Martin of Bubbles Ice Cream Parlor.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board renewed the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the 3-year service agreement with Hatfield Pest Control.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board renewed the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the 3-year service agreement with Republic Services.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board tabled the renewal of the Service Sanitation services agreement.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached 2022 Michigan City Zoological Society event requests.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Benefit Programs sections of the Policy and Procedure manual titled Holidays.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Employment section of the Policy and Procedure manual titled Covid-19 Specific Protocol Policy.
- ❑ On a motion made by Ms. Espar, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board tabled the approval of a Construction Agreement with Green Leaf Tree Service for tree work at the golf course.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 954 transferring money in Golf Fund 2062.000.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 955 transferring money in Senior Center Fund 2056.506.

- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 956 transferring money in Recreation Non-Reverting Fund 2011.000.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 957 transferring money in Administration Fund 2056.502.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 958 transferring money in Zoo Fund 2056.504.

Superintendent Ed Shinn reported on the new sculpture being installed at Westcott Park, winter sports offered by the YMCA, two COVID cases in the Park Maintenance Department, and the Festival of Holiday Lights.

- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved city claims filed on account of appropriations for the Parks and Recreation Department in the amount of \$98,570.67.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved Payroll #25, 11/14/21 through 11/27/21, in the amount of \$43,864.26.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board accepted donations from the Michigan City Zoological Society for the Big Cat Exhibit Project in the amount of \$136,802.65, from the Unity Foundation of LaPorte County in the amount of \$500.00, and from the Springfield Park District in the amount of \$6,200.00.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the following minor transfers:

Admin. Fund 2056.502

Decrease account number 411.014	Seasonal Salaries	\$ 1,861.00
Increase account number 413.003	INPRS	\$ 1,861.00

Maintenance Fund 2056.505

Decrease account number 411.014	Seasonal Salaries	\$ 810.00
Increase account number 413.003	INPRS	\$ 810.00

Recreation Fund 2056.503

Decrease account number 422.037	Clothing	\$ 112.00
Increase account number 423.031	Small Tools	\$ 112.00

Zoo Fund 2056.504

Decrease account number 436.010

Increase account number 436.020

Repairs Building \$ 250.00

Repairs Equipment \$ 250.00

Golf Fund 2062.000

Decrease account number 436.020

Increase account number 435.010

Repairs Equipment \$ 1,000.00

Electric \$ 1,000.00

- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved payment of invoices totaling \$500.00 out of the Zoo Endowment Fund.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Ms. Espar and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved payment of invoices totaling \$602.30 charged to the department's credit card.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, supported by all members of the Board, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

  
Shannon Eason, Assistant Superintendent

  
Kent Lange, Park Board Secretary

Minutes prepared by Shannon Eason

# NEEDS ANALYSIS

The purpose of the needs analysis is to quantify and understand the recreational programming and facility needs of our community. In order for our department to develop a long range plan for providing the right recreational programs and facilities we must understand our communities recreational desires, actual needs and social makeup.

Needs can be difficult to quantify. A numerical standard does not always reflect a communities makeup, economic situation, history, traditional recreation uses, or political environment. The needs analysis assessed the recreational needs of our community using state and national standards and trends. We analyzed current recreational programming and facilities and looked at other area recreational opportunities to make sure our resources are not being used to duplicate facilities or programs offered by other organizations in or around our community.

Extensive efforts to gain participation from stakeholders and the public were unprecedented. The master plan incorporates input from stakeholders, city officials, park staff, and the public which was methodically solicited and assembled throughout the planning process to determine the demands and needs of our community for recreational programming, green spaces, facilities, and leisure activities in Michigan City.

To help benchmark our department, the Michigan City Park Department submits our operational data into the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) *Park Metrics* database. NRPA provided us with the following report which shows how our department's parks and recreation services compares to those of our peers throughout the United States. The report compares specific measures of efficiency and effectiveness against of other parks and recreation agencies across the country with a population density of per square mile of 500 to 1,500. The aggregated date contained in this report was derived from 2018—2020 data entered into the *Park Metrics* database as of February 2021.

We tallied results from each identified method of input and the results were prioritized and added to the Action Plan.

The department reviewed the Action Plan of the 2017-2021 Master Plan. Projects which were not completed during the last five years were analyzed. Some projects were moved forward into the new Action Plan and others, which were not deemed to be priorities, or are no longer valid, were deleted, and new projects which were identified during the last master plan cycle were added.

Park staff prioritized the projects with estimated costs and funding sources to create the 2021-2026 Action Plan.



# NEEDS ANALYSIS

## 2021 National Recreation and Park Association 2021 Agency Performance Report

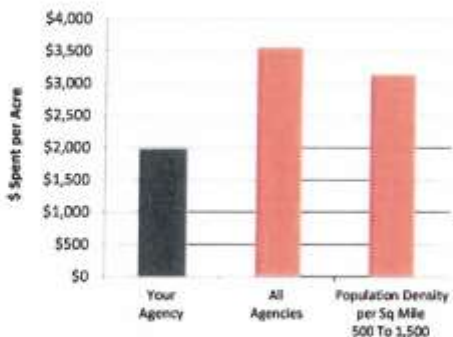


The Michigan City Park Department submits operational data to the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) *Park Metrics* database annually. NRPA provides the field with key data on the management and operation of park and recreation agencies. NRPA provides the Michigan City Park Department with an *Agency Performance Review* which allows us to benchmark against all agencies that responded to the survey and a subset of agencies that serve a similar population density.

The aggregated data contained in the follow report was derived from 2018-2020 data in the NRPA *Park Metrics* database as of February 2021.

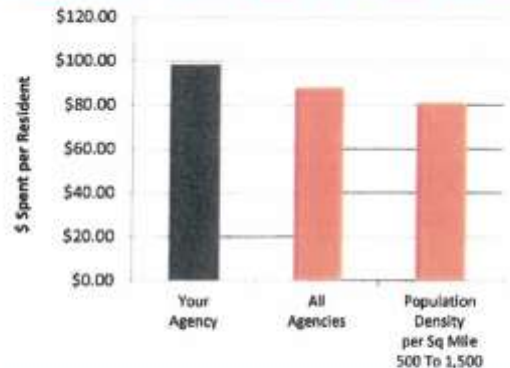
### Executive Summary

#### Park Operating Expenditures per Acre of Parkland



	Your Agency	All Agencies	Population Density per Sq Mile 500 To 1,500
Lower Quartile		\$1,816	\$1,577
Median	\$1,974	\$3,568	\$3,150
Upper Quartile		\$7,051	\$5,836

#### Operating Expenditures Per Capita



	Your Agency	All Agencies	Population Density per Sq Mile 500 To 1,500
Lower Quartile		\$48.84	\$46.23
Median	\$98.23	\$88.30	\$81.56
Upper Quartile		\$159.07	\$150.31

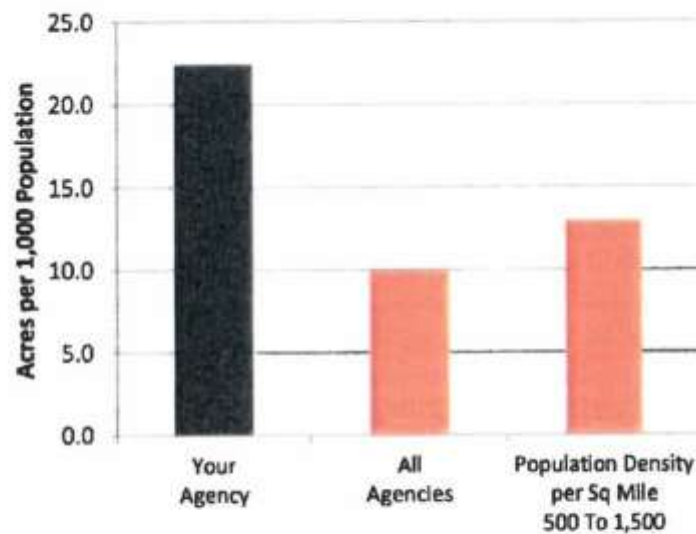
## Are you adequately funded?

# NEEDS ANALYSIS

## 2021 National Recreation and Park Association 2021 Agency Performance Report



### Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Population



	Your Agency	All Agencies	Population Density per Sq Mile 500 To 1,500
Lower Quartile		5.2	5.6
Median	22.4	9.9	13.0
Upper Quartile		17.6	21.5

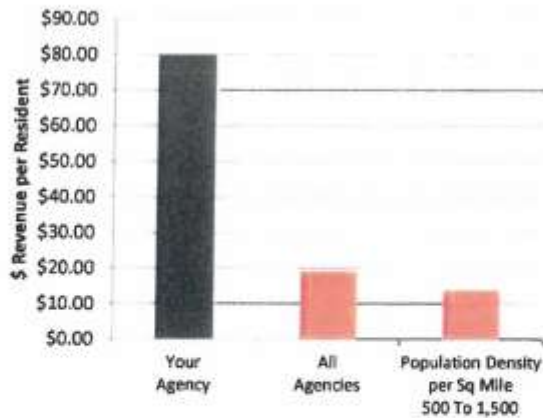
Do you have  
enough parkland?

# NEEDS ANALYSIS

## 2021 National Recreation and Park Association 2021 Agency Performance Report



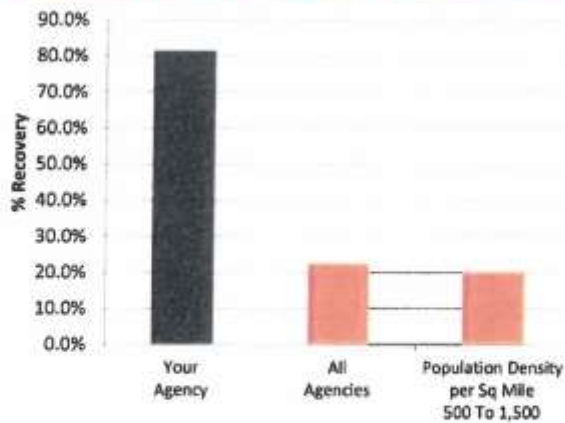
### Revenue per Capita



	Your Agency	All Agencies	Population Density per Sq Mile 500 To 1,500
Lower Quartile		\$5.84	\$5.14
Median	\$79.87	\$19.38	\$14.10
Upper Quartile		\$49.74	\$47.69

How much are you making?

### Revenue as a % of Operating Expenditures (Cost Recovery)



	Your Agency	All Agencies	Population Density per Sq Mile 500 To 1,500
Lower Quartile		10.1%	8.7%
Median	81.3%	22.9%	20.5%
Upper Quartile		40.5%	39.7%

# NEEDS ANALYSIS

## 2021 National Recreation and Park Association 2021 Agency Performance Report



Agency Effectiveness	MC Park	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Operating expenditures per acre of parkland	\$1,974	\$1,577	\$3,150	\$5,836
Operating expenditures per capita	\$98	\$46	\$82	\$150
Acres of parkland per 1,000 residents	22.4	5.6	13	21.5
Revenue per capita	\$79.87	\$5.14	\$14.10	\$47.69
Revenue as a % of operating expenditures (cost recovery)	81.3%	8.7%	20.5%	39.7%
Agency Effectiveness Ratios	MC Park	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Total tax expenditures per capita	\$48.32		\$58.46	
Operating expenditures per FTE	\$77,971		\$94,623	
FTE's per 10,000 population	12.6		8.1	
Number of residents per park	1,499		2,050	
Number of acres per park	34		24	

Agency Operations	MC Park	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Agency's total annual operating expenditures	\$3,171,421	\$1,573,147	\$3,681,863	\$9,486,118
Percentage of agency's total operating expenditures for the following categories:	MC Park	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
a. Personnel services	65.0%		52.0%	
b. Operating expenses	35.0%		39.3%	
Percentage of agency's total operating expenditures from the following sources:	MC Park	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
a. General fund tax support	41.0%		62.0%	
b. Dedicated levies	0.0%		8.8%	
c. Earned/generated revenue	56.2%		22.3%	
d. Other dedicated taxes	2.8%		1.7%	
	MC Park	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Agency's total non-tax revenues	\$1,990,528	\$233,648	\$638,336	\$2,218,504

# NEEDS ANALYSIS

## 2021 National Recreation and Park Association 2021 Agency Performance Report



Personnel	MC Park	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
<i>Number of funded employees at your agency</i>				
a. Number of full-time employees	26	8	23	62
b. Number of non-full-time employees	66	20	56	131
c. Total annual hours worked by non-full-time employees	28,420	6,000	21,900	56,215
d. Total number of full-time equivalent employees (FTE's)	39.7%	12.3%	35.7%	97.2%
<i>Percentage of total full-time equivalents (FTEs) involved in the following operational areas:</i>				
a. Administration	15.0%		17.8%	
b. Operations/Maintenance	62.0%		47.9%	
d. Programming parks and rec facilities	19.0%		26.9%	
e. Capital development	4.0%		2.9%	
f. Other	0.0%		4.5%	



# NEEDS ANALYSIS

## 2021 National Recreation and Park Association 2021 Agency Performance Report



Workload	MC Parks	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
<i>Number of individual parks or non-park sites the department/agency maintains and/or has management responsibility over:</i>				
a. Total number of parks	25	8	17	32
b. Total park acres	698.3	136	440	1,376.50
c. Total number of non-park sites	8	0	2	12
d. Total acres of non-park sites	6.6	0	8	87.5
Total number of parks + non-park sites (a+c)	33	10	25	50.5
Total acres of parks + non-park sites (b+d)	704.8	159.5	486	1482.5
<i>Number of acres of developed and undeveloped open space for which the department has management responsibility over or maintains:</i>				
a. Developed	493	75	262.5	777.4
b. Undeveloped	212	20	131.4	594.3
Total number of trail miles managed or maintained by the agency	9.8	3	11	35.9
<i>Number of buildings and the square footage of the buildings operated by the agency:</i>				
a. Number of operated buildings	25	3	5	17
b. Square footage of operated buildings	73,853	15,400	50,000	165,435
<i>Number of programs the agency offers annually and the number of people (i.e., contacts) served by these programs:</i>				
a. Total number of programs offered	75	29	110	456

# NEEDS ANALYSIS

## 2021 National Recreation and Park Association 2021 Agency Performance Report



Agency Responsibilities	MC Parks	Median
Manage large performance outdoor amphitheaters	Yes	3.9%
Maintain or manage beaches	Yes	15.3%
Operate, maintain, or contract golf courses	Yes	31.0%
Operate, maintain, or contract tourism attractions	Yes	33.8%
Administer community gardens	Yes	38.0%
Administer or manage tournament/event quality outdoor sports complexes	Yes	61.6%
Operate, maintain, or contract water parks	Yes	67.1%
Operate and maintain non-park sites	Yes	67.6%
Include in its operating budget the funding for planning and development functions	Yes	70.4%
Operate, maintain, or manage special purpose parks and open spaces	Yes	73.6%
Conduct major jurisdiction wide special events	Yes	77.3%
Operate, maintain, or manage trails, greenways, and/or blueways (TGB)	Yes	81.0%
Have budgetary responsibility for your administrative staff	Yes	85.2%
Operate and maintain indoor facilities	Yes	89.4%
Provide recreation programming and services	Yes	93.5%
Operate and maintain park sites	Yes	98.2%
Operate, maintain or contract marinas	No	7.4%
Manage or maintain fairgrounds	No	8.8%
Administer or manage professional or college-type stadium/arena/racetrack	No	8.8%
Administer or manage tournament/event quality indoor sports complexes	No	14.4%
Maintain, manage or lease indoor performing arts center	No	17.6%
Administer or manage farmer's markets	No	21.8%
Operate, maintain, or contract campgrounds	No	24.5%
Operate, maintain, or contract indoor swim facility/water park	No	27.8%
Operate, maintain, or contract tennis center facilities	No	53.7%

# NEEDS ANALYSIS

## 2021 National Recreation and Park Association 2021 Agency Performance Report



Facilities	MC Park	Median
Rectangular fields: soccer field - youth	2,004	6,671
Playgrounds	2,467	3,422
Basketball courts	2,673	6,913
Diamond fields: softball fields - youth	4,009	9,679
Diamond fields: baseball - youth	4,009	5,518
Diamond fields: softball fields - adult	4,582	11,057
Diamond fields: baseball - adult	4,582	16,054
Community gardens	32,075	23,965
Skate park	32,075	36,606
Performance amphitheater	32,075	41,055
Senior centers	32,075	43,055
Tennis courts (outdoor only)		5,363
Rectangular fields: multi-purpose		7,674
Overlay field		10,592
Rectangular fields: soccer field - adult		11,492
Ice rink (outdoor only)		13,243
Multiuse courts -basketball, volleyball		17,536
Rectangular fields: football field		18,745
Rectangular fields: lacrosse field		19,263
Community centers		21,605
Recreation centers		22,367
Multipurpose synthetic field		32,479
Dog park		36,275
Arena		46,000
Stadiums		50,978
Teen centers		52,490
Ice rink		66,215
Nature centers		121,317
Rectangular fields: cricket field		310,042

# NEEDS ANALYSIS

## 2021 National Recreation and Park Association 2021 Agency Performance Report



Facilities	MC Park	Median
<i>Jurisdiction population per golf facility:</i>		
Regulation 18-hole courses	32,075	80,000
Executive 18-hole course	32,075	no data
Driving range stations		40,815
Regulation 9-hole courses		69,043
Par 3; 18-hole courses		328,152
Executive 9-hole courses		440,059
Par 3; 9-hole courses		no data
Executive 9-hole courses		
Executive 18-hole courses		
Par 3; 18-hole courses		
Par 3; 9-hole courses		
<i>Jurisdiction population per swimming facility.</i>		
Swimming pools (outdoor only)		26,813
Therapeutic pool		34,067
Indoor competitive swimming pools (25 meters)		38,516
Aquatic centers		41,304
Indoor pool designated exclusively for leisure		41,629
Total indoor competitive swimming pools		46,616
Indoor separated diving well		55,000
Other indoor competitive swimming pools		88,388
Indoor competitive swimming pools (50 meters)		199,997

# NEEDS ANALYSIS

## 2021 National Recreation and Park Association 2021 Agency Performance Report



Facilities	MC Park	Median
<i>Percentage of agencies offering the following Out-of-School-Time (OST) activities:</i>		
Specific senior programs	Yes	70.6%
Summer camp	Yes	71.8%
Full day care	No	9.7%
Before school programs	No	14.5%
Preschool	No	28.5%
STEM programs	No	48.1%
After school programs	No	49.3%
Programs for people with disabilities	No	55.1%
Specific teen programs	No	56.4%



# NEEDS ANALYSIS

## **NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY INDIANA DNR'S 2021-2025 STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**

1. More and varied kinds of trail or trail-related facilities (especially pedestrian) are needed
2. Natural resource based recreation of many kinds is still a major need among Hoosiers including bird watching, nature photography, camping, swimming, hunting, fishing, wild food gathering, water based recreation such as boating, canoeing, splash pads, and water parks
3. Community and individual health and wellness needs are becoming a greater priority
4. Use of, and demand for local parks and recreation appears to be growing
5. Communities are responding to economic and social pressures and parks and recreation are being viewed as economic engines in local communities
6. Funding is tight for parks and recreation, adaptation and innovation are vital

## **NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY PARK BOARD, STAFF AND MUNICIPAL OFFICERS**

1. Protect and enhance our natural and cultural resources
  - A. Restoration of WPA Works and monuments
  - B. Restoration of dunes, and banks along Trail Creek
  - C. Implement green infrastructure projects to improve water quality in Trail Creek & Lake Michigan
  - D. Eliminate the use of social trails in the dunes
2. Provide funding and sound administration of parks, programs and operations
  - A. Continue to seek grant funding
  - B. Continue to initiate cost saving initiatives
  - C. Get 501(c)(3) status for the Park Foundation
  - D. Expand volunteer programs
  - E. Consider recreation impact fees, tax levies, corporate sponsorships and/or naming rights, sale and lease back of property
  - F. Percentage of park generated revenue dedicated to park capital improvements instead of going into the City's General Fund
3. Improve and update park facilities and equipment
  - A. Address ADA and safety recommendations at all facilities
  - B. Develop amenities that establish parks as destination sites (playgrounds)
  - C. Develop all inclusive playgrounds and facilities
4. Develop new programming
  - A. Fitness based, youth based, sports, environmental education, year round activities

# NEEDS ANALYSIS

5. Construct trails
  - A. Multi-use, non– motorized
  - B. Fitness trails
  - C. Natural Hiking Trails
6. Increase full time staff to reflect our actual needs and to address safety concerns at the zoo
  - A. (1) Recreation Director
  - B. (1) Maintenance Laborer
  - C. (2) Zookeepers
  - D. (1) Zoo Maintenance Craftsman
7. Implement the Washington Park Master Plan

# NEEDS ANALYSIS

## NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS

1. Facilities
  - A. Outdated playgrounds need to be addressed
  - B. All playgrounds and facilities need to be inclusive, need ADA access
  - C. Improve restrooms, keep open year round (they would need to be heated)
  - D. Address public safety and add lighting
  - E. Construct pickleball courts
  - F. Open the Oasis Splash Park
  - G. Keep building and maintaining trails
  - H. Construct an ice/roller skating rink
  - I. Build a community center
  - J. Maintain what we already have
  - K. Keep adding public access beach mats
2. Develop new programming
  - A. Fitness based
  - B. Youth
  - C. Sports
  - D. Environmental education
  - E. Year round activities
  - F. More events and festivals
3. Better communication with the public
  - A. Social media
  - B. Email/text messages
  - C. Newspaper
4. Staff
  - A. Hire a full time Recreation Director to provide needed programming, events and marketing
5. Construct trails
  - A. Multi-use, non–motorized
  - B. Fitness trails
  - C. Natural Hiking Trails
  - D. Maintain trails and sidewalks for ADA access by addressing cracks, pot holes, curb cuts, etc.

# PRIORITIES AND ACTION SCHEDULE

## ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

Items that have been identified in this action plan involve many facets of parks and recreation ranging from infrastructure improvements, park renovations and laws that affect accessibility in outdoor recreation. The 2022-2026 action plan addresses our top priorities.

The issues identified in the planning process via public and stakeholder input and from analyzing the data and statistics of users and program participation included Washington Park, Washington Park Zoo, neighborhood parks, the municipal golf courses, Patriot Park (sports facility), the Michigan City Senior Center, Krueger Memorial Park and rental hall, the maintenance facility, trails, and budget and financing. There are no recommendations at this time to build new neighborhood parks, but rather the focus is on renovating and improving the assets that we currently manage.

The issues that received the highest priority were placed in the five-year action plan for implementation. The following is a summary of the action plan's key issues.

### WASHINGTON PARK

In 2016 the Park Department contracted with Hitchcock Design Group to create a master plan specific to Washington Park. The plan can be found at <https://www.emichigancity.com/DocumentCenter/View/1294/2016-Washington-Park-Master-Plan>. While the master plan lays out our future goals for Washington Park, none of the phases have been funded. In the short term, several items should be addressed including updating the lot 1, lot 2, and Fedder's Alley restrooms, restriping the parking lots, including directional arrows, in all parking lots, adding gates to the exit of the main parking lot, and adding signage to direct visitors to the public restrooms and restaurant at North Pointe Pavilion. Addressing security in the park, especially during the busy summer months needs to be addressed. Concerns regarding the homeless population in Washington Park need to be addressed including sleeping in shelters, living in the dunes, and using the fountain in Millennium Plaza to do laundry

### NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

The needs that are identified with Michigan City's neighborhood parks are primarily ADA accessibility. All of our parks do not comply with ADA laws that govern outdoor recreation. Playgrounds will need to be replaced or modified to meet the new standards. Accessibility issues concerning accessible routes, benches, picnic tables, restroom facilities, drinking fountains, grills and shelters are being addressed. Inclusive playgrounds will be the focus of all major playground renovations moving forward.

Six park renovations were completed between 2012 and 2017.

Facility	Address	Completed
Joe Hawkins Memorial Park	1501 W. 8th Street	2014
Hansen Park (formerly Sycamore)	100 E. Street	2015
Pullman Park	550 W. 4th Street	2015
Gardena Park	900 Gardena Street	2016
Tall Timbers Park	3100 Springland Avenue	2016
Walker Street Park	900 Walker Street	2017

# PRIORITIES AND ACTION SCHEDULE

Eight additional parks are scheduled for renovation between 2022 and 2026.

Facility	Address	Planned	Status
Washington Park	6 on the Lake	2022	
Water Tower Park	301 Broadway	2021/2022	funded
Washington Park	6 on the Lake	2022	
Oak Hills Park	716 Martin Luther King Dr	2023	
Canada Park (Sox Park)	300 Center Street	2023	
Ridgeland Park	620 Ridgeland Avenue	2024	
Patriot Park Playground	2224 N 950 West	2025	
Adams Park	307 Village Road	2026	

Funding for these improvements will come from a variety of sources including capital improvement funds and grant opportunities.

## GOLF COURSES

Land within the golf course is limited, so the potential for acquiring adjacent land will always be a priority. A golf cart replacement plan is identified in the Action Plan.

We recognize the need to update the interior and exterior of each pro shop. New cart paths are needed throughout the course.

The golf courses operate through a non-reverting fund. User fees exclusively pay for operations while the primary source of funding for capital improvements is from city capital dollars. After nearly a decade of golf declining nationally, we experienced near record numbers at the golf course in 2020 and 2021. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw a dramatic increase in rounds in 2020. We attribute this to golf courses in Illinois and Michigan being closed while we stayed open with strict safety protocols. The increase continued in 2021 and we believe many out of state golfers discovered our courses in 2020 and returned in 2021 due the short travel distance and low prices compared to their state's courses.

## PATRIOT PARK

The completion of Patriot Park was listed as a goal in our previous (3) five-year Master Plans. Funding has not been secured to move forward with the proposed construction of the ball fields, additional parking lots, restroom, concession and storage facilities. The improvements are very important to the Park Department in moving forward. We currently cannot meet the demands for baseball and softball which has forced the spill out to our neighborhood parks. This adds maintenance burden and cost to the department. Until we add additional parking improvements and larger fields we will not be able host the larger, revenue generating tournaments. Patriot



# PRIORITIES AND ACTION SCHEDULE

Park also has some accessibility issues that will be addressed when funds are available to move forward with the improvements.

In addition to the completion of the ball fields, a fishing pond and natural area was also identified as an improvement to the complex. There may be potential to benefit from future mitigation projects in the existing wetlands on the property.

## **GREENWAYS/TRAIL SYSTEMS**

The City's first multi-use trail, The Trail Creek Greenway Trail, was constructed in 2006. Phases I, II of the Singing Sands Trail, part of the tristate Marquette Trail, were substantially completed in 2021. There are four segments of Phase III which are under various stages of design, engineering and right of way acquisition. Phase III-B construction began in November 2021. Other trails in the master plan will be pursued as State, Federal or grant funding becomes available.

The City should investigate building trails in house by acquiring right of way and adding the trail systems to the City's annual paving plan to avoid the untimely and expensive process of using Federal Highway funding.

Survey respondents were asked their top five choices for new facilities and 68 of 740 responses, or 9%, want more trails.

The 2005 Trails and Greenways Master Plan can be found at <https://www.emichigancity.com/DocumentCenter/View/2014/2005-MC-Trails-and-Greenways-Master-Plan-Executive-Summary>

## **WASHINGTON PARK ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS**

The Washington Park Zoo's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan can be found at <https://www.emichigancity.com/DocumentCenter/View/2016/Washington-Park-Zoo-2018-2022-Strategic-Plan>

Our zoo operates with only 7 full time staff members. It is crucial to the safety of the staff, visitors and animals that we increase our full time staff by 2 to 4 full time employees. The additional staff would also allow us to stay open longer on a daily basis, increasing revenue.

## **KRUEGER MEMORIAL HALL**

Exterior repairs are needed to the log structure. Resurface and stripe the basketball courts. Remove broken concrete sidewalks and parking area in the back of the hall and replace with new. Post a new rules sign. Add a chair lift or elevator for interior accessibility. Purchase a new ice machine.

# PRIORITIES AND ACTION SCHEDULE

## **MICHIGAN CITY SENIOR CENTER**

The Senior Center generates revenue from rental fees. The fees associated with the Senior Center are kept in a non-reverting fund to offset maintenance expenses. The operating budget for the Senior Center needs to be increased, annual expenses are being paid out of other department's operating funds.

Improvements to the Senior Center include moving the administrative offices to the south side of the building to open the viewshed of the dunes and Lake Michigan, replace the floor, construct a boardwalk and deck behind the Senior Center, and move the entrance to the west side of the building for better access to parking.

## **PARK MAINTENANCE FACILITY**

The City purchased the building around 1990. The windows and doors are original to the building and need to be replaced.

The City has made major investments to this facility in recent years. The facility is located between the regional attraction International Friendship Gardens and a Michigan City Fire Station so it will be important to address the curb appeal of this facility. Energy efficiency must also be addressed.

Action items include new windows, man doors, and overhead doors. The glass showroom needs to be replaced with a wall and energy efficient windows. The asphalt driveway and parking lots need to be repaired or replaced. Two old furnaces need to be replaced.

## **SHERIDAN BEACH ESPLANADE**

Continue to seek funding for restoration and public access in Sheridan Beach and the esplanade.

The Park Department has received great feedback from the public regarding the new hard surface mats installed on five public access beach paths in 2020. There is a lot of public interest in installing mats at all other public access locations.

## **RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

The Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department has seen a steady decline in programming over the past few years. This is related to the Recreation Director position being eliminated from the budget in 2016. Our current structure places the duties & responsibilities of the Recreation Director on the Park Superintendent. We currently offer Youth Baseball, Adult Volleyball, and Adult Softball. However, we no longer have many of the basic programs and opportunities we once used to offer. Survey respondents were asked their top five choices for new activities and 425 of 739 responses, or 58%, directly related to sports, programs and events, all of which fall under the responsibilities of a Recreation Director.

# PRIORITIES AND ACTION SCHEDULE

## BUDGET AND FINANCE

Adequate funding of parks and recreational programming and development is a continuing challenge for any park and recreation board. The Michigan City Park Department and Park Board should continually search for additional funding sources including grants, public/private partnerships, foundations and other methods of creative financing to assure implementation of the Action Plan to meet the recreational needs of Michigan City.

Of the action plan items identified during the 2017-2021 Master Plan, only 42% were funded. Unfunded items have been moved into our 2022-2026 action plan as shown below.

2017-2021 Capital Requests	
2017	3,528,905
2018	7,718,997
2019	1,882,000
2020	7,816,282
2021	<u>302,270</u>
Total	21,248,454
2017-2021 Funded Capital	
2017	409,700
2018	628,200
2019	1,098,692
2020	89,000
2021	6,856,536
TOTAL	<u>9,082,128</u>
Unfunded	12,166,326

It is critical moving forward that we actively seek alternate forms of funding or our aging park system will continue to decline.

2022-2026 Capital Requests	
2022	\$13,974,703
2023	\$9,437,850
2024	\$890,000
2025	\$6,893,031
2026	<u>\$3,000,000</u>
Total	\$34,195,584

# PRIORITIES AND ACTION SCHEDULE

Recommendations include:

- Require recreational programs to be self-supporting
- Re-evaluate all rental and user fee schedules annually to ensure that fees cover costs
- Consider and evaluate public/private partnerships when possible
- Evaluate leasing opportunities
- Sponsorships (corporate/private)
- Pursue grants where applicable and appropriate
- Investigate the possibility of general obligation bonds for large capital projects when other methods of financing are not available

Limitations to fund a wide array of programs and facilities 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 Michigan City Park and Recreation Department for implementing programs and developing facilities for recreational purposes within the city of Michigan City.

**Park Budget** - Annual tax allocations from the general city tax levy could be utilized for both operating costs and financing capital improvements. However, general tax dollars are not available for extensive capital improvements.

**Unappropriated Balances** – Cash balances in non-reverting funds could be used for capital purchases and projects. A request for an appropriation is made by Park Board resolution, with consent of the Mayor, to the City Council.

## NON-REVERTING FUNDS

**Zoo Education Fund 1303** – Separate account established for collection of monies from the educational and recreational programs of the zoo, and generated funds are used for educational supplies, camp supplies, candy, craft items, holiday decorations, guest lecture fees, signage, books, and special education programs.

# PRIORITIES AND ACTION SCHEDULE

**Senior Center Fund 1304** – Separate non-reverting fund established for collection of monies from rentals. Funds can be used for maintenance, repairs, replacement and improvements.

**Recreation Fund 1311** – Separate account established for collection of revenues to service recreational programs. Generated funds are used for equipment, materials, awards, improvement of facilities, fees for instructors, umpires, officials, and security personnel.

**Golf Fund 1314** – Separate, non-reverting fund with revenue coming from user-generated fees at the golf courses. No tax monies fund the golf budget, currently the courses generate sufficient income to cover expenses for maintenance and operation.

**Concession Fund 1315** – Separate account that generates revenue via concession and novelty sales. Funds can be used for operating expenses of the facilities, repairs, equipment and capital improvements.

**Gifts and Donations Fund 1316** – Donations of money, land and time are an important resource to any park and recreation board. Donations are important from the point that they can be used to match grants from other sources.

**Patriot Park Fund 1320** – Separate account established for revenues from the advertisement/billboard program at Patriot Park. Funds are used for capital and equipment needs at this facility.

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

**Public/Private Partnerships** – National trends and park services across the country utilize public/private partnerships as a way to fund, enhance, and further develop programs and facilities. An example of this successful approach within our own department was the construction of a planned baseball field at Patriot Park by the Duneland Youth Baseball Association and the construction of soccer fields by the Michigan City Soccer Club that required no city funds or burden to taxpayers to construct.

## **Grant Programs**

### Indiana Department of Natural Resources

- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- Coastal Zone Management (CZM)
- Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Indiana Preservation Grant



# PRIORITIES AND ACTION SCHEDULE

## Indiana Department of Environmental Management

- Beach Act Grant for water quality testing and notification

## Indiana Department of Tourism Destination Development Grant

## INDOT

- Transportation Enhancement (TE)
- Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)

## Housing and Urban Development

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

## Community Enrichment Foundation

## Barker Welfare Foundation

## Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte County

## Northern Indiana Public Service Company

- Environmental Action Grant

## **ACTION PLAN MATRIX**

The 2022 – 2026 Action Plan items have been identified, analyzed and ranked by priority. The Action Plan plots the probable implementation schedule per priority. The proposed Action Plan will be modified and adjusted depending on available resources. It is intended to be a flexible working document and adjustments should be anticipated.

The following pages reflect the proposed Action Plan matrix for each individual year of the 2022-2026 Parks Five-Year Master Plan. The matrix is organized as follows:

FUNDING YEAR – Action items have been prioritized by year from 2022 through 2026.

LOCATION – Indicates which site, facility or category the Action Plan item relates to.

ACTION ITEM – Identifies the proposed implementation elements established from the priority list.

ESTIMATED COST – Indicates anticipated estimated costs for each element of action. All dollar estimates are a result of certain assumptions, and may not reflect actual cost; they are strictly preliminary estimates to be used as budgeting tools and starting points.

FUNDING SOURCE – Each Action Plan item includes a source(s) of possible funding.

# PRIORITIES AND ACTION SCHEDULE

## **KEY      FUNDING SOURCE**

ACF	Available City Funding
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
GO	Grant Opportunity
MCHS	Michigan City Historical Society
OB	Operating Budget
PD	Private Donation
RDC	Redevelopment Commission
UW	Urban Waters Grant
ZACK	Margaret & Otto Zack Grant
ZE	Zoo Endowment Fund
ZS	Zoo Society

## **IMAGE / COMMUNICATION**

When survey respondents were asked if the Michigan City Park Department provides essential services, is courteous and helpful, and has quality leadership, 78% of them responded yes.

Contrary to the public input surveys, many stakeholders stated our image is poor due to lack of communication with the public we serve, no marketing, website that is not kept up to date, not maintaining existing facilities, and lack of programming. Many stakeholders commented the Park Department would greatly benefit from adding a full time Recreation Director who could also serve to market the department.

A good communication plan needs to be developed using the following methods identified in the surveys and stakeholder interviews:

- Social media including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Tik Tok
- Set up email and text message notifications
- Utilize the subscription service on our website
- Electronic signs, banners, billboards placed in high visibility locations
- Post flyers at local businesses
- Update website and events calendar regularly

# PRIORITIES AND ACTION SCHEDULE

FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	OB	RDC	GRANT	CITY GRANT MATCH	CITY CAPITAL	PAF	ENDOWMENT	OTHER	SOURCE
2022	Admin	Project	Adams Park	park renovation project	1,000,000					1,000,000			ACF/RDC	2010 preliminary plans & cost estimates by Haas, moved from 2021
2022	Admin	Project	Bismarck Hill	Add interpretive signs to base of trails for ADA Access	2,000	2,000								
2022	Admin	Project	Canada Park	update equip for safety & ADA	175,000					100,000			ACF	moved from 2021
2022	Admin	Project	Canada Park	MAC mural project	1,500									MAC project
2022	Admin	Project	Communication	Create effective public communication plan	0	0								
2022	Admin	Project	Gardena Phase II	completed ADA updates	250,000					250,000			ACF	
2022	Admin	Equipment	Millennium Plaza	security camera system	20,000					20,000			ACF	based on Gardena sys in 2014
2022	Admin	Project	Mott's Woods	Donation - survey and title work	2,500	2,500								
2022	Admin	Project	North Pointe Pavilion	Paint stairwells, sandblast and paint ceiling beams	30,000	30,000								
2022	Admin	Project	Oak Hills	update equip for safety & ADA	200,000					100,000			CDBG - Oct 2018 funding	moved from 2019, 2020, 2021
													LMCP/Unity /Barker/MC Historical Society	MC Painting/Marquiss Quotes
2022	Admin	Project	Old Bandstand	Strip, repair wood, paint - install LED lighting on roof & ceiling	200,000									based on Gardena sys in 2014
2022	Admin	Equipment	Pullman Park	security camera system	20,000					20,000			ACF	
2022	Admin	Equipment	Pullman Park	Add rules sign	1,000	1,000								
2022	Admin	Project	Ridgeland Park	update equip for safety & ADA	100,000					75,000				CDBG Grant, moved from 2021
2022	Admin	Equipment	Ruby Wood	Add rules sign	1,000	1,000								
2022	Admin	Equipment	Tall Timbers	Add rules sign	1,000	1,000								
2022	Admin	Equipment	Washington Park	security camera system	125,000									estimate from IT
										125,000			ACF/RDC	2020/2021- cancelled by Mayor due to budget constraints/COVID-19, moved to 2021
2022	Admin	Project	Washington Park	Replacement play equipment and fitness trail in Fedder's	2,000,000					1,000,000			RDC/ACF	2017 engr's est x 3.5% inflation x 5 years
														CDBG/LWCF
2022	Admin	Project	Washington Park	Construct west boardwalk in Fedder's Alley	1,811,221					1,811,221				
2022	Admin	Project	Water Tower Park	update equip for safety & ADA	1,000,000									
2022	Admin	Project	Washington Park	Assessment of Victorious Peace and Dough Boy	3,500	3,500								
2022	Admin	Funding	N/A	Apply for 501(c)3 status for Park Foundation	0	0								
														2020/2021- cancelled by Mayor due to budget constraints/COVID-19
2022	Golf	Equipment	Golf Course	Toro 175 gallon turf sprayer	40,000					40,000			ACF	
2022	Golf	Equipment	Golf Course	(2) Toro putting green mowers	65,000					65,000			ACF	
2022	Golf	Equipment	Golf Course	Toro rough trim mower	33,000					33,000			ACF	
2022	Golf	Equipment	Golf Course	replace 22 carts - 1 of 4 (first round)	65,000					65,000			ACF	

# PRIORITIES AND ACTION SCHEDULE

FUNDING YEAR		DEPT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	OB	RDC	GRANT	CITY GRANT MATCH	CITY CAPITAL	PAF	ENDOWMENT	OTHER	SOURCE
		Golf	Project	Golf Course	Asphalt cart paths	100,000					100,000			ACF	2020/2021- cancelled by Mayor due to budget constraints/COVID-19
2022	Golf	Project		Golf Course	Improved communication/remote monitoring of nc & sc pump stations	20,000					20,000			ACF	
2022	Golf	Project		Golf Course	South course clubhouse renovation	125,000					125,000				
2022	Golf	Project		Golf Course	Professional engineering for drainage improvements	25,000					25,000				
2022	Golf	Equipment		Pro Shops	Security camera system	8,000					8,000			ACF	
2022	Maint	Project		Hansen Park	Add rules sign, patch & restripe bball court, remove light poles, cover outlet	5,000	5,000								
2022	Maint	Equipment		Hawkins Park	Add rules sign	1,000	1,000								
2022	Maint	Equipment		Maintenance	new Toro Zero Turn Mower	23,000					23,000				
2022	Maint	Project		Memorial Hall	Exterior repairs, tuck pointing, railing, ceiling posts	100,000					100,000			ACF	obtaining quotes
2022	Maint	Equipment		Oasis	OSHA safety equipment	20,000					20,000				
2022	Maint	Project		Park Maintenance	maint bldg pave parking lot (patch & resurface)	100,000					100,000			ACF	2016 Feb quote from Haas through City paving plan
2022	Maint	Project		Park Maintenance	upgrade windows, doors, etc. for energy efficiency	50,000					50,000			ACF	obtaining quotes in 2015
2022	Maint	Project		Park Maintenance	Mem Hall back parking lot replacement	40,000					40,000				
2022	Maint	Equipment		Patriot Park	5 new scoreboards	40,000					40,000			ACF	
2022	Maint	Project		Patriot Park	CRS, parking lots, 2 diamonds	3,500,000					3,500,000			ACF	
2022	Maint	Project		Patriot Park	soccer/concession/restroom building	238,282					238,282				2010 est costs Haas
2022	Maint	Equipment		Patriot Park	2 new water reels	20,000					20,000			ACF	
2022	Maint	Project		Pullman Park	Repairs to skatepark equipment	1,000	1,000								
2022	Rec	Staff		Staff	Reinstate full time Recreation Director	77,200	77,200								will require add'l appropriation and must be added to 2023 budget
2022	Senior Ctr	Project		Senior Center	replace floor	175,000					175,000				based on 2014 estimate of \$150,000 + 3% per year
2022	Zoo	Equipment		WP Zoo	New pickup truck to replace Tahoe	36,000					36,000				2020/2021- cancelled by Mayor due to budget constraints/COVID-19
2022	Zoo	Project		WP Zoo	Monkey Island Renovation	1,300,000					650,000				
2023	Zoo	Project		WP Zoo	New Gift Shop	600,000							600,000	Endowment	
2022	Zoo	Project		WP Zoo	Alligator winter enclosure	52,000							52,000	Endowment	moved from 2019
2022	Zoo	Project		WP Zoo	all season parakeet greenhouse enclosure	100,000							100,000		
2022	Zoo	Project		WP Zoo	Asian Trail	25,000							25,000	2021 Endowment	
2022	Zoo	Project		WP Zoo	African Watering Hole	50,000							50,000		
2022 PARK TOTALS						13,978,203	125,200	1,650,000	1,451,500	25,000	9,899,503	0	827,000		

# PRIORITIES AND ACTION SCHEDULE

FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CR	RDC	GRANT	GRANT MATCH	CITY GRANT	PAF	INDOWMENT	OTHER	SOURCE
FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CR	RDC	GRANT	GRANT MATCH	CITY GRANT	PAF	INDOWMENT	OTHER	SOURCE
2023	Zoo	Project	WP Zoo	New Gift Shop	500,000									
2023	Admin	Project	Rock Garden	Rock Garden Preservation	750,000		375,000			375,000				
2023	Maint	Project	Millennium Plaza	Repair fountain and lighting, paint stair railings, install service gate	35,000					35,000				
2023	Maint	Staff	Staff	Recreate 2 full time laborers	111,500	111,500								will require add'l approp and must be added to 2023 budget
2023	Zoo	Staff	Staff	Recreate 2 full time keepers and 1 maintenance craftsman	396,350	196,150								will require add'l approp and must be added to 2023 budget
2023	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Complete Rock Garden Restoration	500,000		250,000			250,000				RDC
2023	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Restore Observation Tower	1,000,000		500,000			500,000				RDC/ACF
2023	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	New entrance	6,000,000		6,000,000							RDC
2023	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Implement Year 2 of Task 2 Bismark Mill Restoration	115,000		57,500			57,500				RDC
2023	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Preserve topography survey of Task 3 Access to Lakehurst	20,000		10,000			10,000				RDC
2023	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Design and Engineer Task 4 Signage	50,000		25,000			25,000				RDC
2023	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Preserve topography survey of Task 5 Senior Center	20,000		10,000			10,000				RDC
2023	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Preserve topographic survey of Task 6 Promenade	50,000		25,000			25,000				RDC
2023	Admin	Project	Washington Park	Repair, seal and clean monuments	30,000			30,000						
2023	Admin	Project	Peanut Bridge	Replace wood decking and railings	40,000		20,000			20,000				
2023 PARK TOTALS					9,437,850	327,850	7,277,500	30,000	0	1,307,500	0	500,000		



# PRIORITIES AND ACTION SCHEDULE

FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DB	RDC	GRANT	GRANT MATCH	CITY CAPITAL	PAF ENDOWMENT	OTHER	SOURCE
FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DB	RDC	GRANT	GRANT MATCH	CITY CAPITAL	PAF ENDOWMENT	COMMENTS	SOURCE
2024	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Design and Engineering Task 3 Access to Lakefront	40,000		20,000			20,000		RDC	
2024	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Complete construction of Task 4 Signage	100,000		50,000			50,000		RDC	
2024	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Design and engineer Task 5 Senior Center	150,000		75,000			75,000		RDC	
2024	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Design and engineer Task 6 Promenade	600,000		300,000			300,000			
2024 PARK TOTALS					890,000	0	445,000	0	0	445,000	0	0	

# PRIORITIES AND ACTION SCHEDULE

FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DB	RDC	GRANT	CITY GRANT MATCH	CITY CAPITAL	PAE	ENDOWMENT	OTHER	SOURCE
FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DB	RDC	GRANT	GRANT MATCH	CITY CAPITAL	PAE	ENDOWMENT	COMMENTS	SOURCE
2025	Admin	Project	Washington Park	Construct east boardwalks in Feddar's Alley	1,953,031					1,953,031				2017 4mg's bid x 3.5% inflation x 9 years
2025	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Implement Year 3 of Task 2 Blumack Hill Restoration	40,000		20,000			20,000			RDC	
2025	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Complete construction of Task 3 Access to Lakefront	400,000		200,000			200,000			RDC	
2025	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Start construction Task 5 Senior Center	750,000		375,000			375,000			RDC	
2025	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Complete construction of Task 3 Senior Center	750,000		375,000			375,000				
2025	WPMP	Project	Washington Park	Start construction of Task 6 Promenade	3,000,000		1,500,000			1,500,000				
2025 PARK TOTALS					6,893,031	0	2,470,000	0	0	4,423,031	0	0		

# PRIORITIES AND ACTION SCHEDULE

FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	OB	RDC	GRANT	CITY GRANT MATCH	CITY CAPITAL	PAF	ENDOWMENT	OTHER	SOURCE
FUNDING YEAR	DEPT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	OB	RDC	GRANT	CITY GRANT MATCH	CITY CAPITAL	PAF	ENDOWMENT	COMMENTS	SOURCE
2026	WRAP	Project	Washington Park	Complete construction of Task 6 Promenade	3,000,000		1,500,000			1,500,000				
2026 PARK TOTALS														
KEY	FUNDING SOURCE													
ACF	Available City Funding													
COBG	Community Development Block Grant													
GO	Grant Opportunity													
MCIS	Michigan City Historical Society													
OB	Operating Budget													
PAF	Prosecuting Attorney Fund													
PD	Private Donation													
RDC	Redevelopment Commission													
ZACK	Zack Grant													
ZE	Zoo Endowment													
ZS	Zoo Society													



**]100 E. Michigan Blvd. / Suite 2  
Michigan City, IN 46360-3293  
Phone (219) 873-1506  
Fax (219) 873-1506  
www.michigancityparks.com**

**The Michigan City Park and Recreation Board** met in regular session on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at the hour of 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, City of Michigan City, Indiana.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

On the call of the roll, the following Board Members were found to be present or absent:

**Present: Messrs. Latchford, Freese, and Lange, and Mrs. Sperling (4)**

**Absent: None (0)**

**Also present were** Ed Shinn, Superintendent; Shannon Eason, Assistant Superintendent; Laura Nirenberg, Park Board Attorney; Pat Voltz, Maintenance Director; Larry Spaeth, Dunescape Beach Club; and Kaleb Goodwin, City IT Department.

- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mrs. Sperling and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the minutes of the February 16, 2022 Park Board meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Shannon Eason presented the attached, final version of the Park Department's 2022-2026 5-Year Master Plan.

Assistant Superintendent Shannon Eason gave the attached presentation on the proposed wildlife observation deck on the west end of the Singing Sands Trail.

- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 951 approving the Park Department's 2022-2026 5-Year Master Plan.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese, and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department and the Michigan City Zoological Society, Inc.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Sole Source Vendor letter to IDEM.

- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mrs. Sperling and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Park Department's 2021 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Lange and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Park Department's 2021 Annual Report.
- ❑ On a motion made by Freese, seconded by Mrs. Sperling and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board tabled the Youth Baseball Director job description.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached revision to Policy No. 212 in the Park Department's Policy and Procedure Manual.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Notice to Proceed to Holladay Construction for the Zoo Big Cat Exhibit Expansion Project.

Superintendent Ed Shinn reported on the maintenance department, youth baseball, the golf course, the Senior Center and the zoo. He announced the department is hiring for seasonal positions.

- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved city claims filed on account of appropriations for the Parks and Recreation Department in the amount of \$35,516.65.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board approved Payroll #3, 01/23/22 through 02/05/22, in the amount of \$53,41.25.
- ❑ On a motion made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted for unanimously by the Board, the Board accepted the following donations:

Frances Howard	Zoo Donation-in memory of Tim Bennett	\$ 100.00
Applegate & Company	Zoo Donation-in memory of Tim Bennett	\$ 25.00
Michigan City Zoo Society	Zoo Donation-in memory of Tim Bennett	\$ 100.00
Michigan City Zoo Society	Zoo Donation-artwork donation	\$ 1,322.05
Michigan City Zoo Society	Zoo Donation-Parakeet house renovation	\$37,500.00
Frontier Lawn & Rec.	Donation-Youth Baseball team sponsorship	\$ 350.00
R & B 421, Inc. (Arby's)	Donation-Youth Baseball team sponsorship	\$ 350.00
Penelope Russell	Zoo Donation-in memory of Tim Bennett	\$ 50.00
Castle Ford Lincoln	Donation-Youth Baseball team sponsorship	\$ 700.00
N.J. Sipress	Zoo Donation-in memory of Norma Whybrew	\$ 50.00
Julie Roda	Zoo Donation-in memory of Norma Whybrew	\$ 50.00



- On a motion made by Mr. Freese, supported by all members of the Board, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

  
Shannon Eason, Assistant Superintendent

  
Kent Lange, Park Board Secretary

Minutes prepared by Shannon Eason

# MICHIGAN CITY PARKS & RECREATION FIVE-YEAR MASTER PLAN



2022 - 2026

## PLANNING GUIDELINES Indiana Department of Natural Resources



The 1<sup>st</sup> draft was submitted to the DNR on 12/16/21

The DNR reviewed the draft plan and returned their comments and recommendations on 12/29/21

- Recommended climate, Sheridan Beach restoration and social paths, climate, and Lake Michigan, and ecotourism paragraphs to Natural Features and Landscape Section - *completed*
- Remove outdated BioBlitz information – *completed*
- Add information regarding the city's sidewalk system and how it is integrated into the trail system – *completed*
- Add tourism paragraphs to Social and Economic section – *completed*

# PLANNING GUIDELINES

## Indiana Department of Natural Resources

---



The 1<sup>st</sup> draft was submitted to the DNR on 12/16/21

The DNR reviewed the draft plan and returned their comments and recommendations on 12/29/21

- Add quality of place paragraph – *completed*
- Explain why media age decreased, number of children under 17 increased, owner-occupied homes increased, home values decreased, and number of households has declined – *completed*
- The ADA Grievance Procedure and Request for Review of Decision are not necessary – *removed*

# PLANNING GUIDELINES

## Indiana Department of Natural Resources

---

### Required Elements

- Introduction
- Definition of the Planning Area
- Goals of the Plan
- Description of the Park Board and Park Department
- Natural Features and Landscape
- Man-made, Historical and Cultural
- Social and Economic Factors (2020 U.S. Census)
- Accessibility and Universal Design
- Public Participation
- Needs Analysis
- Priorities and Action Schedule



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

---

## STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

### STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

#### 24 Interviews held between August & November 2021

- Board of Public Works and Safety
- City Council
- City Events Coordinator
- Fire Chief
- LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- LaPorte County YMCA
- Mayor Parry
- Michigan City Area Schools
- Michigan City Historical Society
- Michigan City Municipal Golf Course
- Michigan City Park Department Administrative Staff
- Michigan City Port Authority
- Michigan City Seniors, Inc.
- Michigan City Social and Learning Institute
- Michigan City Park Board
- Michigan City Zoological Society
- Park Maintenance Director
- Police Leadership Academy
- Trail Creek Water Shed Partnership

## PUBLIC SURVEYS

Available March 1<sup>st</sup> through October 29, 2021

- 626 Surveys were completed
- Paper surveys – 84 Surveys Returned (14%)
  - Distributed to 38 target organizations
  - Available at 8 locations throughout the city
  - Available on our website [www.michigancityparks.com](http://www.michigancityparks.com)
  - Available on our Facebook Page
- Online Surveys – 542 Surveys Filled Out (86%)
  - Available on our website [www.michigancityparks.com](http://www.michigancityparks.com)
  - Available on our Facebook Page
  - QR codes on flyers for smart phone users
- Public Input Sessions
  - Park Board meeting 10/5/21
  - Park Board meeting 10/20/21
  - Park Board meeting 11/03/21
  - Park Board meeting 12/1/21

## Needs Analysis

---

Tally results from all input methods

- Public Surveys
- Public Comment
- Stakeholder Interviews

Review of results by Park Board and Park Staff

Prioritize results and add to Action Plan

- Identify Funding Strategies

# Needs Analysis

---

## NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS AND STAKEHOLDER

1. **Facilities**  
New ADA and all-inclusive playgrounds, improve restrooms and keep them open year-round, address public safety including lighting, build new pickleball courts, open the Oasis Splash Park, construct an ice/roller rink, build a community center, add more public access beach mats, maintain what we already have
2. **Develop new programming**  
Fitness based, youth, sports, environmental, winter activities, events. Reinstatement of the full time Recreation Director position.
3. **Communication**  
Social media, email/text notification, flyers at businesses, electronic signs, banners, newspaper, and radio
5. **Staff**  
Hire a Recreation Director to develop new programming and events
6. **Continue to develop trails**  
Multi-use, non-motorized, fitness trails, nature trails, and maintain trails and sidewalks for ADA access and safety including repairing cracks, potholes, and adding curb cuts

7

## 2022-2026 ACTION PLAN

---

Items identified in this action plan involved many facets of parks and recreation ranging from infrastructure improvements, park renovations and laws that affect accessibility in outdoor recreation. The 2022-2026 action plan addresses our top priorities.

The issues that received the highest priority were placed in the five-year action plan for implementation.



# 2022-2026 ACTION PLAN

The action plan will be completed once all surveys stakeholder interview comments have been analyzed.

## FUNDING SOURCES

▪ ACF	Available City Funding
▪ BWF	Barker Welfare Foundation
▪ CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
▪ GO	Grant Opportunity
▪ MCHS	Michigan City Historical Society
▪ LCHF	LaPorte County Healthcare Foundation
▪ OB	Operating Budget
▪ PAF	Prosecuting Attorney Fund
▪ PD	Private Donation
▪ RDC	Redevelopment Commission
▪ ZACK	Zack Grant
▪ ZE	Zoo Endowment Fund
▪ ZS	Zoo Society

Adequate funding of parks and recreational programming and development is a continuing challenge for all park and recreation departments. The Michigan City Park Department and Park Board should continually search for additional funding sources including grants, public/private partnerships, foundations, and other methods of creative financing to assure implementation of the Action Plan to meet the recreational needs of Michigan City.

Of the action plan items identified during the 2017-2021 Master Plan, only 42% were funded. Unfunded items have been moved into our 2022-2026 action plan as shown below.

It is critical moving forward that we actively seek alternate forms of funding to maintain high standards of serving our community.

2017-2021 Capital Requests	
2017	3,528,905
2018	7,718,997
2019	1,882,000
2020	7,816,282
2021	302,270
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,248,454</b>
2017-2021 Funded Capital	
2017	409,700
2018	628,200
2019	1,098,692
2020	89,000
2021	6,856,536
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,082,128</b>
<b>Unfunded</b>	<b>12,166,326</b>

2022-2026 Capital Requests	
2022	\$13,974,703
2023	\$9,437,850
2024	\$890,000
2025	\$6,893,031
2026	\$3,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,195,584</b>

The Singing Sands Trail accounted for \$5,640,536 of the above funding.



The plan will be available online  
beginning 02/17/22 through 03/01/22  
for final public comment

---

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



## QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

---

MICHIGAN CITY PARKS & RECREATION  
FIVE-YEAR MASTER PLAN



2022 - 2026



100 E. Michigan Blvd. / Suite 2  
Michigan City, IN 46360-3293  
Phone (219) 873-1506  
Fax (219) 873-1540  
[www.michigancityparks.com](http://www.michigancityparks.com)

**RESOLUTION NO. 951**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA, PARK AND  
RECREATION BOARD APPROVING THE MICHIGAN CITY PARKS  
AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S 2022-2026 5-YEAR MASTER PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan City Parks and Recreation Board recognizes the need for a strategic Park and Recreation Master Plan to provide goals, assessments, recommendations, and strategies for implementation over a five year period in an effort to provide for and continually improve park and recreational facilities, provide trail opportunities, preserve open spaces, and rehabilitate existing parks in the City of Michigan City; and

**WHEREAS**, the primary objective of the plan is to serve Michigan City's residents of all ages, interests and abilities by providing recreational services desired by the citizens of Michigan City and by preserving natural resources; and

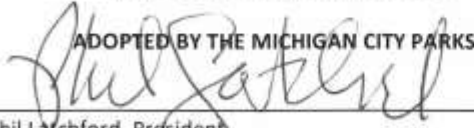
**WHEREAS**, in order to address recreational needs in the future, the City of Michigan City has sought input from the citizens of Michigan City through surveys, public input meetings, stakeholder meetings, City Officials, and Park and Recreation staff, and that input has been incorporated into the plan; and

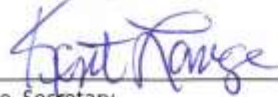
**WHEREAS**, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the first draft and recommended some items be clarified or added; and


**WHEREAS**, all items recommended by Indiana Department of Natural Resources have been incorporated into the final 2022-2026 Master Plan.

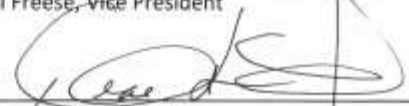
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Michigan City Park Board of Michigan City, Indiana,

1. That the Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department's 2022-2026 Master Plan for the City of Michigan City, Indiana, is hereby officially adopted; and
2. That an Action Plan has been developed to prioritize implementation of the Master Plan and to provide guidance in the application of funding; and
3. Adoption of this plan shall not commit the City of Michigan City to specific funding levels and/or implementation strategies, but shall provide a guidance plan for the City's vision for future park and recreational facilities and services.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phil Latchford, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent Lange, Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phil Freese, Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Sperling, Member