

Zionsville Parks and Recreation

Master Plan 2013 – 2017



Elm Street Green

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This plan update could not have been prepared without the kind cooperation of the Zionsville Town Council, Park Board members (past and present), park department and Town staff, and, of course, the interested residents of the community.

### Zionsville Town Council

Jeff Papa  
Steve Mundy  
Candace Ulmer  
Tim Haak  
Tom Schuler  
Elizabeth Hopper  
Susana Suarez

### Zionsville Clerk-Treasurer

John Yeo

### Zionsville Park and Recreation Board

Phil Howard, President  
Steven Bullington, Vice President  
Manda Clevenger, Secretary  
Steve Mueller  
Neal Clements  
(Served 3 years. Resigned current term ending Dec 2014)  
Dorothoy Hitchins  
(Serving remainder of Mr. Clemments term)

Roger Burrus, Park Board Attorney  
Matt Dickey, Park Department Superintendent



# Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	page 1
Town Profile	
Agency Profile	
Goals of the Plan	
Park Board & Departmental Goals	
Park Board General Goals	
COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION	page 5
Community Description, Natural & Man-made Features	
Social & Economic Factors	
Zionsville History	
Accessibility & Universal Design	
Needs Analysis	
EXISTING PARKS AND FACILITIES	page 13
PRIORITIES AND ACTION PLAN	page 17
PUBLIC INPUT	page 25
FUNDING	page 33
APPENDIX	page 37
Map of the Planning Area	
Parks Locations Map	
Individual Park Site Maps	
Resolution adopting the plan	
Section 504 Assurance of Compliance	
Town of Zionsville ADA Policy & Procedures	
Historical Documentation: Lincoln's Zionsville Stop (per DNR request)	
Public Input Process: Supporting Documentation	

Photo Acknowledgement: All photographs courtesy of, and copyrighted by, Chris Bucher, Bucher Photographs. Used with permission in this publication

Cover photo: Creekside Nature Park



Creekside Nature Park

## **Planning Area and Town Profile**

The park board's planning area includes all of the incorporated Town of Zionsville. The current 5-Year Plan (which became effective in 2008) noted the potential of Eagle and Union Townships consolidating with the Town of Zionsville; this did indeed occur in January 2010. It was through the foresight of the current plan that the park board has been able to successfully absorb that increased service area. This helps emphasize the fact that planning is a crucial component of a successful park system. It is unknown at this time just how many urban vs. rural residents take part in Zionsville's parks and/or programming opportunities. Many of the parks are more passive in nature, and none of the sites charge an entry or parking fee. There are also very few fee-based programs, so it is difficult to track users based on residency.

The Town of Zionsville is located in southeastern Boone County, in the central area of the state. The original town boundary comprises what local residents know as the Village. This area is what many people think of when they hear the name Zionsville. The Village contains a mix of businesses and residences. A map showing the planning area is included in the Appendix.

Current population estimates show the consolidated Town of Zionsville has a population of 26,782 persons. Zionsville is the largest municipality in Boone County, surpassing the County Seat of Lebanon, which has 16,022 persons. Zionsville's total land area is 52 square miles, which translates into 515 people per square mile (*US Census data, 2011 estimate, Zionsville Stormwater Report, and 2012 Town of Zionsville Park Impact Fee Report*).

Boone County as a whole has a population of 57,481. The State of Indiana has an estimated population of 6, 516, 922 (*US Census data, 2010*).

## **Agency Profile**

The Zionsville Park and Recreation Board was formally established in 1974 and organized under Indiana Code 36-10-3, as amended. The Board was formally reauthorized as a part of the consolidation of the Town of Zionsville and Eagle and Union Townships that occurred in 2010. The Park Board has five members who serve staggered terms. Four of the members are appointed by the elected Town Council; the fifth is appointed by the Zionsville Community Schools Board of Education.

### *Park Board Members and Terms*

Phil Howard – 2009 – 4 year term

Steve Mueller – 2013 – 4 year term

Manda Clevenger – 2012 – 4 year term

Steve Bullington – School Board appointee

Neil Clements – 2010 – 1 year staggered term, renewed in 2011 for a 4 year term

*(Note: Mr. Clements resigned in early 2013, due to increased responsibilities with his employer. His seat was filled by the Town Council in early April of 2013)*

Dorothy Hitchins – 2013 – completing remainder of Mr. Clements's 4 year term.

*(Note: Mr. Clements's term completes Dec. 3, 2014)*

## **Goals of the Plan**

The most important reason to plan is the fact that, without a plan, the Board may not be as effective in achieving their own goals and those of the community. A plan helps achieve a desired future state. It gives clear guidance for staff efforts and helps those efforts be measured to determine ultimate success. This plan update will help Board members and staff establish the current baseline, their future desired state, and create a structure to achieve aims, and to monitor accomplishments.

A secondary, but obvious, goal of this agency plan is to remain eligible to receive grant dollars awarded through the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Outdoor Recreation (DNR). The DNR has minimum standards for park and recreation master plans – this plan update meets those standards and so should continue to qualify the Board to submit for future grant applications. The Park Board has received two LWCF grants in the recent past, gaining nearly \$400,000 for park improvements, so this is an important goal.

## **Park Board and Departmental Goals**

Having clear and measurable goals is crucial to achieving success. Crafting those goals typically starts with a vision and a mission statement. Once you have the agency's broad vision and mission established, it is easy to keep that in mind and work toward that specific aim.

During this plan update, the Board revised its long-standing vision of "A town within a park" to more fully express what that sentiment meant, and how board members will work to create the town-park synthesis.

The vision for the Board is:

*The Zionsville Park and Recreation Board will create a complete park system, providing a place to play for everyone. To achieve this, the Board will improve the community's quality of life by creating opportunities for active lifestyles with a recreational experience at residents' doorsteps through the interconnectivity of the entire park system.*

The mission of the Zionsville Board of Park and Recreation is to:

- *Acquire and develop park lands*
- *Maintain and improve park and recreation facilities*
- *Promote and advocate the active use of parks*
- *Promote and advocate the passive use of parks as green spaces*
- *Promote and advocate recreational and educational programs*
- *Conserve nature*
- *Manage and promote an interconnected park system*
- *Outreach to existing external programs and projects*

## **Park Board General Goals**

- The acquisition of land to provide green space throughout the town, for game fields, playground areas, nature parks, and an interconnecting scenic trail way system
- Complete the development of properties within the existing parks system
- Further development of recreation facilities and programs, in cooperation with school and private groups
- On-going maintenance and upgrade of existing facilities, parks, trails, playgrounds, and cemeteries
- Continued pursuit of funding sources to supplement the regular budget
- Update the five-year master plan and review it on an annual basis
- Create a revenue plan that contains a mix of funding options and will allow the continued development of a quality park system
- Analyze current staffing levels and determine immediate and future needs
- Ensure public awareness of Parks and Recreation facilities, programs, and projects
- Encourage the protection, conservation, and preservation of existing natural areas
- Be a leader in making trail connections an important component to all master plans – local county, state, and national arenas
- Consideration of safety and accessibility issues in the development and maintenance of parks and programs



### **Community Description, Natural, and Man-made Features**

Like much of central Indiana, the area surrounding Zionsville has little significant topographical relief, being located entirely on the Tipton Till Plain. All of Boone County lies within the Wabash River Basin. Rivers and streams branch out centrally from the county, flowing into adjacent areas. Waterways in and near Zionsville drain directly into Eagle Creek. Although there are areas of flowing water, Boone County has no natural lakes (although there are man-made retention ponds and borrow areas). The area has a humid climate, influenced somewhat by the Great Lakes. Cool and warm air masses converge in Indiana, making for a wide seasonal range in temperature and moisture. The area enjoys an average around 40 inches of rain yearly, with the majority of that precipitation falling May through September. The average temperature in the summer is 72 degrees and the average winter temperature is 28 degrees. Snowfall averages 26 inches per year (*Boone County soil survey, 2004*).

The natural features of a region are usually heavily relied upon for outdoor recreation. Natural features are very important, especially to a rapidly developing area like Zionsville. With such broad expanses of flat, easily developable land, very little is left over for parks and recreation sites. Rapid residential, industrial, and commercial developments quickly eat up available tracts. This usually means the 'less desirable' parcels are all that is left for public spaces. Unfortunately, those characteristics that make the land undesirable for development (floodplains, steep slopes, and poor soils) are also the same ones that make it difficult for park departments to improve sites for

active and (sometimes) passive recreation. While there are often benefits when river corridors are left predominately in their natural states for passive enjoyment, it is also important to supply community members with open spaces for organized team field sports and family pick-up games. The current focus of the Zionsville Park Board has been in supplying those natural and passive areas for community enjoyment. Eagle Creek has the potential to provide recreation opportunities for a wide variety of users. There is potential to acquire and preserve sites along the water corridor for passive recreation, nature conservation, and flood control. Some spots could lend themselves to canoe launch sites. Also, there are always opportunities for anglers along with other passive activities such as bird watching and nature photography. These water corridors also provide inviting nature trails to aid in the interconnectivity of the town.

Along with the physical features of the area, climate plays an important role in outdoor recreation opportunities. People like to play outdoors year round, and if the weather will not cooperate, then there are fewer opportunities available. Fortunately, climate is one area that is not impinged upon by development. Zionsville enjoys a relatively mild climate. The summers are long enough and warm enough to enjoy plenty of beach time and summer sports, springs and falls are mild enough to extend the play season for a few months on either side of summer. Winters can be the most problematic, in terms of outdoor play. The area does not receive enough snowfall to ensure the availability of outdoor winter sports like cross-country skiing and sledding.

Since the county was originally settled, agriculture has played a big role in the development of the area. Past agricultural practices included ditching waterways, adding artificial drainage, and converting large forested acreage to agriculture. Current residential and commercial development has continued this trend, leaving the county with fewer and fewer natural areas to preserve. Much of the development is centered in and around the Zionsville area. The Board may want to look further north and west to acquire larger tracts of land. It is important too, in order to serve existing residents, to acquire land where growth pressure exists, even though that land may be less available and more expensive to acquire. The current trend of moving away from agricultural use of the land and toward suburban development is expected to continue, so some urgency is present for the Board to acquire sufficient acreage for parks and recreation use.

The soils in the Zionsville area range from somewhat poorly drained (Crosby silt loams) to well drained, but frequently flooded (Rossburg/Landes). Udorthents soils types are also commonly found. These soils generally consist of mixed loamy materials in areas used for fill, or are the fill materials themselves. All of these soil types will have some limitations on construction due to their physical characteristics. These soils may be flooded or poorly drained and have severe to moderate limitations for recreational uses, including campgrounds, picnic areas, play areas, and paths and trails. These limitations are based on the soils' restrictive features such as flooding, wetness, and slope. It should be noted that these limitations might be overcome through appropriate site design, intensive maintenance, limited use of the site, or a combination of measures.

Man-made features also play a big part in outdoor recreation supply. The area has a fairly well laid-out and accessible roadway system. Abundant opportunities exist for multi-use trail systems to parallel the roadways and connect sites throughout the town and township. Also, because of the widespread development in the county, there are utility corridors available to consider for trail development, if those private company owners will allow.

Cultural elements are also available to accommodate residents' leisure choices. Sullivan Munce Cultural Center is located in the heart of The Village and offers a wide range of exhibits, events, and programs celebrating art, history, and genealogy. Zionsville was one of the stops on President-elect Abraham Lincoln's Whistle-Stop trip through the Midwest on his way to Washington in February of 1861. This local historic event was commemorated with the establishment of Lincoln Park. A relatively new historic site, Maplelawn Farmstead (operated by a local non-profit group), celebrates the agricultural heritage of the area. The farmstead is part of Mulberry Fields Park, and holds "life on the family farm" programming, a murder mystery dinner theater with a local community theater troupe, and shows movies highlighting the 1930s era of the site.

Although Zionsville's parks are predominately passive in nature, some local groups who use the trails for organized races, walks, and runs, and sporting organizations (e.g. Zionsville Youth Football League that use Mulberry Fields Park for league play).

### **Social and Economic Factors**

Zionsville is located in the central section of the state and is part of that area that has seen phenomenal growth in the recent past. With the housing bubble burst, that growth has slowed considerably, and has given the Board a chance to step back and reflect on what changes are most important to make now.

#### *Zionsville – Pre Consolidation with Union and Eagle Townships*

Zionsville's economy historically was centered on its existence as a stop on passenger rail lines served by the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, & St. Louis Railway. From its humble beginnings, the Town has grown and prospered from primarily serving as a bedroom community supporting the Indianapolis metropolitan area to a thriving diverse community while still maintaining a character and charm that is unique to Zionsville. Zionsville, being home to a variety of employers, is known for its downtown area, which provides a unique shopping and dining experience for both residents and visitors to the community. The downtown area, while being the heart of the community, is within the Town's Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district which creates the opportunity for the Town to reinvest a percentage of the community's tax dollars right back into the hub of the Town's cultural tourism efforts. This same TIF district contains the bulk of the Town's larger employers and affords the Town the opportunity to re-invest into these employers and encourage retention in the form of low-interest loans for capital expenses, financial grants to improve an exterior of a building, financial assistance with job training, and economic development incentives in the form of grants to encourage relocation or expansion of new or existing businesses. As another example, a combination of TIF dollars and federal highway dollars were utilized to modernize a segment of 106<sup>th</sup> Street as a method to encourage additional private investment within the southeast quadrant of the Town and represents the most significant one-time economic development activity undertaken by the Town at that time.

Outside of the TIF district, the Town modifies its approach to economic development and re-investment efforts. As an example, the Town makes major financial contributions every year to both the Zionsville Chamber of Commerce and the Boone County Economic Development Commission. The Town contracts with these organizations to assist the Town with economic development activities within the entire community. And recently, the Town amended its Sewer Connection Fee Ordinance to reduce the

connection charge for new commercial and industrial development locating within the Town's limits. While both of these activities are not targeted to any specific beneficiary or area like activities within the TIF, these actions further the Town's overall reinvestment in the community.

#### *Zionsville – Post Consolidation*

The Town has always provided a competitive environment to do business. The private development of employment hubs such as Andrade Industrial Park, Bennett Technology Park, Mayflower Business Park, and Ripberger Industrial Park have provided for the location of new and expansion of existing employers. Many of the current employers as well as an assortment of potential new tenants continue to remain eligible to utilize the incentives made available in the TIF district. Along those lines, in 2012 the Town awarded nearly \$200,000 in development incentives in the TIF district related to business retention and expansion projects. By comparison, by the beginning of the second quarter of 2013, the Town will have awarded nearly \$500,000 in development incentives. Further, designed to encourage future private investment within the district, \$3,400,000 of public works projects within the TIF district are expected to be let in 2013. These projects find their roots in the Town's economic development planning efforts. In 2010 (just after consolidation), the Town engaged a consultant and assembled a committee to strategically plan economic development efforts. While initially the committee desired to include the entire community in the plan, it was determined that the most cost effective way to conduct the exercise was to focus on the southeast quadrant of the Town. After 18 months of conversations and a number of public meetings, the Town adopted its Economic Development Strategic Plan. This Plan, among other things, calls out a series of critical steps that are designed to enhance the Town's economic development climate. Since the Plan's September 2012 adoption, the Town has reviewed and approved several projects within the Plan's jurisdiction, most notably a 45 acre Federal Express distribution facility that is projected to result in a nearly \$40,000,000 investment. As Zionsville continues to climb out of the Recession that has gripped the Country, the Town is well positioned to market itself as a community that is ready to do business.

Zionsville's 2010 consolidated population of 24,334 is fairly evenly divided among the sexes (51.3% female, 48.7% male). Per the 2010 census, the majority of the population (68.4%) is over the age of 18 (median age 39 years). The population is nearly all white (94%). The remaining six percent are divided between Asian (2.7%), Hispanic/Latino (2.1%), Black (1.2%), and American Indian/Alaska Native (0.1%),. Residents are fairly young and most have families with children living at home. Citizens are well educated, with sixty-eight percent (68%) having at least a Bachelor's degree. Zionsville residents enjoy a high standard of living. The median household income in 2010 was \$108,420, suggesting a fair bit of disposable income people can use for leisure pursuits. It is important to keep in mind, however, that Zionsville does have about three percent (3%) of residents living below the poverty level (*US Census data, 2010*). Using statistics like these, the board can generalize some demand and know that facilities and programming for young, active families with children will continue to be important to residents.

Statistics such as those above can be useful for decision makers in determining the types of properties, amenities, and programs that will be attractive to residents and visitors. Providing excellent quality of life features can also help the community as a whole attract and retain business. Numerous national and international studies have shown that parks help sustain local economic development by providing attractive places

and quality of life factors that business owners are looking to gain for themselves and their employees. Parks, recreation, and green spaces help improve property values, increase tax revenues, create jobs, improve public health, and protect natural resources ([nrpa.org/advocacyresources](http://nrpa.org/advocacyresources)).

## **Zionsville History**

Zionsville was originally settled in the early 1820s. Patrick Sullivan and David Hoover were among Zionsville's first white settlers who followed rivers and streams into Indiana looking for new homes. By 1850, the small community of Eagle Village was thriving on the Michigan Road, a stagecoach route. This route attracted railroad barons, who came to the area in 1849 promoting construction of a railroad line between the cities of Indianapolis and Lafayette. The town of Zionsville was formally platted in 1852 and soon after the residents and businesses moved in to take advantage of the railroad. The *Zionsville Times Sentinel* began publishing in 1860, and continues to this date. Local folklore has it that Zionsville was a way stop on Abraham Lincoln's inauguration trip from Illinois to Washington, a moment commemorated with the establishment of Lincoln Park.

Zionsville residents have always celebrated history, arts, and love of the outdoors. In the 1890s, the community held huge outdoor gatherings in the summers—events drawing visitors by the thousands. Getting to Zionsville was easy, with the TH&E interurban passenger rail line opening in 1903 and continuing service until 1930.

The Park Department has a rich history to draw from. Staff and Board members should continue the celebration of the outdoors that has been part of Zionsville's history from the community's earliest days. Ample opportunity exists today to interpret the historic happenings of yesterday. Some of these types of offerings are already being held at Mulberry Fields Park's Maplelawn Farmstead. This historic site is programmed by Maplelawn's non-profit volunteer group.

## **Accessibility and Universal Design**

Creating accessibility throughout a park system is no small task. Accessibility encompasses so many different things, from people with temporary disabilities to people who lack financial resources. Each person, regardless of physical, mental, emotional, or financial ability must be considered and included in all facets of facility and program design. Given the notable percentage of residents who state they have a disability (about 15% of the total population), particular attention should be paid to the challenge of appropriate universal design and access. As the local population ages, more and more people will acquire some level of disability, whether temporary or permanent.

Universal access can become quite technical. There are a number of ways a park department can seek to provide park lands, facilities, and programs to the most user groups possible. One of the simplest ways is to research other park departments and see what they offer and what are their various models of accessibility. This could be done through staff, volunteers, or with partner agencies/organizations.

The department may instead choose to hire a consultant to perform a full-scale audit of Zionsville's facilities, sites, and programs. The result of this study could be a full range of accessible events, equipment, trails, and leisure opportunities for the community. The Parks Department is currently able to work closely with the Town's designated ADA

coordinator to help inventory park sites and programs. This important position has been assigned to the Planning and Economic Development Director. Residents and visitors are able to contact the administrative offices via phone (317.873.8245) or in person at the town hall building for any questions or to begin formal grievance procedures. The Town has contracted with a consultant (in 2013) to help craft a transition plan. A copy of the Town's ADA Resolution is included in the appendix.

Board members and staff do feel a responsibility to provide quality leisure experiences in the least restrictive ways possible. Board members and staff should either receive such training, or ensure that any outside contractor is mindful of the importance of providing parks and programs for all users. Whatever analysis method is ultimately chosen, equal consideration should be given to how usable Zionsville's parks and programming are for the young, the elderly, the poor, and for persons with disabilities.

Over the past five years, the Park Board has been busy crafting and implementing designs of multipurpose pathways, trail linkages, and park sites, using guidelines from the National Access Board. Some specific examples are: Turkey Foot trail, the Laurel Street path connection, Improvements to the Nancy Burton corridor, and the Elm Street Green park design and development.

**Needs Analysis**

A common method of determining needs begins with a simple acres per person calculation. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has spent decades assisting local departments in planning for their future. They have developed both an acreage and a facility standard for local departments to use to help plan for future acquisition and development.

*Land Standards*

Land available for recreation purposes is divided into two broad categories: local and regional. Local lands are those managed by a county, municipal, or township government. Regional lands are typically managed by either the state or federal government. These lands taken together make up the total recreation land available to the public. The minimum standard for local lands is .020 acres per person. Minimum suggested standard for regional lands is .035 acres per person. The total minimum amount of land per person is .055 acres. Therefore, each person in Zionsville should have .055 acres in which to play. ***Multiplied out (total population x .055), local residents should have at least 1,376 acres of outdoor recreation space for all types of lands.***

The Town currently has about 415 acres of property in its inventory.

Type of Land	Acres per person	Acres per 1,000 people
Local	.020	20
Regional	.035	35
Total	.055	55

The Zionsville Park and Recreation Board should focus efforts on proving lands to meet the **local share** (total population x .020) of outdoor recreation acreage. Local recreation areas usually include all types of land accessible to the general public. This would include nontraditional park sites like schools, private recreation areas (private golf courses, pools, commercial recreation areas and the like). Currently the Board is in good

position to provide lands for leisure opportunities. A careful eye should be kept on the growing population and the fact that there is no county park board to help shoulder the recreational responsibilities for the area.

Although these general standards can be useful as a foundation for park planning, it is wise for individual park departments to conduct their own level of service study to determine the appropriate amount of park lands needed for their community. Zionsville did just this while preparing a park impact fee study. Through this study (available through the Park Board), the impact fee advisory committee concluded that the Zionsville standard for Park and Open Space land is 15 acres per 1,000 persons. To maintain this expected level of service, the Park Board will need an additional 14 acres of land by 2016 and 65 more acres by 2020, using current rates of population growth (*2012 Town of Zionsville Recreation Infrastructure Improvement Plan 2012-2017*). It is important to note that the 15 acres per person level of service is used only to determine the Park Impact Fee rate. The Town and Park Board have determined that 25 acres per person is the level of service desired.

Like local park agencies, the State of Indiana also prepares a recreation master plan every five years. In this plan, the state compiles a number of statistics dealing with land standards. ***In the most recent plan (2011-2015), Boone County was highlighted as being “critically deficient” in providing enough land for residents’ recreation.*** In this case “critically deficient” means that not only does Boone County, as a whole, not meet the optimal 55 acres/1,000 people, but also the population is growing at a rate exceeding the state average. The County does not have enough land in each of the three land types inventoried by the State – county, state, and region. According to these State standards, communities would optimally have some of each type of recreation land – some provided by the county; some by the local community (public and private); and some by regional providers. Per the State’s calculations, Boone County should have a total of 3115 outdoor recreation acres available to the public. The various county recreational sources currently provide only about 900 acres, leaving a deficit of 2,214 acres. The State’s Plan also notes that neighboring counties of Hamilton and Hendricks are critically deficient as well. So well designed and placed facilities with a regional draw may pull from other counties. This is already being observed to some degree with Mulberry Fields’ popular splashpad, which occasionally pulls from Danville, Brownsburg, and the western edge of Carmel. This may be locally viewed as a negative from an attendance perspective or as a positive from an economic development point of view. This is important information for the Park Board to note and to consider in deciding how best to meet the land needs of current and future residents.

#### *Facility Standards*

Another typical standard developed by the NRPA is categorized by park or facility type. The NRPA defines ten park types and offers suggestions for park and facility standards. Five of these types—Mini-Park, Neighborhood Park, School-Park, Community Park, and Large Urban Park—are not vast in tract size and generally serve a small, limited, and geographically constricted population base. These types of parks range in size from 1/4 acre to perhaps 50 acres and offer a typical array of play ground structures and picnic shelters. The Large Urban Park classification is flexible enough fit into either a municipal or a county system, should the area needs require it. They usually serve a broader purpose than the more focused kinds of park sites, and can be sized to accommodate a varied population base.

Two park types—Sports Complexes and Private Park/Recreation Facilities—are either for-profit entities, or serve a single purpose. While some county park systems may include a sport complex or fields, they do not typically dedicate themselves to such uses. The Zionsville Park and Recreation Board's mission does not emphasize these types of facilities, feeling that some form of partnership is the best way to achieve this, with the Park Department acquiring or having the land and placing traditional park facilities on it, while non-profit or private groups handle the sports complexes.

The remaining types—Natural Resource Areas, Greenways, Special Use Areas, and the broad category of Pathway systems—more usually fall into a county park system. These types of parks are generally larger tracts and encompass more passive than active recreation opportunities. The Greenway and Pathway classifications allow a park department to connect various sites to each other and to other important sites throughout the jurisdiction. The Natural Resource Areas and Special Use Areas cover broad ranges of recreational and leisure opportunities and facilities.

Currently, the trend is moving away from using these static and broad facility standards as they can foster a “cookie-cutter” approach to park development that does not take into account local needs or desires. They do, however, serve as useful foundations for both fledgling and more established departments. A more mature park agency like Zionsville’s can use these standards as a way of reexamining their foundation before moving toward the future desired state. The Park Board has, with the current Impact Fee Update, established facility service levels as well. These facilities include such items as ball fields, basketball courts, paved and natural surface trails, playgrounds, fishing access, garden plots, and parking. Details on facility standards are contained in the impact fee plan cited earlier.



## **Existing Zionsville Parks Facilities**

### *Existing Facilities*

Currently, the Park Board maintains twenty properties comprising 420 acres. The Town also owns the Zionsville Golf Course, which is operated by the Parks Department.

### ***Starkey Park***

This 72-acre park, located a quarter-mile southwest of the Village, is the largest park in Zionsville. Starkey Park is named for Lucile Starkey who bequeathed a major portion of the land to the Town in 1974 for use as a nature park. The park's wooded bottomland along Eagle Creek offers scenic beauty, hiking trails, nature study, and perfect settings for photography. Youth and adult educational programs are offered throughout the year. This facility is a restricted-use nature park.

### ***Jennings Field***

This 10-acre park located northwest of downtown, was donated in 1977 by Bill Jennings, the developer of an adjacent housing development. It contains four (4) multi-use athletic fields, a refreshment building with restroom facilities, a picnic shelter, and a playground area. The expansive parking area also serves as convenient parking for Rail Trail users.

### ***Lincoln Park***

This one-acre park is nestled in the Village. Abraham Lincoln, on his way to Washington, D.C. to be inaugurated to the Presidency of the United States, stopped to visit in 1861. The tranquil setting is ideal for quiet interludes. The gazebo at the north end of the park is used for summer concerts, weddings, and other special events. Other amenities include picnic tables, benches, a fountain, and a memorial dedicated to Mr. Lincoln.

### ***Tennis Courts/Playground***

Two lighted tennis courts are located on the east side of the Village, adjacent to Lion's Park (Lions Park is not Town owned). The one-acre mini-park also includes a tennis practice area and an extensive playground that is a favorite of neighborhood children.

### ***Zionsville Rail Trail***

This multi-use trail is a major component of the town's pathway system. The current total length of the trail is 3.5 miles. A Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant of \$59,700 contributed to the development of the Rail Trail. The trail begins at Nancy Burton Memorial Park, which was donated to the Parks Department in 1991 by Lee Burton, in memory of his wife. In honor of this donation, the southern portion of the Rail Trail from Eagle Creek to Oak Street Creek, a switchback down, and a trail along the creek, provide a connection to Starkey Park. Heading north, the Rail Trail continues beyond Mulberry Street, where a tunnel provides safe passage under the street. The section of trail that continues north to County Road 875 East is known as the Dave Brown Corridor of the Rail Trail.

### ***Turkey Foot Nature Park***

This nature park consists of 23 forested, primarily bottom land, acres. Robert Carter donated 16 acres in 1995 and seven acres were donated by LEFBO Development Corp. in 2001. This nature park has a footbridge over Eagle Creek, hiking trails, paved parking area, and pathway connection east to Red Bud Lane.

### ***Village Corner***

This 1,400 square foot pocket park is at the corner of Cedar and Main Streets in the center of downtown Zionsville. Established in 2001, it is a restful, cozy oasis with benches and plantings. The park also includes a street clock with carillon and an historical marker.

### ***American Legion Trail Crossing***

The local American Legion Post donated this two-acre property in 1998. This quiet contemplative site is adjacent to the Zionsville Rail Trail and honors Zionsville citizens who have served our country in the U.S. Armed Forces. The small parking area also serves as convenient parking for Rail Trail enthusiasts.

### ***Creekside Nature Park***

Dow AgroSciences donated this 18-acre property bordering Eagle Creek in 2001. A Recreational Trails Program grant for \$62,800 assisted the development of the park. The park contains a parking lot and 0.6 mile handicap accessible pathway from the parking lot to Eagle Creek. The pathway then runs along Eagle Creek back to the parking lot. This property is on the south side of Sycamore Street across from Lions Park.

### ***Zion Nature Sanctuary***

In 2001, Zionsville Community Schools donated this 10-acre property, located west of Eagle Elementary School. The park, developed in part with a \$200,000 grant from the Land & Water Conservation Fund, offers wooded areas, nature trails, wetland areas, and an outdoor classroom.

### ***Zion Nature Center***

This facility is leased from Zionsville Community Schools. The facility offers a wide variety of nature programs and exhibits. For more information, call 317-873-8950. Hours of operation: Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

### ***Carter Station***

Robert Carter donated this eight-acre property in 1999. The park is adjacent to the Zionsville Rail Trail. Currently the site has been developed for passive trail use by the installation of 0.4 mile of trails. This facility's parking is accessed via a lane from Pebblepointe Pass in Cobblestone Lakes.

### ***Elm Street Green***

This 15.5-acre site was designed through an intensive public input process in 2009. Phase One was implemented in 2010 and includes many passive features such as shelters, benches, a decorative fountain, and 0.8 mile of trails. The park also includes components installed as demonstration features for various environmentally friendly green techniques. These include permeable pavers, bio-basins, and drip irrigation for stormwater quality purposes. There are also LED street lamps to reduce electrical use and the park's carbon footprint. Additionally, prairie-meadows were planted to reduce mowing costs, increase stormwater infiltration, and provide a varied, beautiful habitat for butterflies, birds and other wildlife.

### ***Mulberry Fields***

This 38-acre parcel was purchased by the Town in 2003. The park includes multi-use athletic fields, a skate park, splash park, sledding hill, prairie-meadow plantings with interpretive signage, and pathways. The original farmstead has been preserved for educational programs and is managed by Maplelawn Farmstead, Inc. via a long-term lease. Further information is available at: [www.maplelawnfarmstead.org](http://www.maplelawnfarmstead.org)

### ***Town Hall Park***

This park offers easy access to the Zionsville Rail Trail and is located behind Zionsville Town Hall at 1100 West Oak Street. A shelter house with picnic tables is located on the property. Other improvements are under consideration.

### ***Wetland Area***

Robert Carter, in 2001, donated nearly 20 acres of wetlands. In 2010, the Park Board determined that currently, this land should be left undeveloped in its natural state as part of a strategic greenspace reserve.

### ***Zionsville Golf Course***

No place is more conveniently located for a game of golf than this public, nine-hole facility. Located just north of the Village, this par 36, 3,000-yard course offers a challenge for players of all skill levels. Leagues and lessons are offered for men, women, and children. Family and company outings are welcome.

Tee times are available seven days a week. For more information, call 317-873-4218

The following sites have recently been added to the inventory of parks and are not yet fully developed and/or accessible to the public:

**Heritage Trail Park**

This 10+ acre site is located west of 875 E. and adjacent to the David Brown Corridor. Phase 1 development plans for 2013 include extension of the rail trail; trail head parking; 1/4 mile internal park trail; picnic shelter; hard surface play court; bocce court; and community garden plots.

**Holiday Nature Park** (not yet accessible)

This site is located in the northern portion of Zionsville, east of 975 E. along Eagle Creek. It is part of a life estate and is currently undeveloped.

**Unnamed Donation Parcel**

This 7.86 acre property is located east of the golf course and is currently undeveloped.

**Other Local Facilities**

There are few other private or public recreation facilities available to Zionsville residents in the immediate area. Adjacent Hamilton County has both a thriving county park system and parks available via the Carmel/Clay Parks Department.

Within Boone County, the City of Lebanon (about 15 miles northwest of the Town boundaries) has an established public park system. Both Eagle and Union Townships currently have park boards as well.

There are other popular local recreation facilities; namely Lions Park and Azionaqua Swim Club. Both are privately owned but available to the general public.

The Zionsville Park and Recreation Board will continue to work and think ‘outside of the box’ of its Mission Statement to cooperatively work with other local recreation providers to achieve a balance in active and passive opportunities. Board and staff members hope to become local leaders in ensuring residents and visitors have a place to learn and play. Some specific examples of this include working toward “complete streets” and “bicycle friendly” community standards. This is under consideration by the Town Council, who would ultimately make any decisions toward these efforts. The council has established a committee to explore the Bicycle Friendly community designation that includes park board member and park staff participation.



## **Priorities and Action Plan**

The Priorities and Action Plan is developed by considering all the bits of information gathered through research, surveys, and public input and combining them into one “plan of attack.” The resulting Action Plan is what will help the Board make appropriate acquisition and development decisions over the next five years. Of course, any discussion of establishing priorities and developing an action plan should include a review of past goals and objectives. The Board spends time yearly reviewing its original Priorities and Action Plan (created in 2002) and noting where goals had been achieved. If a goal had been completed, it was removed from consideration for this planning cycle. If a goal had not yet been completed or is ongoing, the Board considered whether it was still valid and if so, incorporated it into the current Action Plan.

The Park Board has made significant achievements during the current planning cycle. Work planned for Zion Nature Sanctuary, Creekside Nature Park, Carter Station, Phase I of Elm Street Green, and Mulberry Fields has been completed. Construction has been completed on a large pedestrian bridge spanning Eagle Creek through Turkey Foot Nature Park and planned construction for the American Legion Trail Crossing is nearly complete. The Town Council has also completed the acquisition of Zionsville Golf Course, bringing this popular recreation site to the public realm.

The actions and priorities in this current plan were drawn from the broad goals developed through the Board and Stakeholder work sessions and through general public

input. Costs associated with some of the actions (e.g., construction costs when plans have not yet been completed) included in the plan are unknown, and are therefore impossible to estimate. In those cases, the cost is noted as “unknown.” In certain cases, costs will only be known when other items (such as land appraisals) are completed. The plan will continue to be revised as costs become firmer. In other cases, costs are noted as “N/A,” since these items are either a part of conducting business and would be a component of the Park Board’s annual operating budget or would not have an associated cost.

## Priorities and Action Plan Summary

<b>Park Board Administrative Goals</b>	
Be a leader in making trail connections an important component to all master plans – local, county, state, and national arenas.	
Year	Ongoing
Priority	High
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
Endorse and support efforts to connect Zionsville to Whitestown rail trail project.	
Year	2013
Priority	High
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
Pursue connection from Lions Park to Elm Street to Willow Road	
Year	2014
Priority	Medium
Cost	Unknown
Funding Source	Operating budget, grants, donations
Review Pathways Committee Plans annually, give input on priorities	
Year	Ongoing, annually
Priority	Medium
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
Implement five year master plan – review annually	
Year	Ongoing, annually in January
Priority	High
Cost	Unknown
Funding Source	Operating budget, grants, donations

Create new five year master plan update	
Year	2017
Priority	High
Cost	Unknown
Funding Source	Operating budget
Coordinate smooth transition of Nature Center move to become its own NPO with operating board of directors	
Year	2013
Priority	High
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
Manage Issues and Opportunities	
Year	Ongoing, monthly
Priority	Medium
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
Seek and develop partnership opportunities, especially a Friends of the Parks program	
Year	2014
Priority	High
Cost	Unknown
Funding Source	Operating budget
Obtain and maintain adequate funding – evaluate maintenance needs and standards of service	
Year	2013
Priority	Medium
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
Volunteer and Staff support. Examples could include: Create/maintain list of volunteer projects; utilize Town HR staff information where possible; grow existing volunteer projects, etc.	
Year	Ongoing, annually review
Priority	High
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
Wherever feasible and appropriate, encourage the protection, conservation, and preservation of existing natural areas. Examples could include: Craft a maintenance plan and work with qualified technical consultants to help accomplish.	
Year	2014
Priority	Medium

Cost	Unknown
Funding Source	Operating budget
<b>Land Resources Advisory Committee</b>	
Continue to evaluate land available for purchase and prioritize against needs. Examples could include: Identify all lands for sale and evaluate strategic parcels; maintain priority list; review Park Resource guidelines.	
Year	Ongoing, bi-monthly to annually
Priority	High
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
Encourage land contributions to develop parks and trails that meet Park Resource guidelines.	
Year	Ongoing, annually
Priority	Medium
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
<b>Recreation and Programs Advisory Committee</b>	
Promote use of Park Board's Recreation Grant and manage this program	
Year	Annually, January through March
Priority	High
Cost	\$8,000
Funding Source	Operating budget
Golf Course. Develop and manage marketing efforts to promote use; upgrade course as required	
Year	Ongoing, annually
Priority	High
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	Golf Course user fees
Continue current community programs (family bike ride, garden plots, Starkey mini, etc.)	
Year	Ongoing, annually
Priority	High
Cost	Unknown
Funding Source	Operating budget, donations
Evaluate need for community center	
Year	2015
Priority	Medium
Cost	Unknown
Funding Source	Operating budget
Further development of recreation facilities and programs (movies in the parks, family camp night, etc), in partnerships with outside groups (adult sports, art classes, adventure	

sports, etc.)	
Year	2014
Priority	High
Cost	Unknown
Funding Source	Operating budget, grants, donations
Continue relationship and contract with Zionsville youth sports groups (ZSA, ZYFL, etc.)	
Year	Ongoing
Priority	High
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
<b>Finance Advisory Committee</b>	
Pursue grants, sponsorships and partnerships with key community organizations and other funding sources	
Year	2014
Priority	High
Cost	Unknown
Funding Source	Operating budget
<b>Facilities Advisory Committee</b>	
Craft Parks standard levels of service	
Year	2013
Priority	High
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
Evaluate maintenance needs of each park and facility and create annual 'wish list'	
Year	Ongoing, annually
Priority	High
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
Research and evaluate each park for inclusion of additional activities/features	
Year	2014 start, ongoing annually thereafter
Priority	Medium
Cost	Variable, but probably ave. range from \$2,000 - \$10,000
Funding Source	Operating Budget (if Council approved) and/or Capital budget, donations
Research and begin pilot project to designate a park site to partner with an outside group (e.g., Boy/Girl Scouts, local civic groups, etc.) for needed improvements	
Year	2015
Priority	Medium
Cost	Unknown, but expected to be nominal
Funding Source	Group donations, Operating budget and/or Capital budget

Ongoing maintenance and upgrade of existing facilities – parks, trails, playground, and cemeteries	
Year	Ongoing
Priority	High
Cost	Varies
Funding Source	Operating and Capital budget
Continue to consider safety and accessibility issues in the development and maintenance of parks and programs in coordination with Town ADA coordinator	
Year	Ongoing, annually
Priority	High
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
Conduct an assessment survey of popularity and use of each park	
Year	2014
Priority	High
Cost	Unknown
Funding Source	Operating budget
Identify location for a dog park and establish operating parameters and guidelines	
Year	2014
Priority	Medium
Cost	Unknown
Funding Source	Operating budget

<b>Communications Advisory Committee</b>	
Ensure awareness of Parks and Recreation activities, facilities, programs, and projects	
Year	2013 start, ongoing thereafter
Priority	High
Cost	Unknown, but expect \$1,000-\$2,000 annually
Funding Source	Operating budget
Complete communications strategy document	
Year	2013
Priority	High
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
Complete park and trail system signage	
Year	2014
Priority	High
Cost	\$2,500-\$10,000
Funding Source	Operating and capital budget

Evaluate website use and effectiveness	
Year	2014
Priority	Medium
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	
Create schedule of regularly offered programs and public notifications	
Year	2013 start, ongoing thereafter
Priority	High
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
Evaluate need for existing town way-finding maps and suggest changes/improvements	
Year	2013
Priority	High
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
Create a central location in town hall for residents to gather information on parks and programs	
Year	2015
Priority	Low
Cost	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
Research and develop a robust tool to capture feedback on a regular basis	
Year	2014
Priority	High
Cost	Unknown
Funding Source	Operating and capital budget





## **Public Input**

Citizen input is vital to the overall success of any master plan. It is through this input that the parks board answers the “where are we” and “where do we want to go” questions. When residents have a say in the creation of a planning document like this one, then they have a bit of ownership and desire to help achieve the stated goals. To that end, the Zionsville Park and Recreation Board worked hard to elicit such input. Park Board and staff work sessions were held, key stakeholder interviews were conducted, a general public meeting was held, and an online community survey was conducted. All data gathered was used to craft the Action Plan items to be carried out over the next five years.

### *Key stakeholder interviews*

A series of interviews with key community residents and elected officials were conducted to help direct the future of parks and recreation over the next five years. Over 75 people were invited to participate; 38 came to the meetings and gave their input. Six separate interview sessions were held and a variety of local decision-makers, special interest groups, town staff members, and service organizations were invited to participate and give their thoughts and suggestions about various aspects of the existing park and recreation system. The specific groups and dates are below:

**Group 1: Town Staff, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Department heads                      Full time employees  
Town Technology Staff                  Golf course employees

**Group 2: Park Board Advisory Committees, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Land Advisory                              Recreation  
Facilities                                      Financial  
Communications

**Group 3: Town/Community political leadership, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Town Council                                  Boone County Economic Development Commission  
Chamber    Clerk-Treasurer  
Town Manager                                  Homeowners Associations

**Group 4: Service Organizations, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Lions    Kiwanis  
Optimists    Eagle Creek Watershed Alliance  
Tri Kappa    Zionsville Pathways Committee  
Rotary    Friends of Zion Nature Center

**Group 5: Special Interest Groups, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012**

Youth sports groups                          Indiana Wildlife Federation  
Local Realtors                                  Central Indiana Land Trust  
Audubon    Central Indiana Bicycling Assoc.  
Indianapolis Hiking Club

**Group 6: Park Committee Members, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012**

Various individuals who have served/are serving on park committees

These individuals were all asked to give their opinions on the successes and some areas for improvement, as well as their thoughts on important issues on which the park board might concentrate efforts. The most often mentioned items are noted below:

**Top Strengths** (mentioned by 4 or more groups):

Pathways, trails, and an interconnected park system  
Natural assets, Eagle Creek Corridor  
Good amount of undeveloped land available

**Top Weaknesses** (mentioned by 4 or more groups):

Funding  
Need more trails and pathways  
Need more active parks  
Need more programming

**Top Opportunities** (mentioned by 4 or more groups):

Partnerships (with a variety of mentions; governmental, private sector, non-profit, etc.)  
Land in unconsolidated areas  
Programming

**Top Threats** (mentioned by 4 or more groups):

Funding and land costs  
Developments and the loss of land

**Top Issues facing the Department** (mentioned by 3 or more groups):

Land acquisition  
Funding

Some of these items are similar to what were mentioned during the last planning efforts. The Board should carefully consider how to address these ongoing issues and how best to incorporate strategies and actions into this planning cycle.

*Public Input Meeting*

The park board conducted a public input meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Twenty-five people attended the meeting. Attendees were asked to give their opinions on a variety of issues including funding, consolidation, trails, programming/educational, and availability of/access to recreation. Their thoughts are summarized below, with only the top priorities in each category listed. The same categories were used as last planning cycle (with the exception of Consolidation; that was added for this cycle). Some significant differences were found this time. For example, under the Funding category, attendees stated a willingness to pay more in taxes to fund parks. This item ranked the highest in that category. This was not mentioned by the public during the last planning effort. In the Programming category, ice-skating ranked very high last time; during this public meeting, ice-skating was not mentioned. As a side note, ice hockey was mentioned in some of the online survey comments section. One item that continues to be very important to residents is trails and trail connections. The park board may want to continue to focus efforts in this direction.

**Funding:**

Taxes (attendees indicated a willingness to pay more in taxes to fund parks)  
Continue to fund non-reverting capital fund  
Use food and beverage tax  
Public referendum to obtain funds to build (if allowed under state law)

**Consolidation:**

Land acquisition (land bank more land for future development and acquire land with unique features)  
Develop Eagle Creek Corridor  
Connect Urban and Rural areas of Zionsville  
Dog park

**Trails:**

Connect Zionsville to the world at large (Town Planning Department lead with Parks Department assisting)  
Have developers install paths when they build projects  
Connect schools to subdivisions and shopping – need crosswalks  
Incorporate trails into road design to accommodate bike/car/pedestrian (Town Planning/Streets Departments lead with Parks Department assisting)  
Include other uses like equestrian and mountain biking

**Programming/Educational:**

- Have outside organizations provide activities at park facilities
- Stock Eagle Creek with trout (will need permission from DNR and funding beyond the Parks Department)
- Programming should grow with park space/facilities
- Expand nature programming into other parks
- Have a larger nature center that is open every day

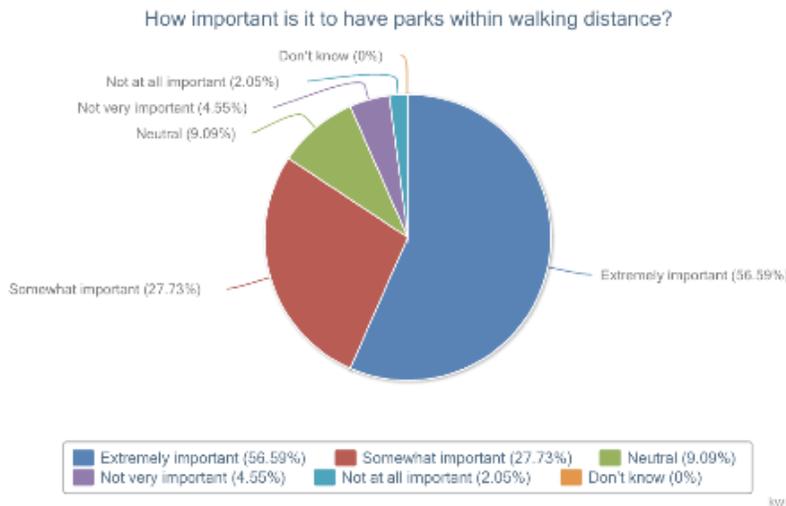
**Availability of/Access to Recreation:**

- Have a huge nature center open 7 days a week without school involvement
- Dog Park
- Need support of the Town Council
- Mountain bike facilities
- Parks department should be in charge of all Town green spaces
- Bike lanes (Town Planning/Streets with Parks assisting)

*Community survey*

The park board chose to conduct a community wide electronic survey. With today's tech savvy population, the board felt they would receive a good response to this type of questionnaire. The survey was administered through kwiksurveys.com, an easy to use online tool. The link was administered to and/or promoted through the local papers, the park website and Facebook page, sports clubs, community service clubs, area churches, local businesses, and several email databases (HOAs, etc). This proved to be a popular choice, with a total of 442 questionnaires completed. Only limited demographic questions were asked, (such as sex and age range) so as to make it less likely folks would feel too much personal information was requested and therefore abort the survey.

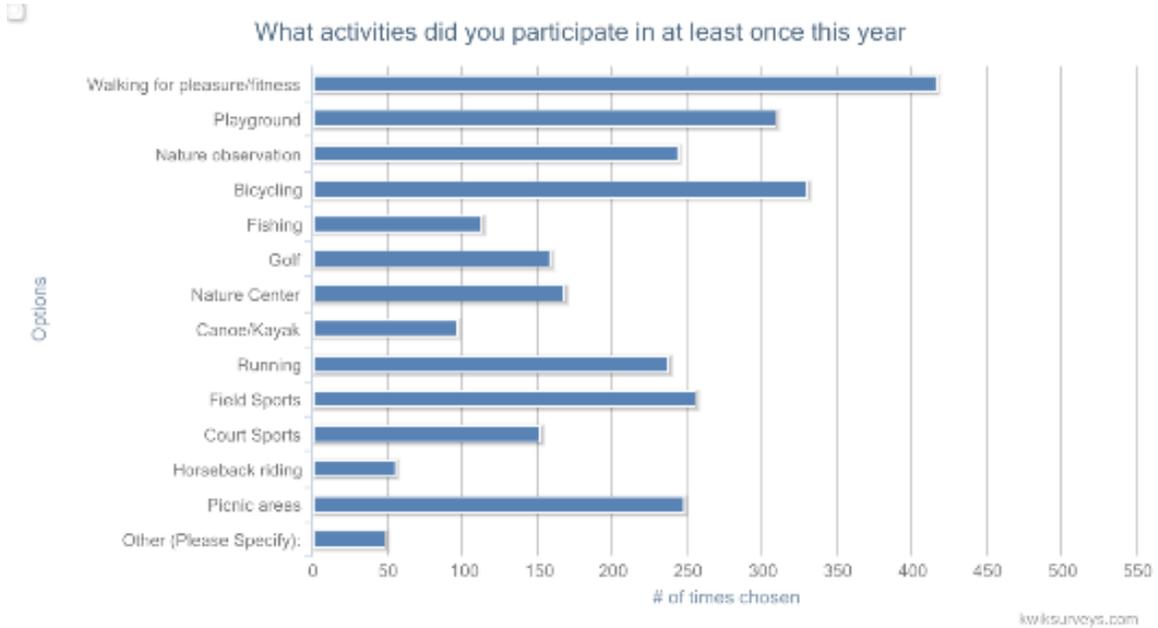
The board asked a series of fairly detailed questions designed to give them an idea of how important it is to have recreation areas close to residents' homes, the way people play, and some of the desirable recreation features. One question asked was how important it is to residents to have parks within walking distance from their homes.



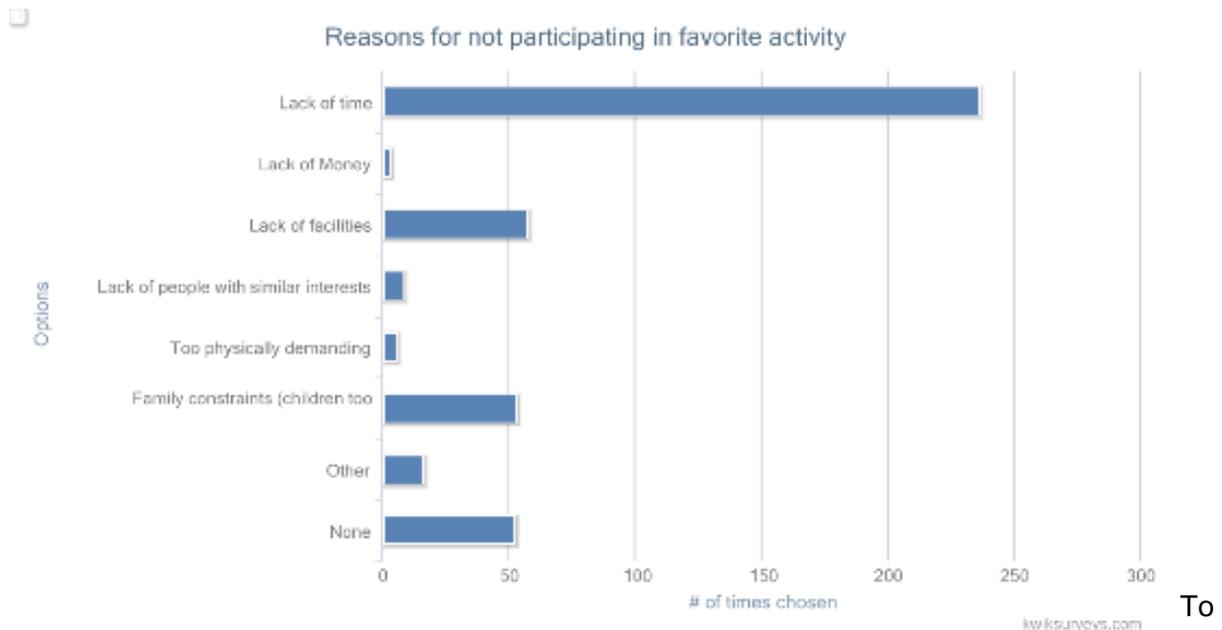
The chart at left shows that a majority of respondents (84.3%) feel it is at least somewhat important to have park facilities within walking distance from their residence.

An extremely important bit of information is how people use their leisure time. One

survey question asked what activities residents participated in during the current year. The chart below shows that walking is by far the most popular activity, followed closely by bicycling, with playground use, field sports, and picnicking rounding out the top five activities. This type of data gives the park board an idea of the popularity of differing activities and can help direct dollars more efficiently in future years.



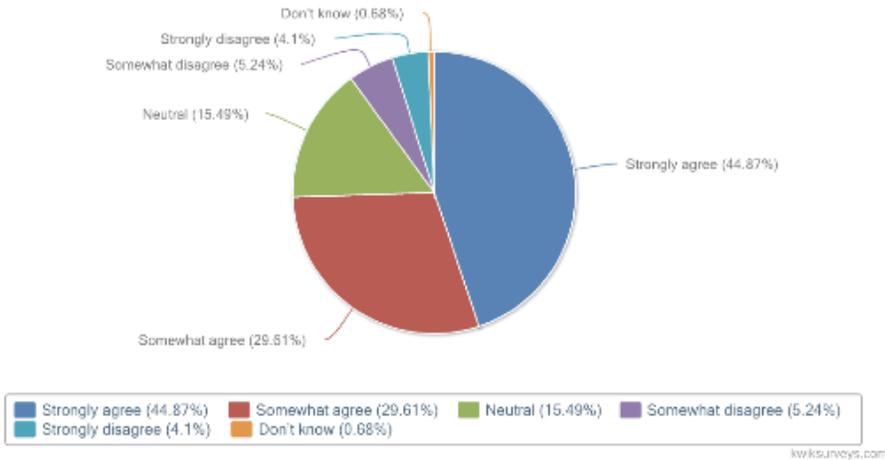
Another important piece to consider is why people don't participate in their favorite outdoor recreation activities. When asked this question, most respondents indicated a lack of time, facilities, or family constraints were the cause. This information can give the park board needed "ammunition" to make a determination on where to develop additional park lands or facilities. The chart below shows why people do not participate in outdoor activities.



To

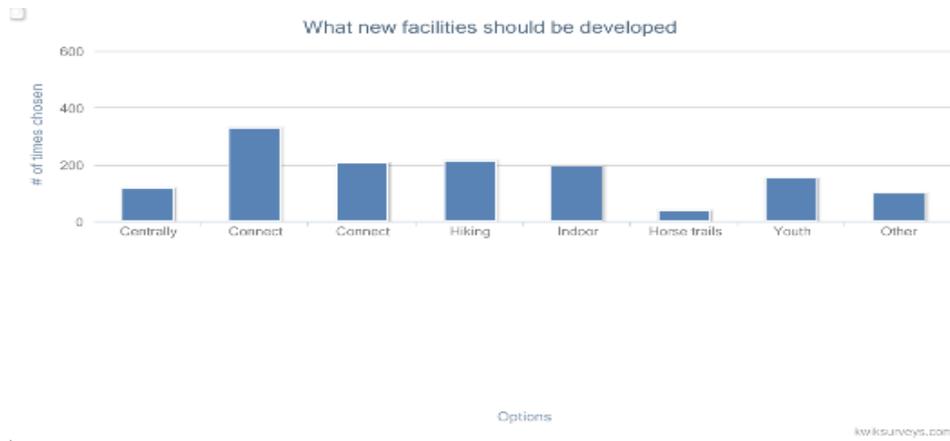
help further determine park acquisition needs/desires and to gauge interest in new facilities, questions were asked whether land should be acquired and which new facilities should be developed.

Do you think Zionsville needs more land for parks, green spaces and trails?

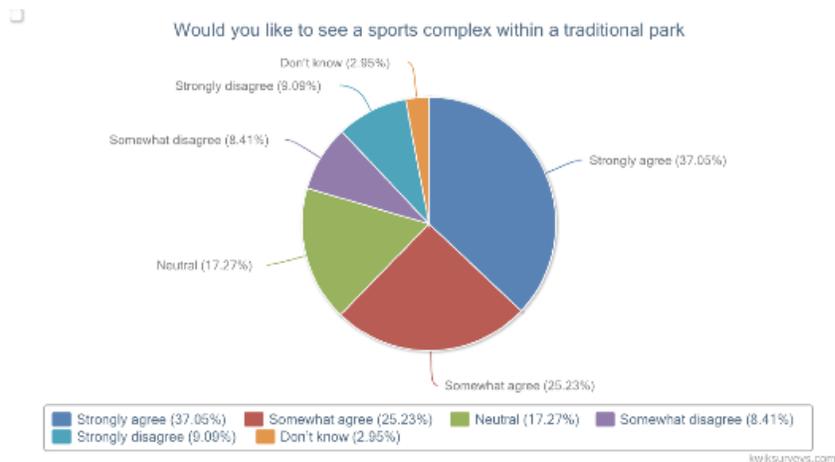


As can be seen from the chart at left, a strong majority (74.4%) of residents favor more land being made available for parks, green spaces, and trails.

Residents also indicated a desire for connections to be made between parks, homes, and schools. Indoor facilities are also desirable.



Because youth sports are quite popular in Zionsville, the board also asked if residents would favor creating a sports complex within a traditional park setting. Sixty-two percent (62%) of respondents indicated they would be in favor of such a facility, while only seventeen percent (17%) answered negatively.



The information contained in all the public input (survey responses, focus groups, and general input meeting) gives the park board a good foundation for decision making during this planning cycle.





## **Funding**

As mentioned previously, Zionsville and Boone County are seeing a phenomenal amount of growth in both population and building construction. As the number of residents grows, the demand for leisure services grows. In competition with the demand for more parks however, is an ever-dwindling supply of potential park property. Coupled with the dwindling property is finding enough dollars to fund it all.

The escalating cost of land and goods make supplying the public ever more difficult. With this in mind, traditional means of park and recreation support must be reconsidered and supplemented with other, less traditional mechanisms.

A number of these traditional options exist to finance park projects. The most common method is using public tax dollars to fund general operating budgets.

Within this process exist options such as non-reverting funds and special appropriations to help support on-going park development. It is clear, however, that using public tax dollars alone will no longer be acceptable as the sole funding method. Some alternatives to public taxes are discussed below.

### *Federal, State, and Local Grants*

A fairly common method of alternative funding is grants-in-aid programs. These types of programs can be very helpful in allowing an agency to stretch available tax dollars further. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, administered through the

Division of Outdoor Recreation, offers several state and federal grant programs. The following list names those programs currently available for park and recreation projects:

Hometown Indiana (on the State's books, but currently unfunded)  
Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund (on the State's books, currently unfunded)  
Land and Water Conservation Fund  
DNR Shooting Range Program  
Recreational Trails Program  
Transportation Department related funding

The application requirements, agency eligibility, and funding details for each program differ. A complete description is available from the Division of Outdoor Recreation. To fully safeguard and utilize these grant programs, the Park Board must be active and vigilant in supporting the continuance of such programs at the state and federal legislative level.

Other entities also offer grants or funding assistance to local agencies. There are a number of Indiana community foundations offering local support for local projects. One local foundation is the Central Indiana Community Foundation. This foundation supports, among other things, projects that support and protect natural resource areas.

#### *Public Support for Public Facilities*

A pay-as-you play mentality has existed for hundreds of years. Applying user fees to park services is a recognized method of obtaining at least some supplemental funding. A number of park agencies, state and nation-wide, have set fees to either, enter a site, park a car, or use certain facilities. Establishing new fees or increasing existing fees could work to boost the park budget and allow additional support. Alternate fee schedules could be implemented for in town and out-of-town residents. It would be wise, though, to use a bit of caution when establishing any user and/or permit fee. Establishing such fees will incur some administrative costs. Setting fees too high in order to generate funds may work to alienate users and create an unsuitable situation in the future. Alternatively, setting fees too low in order to gain community acceptance may prove less cost effective in terms of actually paying for the program.

A partnership with other park agencies is not a new idea. Using common facilities, programs, and even staff can be a very cost effective method of providing services to a wide audience. Reaching outside that box can open a new realm of partnering possibilities. Zionsville Parks can look to partner with the school corporation. There is already a good relationship between the parks and schools and the school corporation appoints a member to the park board. This can help establish open lines of communication to create a beneficial partnership for both.

Many park boards have also worked to create a park foundation. The foundation is typically comprised of influential members of the community who can be counted on to help raise significant funds for particular park development or land purchases.

Other potential partners include the health care system. With increasing focus being placed on physical and mental health and wellness, this creates a logical partnership opportunity. The Park Board should look to the health care community for possibilities in funding, facility, and staff and programming support.

### *Private Support for Public Facilities*

A growing consideration in parks and recreation funding is the potential of partnering with private businesses or individuals. Accepting donations from these associations is not new. One-time monetary donations, volunteerism, and in-kind donations are traditional ways park departments have survived through the years. What is relatively new, however, is the level of funding being garnered through the private sector. Retaining a corporate sponsor for a single event is one way to pay for a program that might otherwise have to be reduced in scope or eliminated due to lack of adequate funding. Having local retailer sponsor an entire concert series instead of a single concert is one way to increase program opportunities.

Expanding on that idea, is acquiring a sponsor for the entire park system by establishing a cooperative marketing partnership. Joining the entire park department with one or two sponsors has the advantages of being less work and resulting in more cash for park services and facilities. This is one method of park funding that could certainly be carefully considered in the near future.

### *Other Options*

No examination of funding strategies would be complete without at least mentioning other options to either acquire land, increase staffing, or obtain more cash revenues. Conservation and/or development easements are one method used in other jurisdictions to successfully acquire park property. Acquiring lands through mitigation projects has also been used to some success. Park and fiscal officers could explore these techniques and perhaps work to establish some property tax incentives to encourage private citizens to donate tracts of land to the public park system.

Privatization of services is another alternate strategy of increasing staffing levels without hiring more staff. Instead of hiring park staff to mow all the park sites or to run a banquet facility, the park board could accept bids from private companies that specialize in such services. That way, the job still gets done, and gets done by people who know how to do it. Using banquet facilities as an example, the park board could provide the building for banquets and receptions, and seek bids from private concessionaires. This bidding method has the added advantage of allowing the park department to get a percentage of the receipts.

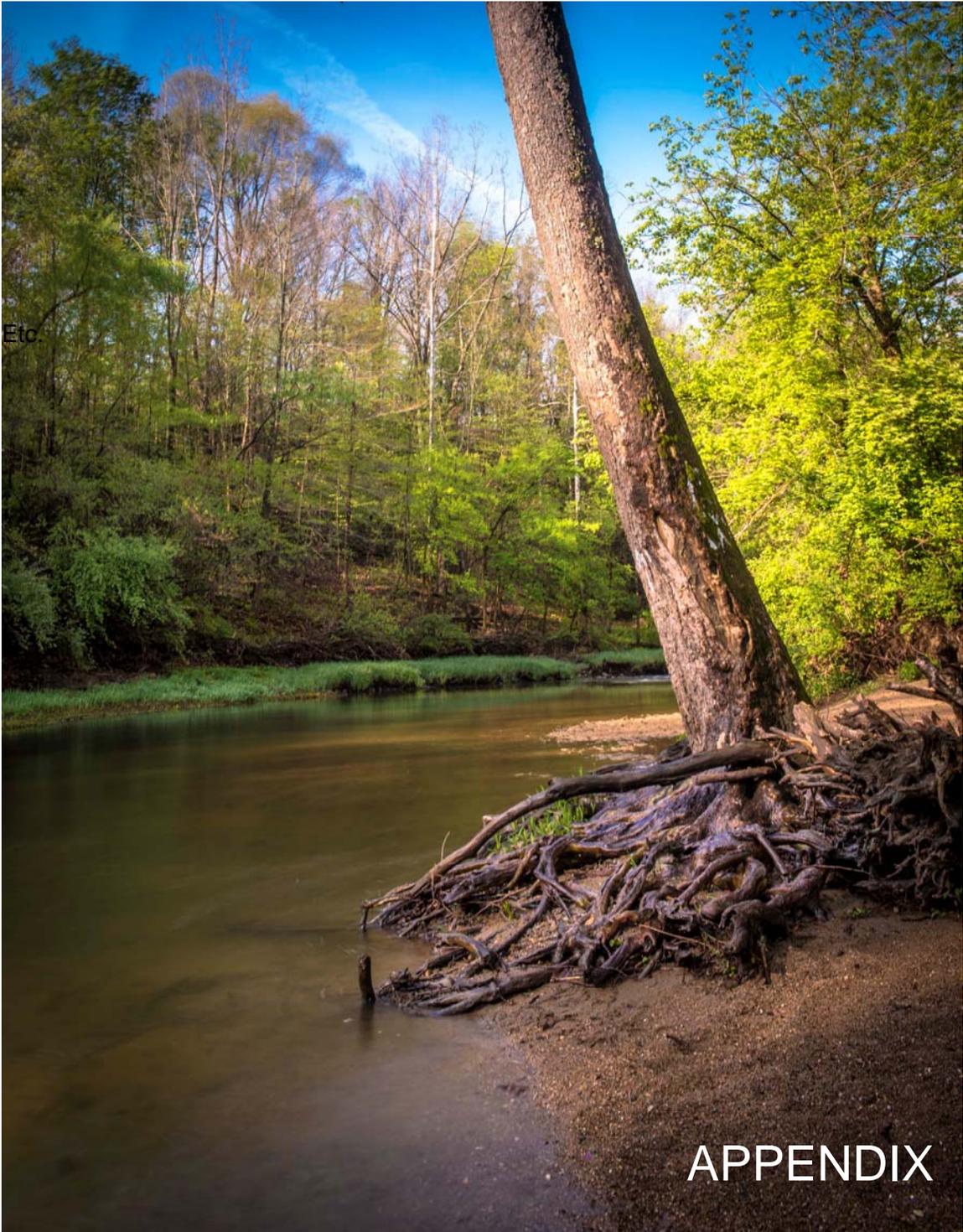
Inter-agency or inter-organizational partnerships are yet another relationship to explore. The park board could partner with other area agencies that are already providing some level of service to the public. If another agency has staff but no land, then the park board could allow that organization to provide its services at one or more park sites. Of course, both partners in this type of relationship should have similar goals and provide at least some similar services. Long-term leases and similar cooperative ventures are other viable options to consider. Board members and staff could work with other agencies to acquire and/or manage non-traditional lands (like landfills, quarries, etc.) or to perhaps partner with the County Fair Board to establish uses requiring additional lands for recreational uses (like dog parks).

Impact fees are an alternate method of financing new park facilities due to the demand created by new development. These types of dollars are typically enabled by the state legislature, who sets rules and procedures for calculating, implementing, and updating these fees. Generally, impact fees are dollars paid by new users. Such impact fees are

intended to cover the cost of the expansion of previous levels of park services that are needed to bring these new users the same park opportunities enjoyed by the current residents. When a new subdivision is constructed, impact fees are assessed for each new residence.

These funds go to maintain a level of service so that each resident can enjoy the same amount of park and recreation facilities. This way, new growth helps pay its share to maintain the entire park system's standard of service. Park impact fees are a valuable tool in the provision of park and recreation services, especially in growing communities. The Zionsville Park Board should continue to pursue their development and use.

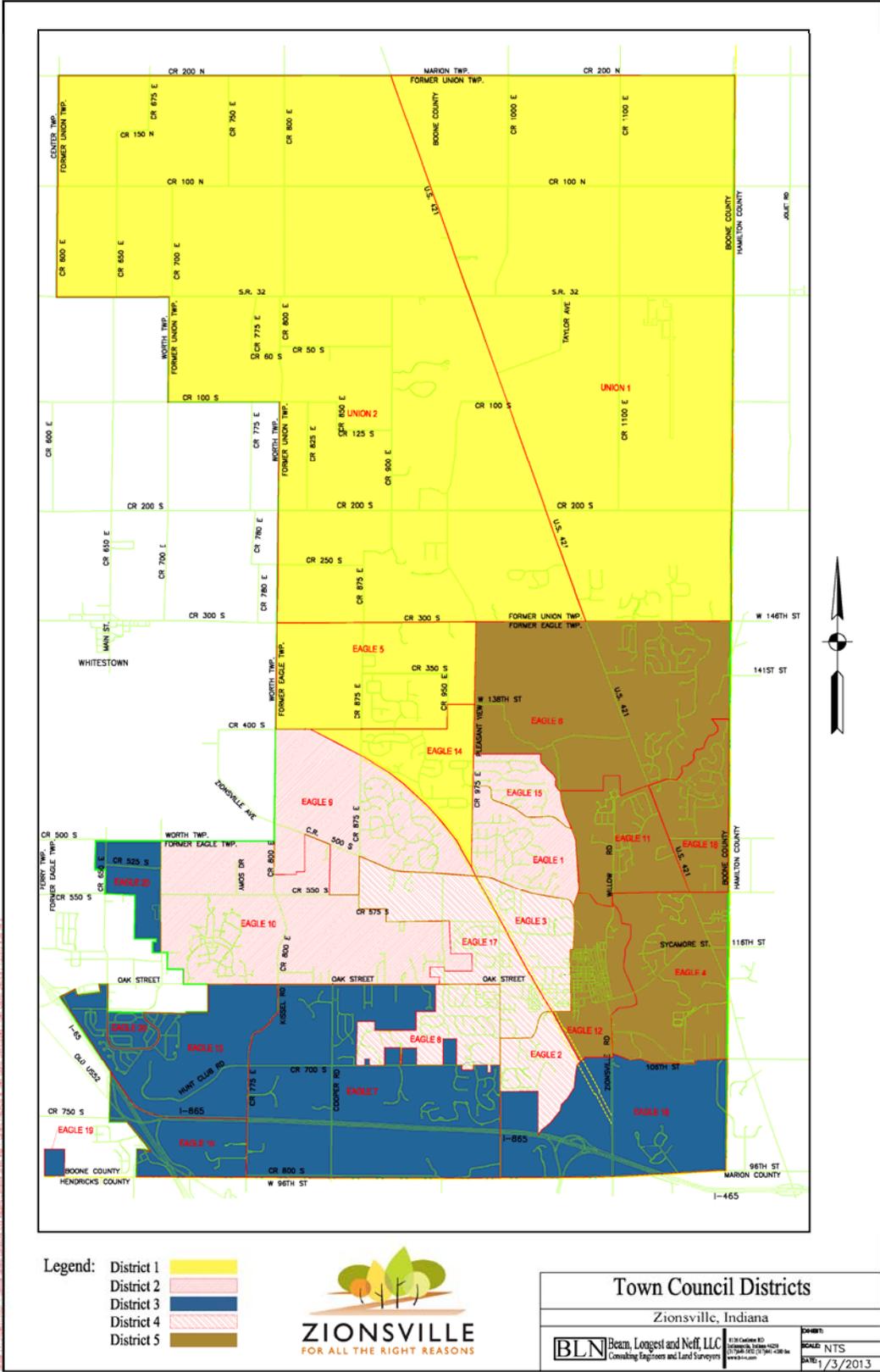
With a wide variety of funding strategies available to the Zionsville Park and Recreation Board, the increase in population and the associated increase in demand for recreation services should be able to be satisfied. The park board and local fiscal bodies should develop an overall funding approach that will carry the park department into the future; building a thriving agency that is up to future challenges and able to meet it's Mission of acquiring, developing, maintaining, and preserving park and green spaces for current and future residents.

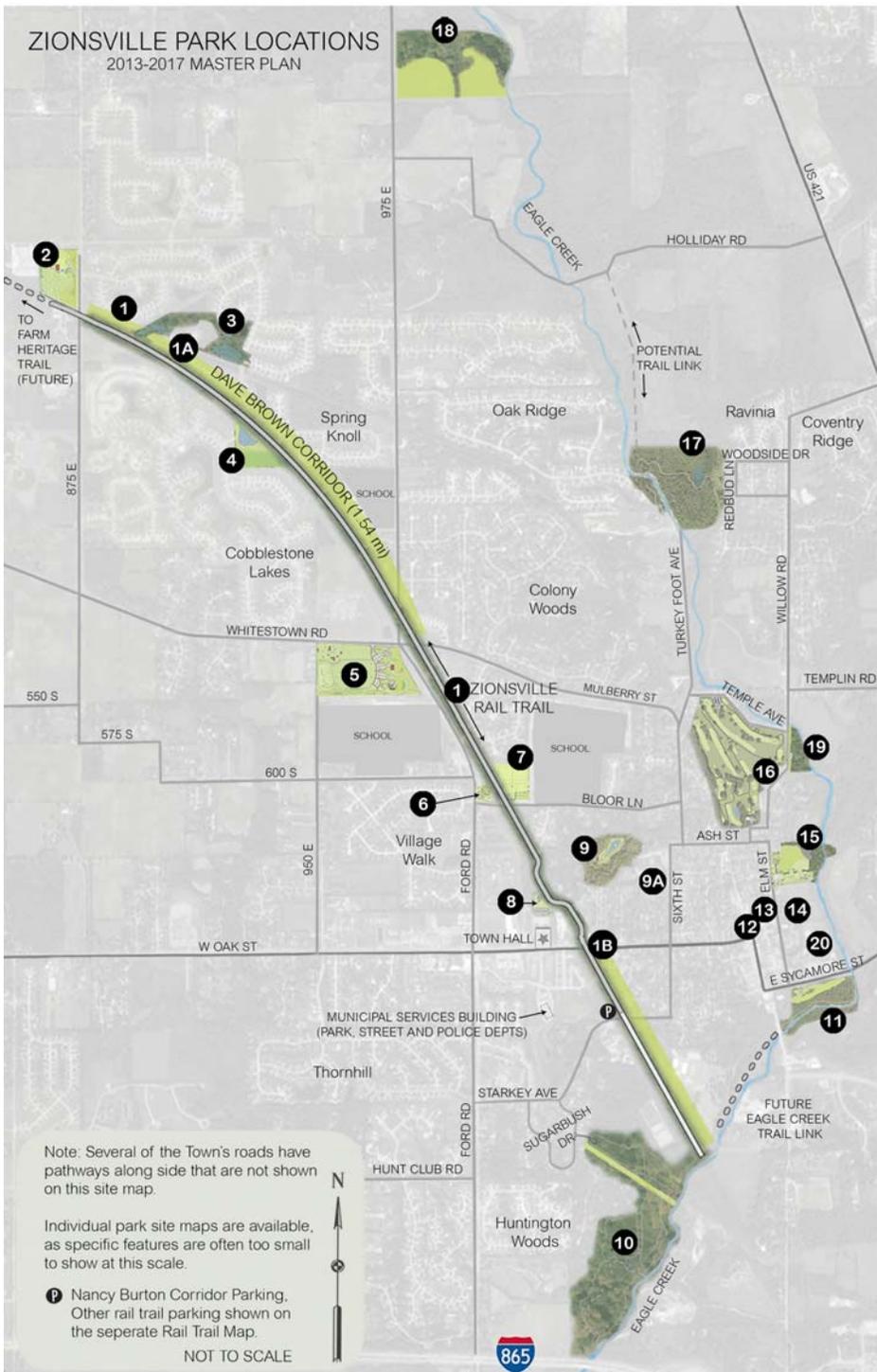


Etc

APPENDIX

# Map of Planning Area





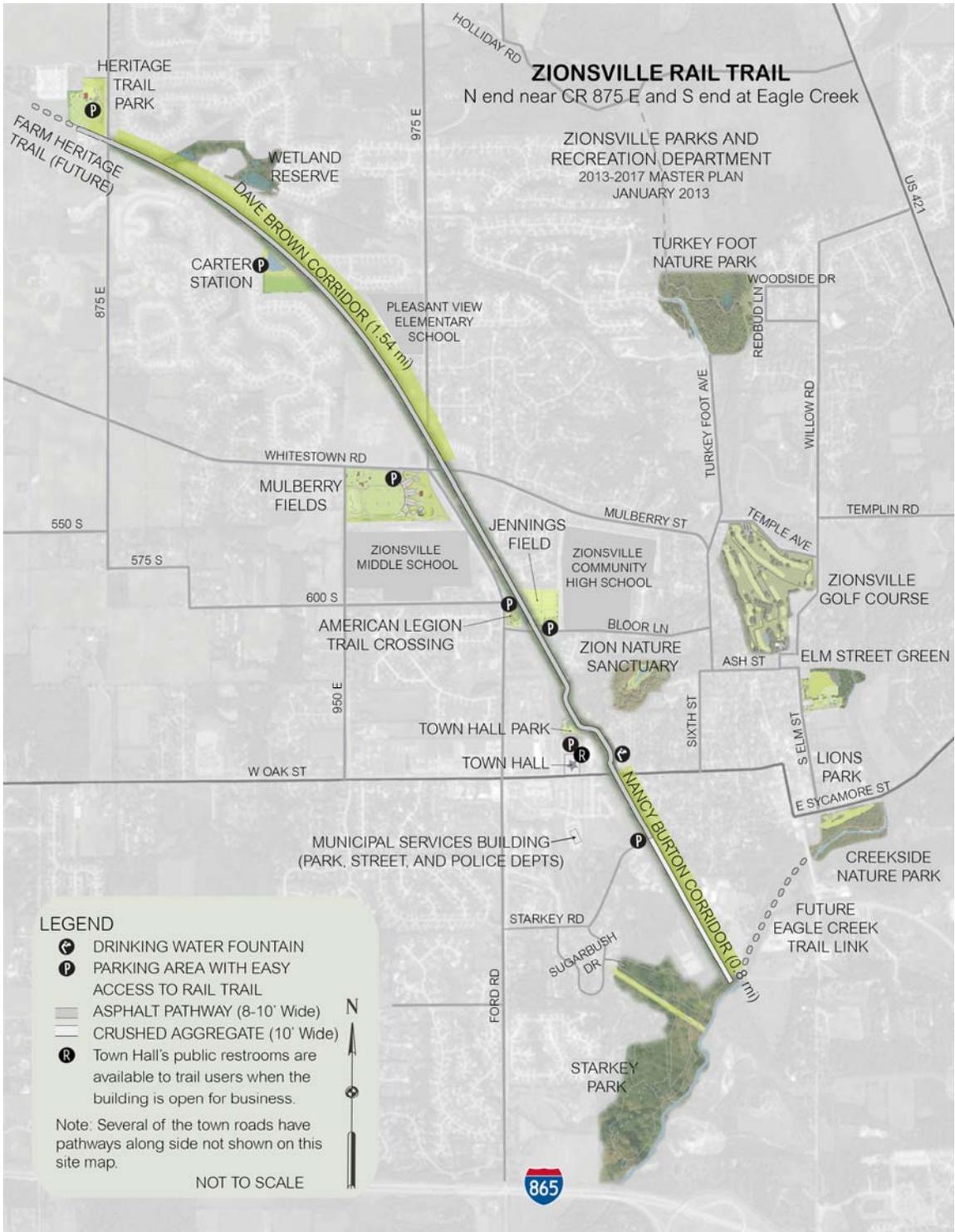
- PARKS LOCATION LEGEND**
- 1 ZIONSVILLE RAIL TRAIL
  - 1A DAVE BROWN CORRIDOR
  - 1B NANCY BURTON CORRIDOR
  - 2 HERITAGE TRAIL PARK
  - 3 WETLAND RESERVE
  - 4 CARTER STATION
  - 5 MULBERRY FIELDS
  - 6 AMERICAN LEGION TRAIL CROSSING
  - 7 JENNINGS FIELD
  - 8 TOWN HALL PARK
  - 9 ZION NATURE SANCTUARY
  - 9A ZION NATURE CENTER
  - 10 STARKEY NATURE PARK
  - 11 CREEKSIDE NATURE PARK
  - 12 LINCOLN PARK
  - 13 VILLAGE CORNER
  - 14 TENNIS COURTS/PLAYGROUND
  - 15 ELM STREET GREEN
  - 16 ZIONSVILLE GOLF COURSE
  - 17 TURKEY FOOT NATURE PARK
  - 18 HOLLIDAY NATURE SANCTUARY (NO ACCESS)
  - 19 DONATION PARCEL
  - 20 LIONS PARK (OPERATED BY LIONS CLUB)

Note: Several of the Town's roads have pathways along side that are not shown on this site map.

Individual park site maps are available, as specific features are often too small to show at this scale.

**P** Nancy Burton Corridor Parking. Other rail trail parking shown on the separate Rail Trail Map.

NOT TO SCALE



HERITAGE TRAIL PARK  
4050 S. 875 E.

ZIONSVILLE PARKS AND  
RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
2013-2017 MASTER PLAN  
JANUARY 2013

LEGEND

- CANOPY TREE
- ORNAMENTAL TREE
- EVERGREEN TREE
- STORMWATER BIO BASIN
- TRADITIONAL TURF
- PRAIRIE / WILDFLOWER PLANTING
- SHELTER BELT/ WILDLIFE PLANTINGS
- WOODLAND FLOWER MIX
- ⊠ ELECTRICAL TOWER



NOT TO SCALE













**JENNINGS FIELD**  
1130 Bloor Lane

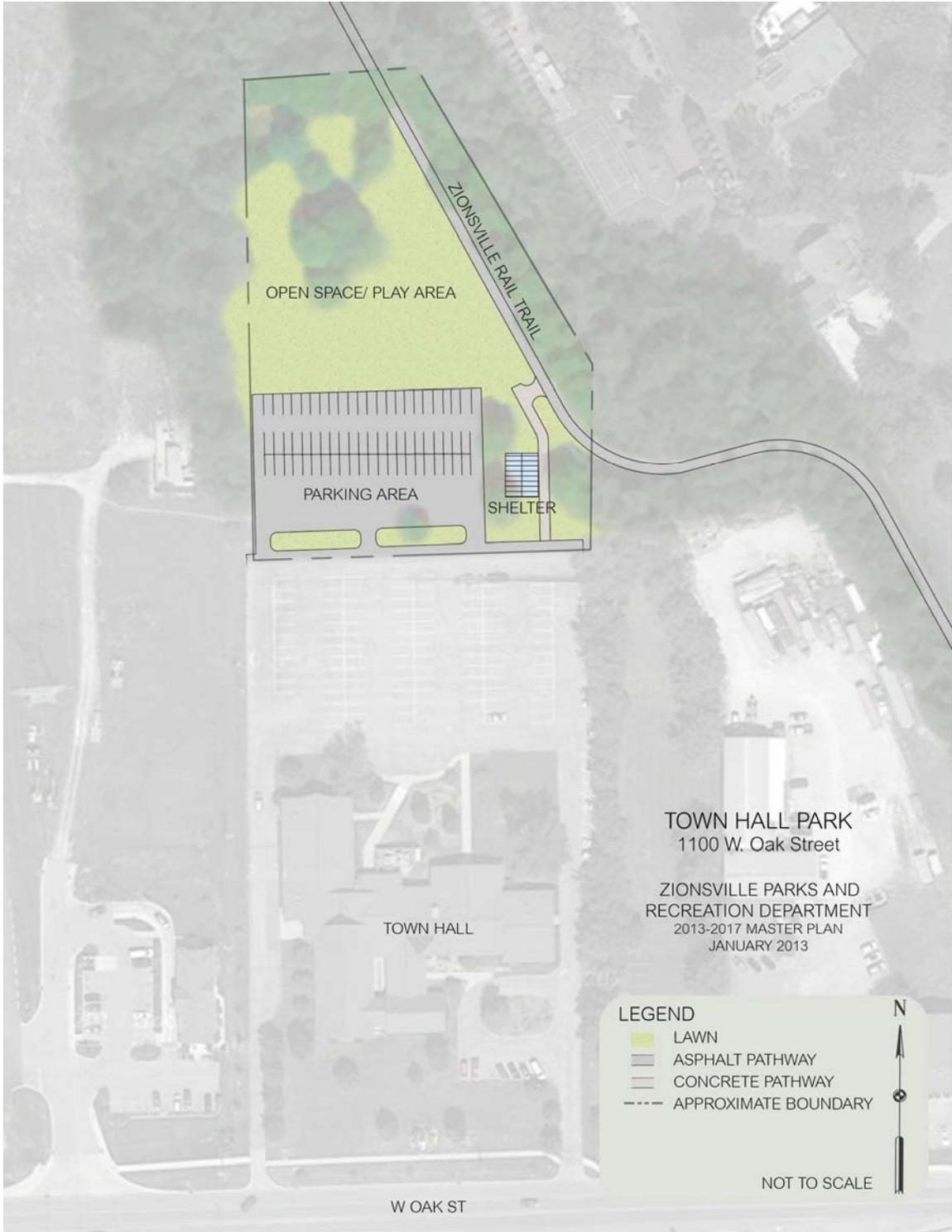
ZIONSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
2013-2017 MASTER PLAN  
JANUARY 2013

**LEGEND**

- LAWN
- ASPHALT PATHWAY
- APPROXIMATE BOUNDARY

N

NOT TO SCALE



TOWN HALL PARK  
1100 W. Oak Street

ZIONSVILLE PARKS AND  
RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
2013-2017 MASTER PLAN  
JANUARY 2013

- LEGEND
- LAWN
  - ASPHALT PATHWAY
  - CONCRETE PATHWAY
  - APPROXIMATE BOUNDARY



NOT TO SCALE

W OAK ST

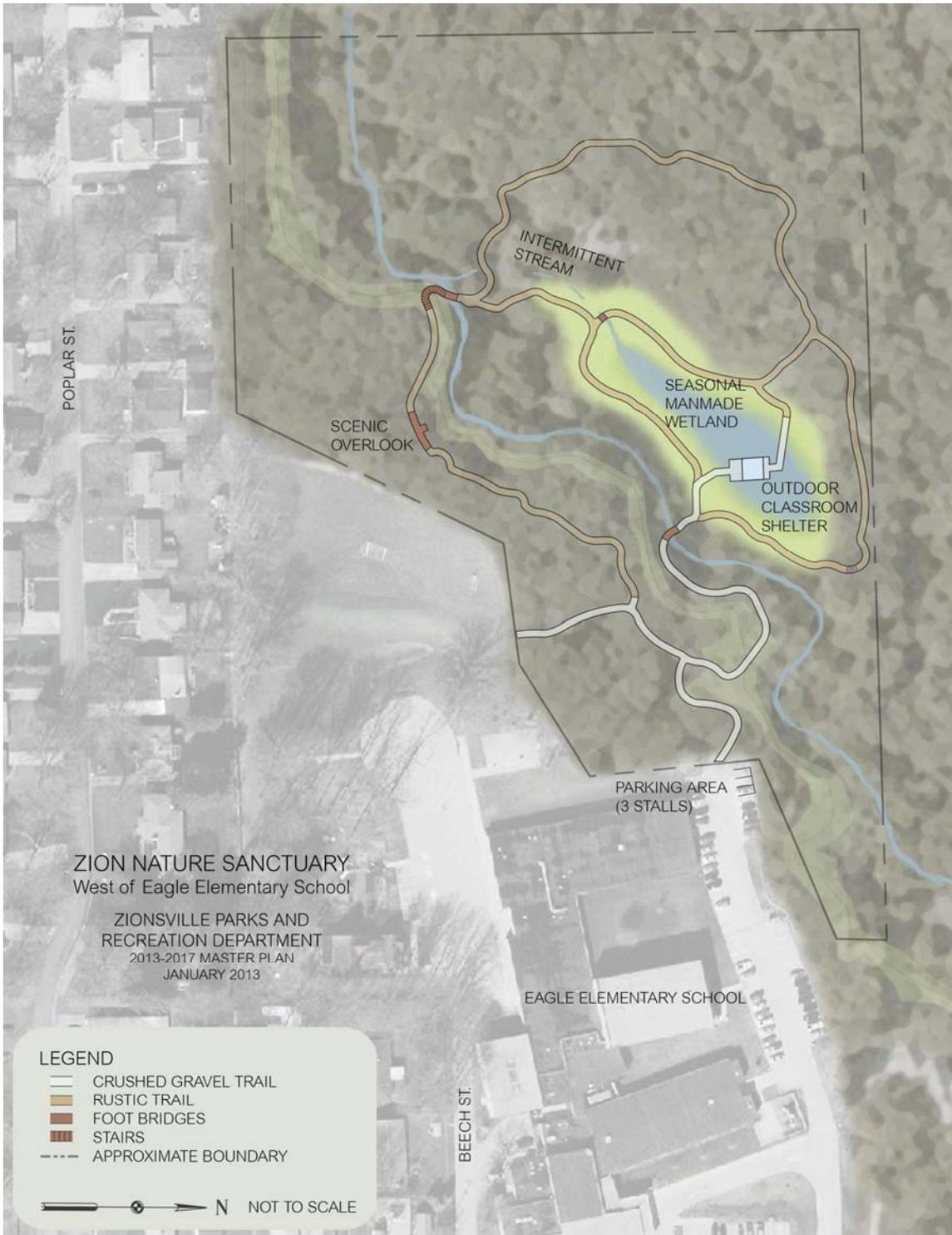
TOWN HALL

OPEN SPACE/ PLAY AREA

PARKING AREA

SHELTER

ZIONSVILLE RAIL TRAIL







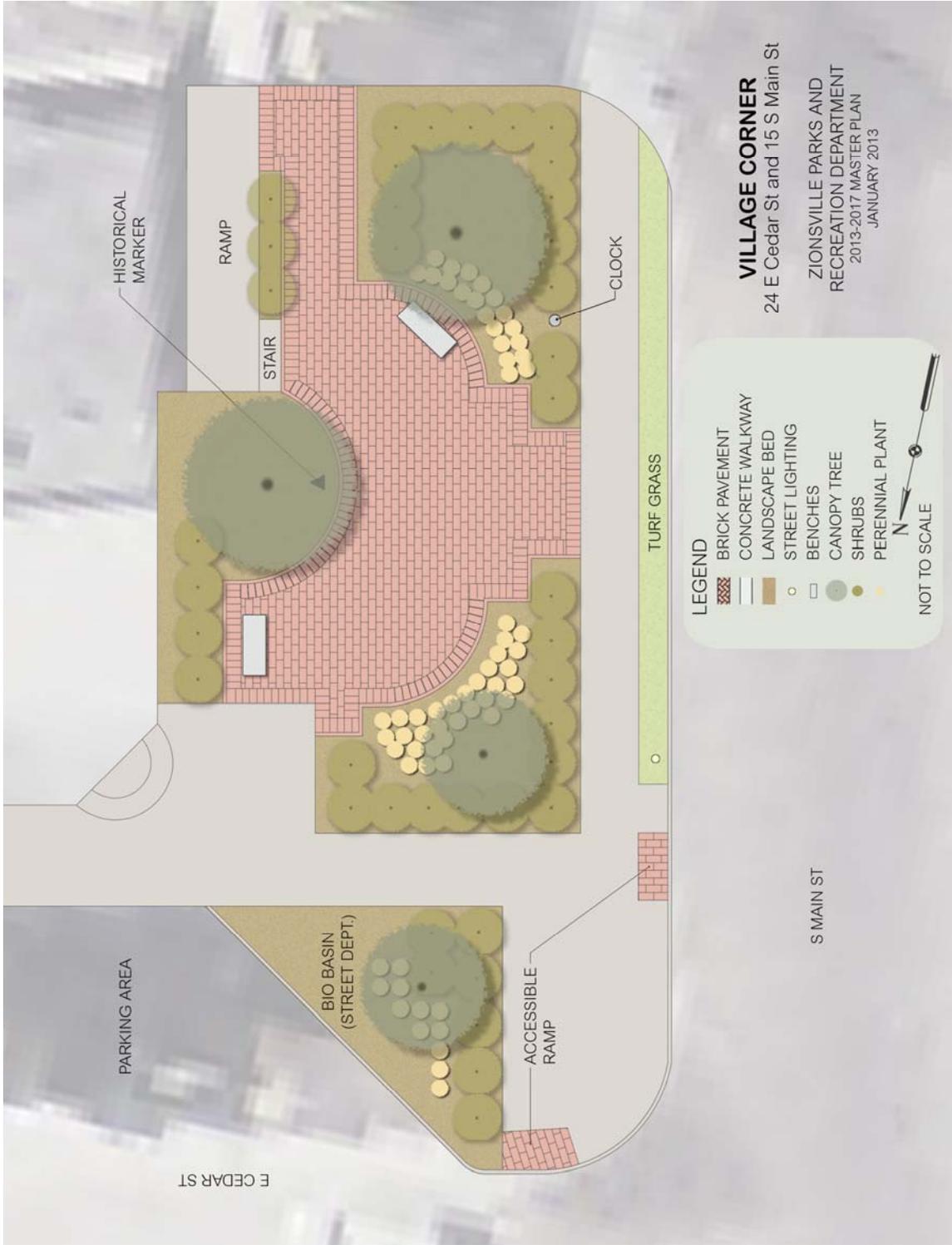


**CREEKSIDE NATURE PARK**

11001 East Sycamore Street

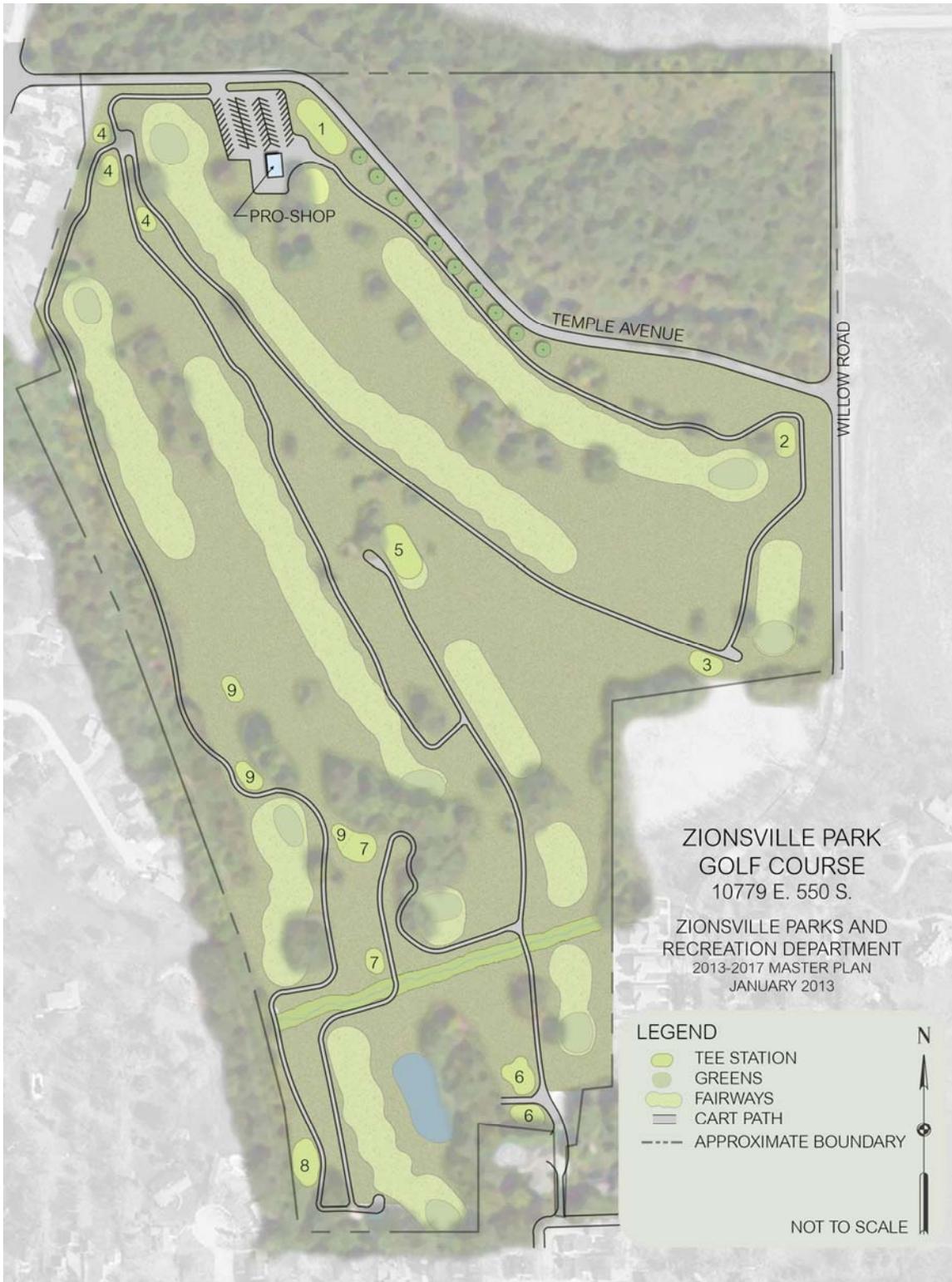
ZIONSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
2013-2017 MASTER PLAN  
JANUARY 2013

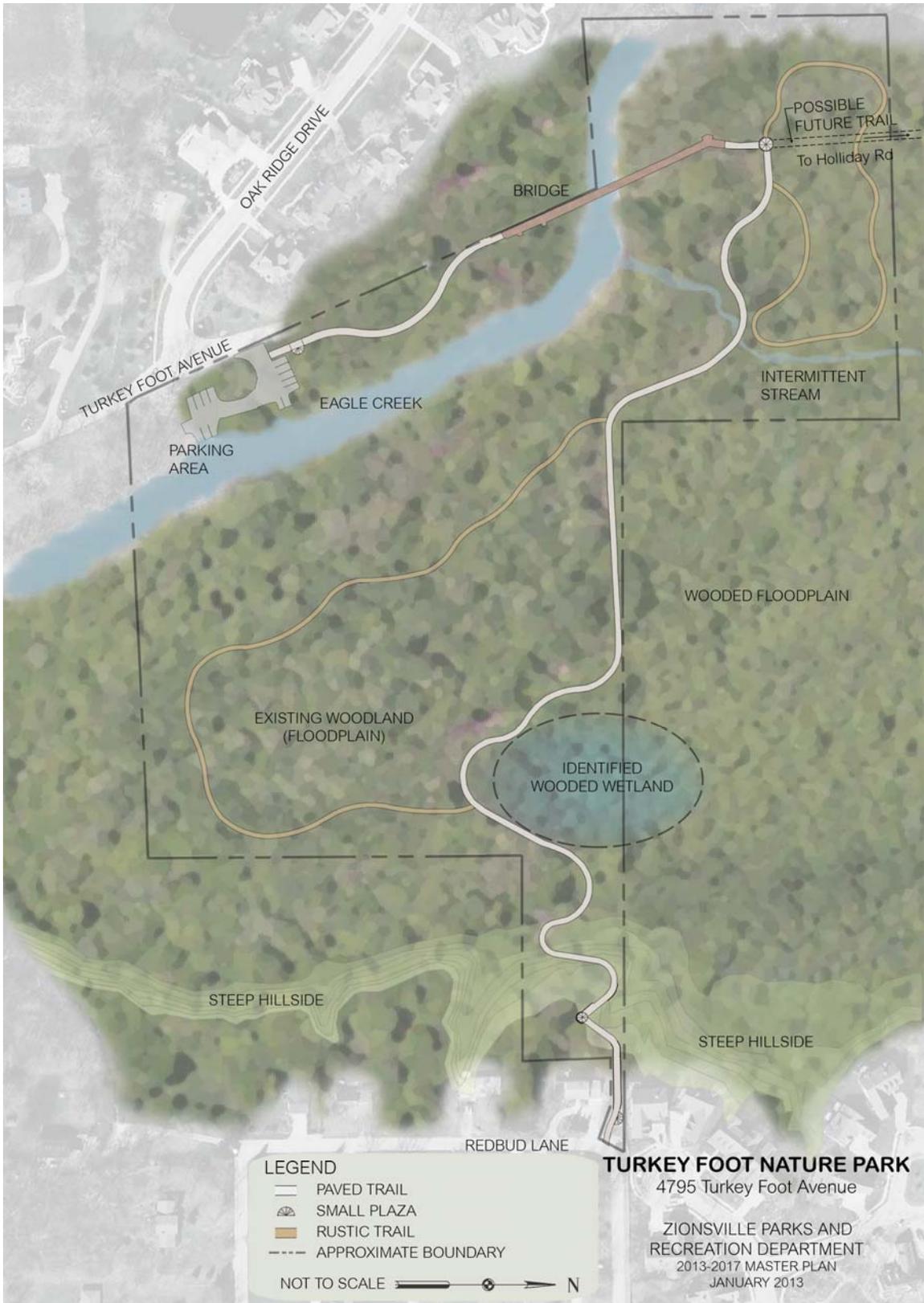


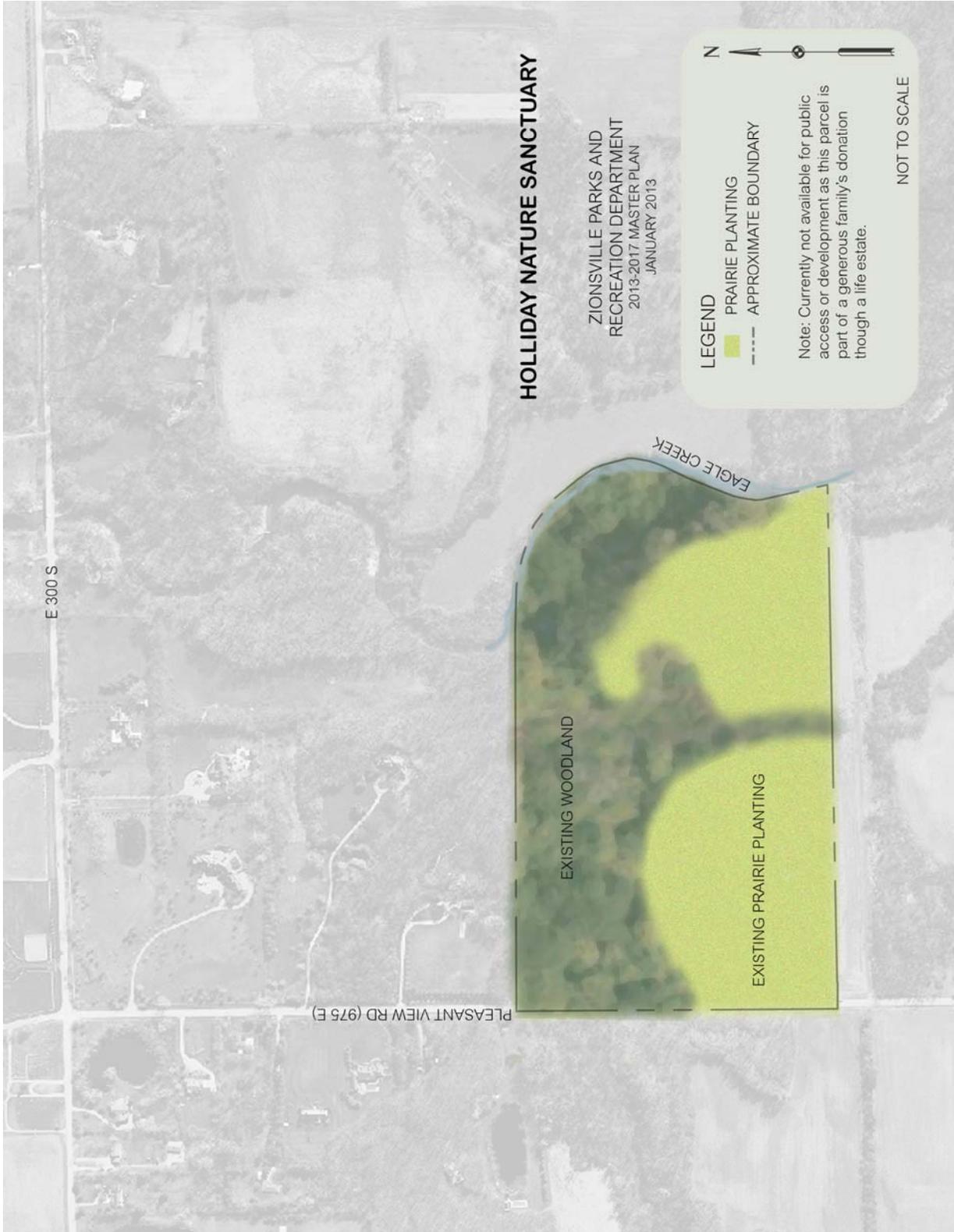


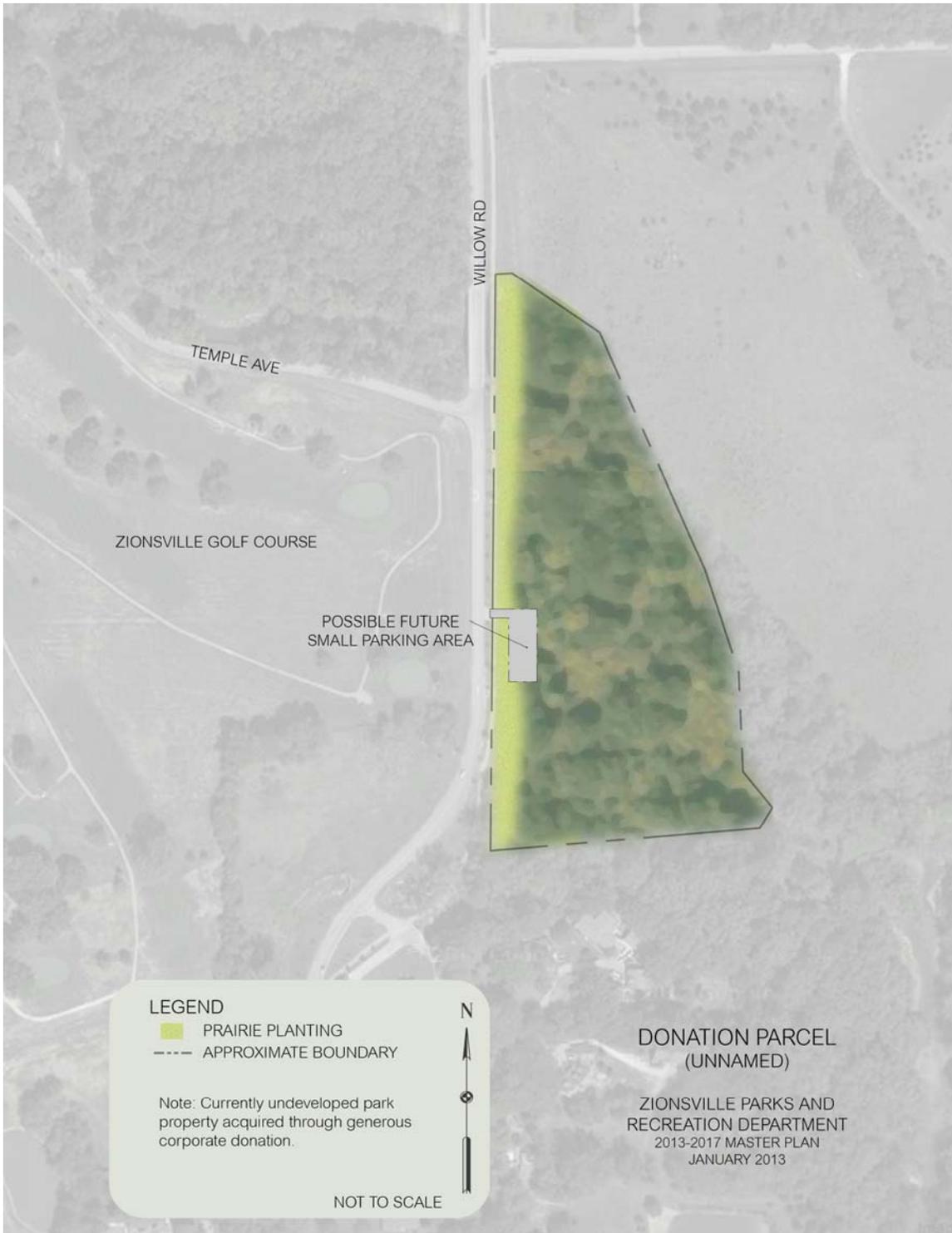














## Zionsville Department of Parks and Recreation

### RESOLUTION ADOPTING MASTER PLAN 2013 to 2017

WHEREAS, The Zionsville Board of Park & Recreation is aware of the park and recreational needs of the residents of Zionsville, IN; and,

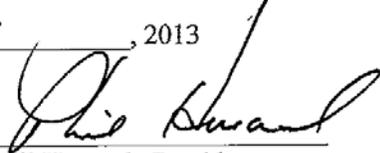
WHEREAS, The Zionsville Board of Park & Recreation is desirous of providing aesthetic and functional facilities and programs to the residents of Zionsville-to meet their needs; and,

WHEREAS, The Zionsville Board of Park & Recreation realizes the importance of sound planning in order to meet the needs of its citizenry; and,

WHEREAS, The Zionsville Board of Park & Recreation is continually aware of the value and importance of outdoor and leisure opportunities, as well as programs and facilities, to the future of the Zionsville Park and Recreation Department and its programs, and to the residents of the community as a whole,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE ZIONSVILLE BOARD OF PARK & RECREATION does hereby adopt the Zionsville Park and Recreation Master Plan 2013 to 2017 as its official plan for the growth and development of parks and recreation opportunities in Zionsville, Indiana for the next five years. The Zionsville Board of Park & Recreation continues its commitment to annual reviews and, if need be, updates of the goals and objectives of this Master Plan.

Passed and signed this 15 day of April, 2013

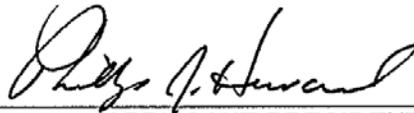
  
Phil Howard, President

Attested by:

  
Manda Clevenger, Secretary

**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 Zionsville Parks & Recreation 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

Phillip J. Howards  
(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE 

Manda Cleverger  
(Secretary's printed name)

DATE April 15, 2013

**RESOLUTION 27 (2011)**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**OF THE TOWN OF ZIONSVILLE, INDIANA**  
**ADOPTING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)**  
**ADA COORDINATOR AND PROCEDURES**

**WHEREAS**, the Federal government enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) to prevent discrimination of the physically and mentally disabled relating to employment and access to public facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, in compliance with Title II of the ADA the Town of Zionsville shall name an ADA Coordinator; and

**WHEREAS**, in compliance with Title II of the ADA the Town of Zionsville shall adopt a grievance procedure for resolving complaints alleging violation of Title II of the ADA; and

**WHEREAS**, in compliance with Title II of the ADA the Town of Zionsville shall publish notice to the public regarding the ADA;

**WHEREAS**, in compliance with Title II of the ADA the Town of Zionsville shall post the ADA coordinator's name, office address, and telephone number along with the ADA Notice and ADA grievance procedure on its website.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of Zionsville, Indiana:

The Director of Planning is designated as the ADA Coordinator for the Town of Zionsville.

The Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act, a copy of which is attached hereto, is adopted as the Town of Zionsville Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Town of Zionsville Grievance Procedure under the Americans with Disabilities Act, a copy of which is attached hereto, is adopted as the grievance procedure for addressing complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs or benefits by the Town of Zionsville.

In compliance with Federal and State laws as set forth above, the Town Council resolves to post the required information regarding the ADA coordinator, Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Town of Zionsville Grievance Procedure under the Americans with Disabilities Act on its website and at such other locations as may be determined from time to time.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of DECEMBER, 2011, by the Town Council of the Town of Zionsville, Boone County, Indiana, having been passed by a vote of 7 in favor and 0 opposed.

TOWN OF ZIONSVILLE, INDIANA  
BY ITS TOWN COUNCIL

Matthew M. Price

Matthew M. Price, President

For

Opposed

Timothy Haak

Timothy Haak

For

Opposed

Valerie Swack

Valerie Swack

For

Opposed

Welton W. Harris II

Welton W. Harris II

For

Opposed

Candace L. Ulmer

Candace Ulmer

For

Opposed

Jeff Papa

Jeff Papa

For

Opposed

Steve Mundy

Steve Mundy

For

Opposed

ATTEST:

John Yeo  
John Yeo, Clerk-Treasurer

## **NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

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

**Employment:** The Town of Zionsville 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 Town of Zionsville 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 Town of Zionsville'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:** Town of Zionsville 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 Town of Zionsville 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 Town of Zionsville, should contact the office of Town of Zionsville ADA Coordinator, 1100 West Oak Street, Zionsville, IN 46077, (317) 873-8247, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event. The ADA does not require the Town of Zionsville 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 Town of Zionsville is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to the Town of Zionsville's ADA Coordinator. The Town of Zionsville 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.

**Town of Zionsville  
Grievance Procedure under  
The Americans with Disabilities Act**

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the Town of Zionsville. The Town of Zionsville's Personnel Policy governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination. The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

**Terry J. Jones**  
**ADA Coordinator and Director of Planning**  
1100 West Oak Street  
Zionsville, IN 46077

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, ADA Coordinator or their designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions.

Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, ADA Coordinator's or their designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the Town of Zionsville and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by the ADA Coordinator or their designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Town Manager or their designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Town Manager or their designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the Town Manager or their designee will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by ADA Coordinator or their designee, appeals to the Town Manager or their designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the Town of Zionsville for at least three years.

## Lincoln's Whistle-Stop Trip to Washington

On the way to his inauguration, President-elect Lincoln met many of his supporters throughout the Union and narrowly avoided an assassination attempt

By Brian Wolly

*Smithsonian.com, February 9, 2011*

In February, 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln traveled from Springfield to Washington, visiting his supporters and finding his voice on his way to taking the oath of office on March 4.

TRANSCRIPT BELOW:

### Monday, February 11, 1861

#### • Lincoln Home

At approximately 7:30 a.m., President-elect Abraham Lincoln leaves for the railway station without his wife, who will join him later.

#### • Springfield Train Station

As Lincoln boards the train at Springfield's Great Western Railroad depot, he says to the crowd, "To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything... I now leave.. with a task before me greater than that which rested upon [George] Washington."

#### • Decatur Train Depot

#### • Tolono Train Station

#### • Vermilion Country Train Depot

#### • State Line City, Indiana

#### • Lafayette, Indiana

After being joined by a committee of Indiana politicians in State Line City, Lincoln speaks before a crowd in Lafayette, "While some of us may differ in political opinions, still we are all united in one feeling for the Union. We all believe in the maintenance of the Union, of every star and every stripe of the glorious flag, and permit me to express the sentiment that upon the union of the States, there shall be between us no difference."

#### • Thorntown, Indiana

#### • Lebanon, Indiana

#### • Zionsville, Indiana

#### • Indianapolis, Indiana

Lincoln arrives at 5 p.m., welcomed by Gov. Oliver Morton and a 34-gun salute. He joins a procession of 20,000 state legislators, public employees, soldiers, firemen and others. For the first time in his journey, he temporarily loses his copies of his Inaugural address.

With Mrs. Lincoln alongside him, he boards the train en route to Cincinnati at 11 a.m. the following morning.

### Tuesday, February 12, 1861

#### • Shelbyville, Indiana

#### • Greensburg, Indiana

#### • Morris, Indiana

#### • Lawrenceburg, Indiana

#### • Cincinnati, Ohio

At a public reception held by the German Industrial Association, Lincoln says, "I deem it my duty...that I should wait until the last moment, for a development of the present national difficulties before I express myself decidedly what course I shall pursue."

His reluctance to make definitive public statements on the secession crisis was an ongoing theme in his remarks on this journey.

Escorted by members of the Ohio legislature, Lincoln departed on the Little Miami Railroad at 9 a.m. the following morning.

### Wednesday, February 13, 1861

#### • Milford, Ohio

#### • Miami, Ohio

#### • Loveland, Ohio

#### • Morrow, Ohio

#### • Corwin, Ohio

#### • Xenia, Ohio

#### • London, Ohio

#### • Columbus, Ohio

A crowd of 60,000 greets Lincoln in Columbus, where he speaks to the public from the steps of the state capitol, but his address is curiously out of touch with reality.

"It is a consoling circumstance that when we look out there is nothing that really hurts anybody, Lincoln says. We entertain different views upon political questions, but nobody is suffering anything."

He leaves shortly before 8 a.m. the next morning on a rainy day to Pittsburgh.

### Thursday, February 14, 1861

#### • Newark, Ohio

- **Frazeysburg, Ohio**
- **Dresden, Ohio**
- **Coshocton, Ohio**
- **Newcomerstown, Ohio**
- **Uhrichsville, Ohio**
- **Cadiz Junction, Ohio**
- **Steubenville, Ohio**
- **Wellsville, Ohio**
- **Rochester, Pennsylvania**
- **Allegheny City, Pennsylvania**

On the trip to Pittsburgh, Lincoln is delayed two hours because of a broken-down freight train. He arrives in Allegheny City (now part of Pittsburgh) at 8 p.m. and takes a carriage across the river into the steel city.

- **Monongahela House, Pittsburgh**

Lincoln is awestruck by the size and strength of the crowds greeting him on the streets of Pittsburgh. He says in the lobby of the Monongahela House, "I could not help thinking, my friends, as I traveled in the rain through your crowded streets, on my way here, that if all that people were in favor of the Union, it can certainly be in no great danger -- it will be preserved."

#### **Friday, February 15, 1861**

- **Rochester, Pennsylvania**
- **Wellsville, Ohio**
- **Alliance, Ohio**

His remarks in Alliance have a familiar ring, "I appear before you merely to greet you and say farewell... If I should make a speech at every town, I would not get to Washington until some time after the inauguration."

At other towns, he apologizes to the crowd for his hoarse voice. In Wellsville, he declines to make a speech as he had already done so when he stopped on his way to Pittsburgh.

- **Ravenna, Ohio**
- **Hudson, Ohio**
- **Weddell House, Cleveland**

Amidst a snow storm, Lincoln arrives in Cleveland to another large crowd. In spite of his farewell comments in Springfield, he once again appears to underestimate the severity of the situation, telling the adulatory group, "The crisis, as it is called, is altogether an artificial crisis."

For the second time, Lincoln's inaugural address is thought to have been lost by Robert Lincoln. He departs town at 9 a.m. the following morning

#### **Saturday, February 16, 1861**

- **Willoughby, Ohio**
- **Painesville, Ohio**
- **Madison, Ohio**
- **Geneva, Ohio**
- **Ashtabula, Ohio**

The crowds in Ashtabula call for Mrs. Lincoln to make an appearance from the train car, but the President-elect replies that he "should hardly hope to induce her to appear, as he had always found it very difficult to make her do what she did not want to."

- **Conneaut, Ohio**
- **Girard, Pennsylvania**
- **Erie, Pennsylvania**
- **North East, Pennsylvania**
- **Westfield, New York**

Legend meets lore when the now bearded Lincoln meets 12-year-old Grace Bedell, the young girl who "advised him to let [his] whiskers grow."

"Acting partly upon her suggestion, I have done so," Lincoln said in Westfield. "And now, if she is here, I would like to see her."

As a contemporary newspaper report said, the two meet and "he gives her several hearty kisses ... amid the yells of delight from the excited crowd."

- **Dunkirk, New York**
- **Silver Creek, New York**
- **Buffalo, New York**

Lincoln is greeted by former president Millard Fillmore and 10,000 supporters. He spends the night at the American House and observes the Sabbath the next day with Fillmore at a local Unitarian church.

He leaves Buffalo at 5:45 in the morning on Monday, February 18 with newspaper man Horace Greeley onboard.

#### **Monday, February 18, 1861**

- **Batavia, New York**
- **Rochester, New York**
- **Clyde, New York**
- **Syracuse, New York**
- **Utica, New York**
- **Little Falls, New York**
- **Fonda, New York**
- **Amsterdam, New York**
- **Schenectady, New York**
- **Albany, New York**

In spite of an enthusiastic welcome in the state capital, Mr and Mrs. Lincoln resolve never to return to Albany, as their trip was marred by political bickering between state legislators.

#### **Tuesday, February 19, 1861**

- **Troy, New York**
- **Hudson, New York**
- **Rhinebeck, New York**
- **Poughkeepsie, New York**
- **Fishkill, New York**
- **Peekskill, New York**
- **Hudson River Railroad Company, New York City**

"I shall not easily forget the first time I ever saw Abraham Lincoln... From the top of an omnibus (driven up on side, close by, and blocked by the curbstone and the crowds) I had, I say, a capital view of it all and especially of Mr. Lincoln: his looks and gait; his perfect composure and coolness; his unusual and uncouth height; his dress of complete black, stovepipe hat pushed back on his head; dark-brown complexion; seamed and wrinkled yet canny-looking face; black, bush head of hair; disproportionately long neck; and his hands held behind, as he stood observing the people."

-- *Walt Whitman*

- **Astor House, New York City**

An estimated 250,000 people watch Lincoln's 11-car procession to the Astor House, where he meets with William Cullen Bryant, editor of the *New York Evening Post*.

#### **Wednesday, February 20, 1861**

- **Academy of Music, New York City**

Earlier in the day, Mrs. Lincoln and her children visit P.T. Barnum's museum. That evening, President-elect Lincoln heads to the Academy of Music to take in a new Verdi opera. After the first act, the entire audience and cast sings "The Star Spangled Banner" in honor of the special guest.

- **City Hall, New York City**

Before leaving for City Hall, Lincoln meets with Joshua Dewey, 94, who voted in every presidential election since George Washington's.

At City Hall, he tells Mayor Fernando Wood and the city council, "There is nothing that can ever bring me willingly to consent to the destruction of this Union."

- **Astor House**

#### **Thursday, February 21, 1861**

- **Cortland St. Ferry**
- **Jersey City, New Jersey**
- **Newark, New Jersey**
- **Elizabeth, New Jersey**
- **Rahway, New Jersey**
- **New Brunswick, New Jersey**
- **New Jersey State House, Trenton**

"This body is composed of a majority of gentlemen who, in the exercise of their best judgment in the choice of a Chief Magistrate, did not think I was the man... Nevertheless...they came forward here to greet me as the constitutional President of the United States ... the representative man of the nation, united by a purpose to perpetuate the Union and liberties of the people."

-- *Abraham Lincoln*

- **Bristol, Pennsylvania**
- **Kensington Depot, Philadelphia**
- **Continental Hotel**

Lincoln rides to the Continental Hotel and speaks to 100,000 supporters. An observer remarks, "We are confident that not one person in the crowd below heard one word of Lincoln's speech."

That evening, Frederick W. Seward delivers a letter from his father, Sen. William Seward, that discusses a plot uncovered to assassinate Lincoln in Baltimore. The railroad company's detectives support this intelligence. He pledges to consider altering his schedule, but insists on fulfilling his engagements in Philadelphia and Harrisburg.

#### **Friday, February 22, 1861**

- **Independence Hall**

Lincoln goes by carriage to Independence Hall, where, inspired by his surroundings, he says, "I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence."

Before leaving, he raises a new flag of 34 stars (Kansas had just been admitted three weeks earlier on January 29, 1861) over Independence Hall.

- **Philadelphia Train Station**

With Detective Allen Pinkerton accompanying, Lincoln leaves for Washington, via Baltimore. Telegraph lines out of the city are cut to prevent word of the trip from spreading south.

- **Leaman Place, Pennsylvania**
- **Lancaster, Pennsylvania**
- **Pennsylvania State House, Harrisburg, PA**

As per his schedule, Lincoln appears before the state legislature and Gov. Andrew J. Curtin and says, "It shall be my endeavor to preserve the peace of this country."

New plans have been drawn up for Lincoln's arrival into Washington. His initial response: "Unless there are some other reasons besides ridicule, I am disposed to carry out Judd's plan."

He boards a special train headed back to Philadelphia, where he will connect with an 11 p.m. train to the nation's capital.

**Saturday, February 23, 1861**

- **President Street Station, Baltimore, MD**
- **Washington, DC**

Lincoln has breakfast with Sen. Seward, telegraphs his wife with news of his safe arrival, and sits for Mathew Brady, photographer.

The President-elect was widely ridiculed for his secretive entrance into Washington. Both newspapers and the general public were worried they had once again elected a weak, indecisive commander-in-chief. Fortunately for the Union, the fears were unfounded.

2/13/13 Lincoln's Whistle-Stop Trip to Washington | History & Archaeology | Smithsonian Magazine  
[www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Lincolns-Whistle-Stop-Trip-to-Washington.html](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Lincolns-Whistle-Stop-Trip-to-Washington.html) 7/8

# Master Plan Press



[COMMUNITY]

## Weigh in on Zionsville parks

Hey Zionsville, what do you want to see in your local park system? That's what the Zionsville Park and Recreation Department is asking residents in a new online survey.

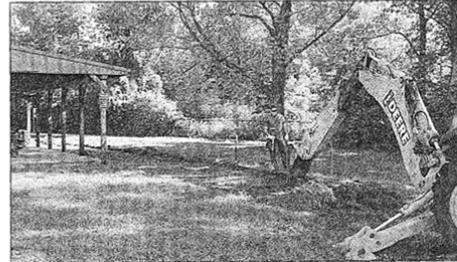
Residents can go to the town of Zionsville website and find a link to the park department's next five-year master plan survey. The survey includes questions about current facilities and wants and needs for the future.

Access the survey directly at <http://tinyurl.com/zparks>. The last five-year plan was completed in 2008. This year's will cover 2013-2018. It also helps the park board meet Department of Natural Resources standards, which allows it to qualify for DNR grants, like the current \$200,000 Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant for construction of the new Heritage Trail Park at county roads 875 East and 400 South.

The Indianapolis Star  
Front page of Local Living  
September 6, 2012



## COMMUNITY Parks and Rec



Workers begin work on the trail connector. (Submitted photo)

## Departments combine forces to build Town Hall Park Pathway

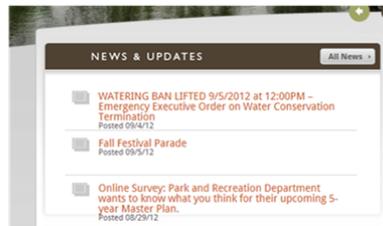
The Zionsville Street Department began work last week on the pathway connecting the Zionsville Rail Trail with Town Hall. The pathway is a joint project between the Street Department and the Parks & Recreation Department. The Street Department will provide the necessary heavy equipment and other resources to complete the

project more efficiently. Bicycle racks, provided by the Parks & Recreation Department, will also be installed as a part of this project. Later this year, the Parks & Recreation Department will be working on the next Five-Year Master Plan for the entire system. To provide input on this project and other parks sites, visit the Parks & Recreation Department's website [www.zionsville-in.gov/town-services/parks](http://www.zionsville-in.gov/town-services/parks).

The Zionsville Current September 4, 2012



Town of Zionsville Facebook page  
September 5, 2012



Town of Zionsville website home page  
September 5, 2012

**ZIONSVILLE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT SEEKS INPUT –**  
The Zionsville Park and Recreation Department will be holding a general public Input meeting on Oct. 25 at 6 p.m. in the Zionsville Town Hall, 1100 W. Oak St. The meeting will take place in the Community Room, and will ask citizens, "What do you want to see in your Zionsville Parks System?" The Zionsville Parks and Recreation Department is using the meeting and the results of an ongoing online survey to gain feedback concerning the future of the parks system. For a limited time, Zionsville citizens can go to the Town of Zionsville Web site ([www.zionsville-in.gov](http://www.zionsville-in.gov)) and find a link to the Park Department's next Five-year Master Plan survey.

Zionsville Current October 23, 2012



# Master Plan Press

## Parks begins work on master plan

The Zionsville Park and Recreation Department is beginning work on its five year master plan.

The department hopes to gather information from citizens as to what they want in the parks system. Visit [www.zionsville-in.gov](http://www.zionsville-in.gov) or <http://tinyurl.com/zparks> to find an online survey that will provide the department with information.

The 2013-18 master plan will provide a framework for current and future efforts. The plan will also help the Parks and Recreation Board meet Department of Natural Resources standards, which allows the board to qualify for future DNR grants.

The Zionsville Times-Sentinel September 5, 2012

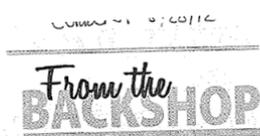
## Parks department hosts master plan input meeting

The Zionsville Park and Recreation Department is hosting a public meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 25, in the Town Hall Community Room, 1100 W. Oak St.

The department is seeking input for their upcoming five-year master plan. They will be asking citizens what they want to see in the parks system and will give the results of an ongoing online survey to gain feedback concerning the future of the parks system.

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/zparks> for the department's next survey. The online survey includes specific questions about current facilities and offers the public an

Zionsville Times-Sentinel October 23, 2012



## Parks leader set to do 5-year plan

Matt Dickey, the town's superintendent of parks and recreation, has an ambitious, if not energizing, fourth quarter coming up. He and his colleagues will be crafting the next five-year master plan for Zionsville's venues and trails. What's next about the process is that your suggestions will be taken into account. It's refreshing to see government actually give a flip about what its constituents want and/or believe, and Dickey is ready to read and listen. We'll have more information as it becomes available on how to provide input. Parks, trails and programming are, in our opinion, essential elements of a well-rounded community. Having such amenities allows the town to more actively recruit businesses that might be considering relocation to Zionsville. Meanwhile, Dickey's department is overseeing with the town Street Dept. work on a pathway connecting the Zionsville Rail Trail with Town Hall, which we also view as a good move. The street folks are doing the heavy lifting, while the parks department is chipping in with bike racks.

The Zionsville Current August 28, 2012

**Other Groups receiving online survey email:**

**Zionsville Churches:**

- Advent Evangelical Church
- St Alphonsus Catholic Church
- St Francis of the Fields Episcopal Church
- Zionsville Christian Church
- Zionsville Fellowship Church
- Zionsville Presbyterian Church
- Zionsville United Methodist Church

**Sports Clubs:**

- Zionsville Youth Football League
- Zionsville Youth Soccer Association
- Zionsville Little League
- Zionsville Rugby
- Zionsville Lacrosse
- Zionsville Sport Alliance

**Community Organizations/Service Clubs:**

- Boys and Girls Club of Zionsville
- Zionsville Lions Club
- Kiwanis of Zionsville
- Zionsville Optimist Club
- Zionsville Rotary Club
- Zionsville Tri Kappa
- Zionsville Chamber of Commerce
- Maplelawn Farmstead
- Friends of Zion Nature Center

**Zionsville Association of HoAs:**

- Jane Fuqua-sent to approximate 30 HoAs
- Zionsville Village Residents Association

**Park Board Advisory Committee's**

- Land Advisory committee
- Facilities Advisory Committee
- Communications Committee
- Recreation Committee

**Town Council**

**Town Department Heads**

<b>Other Distribution:</b>	Survey Cards
<b>Fall Festival Booth</b>	150 cards
<b>Library</b>	100 cards
<b>Town Hall</b>	50 Cards
<b>Eagle Creek Coffee</b>	50 Cards
<b>Big Daves Deli</b>	50 Cards
<b>Zionsville Golf Course</b>	50 cards
	25 cards and email to Therese for distribution
<b>Zion Nature Center</b>	

**What do you want to see in your Zionsville Parks?**

Tell us @ <http://tinyurl.com/zparks>

Help the Zionsville Park and Recreation Department prepare the next 5-year Parks Master Plan by completing our online survey.

Your can also access the link and find out more information about the general public input meeting at [www.zionsville-in.gov](http://www.zionsville-in.gov) or watch for information in your local media.

Flyer distribution 9/7-10/25



# Stakeholder Meetings

## Targeted Stakeholder Meetings

**October 3-4, 2013**

**Town Council:** Jeff Papa, Elizabeth Hopper, Candace Ulmer, Tim Haak, Susana Suarez

**Past Town Council/Park Board:** Valerie Swack, Ellen Butz, Alma Lathrop, Tim East, Nancy and George Tikijian, Art Small

**Special Interests Groups:** Glen Sanford-BAGC, Cliff Chapman (CILTI and Audubon), Larry Shiller (ZSA and Rugby), Mike Query (ZYSA), Jan Stevens (Indy Hiking Club), Carole Terry (CIBA)

**Park Board Advisory Groups:** John Ulmer, Pat Sheehan, Greg Storen, Todd Settle, Wayne Bivens, Nancy Carpenter, Andrew Auersch

**Service Organizations:** Russ Frankel (Optimist), Leigh Ann Akard (Lions), Tim Cassidy (Pathways), Elizabeth Mueller (FNC), Stephan Masoncup (Facilities Advisory Comm)

**Town Staff:** Lance Lantz, Rob Knox, Jamie VanGorder, Wayne DeLong, Joe Rust, Jeff Bennington, Rick Hypes



**Zionsville Department of Parks and Recreation Stakeholder Input Meeting**

A SWOT analysis looks at the organization as it currently exists. It helps an organization define its present state and identify factors to increase effectiveness.

S-Strengths	} These elements are internal to the organization
W-Weaknesses	
O-Opportunities	} These elements are external to the organization
T-Threats	

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Opportunities
- Threats

What top 3 items regarding the current or future Parks system would you like to bring to the Board's attention?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Worksheet for Targeted Stakeholder meetings

## General Public Input Meeting – October 25, 2013

NAME	STREET NAME	PHONE# IF INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER
1 Jane Fisher	Autumn Wy	
2 Charles Ewing	Elm Street	946-6017
3 Bill Spitz	Morningside Dr	366-6924
4 Rick Morris	Fog Hollow Ridge	733-4354
5 Rose Burrus	oak Ridge	873-2158
6 Ted Soliday	W Village walk.	733-9419
7 Alma Lathrop	950 E	769-4643
8 KATHY + CAVICK BRUNKMAN	FOREST BLDG.	
9 LACE BUTZ	4TH ST.	
10 George + Nancy Tikijian	Shagbark Ridge	873-6685
11 Natalie Kruger	10604 Zionsville Rd.	293-6781
12 Valerie Swack	9703 Hunt Club	733-0887
13 LARREN JONES	MOSTIN OAKS	714-2464
14 Kelly + STEPHAN MASONCUP	ELM	

NAME	STREET NAME	PHONE# IF WANT VOLUNTEER
1 Dick Crane	Spindle Tree Rd	
2 Jeff Glass	Contonmental Dr	
3 Larry Shiller	HAWTHORNE ST	
4 Todd Settle	Ingersoll Rd	
5 Ellen Butz	4th Street	
6 David Penner	Sugarbush Ridge.	
7 CHELSEA BUCHHEIT	CEPARR ST	570-8131
8 Dania Koudelush	Main Street	



**Zionsville Parks and Recreation 2012-2018 Master Plan Considerations**



**ZIONSVILLE**  
PARKS & RECREATION

The Zionsville Department of Parks and Recreation is asking for your opinion on how your park system meets current and future needs. Your opinion is important to us and will be used to help the Department plan for the next five years and beyond. You are receiving this survey because you are a property holder in Zionsville. Please take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire to ensure your point of view is represented.

The first few questions help gauge the overall importance of parks and recreation to you, give a sense of what park issues are important to you, and indicate how often you participate in outdoor recreation. The last few questions are optional demographic questions that will help us tailor our park efforts.

1) How important is it to you to have park facilities and activities within walking distance of your home?	
Extremely important	
Somewhat important	
Neutral	
Not very important	
Not at all important	
Don't know	

2) If you participated in any of the following recreation activities in the last year, please select all that apply.	
Walking for pleasure/fitness	
Playground	
Nature observation	
Bicycling	
Fishing	
Golf	
Nature Center	
Canoe/Kayak	
Running	
Field Sports	
Court Sports	
Horseback riding	

Picnic areas	
Other (Please Specify):	

3) Number of times per week you participated in those activities

	Never	< 1 per week	< 1 per month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Other (Please Specify):
Walking for pleasure/fitness											
Playground											
Nature observation											
Bicycling											
Fishing											
Golf											
Nature Center											
Canoe/Kayak											
Running											
Field Sports											
Court Sports											
Horseback riding											
Picnic areas											
Other											

4) What location did you participate in those activities

	Starkey Nature Park – 667 Sugarbush Drive	Lincoln Park – 41 South 2nd Street	Jennings Field – 1130 Bloor Lane	Tennis Courts and Playground – 115 South Elm Street	Zionsville Rail Trail	Mulberry Fields – 9645 Whitestown Road	Creekside Nature Park – 11001 East Sycamore St	American Legion Trail Crossing – 721 Ford Road	Carter Station – 4643 Pebblepointe Pass	Zion Nature Sanctuary
Walking for pleasure/fitness										
Playground										
Nature observation										

Bicycling									
Fishing									
Golf									
Nature Center									
Canoe/Kayak									
Running									
Field Sports									
Court Sports									
Horseback riding									
Picnic areas									
Other									

5) What location did you participate in those activities (cont'd)							
	Turkey Foot Park – 4795 Turkeyfoot Avenue	Zion Nature Center – 690 Beech Street	Town Hall Park – 1100 West Oak Street	Wetland Area – 4392 Greenthread Drive	Zionsville Golf Course – 10799 East 550 South	Azionaqua Swim Club – Willow Road	Lions Park
Walking for pleasure/fitness							
Playground							
Nature observation							
Bicycling							
Fishing							
Golf							
Nature Center							
Canoe/Kayak							
Running							
Field Sports							
Court Sports							
Horseback riding							
Picnic areas							
Other							

6) From the list above, what is the main reason you don't participate in your favorite

recreational activity more often.	
Lack of time	
Lack of Money	
Lack of facilities	
Lack of people with similar interests	
Too physically demanding	
Family constraints (children too young, etc)	
Other	
None	

7) Do you think Zionsville needs more land for parks, green spaces and trails?	
Strongly agree	
Somewhat agree	
Neutral	
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	
Don't know	

8) Most great parks systems develop over decades but begin with one generation having a vision for what could be. Please select the item(s) you or your family would like to see developed in the Town of Zionsville for our children and grandchildren. (select all that apply)	
Centrally located park for community events and activities (concerts, fairs, fireworks, picnics, etc...)	
Connect paved paths and trails with key destinations within Zionsville (parks, schools, shopping, etc...)	
Connect paved paths and trails with surrounding areas around Zionsville (Carmel, Indianapolis, Lebanon, etc.)	
Hiking trails and nature preserves	
Indoor community recreational facilities / Community Center	
Horse trails	
Youth sports complex/park	
Other (Please Specify):	

9) Is there interest in building a sports complex/park that incorporates several sports for a variety of ages while also having traditional park activities like playgrounds and picnic areas?	
Strongly agree	
Somewhat agree	
Neutral	
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	
Don't know	

10) If you had \$100 to spend in providing park services, how would you distribute the money? Enter the dollar amount as to how you would spend the money with the total being \$100.	
Staff	
Land Acquisition	
Maintenance	
Programs	
Park Site Improvements	
Other	

11) What advice, recommendations or comments do you have for the Zionsville Parks and Recreation Board?

12) If the Zionsville Parks Department were to offer additional recreational programs, what would you like to see offered?

13) Would you be willing to volunteer your time and expertise to the parks department? If Yes, please include your name and address.	
Yes / No	
If Yes, Name	

Address	
---------	--

14) The following items are optional, but your responses will help the park board match parks and programming to the public they serve.

Are you:

Male	
Female	

15) Name of the street where you live?

--

16) What is your age category?

18-24	
25-34	
35-44	
45-54	
55-64	
65-74	
75 or older	

17) Do you have children living at home?

Yes / No	
If yes, ages?	

Thank you for your help in Zionsville's park planning process. With your input, the Zionsville Park and Recreation Board hopes that it can create a premier park system that exceeds the current and future needs of our residents and visitors.