

# TOWN OF ZIONSVILLE

FIVE YEAR PARKS MASTER PLAN

2018-2022



Prepared for  
Zionsville Parks & Recreation Board  
January 2018

# Town of Zionsville

## Master Park Plan 2018-2022

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Prepared by:



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# Assurance of Compliance

**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 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

Timothy T. Casady  
Acting (President's printed name)

SIGNATURE 

JOHN WOLLENBURG  
(Secretary's printed name)

DATE 4/11/18



**ZIONSVILLE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
TOWN OF ZIONSVILLE, INDIANA**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FIVE YEAR MASTER PARKS PLAN  
2018-2022**

**WHEREAS**, the Zionsville Board of Park & Recreation is aware of the park and recreational needs of the residents of Zionsville, Indiana; 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 2018-2022 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.

**ADOPTED** this 11 day of April, 2018.

ZIONSVILLE BOARD OF PARK & RECREATION  
TOWN OF ZIONSVILLE, INDIANA

BY:

Tim Casady, Acting Park Board President

ATTEST:

John Wolleburg, Secretary  
Zionsville Board of Park & Recreation



# Master Plan Purpose and Goals

## Master Plan Purpose/Overview

The Town of Zionsville staff undertook this park master planning process in order to update the previous five-year master plan. The plan was prepared to ensure that the Parks Department continues to work to prioritize current community park and recreational needs, responsibly maintain and enhance the natural and man-made recreational resources of the town, assure that the greatest benefit is achieved from each dollar spent, and explore multiple funding opportunities. This plan update will help Board members and staff establish the current baseline, their future desired state, and create a structure to achieve goals, and to monitor accomplishments.

The proposed recommendations serve as a guide for the development of recreational resources and amenities for the next five years and prioritize improvements to the park facilities and recreation programs that will most benefit the Town of Zionsville.

Specifically, this five-year master plan will do the following:

- Gather feedback from a diverse group of stakeholders, residents, and park users
- Set achievable goals and objectives that reflect current issues, challenges, and opportunities as they relate to the current park system
- Inventory and evaluate the physical condition of existing parks and amenities
- Inventory and evaluate existing parks and recreation programming
- Provide a guide for the development of park and recreation amenities and programs that reflects the interests and needs of the community
- Expand opportunities to obtain funding for the park system amenities and programming

## Master Plan Goals

The primary objectives of this plan are as follows:

- Serve as a planning document to guide the operation of the Zionsville parks system
- Provide the foundation to make accurate budget decisions
- Serve as a supporting document to secure funding for proposed projects
- Fulfill requirements for grant applications through various state and federal programs
- Identify opportunities to add or expand parks and recreation programs and amenities
- Elicit the input and support of the citizens of Zionsville

## Definition of the Planning Area

Zionsville is located in the southeastern part of Boone County in central Indiana. The Park Board's planning area includes all of the incorporated Town of Zionsville (See Figure 1 next page). In 2010, Zionsville became the first community in Indiana to successfully utilize the State of Indiana's enabling legislation to "reorganize" as allowed by fulfilling the State's requirements, including ratification by vote during all of the affected communities' November general elections. What had previously been Zionsville reorganized with the remnant portions of unincorporated Eagle Township and all of Union Township into one overall government entity with the government duties and powers of the original town and the original townships. This increased the service area of Zionsville to 53 square miles and nearly doubled the population of Zionsville. Further reorganization of Zionsville with unincorporated Perry Township in 2015 increased the area of Zionsville to 71 square miles with a population of over 26,000. This created a significant increase in service area for the parks system but no additional parks were included in the annexed areas.

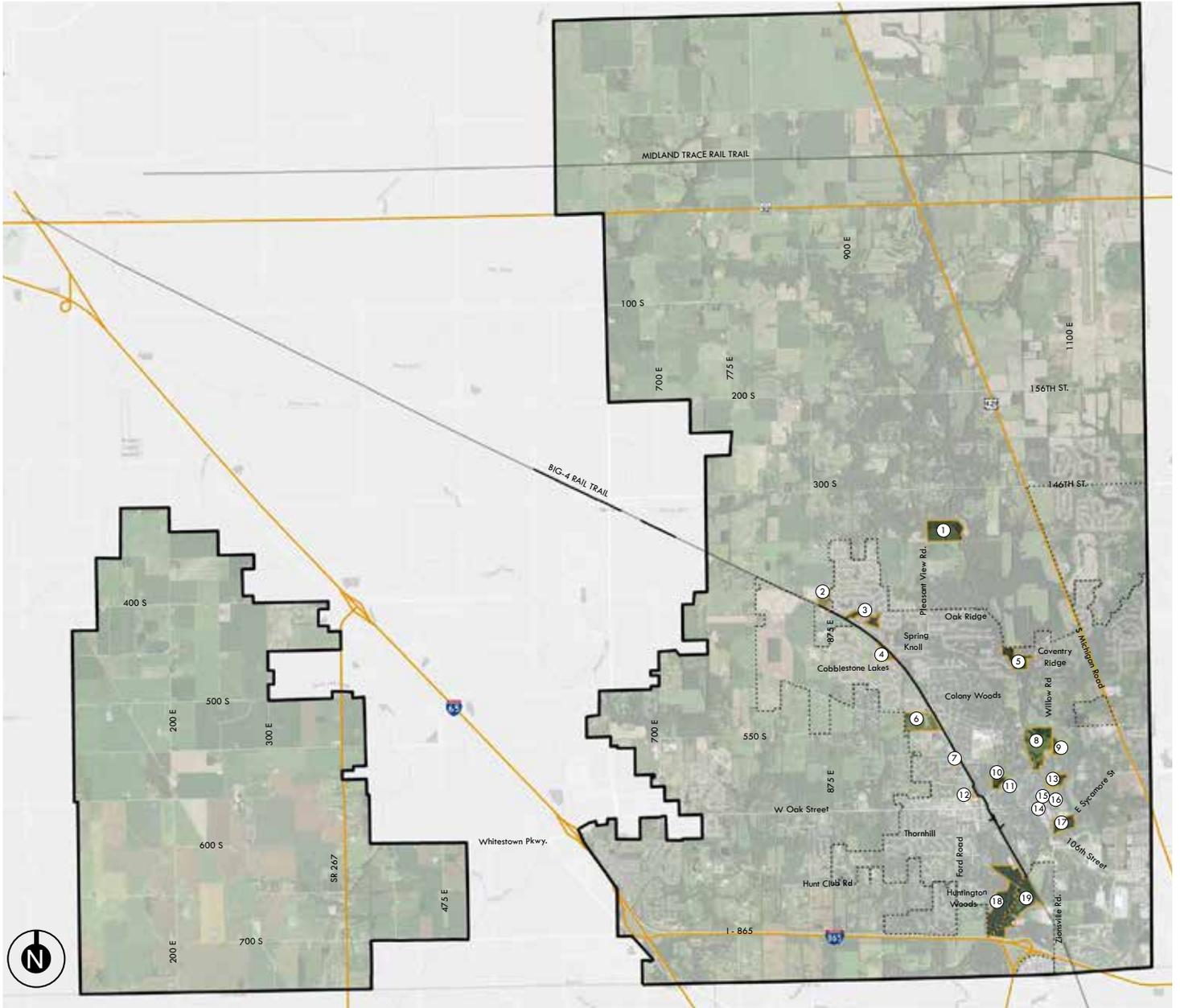


Figure 1 - Zionsville Corporate Limits Map



## General

The Town of Zionsville is located in central Indiana in Boone County. Home to approximately 26,000 people, Zionsville is located off of I-865 and less than 5 miles off of I-65 and is less than 20 miles from downtown Indianapolis.

Boone County covers 423 square miles with an approximate population of 64,653 (2016 estimate). Boone County is a part of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Area. The county is named after frontiersman Daniel Boone.

## History

Zionsville was originally settled in the early 1820's. Patrick Sullivan and David Hoover were among Zionsville's first white settlers who followed rivers and streams into Indiana looking for new homesteads. By 1850, the small community of Eagle Village was thriving on 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 1890's, the community held huge outdoor gatherings in the summers - events drawing visitors by the thousands. Getting to Zionsville was easy with the THI&E interurban passenger rail line opening in 1903 and continuing service until 1930.

The Parks Department has a rich history to draw from. Staff and Board members should continue the celebration of the outdoors that has been a part of the Zionsville history from the community's



Figure 2 - Regional Map - Boone County

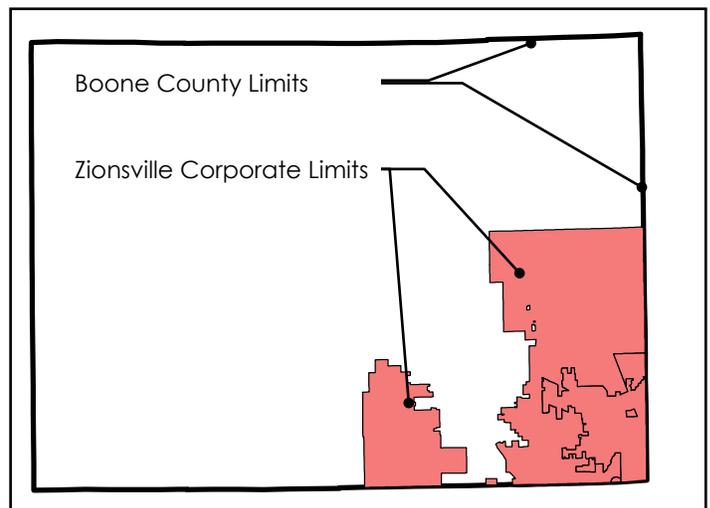


Figure 3 - Town of Zionsville within Boone County



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' Mapelawn Farmstead. This historic site is located on parkland in a corner of Mulberry Fields and is programmed by Mapelawn's non-profit volunteer group.

## Natural Environment and Landscape

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 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, and nature conservation, and flood control. Some areas could lend themselves to canoe/kayak 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.



**Hillside at Starkey Nature Park**

### Natural Region

The topography in Zionsville is not typical of central Indiana and the areas surrounding the town. There are areas of Zionsville which are very flat but there are also areas of more significant topographical relief. All of Boone County lies within the Wabash River Basin.

Boone County is located in the Till Plains of the Central Lowland physiographic province. The Till Plains run through the center of Indiana. The fertile Till Plains in Indian are a part of the great Midwestern Corn Belt. The rich, fertile soils support many crops including soy beans and wheat. Woodlands and forests are also widespread throughout the area. The landscape of the Till Plains is characterized by low hills and valleys.

The rich soils and hills and valleys have provided the town with several areas of natural green space. Areas of the town which could not be farmed or easily developed for residential or commercial use have been generously donated to the town for preservation as park lands. This has created a unique balance of natural, passive parks along with the more typical active use parks and recreation.

Although the terrain is an asset to the community, and often referred to by people when talking about the value of Zionsville parks, this same terrain



can create challenges for the Parks Department to maintain. In addition, it can be challenging to balance the need for access to these areas for visitors with the need to lessen the impact of people on these areas.

### **Water Resources**

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). Eagle Creek plays a central role in many of Zionsville's natural areas and parks.

A recreational and scenic asset that provides canoeing, kayaking, and fishing opportunities to the community, this waterway also presents a regular flooding threat to the town's infrastructure and parks. Flooding commonly occurs several times a year inundating several of the town's parks. Flooding along Eagle Creek creates maintenance challenges for the town in several of its parks and along the trails. In addition, the town has seen the actual path of Eagle Creek change significantly along its route creating issues with adjacent pathways and other features that are close to the creek. As the stream course adjusts, becoming larger in width in addition to creek bows which become more severe, the amount



**Eagle Creek in Lions Park**

of park land available can be reduced as well as increasing the challenges of maintenance with more severe flooding.

As the town continues to grow there will be an increased need for restoration and preservation projects for the banks and floodplain areas along Eagle Creek. The Parks Department has taken an active role in implementing restoration projects along Eagle Creek. Sustainable development guidelines will become more important as well. Without these flooding will become more pronounced as housing and commercial developments occur across the town. The town might also implement a public awareness campaign to educate the public on how they can implement similar best use practices on their private properties to help alleviate the impacts of impervious areas.



**Eagle Creek in Starkey Nature Park**

Although not as significant as Eagle Creek there are several smaller creeks in the newly added lands of Zionsville. Creeks include White Lick Creek, Fishback Creek, and McCord Creek to name a few. White Lick Creek presents an opportunity to create a regional greenway trail with Brownsburg. Most of these creeks drain towards the south providing an opportunity to connect the northern and southern areas of the town but do not create any east-west connections between the annexed areas and the urban district where the majority of existing parks are located.



### **Vegetative Cover**

With the annexation of more rural land, Zionsville is largely agricultural with open fields and farmland. The stream corridors, hills and valleys are characterized by wooded corridors of hardwoods typical of central Indiana with many Oaks, Maples, Ash and Sycamore trees. Many of the parks utilize the natural wooded areas and streams to provide trails and passive park areas.

Invasive species are present in Zionsville and Boone County. These include the emerald ash borer, garlic mustard plant, poison hemlock, honeysuckle and tree of heaven to name a few. Left untreated, these invasive species can harm the native plants, eliminate cover and food for wildlife and alter the ecosystem.

The Parks Department is active in identifying the invasive plants within the parks system and developing maintenance plans to help combat the problem. One such program is the Pull for Parks Community Event run by the Parks Department. This is a yearly event to remove invasive plants in April. The event has focused its efforts on the invasive Garlic Mustard plant in several separate parks in recent years.

### **Climate**

The climate in Zionsville is characterized by hot, humid summers and cold winters. The summers are long enough and warm enough to enjoy plenty of water play and summer sports. Spring and fall 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 because of cold temperatures. The area does not receive enough snowfall to ensure availability of outdoor winter sports like cross-country skiing and sledding. Average temperatures for Zionsville range from 23 degrees in the winter to 71 degrees in the summer.

### **Soils**

The soils in the Zionsville area range from somewhat poorly drained (Cosby 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 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.

### **Education**

The Zionsville Community School Corporation operates eight schools in the Zionsville community. All except for Boone Meadow Elementary School and Zionsville West Middle School are located within the town limits of Zionsville. These include:

#### ***Eagle Elementary School***

350 N. 6th Street,  
Zionsville  
317.873.1234

#### ***Pleasant View Elementary School***

4700 S. 975 E.  
Zionsville  
317.873.2376

#### ***Stonegate Elementary School***

7312 Stonegate Drive  
Zionsville  
317.873.8050

#### ***Union Elementary School***

11750 E. 300 S.  
Zionsville  
317.773.4007



### **Boone Meadow Elementary School**

6098 Squire Place  
Whitestown  
317.873.2226

### **Zionsville Middle School**

900 Ford Road  
Zionsville  
317.873.2426

### **Zionsville West Middle School**

5565 S. 700 E.  
Whitestown  
317.873.1240

### **Zionsville Community High School**

1000 Mulberry Street  
Zionsville  
317.873.3355

The schools are spread throughout the community with several accessible by bicycle from adjacent neighborhoods. The Big-4 Rail Trail (previously named the Zionsville Rail Trail) is heavily used by the high school and middle school for various sports training activities, as is Mulberry Fields Park and other parks.

The schools offer a variety of activities and amenities including:

- Baseball/Softball
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Cheerleading
- Football
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Lacrosse
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Swimming and Diving
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Track and Field
- Wrestling
- Playgrounds
- Variety of After-School Activities



### **Zionsville Community High School**

While many of the school's facilities may not be open to the public after normal school hours, the playgrounds and outdoor amenities do receive regular use by the general public when school is not in session.

### **Man-Made Attributes and Resources Transportation Network**

Roads:

- Interstate 865 - located in the southern part of the town east of Interstate 65
- S.R. 32 - runs through the northern area and connects the town with Lebanon
- S.R. 267 - runs north-south through the Perry Township portion of Zionsville and connects the town to Brownsburg
- U.S. Hwy. 421 (Michigan Road) - 421 runs from the southeastern corner of the town to the northern part of the town
- S.R. 334/Oak Street - connects to Interstate 65 and is the main roadway connecting areas to the west of town
- S.R. 334 continues through the east end of town and becomes Sycamore Street which connects with 116th Street at Michigan Road

Railroad: Zionsville has taken full advantage of the abandoned rail line which runs through the town. The Big-4 Rail Trail provides a unique experience for users with minimal at-grade crossings. The Parks Department continues to pursue the completion



**Figure 4 - INDOT Active (green) and Abandoned (red) Rail Lines**

of the rail-trail to the town limits while coordinating with adjacent communities for connections.

Another abandoned rail line not shown on the above map runs along the northern part of the town just south of S.R. 32 and is known as the Midland Trace Trail. Parts of this abandoned rail line have been developed as a rail-trail in adjacent Westfield. Once developed as a rail-trail, this corridor will connect Zionsville with Westfield and Lebanon and provide another linear park for Zionsville.

There is an active rail line in Perry Township (See Figure 4). This has been identified by the Parks Department as a potential amenity if the rail line were abandoned and would provide valuable park lands to an under-served area of the town.

Sidewalks: Urban areas and many neighborhoods within Zionsville have developed sidewalks providing internal pedestrian connections. Many of these sidewalks connect with trails which connect neighborhoods with each other and with parks and schools. The Zionsville Strategic Trails Implementation Plan identified key areas of the town which need to improve or expand their

existing sidewalk network. One of the main goals of these projects was to connect neighborhoods with the Zionsville parks system.

Zionsville has identified itself as a community which provides facilities for many different types of transportation including pedestrians and bicycles along with automobiles. This distinguishes Zionsville from many other towns and is commonly listed as one of the reasons that people move to Zionsville. The Parks Department has identified



**Midland Trace Trail, Westfield**



continued efforts to grow the multi-modal system within their properties, making it a priority for the department. Proof of these efforts is seen with Zionsville being named a League of American Bicyclists Bike Friendly City.

### **Cemeteries**

There are three cemeteries within the limits of the town, all of which are privately owned and operated. The Parks Department oversees the maintenance of a few cemeteries within the town limits. With the addition of the Township areas to the town, there may be requests for the department to maintain additional cemeteries within these areas. It is recommended that any new cemeteries added to the maintenance duties of the Parks Department be platted separately, are not taxable property, and have a dedicated access easement for access to the cemetery.



**Hussey-Mayfield Memorial Public Library**

### **Public Library**

The Hussey-Mayfield Memorial Public Library is located in Zionsville on North 5th Street within the downtown area. The library houses a collection of books, audio books, magazines, videos, DVDs, and music. The library provides services for all ages including a computer lab, meeting rooms, study rooms and homebound services.

### **Culture**

#### **Arts and Museums**

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. The museum also serves as a Visitors Center for the town of Zionsville.

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 farmhouse was built in 1861. The farmstead is part of the 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 1930's era of the site.

#### **Festivals and Events**

Below is a list of festivals and events held within Zionsville. While they are not all sponsored by the town itself, a number of community organizations contribute to their planning and success. Festivals and events include:

- Summer Outdoor Movies (May-September)
- Zionsville Farmer's Market (May-October)
- Lion's Fourth of July Celebration (July)
- Zionsville Lion's Fall Festival (September)
- Zionsville Ghost Walk (October)
- Christmas in the Village (Nov.-December)



## **Town Parks not Owned by Parks and Recreation Board**

There are two park-like facilities in Zionsville that are not owned or operated by the Parks and Recreation Department. This includes Jennings Field which used to be owned by the Town Council and Lions Park (owned and operated by the Lions Service Club). Although these parks are not a part of the Zionsville Parks system and not under the control of the Park Board, they do provide complimentary services for the Parks Department. Along with the school system facilities, these community partners work with the Parks Department to provide facilities which are not accommodated within the parks system. With the majority of the park lands in the parks system located in floodplain areas, there are limited opportunities to provide the large area sports fields that are located in Jennings Field and in Lions Park. If these relationships do not continue into the future, the Zionsville Parks Department will have to evaluate the need for sports parks within their facilities but as long as the partnerships continue, these parks are complimentary and not competitive with the Parks Department parks.

### **Lions Park**

Lions Park is located adjacent to The Village along Sycamore Street. Lions Park while not owned by the Zionsville Parks Department, does contribute to the overall parks and recreation experience within Zionsville. Many baseball and softball leagues utilize the ballfields at Lions Park. The location of the park near the downtown makes it a convenient and popular destination for residents. There are a variety of playgrounds and picnic areas available at the park. Zionsville Parks Department does own and maintain a playground area and two tennis courts directly adjacent to Lions Park (see existing parks inventory in following chapters). Many residents associate this area with Lions Park and think that the Parks Department owns and operates Lions Park.

### **Jennings Field**

Jennings Field is a 10.7-acre park located



**Jennings Field**

northwest of downtown. The land was donated in 1977 by Bill Jennings, the developer of an adjacent housing development. It contains four multi-use athletic fields, a concession building with restroom facilities, a picnic shelter, and a playground area. The expansive parking area also serves as convenient parking for the Big-4 Rail Trail users. Although previously owned by the Town Council and operated by the Parks Department, this facility is now owned by the Zionsville Community School Corporation. The park still contributes to the recreational experience of Zionsville used by residents.

### **Golf**

The Zionsville Golf Course is owned by the Town Council and operated by the Zionsville Parks Department. The golf course was purchased by the Parks Department in 2007. The nine-hole golf course provides lessons and league play.



## Accessibility & Universal Design

Creating accessibility throughout a park system can be challenging. Accessibility encompasses 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. As the population ages, particular attention will be required to provide appropriate universal design and access. As people age, more and more people will acquire some level of disability, whether temporary or permanent. In addition, recent guidelines for accessibility standards for Title II parks and recreation facilities as laid out in the 2010 ADAAG standards may require alterations to park facilities.

ADA compliant access can be difficult in a parks system. There are a number of ways the Parks Department can provide park lands, facilities, and programs to the most user groups possible. One of the most effective ways is to research other park departments and see what they offer and what are their various models of accessibility. This can be done through staff, volunteers, or with partner agencies/organizations.

The department could also hire a consultant to perform a full-scale audit of Zionsville's facilities,



**Universally Accessible Playground**

sites, and programs. The result of that study could include 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. Wayne DeLong, the Planning and Economic Development Director is the current ADA Coordinator. Residents and visitors are able to contact the administrative offices via phone (317.873.8245) or in person at Town Hall for any questions or to begin formal grievance procedures. The Town completed their ADA Transition Plan in 2015. ADA Public Notice and accessibility-related information on compliant amenities, programs and services are available through the ADA Coordinator.

Board members and staff strive to provide quality leisure experiences in the least restrictive ways possible. As future improvements are implemented for the parks system, equal consideration should be given to how usable Zionsville's parks and programming are for the young, the elderly, the poor, and for person with disabilities.

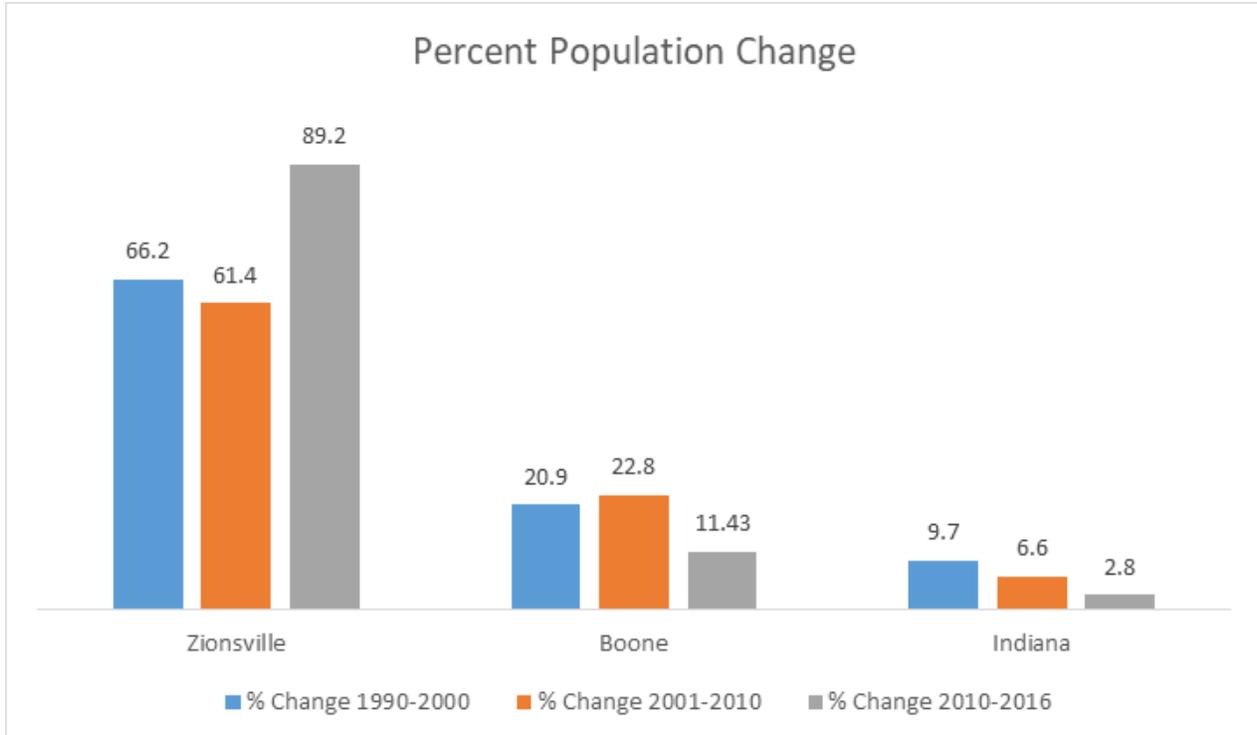
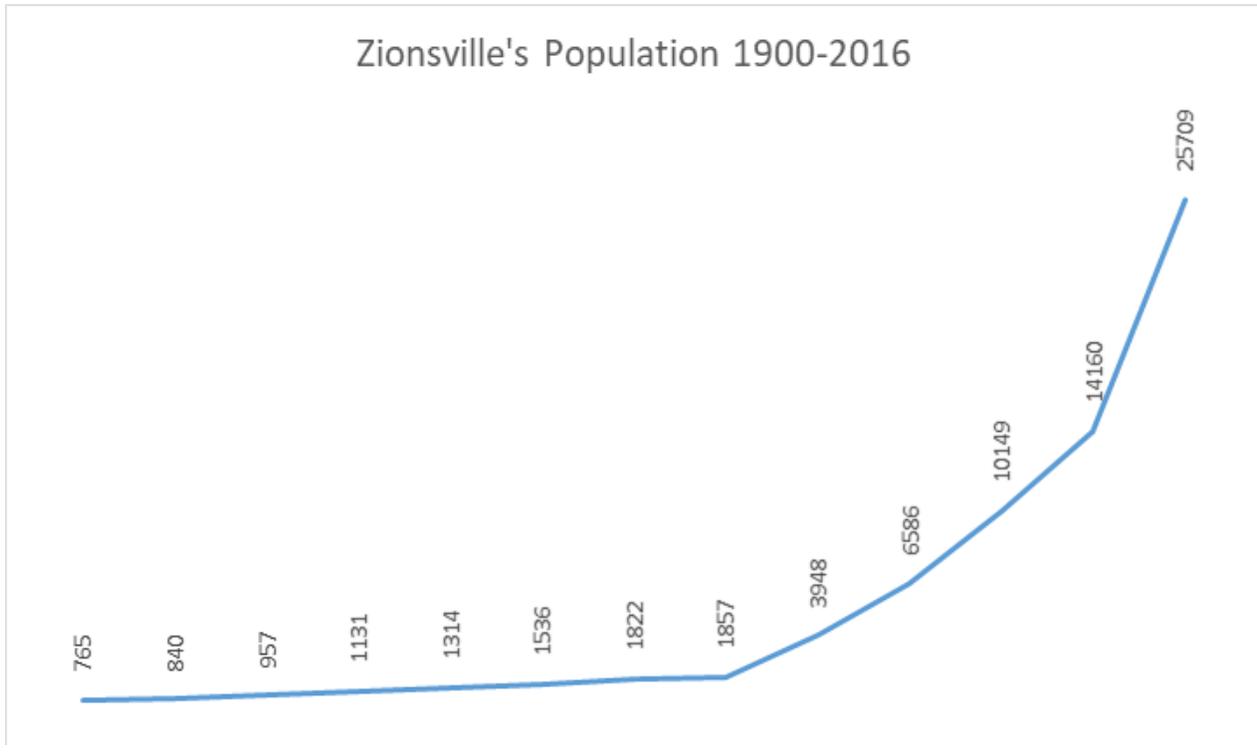
Over the past five to ten years, Zionsville and its Park Board have been constructing multi-purpose pathways, trail linkages, and park sites, using guidelines from the National Access Board. Some specific examples are: Turkey Foot Trail, the Laurel Street path connection, improvements to the Nancy Burton corridor, and Elm Street Green Park.

A preliminary assessment for ADA compliance has been provided for each park in the existing conditions section of this plan.



## Demographic Overview

Zionsville has seen a steady increase in population since the 1970's. Population increases not shown in the graph below include an increase to approximately 24,000 with the 2010 annex and a further increase in population with the 2015 annexation of Perry Township to over 25,000. The Census 2016 projection population is 25,709.





## Demographic and Economic Characteristics

- 48.7% male, 51.3% female
- 91.3% white, 1.5% African American, 0.2% Indian, 5.3% Asian, 1.4% other
- 1.7% of population speaks a language other than English at home (2000 census)

### Age

Median age for Zionsville is 38.4 years.

### Housing and Families

Economic summary 2016:

- Median household income: \$118,190
- Families below poverty level: 2.7%
- Unemployment rate: 2.6%
- Largest industry: educational, health and social services
- Second largest industry: manufacturing
- Largest county industry: Service Industry
- Mean time travel to work: 25.6 minutes

Housing character 2016:

- Total number of households: 9,036

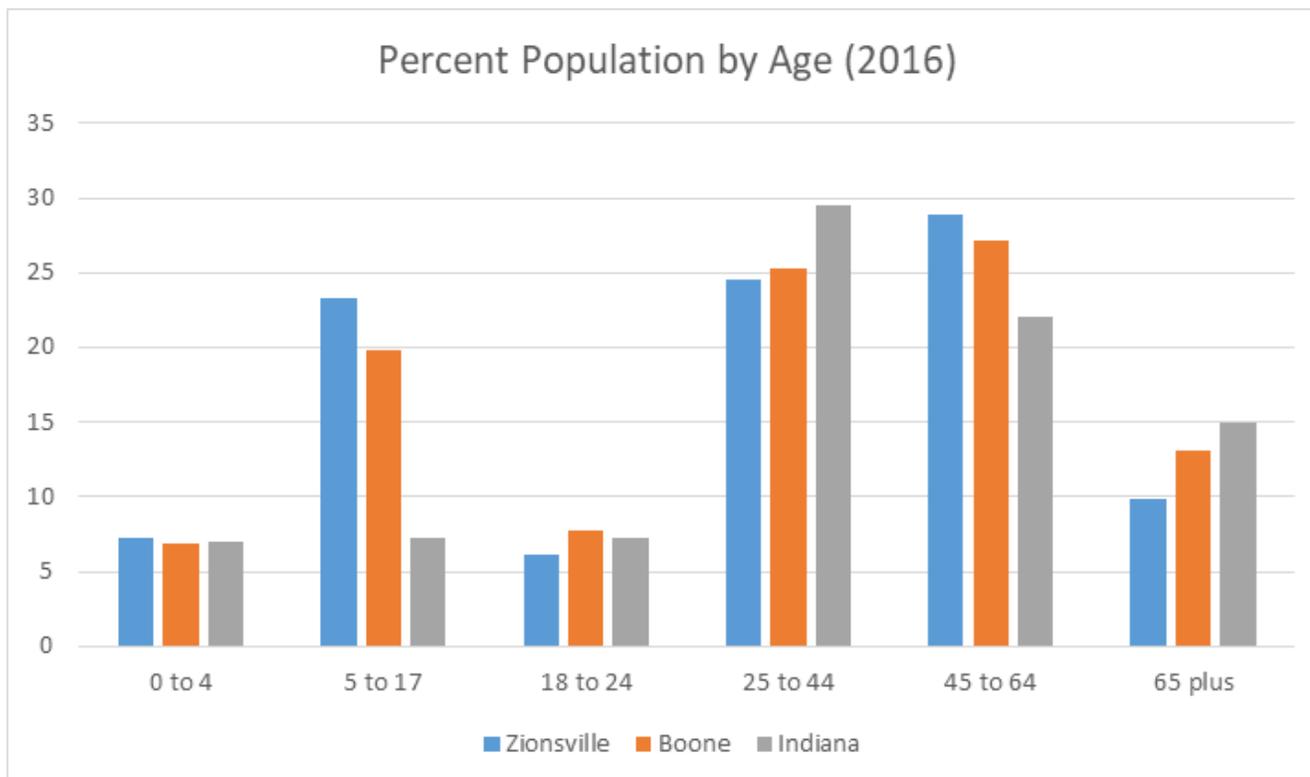
- Number of people living in households: 25,300
- Average household size: 2.8
- Total housing units: 9,615
- Vacant units: 0.4%
- Home owner with mortgage: 76.1%

Education Attainment of Zionsville's Adult Population (25+) in 2016

- High School grad or higher: 98%
- Bachelor degree or higher: 70.1%

### Households

Households are another means of measuring growth and change in a community. A household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence. Households are classified by type according to the sex of the householder and the presence of relatives. Examples include married-couple family; male householder, no wife present; female householder, no husband present; spouse (husband/wife); child; and other relatives.





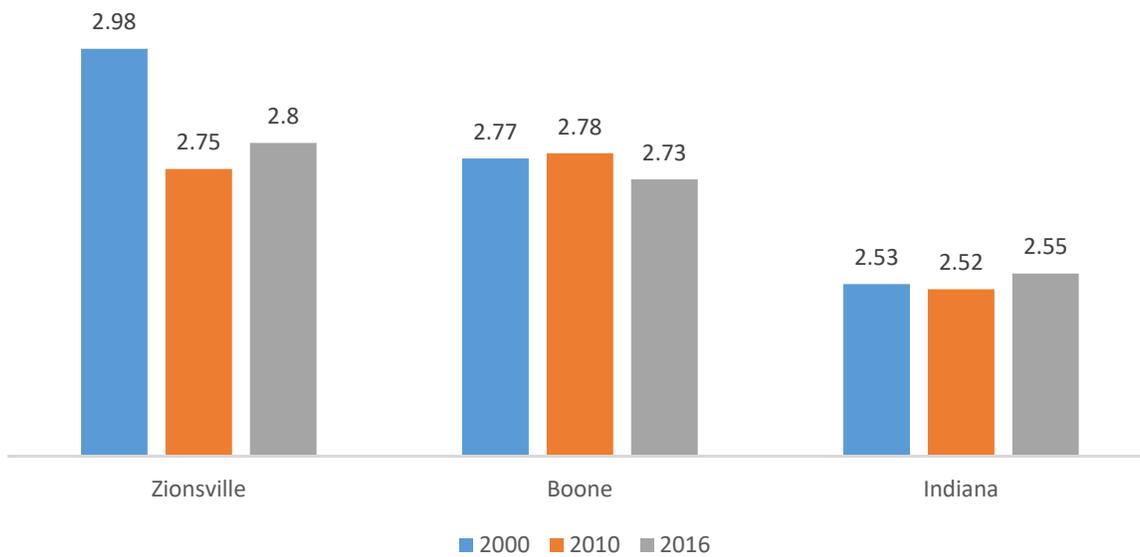
## Average Number of Household Members

The average number of household members decreased between 2000 and 2010 in Zionsville while holding steady in Boone County and the state but increased in 2016.

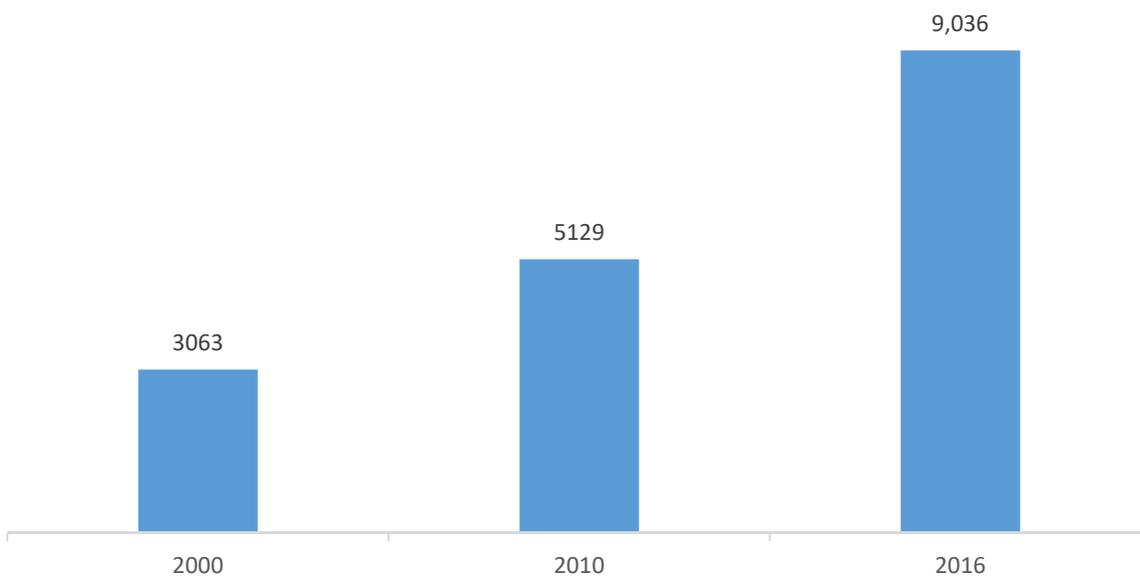
## Housing Units

The number of housing units in Zionsville increased significantly between 2000 and 2016. Some of the increase was seen through Town reorganization but a large portion of this increase occurred in new housing development.

Average Number of Household Members



Total Household Units in Zionsville





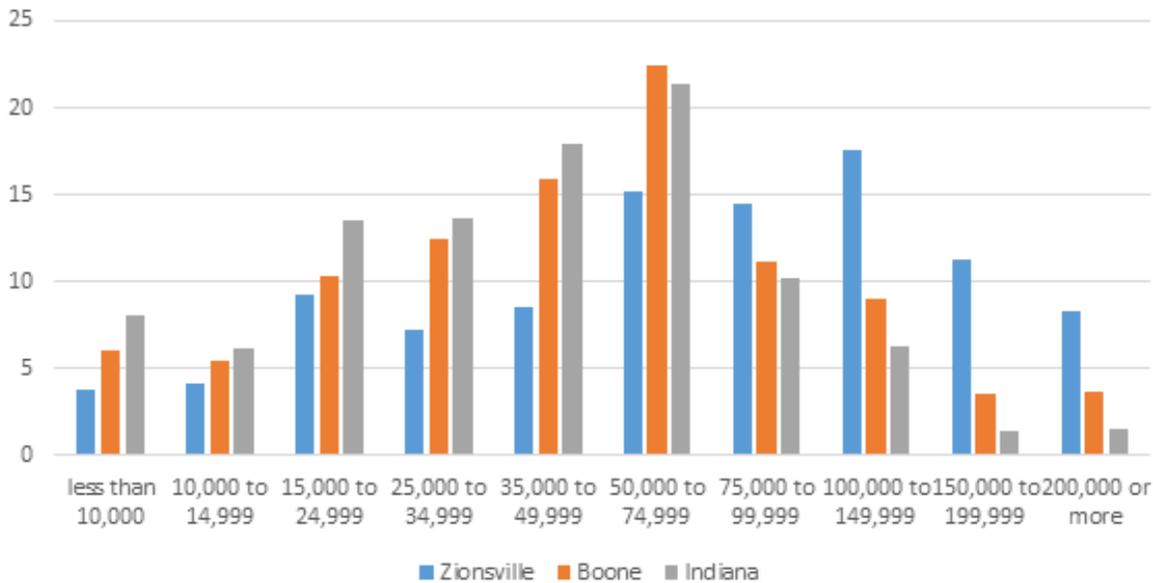
## Household Income Distribution

The chart below depicts the distribution of households at different income levels in Indiana, Boone County, and Zionsville from 2000, 2010 and 2016 with the majority of households earning between \$50,000-\$75,000 for all three categories

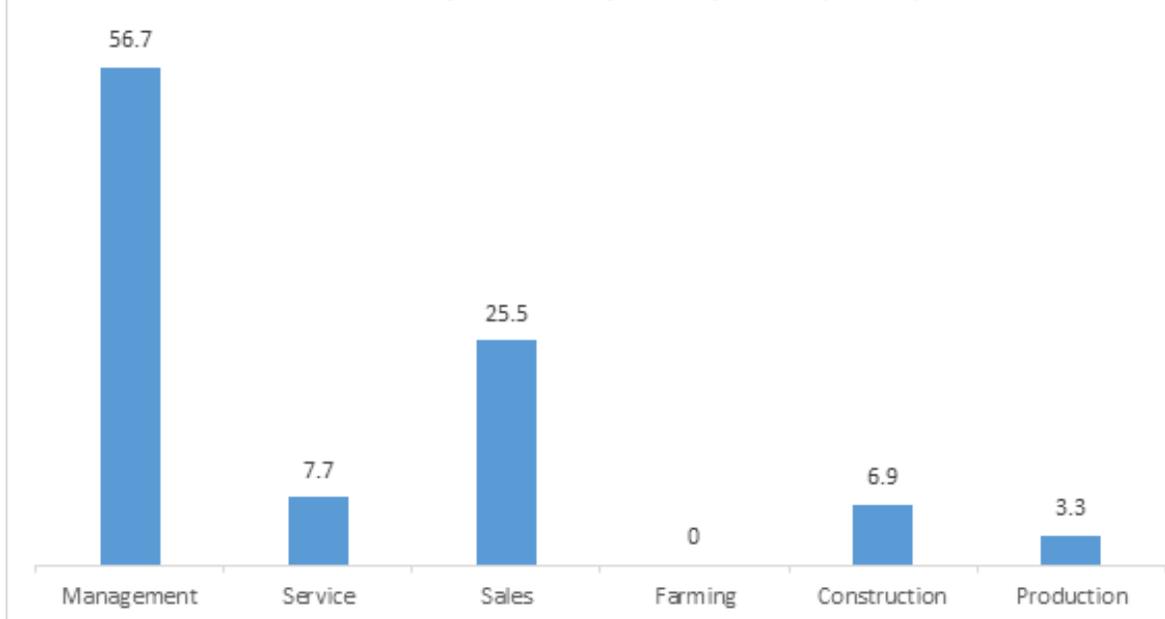
## Population By Occupation

The following chart shows that in Zionsville the majority of jobs are in management and sales. The service and construction industry provide employment for the majority of the remaining jobs. It is important for the Parks Department to note that businesses with these types of occupations use a community's parks to attract new employees as a quality of life amenity.

Percent Distribution of Household by Income (2000)

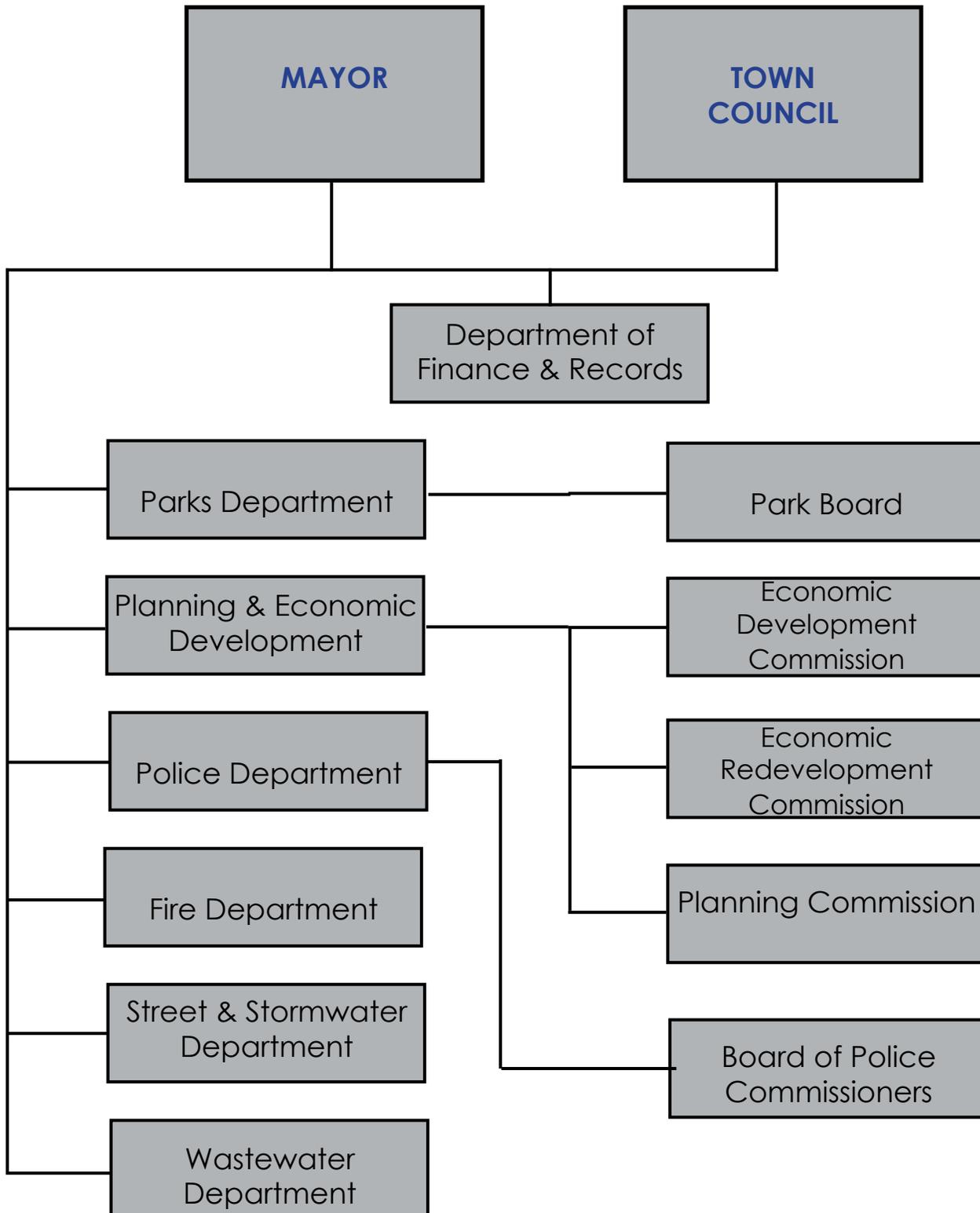


Percent Population by Occupation (2000)





The Town of Zionsville is governed by an elected mayor and seven-person Town Council, which oversees the elected Department of Finance & Records, the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Street & Stormwater Department, Wastewater Department and the Parks Department.





## Zionsville Park and Recreation Board

1075 Parkway Drive  
Zionsville, IN 46007

Member	Position	Term Expiration
Jeff Edmondson 460 N. Maple Street Zionsville, IN 46007	President	2019
Tim Casady 540 Sycamore Street Zionsville, IN 46007	Vice President	2022
John Wollenberg 2969 Alamosa Lane Zionsville, IN 46007	Secretary	2019
Goerge H. Abel 1113 Foxglove Court Zionsville, IN 46007	Member	2021
Steve Bullington 5 Williamsburg Court Zionsville, IN 46007	Member	2020
Wayne Bivans 4541 Greenthread Court Zionsville, IN 46007	Member	2018

### Park Board and Department Goals

Having clear and measurable goals is crucial to achieving success. Crafting those goals typically starts with a vision and mission statement. The vision and mission statement help to guide the direction of plan improvements, as well as guiding future actions of the Board by providing a unified goal for the Board even as member's terms expire and new members join the Board.

During the previous plan update, the Board revised its long-standing vision for the parks system to better reflect the current goals of the growing Town. The new vision developed for the Board, and still accurate for the current vision 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
- Provide outreach to existing external programs and projects



## Park Board General Goals

As a part of the previous plan specific goals were developed to provide strategic steps to the Board to ensure that the mission is accomplished. The goals include:

- Acquire land to provide green space throughout the town, for game fields, playground areas, nature parks, and interconnecting scenic trail system
- Develop properties within the existing parks system
- Develop additional recreation facilities and programs in cooperation with school and private groups
- Continue maintenance and upgrade of existing facilities, parks, trails, playgrounds, and cemeteries
- Continue pursuit of funding sources to supplement the regular budget
- Update the 5-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
- Consider safety and accessibility issues in the development and maintenance of parks and programs.

## Organization & Structure

The Town of Zionsville Park Board consists of six volunteer members. Four member appointments are for a four-year term with no more than eight years in a 12-year period; one member is a School Board appointment on a yearly basis; and one Mayoral appointment on a yearly basis. The terms are staggered with officers elected annually. No Board member may serve in the same office for



### Mulberry Fields

more than two consecutive years. Primary duties of the Park Board include: approving claims; supervising and making rules for the parks system; establishing rules for the use of park facilities; and preparing and submitting an annual budget. The Park Board meets once a month to discuss current affairs related to the park. The meetings are publicly advertised and open to the citizens of Zionsville.

Parks Department staff includes a Park Superintendent, assistant superintendent for maintenance services, three park technicians and the Park Naturalist. This is below the average for normal parks staff for systems of similar size according to national averages. As the parks system continues to grow the Park Board will need to evaluate additional staffing needs.

### Budget Review

The Parks Department Funds are generated by Park taxes and allocated by the town. Funds are used to build new improvements and for maintenance and repairs for the parks and trails.

Improvements often occur through monetary donations or donations of land. Additionally, the Park Board can request additional funds from the Town Council on an as needed basis to cover the costs of improvements.



## Community Partnerships

Community partnerships are a vital part of the Zionsville parks especially on the programming side. Volunteer groups and community groups such as the Zionsville Youth Football League and the Zionsville Youth Soccer Association provide organized youth sports for the community. Increasingly, communities are finding these types of partnerships an effective and essential way of maintaining and building park systems and their programs.

Additional partnerships for the Parks Department to explore might include:

- Donations (funds, materials, equipment, new amenities, land)
- Volunteers (events, maintenance, administrative)
- Programming
- Advocacy
- Fundraising

Several businesses and members of the community are active in helping to improve the parks system. Making the desire for partnerships known throughout the community is a proven method for leveraging multiple local resources. The Town Council and town employees can act as referral agents to community organizations



Lion's Park



Lion's Park

and individuals and generate momentum for creative partnerships that achieve the Park Board's mission. Additionally, the Park Board can include volunteer and donation opportunities on the town's website.

## Friends Groups

Similar to community partnerships, friends groups can provide a successful means of supporting local parks. The Park Board has contemplated the creation of this type of group to assist with the development of the parks system. This could be a group of volunteers, often under the umbrella of a not-for-profit [501 (C) 3], who actively work toward improving one or more parks.

Typically, these groups are comprised of a variety of people with an array of backgrounds, who volunteer time and skills towards manual labor, fundraising, building local and regional relationships, and event planning.

These organizations can also be used for the collection and distribution of money towards park projects. For more information on friends groups and how to start one, visit the National Parks Service website at:

[www.nps.gov/partnerships/friends\\_groups.htm](http://www.nps.gov/partnerships/friends_groups.htm).

## Grants

Proposed and suggested improvements for Zionsville's parks will often carry capital expenses larger than the town's financial capability. For this reason, grants and/or significant donations will be



critical in pursuing significant improvements to the parks system. The Parks Department is already active in pursuing grants to assist with funding improvements.

Several federal, state, and local grant opportunities exist for parks and recreation agencies. These include but are not limited to:

**Transportation Enhancement (TE)**

Provides 80% grant/20% local funding. Funding is available for trails and for basic trailhead facilities. This could include monies for not only trails, but also for construction of parking, toilet rooms, shelters, and other basic improvements. Funding \$500,000 to \$1.0 million per round is possible. <http://www.in.gov/indot/2390.htm>

**IDNR - Recreational Trails Program (RTP)**

RTP provides 80% grant/20% local funding for acquisition and development of multi-use trails. Funding is more limited than TE funds, but still could provide grants of up to \$200,000. <http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4101.htm>

**IDNR - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

LWCF provides 50% grant/50% local funding for the development of park facilities. <http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4071.htm>

**IDNR, Division of Outdoor Recreation - Special Grants**

IDNR provided special grants of \$200,000 to \$1.0 million for development of greenways systems in 2008. While not a competitive grant program, it reinforces the need to keep IDNR aware of projects and the need for improvements. <http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/2602.htm>

**IDNR, Division of Forestry**

Grants for community and urban forestry programs to assist with street and park tree inventories, management/work plans and tree planting. Grants range from \$2,000 up to \$20,000 and must have equal cash/in-kind matches. <http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/8303.htm>

**Community Foundation of Boone County**

Supports projects related to social services, the environment, the arts, and overall community improvement. <http://www.communityfoundationbc.org/>

**Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (INPAWS)**

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

**Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)**

Seeks replacement wetlands for projects requiring Section 401 Water Quality Certification. <http://www.in.gov/idem/4103.htm>

**Indiana Department of Fish and Wildlife Lakes and Rivers Enhancement Program (LARE)**

Offers grants to protect and enhance aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife, to insure the continued viability of Indiana's publicly accessible lakes and streams for multiple uses, including recreational opportunities. <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2364.htm>





## Public Input

The information shared by the public is invaluable throughout the planning process and provides insight into the community that may otherwise go unrealized. Additionally, the opportunity for public input provides a sense of ownership and buy-in for the community that increases local support and encourages and fosters adoption and implementation of the plan's goals and objectives.

During the development of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Town of Zionsville public input was gathered using three methods; stakeholder meetings, public input meetings, and community survey. Stakeholder and public input meetings are discussed below, while the community survey is discussed in the following section.

## Stakeholder Meetings

A series of stakeholder meetings were held on November 14 and 16, 2017 at the Zionsville Town Hall. Five separate groups of ten to fifteen people were invited for 45 minute brainstorming sessions to discuss the existing parks system and their hopes for the future. The five groups interviewed by the project team included:

- Town Staff
- Sports Organizations and Specialty Activities
- Community Leaders and Business Owners
- Town Elected Officials
- Interested Park Citizens

Within these groups were a variety of people representing different organizations within the community including local schools, citizens and various town staff members. Additionally, a variety of businesses including local banks, real estate agents, and restaurants were present. From local government, representatives from the Park Board, Street Department, Town Council, and Fire and Police Department were present.

Each group was prompted with the same interview guide created by the project team



## Public Input Meeting #1

to ensure consistency in questioning. All of the responses were recorded and analyzed. The results indicated the following key themes among the stakeholders.

- Continuing/completing the Big-4 Rail Trail
- Connections Between Parks and between neighborhoods
- Park Facility Improvements such as new playgrounds
- Maintenance of Existing Facilities including updates to existing playgrounds and facilities
- Need for more winter activities within the community (possibly with indoor recreation facility or partnership with existing indoor facilities)

## Complete the Big-4 Rail Trail

Heard consistently throughout each of the stakeholder meetings was the desire to see the Big-4 Rail Trail completed. Residents view the rail trail as one of the identifying assets for the community. This trail provides uninterrupted travel for runners, walkers, and bikers through the community without having to cross roadways at-grade except for in one location on the northern end. This provides a safe place for families and users of all ages to bike, walk and run. Many of the school



athletic groups use the rail trail to train. Many residents use the rail trail to travel between their neighborhoods and between parks. Residents would like to see the trail completed to the north and south to connect with adjacent communities but also to reach additional neighborhoods.

## Park Facility Improvements

There were a variety of improvements that stakeholders would like to see implemented in the parks system in the next five years. A mountain bike park was mentioned multiple times. Stakeholders see the value in adding a facility that residents currently have to travel out of town to find. Along the same lines, stakeholders feel that Zionsville is a very dog friendly community but there is no dog park for these owners. Other facilities mentioned in the discussion included disc golf and outdoor winter activities. Stakeholders value the outdoor recreational opportunities that are provided by the parks system but struggle to find similar activities for the winter months. Several stakeholders mentioned the need to evaluate how those needs might be met by the parks department. Ideas included an indoor recreational activity center similar to the YMCA or the Monon Center in Carmel. Other ideas included finding partnerships with schools or other private groups to provide winter programming.

## Connection between parks and neighborhoods

Zionsville is a biking and walking oriented community. Stakeholders commented on the desire for more connections between parks and neighborhoods. Many value the various trails available in the town but would like to rely on automobiles even less. Although some trails can be added in parks to help with these connections a lot of the connections that were requested by stakeholders are facilities that would be provided by the Street & Stormwater Department or other town departments.

## Maintenance/Upgrade of Existing Facilities

All of the stakeholder groups saw the balance

of natural space and active park space as an asset of the parks system and the town. Although the parks are maintained at a high level one of the Parks Department's three playgrounds has become outdated. Stakeholders commented on playgrounds in particular as facilities which need to be updated. Although new playgrounds, including those for additional age groups, were identified as facilities that were needed in the parks, stakeholders do not want this to occur without considerations to updating existing playgrounds as well.

## Public Input Meeting #1

A public input meeting, open to any interested parties, was held from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Town Hall on November 16th, 2017. Public outreach for the meeting included the project website, announcements



Public Input Meeting #1



## Public Engagement: Stakeholder & Public Meetings

in the and the local newspapers as well as announcements on several town websites. The meeting included over 30 community members who are active in the community with the parks system.

Existing conditions including aerial maps and photographs for each park were utilized at stations in the Community Room. Project staff engaged residents to gather input on how residents viewed the current parks system. In addition, comment sheets were provided for residents to record their individual comments. Comments from the public meeting correlated closely with the comments that were heard at the Stakeholder meetings including:

- Complete the Big-4 Rail Trail
- Improve existing playgrounds
- Install new playgrounds
- Would like to see uses not currently in the parks system like a dog park, mountain bike facilities, and disc golf
- Pleased with the existing maintenance of parks and programs available



**Public Input Meeting #2**



**Public Input Meeting #2**

### Public Input Meeting #2

A second public input meeting, open to any interested parties, was held from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Town Hall on December 14th, 2017. Public outreach for the meeting included the project website, announcements in the local newspapers as well as announcements on several town websites. The meeting included 23 community members who are active in the community with the parks system. A few of the people who were at the first meeting attended the second meeting but overall this was a new group.

The second public input meeting was used to gather input pertaining to the public's priorities for the development of certain facilities within the existing park system and to gather wishes for new parks. Exhibits included potential new improvements including playgrounds, trail connections, specialty parks like mountain bike



**Public Input Meeting #2**

parks, dog parks, and nature parks, and extension of the Big-4 Rail Trail. The public was asked to comment on maps and respond to a priority chart. In general, the top priorities heard at the first public meeting were echoed in the second public meeting.

### **Public Input Meeting #3**

A third public input meeting, open to any interested parties, was held from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Town Hall on March 21st, 2018 to present proposed improvements for the parks system. Public outreach for the meeting included the project website, announcements in the local newspapers as well as announcements on several town websites. The meeting included approximately 25 community members. The majority of the attendees in the third public meeting were at one of the two earlier meetings.



**Public Input Meeting #3**



## Public Engagement: Stakeholder & Public Meetings

Proposed improvements for the parks system were presented as a part of this public meeting. The public was asked to comment on these improvements and to “vote” on what they thought should be the priorities for the parks department over the next 5 years. The common themes heard in this meeting included:

- Extend the Big-4 Rail Trail to the north and south
- Construct additional playgrounds to serve a wider range of ages
- Construct a mountain bike facility to meet increased demands
- Construct a new nature center which can accommodate larger groups and more hours of operation and programming
- Construct a dog park for the community
- Improve existing parks with wear and tear issues like Starkey Nature Park and the tot lot and tennis courts at Lions Park
- Continue to maintain the balance of natural parks and active parks
- Continue to develop the trails system in Zionsville



Public Input Meeting #3



## Overview

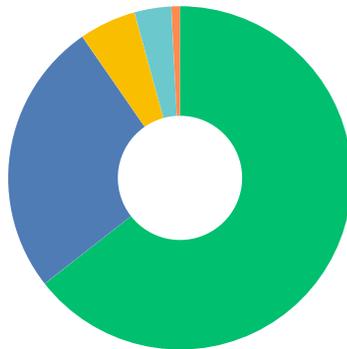
A survey was made available to the general public from November 6th to December 31, 2017. It was made available online through Survey Monkey. In addition, hard copies were made available at the Stakeholder Meetings and at the first public meeting. A total of 381 responses were collected, 100% of which were via the online survey. The number of survey responses shows how active this community is but also demonstrates the importance of parks to the community.

- The majority of respondents rate the physical condition of parks as excellent or good
- Extending the Zionsville Rail Trail (Formerly Big-4 Rail Trail) received the highest responses for priority projects for the parks system
- Continued trail development and connections between parks and neighborhoods was second in responses
- Respondents were strongly in support of funding new parks system with a variety of funds from grants to donations to the existing budget and a municipal bond

## Key Findings

The full results for the community survey are located in the Appendix. Summary findings include:

### Q1 How important is it to you to have park facilities and activities within walking distance of your home? (Check one)



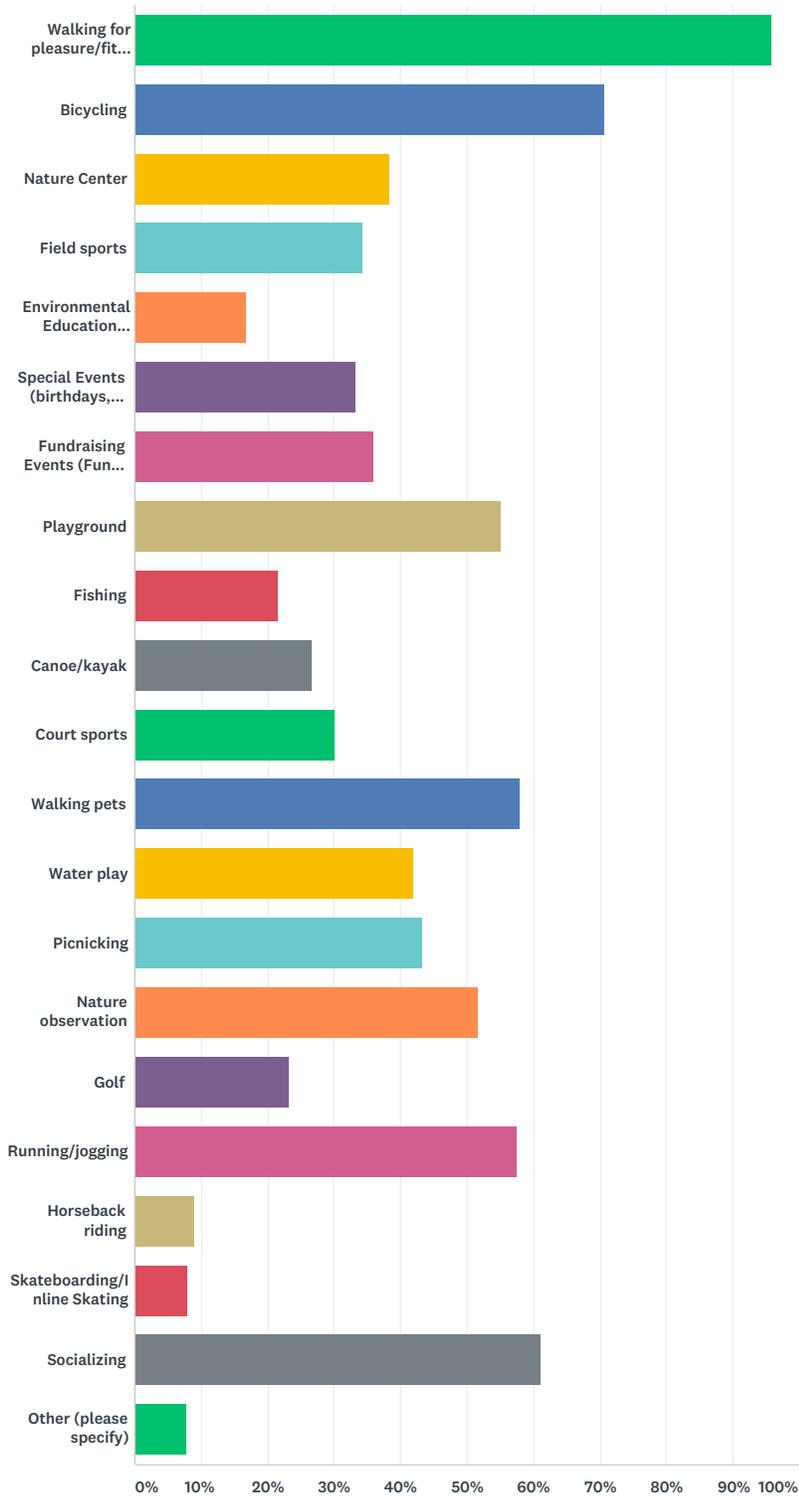
■ Extremely important   
 ■ Somewhat important   
 ■ Neutral   
 ■ Not very important  
■ Not at all important   
 ■ Don't know

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely important	64.44%	241
Somewhat important	25.94%	97
Neutral	5.35%	20
Not very important	3.48%	13
Not at all important	0.80%	3
Don't know	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>374</b>



# Public Engagement: Survey Results

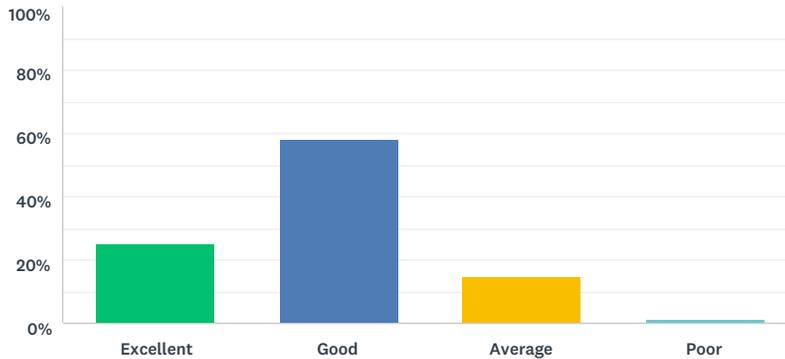
Q2 Have you participated in any of the following recreation activities in the last year? (check all that apply)





## Q9 How would you rate the physical condition of Zionsville's parks and facilities? (check one)

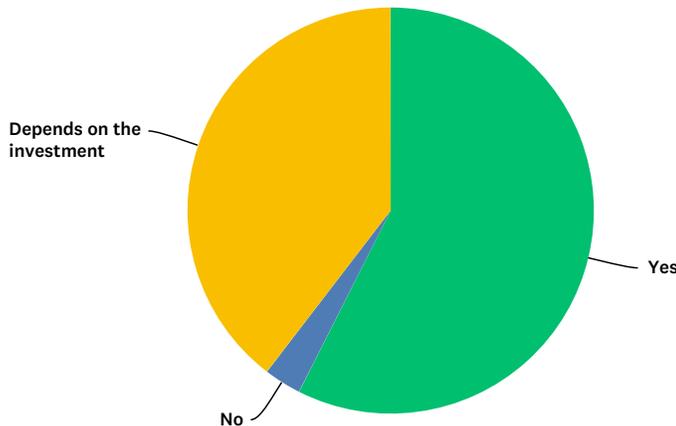
Answered: 374 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	25.13%	94
Good	58.29%	218
Average	14.97%	56
Poor	1.60%	6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>374</b>

## Q17 Would you like Zionsville to invest more money in the parks? (check one)

Answered: 369 Skipped: 11



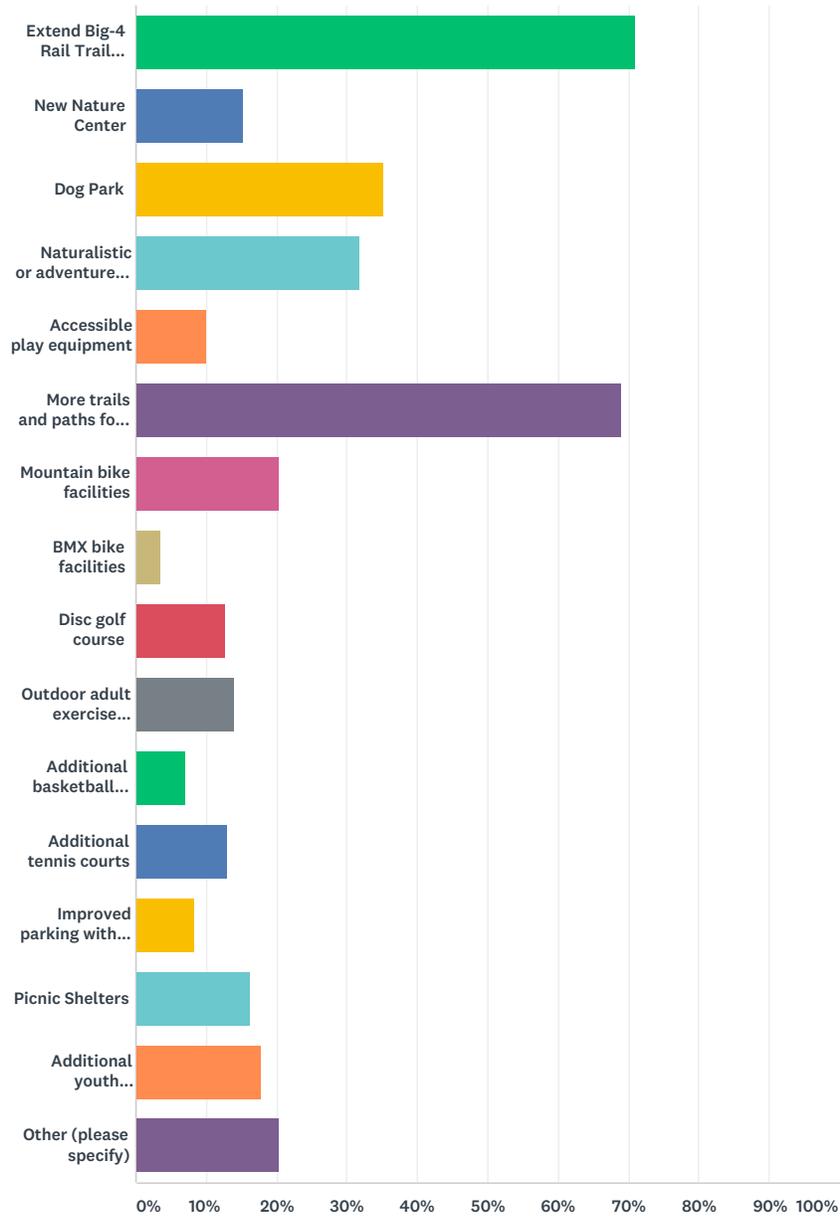
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	57.45%	212
No	2.98%	11
Depends on the investment	39.57%	146
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>369</b>



# Public Engagement: Survey Results

Q15 I would like to see the Zionsville Parks and Recreation Department add the following things: (check all that apply)

Answered: 369 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extend Big-4 Rail Trail (Zionsville Rail Trail) to town limits	71.00%	262
New Nature Center	15.18%	56
Dog Park	35.23%	130
Naturalistic or adventure playground	31.71%	117



## Cross Tab Comparison

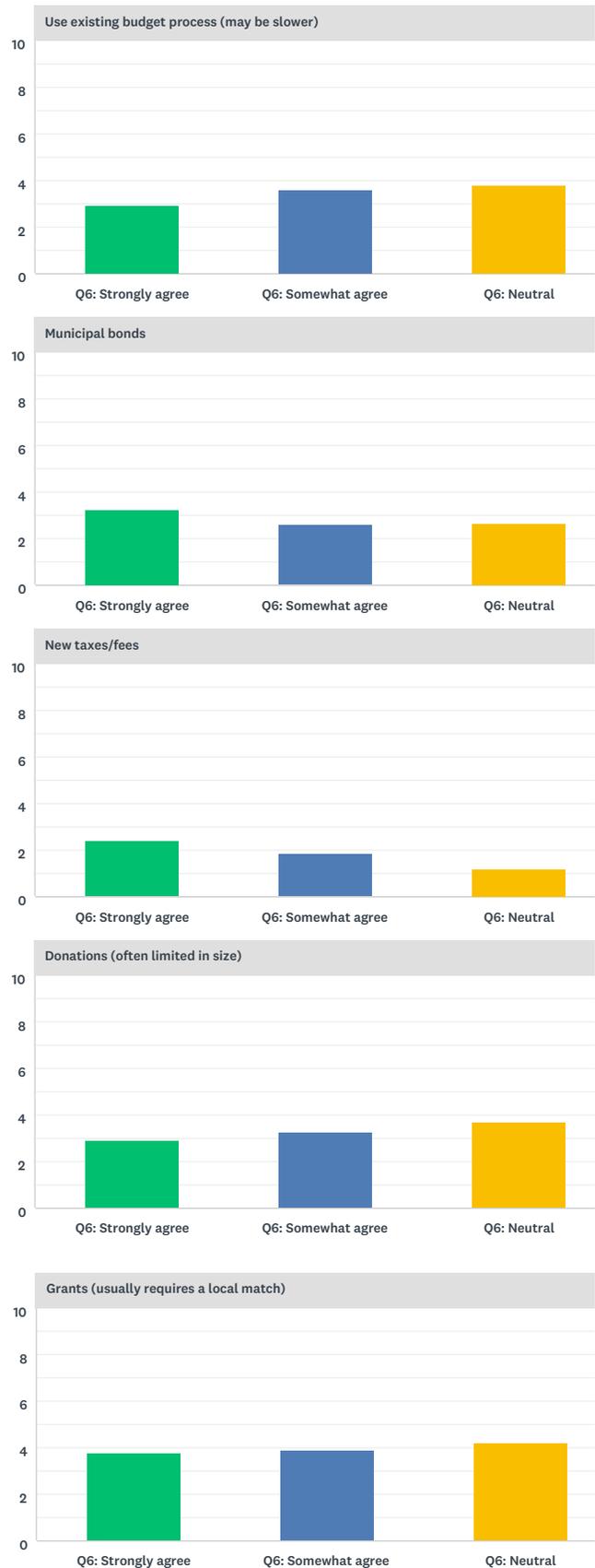
In addition to the information that was analyzed from each question, cross tab comparisons were also analyzed to identify similarities or contrasts in the responses received through different questions. This analysis is helpful in determining the priorities of the community to inform the master plan process.

Question 6 asked, "Do you think Zionsville needs more land for parks, green space and trails?". While question 18 asked, "How should Zionsville fund new capital improvements features in the parks?" A cross tab comparison between people who responded with "strongly agree", "somewhat agree", or "neutral" shows that these respondents favor a balanced strategy for implementing improvements with the use of grants and donations rated slightly higher than using existing budget and municipal bonds for funding.

The cross tab comparison on the next page looks at respondents to question 7 who said indoor community center or youth sports complex/ park where important for the next generation of park users. The chart shows that these same respondents for question 15 still rate extending the Big-4 Rail Trail and adding more trails and pathways as their priorities for the parks system in the near term.

The cross tab comparison shown on Page 37 shows the people who responded "yes" in question 17 which asked if Zionsville should invest more money in parks. The cross tab analysis shows that respondents who said they would like the town to invest more money in parks were focused on the extension of the Big-4 Rail Trail, trails and pathways as the most important projects for parks.

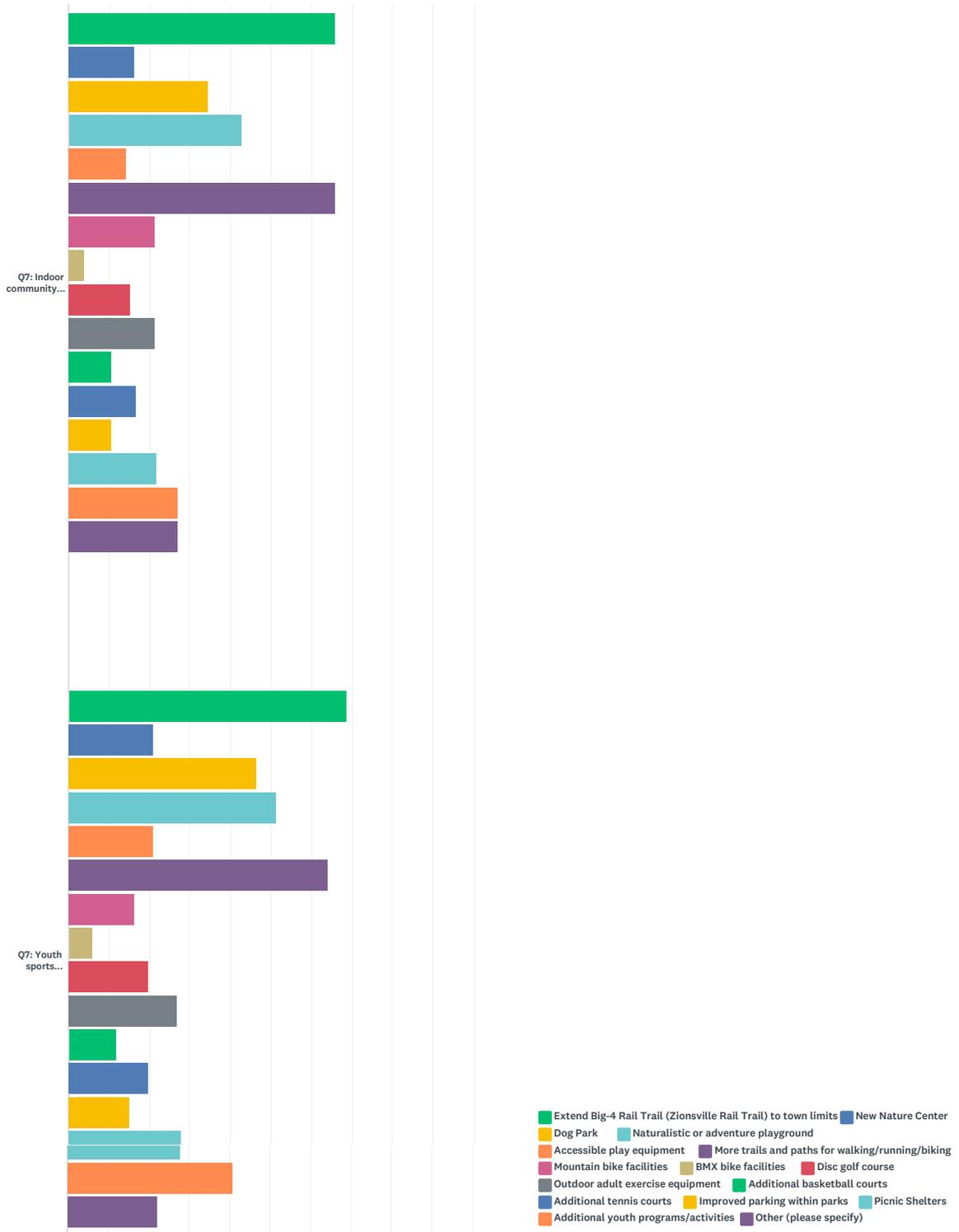
The final cross tab comparison illustrated in this master plan compares respondents from question 17 who answered yes to Zionsville investing more in parks and question 21 which presented the option of reissuing a municipal bond to fund projects. Of those who responded yes to question 17 nearly ninety percent "strongly agree" or "somewhat agree" to the reissue of the bond.





# Public Engagement: Survey Results

Q15 I would like to see the Zionsville Parks and Recreation Department add the following things: (check all that apply)

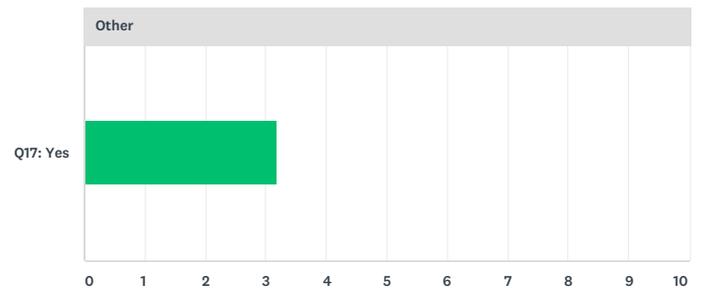
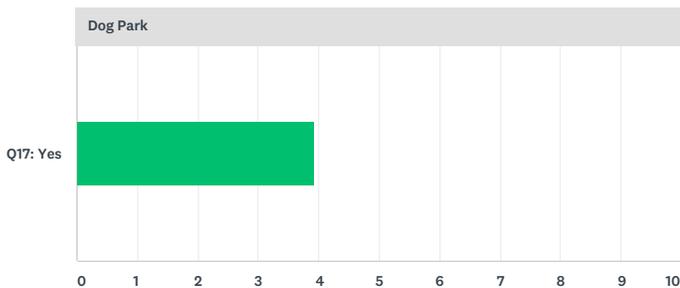
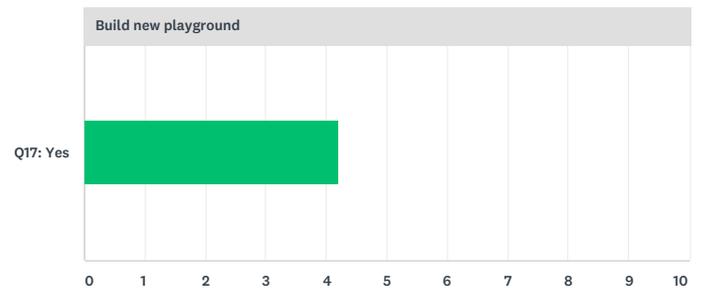
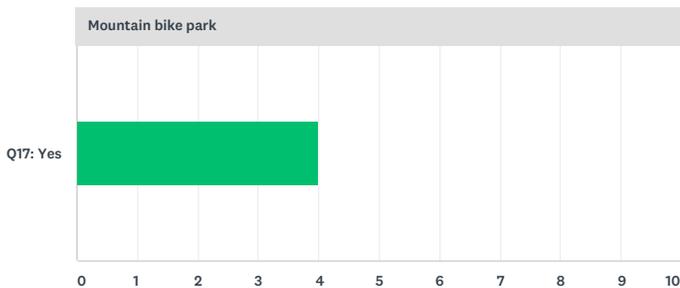
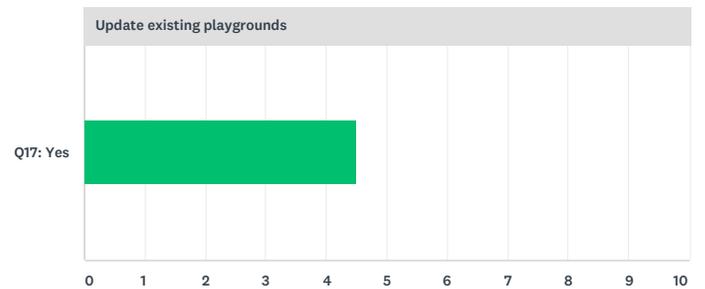
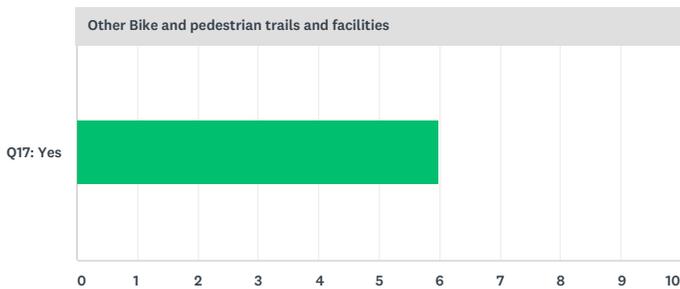
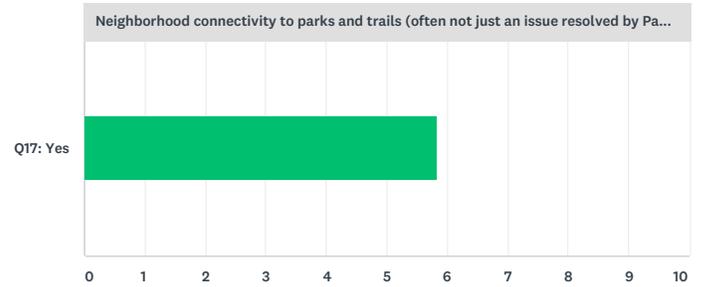
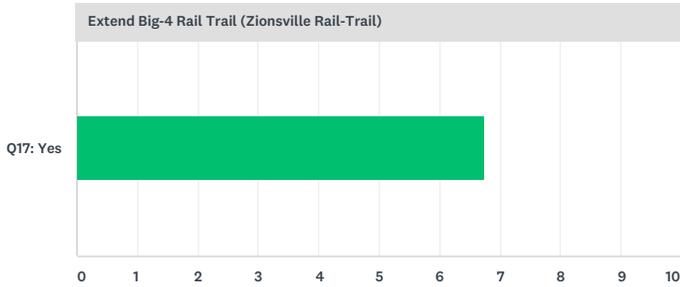


Cross Tab Comparison Question 7 and 15

# Public Engagement: Survey Results



**Q20 Where would you like to see capital funds for parks focused? (rate in order with 1 being the most important)**



**Cross Tab Comparison Question 17 and 20**

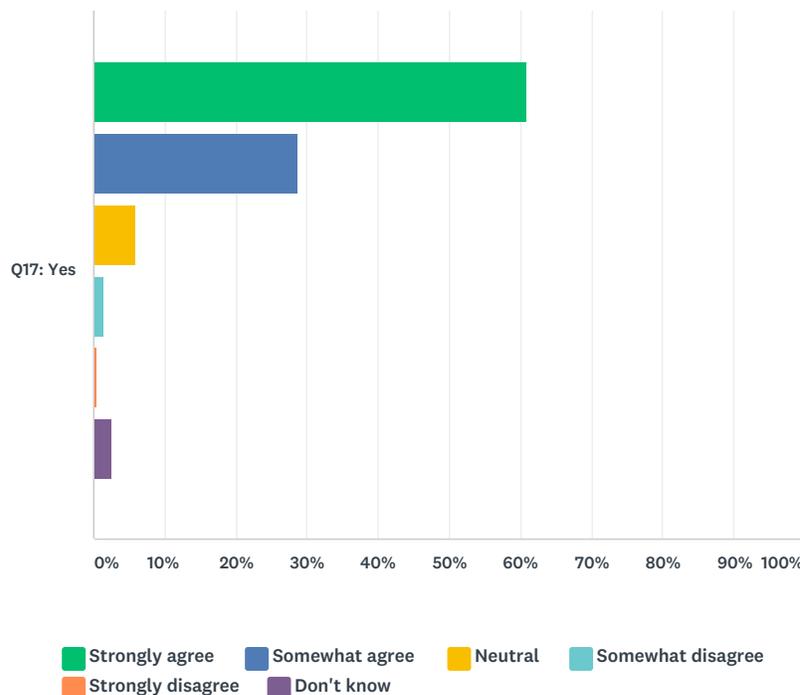


# Public Engagement: Survey Results

**Q21 Critical Park and Recreation Funding Question -** With final approval by Town Council, Indiana law allows your Park Board to generate capital funds via bond issuance. In its 40-plus years, the department's only park bond was initiated in 2006 and retires near the end of 2021. This bond completely built 80 acres of parks; Mulberry Fields Park, Turkey Foot Park, American Legion Trail Crossing, Elm Street Green; Plus other, smaller improvements like upgrades along the Rail Trail, etc. Because of this earlier bond these parks were built sooner, and with larger savings, than would have been possible had these same projects been piece-mealed through normal yearly budget cycles.

As this original bond now heads off the books, a new bond, teamed with grants and donations, would help fund further quality-of-life improvements for the next couple decades. This forward-looking approach could speed such projects as broadening our park trail system, and extending the Rail Trail north and south from its current ends, thereby strengthening ties to our neighboring communities. A new bond could facilitate construction on the upcoming 45-acre Overley-Worman Park. And it will allow completion of additional park projects throughout the community such as new playgrounds in certain parks, etc. Just as importantly, a new bond allows these parks and improvements to be built more quickly and likely less expensively, than funding them in smaller portions over the longer time span.

A new bond issued near the time the old bond cycles off, should allow completion of the projects discussed above and more; and in comparison to the 2006 bond, with even less fiscal impact upon any affected citizens of Zionsville. This is because the Town's already excellent bond rating has been upgraded at least twice since 2005, the current economy is better than in the mid-to late 2000's, and the Town's assessed valuation is larger.



Cross Tab Comparison Question 17 and 21



## Previous Year Survey Comparison

It is helpful to compare the results with the current plan's community survey and the previous plan's survey results. The analysis of the two can identify trends that have continued to grow in popularity and also to identify where trends or priorities might be declining. The following pages look at the results from the two surveys side by side to compare the responses.

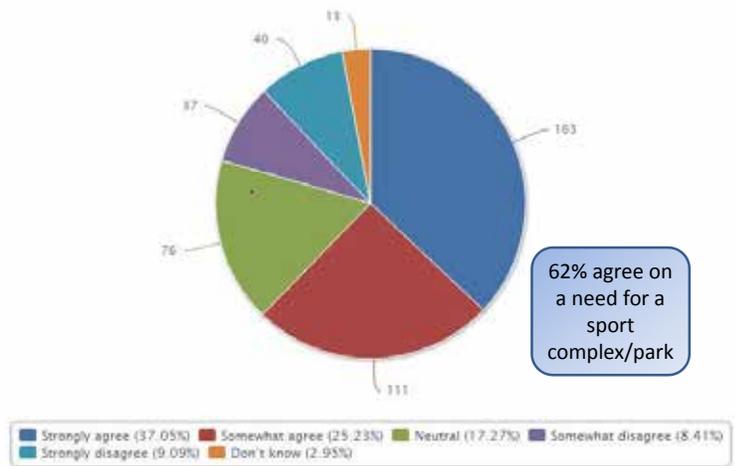
Question number one on the following page shows nearly identical results between the survey conducted in 2012 and the recent study conducted in 2017. It is still extremely important for respondents to have park facilities and activities within walking distance of their home.

The comparison of survey results on Page 39 shows a slight increase in the desire for Zionsville to have more land for parks, green space and trail. In 2012 75 percent of respondents strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with the need while in 2017 nearly 84 percent of respondents fell into these two categories. This shows the increased demand for additional parks space from the community.

While trails and pathways were still the priority in 2017 and in 2015, there was a significant increase in the demand for an indoor community center in the 2017 survey. This use elicited a response of only 14 percent in 2012 and jumped to 53 percent of respondents who would like to see this amenity added to the parks system. This reflects the comments that were also heard in the public input process and indicates there is an increasing desire for this type of facility.

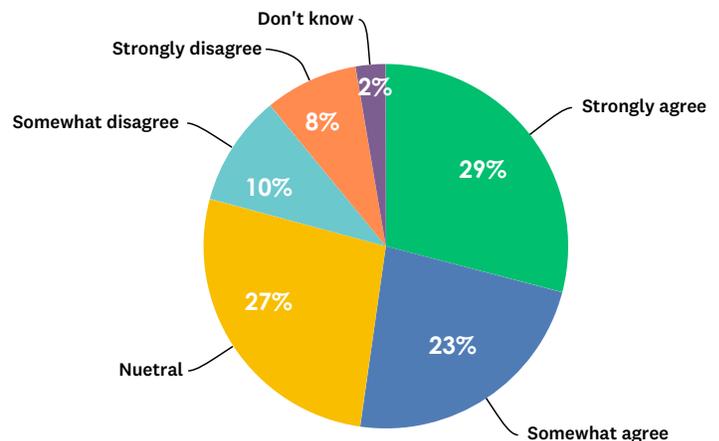
The comparison to the right shows the opposite trend for the demand for a sports complex. While still receiving a positive response of 52 percent in 2017, this same question received a positive response from 62 percent. This indicates a lowering demand for the parks system which may be a result of the existing youth leagues and the proposed little league complex proposed to be constructed in the next few years.

**Building a sports complex/park that incorporates several sports for a variety of ages while also having traditional park activities like playgrounds?**



## 2013 Survey

**Is there an 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?**



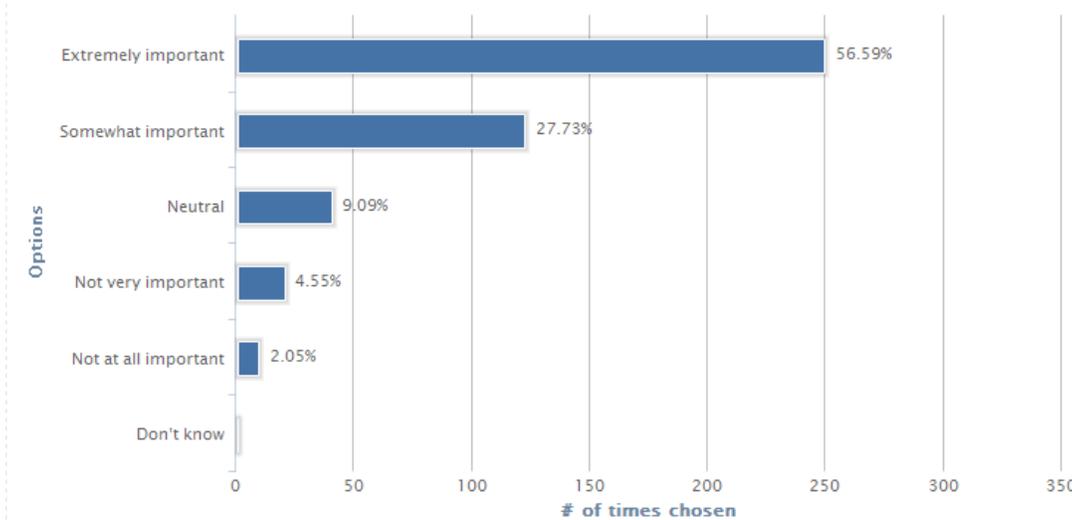
## 2018 Survey



# Public Engagement: Survey Results

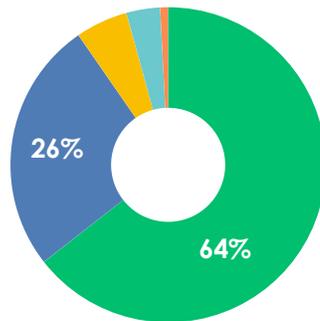
How important is it to you to have park facilities and activities within walking distance of your home?

## 2013 Survey



Q1 How important is it to you to have park facilities and activities within walking distance of your home?

## 2018 Survey



■ Extremely important   
 ■ Somewhat important   
 ■ Neutral   
 ■ Not very important  
■ Not at all important   
 ■ Don't know

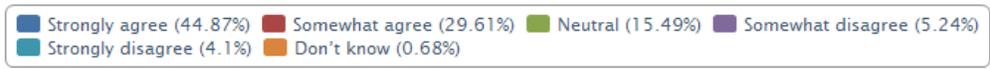
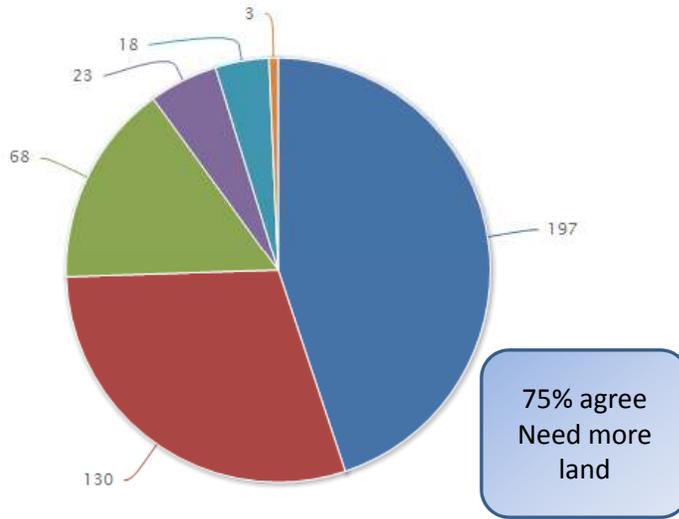
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely important	64.44%	241
Somewhat important	25.94%	97
Neutral	5.35%	20
Not very important	3.48%	13
Not at all important	0.80%	3
Don't know	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>374</b>

# Public Engagement: Survey Results



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

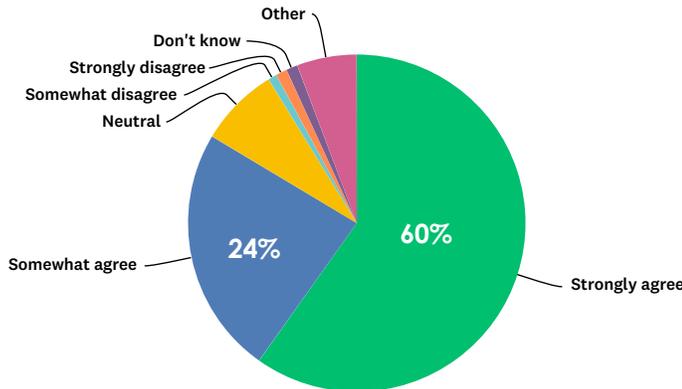
## 2013 Survey



2012 ZPRB Survey N=442

Q6 Do you think Zionsville needs more land for parks, green spaces and trails?

## 2018 Survey



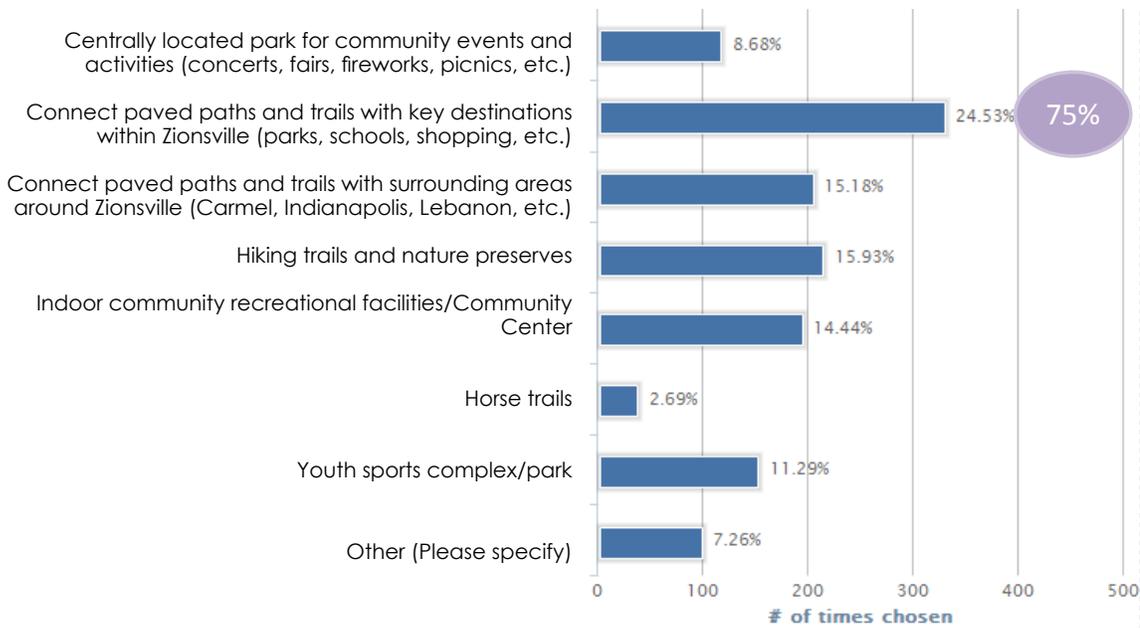
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	59.84%	219
Somewhat agree	23.77%	87
Neutral	7.65%	28
Somewhat disagree	0.82%	3
Strongly disagree	1.09%	4
Don't know	1.09%	4
Other	5.74%	21
TOTAL		366



# Public Engagement: Survey Results

Vision for what could be. Please select the item(s) you or your family would like to see developed in the Town of Zionsville.

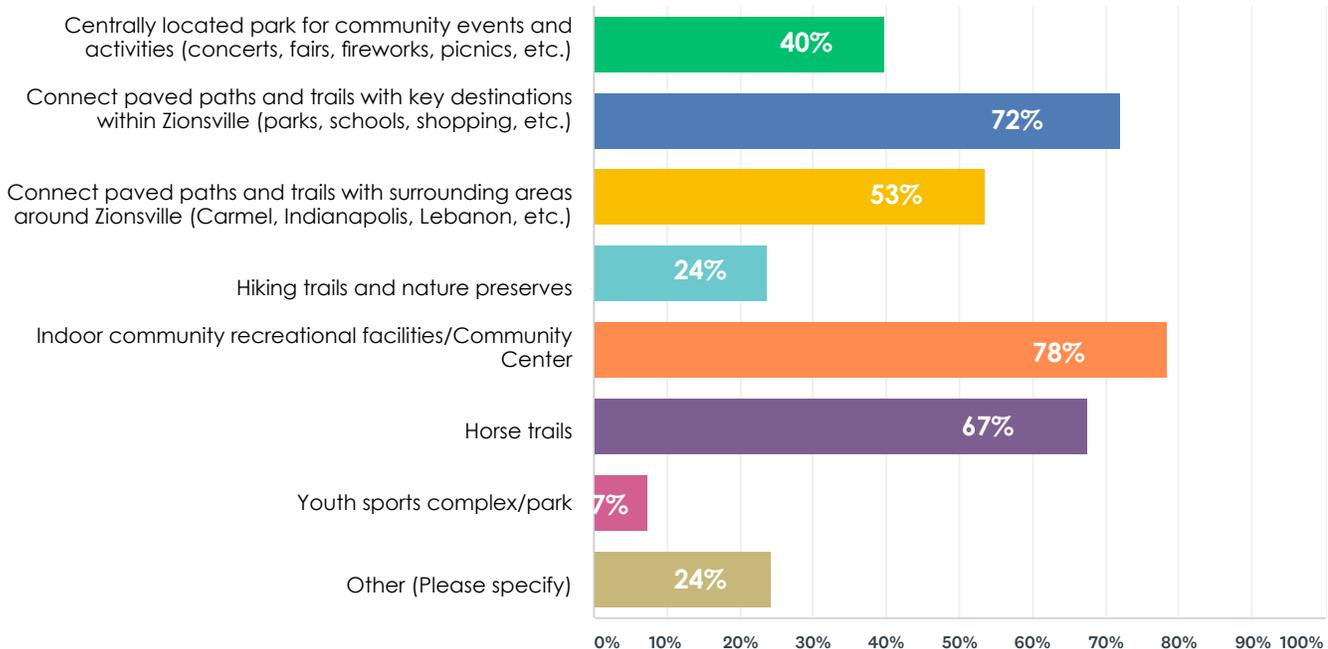
## 2013 Survey



2012 ZPRB Survey N=442

Q7 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. (check all that apply)

## 2018 Survey





## Introduction

The purpose of benchmarking is to assist the planning team in setting goals and generating ideas for parks and recreation facilities in Zionsville. The benchmarking study provides an exploration of the parks and recreation facilities and structure of five cities/towns comparable to Zionsville.

The benchmark process is not intended to find cities or towns that match Zionsville exactly. The main purpose is to assist Zionsville in finding comparisons for measurement and setting standards. By delineating the parks and recreation system of any one of the benchmark communities, Zionsville can compare, contrast, and emulate its future facilities and programs in a measurable context. The benchmark communities in this study were chosen because of their comparable park land area, close proximity to a major town and having a fairly similar size population.

## Benchmark City's

### Brownsburg

Brownsburg is located in Hendricks County in central Indiana. Brownsburg is located to the west of Indianapolis along Interstate 74. The population of Brownsburg is very similar to the size of Zionsville. Brownsburg is also a town which is experiencing rapid growth. Interstate 74 runs through the northern part of the town with State Roads 236 and U.S. Highway 136 bisecting the town. Brownsburg is also in the process of developing an old rail corridor to a rail trail. In 2009, CNN Money Magazine ranked Brownsburg as the highest Indiana town on its list of America's best small towns.

### Highland

Highland is a town located in northern Indiana in Lake County. Highland is considered a suburb of Chicago. Although much smaller in land size, Highland's population is very close to that of Zionsville. Highland has a developed multi-use trail which cuts diagonally through town. The Erie Lackawanna Trail connects Highland with Griffith and Crown Point. The Highland Portion of the Trail is known as the Crosstown Trail.

### Greenfield

Greenfield is a city located in central Indiana and is the county seat of Hancock County. Greenfield is a part of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Area. Although still not as large in land area as Zionsville, Greenfield is close and has a population which is also near the same size as Zionsville. Greenfield shares other similarities with Zionsville because of their proximity to Indianapolis. Greenfield has seen a 14% increase in population since the last census. With 456 acres of parkland, Greenfield is very similar to Zionsville in terms of park property owned. U.S. 40 passes through the center of Greenfield as Main Street. Each year in October, Greenfield hosts the Riley Festival, commonly known as Riley Days, filling the downtown courthouse square with vendors and activities.

### Plainfield

Plainfield is located just south of Brownsburg, also in Hendrick's County. U.S. Route 40 crosses through the middle of Plainfield as Main Street. State Road 237 traverses the town from north to south. As of the 2010 census, there were 27,631 people in Plainfield. This population very closely reflects the size of Zionsville. The Plainfield Recreation and Aquatic Center is located on the west side of Plainfield. The facility includes indoor recreational facilities and a 3.1 acre tropical-themed Splash Island Family Waterpark. The park also includes a six-lane competition pool with two one-meter springboards. Plainfield's trail system includes over 20 miles of pathways. The Vandalia Trail runs through the center of town and is planned to become a part of the National Road Heritage Trail, which will eventually stretch 150 miles from Terre Haute to Richmond.

The table on the following pages presents the results of this data collection effort.



	Zionsville	Brownsburg	Highland	Greenfield	Plainfield	Average	Median
Population	26,784	25,408	22,737	21,709	31,409	25,609	25,408
<b>Population Growth (2000 - 2010)</b>	61.4%	46.6%	0.8%	41.10%	50.2%	40.02	46.6
Total Land Area (square miles)	71	15.78	6.99	13.57	22.66	22.53	15.78
Total Land Area per <b>1,000</b> population	2.65	0.62	0.31	0.63	0.72	0.80	0.63
Park Board	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	N/A
Number of Parks	19	5	24	11	16	15	16
Total Park Acreage	420	172	119.5	456	663	366	420
Total park Acreage per <b>1,000</b> population	15.68	6.76	5.25	21.01	21.11	13.96	15.68
Total Hard Surface Trail Miles	20	4.35	6.3	5.7	20	11.27	6.3
Hard Surface Trail Miles per <b>1,000</b> Population	0.75	0.17	0.28	0.26	0.64	0.42	0.28
Total number of public access launch points for personal craft	4	0	0	0	0	0.80	0
Public access launch points per <b>1,000</b> population	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00
Total number of fishing access points	4	0	1	1	0	1.20	1
Fishing access points per <b>1,000</b> population	0.15	0.00	0.04	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.04
Total number of baseball/ softball fields	0	5	20	7	13	9	7



	Zionsville	Brownsburg	Highland	Greenfield	Plainfield	Average	Median
Baseball/ Softball fields per <b>1,000</b> Population	0.00	0.20	0.88	0.32	0.41	0.36	0.32
Tennis Courts	2	2	8	6	2	4	2
Tennis Courts per <b>1,000</b> population	0.07	0.08	0.35	0.28	0.06	0.17	.08
Total Number of Soccer Fields	0	0	10	22	17	9.8	10
Soccer Fields per <b>1,000</b> population	0.00	0.00	0.43	1.01	0.54	0.39	0.43
Number of Shelters/ Pavilions	7	16	11	5	6	9	7
Shelters/ Pavilions per <b>1,000</b> population	0.26	0.63	0.48	0.23	0.19	0.30	0.26
Community Center	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A
Disc Golf	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A
Skate Park	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A
Dog Park	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A



## Benchmark Study Summary and Implications

The results of this benchmarking study indicate that the Town of Zionsville compares well with the benchmark communities in most of the areas studied. An important finding is that Zionsville does offer more park acreage and paved trails than other communities and may want to consider utilizing this information in marketing materials used to attract new businesses and residents.

Zionsville is experiencing higher than average growth rate in terms of population when compared with the other benchmark towns/cities. Some of the population growth can be explained by the reorganization of Zionsville with the addition of Perry Township and a portion of Eagle Township but Zionsville is also seeing growth with development of residential communities to the north and west of town. Many residential developments are being constructed now and there are more on the books for future development. This growth will impact the Parks and Recreation Board both in demand for additional facilities and the location of parks more centrally located.

Zionsville has a very well developed parks system with approximately 420 acres of park land. However, compared with other benchmark towns/cities, Zionsville is the median number for parkland. Again, as the town continues to grow in numbers and size, there will be additional demand on the Parks Board to expand on the well developed system of parks.

Zionsville is well outpacing the other benchmark towns and cities with their paved trail system. The average is 11.27 miles and Zionsville currently has 20 miles of paved trail and continues to make development of new trails a priority for the town. The pathways system is touted by local residents as one of their biggest assets for the town.

Zionsville is unique to the other benchmark towns with water based recreation opportunities in Eagle Creek. With 4 locations of launching access points or fishing access points, Zionsville offers recreational opportunities that the other towns don't. However, along with these opportunities coming flooding

challenges that the other towns and cities do not deal with.

Although the Zionsville Parks and Recreation Department does not have the average number of soccer, baseball or softball fields as the other communities the town has these resources available within facilities in the town which aren't owned by the Parks Department including school properties and Lions Park. Although this appears to be a void in the parks system, because the needs are being met elsewhere in town, it is not needed within the parks system. Again, as the town continues to grow, there may be opportunities within the outskirts of town to look at implementing some sports fields or courts to serve those areas.

Other park uses which are not filled by Zionsville Parks Board but which are included in other benchmark towns and cities include a community center, disc golf course, and dog park. Although some communities have their community center run through their parks department many of these facilities are started through donation of buildings or property and are initially financed and constructed by the city or town and not the parks department. The demand for dog parks continues to increase. As more people are living in urban areas or subdivisions the space needed to exercise dogs can be hard to find. Dog parks fill this need and judging by the benchmark towns and cities are in demand from communities. The same could be said for disc golf courses. As the sport continues to grow in popularity, this is a fairly low cost improvement to add to a parks system when space is available. These courses become more difficult to build as development occurs.



## Introduction

The purpose of this section is to identify Level of Service (LOS) standards for parks and facilities in Zionsville by synthesizing information and research conducted throughout the planning process. The Zionsville LOS standards provide recommendations for a minimum LOS standard for park acreage and certain facility types. The standards provide guidelines for the Parks and Recreation Board to plan and build parks and recreation facilities needed to adequately serve the community. LOS standards are intended to ensure that a balance of facilities and services are provided uniformly across the City of Zionsville.

Application of the LOS standards does not carry regulatory status; rather the standards should be considered guidelines that express the desires of the community to provide a balanced and equitable distribution of facilities. Establishing unrealistic LOS standards can have the impact of creating a system that cannot be achieved without substantial investment in land and new facilities.

Because the application of these LOS standards is directly impacted by the town's land supply, tax base, willingness to fund, and recreational demand, minimum standards are recommended. The goal of the Parks and Recreation Board should be to maintain these minimum standards as a priority. When budgets and resources allow, or if community recreation preferences change, the Board should strive to exceed the minimum standards to match community needs.

The tables below provide a summary of the recommended LOS standards for Zionsville. The use of LOS standards for park and recreation facilities is based on national trends in the profession and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 1995 publication Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. It is important to remember that standards are based on a variety of methodologies that are subjective in nature. Ultimately, communities must reach a consensus about the amount of parkland, open space, and recreation facilities required to maintain the quality of life that is desired.

## Level of Service Model

To determine the recommended level of service (LOS) standards for Zionsville parks and facilities, the planning team used a basic model to synthesize the various research findings and develop an LOS standard. This model consisted of four basic components, which were applied to each park or facility type to develop the recommended LOS standard. Those four components included:

- Current level of service
- Benchmark cities average level of service
- Public involvement results
- Population projections, demand, and trends

This model provided a standardized method for analyzing the information gathered throughout the planning process. Use of this model allowed the planning team to systematically determine minimum LOS standards.

Description	Zionsville Current LOS	Zionsville Rec. LOS Standard	Per Resident
Park Acreage	15.68	15.00	1,000
Hard Surface Trails (miles)	0.75	1.0	1,000
Playgrounds	0.11	0.20	1,000
Off Leash Areas	0.00	0.04	1,000
Natural/Preservation Parks	0.26	0.35	1,000



To complete the needs assessment using these standards, they will be applied to determine deficits and surpluses in the parks and recreation system.

### **Park Acreage Level of Service**

The Town of Zionsville manages 420 acres of parkland for a current level of service of 15.68 acres per 1,000 residents. This plan's recommended LOS standard is 15.00 acres per 1,000 residents, which means that the town has met and exceeded the recommended LOS given the current population. The LOS standard demonstrates the need for Zionsville to continue to acquire parklands and to pursue the development of land that has been donated or is in the process of being donated to the Parks and Recreation Board.

**Zionsville Park Acreage LOS Standard: 15 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.**

### **Hard Surface Trails**

The Town of Zionsville currently manages 20 miles of paved trails. The benchmark cities' average LOS for hard surface trails is 11.27 miles per 1,000 population. During the planning process, a strong desire for continued trail infrastructure in Zionsville was articulated. National trends also show continuing demand for such facilities.

This plan's recommended LOS standard is 1 miles per 1,000 residents. This would increase the miles of paved trail from 20 miles to 25 miles. This is an aggressive LOS for Zionsville reflecting the priority of the community.

**Hard Surface Trails LOS: 1.0 miles per 1,000 residents**

### **Playgrounds**

Zionsville has 3 playgrounds within their parks system. These numbers represent a current LOS of 0.11 playgrounds per 1,000 population which is below the national average for number of playgrounds in a park system of Zionsville's size. This is a reflection of the large number of natural parks in the town. Although more playgrounds may be needed, the focus of the town to maintain the

current balance of natural parks as compared with recreational active parks needs to be maintained and was seen as a common desire for residents at the public meetings, stakeholder meetings and in the community survey.

Additional playgrounds will be needed to meet the needs of the growing town. Therefore, the LOS for playgrounds is higher than existing and would increase the number of playgrounds in the parks system from three to double the playgrounds to six.

**Playground LOS Standard: 0.20 per 1,000 population**

### **Off Leash Areas**

Zionsville does not currently have an off leash areas within their parks system. Three of the four benchmark towns have at least one dog park within their parks system. The trend across the nation has been to include off leash areas in parks planning to address the demand from residents. With local demand fairly high the Park and Recreation Board should consider providing a minimum of one dog park for the community which would raise the LOS standard.

**Off Leash Area LOS Standard: 0.04 per 1,000 population**

### **Natural/Preservation Parks**

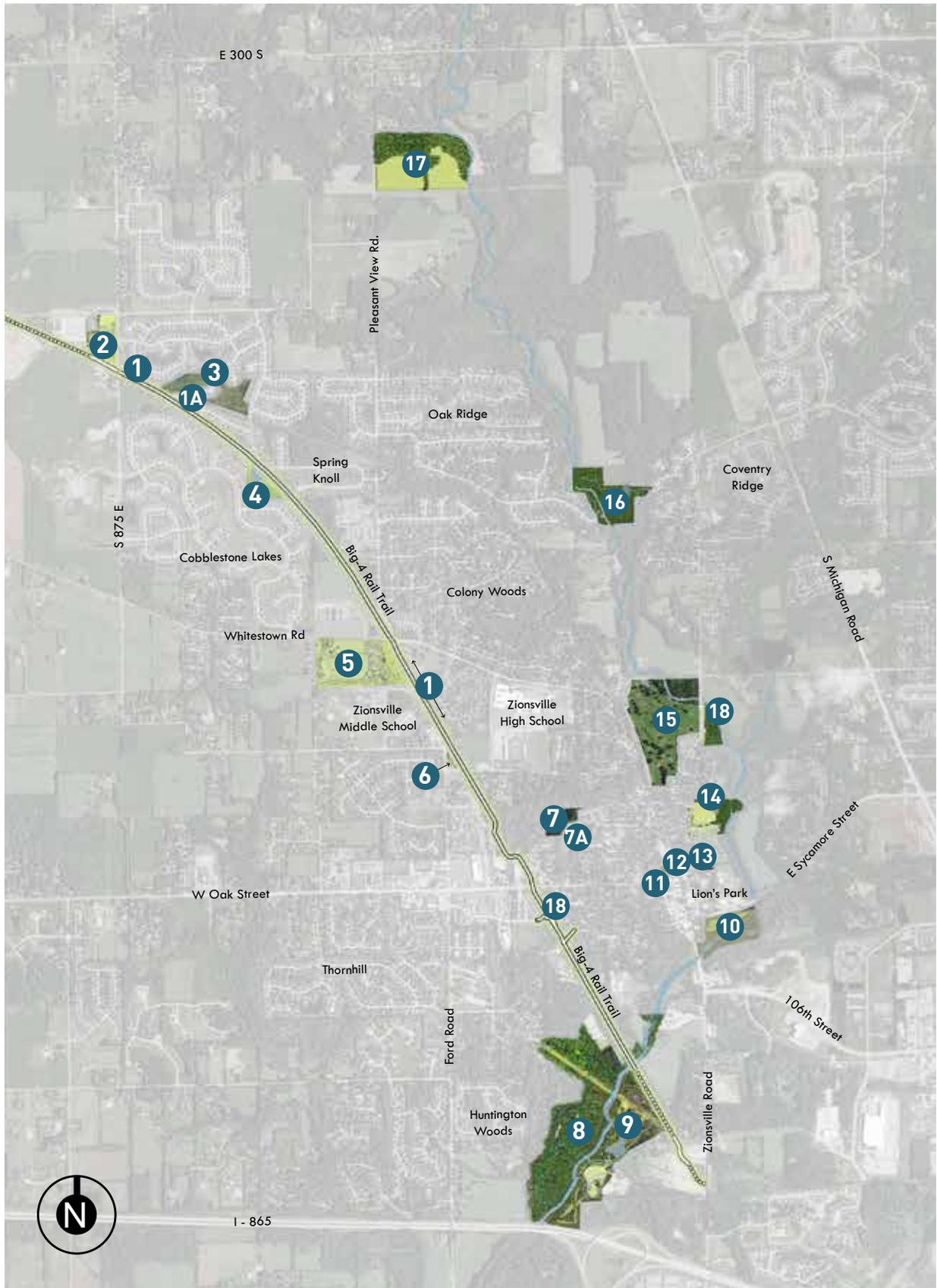
The Town of Zionsville currently has a number of natural parks. This is a reflection of the town's geographic location along Eagle Creek with many park areas in the floodplain. The location of the parks limits the uses that can be included in these park lands. However, Zionsville has seized the opportunity that is presented with these lands and created a network of natural parks which are considered an asset by the community. Keeping in mind future land that is dedicated to be donated to the Parks Board, the LOS for this type of use can be increased.

**Natural/Preservation LOS Standard: 0.35 per 1,000 population**

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# Existing Conditions - Parks System Map





## **PARK LEGEND**

- 1 BIG-4 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 ZION NATURE SANCTUARY
- 7A ZION NATURE CENTER
- 8 STARKEY NATURE PARK
- 9 OVERLEY-WORMAN PARK
- 10 CREEKSIDE NATURE PARK
- 11 LINCOLN PARK
- 12 VILLAGE CORNER
- 13 TENNIS COURTS/PLAYGROUND
- 14 ELM STREET GREEN
- 15 ZIONSVILLE GOLF COURSE
- 16 TURKEY FOOT NATURE PARK
- 17 HOLLIDAY NATURE SANCTUARY
- 18 DONATION PARCEL (LOST RUN FARMS)

## **Overview**

Zionsville Parks and Recreation Board maintains twenty properties comprising 420 acres. The Town also owns the Zionsville Golf Course, which is operated by the Parks Department. Zionsville's parks system includes a large number of natural park areas along with recreational active parks including uses such as playgrounds, splash park, basketball courts, tennis courts, walking trails, community garden plots, water access points and a skate park. The Parks Department also manages and maintains the linear park known as the Big-4 Rail Trail (formerly named the Zionsville Rail Trail).

An inventory and analysis for each park is included in the following pages.





# Big-4 Rail Trail





Runners on the Big-4 Rail Trail



Trail amenities



Big-4 Rail Trail (near 875 East)

## Overview

The Big-4 Rail Trail is a multi-use rail trail which serves as the central spine to the town's pathway system. The current length of the trail is 3.75 miles with the majority of the trail paved and a short section of aggregate surface. The trail varies in width between eight feet and fifteen feet.

The trail begins at the Nancy Burton Corridor portion of the Big-4 Rail Trail. This 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 is named for her. This includes a switchback from the rail trail down to Starkey Nature Park. The northern portions of the Big-4 Rail Trail is known as the Dave Burton Corridor of the Big-4 Rail Trail.

The rail trail is a highly used and highly valued asset for the town. The trail sees use during all seasons. The narrower sections of the trail are at capacity and sometimes beyond capacity during times of heavy use. The town has begun the process of evaluating options to widen the trail to the extent such is feasible. The target width is 15'.

In general the paved areas of the trail are in very good condition. However, there are a few sections, especially on the northern end near 875 East, where the pavement is reaching the end of its lifespan and will need resurfacing or replacement in the next five years. There are also a few areas where encroaching tree roots have pushed the trail up creating tripping hazards. Given the increased use that the trail continues to see, these problems will become more pronounced if not addressed in the near future.

## Trail Amenities

- Wayfinding signage
- Restrooms
- Multiple trailheads
- Seating areas
- Bike repair station
- No at grade roadway crossings



# Heritage Trail Park





Playground and Shelter



Walking Trail



Community Garden Plots

## Overview

Heritage Trail Park is a eleven acre park located west of 875 East, adjacent to the Dave Brown Corridor section of the Big-4 Rail Trail. The park is located near several subdivisions on the north side of the town's urban district. It is a convenient and popular park for these neighborhoods and is located strategically to serve the town as it continues to grow west and north. Increased development in the area will increase the demand for this park and its amenities.

## Park Uses

Since the completion of the last five year master plan the town has completed Phase 1 of the master plan. This includes a eight space parking lot, which also serves as a trailhead for the Big-4 Rail Trail, a playground (ages 2-5 years), a walking trail, basketball court, bocce court, and a shelter. The park also includes educational interpretive signage and community garden plots.

The park is used by residents for a variety of reasons. The walking trail is used by Big-4 Rail Trail users as the northern turnaround since the trail ends at the park. The walking trail is also popular as a smaller loop for park users. The playground and picnic shelter are also heavily used in the park. Community garden plots are rented each season and routinely sell out for each season.

## Park Amenities

- basketball court
- bocce court
- parking
- playground (2-5 years)
- pavilion with picnic tables
- various seating options
- walking trail
- bio-basins/swales
- community garden plots
- entry signage
- educational interpretive signage
- rail trail access
- leashed dogs only



# Wetland Reserve



## Legend

- ① Small Parking Area
- ② Seasonal Wetland Areas
- ③ Wooded Wetland Areas



View from Wetland Reserve over detention basin



Small parking area from subdivision



Subdivision sidewalk along perimeter

## Overview

In 2001 Robert Carter donated 20 acres of wetlands to the Parks Department. The land has been set aside and left undeveloped, in its natural state, as a part of a strategic green space reserve. Many residents value the space for the ecological value it provides to the town. Recognizing the rapid growth of the town, residents understand the importance of having a natural wetland area in the midst of residential development.

## Park Uses

The Wetland Reserve sees occasional hikers and wildlife watchers within the park but the main purpose of the park is to provide a natural undeveloped area within the town. Wetlands are an important part of our environment. They improve water quality, reduce the impacts of floods and filter pollutants. Wetlands also provide habitat for a wide range of wildlife including plants and animals.

## Park Amenities

- Small parking area
- Woodland areas
- Wetland area



# Carter Station Park





Walking Trail



Walking Trail Around Retention Pond



Parking Area

## Overview

Robert Carter donated this eight-acre property in 1999. The park is adjacent to the Big-4 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.

## Park Uses

Walking trails within the park circle a retention pond which holds water year-round. Wooded and natural areas surround the pond creating a scenic area for the walking path. Access to the Big-4 Rail Trail makes the walking path in the park an attractive detour from the rail trail with different views and characteristics from the linear rail trail. The small parking area serves as another trailhead for Big-4 Rail Trail users in addition to park users.

## Park Amenities

Park amenities include:

- Rail Trail access
- Multi-use trails
- Parking
- 1.5 Acre Stormwater retention pond



# Mulberry Fields



## Legend

- ① Existing Skate Park
- ② Existing Basketball Court
- ③ Existing Seasonal Restroom
- ④ Existing Playground
- ⑤ Existing Splash Park
- ⑥ Existing Shelter
- ⑦ Existing Multi-Sport Fields
- ⑧ Existing Recreational Hill
- ⑨ Existing Stormwater Basin
- ⑩ Zionsville Middle School
- ⑪ Maplelawn Farmstead



Playground



Splash Park



Skate Board Park

## Overview

Mulberry Fields is a 38-acre park. The land was purchased in 2003 and developed. The park includes multi-use athletic fields, a skate park, splash park, sledding hill, prairie-meadow plantings with interpretive signage, and pathway. The original farmstead has been preserved for educational programs and is managed by Maplelawn Farmstead, Inc. via a long-term lease.

## Park Uses

Mulberry Fields is an active park for the town. The multi-purpose fields are used by many youth sports but are primarily used by the Zionsville Youth Football League for games during their seasons. The splash park is a very popular destination during the summer months. The park contains many interactive and overhead water features and is used by all ages.

The playground at Mulberry Fields includes multiple independent play elements for various ages. Play elements include a variety of slides and swings. Benches are provided around the perimeter for visitors who are watching children play.

Adequate parking is provided and centrally located to provide convenient access to the majority of uses within the park including the athletic fields, playground, splash park, basketball court and the skate board park. Pathways and sidewalks provide access from the parking lot to all of the park features.

## Park Amenities

- Parking
- Picnic Shelters
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Splash Pad
- Restrooms
- Skate Board Park
- Basketball Court
- Sledding/Recreational Hill
- Drinking water fountain
- Walking Trails



# American Legion Trail Crossing





Walking Pathways



Park Gateway



Memorial Plaque

## Overview

The local American Legion Post donated this two-acre property in 1998. This quiet contemplative site is adjacent to the Big-4 Rail Trail and honors those who have served our country in the U.S. Armed Forces.

## Park Uses

The American Legion Trail Crossing is a convenient resting place along the Big-4 Rail Trail for trail users. The plantings and benches provide quiet places to sit. The brick walkways and stone monuments create a different character compared with other parks in the town.

The small parking area also serves as convenient parking for Big-4 Rail Trail users.

## Park Amenities

- Parking
- Big-4 Rail Trail Access
- Drinking water fountain
- Walking pathways
- Monument
- Seating



# Zion Nature Sanctuary



## Legend

- ① Eagle Elementary School
- ② Existing Parking
- ③ Existing Outdoor Classroom Shelter
- ④ Existing Seasonal Manmade Wetland
- ⑤ Existing Intermittent Stream
- ⑥ Existing Scenic Overlook
- ⑦ Existing Rustic Trail
- ⑧ Existing Crushed Gravel Trails





Overlook/Outdoor Classroom



Bridge with Outdoor Classroom



Dirt Trails in Sanctuary

## Overview

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

## Park Uses

The Zion Nature Sanctuary is located directly adjacent to Eagle Creek Elementary School and very near the Village. The Sanctuary is heavily used by the elementary school including use as an outdoor classroom. The sanctuary is also a popular destination for bird and wildlife watchers.

The earthen trails within the park offer a different experience from the paved trails around town for hikers and walkers.

## Park Amenities

- Handicap Accessible Paths
- Nature Watching
- Parking
- Pavilion/ Outdoor Classroom
- Hiking/Walking Trails



# Zion Nature Center



## Legend

- ① Zion Nature Sanctuary
- ② Eagle Elementary School
- ③ Existing Plant Bed
- ④ Existing Naturalistic Planting
- ⑤ Existing Nature Center

Location Map



Educational Programs



Educational Displays



Educational Displays

## Overview

The Zion Nature Center encourages Zionsville and Central Indiana families to take an active role in their native environment through educational and inquiry-based programs and activities. The Zion Nature Center was founded in 2002 through the dedicated efforts of the Zionsville Parks Department and the Friends of Zion Nature Center. The Zion Nature Center is located on the grounds of Eagle Elementary in Zionsville and adjacent to the Zion Nature Sanctuary. Because of the location on the school campus there is limited program availability during school days and hours.

Exhibits within the Nature Center focus on local Indiana habitats and wildlife. In addition to exhibits, several educational animals are on display including turtles, snakes, and amphibians.

## Park Uses

The Zionsville Nature Center building is loaned from Zionsville Community Schools and offers a wide variety of nature programs and exhibits.

Because of its location on Eagle Elementary School grounds the Zion Nature Center is OPEN to the public Saturdays and Sundays and select weekdays during the summer and school breaks.

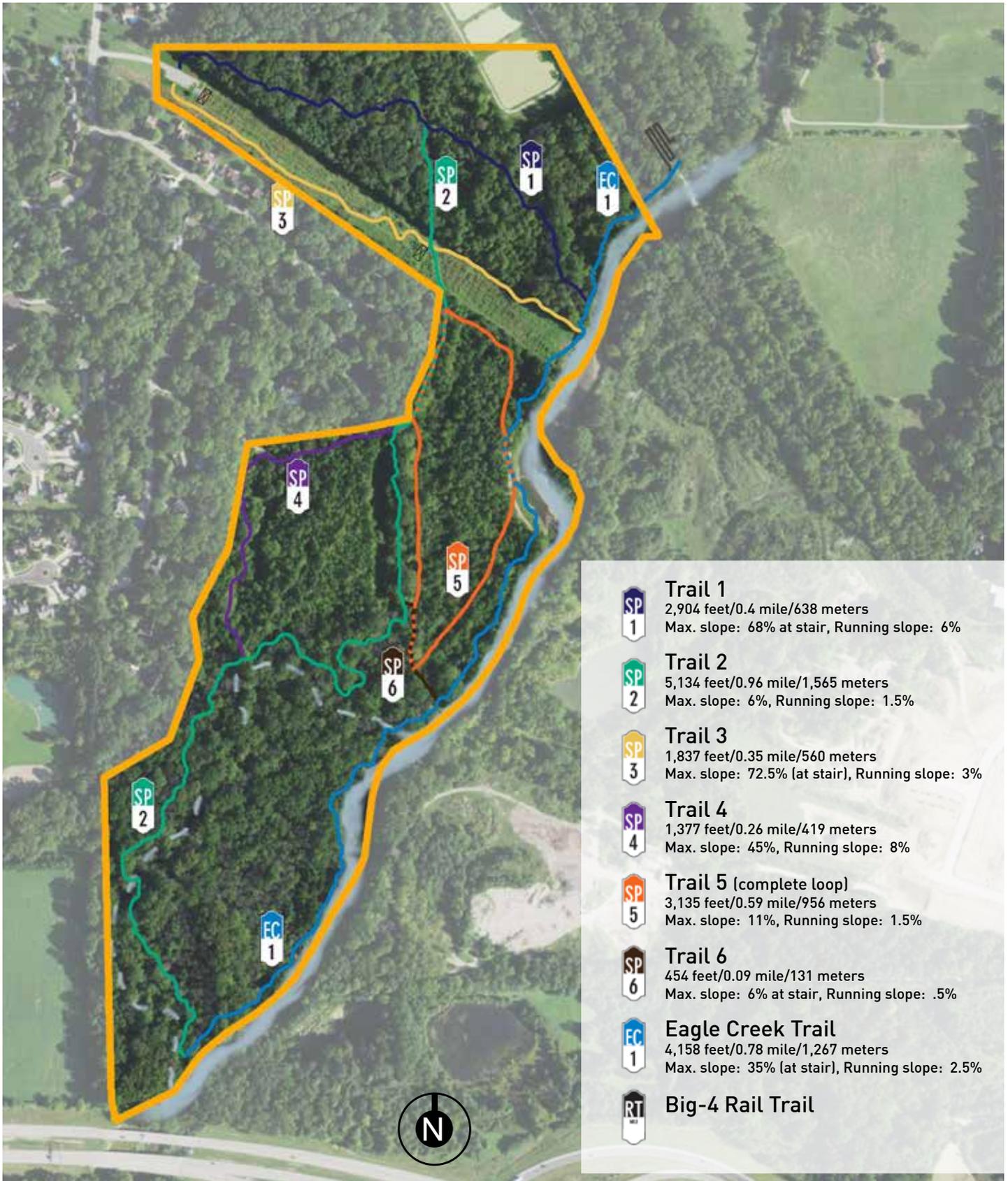
The Nature Center has outgrown its current location with a large demand for increased programming during the week. The town has begun the process of building a new nature center to accommodate these demands in a larger facility with more convenient access.

## Park Amenities

- Parking
- Nature Center
- Restrooms
- Picnic Tables



# Starkey Nature Park



- 
**Trail 1**  
 2,904 feet/0.4 mile/638 meters  
 Max. slope: 68% at stair, Running slope: 6%
- 
**Trail 2**  
 5,134 feet/0.96 mile/1,565 meters  
 Max. slope: 6%, Running slope: 1.5%
- 
**Trail 3**  
 1,837 feet/0.35 mile/560 meters  
 Max. slope: 72.5% (at stair), Running slope: 3%
- 
**Trail 4**  
 1,377 feet/0.26 mile/419 meters  
 Max. slope: 45%, Running slope: 8%
- 
**Trail 5 (complete loop)**  
 3,135 feet/0.59 mile/956 meters  
 Max. slope: 11%, Running slope: 1.5%
- 
**Trail 6**  
 454 feet/0.09 mile/131 meters  
 Max. slope: 6% at stair, Running slope: .5%
- 
**Eagle Creek Trail**  
 4,158 feet/0.78 mile/1,267 meters  
 Max. slope: 35% (at stair), Running slope: 2.5%
- 
**Big-4 Rail Trail**



Trail 1 at Eagle Creek



Soft Surface Trail



Foot Bridge in Starkey Nature Park

## Overview

This 80-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 here throughout the year. This park connects to the Big-4 Rail Trail and from there, to most of Zionsville's trail system.

## Park Uses

Starkey Nature Park is a popular destination for hikers in the area. The rugged terrain provides a challenging hike while exposing visitors to a variety of scenic views and wildlife. Trails within Starkey Nature Park are earthen, sod or aggregate.

Nature watching is also a popular past time for the park. The variety of ecosystems from woodland to the floodplain of Eagle Creek provide a habitat for a variety of birds and other habitat.

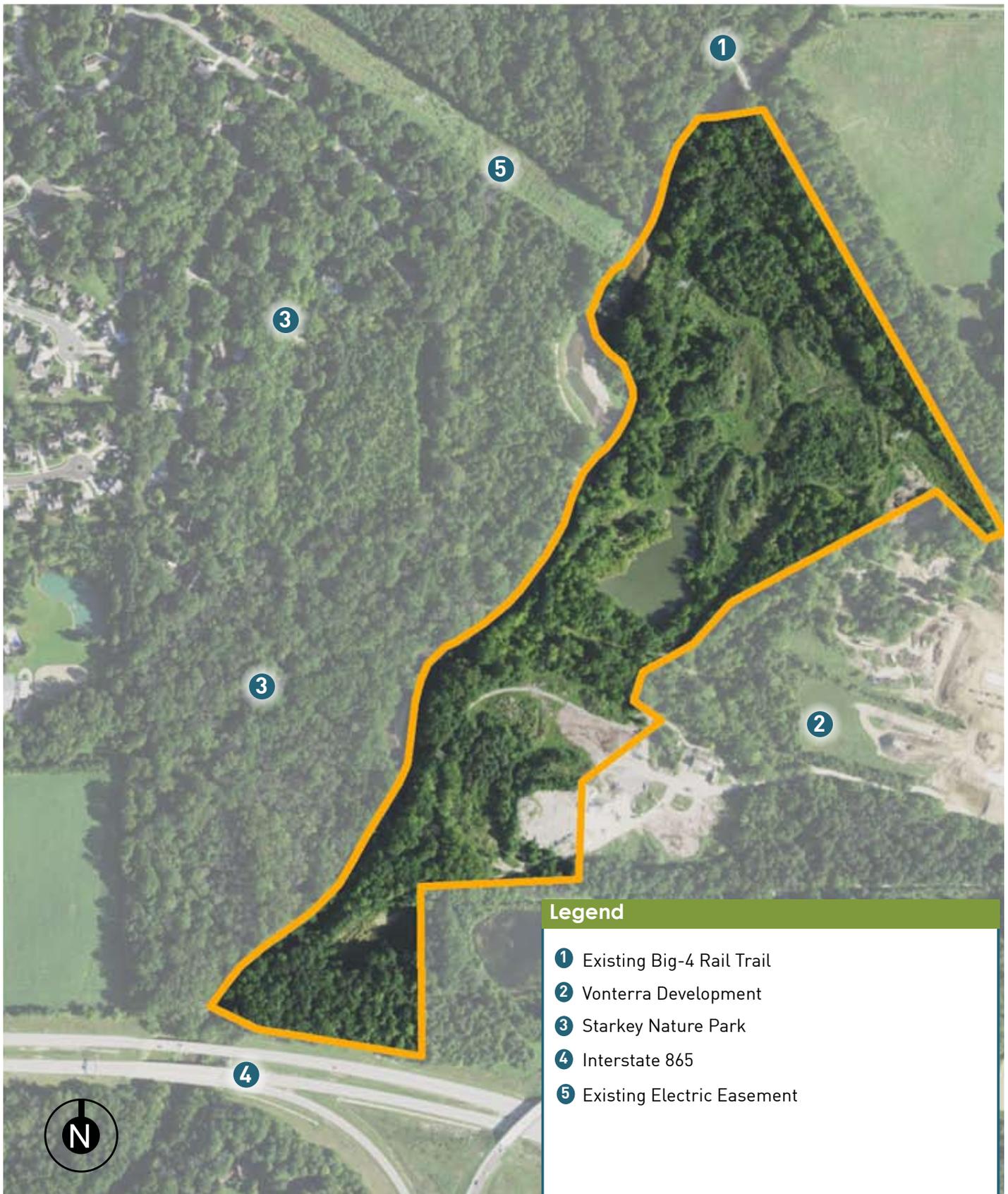
As with most natural parks in the state, Starkey Nature Park is constantly fighting the effects of surrounding development. The Parks Department has executed several programs to fight invasive plant species. Eagle Creek also suffers from increased development with erosion problems along its banks. The Parks Department has begun systematic projects along the creek to combat the negative effects to the creek.

## Park Amenities

- Parking
- Picnic Tables
- Trails
- Nature Watching
- Fishing
- Entrance signage



# Overley-Worman Park





Big-4 Rail Trail Corridor



Eagle Creek



Pond and debris piles

## Overview

Overley-Worman Park is a new park addition to the Zionsville Parks System. This 53-acre site is being donated to the Parks Board as the residential subdivision is developed adjacent to the park. A master plan process was conducted in early 2017 to plan for the donation.

The site is located adjacent to the Big-4 Rail Trail corridor and will include land donated to continue the rail trail south of the one hundred foot bridge over Eagle Creek to Zionsville Road.

The site was host to a variety of uses including a gravel pit, landfill/mulch storage and processing and still contains large piles of various debris and rubble across the site. The piles of rubble were assessed by an Environmental Engineering firm and were determined to be safe for development.

A large portion of the site is located within the floodplain. A small area directly adjacent to the residential development remains out of the floodplain and suitable for moderate development including parking, shelters and picnic areas.

Two large utility easements cross the property including a 100 feet wide gas easement and a one hundred fifty feet wide electric easement. Future development will need to account for these easements.

Wooded areas exist along Eagle Creek and in pockets across the site. There are a few areas of established native woodlands that are an asset to the site and should be preserved where possible. A large number of invasive plant materials were identified on the site. Removal of the invasive plants should be a part of any new development on the site.

Access to the site is possible through non-motor vehicles by way of the Big-4 Rail Trail. Motor vehicle access will be granted through the developing subdivision. The developer of the subdivision is also providing a minimal parking area for park users as a part of the development.



# Creekside Nature Park





Multi-use Path



Trail Connection to Lions Park



Picnic Areas Along Trail

## Overview

Creekside Nature Park is located along Sycamore Street in downtown Zionsville. The park is located across from Lions Park and connected through a multi-use trail under the busy roadway. The park is located within the flood plain.

Dow AgroSciences donated this 18-acre property bordering Eagle Creek in 2001. A Recreational Trails Program grant in the amount of \$62,800 assisted in the development of the park.

The park contains a parking lot and 0.6 mile of handicap accessible pathway from the parking lot to Eagle Creek. The pathway then runs along Eagle Creek back to the parking lot.

## Park Uses

Creekside Nature Park is heavily used by trail users including runners, walkers, bikers and dog walkers. Users commonly walk the loop created between Lions Park and Creekside Nature Park. Creekside Nature Park has easy access to Eagle Creek in a few locations creating access points to the creek. The trail weaves in and out of the trees creating a variety of scenery and user experience. Picnic tables located along the trail provide resting places for trail users.

## Park Amenities

- Parking
- Picnic Tables
- Multi-use Trails
- Nature Watching
- Fishing
- Canoe/Kayaking
- Entrance signage



# Lincoln Park



## Legend

- ① Existing Gazebo
- ② Existing Brick Walk
- ③ Existing Water Feature and Seating
- ④ Existing Picnic Table Area
- ⑤ Existing Drinking Water Fountain
- ⑥ Existing Flagpole and Monument
- ⑦ Existing Concrete Walkway
- ⑧ Existing Lawn



Gazebo



Lincoln Memorial Plaque



Water Feature and Seating

## Overview

This 0.5 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 at this location. A memorial marker to Lincoln's address was erected by the Zionsville Lions Club in 1956. The marker reads: "Abraham Lincoln enroute to Washington as President Elect on February 11, 1861 addressed the Citizens of Zionsville at the Railroad Depot which stood on this site."

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 Abraham Lincoln.

## Park Uses

Lincoln Park is heavily used by residents during the summer concert series. The park fills with residents who bring chairs and blankets to sit on the open lawn of the park and watch the concerts.

As the oldest park in Zionsville, Lincoln Park has withstood the test of time. The park still serves the community filling the need for a small pocket park downtown. Programmed events at the park make this a common meeting ground for the community.

## Park Amenities

- Gazebo
- Picnic Tables
- Water Feature
- Memorial Plaque
- Benches
- Plant Beds





Village Corner

## Overview

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 a historical marker.

## Park Uses

The location of Village Corner in the middle of the shopping Village of Zionsville make it a nice destination for shoppers along Main Street. There are a variety of seating opportunities and large shade trees which help to cool the park in the summer.

The park includes paved areas and planters which provide seasonal color for the area. The historical marker in the park include the history of Main Street in Zionsville. Santa Claus makes a stop in the park every Christmas for Zionsville's annual Christmas in the Village event.

Village Corner and Lincoln Park are the two urban parks in the Zionsville Parks System and provide a complimentary balance to the natural parks and traditional active recreation parks that make up the parks system.

## Park Amenities

- Seating
- Shade Trees
- Historical Marker
- Town Clock



Village Corner in Fall



Town Clock



# Tennis Courts/Playground at Lions Park

## Legend

- ① Existing Playground
- ② Existing Parking
- ③ Existing Tennis Courts
- ④ Existing Half Court/Practice Court
- ⑤ Existing Picnic Table Area
- ⑥ Existing Lions Club Building
- ⑦ Existing Internal Pathway





Tennis Courts



Tot Playground



Tot Playground

## Overview

Lions Park is owned and maintained by the Lions Club. Although the park is not a part of the Zionsville Parks system a small portion on the northern end of the park is owned by the Park Board. The tennis courts and the adjacent tot lot are owned and maintained by the Parks Department.

Lions Park itself is utilized by many residents in part because of the league play at the baseball and softball fields. Some residents think that Lions Park is owned by the Parks Department

## Park Uses

Users of this small portion of the park include tennis players and families visiting the tot lot. The smaller playground is a good compliment to the larger playgrounds within the park and is in high demand by the community.

The playground and tennis courts are both aging and in need of improvements and repairs to maintain their service. The tennis courts are in need of resurfacing and updates to the nets and fencing.

The shade trees around the park and the multiple benches make this a comfortable and inviting spot with Lions Park. The area is connected to the rest of the park through walking pathways.

## Park Amenities

- Parking
- Tennis Courts
- Tot Playground
- Shade Trees
- Seating



# Elm Street Green





Entrance Signage



Overlook Pavilion



Eagle Creek

## Overview

This 15.5-acre site was designed through an intensive public input process in 2009. Phase 1 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.

## Park Uses

Elm Street Green is a popular destination for residents living in the downtown area. The park is walking distance from the Village and Lions Park. Access to Eagle Creek, with parking located in close proximity to the creek, make the park a convenient location to access the creek for canoes, kayaks, and creek explorers. Park users have created a second informal path to the creek for additional access.

The walking path that circles the park is heavily used by walkers and parents with strollers. The prairie and wooded areas create a green oasis in the downtown area. Community garden plots are also in high demand in this park and are completely rented out each year.

## Park Amenities

- Parking
- Picnic Shelters
- Picnic Tables
- Trails
- Nature Watching
- Fishing
- Canoe/Kayak Access
- Community Garden Plots



# Zionsville Golf Course





Club House



Golf Course



Signage

## Overview

The Zionsville Golf Course is owned by the Town and managed by the Zionsville Parks & Recreation Department. The golf course is a nine-hole facility located conveniently to the downtown area and many neighboring residential areas. The course is a par 36, 3,000 yard course which 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.

## Park Uses

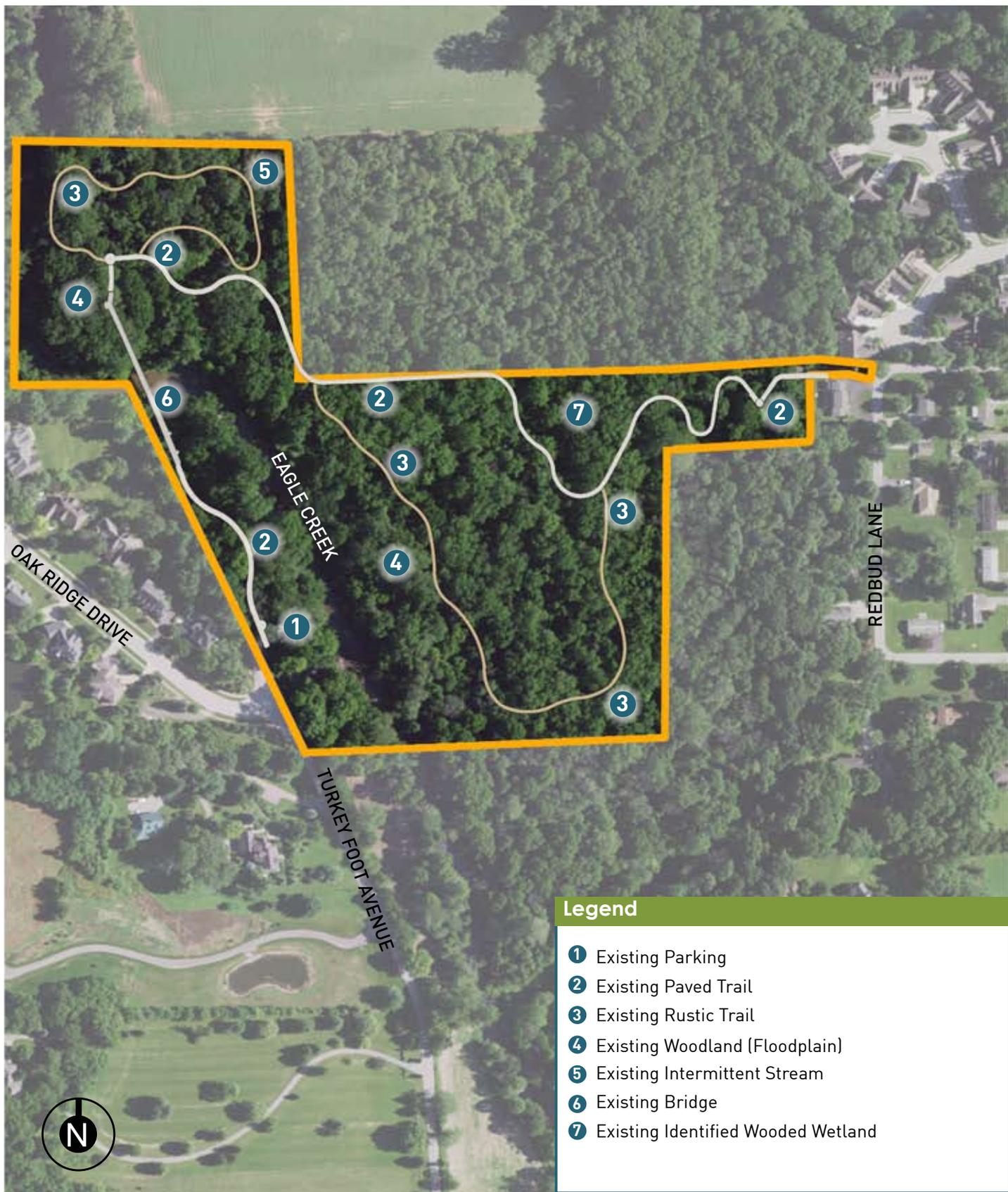
The Zionsville Golf Course is used primarily by local golfers who are looking for a convenient nine-hole course. Families are welcome and the course is not too difficult for kids to play on. It's common for parents to bring younger children who are learning to golf to play on the course.

## Park Amenities

- Parking
- Concessions
- Golf
- Restrooms
- Entrance signage



# Turkey Foot Nature Park





Entrance



Bridge Over Eagle Creek



Sycamore Tree Exhibit

## Overview

Turkey Foot Nature Park consists of 23 forested, primarily bottom land, acres. Robert Carter donated 16 acres in 1995 and seven acres were donated by LEFBO in 2001. This nature park has a footbridge over Eagle Creek, hiking trails, paved parking area and 0.6 of a mile of paved pathway connecting eastward to the corner of Redbud Lane and Woodside Drive.

## Park Uses

Turkey Foot Nature Park is conveniently connected to the neighborhoods surrounding the park through access walkways and the entrance road to the park. A variety of walking pathways with paved and rough trails provide pleasant walks for park visitors. Access to Eagle Creek provides fishing opportunities to users. The heavily wooded areas along Eagle Creek are also habitat to wildlife.

The park includes an educational exhibit containing information pertaining to a 335 year old Sycamore Tree which was located in the park before it had to be taken down for safety reasons. The exhibit includes world events that happened while this tree was living, giving context to the significance of the 335 years the tree was alive.

## Park Amenities

- Parking
- Canoe/Kayak Access
- Trails
- Nature Watching
- Fishing
- Entrance signage



# Holliday Nature Park





Treeline



Open Fields



Treeline with Open Fields

## Overview

Holliday Nature Park is located in the northern portion of Zionsville, east of 975 East along Eagle Creek containing 49.73 acres. It is part of a life estate and is currently undeveloped. Deed restrictions associated with the land donation limit the uses that can be developed on the property. The main purpose of the future park will be to provide additional natural park land for Zionsville.

Eagle Creek creates the eastern border of the park. The Zionsville Strategic Trails Implementation Plan has identified the development of a greenway trail along Eagle Creek for the length of the community. Development of this property as a future park should include implementation of the greenway along the creek.

Additional uses which would be appropriate for the property include a small parking area, small shade shelter and walking trails.

The location and nature of the property are ideal for the location of a future nature center. However, current deed restrictions do not allow for this type of development. Future land acquisition adjacent to the property should be evaluated for the potential development of a nature center. This park could be incorporated with that property to provide a nature park in close proximity with combined programming much like the current Nature Center and the Zion Nature Sanctuary.



# Family Farms Donation Parcel





Sidewalk along Willow Road



Donated Parcel to the Left



Curb Cut to Property with Golf Course to Left

## Overview

The Family Farms donation parcel is located east of the Zionsville Golf Course across Willow Road. The property is 7.86 acres of woodland along Eagle Creek. A significant amount of the property is located within the floodplain. There is an existing curb cut to the property from Willow Road.

The amount of property within the floodplain limits the appropriate uses for this site. However, the location along Eagle Creek lends the property to walking trails and, in particular, the continuation of a greenway trail along Eagle Creek. The greenway is identified in the Zionsville Strategic Trails Implementation Plan as a mid-range project to be completed by the town.

A small parking area along Willow Road could be provided to serve as a trailhead to the future Eagle Creek Trail. Trails could also be provided around the property creating smaller loops for visitors to the park or along the Eagle Creek Trail.

Materials and construction methods for improvements within this future park will need to account for flooding and be designed for easy clean-up and maintenance after flood events.



# Caito Property - Future





Farm Fields on Property



Donated Property on Left



Adjacent Farm Field with Woodland Area

## Overview

The Caito Property is located south of 200 South just south of the airport and north of Brookhaven Subdivision in the northern part of Zionsville. By ordinance commitments, this property will be donated to the Parks & Recreation Board as the property is developed. Dedication of 35 acres was included as a condition of rezoning the property from agriculture use to residential.

The existing property is a mixture of wooded areas and farm field. The property is fairly flat with creeks or drainage ways. The location of the property will serve a part of the town that does not have park properties currently. As the town continues to grow to the north, the park will be conveniently located near neighborhoods.

Uses that might be appropriate for a new park could include walking trails, playgrounds, picnic areas, shelters, parking, and sidewalk connections to the newly developed subdivision.



# Accessibility Review - Existing Conditions



Heritage Trail Park - drop at end of accessible ramp



Heritage Trail Park - Accessible parking and route



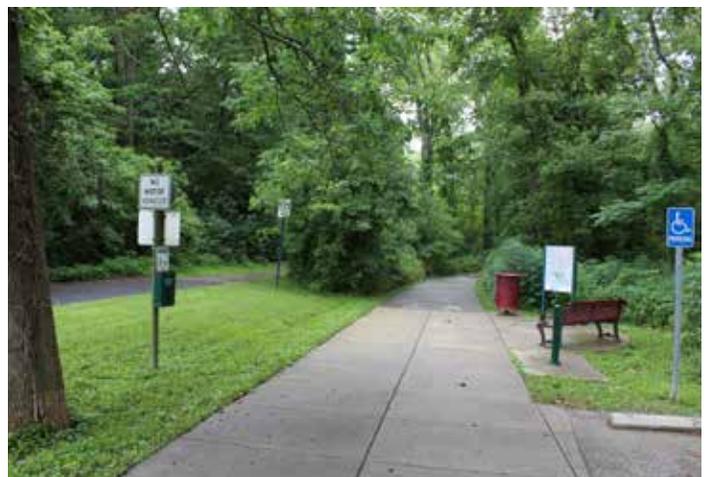
Mulberry Fields Playground - ADA Compliant Access



Mulberry Fields - Adaptive Swing



Elm Street Green - Accessible Parking and Route



Turkey Foot Park - Accessible Pathways



According to a report issued by the US Census Bureau in 2012, approximately 19%, or 56.7 million, of non-institutionalized citizens reported having some form of a disability in 2010. The report defines different levels of disability but suggests that a person with a disability would have difficulty performing a specific activity such as seeing, hearing, bathing, or doing light housework, or has a specific condition such as Alzheimer's disease or autism.

Other report findings included:

- 70.5% of individuals over 80 have a disability and 8.4% of children under age 15.
- Disability rates have decreased slightly for people aged 55 to 64.
- 6.2% of adults over age 15 reported some level of difficulty with seeing, hearing, or having their speech understood.
- 12.6% of adults over age 15 had some ambulatory limitations that included walking, climbing stairs, or using a wheelchair, cane, crutches, or a walker.

## Zionsville Accessibility Information

Zionsville completed their ADA Transition Plan in 2011 and subsequently approved a resolution to adopt the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ADA Coordinator and Procedures.

Zionsville's designated ADA Coordinator is Wayne DeLong, Director of Planning and Economic Development. Wayne can be reached by contacting the Zionsville Planning and Economic Development Department at (317) 873-8247 or 1100 West Oak Street, Zionsville, IN 46077. Additionally, public notice of ADA requirements is posted in hard copy format in the Town Hall.

If citizens have an ADA grievance, they can contact Wayne directly or submit their complaint to the Clerk Treasurer's office.

## Accessibility Review

During the preparation of this plan, an accessibility review of the town's parks system was conducted. It is a goal of the Parks and Recreation Board to improve accessibility within existing and future parks and to offer barrier-free facilities, programs,

and services that are inclusive to all users.

Currently, the majority of the amenities offered within the parks system are accessible and provide play components for handicap users. All of the parks include accessible routes from parking areas to the different areas of parks. Additionally, designated handicap parking spaces are provided in each of the parks. A few areas of parks are not accessible because of terrain or natural constraints but even parks with these conditions have areas which are accessible.

The biggest restriction to accessibility within the parks is related to maintenance. Areas with wheelchair access or handicap transfer stations need particular attention to mulch levels and surrounding grades.

In addition to reviewing the accessibility of physical amenities, communications practices were reviewed. While the town's website does mention all of the parks within the system, additional information specific to accessible facilities, programs, or activities could be added.

## Public Input & Stakeholder Comments

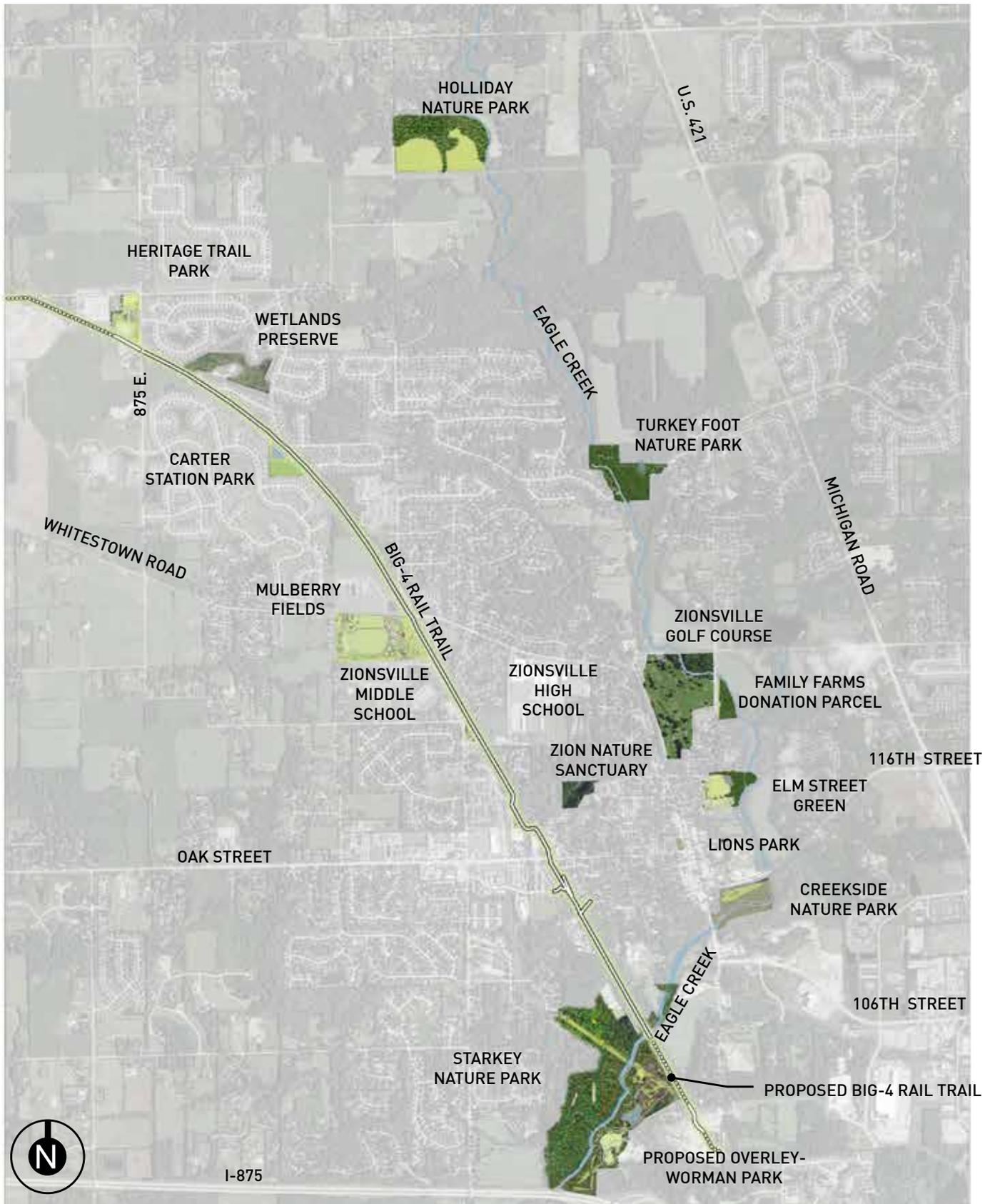
The town contracted with a consultant to prepare an ADA Transition Plan in 2011. Public Input was received as a part of this process. The Transition Plan identifies the steps needed for the town to implement improvements creating a wholly accessible town.

In addition, the community survey conducted as a part of this master plan process was used to gather opinions and perceptions of the public concerning the parks and accessibility. The majority of respondents did not have family with disabilities but of those that did 73% rated accessibility in parks as average to good.

The Parks and Recreation Board understands the importance of accessibility within its public amenities and will seek to make improvements to accomplish full accessibility across the town's parks system. Specific recommendations for each park are included in the following sections.



# System Wide Improvements



# Facility Recommendations



Findings from the inventory, input from the public meetings and surveys provided the Parks & Recreation Board and staff direction as to what issues and improvements to consider for this master plan. The following list contains the recommendations, separated into those applicable to system wide improvements and maintenance and those specific to each park. From these recommendations, certain improvements have been prioritized based on the level of community support, the Board and staffs' assessment, and consideration of financial and other constraints. Following this list is the five-year action plan which lists those recommendations selected and prioritized for the next five years. This priority action plan will serve as a basis for improvement and development of the Zionsville Park system over the next five years.



Continue Big-4 Rail Trail to Town Limits

## System Wide Improvements and Maintenance

- Complete the Big-4 Rail Trail within town limits
- Provide additional connections between neighborhoods and parks where possible as a part of park development while acting as a voice of support for connections in town owned property not controlled by the Parks and Recreation Board
- Add universally (accessible) playground equipment
- Construct a new mountain bike park to meet demand in the community
- Update and repair existing playground equipment to meet current standards
- Identify various funding sources for grants and gifts
- Add new park entrance signage and identification to be consistent with the new Parks logo
- Continue to provide improvements and furnishings that increase ADA accessibility
- Continue to maintain existing amenities and facilities
- Establish a yearly maintenance schedule to routinely maintain parks system including renewal of mulch and routine repairs needed for safety
- Establish a long-term replacement program for facilities such as concrete sidewalks and asphalt pathways
- Continue to explore future park improvements in developing areas of town not currently served by the Parks Department



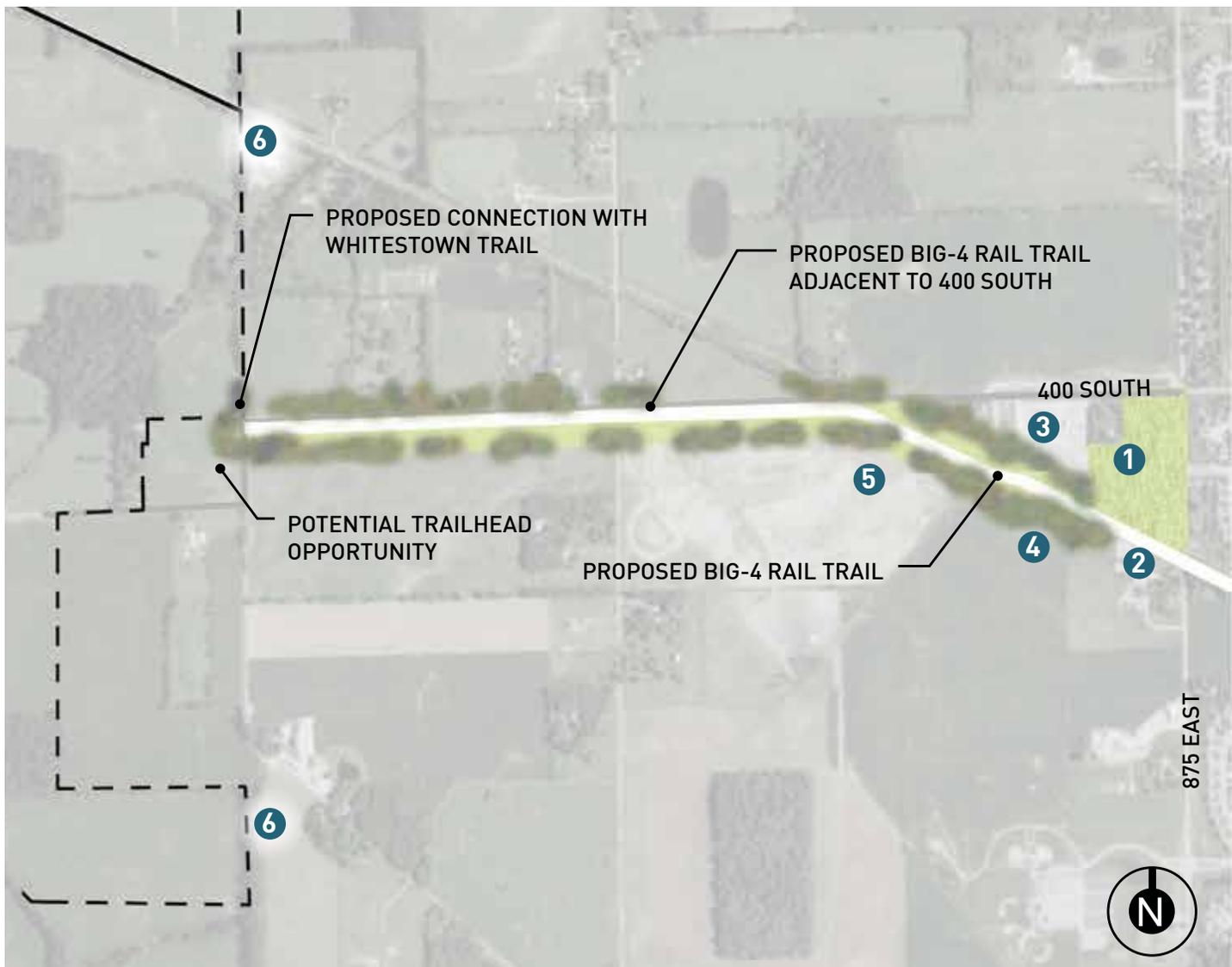
Construct Mountain Bike Park



Update Playground Equipment



# Big-4 Rail Trail (North) Improvements



## Legend

- ① Heritage Trail Park
- ② Existing Big-4 Rail Trail
- ③ Electric Substation
- ④ Zionsville Community School Property
- ⑤ Future Development
- ⑥ Town Limits



Existing Big-4 Rail Trail



Trail in Heritage Trail Park



Rail Trail Signage

## Recommendations

One of the top priorities heard from the community and town staff alike was the completion of the Big-4 Rail Trail to the town limits. The proposed northern rail trail extension would connect with the existing rail trail at Heritage Trail Park. The proposed trail would follow the old rail trail corridor adjacent to the electric substation. After the substation the proposed trail would be located adjacent to the old rail corridor but on property owned by the Zionsville Community School Corporation and then property being developed as a residential subdivision until the trail connects with County Road 400 South.

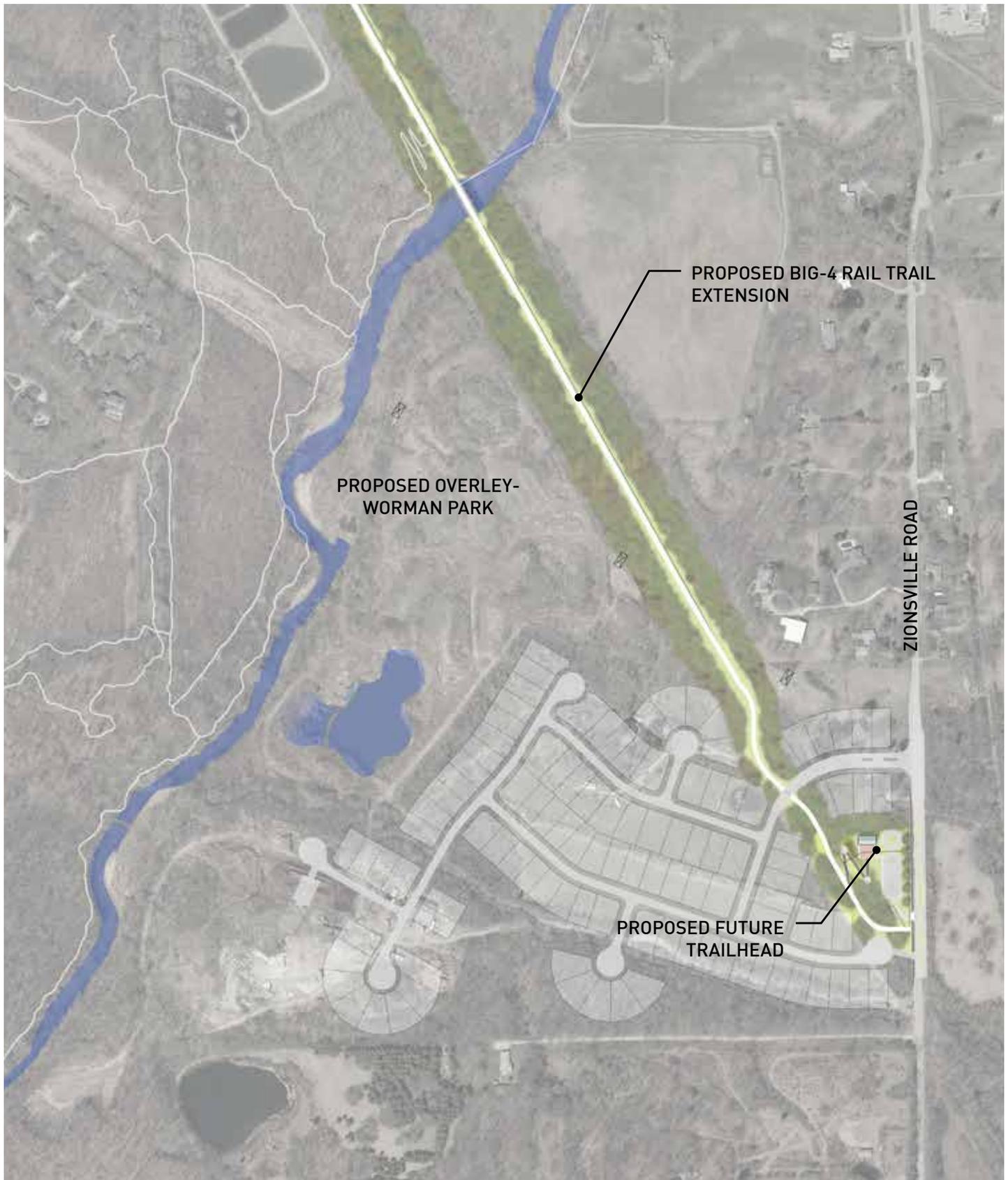
After the trail connects with 400 South it will be located adjacent to the roadway on the south side of the road. This will continue the trail without roadway crossings from Heritage Trail Park to the town limits. At the town limits the trail will connect with the Big-4 Rail Trail which is being completed by Whitestown. The combined miles of the trail in Zionsville and Whitestown will create a regional trail.

This section of the Big-4 Rail Trail is located adjacent to primarily flat fields with little vegetation. Development of the trail should include plantings to help screen the trail from adjacent uses in areas while leaving views open in other areas.

The end of the rail trail in Zionsville presents an opportunity for the town to develop a trailhead if future land acquisition is possible. The trailhead should have parking, seating, and wayfinding signage.



# Big-4 Rail Trail (South) Improvements





Existing Rail Trail in Vonterra Development



Potential Rail Trail Corridor



Existing Rail Trail through Vonterra Development

## Recommendations

Completion of the Rail Trail to the south would include extending the trail from the existing end at the One-hundred Foot Bridge to Zionsville Road. A portion of this section of the trail has already been constructed as a part of the Vonterra Development. This includes a fifteen feet wide trail from the edge of the development to Zionsville Road.

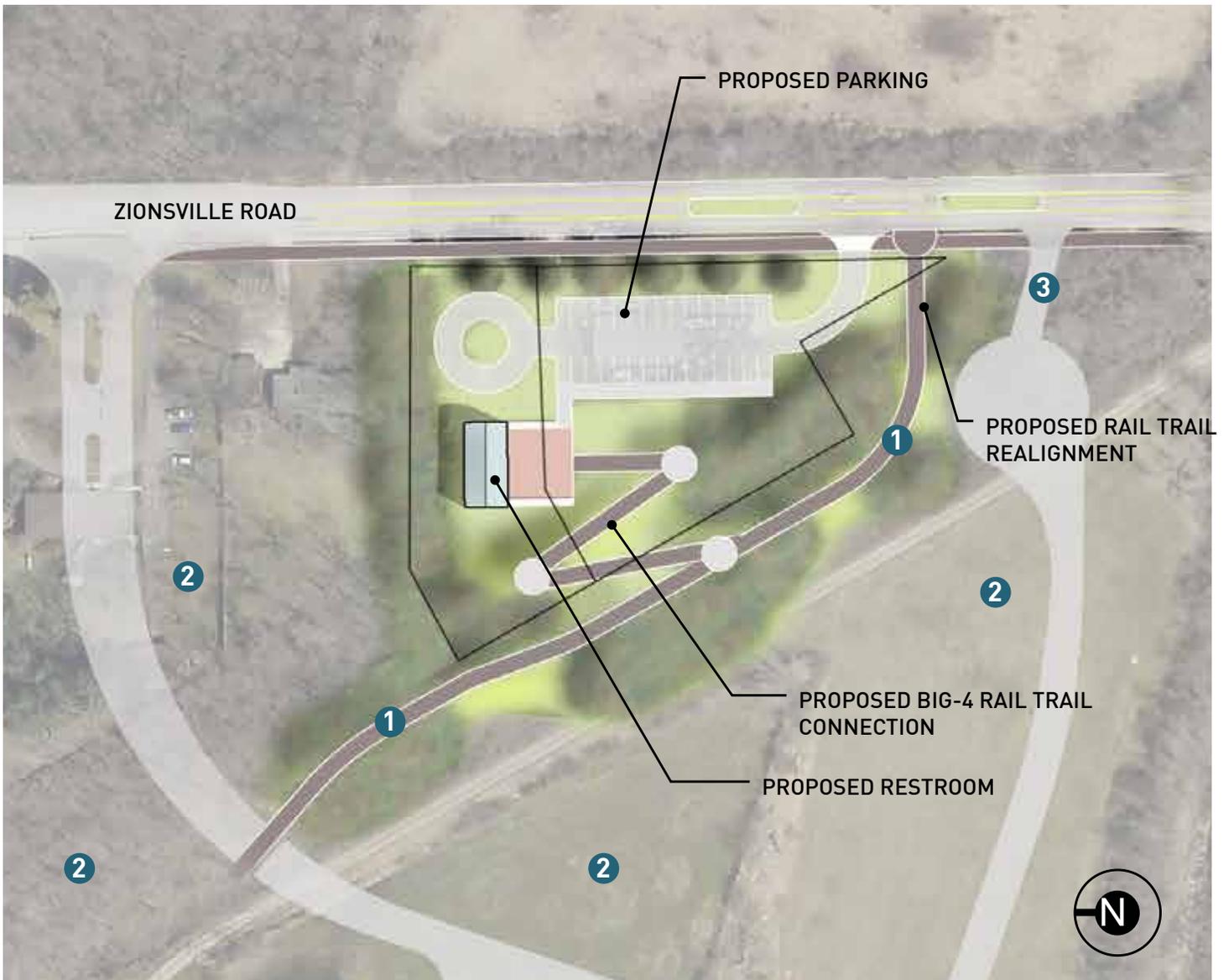
The existing Big-4 Rail Trail is paved for its entire length except for an approximately 3000 feet long section between the Starkey Avenue overpass and the One-hundred Foot Bridge. This proposed project would include converting this section of aggregate trail to a fifteen feet wide paved asphalt trail.

A portion of the land for the rail trail extension between the Eagle Creek Bridge and the existing trail in the Vonterra Subdivision will be dedicated to the Parks and Recreation Department as a part of the Overley-Worman Park donation. However, this donation only includes a portion of the “flatland” at the top of the slopes where the old rail corridor was located. Additional land acquisition may be needed to be able to locate the trail in the old corridor and provide fifteen feet width of pavement for the trail.

Extending the rail trail to the south would provide connections to a large portion of the community to the proposed Overley-Worman Park. Upon completion of the roadway improvements to Zionsville Road, including sidewalks which connect to downtown, trail users will be able to easily connect to the downtown commercial district.



# Zionsville Road Trailhead Improvements



## Legend

- ① Existing Big-4 Rail Trail
- ② Vonterra Development
- ③ Emergency Access Only



Bike Repair Station



Example Trailhead Amenities



Existing Rail Trail in Vonterra Development

## Recommendations

When the Big-4 Rail Trail is extended to Zionsville Road this will be the southern terminus for the rail trail for a number of years until additional land can be acquired to continue the rail trail to the south. Once this land is acquired the Big-4 Rail Trail will connect with the Indianapolis trail system connecting Zionsville to downtown Indianapolis.

As the southern terminus, a trailhead at Zionsville Road would provide a convenient location for parking and trail amenities including a restroom building, parking and a bike repair station. The trailhead would also have wayfinding signage to orient users. The parking provided as a part of this trailhead would help to alleviate some of the parking demands for the future Overley-Worman Park.

The trailhead is shown conceptually along Zionsville Road. This property is currently privately owned. With development of the Vonterra Subdivision taking place around these two properties, property owners may be more willing to sell their property. As with any property that is purchased by the Parks and Recreation Department, the Board is limited to the appraised value of the land and not a perceived value of land.



# Heritage Trail Park Improvements



# Facility Recommendations



Playground Example - 6-12 Years



Playground Example - 6-12 Years

## Legend

- ① Existing Community Garden Plots
- ② Existing Parking
- ③ Existing Playground (Ages 2-5 Years)
- ④ Existing Picnic Shelter
- ⑤ Existing Trail
- ⑥ Low Mow Turf
- ⑦ Existing Basketball Court
- ⑧ Existing Bocce Court

## Recommendations

Heritage Trail Park completed Phase 1 Construction as a part of the previous 5-Year Master Plan. The town continues to grow to the north and west creating a demand for additional play opportunities within this park. Proposed improvements include the second phase of the master plan and includes the addition of a playground for older children (ages 6-12 years), expanded parking area, additional sidewalk and trail connections.

The addition of park amenities and the increased development in this area will create a need for additional parking. The extension of the Big-4 Rail Trail to the north will also create more need for parking as the park serves as a trailhead.

Proposed sidewalks along 875 East and an extension of the park trail system to the north connecting with 400 South will provide better connections to neighborhoods while also providing additional opportunities for walking loops within the park. Improvements also include expansion of the bio-basin stormwater system within the park. The new bio-basins will offset the increased impervious areas of the proposed fire station, as well as, parking, trails and sidewalks.

Minor maintenance improvements are recommended for the existing elements of the park. The Parks Department should continue with its weed prevention routines to continue to establish the low-mow turf area. Residents expressed their appreciation for the wildlife that they see as a part of the low mow turf program. Additional recommendations would include installation of additional ADA compliant mulch around the existing playground to maintain the accessible route from the ramp to the playset.

The proposed park plan may be adjusted as the former Rail Trail Gardens land is designed into a combined Parks and Streets/Stormwater Departments campus.



# Wetland Reserve Improvements



## Legend

- ① Small Parking Area
- ② Seasonal Wetland Areas
- ③ Wooded Wetland Areas



Small Parking Area



Wooded Wetland



Great Egret - Wetland Wildlife

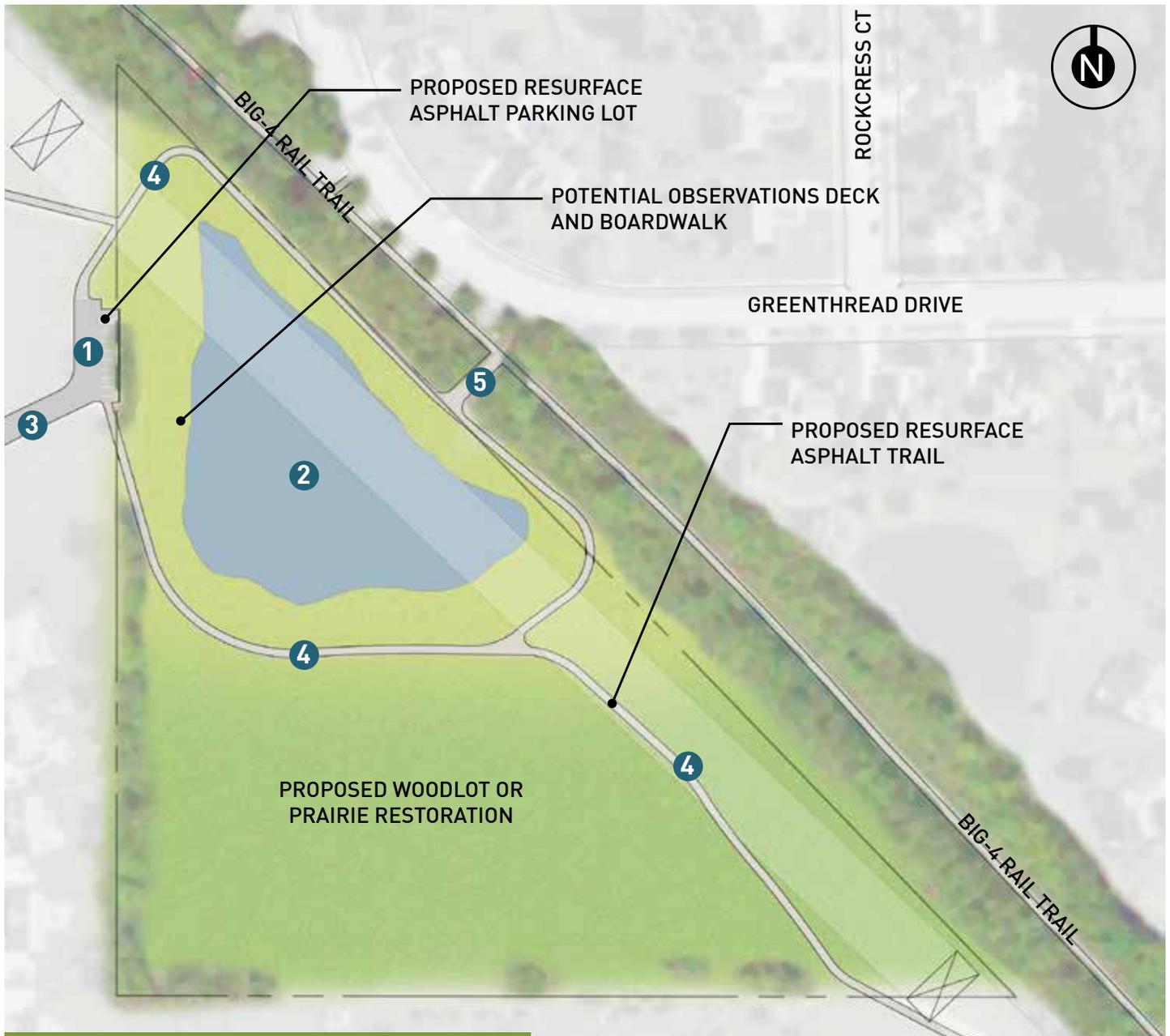
## Recommendations

In 2010, the Parks and Recreation Board made a decision to leave the site undeveloped in its current natural state. This leaves the green space as a reserve for wildlife, thereby avoiding the site's potentially expensive construction and maintenance costs and challenges. The current recommendations do not include any new improvements to the site.

Several residents shared their desire for the Wetland Reserve to stay as it is. They value the green space and understand the many benefits that wetlands can provide. Wetlands are complex ecosystems which are rapidly disappearing across the nation. They provide habitat to a wide range of wildlife including birds, waterfowl, small mammals and endangered plants and animals. Wetlands also help to filter pollutants from stormwater and combat flooding by holding water until it infiltrates into the surrounding ground water system.



# Carter Station Improvements

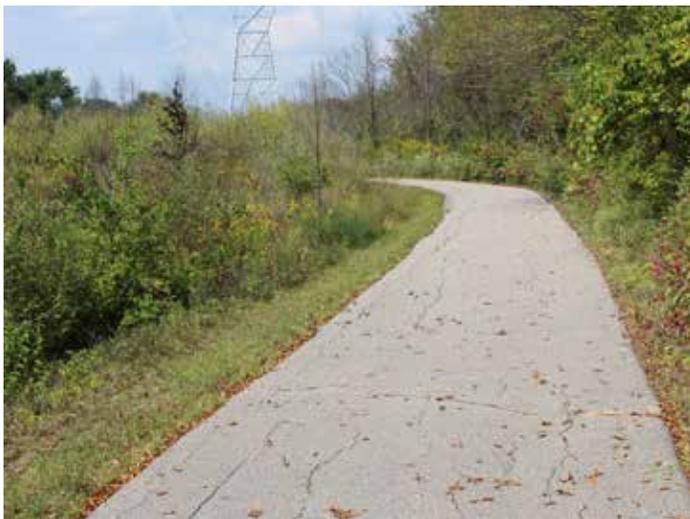


## Legend

- ① Parking
- ② Stormwater Basin
- ③ Entrance Road
- ④ Asphalt Walking Path
- ⑤ Big-4 Rail Trail Connector Path



Existing Paved Path



Existing Aging Paved Path



Stormwater Basin and Plantings

## Recommendations

Carter Station is an existing park located adjacent to the Big-4 Rail Trail. The park includes a large stormwater basin which holds water year round and a series of trails which circle the basin while also connecting with the surrounding neighborhood and the Big-4 Rail Trail. The park includes a small area of parking.

The paved trail within the park is beginning to show signs of aging. The trail and the paved parking lot are nearing the age where they will need replacement or resurfacing. Proposed improvements for this park include repaving the trail and the asphalt parking lot. Potential improvements also include an observation deck on the edge of the pond to provide additional views across the park.

Future improvements for the park include the establishment of a prairie restoration area and additional native shade trees.

Mayor Haak has taken the National Wildlife Federations' Mayors' Monarch Pledge which includes a public communication process to encourage citizens to plant monarch gardens and convening public works and town parks departments to identify opportunities for implementation of monarch friendly plantings such as milkweed and native nectar plants. There are several parks within the parks system which are ideal for implementing these types of programs and can be incorporated into prairie restoration projects.



# Mulberry Fields Improvements



# Facility Recommendations



Inclusive Playground Example



Example Inclusive Swing

## Legend

- ① Existing Skate Park
- ② Existing Basketball Court
- ③ Existing Seasonal Restroom
- ④ Existing Playground
- ⑤ Existing Splash Park
- ⑥ Existing Shelter
- ⑦ Existing Multi-Sport Fields
- ⑧ Existing Recreational Hill
- ⑨ Existing Stormwater Basin
- ⑩ Zionsville Middle School
- ⑪ Maplelawn Farmstead

## Recommendations

Mulberry Fields is a fully developed park within the Zionsville Parks system. The park includes a playground with accessible elements and access, a splash park, multi-purpose sports fields, basketball court, skate park and recreational hill. No new improvements are recommended for Mulberry Fields within the next five years.

Mulberry Fields includes one example within the Zionsville parks system of a playground that has incorporated some handicap accessible elements. However, there are not fully inclusive playgrounds within the parks system. As these types of parks are seeing increased demand, the Parks and Recreation Board should evaluate the best location for a fully inclusive playground.

Inclusive playgrounds promote play experiences for all children regardless of disabilities or handicaps. With inclusive playgrounds, the objective is to provide a safe place where all children of all abilities can play together and are developmentally appropriate for children with disabilities. An inclusive playground includes engaging elements for children to explore together, physical accommodations for disabilities, play features which promote inclusion by all, and elements that are integrated into an active playground area. Inclusive playgrounds provide not only access to play equipment but also a variety of sensory elements.

Mulberry Fields serves as a nucleus of activity for the parks system and would make an ideal location for the development of an inclusive playground. However, the park is fully developed and has limited space for new uses. This means an existing use would need to be removed or reduced in size or another park may be more appropriate for the development of this type of playground.



# American Legion Trail Crossing





Brick Walking Path



Entrance Walking Path

## Legend

- ① Existing Concrete Sidewalk
- ② Existing Parking
- ③ Existing Brick Walkways
- ④ Existing Plant Beds
- ⑤ Existing Bike Rack
- ⑥ Existing Drinking Water Fountain
- ⑦ Existing Connector Trail to Big-4 Rail Trail
- ⑧ Existing Stone Pillars

## Recommendations

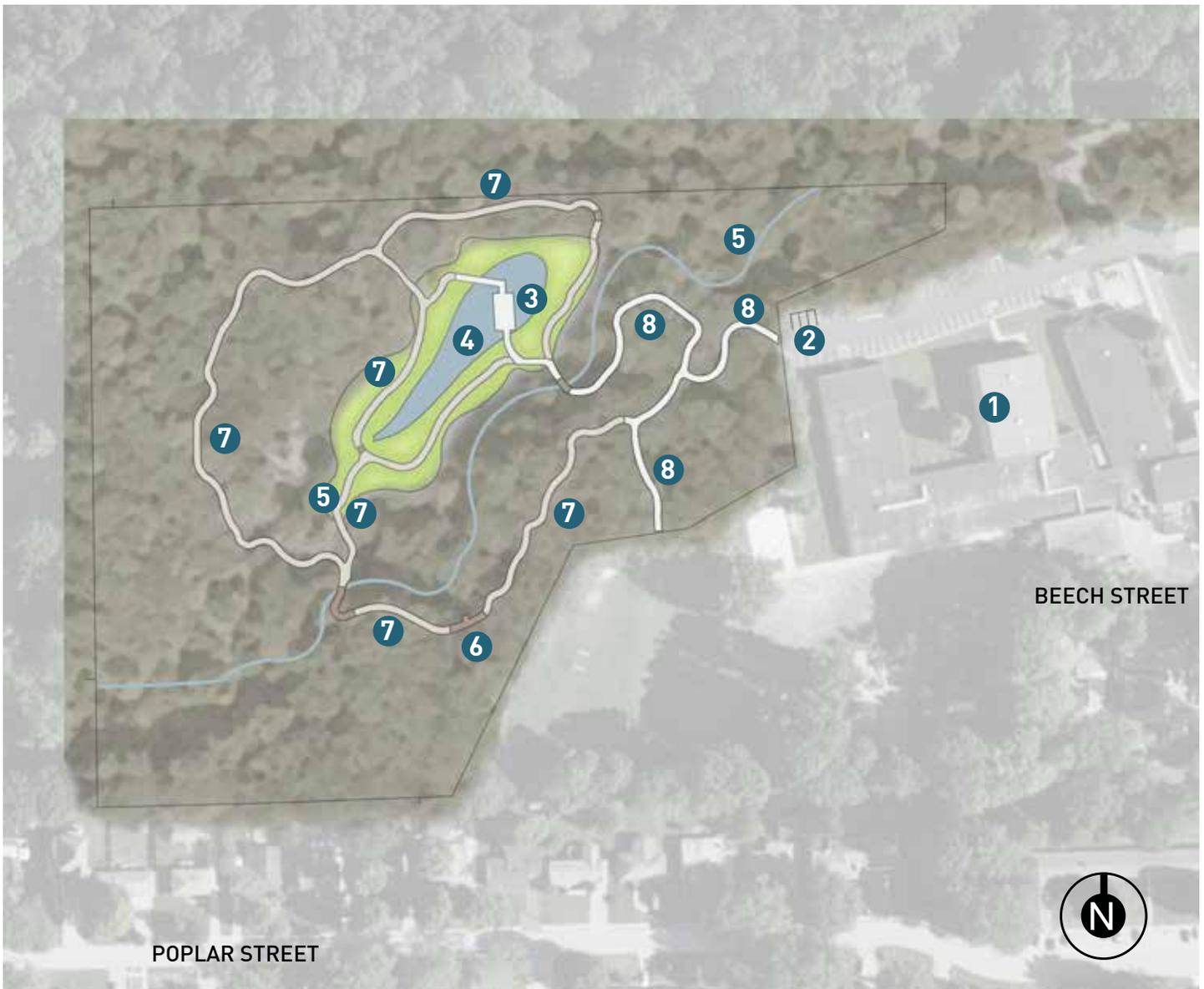
The American Legion Trail Crossing serves as an important trailhead for the Big-4 Rail Trail. With many opportunities to sit, and a drinking water fountain, the park provides a mid-point resting point for trail users. The park is located conveniently across from the school owned Jennings Field and school owned property. This park also serves as a monument park for the town. No new improvements are recommended for the American Legion Trail Crossing within the next five years.



Monument Stone



# Zion Nature Sanctuary Improvements



## Legend

- ① Eagle Elementary School
- ② Existing Parking
- ③ Existing Outdoor Classroom Shelter
- ④ Existing Seasonal Manmade Wetland
- ⑤ Existing Intermittent Stream
- ⑥ Existing Scenic Overlook
- ⑦ Existing Rustic Trail
- ⑧ Existing Crushed Gravel Trails



Aggregate Trail



Overlook/Outdoor Classroom with Boardwalk



Rustic Path

## Recommendations

The Zion Nature Sanctuary is located close to the Zion Nature Center and is used frequently for programming by the nature center. Tours are often conducted through the Sanctuary. As one of Zionsville's natural park areas, this park should have minimal development. This plan does not include new improvements for the Sanctuary.

The trails system of paved and rustic trails provide a variety of experiences for users while also providing an accessible route to the overlook/outdoor classroom. Routine maintenance tasks should continue to be the priority for this park including grading and replenishment of aggregate, cleaning debris from trails, and strategic removal of invasive plants. However, if specialized grant funds become available (providing extra money to the department beyond budget funds) consideration should be given to paving the aggregate trail through the steeply sloped area as this is an ongoing maintenance challenge.



# Zion Nature Center Improvements



## Legend

- ① Zion Nature Sanctuary
- ② Eagle Elementary School
- ③ Existing Plant Bed
- ④ Existing Naturalistic Planting
- ⑤ Existing Nature Center



Existing Nature Center



Nature Center Programs



Existing Nature Center

## Recommendations

The Zion Nature Center is located on the grounds of Eagle Elementary School, so it is open during limited hours. The nature center was established in 2002 with a mission to encourage residents to learn about their natural environment. The nature center has many exhibits and programs including summer camps.

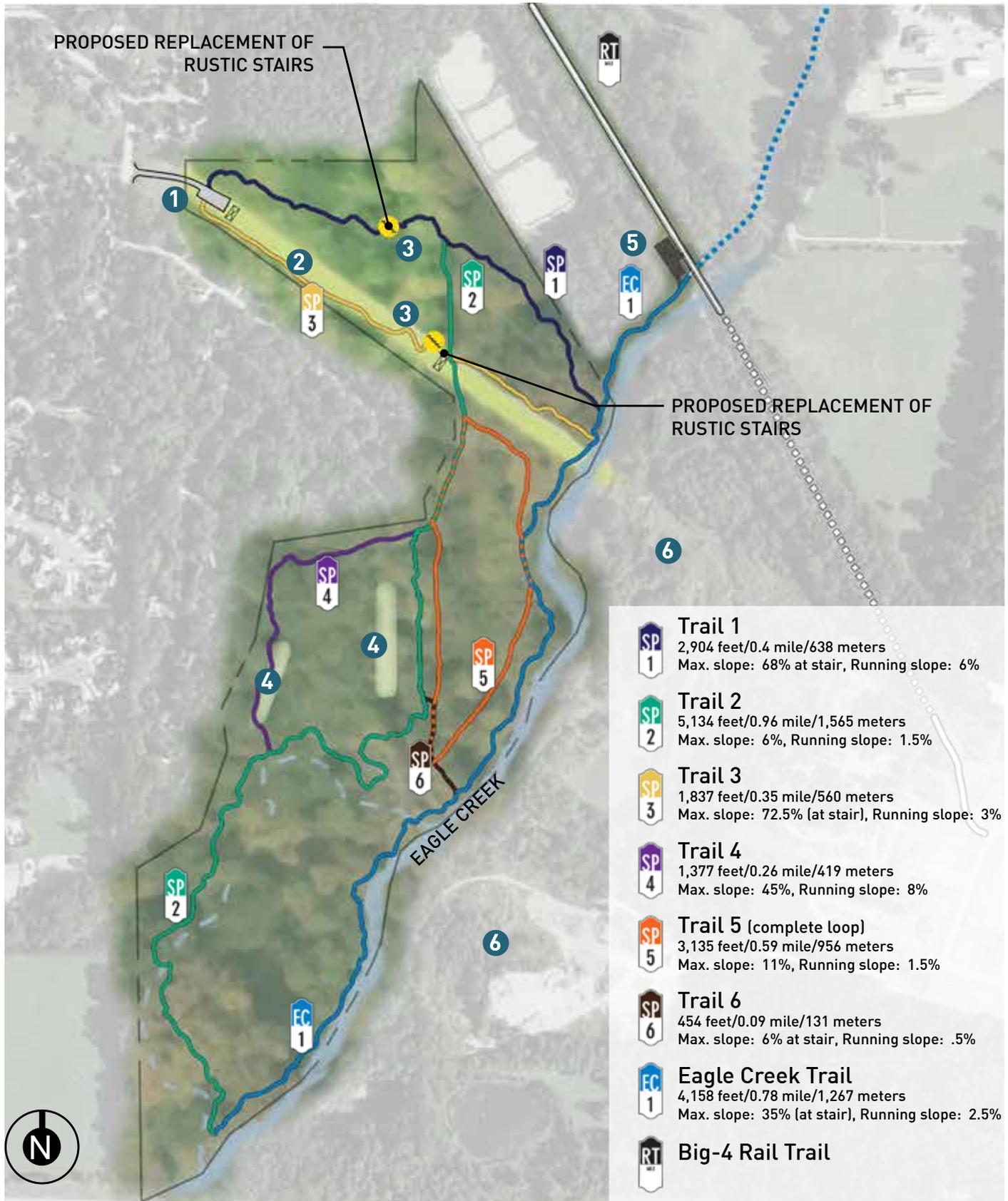
The nature center has been so successful at its mission that it has outgrown its current location in both size and in hours available for operation. The demand to expand programming has reached the tipping point for the nature center to find a new home.

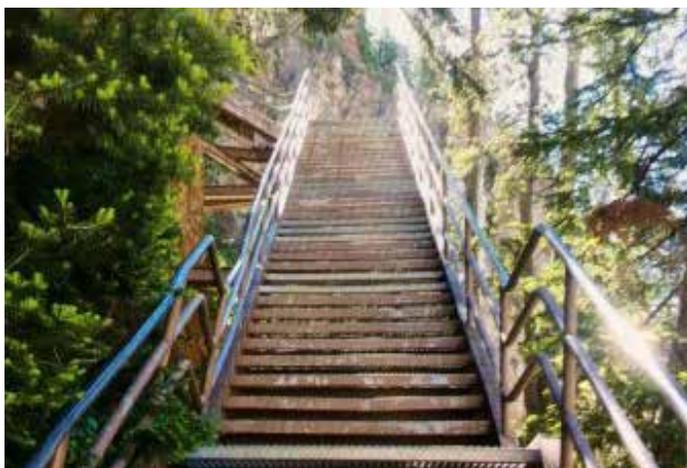
The town has begun the process of locating a new home for the nature center including beginning designs for a 5,000 square foot building. The location for the new nature center has not been determined yet but might include incorporation on the new campus for the Street Department and Parks Department. This campus development is being considered to relocate these departments from their current location to accommodate the growing Police Department.

The Holliday Nature Park donation parcel would be an ideal companion park to a new nature center. However, the deed restrictions included with the donation of the parcel of land do not allow for any buildings to be constructed on the property. Unless the donor family has a change of heart the idea of having the new nature center in close proximity to the Holliday Nature Park would require acquisition of additional land by the Parks Department. The Park Board should continue to evaluate available property within close proximity to the future park as a long time plan to incorporate these two parks into one nature centered campus.



# Starkey Nature Park Improvements





Prefabricated Metal Stairs



Existing Stairs In Starkey Nature Park

## Recommendations

Proposed improvements to Starkey Nature Park are minor and include replacing the existing wooden stairs with prefabricated metal stairs. The wooden stairs in Starkey Nature Park are in a heavily shaded area and are frequently wet which makes them a safety concern for trail users. In addition, the wood is a constant maintenance need. The metal stairs will provide a feature which requires less maintenance and will decrease the amount of down time for these trails when they are closed because of such concerns.

Other improvements to the park include continuation of routine maintenance to the trails in the park. The nature of the park as a natural area creates challenges to maintenance but the constant upkeep is necessary to keep the park operating for residents. Many residents use the park for hiking and running on the trails and for watching wildlife. Bicycling is not allowed in this park but will be fully accommodated on the nearby Overlay-Worman Park as it is built.

## Legend

- ① Existing Parking
- ② Existing Meadow Area
- ③ Existing Rustic Stair
- ④ Existing Meadow Open Area
- ⑤ Existing Connector Trail to Big-4 Rail Trail
- ⑥ Proposed Overlay-Worman Park



# Overley-Worman Park Improvements





Caption



Caption

## Recommendations

Overley-Worman Park is a future park which recently underwent an aggressive master plan process including a large amount of public input. The master plan process included a three-day charette with multiple stakeholder meetings, two public meetings and an open design studio where residents and community leaders could observe and comment on the planning process.

The results of this master plan process are shown in the plan view to the left. The park is planned to be developed primarily as a mountain bike park. There is a large demand in Zionsville for a mountain bike facility and the existing terrain on this site provide opportunities for this type of park not present on other park properties. Proposed improvements in Overley-Worman Park include:

- Access to the Big-4 Rail Trail corridor
- Park Entrance and Overlook
- Mountain Bike Trails (difficult to easy levels)
- Trail access between the rail trail and the playground activity area
- Boardwalk and Fishing Pier at Pond
- Small Parking Area
- Playground
- Mountain Bike Pump Track
- Shelters
- Disc Golf Course
- Meadows and Trails

The proposed park will provide a facility to meet the mountain bike communities needs while relieving some of the challenges to parks which are seeing improper bike use including the skate park at Mulberry Fields and Starkey Nature Park.

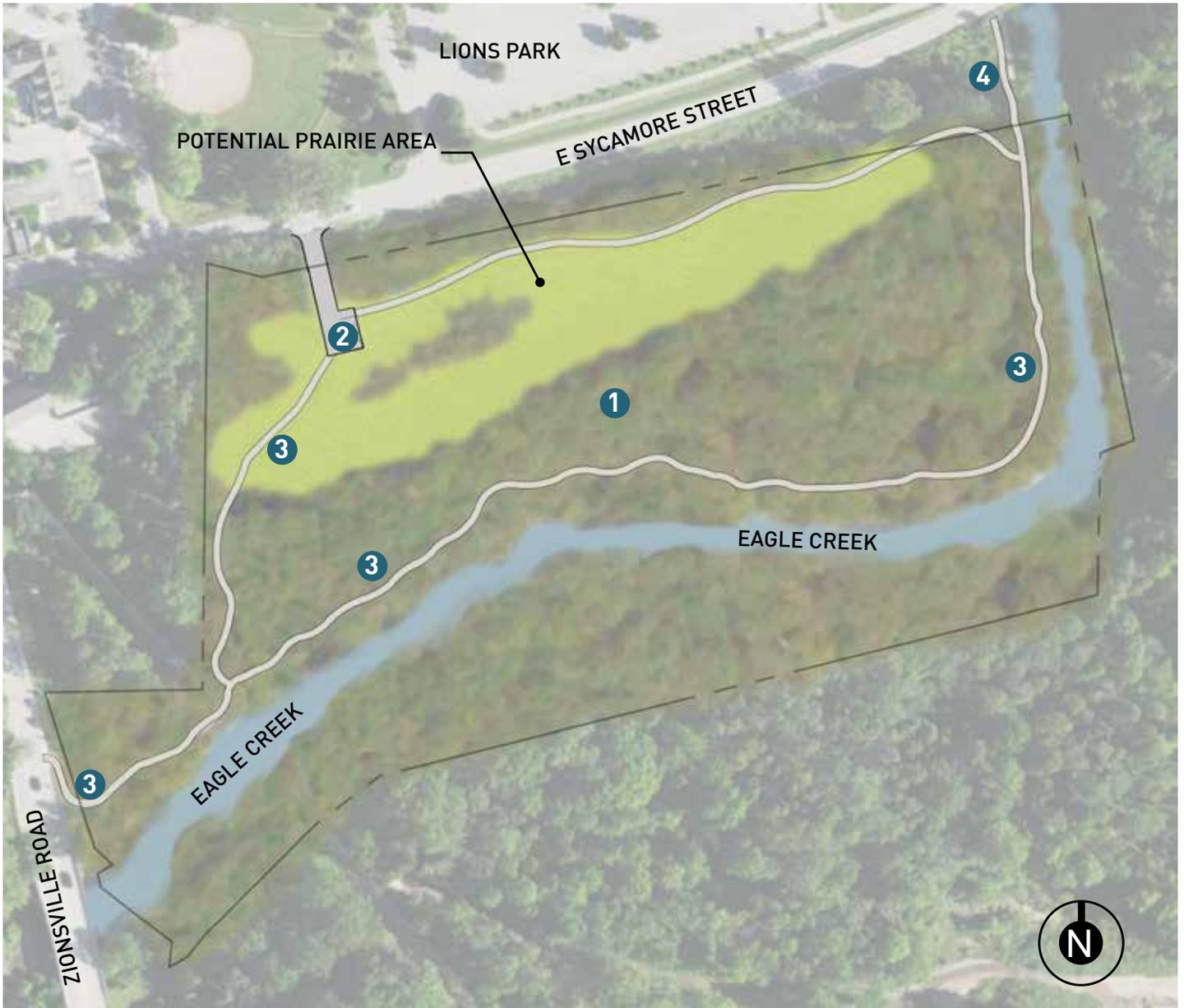
Although not included as an action item for this plan, the Parks and Recreation Board should evaluate property surrounding Overley-Worman Park for opportunities to acquire property which might provide an additional access point to the park to reduce the vehicular traffic passing through the Vonterra Subdivision. The property to the south of Overley-Worman Park is ideally situated for such an access point.

### Legend

- ① Existing Big-4 Rail Trail
- ② Vonterra Development
- ③ Starkey Nature Park
- ④ Interstate 865

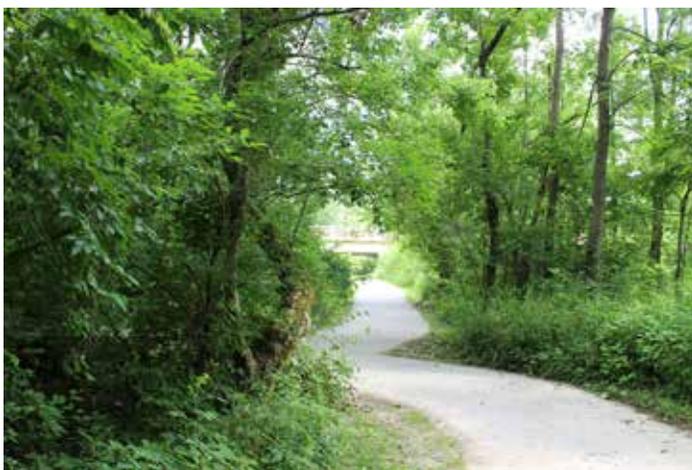


# Creekside Nature Park Improvements



## Legend

- ① Existing Wooded Area
- ② Existing Parking
- ③ Existing Paved Trail
- ④ Existing Link to Lions Park



Existing Paved Trail



Entrance Signage



Eagle Creek Access

## Recommendations

Proposed improvements for Creekside Nature Park include activities which continue to develop this park as a natural area for the town. By providing minimal hardscape improvements, this park can provide access to the natural area for residents while limiting the impact to the habitat and environment of the park. The Parks Department has been working in all of their parks to eliminate invasive plant material and establish woodlands. Creekside Nature Park should continue to receive these same treatments to preserve its natural state.

The existing parking area and the paved trail should continue to have routine maintenance and include fees dedicated within the budget to resurface and replace the pavement as needed.





Lincoln Park Summer Concert Series



Plaque in Lincoln Park

## Recommendations

Located in downtown Zionsville, Lincoln Park is a popular destination especially during summer months where the park hosts the summer concert series. The gazebo becomes a stage for performers and the audience brings their chairs and blankets for seating on the lawn that stretches out in front of the gazebo.

Potential improvements to the park include a new perimeter fence, replacing the existing electricity including installing conduits. The park contains many large, older trees which present maintenance challenges for the Parks Department. Many of the maintenance issues within the park are caused by the trees which provide a large part of the character for the park. While many of these plants are memorial donations, where possible, select trimming of these trees should continue to avoid maintenance issues and to address safety concerns.

The park currently has a wood perimeter fence. While the fence does provide some protection to the park by limiting points of access the fence is largely aesthetic in nature. While it would be a costly upgrade, replacing this fence with a metal, decorative fence could provide an upgrade to the aesthetics of the park but would also provide benefits to maintenance staff with lower maintenance needs.

### Legend

- ① Existing Gazebo
- ② Existing Brick Walk
- ③ Existing Water Feature and Seating
- ④ Existing Picnic Table Area
- ⑤ Existing Drinking Water Fountain
- ⑥ Existing Flagpole and Monument
- ⑦ Existing Concrete Walkway
- ⑧ Existing Lawn



# Village Corner Improvements





Village Corner

## Recommendations

Village Corner is a Zionsville Parks and Recreation park located in downtown Zionsville in the Village. It is an oasis of green in downtown and provides a respite for shoppers in the Village.

No new improvements are recommended for Village Corner. Maintenance for the park will continue to be a priority for the Parks Department to keep this a desirable pocket park for the town.

Future opportunities for this park could include expansion of the historic interpretation through additional signage which could be focused on the history of the town.



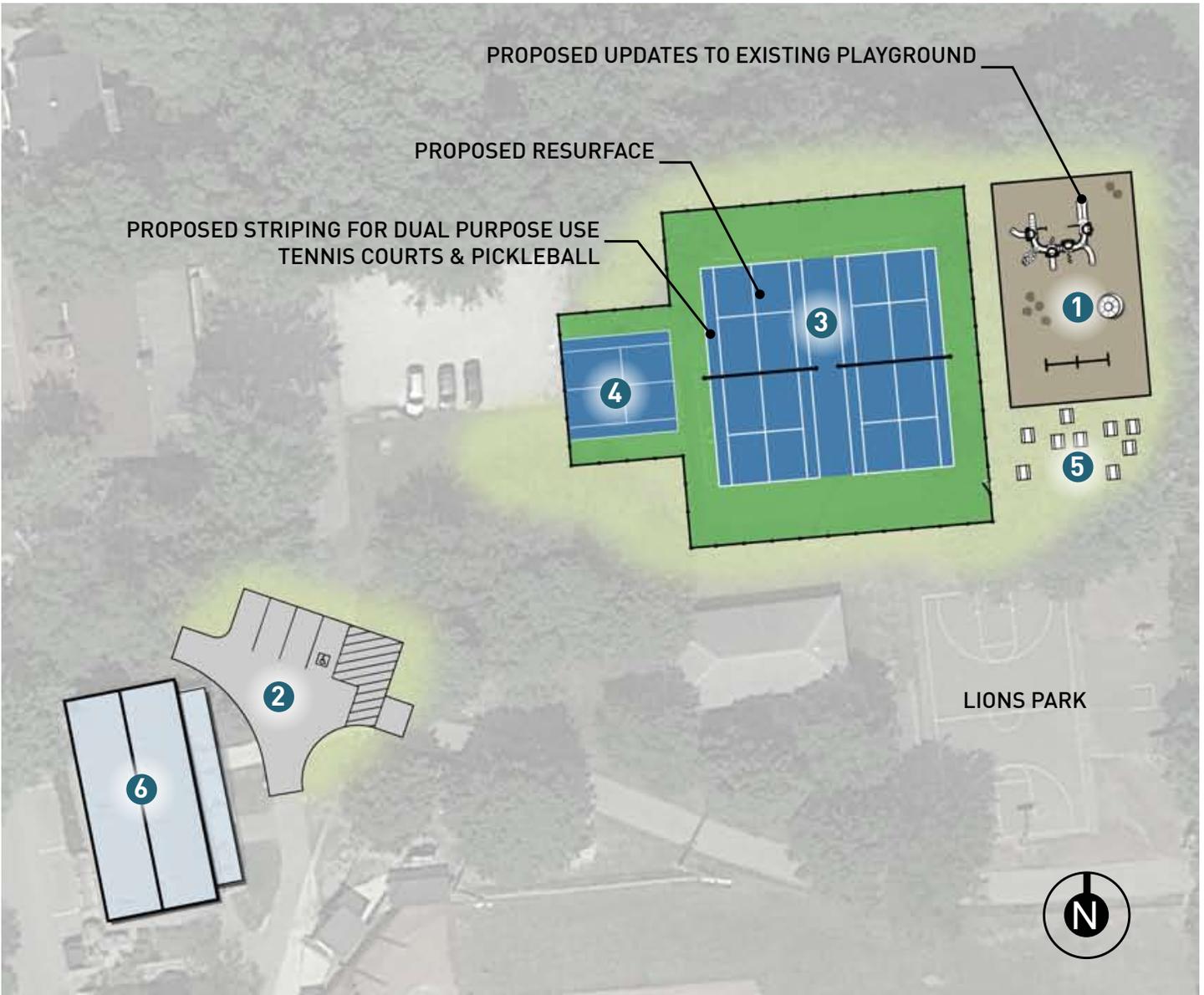
Historic Marker

## Legend

- ① Existing Concrete Sidewalk
- ② Existing Parking
- ③ Existing Brick Plaza
- ④ Existing Ramp
- ⑤ Existing Stairs
- ⑥ Existing Historical Marker
- ⑦ Existing Bio Basin (Street Dept.)
- ⑧ Existing Accessible Ramp
- ⑨ Existing Town Clock



# Tennis Courts/Playground at Lions Park Improvements



## Legend

- ① Existing Playground
- ② Existing Parking
- ③ Existing Tennis Courts
- ④ Existing Half Court/Practice Court
- ⑤ Existing Picnic Table Area
- ⑥ Existing Lions Club Building
- ⑦ Existing Internal Pathway



Pickleball on Tennis Court



Pickleball



Pickleball on Tennis Courts

## Recommendations

Many residents believe that Lions Park is owned and operated by the Parks Department. This is a misconception, with Lions Park privately owned and operated. However, the tennis courts and the adjacent tot lot playground are owned and maintained by the Parks Department.

The playground, which serves younger age groups, is a popular destination for residents of Zionsville. The location of the playground within Lions Park is an ideal location for younger siblings at the park with older children participating in sports league play. Proposed improvements to the playground include repairs and updates to bring this older playground into compliance with current safety requirements.

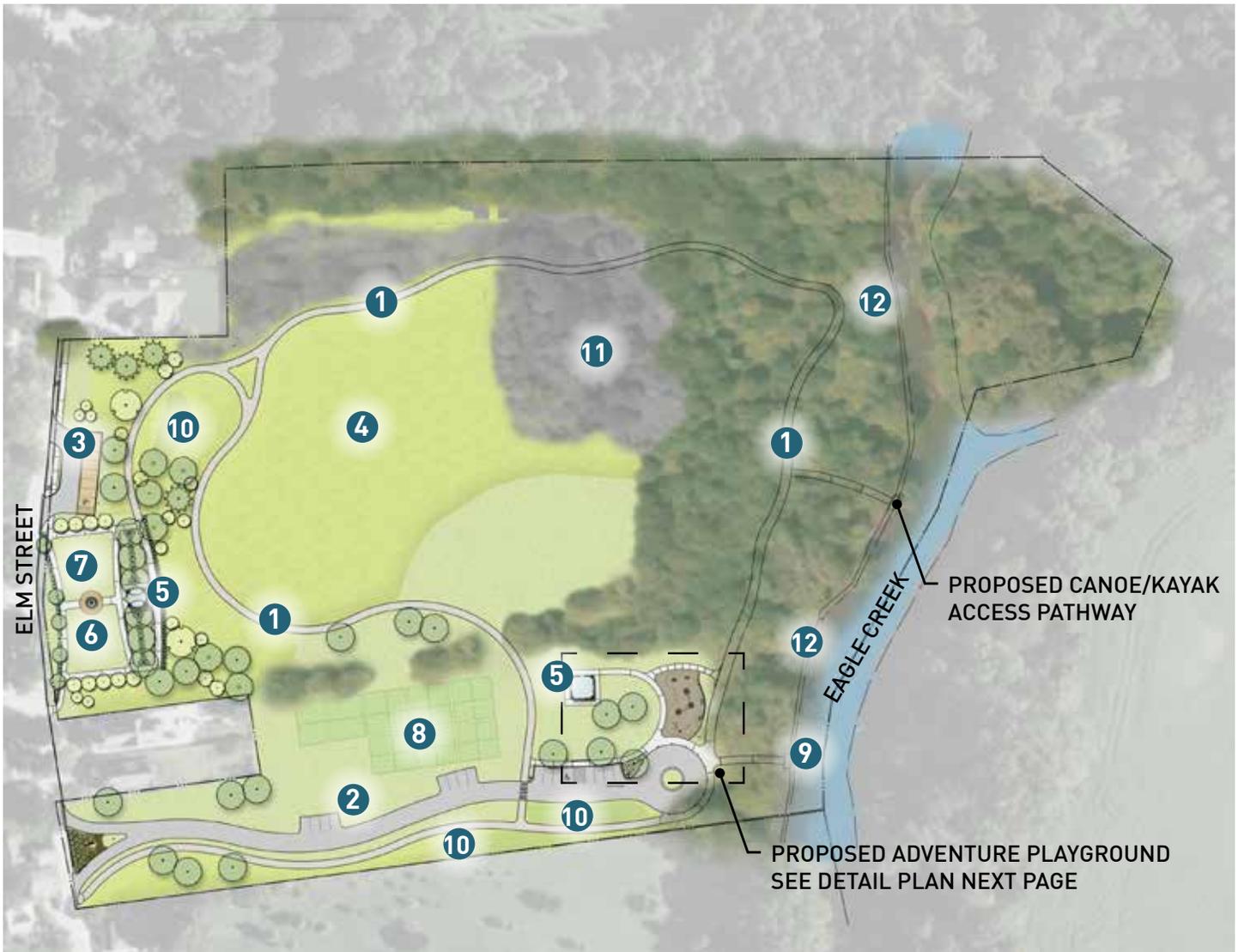
The tennis courts are showing age and in need of resurfacing to keep them in service. Resurfacing presents an opportunity to meet another unmet demand within the Zionsville parks system by adding striping to the tennis courts to provide a dual use for the courts. With additional striping the courts can be used for tennis or for the new sports trend of pickleball.

Pickleball is a paddle sport which combines tennis, badminton, and table tennis. Two or four players use solid paddles to hit a perforated ball similar to a Wiffle Ball. Pickleball has been touted as the fastest growing sport in America.

There are a variety of ways to incorporate pickleball striping into existing tennis courts including the striping shown on the proposed park improvements plan which would include the use of temporary pickleball nets and would accommodate 8 pickleball courts. Alternative striping can also incorporate the existing tennis court net (which is often lowered) but provides fewer pickleball courts. This is a popular option for communities which are just beginning to see the demand for pickleball.



# Elm Street Green Improvements

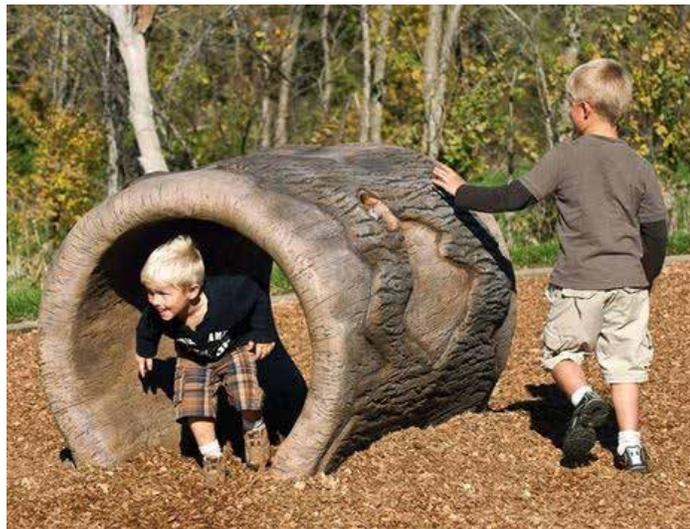


## Legend

- ① Existing Trail
- ② Existing Parking
- ③ Existing Permeable Parking Spaces
- ④ Existing Prairie/Wildflower Establishment Area
- ⑤ Existing Shelter
- ⑥ Existing Fountain
- ⑦ Existing Formal Lawn
- ⑧ Existing Community Garden Plots
- ⑨ Existing Canoe/Kayak Launch & Fishing Access
- ⑩ Existing Biobasins
- ⑪ Existing Wooded Planting Area
- ⑫ Existing Riparian Buffer



Example Adventure Playground



Example Adventure Playground



Mushroom Steppers

## Recommendations

Elm Street Green is a popular park for residents in downtown and those utilizing the community gardens located in the park. Proposed improvements address the need for additional playgrounds in the Zionsville Parks system. An adventure playground is proposed for the park. Play features include:

- Log Crawl Tunnel
- Climbing Boulders with Climbing Net
- Log Steppers
- Mushroom Steppers
- Solid Rubber Safety Surface (ADA Accessible)

Other proposed elements include:

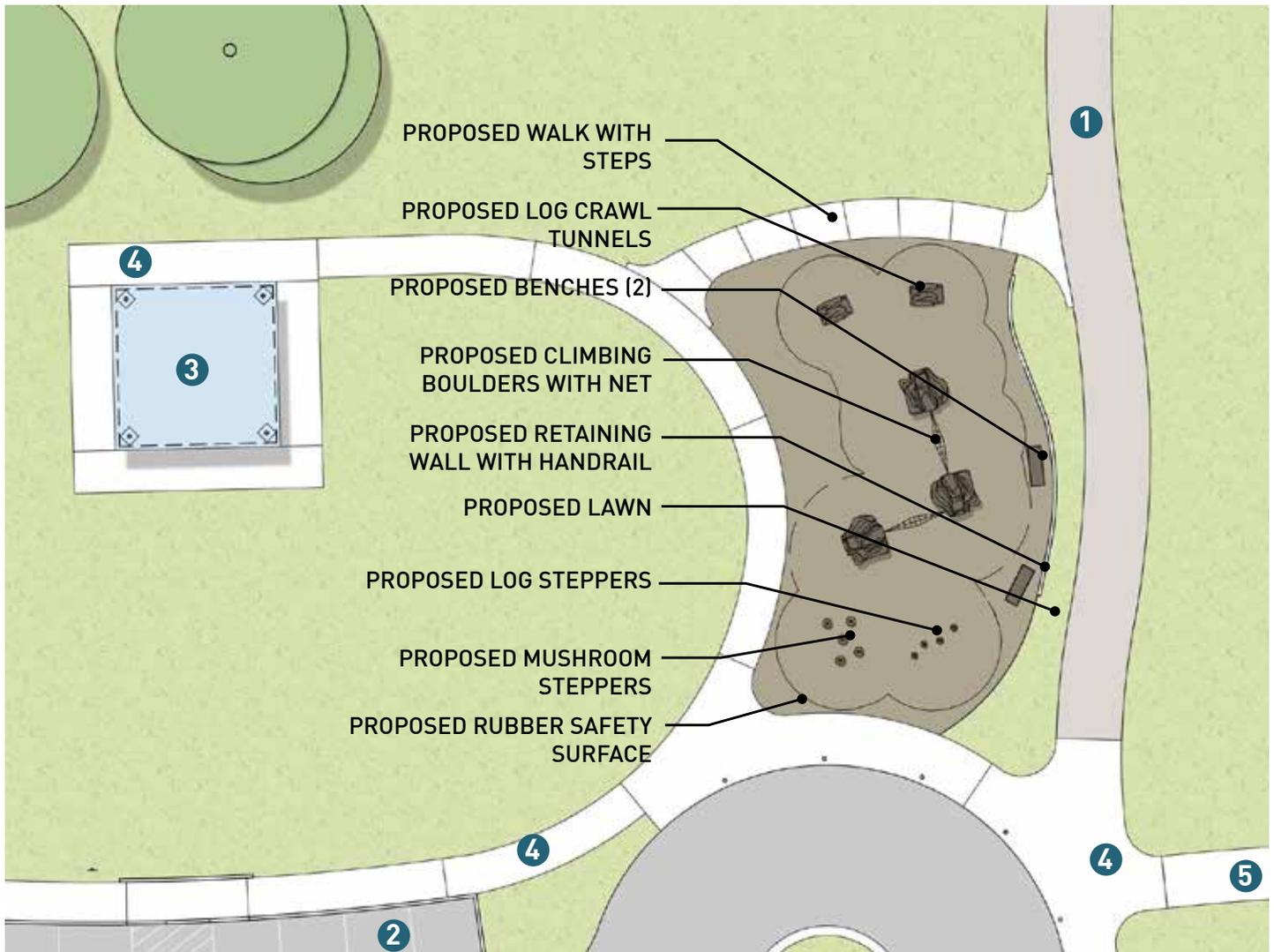
- Benches
- Concrete connector walk with steps
- Retaining wall with handrail

The play equipment proposed would not only provide another playground for the parks system but would also provide a different type of play adventure for the kids of Zionsville. This playground would be complimentary to the play equipment available at Lions Park.

A detail layout of the playground is illustrated on the following pages.



# Elm Street Green Improvements



## Legend

- 1 Existing Trail
- 2 Existing Parking
- 3 Existing Picnic Shelter
- 4 Existing Concrete Walk
- 5 Existing Canoe/Kayak Launch & Fishing Access



# Facility Recommendations



Example Climbing Boulders



Example Climbing Boulders



Example Mushroom Steppers



Example Climbing Net



Example Log Crawl Tunnels



Example Climbing Boulders



# Zionsville Golf Course Improvements





Zionsville Golf Course



Zionsville Golf Course

## Recommendations

The Zionsville Golf Course is owned by the Town and operated by the Parks Department. It has been the long standing opinion of the Park Board that the Parks Department is not in the golf course “business” but instead operates the course as a recreational option for residents. With this in mind the Parks Department has adopted a precedent of operating and improving the golf course using funds generated by the golf course itself. The Parks Board strategically saves funds to support golf course improvements such as implementing a new irrigation system and resurfacing the cart paths.

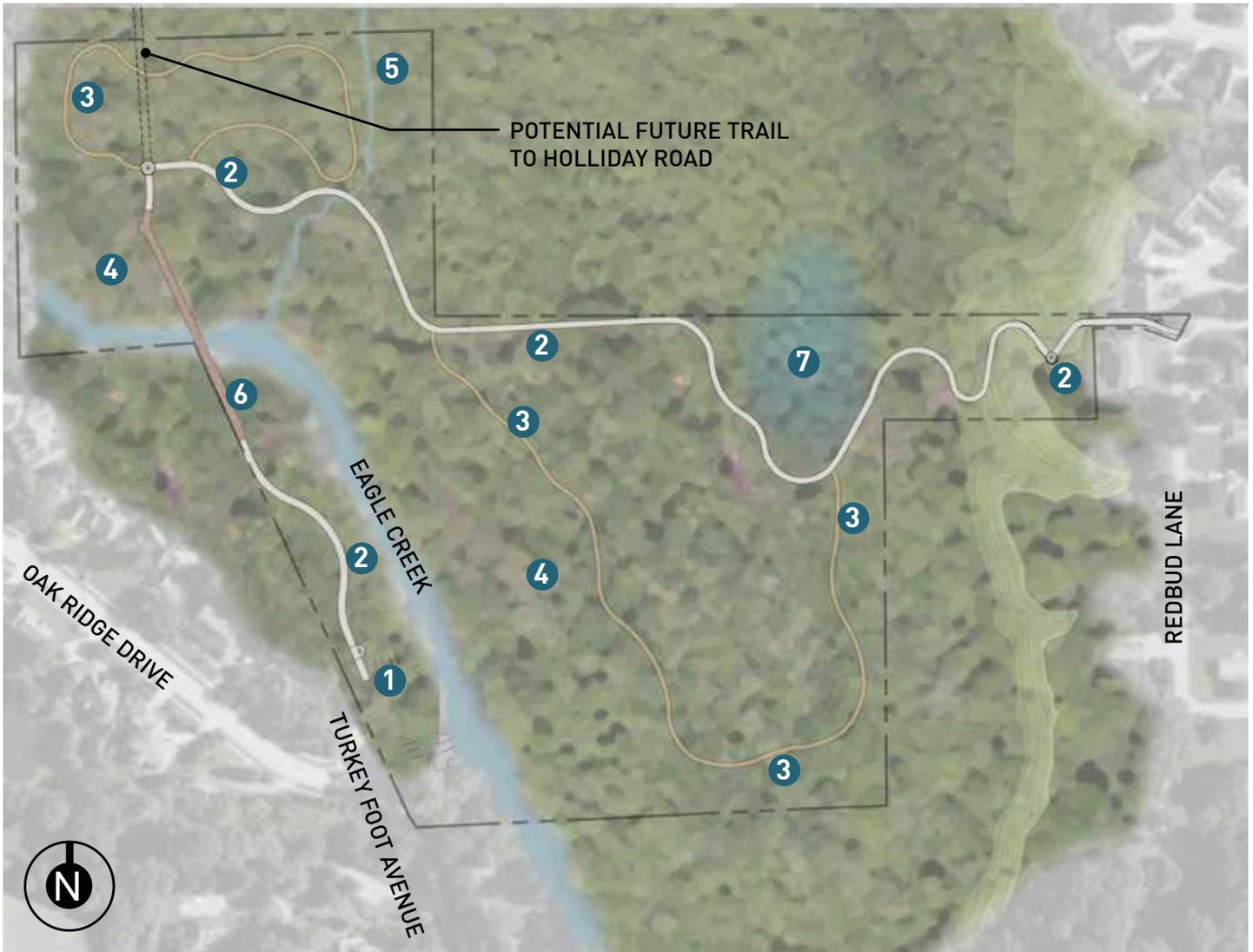
Recommendations for improvements to the Zionsville Golf Course include completion of the irrigation replacement for the course. If the Town Council budget allows, repaving and repairing the cart paths should also begin. In addition, the Parks Department should continue saving funds for cart fleet replacement which is currently planned for 2022. Funds should also be accrued for upkeep of the irrigation system. It is recommended these funds equal the cost needed to maintain the system for a period of 25 years.

## Legend

- ① Existing Parking
- ② Existing Club House
- ③ Existing Putting Green



# Turkey Foot Nature Park



## Legend

- ① Existing Parking
- ② Existing Paved Trail
- ③ Existing Rustic Trail
- ④ Existing Woodland (Floodplain)
- ⑤ Existing Intermittent Stream
- ⑥ Existing Bridge
- ⑦ Existing Identified Wooded Wetland



Entrance Signage



Turkey Foot Park Paved Trail



Turkey Foot Park Rustic Trail

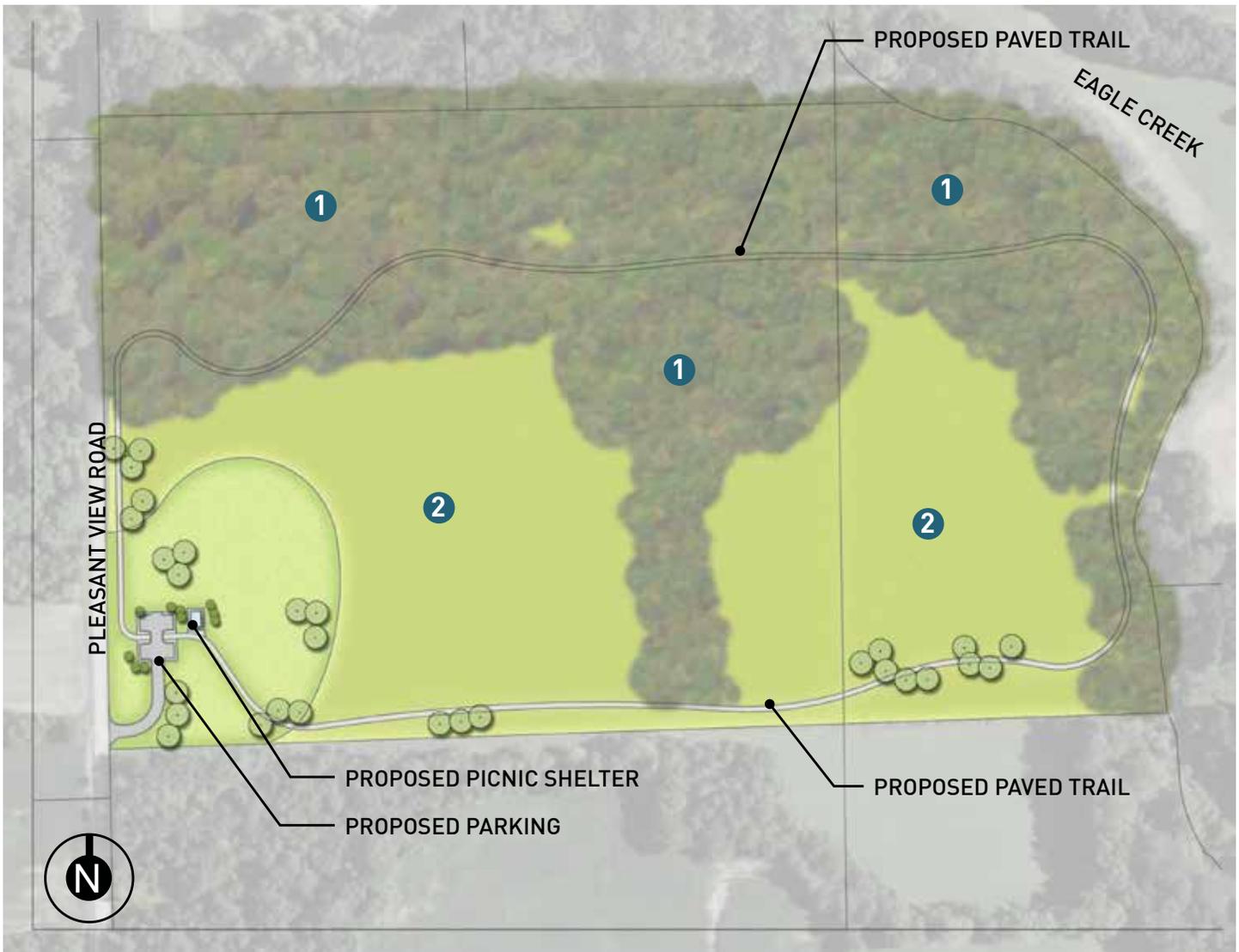
## Recommendations

There are no new physical improvements recommended in the next five years for Turkey Foot Park. The park contains paved and rustic trails which should continue to be maintained at their current levels. The bridge over Eagle Creek within the park should be monitored for additional maintenance needs. Turkey Foot Nature Park, like many of the parks in Zionsville along Eagle Creek, has a significant amount of the park located in the floodplain. This may reduce the life-years of the developed areas of the park with additional wear and tear caused by floods. These areas will need additional attention to monitor the condition of trails.

The potential future trail to Holliday Road shown on the plan indicates a future trail connection that would improve connectivity to the park to residents to the north. The trail is located within an old road bed. The old right-of-way to the north of the park property is privately owned. If this property is acquired by the Parks and Recreation Board the trail would be a feasible project.



# Holliday Nature Sanctuary Improvements



## Legend

- ① Existing Woodland
- ② Existing Agriculture Field



Greenway



Small Picnic Shelter



Paved Trail

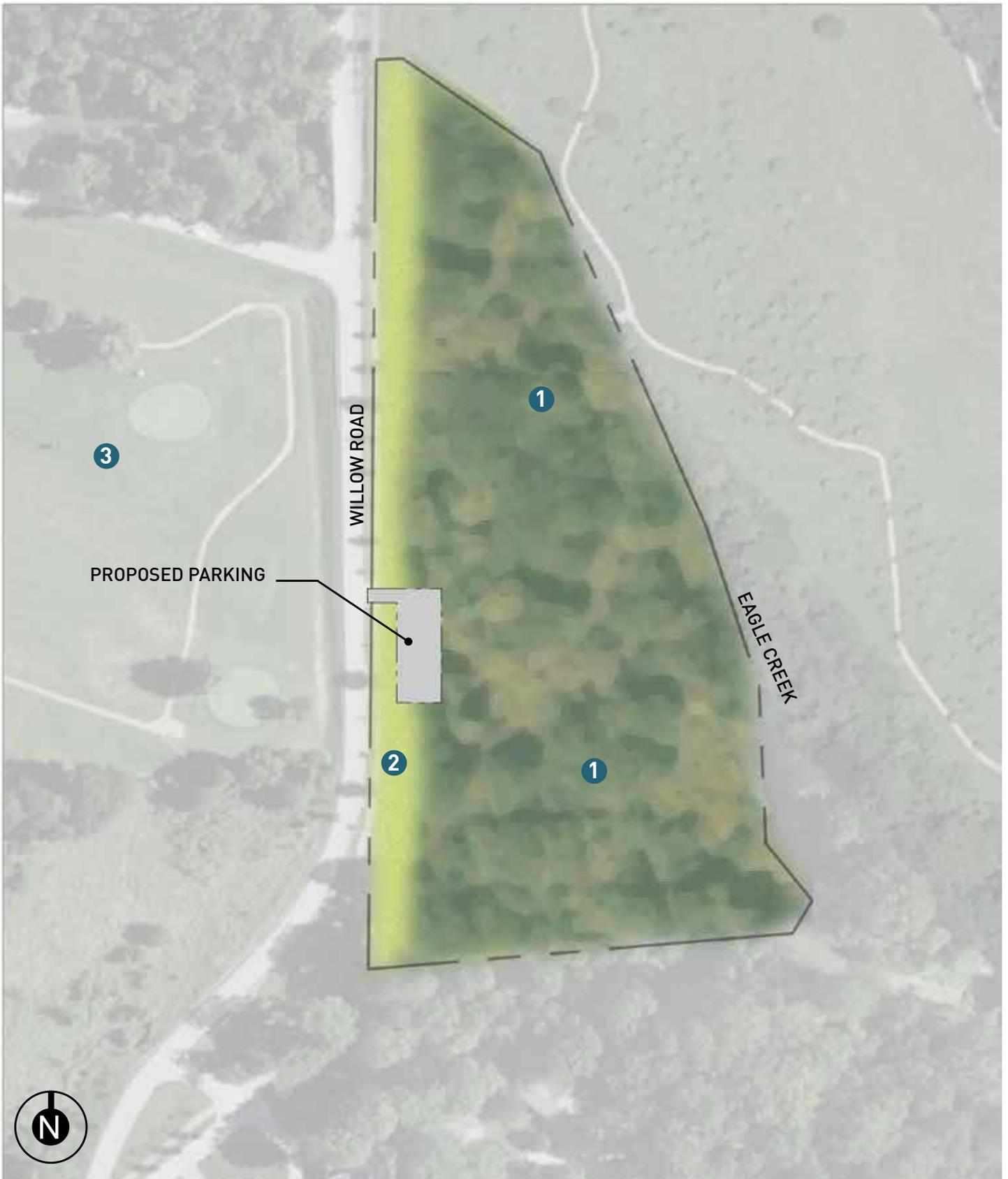
## Recommendations

The Holliday Nature Sanctuary is not currently available for public access or development as the site is part of a generous family's donation through a life estate. However, this master plan has assessed the site for potential development as the property becomes available. There are a number of deed restrictions that are associated with the donation of the site including limits on development. The park is planned to be kept as a nature park providing an additional green space for the parks system.

The proposed plan includes a small parking area near the entrance road, a small shelter, and walking trails. The paved trail along Eagle Creek will become a part of the future Eagle Creek Greenway which is designated for development in the Zionsville Strategic Trails Implementation Plan (ZSTIP). The greenway along Eagle Creek will be located in the floodplain and should apply construction methods which account for this condition. Future prairie/wildflower and woodland establishment areas should be incorporated into development of the park. These will increase the biological diversity and reduce stormwater exiting the park.



# Family Farms Donation Parcel Improvements





Paved Trail in Woods



Paved Trail Through Woods

## Recommendations

The Family Farms Donation Parcel is located on Willow Road across the road from the Zionsville Golf Course. The property is located along Eagle Creek with the majority of the site located in the floodplain. This limits the opportunities for development on the property. However, the property still plays an important role for the Parks Department as the Eagle Creek Greenway is developed. The greenway is planned to be located on the west side of Eagle Creek in this area. Having a portion of the land already controlled by the Parks Department begins the process of acquiring land for the greenway.

In addition, a small parking area is proposed to provide a future trailhead for the Eagle Creek Greenway.

## Legend

- ① Existing Woodland
- ② Existing Agriculture Field
- ③ Existing Zionsville Golf Course



# Caito Property Improvements



## Legend

- ① Existing Woodland
- ② Existing Agriculture Field
- ③ Future Development



Example Playground



Example Playground



Example Paved Trail

## Recommendations

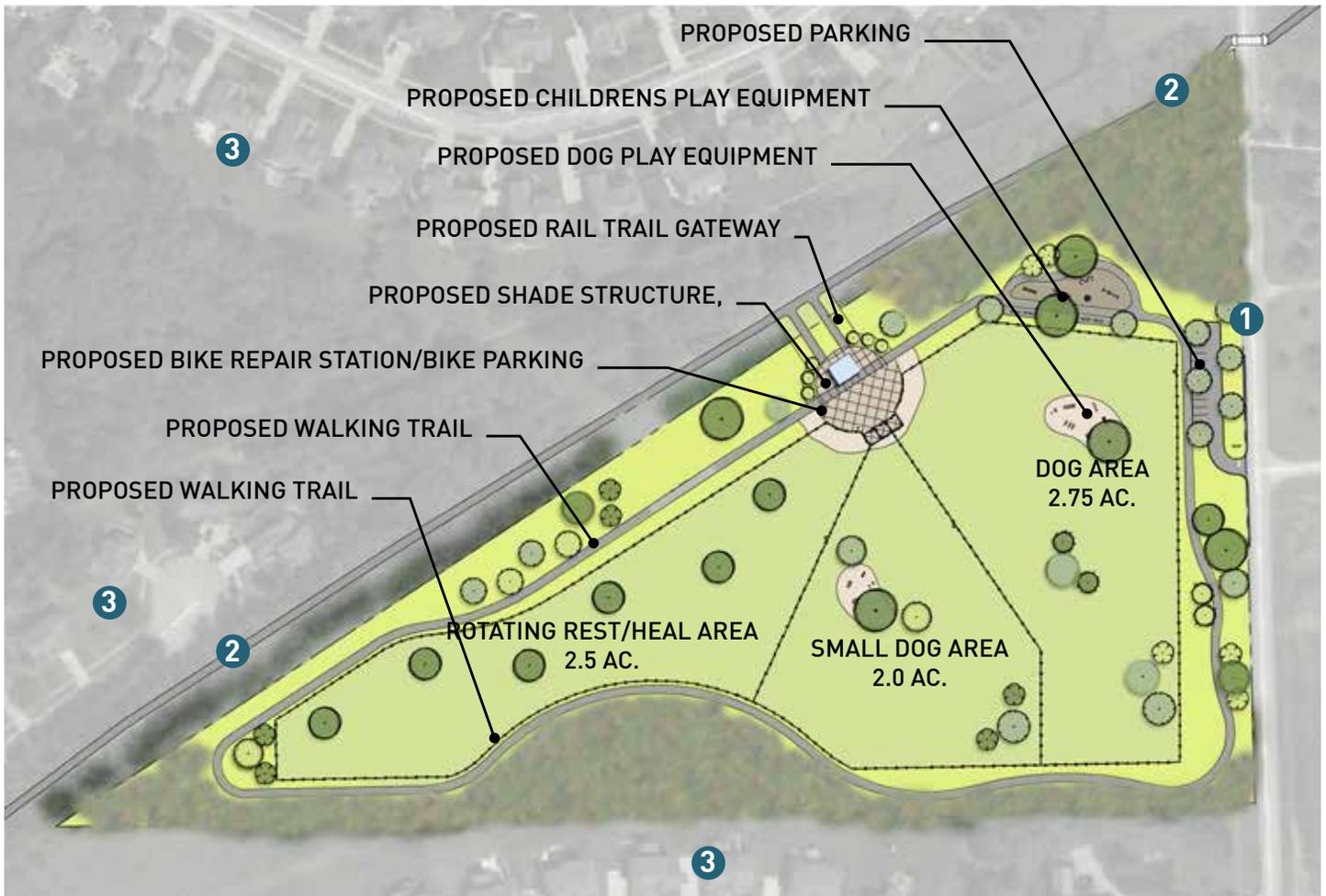
The Caito Property is located along East 200 South in an area south of the airport. This 35-acre parcel will be donated to the Parks and Recreation Board at the time development of the subdivision begins. The donation is a condition of the rezoning for the development which took place in 2006 for the Producers Realty Corporation.

Although the time line for development of the subdivision is still unknown, the Parks Department should begin preparations for plans to develop the donated parcel as an open space for the northern areas of Zionsville. This area is currently under-served by parks. Development of the park should begin with some simple programming until additional development, and therefore demand, occurs in this area of the town.

Proposed improvements include a small parking area, a walking trail traversing the perimeter of the site and a playground. Prairie plantings and woodland establishment areas should be added as future phases of the park are developed.



# Dog Park Concept



## Legend

- 1 Conceptual Entrance Road
- 2 Conceptual Rail Trail
- 3 Conceptual Neighborhood



Dog Park Play Equipment



Double Gate Entry



Fenced Dog Park

## Recommendations

A dog park was mentioned in all forms of public input as an amenity that is missing from the Zionsville Parks system. Although Zionsville was historically more rural, growth over recent years is developing a more suburban footprint for the town creating the need for a dog park. Many residents reported traveling outside of the town to find dog parks.

The conceptual plan presented shows a typical layout for a dog park with two active areas, one for smaller dogs and one for all other dogs, and a passive space for the grass to heal. The areas are rotated to keep the park clean and give grass a chance to recharge. The conceptual plan shows both dog play equipment and a playground for children. This could provide additional play equipment for the town while also providing an activity for families visiting with their dogs.

Although this is a fictional piece of land, it is desirable for the town to locate the dog park along the Big-4 Rail Trail if property can be acquired. The Rail Trail is used heavily by dog owners. The walking trail around the dog park could create a smaller loop for users of the rail trail. A shelter, bike parking and a bike repair station are also suggested as potential amenities for this type of park.



## Recommendations

The priority action plan on the following pages has been developed to guide the Parks and Recreation Board over the next five years. Recommendations include administrative actions along with physical improvements and land acquisition goals.

Each year the Board reviews the action plan, noting where goals and objectives have been achieved. Goals from previous master plans have not been included in this planning cycle.

Significant achievements have been made in the previous planning cycle. Projects completed include construction of the American Legion Trail Crossing, Heritage Trail Park, continued efforts to establish woodland and prairie areas in Elm Street Green, and additional length of the Big-4 Rail Trail has been completed.

Recommendations include identification of a planned time line for projects to begin. However, as donations and grant funds are made available these priorities may shift in levels of importance. The Priority Action Plan is intended as a guide and should not limit the Parks and Recreation Board's ability to take advantage of opportunities such as grants or donations.

The recommendations presented are attainable but will require the support of the Mayor, Town Council and Park and Recreation Board. The market is in place to support the following recommendations to continue to grow the parks system.

Although not listed in the priority action plan charts for improvements within the next five years the three donated properties that are not yet in parks control, except for the Family Farms donation parcel, should continue to receive consideration by the Parks Department for development. If a parcel comes into Parks Department control within the next five years and a donor becomes available to accelerate the development of

these properties, the proposed plan layouts presented in this master plan will provide direction for the planning of these parks. Improvements in the Holliday Nature Park, Caito Property, and the Family Farms Donation parcel could range in cost from \$250,000 to \$750,000 in current day construction estimates.

# Priority Action Plan



Category	Goal	Action	Timeline (year)					Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Source
			1	2	3	4	5		
									(ref. pages 18-19)
Policy/ Procedure Suggestions	<b>Increase Parks Funding</b>								
		Apply for grants and identify sources of matching funds to use toward grant opportunities.	•	•	•	•	•	N/A	See Below for Specific Suggestions
		Work with the Town Council to evaluate feasibility of using Park Board bond issue to fund improvements	•					\$0	N/A
		Encourage allocation of more money toward the park's budget.	•	•	•	•	•	\$0	General Fund
	<b>Pursue Community Partnerships/Sponsorships</b>								
		Continue growth of Parks Foundation.	•					\$0	N/A
		Encourage land contributions to develop parks and trails that meet Park Resource guidelines	•	•	•	•	•	\$0	N/A
		Continue current community programs (family bike ride, garden plots, Zionsville bike challenge, etc) where resources allow	•	•	•	•	•	\$0	N/A
		Be aware of additional properties for potential park use or acquisition	•	•	•	•	•	\$0	N/A
		Continue relationship and contract with Zionsville youth sports groups (ZSA, ZYFL, etc)	•	•	•	•	•	\$0	N/A
		Ensure awareness of Parks and Recreation activities, facilities, programs, and projects	•					\$0	N/A
	<b>Improve Parks Maintenance</b>								
		Craft Parks standard levels of service	•					\$0	N/A
		Evaluate maintenance needs of each park and facility and create an annual 'wish list'	•	•	•	•	•	\$0	N/A
		Conduct a safety audit of all playgrounds using a certified playground safety inspector.	•					\$2,500	Playground Sales Representative or Playground Certified Consultant
		Remove/refurbish all noncompliant playground equipment.		•	•	•	•	Removal: \$1000 Refurbish: TBD	General Fund, Bond, Town Staff
		Conduct regular inspection and maintenance of park amenities and equipment and document all activities.	•	•	•	•	•	\$150-200/ year	General Fund, Town Staff
		Replenish mulch in playgrounds to provide proper drainage and ADA compliant surface.	•		•		•	\$2,000- 10,000	General Fund, Town Staff
		Continue to consider safety and accessibility issues in the development and maintenance of parks and programs in coordination with Town ADA Coordinator	•	•				\$1,000- \$20,000 ea.	General Fund; RTP, LWCF, Grant; Lily Endowment Grant; Community Foundation of Boone County



# Priority Action Plan

Category	Goal	Action	Timeline (year)					Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Source
			1	2	3	4	5		
<b>Pursue Additional Local Planning Studies</b>									
		Develop an assessment and feasibility study to widen Big-4 Rail Trail to consistent width where feasible. Study should include an assessment of the condition of the rail-trail and identify areas in need of repair and replacement	•					\$35,000	IDNR - Special Grants; Community Foundation of Boone County
		Evaluate the demand for a Community Center/Indoor Recreation Center. Prepare an economic and feasibility study if demand continues to increase.				•	•	\$35,000	IDNR - Special Grants; Community Foundation of Boone County
<b>Continue to Develop Big-4 Rail Trail System</b>									
		Approach property owners and acquire right-of-ways/easements.	•					Depends on Owner	Transportation Enhancement
		Apply for grant opportunities where feasible and competitive.	•	•	•	•	•	\$0	Transportation Enhancement; IDNR - Recreational Trails Program; IDNR - Special Grants; Safe Routes to School; Community Foundation of Boone County
		Construct Big-4 Rail Trail Extension North		•	•			\$500,000 - \$750,000	Same as Above, General Fund, Bonds
		Construct Big-4 Rail Trail Extension South		•	•			\$500,000-\$750,000	Same as Above, General Fund, Bonds
		Develop Big-4 Rail Trail Zionsville Road Trailhead near Vonterra Development					•	\$500,000 - \$1,000,000	Same as Above, General Fund, Bonds
		Explore land acquisition to develop Eagle Creek Trail from Starkey Nature Park to Zionsville Road to provide connection between Big-4 Rail Trail and the Village					•	\$500,000-\$1,000,000	Same as Above, General Fund, Bonds
<b>Standardize City Park Amenities</b>									
		Replace existing park entry signs with new park standard.	•	•	•	•	•	\$5,000-\$10,000 per year	IDNR - Land and Water Conservation Fund; Lily Endowment; Vectren Foundation; Community Foundation of Boone County;
<b>Overlay-Worman Park Improvements</b>									
		Apply for grant opportunities	•	•					General Fund, IDNR - Land and Water Conservation Fund; Lily Endowment; Vectren Foundation; Community Foundation of Boone County;
		Prepare design development and construction documents	•					\$200,000-\$400,000	Same as Above
		Construct proposed park improvements based on budgetary support by Parks Board and Elected Town Officials.		•	•			\$2,000,000-\$4,000,000	General Fund, IDNR - Land and Water Conservation Fund; Lily Endowment; Vectren Foundation; Community Foundation of Boone County;

# Priority Action Plan



Category	Goal	Action	Timeline (year)					Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Source
			1	2	3	4	5		
Physical Improvement Suggestions	<b>Heritage Trail Park - Phase 2 Improvements</b>								
		Apply for grant opportunities where feasible and competitive (will likely require local funds match).		•				\$0	IDNR - Land and Water Conservation Fund; Lily Endowment; Vectren Foundation; Community Foundation of Boone County; Duke Energy Foundation; Bonds
		Develop design development and construction drawings		•				\$30,000-\$50,000	Same as Above, General Fund
		Construct Phase 2 Improvements		•				\$300,000-\$500,000	Same as Above
	<b>Elm Street Green Improvements</b>								
		Apply for grant opportunities where feasible and competitive (will likely require local funds match).	•					\$0	IDNR - Land and Water Conservation Fund; Lily Endowment; Vectren Foundation; Community Foundation of Boone County; Duke Energy Foundation
		Develop design development and construction drawings	•					\$25,000-\$50,000	Same as Above, General Fund
		Install adventure playground and associated improvements	•					\$250,000-\$500,000	Same as Above, Bonds
	<b>Starkey Nature Park Improvements</b>								
		Purchase and install prefabricated metal stairs	•					\$500,000-\$750,000	General Fund
	<b>Dog Park Improvements</b>								
		Approach property owners and acquire land to accommodate new park		•				Depends on Owner	General Fund
		Apply for grant opportunities where feasible and competitive (will likely require local funds match).		•				N/A	IDNR - Land and Water Conservation Fund; Lily Endowment; Vectren Foundation; Community Foundation of Boone County; Duke Energy Foundation
		Develop design development and construction drawings			•				General Fund
		Construct dog park improvements based on support levels of Parks Board and Elected Town Officials				•			IDNR - Land and Water Conservation Fund; Lily Endowment; Vectren Foundation; Community Foundation of Boone County; General Fund



# Priority Action Plan

Category	Goal	Action	Timeline (year)					Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Source
			1	2	3	4	5		
<b>Lions Park Playground/Tennis Courts</b>									
		Resurface Tennis Courts, restripe for tennis and pickleball, install new nets, provide net modifications if warranted based on level of demand and NRPA recommendations.			•			\$50,000- \$100,000	General Fund
		Upgrade or repair existing playground including installation of fall rated rubber play surface					•	\$100,000- \$200,000	IDNR - Land and Water Conservation Fund; Lily Endowment; Vectren Foundation; Community Foundation of Boone County; General Fund
<b>Big-4 Rail Trail Bridge Over Starkey Avenue Replacement</b>									
		Apply for grant opportunities where feasible and competitive (will likely require local funds match).	•					\$0	IDNR - Land and Water Conservation Fund; Lily Endowment; Vectren Foundation; Community Foundation of Boone County; INDOT
		Prepare design development and construction drawings for bridge replacement				•		\$50,000- \$75,000	Same as Above, General Fund
		Construct bridge replacement project				•		\$500,000- \$750,000	Same as Above, Bond
<b>Elm Street Green - Lions Park Connector Greenway</b>									
		Approach property owners and acquire right-of-ways/easements.			•			Depends on owner	General Fund
		Apply for grant opportunities where feasible and competitive (will likely require local funds match).				•		N/A	DNR - Land and Water Conservation Fund; Lily Endowment; Vectren Foundation; Community Foundation of Boone County;
		Prepare design development and construction drawings				•		\$15,000- \$30,000	Same as Above, General Fund; Bond
		Construct Connector Greenway Project				•		\$150,000- \$300,000	Same as Above, General Fund; Bond
<b>Big-4 Rail Trail Laurel Avenue Connector Trail Shelter</b>									
		Apply for grant opportunities where feasible and competitive (will likely require local funds match).			•			\$0	IDNR - Land and Water Conservation Fund; Lily Endowment; Vectren Foundation; Dearborn County Community Foundation;
		Purchase and have installed shelter on Big-4 Rail Trail				•		\$75,000- \$150,000	Same as Above, General Fund
<b>Carter Station Improvements</b>									
		Repave asphalt trail and paved parking lot				•		\$100,000- \$200,000	General Fund, Bond
		Construct observation deck				•		\$50,000- \$100,000	General Fund, Bond