

Carl Malone
Park Board President
Muncie Park and Recreation Board
1800 S. Grant St.
Muncie, IN 47303

April 17th, 2014

Dear Mr. Malone,

The DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation planning staff has reviewed the final draft of the 2014-2018 Muncie Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan meets the Department of Natural Resources' minimum requirements for local parks and recreation master plans. This letter certifies that your community is now eligible to apply for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants through this office. A new plan will be due on January 15th, 2019, at which time your current LWCF grant application eligibility will expire.

If you haven't already, we strongly recommend that you contact Mr. Bob Bronson, our grant section chief, as soon as possible about future grant applications. Bob and his staff can assist in your grant application process. He can be reached by phone at: (317) 232-4075 or by e-mail at: bbronson@dnr.IN.gov.

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

Sincerely,

Greg Beilfuss
State and Community Outdoor Recreation Planner
IDNR Division of Outdoor Recreation

ECC – Lorey Stinton. Delaware Co. Econ Dev.

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

SIGNATURE Carl Malone
APPLICANT PRESIDENT

Carl Malone
(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE Theresa Rude

Theresa Rude
(Secretary's printed name)

DATE March 18, 2014

RESOLUTION NO. 1-2014

BEING A RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL OF
THE CITY OF MUNCIE'S 5-YEAR PARKS & RECREATION
MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the mission of the Muncie Parks and Recreation Board is to enhance the overall quality of life for all Muncie residents and improve the health and economic well-being of the community by providing attractive, naturalized open space and recreational opportunities, both active and passive, in a safe, professional and fiscally responsible manner; and

WHEREAS, the Muncie Park and Recreation Board is aware of the parks and recreational needs of the residents of Muncie, Indiana, and

WHEREAS, the Board realizes the importance of sound planning in order to meet the needs of its citizens.

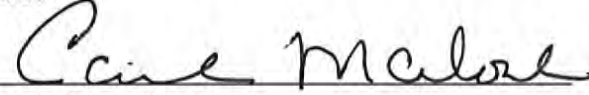
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Muncie Park and Recreation Board as follows:

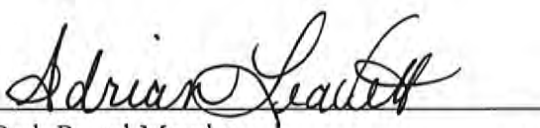
1. That the Board hereby adopts *The City of Muncie's 5-year Parks & Recreation Master Plan - 2014* as its official plan for the next five years for the growth and development of parks and recreational opportunities in Muncie, Indiana.
2. That a 14 day public comment period shall be provided beginning May 21, 2014, and all comments shall be incorporated and made a part of the Master Plan.
3. That the adoption of the Master Plan shall be effective June 4, 2014.


This Resolution is hereby adopted this 20th day of May, 2014.

CITY OF MUNCIE PARK AND
RECREATION BOARD

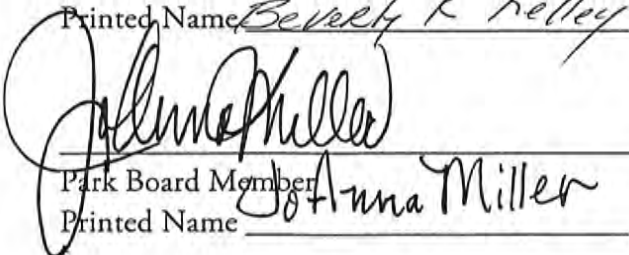
BY:


 Park Board President
 Printed Name CARL MALORE


 Park Board Member
 Printed Name Adrian Leavell


 Park Board Member
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 Park Board Member
 Printed Name Yolanda Carey


 Park Board Member
 Printed Name JoAnna Miller

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The City of Moncie's 5-year Parks & Recreation



Master Plan 2014





Acknowledgments

The City of Muncie

Dennis Tyler, Mayor

Muncie Parks & Recreation Board

Carl Malone, President

Beverly Kelley, Vice President and Past President

Yolanda Carey Adrian Lavelle Joanna Miller

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Ivan Gregory – Muncie Parks Department, Prairie Creek Superintendent

Beverly Kelley – Parks & Recreation Board &
Muncie Community School's Board of Trustees

Carl Malone – Parks & Recreation Board

Marta Moody – Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission

Harvey Wright – Muncie Parks Department, Park Superintendent

Project Manager, Document Preparation

Lorey Stinton – Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission





Executive Summary

Parks, Open Space, Trails, Greenways and Recreational Programming offer many beneficial amenities to a community. These amenities include:

Quality of Life Benefits

- Makes neighborhoods more attractive places to live
- Strengthens community pride
- Improves physical health with opportunities for exercise and recreation
- Improves mental health
- Can reduce violence and crime

Economic Benefits

- Attracts and retains businesses
- Attracts home buyers (when parks are within 2000 feet of the home)
- Attracts retirees
- Reduced costs for public services
- Provides “free” natural services like flood control & filtration of pollutants
- Higher assessments, thus higher property tax revenue for local government (when parks are within 2000 feet of the home)
- Increased tourism

Environmental Benefits

- Offer natural environmental protection
- Improved water quality – absorbs storm runoff, reduces runoff and filters out sediment, nutrients, pathogens, pesticides, metals and other contaminants
- Reduce air pollution – natural air filters
- Moderates temperatures – reduces heat island effects
- Energy conservation (within the parks these are applicable for cabins and offices)
- Tree cover can reduce building energy use in the summer by providing shade
- Trees also contribute to reduced winter energy use by providing a wind block
- Habitat
- Increased natural areas provides for habitat diversity
- Contributes to connecting natural areas which provide for healthier wildlife

According to the 2012 U.S. Census population estimates, Muncie is the 9th largest second class city in Indiana. Muncie spends less on its park system and employs one of the lowest amounts of full time employees than all other second class cities benchmarked. While Muncie provides an average number of parks, the amount of acres dedicated to parkland in the City is the least amount offered per resident.

For decades, the park system was barely maintained and sometimes even neglected. Only in the last 5 years has Muncie’s parks and recreation system begun to reestablish recreational programming; aged park facilities and equipment is being updated; new facilities are being installed and two new parks have been established.

One of the best ways for Muncie to improve its overall character is to continue to enhance its park system. A preeminent park system will set Muncie apart from other cities in the State. This would enhance the livability of the community for residents and the marketability of Muncie for prospective businesses.





Table of Contents

IDNR Letter of Review.....	i
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).....	ii
Resolution Adopting the City of Muncie’s 5-year Parks & Recreation Master Plan - 2014.....	iii
Acknowledgments.....	2
Executive Summary.....	3
Table of Contents.....	4
List of Figures.....	6
Introduction.....	9
Goals of this Plan.....	9
Definition of Planning Area.....	9
Background.....	11
Administrative Structure- Park Board, Superintendent, Department Info.....	11
Park Board, History.....	11
Park Board, Present.....	11
Department of Parks and Recreation.....	11
Urban Forestry.....	12
Urban Tree Canopy Goals.....	14
Previous Plans.....	14
The City of Muncie’s 5-year Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2009.....	14
Muncie Park & Recreation Master Plan (1998).....	15
Muncie Central City Master Plan (1988).....	15
Features of Planning/Service Area.....	15
Natural & Landscape.....	15
Natural Regions.....	17
Ecoregions.....	17
Geology.....	19
Soil.....	19
Watersheds.....	21
Hydrography.....	22
Wetlands.....	22
Climate.....	23
Flora & Fauna.....	24
Historic & Cultural.....	24
Man-made Features.....	27
Cultural/Ethnic Background, Festivals, Arts.....	29
Social & Economic.....	29
Demographics.....	30
Age Distribution.....	31
Ethnicity and Race.....	33





Households and Dwelling Units.....	33
Poverty.....	34
Inventory & Classification.....	35
Inventory of Park System.....	35
Classification.....	36
Assessment.....	41
Anecdotal Data.....	43
Notes & Legend for Site Maps and Observations.....	43
Appeal to the Great Spirit.....	44
Aultshire Park.....	46
Ball Community Park.....	48
Buley Community Center.....	50
Canan Commons Park.....	52
Clifton-Wallace Park.....	54
Cooley Park.....	56
Cowing Park.....	58
Emerson Dog Park.....	60
Gilbert Park.....	62
Guthrie Park.....	64
Heekin Park.....	66
Jacks Park.....	70
Matthews Park.....	72
McCulloch Park.....	74
Morningside Park.....	78
Prairie Creek Park.....	80
Riverbend Park.....	84
Riverview Park.....	86
Rose Park/Ross Community Center.....	88
Thomas Park.....	90
Tuhey Park.....	92
Washington Park.....	94
Westside Park.....	96
White River Park.....	98
Quantitative Data.....	100
Levels of Service (LOS).....	100
Acres per Population.....	100
Park and Recreation Facilities per Population.....	100
Park Service Areas.....	103
Park Service Areas with MCS Grounds.....	108
Surveys.....	110
Budget.....	112





Benchmarking.....	113
Review of Associated Plans.....	118
Accessibility Evaluation.....	119
Accessibility and Universal Design.....	119
Public Input.....	120
Muncie Action Plan.....	120
Public Meeting.....	120
Needs Analysis Summary.....	121
Needs Based on Standards.....	121
Needs Based on Public Input.....	121
Master Plan.....	125
Mission Statement.....	125
Goals & Objectives.....	125
Implementation.....	131
Priorities and Action Recommendations.....	131
Potential Funding Opportunities.....	132
Conclusion.....	135
Appendices.....	137
A: Public Survey Results.....	137
B: Public Meeting Sign In Sheet.....	145
C: Resolution 11-12 A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Muncie, Indiana Designating the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator and Adopting Procedures.....	146
Bibliography.....	152

List of Figures

Figure 1: Inventory of Muncie’s parks.....	8
Figure 2: Location of Delaware County and the City of Muncie within the State of Indiana.....	10
Figure 3: Location of the City of Muncie and Muncie’s Parks within Delaware County, IN.....	10
Figure 4: Illustration of City Code Section 31.09.....	12
Figure 5: Illustration of the Park Department’s organization as of 2013.....	13
Figure 6: Digital elevation model (DEM) of Muncie, IN with hillshade.....	16
Figure 7: Land Use as categorized by the State.....	16
Figure 8: Building footprints, representing the amount of development within Muncie, IN.....	17
Figure 9: Subregions of Indiana’s Central Till Plain Natural Region.....	18
Figure 10: Ecoregions of Indiana’s Eastern Corn Belt Plains.....	18
Figure 11: Geologic timeline.....	19
Figure 12: Illustration of the soils found throughout Muncie, IN.....	20
Figure 13: Illustration of the 14 digit watersheds, labeled with their designated names.....	21
Figure 14: Hydrography of Muncie, IN.....	23
Figure 15: Climate data for Muncie, IN.....	24





Introduction

Master plans are needed in order to provide communities with a framework and direction for maintenance and development, to ensure community endorsement, and to be eligible for grants. When it comes to parks & recreation, communities need to work with 5 year park & recreation master plans. This allows for a living document that continually reflects the dynamic nature of communities as their needs change.

This master plan was created by looking at what makes up Muncie’s Park & Recreation Department and Muncie, Indiana in general (background information), what makes up the park system (inventory & classification), assessing the park system with anecdotal, qualitative, and quantitative data (assessment), analyzing all components to former plans to determine changes and consistencies, and then making recommendations through goals and objectives for the park system to implement (strategic planning).

Goals of this Plan

Muncie’s Parks were merely maintained for many years. The parks were mowed, the trash was picked up, trees planted, minor upkeep had occurred, and in general that was the extent of the attention that the parks had seen for several decades due to limited budgets. In the past 5 years, the Park Department has reached out for grants and other assistance for improving their park system. This effort has allowed the Park Department to repair and improve the community’s pool at Tuhey Park, including the construction of a new bath house; install new playground equipment in several parks; install erosion control/bank restoration projects at Prairie Creek Park; establish a new park downtown that includes a stage; install new cabins at Prairie Creek Park’s campground; have a new bath house designed and constructed at Prairie Creek Park’s beach and establish the city’s first dog park.

The goal of this master plan is to provide Muncie’s Parks Department with direction for continued improvement to their park system and the services they provide for the residents of Muncie and to help recommend sources for alternative funding so that this park system can thrive even during these hard economic times.

Definition of Planning Area

The City of Muncie is centrally located in Delaware County, Indiana. About 60 miles northeast of Indianapolis, Indiana’s state capital and the geographic center of Indiana, Muncie incorporates over 27.4 square miles. Muncie is the only 2nd class city in Delaware County and operates as the county seat. See Figure 2, on the following page, for a graphic representation of the location of Delaware County and the City of Muncie within the State of Indiana.

The corporate limits of the City of Muncie are the primary study area for the purposes of this master plan. Muncie’s Park Department manages 25 parks, with 24 of those parks being inside the corporate boundaries of Muncie. Located outside the city limits in Perry Township, Muncie’s Park Department manages Prairie Creek Park. Perry Township is located in the southeast corner of Delaware County. Prairie Creek Park is leased from the Indiana American Water Company Inc. by the Park & Recreation Board of the City of Muncie until 2072. This plan focuses on all park properties and the City’s need for parks and recreation. In addition to this plan, the Prairie Creek Master Plan establishes goals & objectives for the Prairie Creek watershed including Prairie Creek Park. See Figure 3, on the following page, showing the location of the City of Muncie and Muncie’s parks within Delaware County. While there is anecdotal evidence that Prairie Creek Park is frequented by rural residents more than any other City park; currently any impact of visitation by rural residents is not seen as a burden.





Introduction

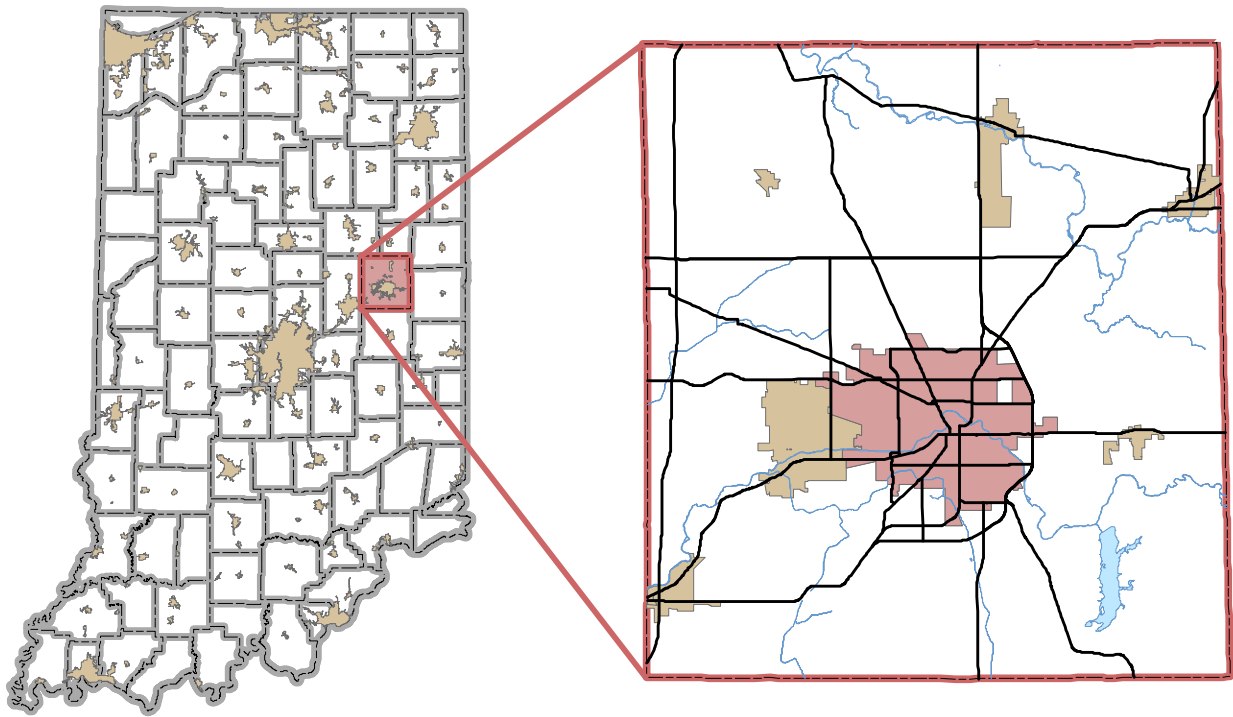


Figure 2 - Location of Delaware County and the City of Muncie within the State of Indiana.

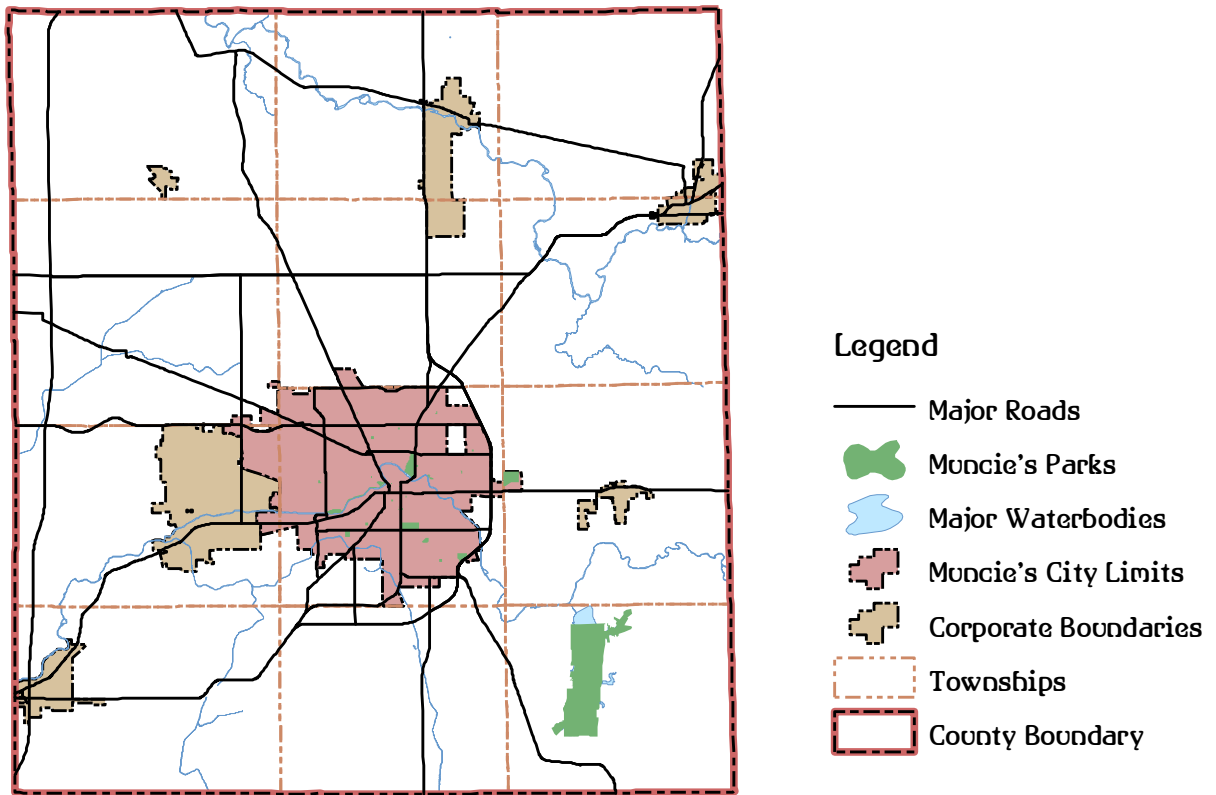


Figure 3 - Location of the City of Muncie and Muncie's Parks within Delaware County, IN.





Background

Administrative Structure- Park Board, Superintendent, Department Information

Park Board, History-

The Muncie Park Board was established in 1909. In the 1930's, "the Muncie Community School Corporation and the City of Muncie created a Recreation Department... In 1948, a full-time recreation director was appointed cooperatively by the school corporation and the city. In 1958, further steps were taken to consolidate the recreation program, when the Recreation Department merged with the Muncie Park Department, and left the Recreation Board as an advisory body to help in the development of a community-wide recreation program." Due to "increased demand for additional recreation programs, the Recreation Department was made a separate unit in 1964 with the recreation director being made primarily responsible to the Muncie School Corporation, while still receiving partial financing from the city."¹

Park Board, Present-

City code Sec. 31.09, which currently regulates the Department of Parks and Recreation and Board of Parks and Recreation for Muncie, Indiana, was established in April of 1982. The board is comprised of 5 members; 4 members are appointed by the mayor, 1 member is an ex-officio member appointed by the Muncie Community School's Board of Trustees.

Department of Parks and Recreation-

The following is the city ordinance that was passed April 5th, 1982 that regulates the Department of Parks and Recreation:

Sec. 31.09. Department of parks and recreation.

- (A) Creation. There is hereby created a department of parks and recreation in accordance with the provisions of IC 36-10-3, which shall be managed by a board of parks and recreation. The board shall consist of four members appointed by the mayor in accordance with Indiana Statutes and one ex-officio member, appointed by the board of school trustees for the Muncie community schools.
- (B) Powers, duties, and responsibilities. The powers, duties, and responsibilities of the department of parks and recreation shall include but not be limited to the following.
 - (1) Those powers, duties, and responsibilities delegated by IC 36-10-3.
 - (2) Construction, operation, and maintenance of all city parks and recreational facilities.
 - (3) Any other powers, duties, and responsibilities assigned by state law, the city code, and the mayor.
- (C) Department head. The department of parks and recreation shall be headed by a department head who shall also be the superintendent of parks and recreation provided for in IC 36-10-3-13. He shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the board of parks and recreation, and shall serve at the pleasure of the mayor and report to the deputy mayor and board of parks and recreation.
- (D) Park division. There is hereby created a park division which shall be headed by a parks director, who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the head of the department of parks and recreation with the approval of the board of parks and recreation. This division shall be responsible for the construction and maintenance of all park and recreation facilities and other duties assigned

1 *Open Space Plan. A Part of the Metropolitan Master Plan, Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Transportation and Urban Development Study.* Barton-Aschman Associates, Inc. 1974. 4.





Background

by state law, the city code, and the head of the department of parks and recreation.

(E) Recreation division. There is hereby created a recreation division to be headed by a recreation director, who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the pleasure of the head of the department of parks and recreation with the approval of the board of parks and recreation. This division shall be responsible for recreation activities and operations and other duties assigned by state law, the city code, and the head of the department of parks and recreation.

(Ord. No. 810-82, 4-5-82)

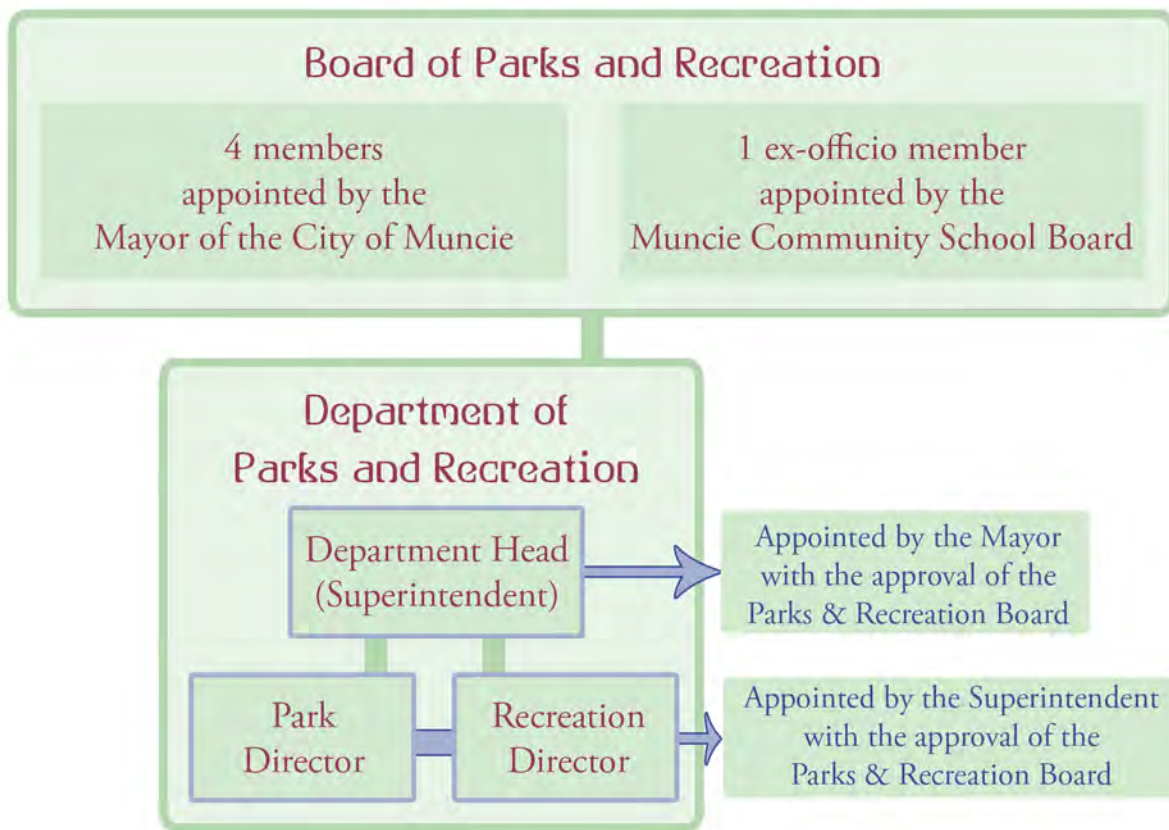


Figure 4 - Illustration of City Code Section 31.09

Currently, the Park Department's personnel organization is as such:

The Muncie Parks Department has a Superintendent of Parks as the department head and an Assistant Superintendent whom is the Superintendent of Prairie Creek Park. In 2013, there were 10 full time employees, 2 part time employees, and 9 seasonal employees that managed the 24 parks within Muncie's city limits. Muncie's Urban Forester was brought into the department; half of this positions salary is supported by Community Enhancement Projects (CEP), a local non-profit organization. The Urban Forester supervises up to 2 part time employees of the park department. Prairie Creek Park has an additional 4 full time employees and also employees a maximum of 26 part time/seasonal employees. See Figure 5 on the following page for an illustration of the Park Department's organization.

Urban Forestry-

Muncie's urban forest is a fundamental part of the City's infrastructure, including the park system, contributing to the community's health and aesthetic appeal. Trees are known to increase air and



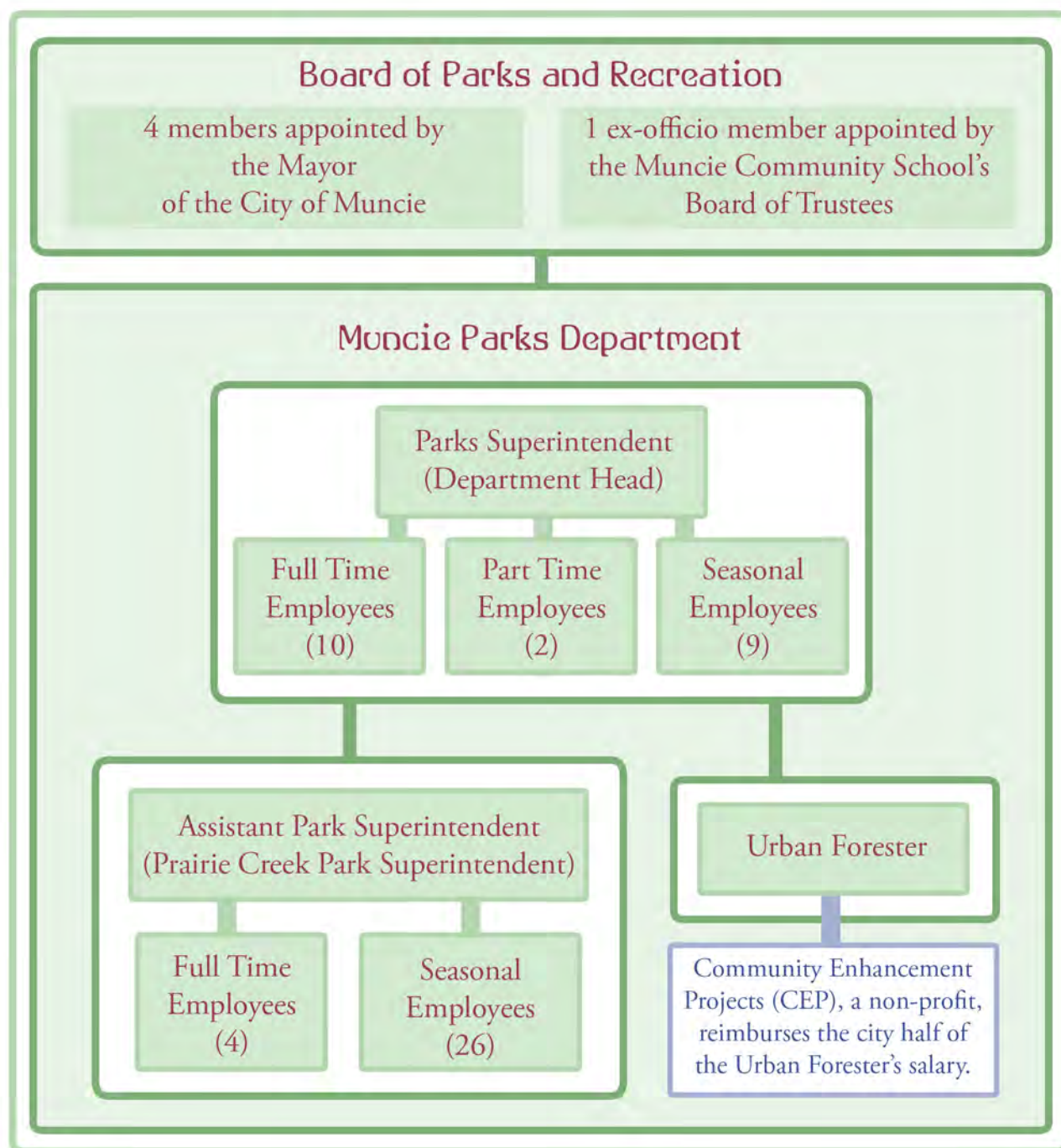


Figure 5 - Illustration of the Park Department's organization as of 2013.

water quality, reduce impacts upon stormwater controls, recharge ground water, stabilize soil and reduce erosion, reduce noise pollution, promote energy efficiency by reducing heat-island effects and providing windbreaks, promote economic development by increasing the value of real estate and providing benefit to the tax base, increase motorized traffic and pedestrian safety, provide wildlife habitat, and increase the mental health of the community's citizens by reducing people's stress and blood pressure.²

2 See the *Tree Benefits* section in the bibliography for a list of supporting references.





Background

Despite these contributions to the urban environment, Muncie’s urban forest has received little attention or financial support in the last several decades. The City of Muncie employs an Urban Forester, a certified arborist, who enforces the city’s tree ordinance and cares for all trees located within the right of way and on city property with the help of a few part time laborers. The Urban Forester reports to and receives direction from the Urban Forestry Board. Through the years the Urban Forester has been based in various departments but has been operating from the Park Department for over 5 years.

An Urban Forestry Management Plan was created for The City of Muncie in 2004 and updated in 2005; this plan appears to have been only partially followed. Muncie’s street tree inventory, initially created in 1999-2000, was updated between 2008-2011 as an initial step in developing a new urban forest management plan; this inventory is maintained in the Delaware County G.I.S. and is regularly updated by the Urban Forester. The completed reassessment identified the nature of Muncie’s urban tree canopy, location of deficiencies and other issues facing the urban forest, and will help determine the optimal size of tree canopy suitable for Muncie. A tree canopy goal will guide the management plan in determining what percent of the urban forest needs to be established and replaced each year to maintain a diverse, multi-aged urban canopy. Though the inventory was completed and is regularly updated by the Urban Forester, the management plan was put on hold while an Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan was developed to handle the emerald ash borer epidemic. Upon the completion of the new management plan it is hereby incorporated as a part of this 5-year Park & Recreation Master Plan.

Urban Tree Canopy Goals-

American Forests is a nonprofit organization that focuses on the importance of forests, advocates that every city have a tree canopy goal, and recommends an average 40% tree canopy, east of the Mississippi and in the Pacific Northwest.³ American Forests also provides canopy recommendations for various zone types (suburban residential, urban residential, business), acknowledging that different areas in our urban settings have varying capacities for trees. Muncie’s urban forestry management plan should consider a similar approach for establishing a tree canopy goal, including specific canopy goals for Muncie’s park space. Pending completion of the urban forestry management plan, it is recommended that the tree canopy goal for Muncie’s parks be at least 50% for naturalized areas and 25% for developed areas.⁴

Previous Parks & Recreation Master Plans

The City of Muncie’s 5-year Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2009

The last parks and recreation master plan created for the City of Muncie was prepared in 2008 by the DMMPC; it was officially adopted by the Muncie Park and Recreation Board in April of 2009. This was the first master plan prepared since 1998 and used the 1998 master plan as a guide in order to provide continuity for this living document. Though Muncie’s parks & recreation system has seen progress in the last 5 years, the goals & objectives established in 2009 remain applicable; the current plan is primarily an update of this plan.

3 “Setting Urban Tree Canopy Goals.” *Urban Forests*. American Forests. 19 Feb 2009
<<http://www.americanforests.org/resources/urbanforests/treedeficit.php>>

4 The recommended tree canopy goals for park areas are estimates based upon goals set by various cities including Seattle, WA, Annapolis and Baltimore, MD, and various city specific urban tree canopy reports written by the University of Vermont.





Muncie Park & Recreation Master Plan (1998)

Prepared by Rundell Ernstberger Associates, this plan was officially adopted by the Muncie Park and Recreation Board in January of 1999. Fifteen “Suggested System-wide Improvements” were recommended. The system wide improvements were conveyed through the identification of three types of general “issues”- physical, service, and management issues. Each general issue was broken down into precise issues with associated recommendations. The plan identified 4 physical issues, 3 service issues, and 8 management issues. Most of the issues identified in this plan have been relevant for over 30 years and are still relevant today. Though this plan provided guidance for dealing with each of these issues, there is no evidence that the recommendations have been followed. All physical issues remain, most service and management issues remain.

Muncie Central City Master Plan (1988)

“This Master Plan focused on the revitalization of Muncie’s Central City area as a response to the decentralization trend that results in decay and blight in the Central City and adjacent neighborhood areas which is common in many large and medium-sized cities.”⁵ This plan acknowledges that parks and park-like areas are an important component of livable, pedestrian friendly cities. It calls for several parks to be developed downtown linking the downtown to the river corridor which provides various connections to other parts of Muncie. Since this plan, the White River Greenway has been developed providing a piece of infrastructure for a community-wide bike-ped network, Canan Commons park has been developed downtown, and bike lanes have been installed.

Additional Plans used by the Parks & Recreation Department in the past:

Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Plan (1980-1985)

Five-Year Plan (1975-80)

Open Space Plan (1974)

Survival (1971)

Every one of the plans mentioned above (from Survival to The City of Muncie’s 5-year Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2009) recognize that Muncie’s parks & recreation system is under funded resulting in below standard maintenance, facilities being out dated and hindrance of the needed ability to establish additional parks as the system is deficient in acreage.

Features of Planning/Service Area

Natural & Landscape-

Located in the Central Till Plain, the City of Muncie is generally flat to gently rolling with elevation ranging from 900 to 1002 feet above sea level. The highest elevations are found on the east side of Muncie and the lowest elevations are found on the west side of Muncie along the White River and York Prairie Creek/Hiatt Ditch. See Figure 6, on the following page, for an illustration of the elevation ranges of Muncie.

The majority of the land in Muncie has been developed. According to State land-use codes, the majority of Muncie’s land-use is residential, followed by commercial, government, agriculture, industrial and finally vacant land. The 22 parks of Muncie’s park system that are within the corporate boundaries

5 *Muncie Park & Recreation Master Plan. A PLAN for the MUNCIE COMMUNITY by THE CITY of MUNCIE PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT. Rundell Ernstberger Associates. 1998. 22*





Background

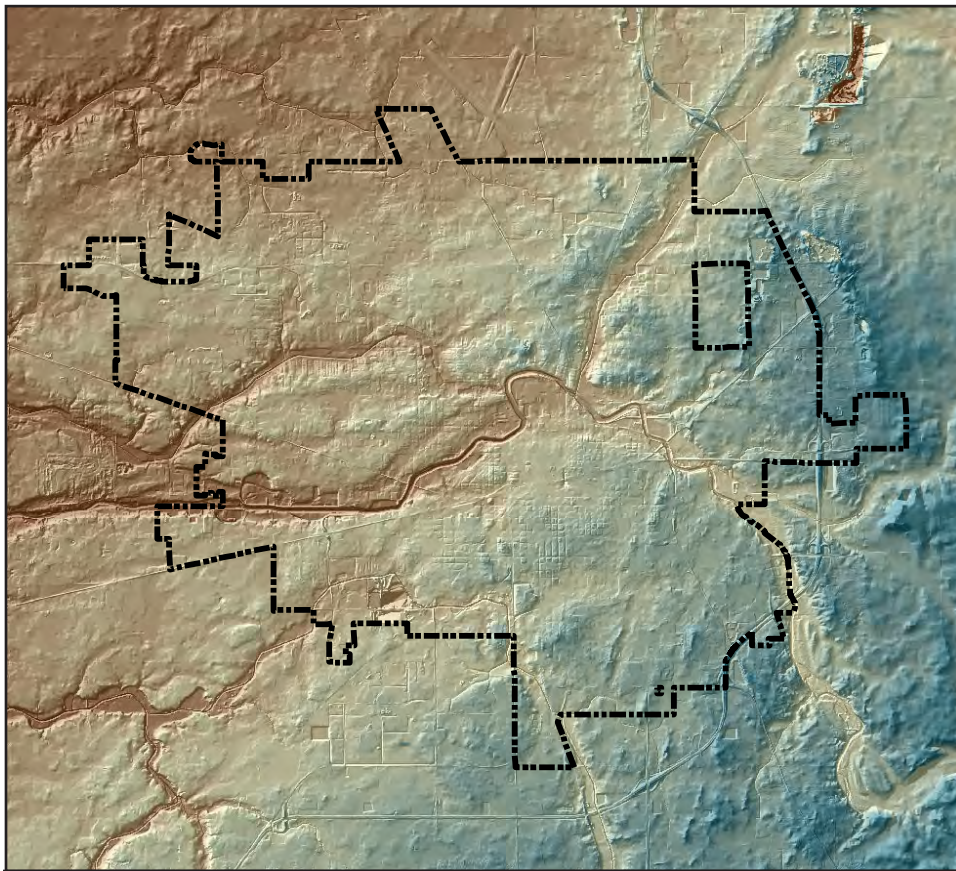


Figure 6 - Digital elevation model (DEM) of Muncie, IN with hillshade.

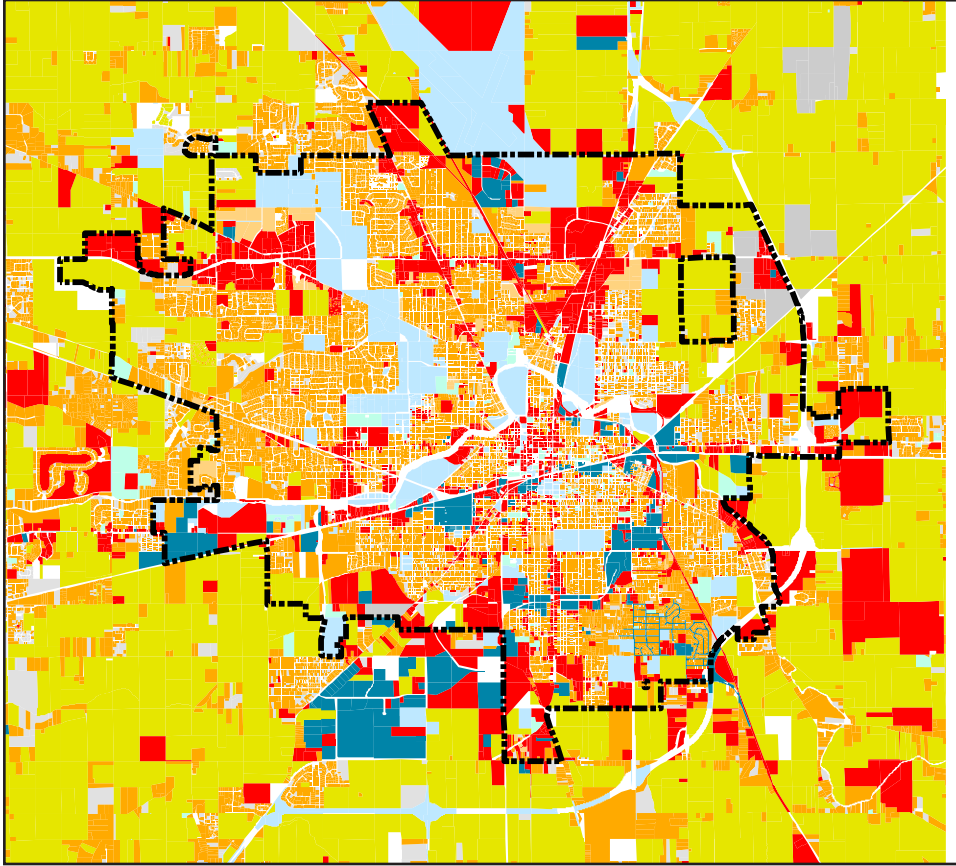
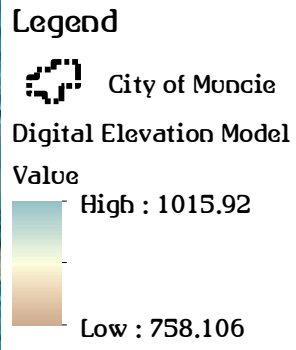
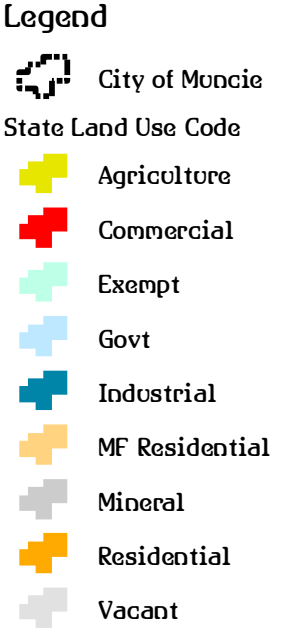
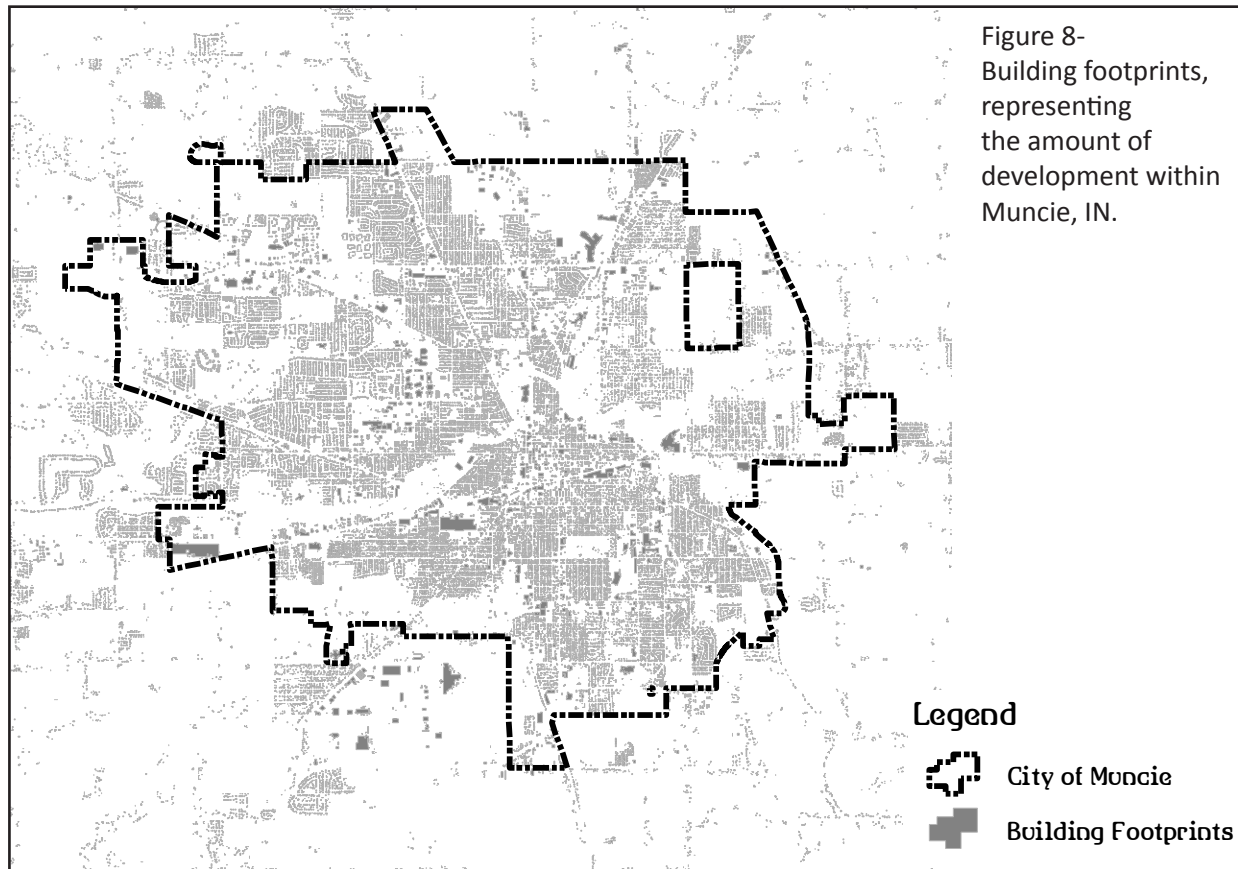


Figure 7- Land Use as categorized by the State.





of Muncie consist of 1.38% of the land in the City of Muncie. Figure 7 represents the land-use of Muncie while Figure 8 shows building footprints throughout Muncie, illustrating the amount of developed land in the city.



Natural Regions

Natural regions delineate landscapes where cohesive combinations of natural features occur. Muncie is in Indiana’s Central Till Plain Natural Region, the largest natural region in the state. “The Central Till Plain is largely a level to gently undulating, somewhat monotonous landscape that was formerly heavily forested. Its deep, fertile glacial soils supported great forests of beech and maple, oak and ash and elm.”⁶

Muncie contains 2 of the 3 subregions that make up the Central Till Plain Natural Region. The northern half of Muncie is in the Bluffton Till Plain section while the southern half of Muncie is in the Tipton Till Plain section. Both of these subregions contain flatwood communities. According to IDNR, Central Till Plain Flatwoods are significant because they are a high quality natural community that is categorized as imperiled in the state and rare to uncommon globally. The Bluffton Till Plain contains end moraines while the Tipton Till Plain is noted for flatwoods and mesic upland forests.

Ecoregions

Ecoregions delineate areas that contain similar ecosystems, including their type, quality, and quantity. There are 3 ecoregions in Muncie that are all a part of the Eastern Corn Belt Plains- the Clayey, High Lime Till Plains (also known as Ecoregion 55a), the Loamy, High Lime Till Plains (Ecoregion 55b),

6 Jackson, Marion T. *The Natural Heritage of Indiana*. Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1997. 195.





and the Whitewater Interlobate Area (Ecoregion 55f).

The Clayey, High Lime Till Plains ecoregion is characterized by slightly less productive soils than Ecoregions 55b and less swampy than the Maumee Lake Plains (Ecoregion 57a). While it was once beech forest and scattered elm-ash swamp forest, this area is now predominately farmed. No exceptional fish communities exist in the turbid, low gradient streams of this ecoregion.⁷

The Loamy, High Lime Till Plains ecoregion was once beech forest, oak-sugar maple forest, and elm-ash swamp forest. However, similar to 55a, this ecoregion has been mostly replaced with agriculture due to more naturally fertile soils that typically drain better than those in 55a.

The Whitewater Interlobate Areas ecoregion has distinctive cool water, coarse-bottomed streams that are perennial and fed by abundant ground water. The redbside dace, northern stud fish, and banded sculpin occur; they are absent or uncommon in Ecoregion 55b. Unique Ozarkian invertebrates also occur in Ecoregion 55f. Dolomitic drift and meltwater deposits are characteristic and overlie limestone, calcareous shale, and dolomitic mudstone.⁸

Geology

Muncie’s geology originates from the Middle Paleozoic Era. This includes sedimentary rocks from the Silurian period (443-416 million years ago), Devonian period (416-359 million years ago), and Mississippian Epoch (359-318 million years ago) of the Carboniferous period (359-299 million years ago). The majority of rocks stemming from these periods are limestone, dolomite, and shale.

Paleozoic era (542-251 million years ago)						
Cambrian period 542-488 Ma	Ordovician period 488-443 Ma	Silurian period 443-416	Devonian period 416-359	Carboniferous period 359-299		Permian period 299-251 Ma
				Mississippian Epoch 359-318	Pennsylvanian Epoch 318-299	

Figure 11- Geologic timeline; this graphic illustrates the approximate durations of the periods in which Muncie’s geology originated within the Paleozoic era.

Soil

Consisting of 44 different soil types, Muncie is predominantly made up of Blount, Miami, and Urban Land soils. Fox, Pewamo, Sloan, Eel, Crosby, Glynwood, Treaty, and Udorthent soil types are marginally represented. All other soil types are minimally represented.

Miami soils, the soil series of Indiana, are moderately well drained fertile soils used for crops including corn, soybeans, and winter wheat. Blount soils are somewhat poorly drained, slowly permeable soils. Urban Land soils refer to “built-up” land. Figure 12 on the following page illustrates the various soil types found throughout Muncie.

When reviewed for building site development, the soils found in Muncie range from the classification of “not limited” to “very limited”. Most soils classified as “very limited” are soils that have a shallow

7 ftp://ftp.epa.gov/wed/ecoregions/oh_in/ohin_front.pdf

8 ftp://ftp.epa.gov/wed/ecoregions/oh_in/ohin_front.pdf





Background

depth to the saturated zone (which is not conducive for basements with septic systems) and have a high potential to shrink-swell; “very limited” does not mean that the area is unbuildable.

Some soils in Muncie are hydric, which is characteristic of wetland areas. The hydric soils are found mostly around the perimeter of Muncie, with a greater percentage to the northwest. Most areas in Muncie with hydric soils are areas abutting creeks and ditches and areas that are currently used to cultivate crops. Properties with hydric soils may be good to convert to parks as they would lend well to naturalized parks with trails for enjoying native wetland habitats. As there is a strong trend of people

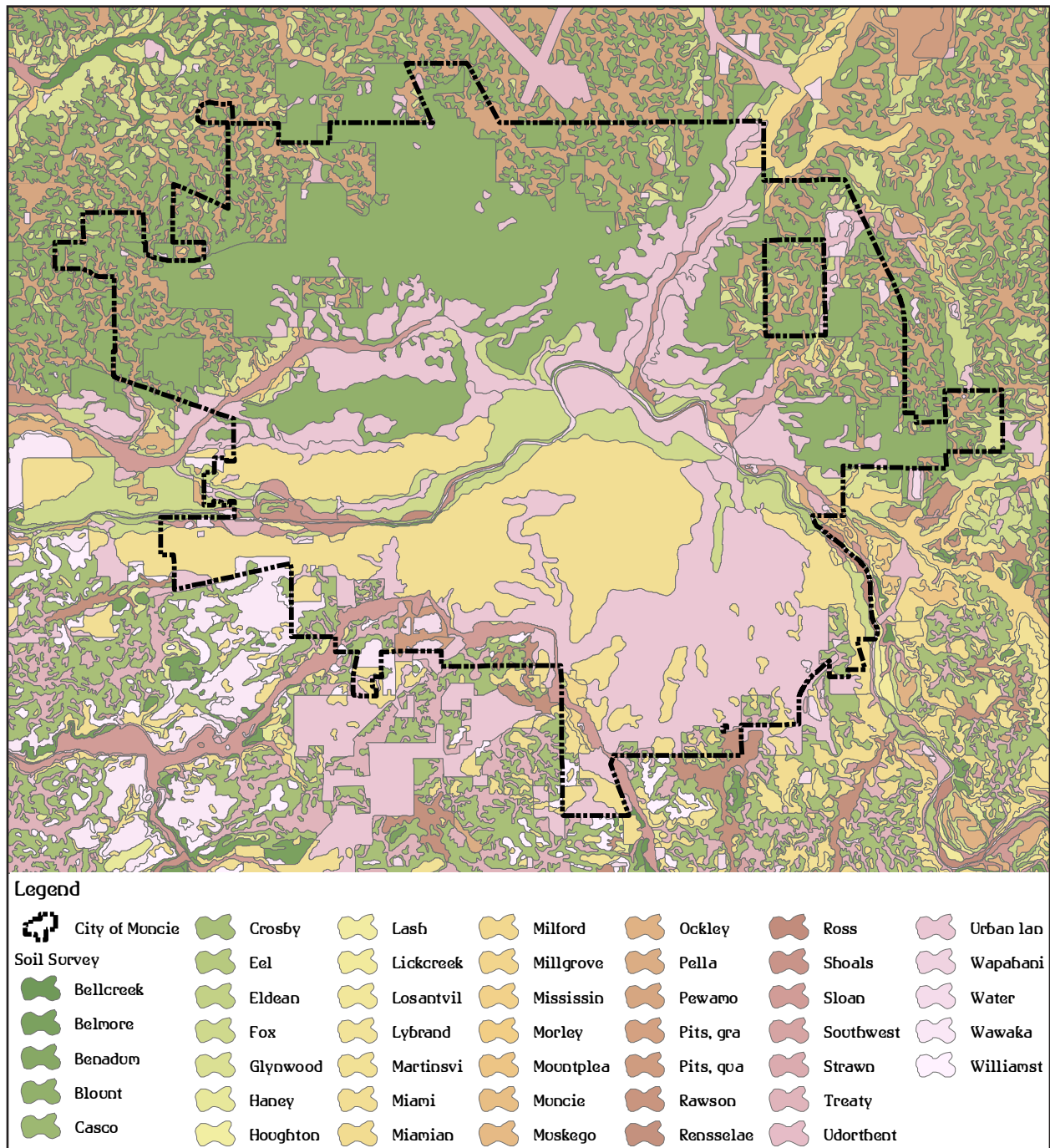


Figure 12- Illustration of the soils found throughout Muncie, IN.





promoting walking trails and native habitats, this would be a great opportunity to provide both.

Watersheds

Muncie is located in the Upper White River Watershed of the Patoka & White River Basins of the Wabash River Basin of the Ohio Region. Watersheds are identified by their designated proper name and Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC), a set of numbers ranging from 2 to 16 digits long; the longer the HUC number, the smaller the area that is being identified.

The corporate boundaries of Muncie include 6 14 digit watersheds - White River-Muncie Creek, White River-Truitt Ditch, Buck Creek-Macedonia Creek, White River-Buck Creek (lower), White River-York Prairie Creek, and Jakes Creek-Eagle Branch. Prairie Creek Park is located in the Prairie Creek-Cunningham/Carmichael Ditches watershed. See Figure 13 for the locations of the 14 digit watersheds found in Muncie.

The White River Watershed Project (WRWP) is a community project established in 2001 to clean up non-point source water pollution at the level of 14 digit watersheds. The Buck Creek-Macedonia Creek watershed and the Prairie Creek-Cunningham/Carmichael Ditches watershed are 2 of the 3 watersheds

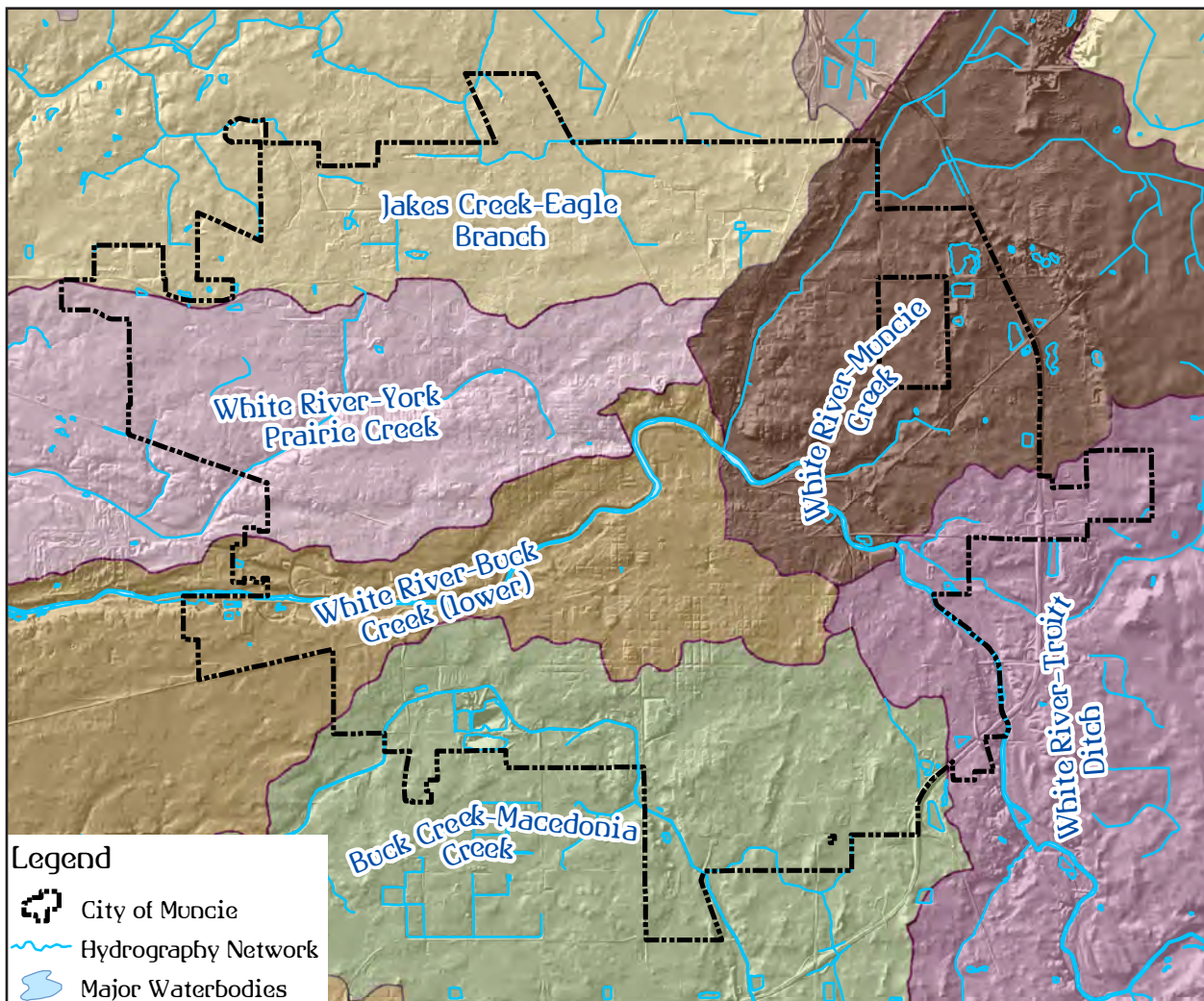


Figure 13- Illustration of the 14 digit watersheds, labeled with their designated names.





Background

that were initially included for study by the WRWP. The Buck Creek-Macedonia Creek watershed was included due to the variety of land uses represented and because it is listed with IDEM as a waterway with impaired water quality. The Prairie Creek-Cunningham/Carmichael Ditches watershed is mostly agricultural but also provides a rare amenity for this region, being Prairie Creek Reservoir. The White River Management Plan created by the WRWP recommended that a strategic master plan be developed for this watershed. This recommendation in concert with a similar recommendation in the 2000 Muncie-Delaware County Comprehensive Plan led to the creation of the Prairie Creek Master Plan. The Prairie Creek Master Plan provides goals and objectives for enhancing and protecting the entire watershed, including the Prairie Creek Park.⁹

Beginning in 2009, the WRWP added both White River-Muncie Creek and White River-Truitt Ditch watersheds to further benefit water quality in this area. These additions made approximately 44% of the land in Muncie available to participate in cost-share projects for cleaning up non-point source water pollution.

Hydrography

Muncie’s major waterway is the White River. Feeding the White River within Muncie are Hamilton Ditch, Holt Ditch, and Truitt Ditch, all feeding into the White River in the northeastern quadrant of Muncie. Buck Creek runs through the south side of Muncie, feeding into the White River on the western edge of the Town of Yorktown. Buck Creek is unique due to its high-quality biological ecosystem and its potential as a cold water trout stream. York Prairie Creek/Hiatt Ditch runs through the northwest quadrant of Muncie, joining the White River between Yorktown and Daleville in the western part of Delaware County.

The White River is Muncie’s primary drinking water source with Prairie Creek Reservoir as a backup drinking water source. As Muncie’s only major natural feature, White River runs approximately 9 miles through Muncie. Bank fishing is permitted along most of the river, downstream from the East Jackson Street Bridge. Residents also have access to 5.5 miles of river frontage by means of the White River Greenway. Additional access to White River is available at McCulloch Park and Westside Park, while Heron Overlook, Riverview Park, Riverview Overlook, Appeal to the Great Spirit Park, Oakhurst Overlook, White River Cantilever, Riverbend Park, Tuhey Park, Bicentennial Overlook, and West Point Overlook offer views for enjoying the river.

Wetlands

Not including the White River, within Muncie there are 90 areas comprising 240 acres identified as wetlands by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. However, only 2 areas are protected- The John M. Craddock Wetland Preserve and the Donald E. Miller Wildlife Area. Several of the inventoried wetland areas have structures on them. Wetlands are some of the Nation’s most ecologically and economically important habitats, and provide benefits for fish, wildlife and people.¹⁰

Wetlands clean our water, recharge groundwater aquifers, provide protection from flooding, control erosion, provide wildlife habitat, and educational and recreational opportunities.

As previously mentioned, 24% of Indiana was once covered by wetlands. Wetlands not only

9 For additional information on the Prairie Creek - Cunningham/Carmichael Ditches watershed, please refer to the Prairie Creek Master Plan (2007).

10 *National Spatial Data Infrastructure- Wetlands Layer*. US Fish and Wildlife Service. November 2008. <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/wetlandslayer/FactSheets/NSDIFactSheet.pdf>



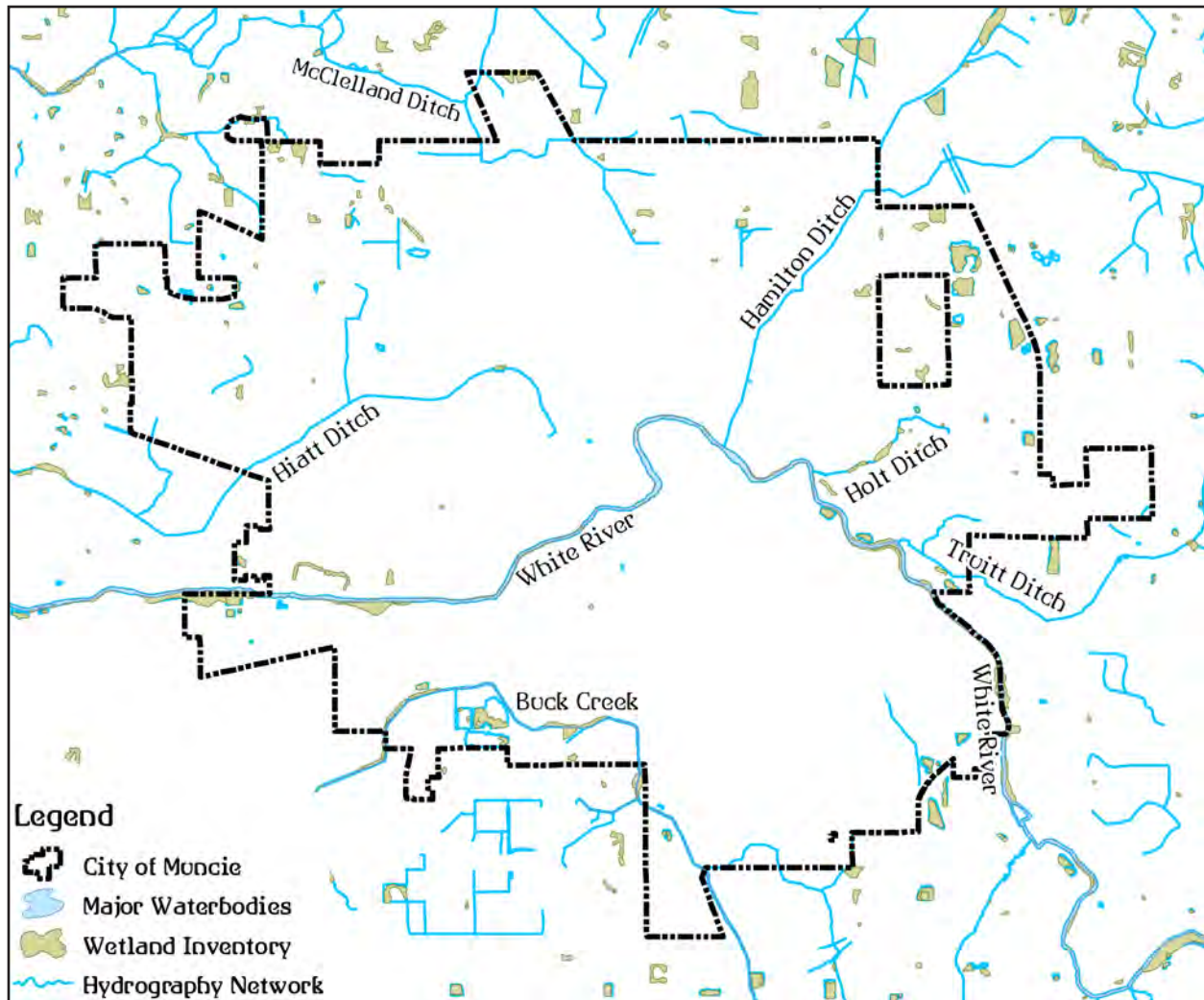


Figure 14- Hydrography of Muncie, IN.

provide environmental benefits, they are also a part of our natural heritage.¹¹

Due to the importance of protecting and perpetuating wetlands, identified wetland areas would be prime locations for establishing protected naturalized areas (a park classification).

Prairie Creek Reservoir is a man-made reservoir that functions as the backup drinking water source for Muncie. The majority of the reservoir and surrounding property are leased to Muncie as park land – Prairie Creek Park. This park offers unique recreational opportunities for Muncie and Delaware County residents. For more information about Prairie Creek Reservoir please refer to the Prairie Creek Master Plan (2007).

Climate

Muncie’s climate is mild with distinct seasons. Muncie receives the majority of its precipitation during May through July, though December and January are months with the highest relative humidity. Fall and spring tend to have strong storms, including tornadoes, due to the transition between hot and cold

11 *Prairie Creek Master Plan*. Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission. 2007. 30.





Background

fronts. January is the coldest month with an average low of 19 degrees Fahrenheit and an average high of 34 degrees Fahrenheit. January has the most days with a temperature under 0 degrees Fahrenheit, with an average of 1.6 days under 0 degrees F. July is the hottest month with an average high of 85 degrees Fahrenheit and an average low of 64 degrees Fahrenheit. July has the most days above 90 degrees Fahrenheit, with an average of 6.1 days above 90 degrees F.

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Highest Recorded Temp	65	74	80	88	93	102	100	99	96	90	79	71
Average High Temp	34	38	49	62	72	81	85	83	77	64	51	38
Average Temperatures	27	30	40	52	62	72	75	73	66	54	43	31
Average Low Temp	19	22	30	41	52	62	64	62	54	43	34	24
Lowest Recorded Temp	-29	-13	-8	10	25	36	40	39	27	18	3	-21
Average Precipitation (inches)	2.23	2.4	2.95	3.67	4.41	4.66	4.38	3.3	2.96	2.92	3.45	2.88
Temperatures are reported in degrees Fahrenheit.												

Figure 15- Climate data for Muncie, IN.¹²

Flora & Fauna

As previously discussed, most of Muncie’s native flora was replaced by agriculture and then again by development. Muncie has been designated as a Tree City USA for over a decade now. This is a program sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. With the street tree inventory complete, most street trees in Muncie are silver maples; sugar maple, apple, green ash, honey locust, Bradford pear, Norway maple, Siberian elm, catalpa, and Sycamore are also well represented among the 100+ species found in Muncie. Conversely, most wooded areas in Muncie are plagued by invasive species; primarily 3 species of bush honeysuckle and garlic mustard. Other invasive plants in the city include Reed Canary grass (found along the river), Canada Thistle, and Crown Vetch.

According to the Bureau of Water Quality, the White River is home to 71 species of fish and more than 100 species of insects in Muncie. In recent years there have been regular sightings of various hawks, falcons and herons demonstrating the extent of improvement in the environment for Muncie to once again be home to these species. Deer, raccoon, opossum, squirrel, rabbits, bats and robins are just a few of the common species that make Muncie their home.

Historic & Cultural-

As one of 14 established towns inhabited by Delaware Indians in the 18th century, Muncie was

12 Data was gathered from- <http://weather.com/weather/wxclimatology/monthly/47302>





Background

many fans for the team. These spring training years brought several other big league teams to the park for exhibition games. It is said that Detroit Tiger Rudy York hit the longest home run ever out of McCulloch Park.

Following the war, professional baseball returned to McCulloch Park in the form of the Muncie Reds, a class D team, who called the park home from 1947 to 1950. During these years the team was an affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds.

After the Reds disbanded in 1950, the field went back to being used by Amateur and semi-pro clubs. On Friday, June 13, 1952, fire struck the grandstand, completely destroying it. While the grandstand has never been replaced, the field was refurbished and has been maintained throughout the years.¹⁵

While the history of baseball in McCulloch Park is very interesting and positive, the park has also been plagued by negative utilization as well. During the 1920's McCulloch Park was segregated, the north half was designated "colored" while the south half was reserved for white people. The Ku Klux Klan often met in McCulloch Park, even burning crosses there at night, instilling fear in the community.¹⁶ While that element has been eliminated, in recent decades McCulloch Park has been plagued with gang violence and the presence of men that accost visitors. For many years families had come to not feel safe there and the park was practically abandoned. However, recent improvements including the installation of a disk-golf course and new playground equipment have brought many people back to the park making it more regularly visited once again.

Westside Park is one of the first parks that hosted baseball games played by teams in the Negro League including the Indianapolis ABCs.¹⁷ Westside Park was also home to a skating rink and a roller coaster known as the Triple Figure Eight during the early 20th century.¹⁸ While this park is still popular, it lacks the facilities that it once supported.



Figure 17- Images of Westside Park in the early 20th century including the roller coaster (left)¹⁴ and a gathering (middle)¹⁴ and the skating rink (right)¹⁹.

The National Register of Historic Places includes nearly 40 structures and districts in the City of Muncie. The most relevant properties for this master plan are the William Henry Luick Farmhouse

15 http://www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/McCulloch_Park

16 <http://www.bsu.edu/web/copc/neighborhood/studies/bestpractices99/whitely/frames.htm>

17 Heaphy, Leslie A. *The Negro Leagues, 1869-1960*. 2003. 29.

18 Masing, Milton A. & Jeffery Koenker. *The Postcard History Series- Muncie Indiana in Vintage Postcards*. Charleston, SC. 1999. 113.

19 <http://www.epodunk.com/cgi-bin/genInfo.php?locIndex=5569>





and Beech Grove Cemetery. Both of these properties offer amenities that park departments often maintain although neither property is overseen by Muncie’s Parks & Recreation Department. At a minimum, the Urban Forester should be consulted for care of these properties’ trees.

The William Henry Luick Farmhouse which dates back to 1882 was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. This historic house on the southeast side on Muncie is on a 4.5 acre property that borders the White River. It is currently owned by a private party.

Beech Grove Cemetery, with its Gothic revival style architecture, was added to the Register in 1999. Established in the early 1800’s, this cemetery is noted for its historical significance for both architecture and landscape architecture. It is governed by a board of trustees that are appointed by the Common Council of the City of Muncie (City Council).

Man-made Features

With the majority of Muncie developed, there are a lot of man-made features in this second-class city. For the purposes of this plan, only major features and those relevant to parks and recreation will be highlighted. Figure 18 on the following page illustrates the transportation infrastructure of Muncie.

One highway and 2 state roads (US 35, SR 67 and SR 3) which are north-south roads go around Muncie’s east side on the Muncie Bypass, while SR 332 brings travelers into Muncie on the Northwest side and SR 32, running east-west, brings travelers right through the middle of the city. Muncie also has multiple railroad lines that dissect the city. Two lines enter/leave the city from the west, one to the north, one to the northeast, one to the east, and one to the south.

Muncie has over 30 bridges with the majority spanning the White River and others spanning Muncie Creek, Hiatt Ditch, and Buck Creek. Only a few bridges are overpasses to mitigate railroad and vehicular traffic. The majority of bridges crossing ditches and streams do not include sidewalks which creates a safety concern for pedestrians. The majority of bridges crossing the White River include sidewalks. As bridges are reconstructed, sidewalks are being included.

Large roads, bridges and railroads create age-specific boundaries. Many people do not want young children crossing large roads, bridges or railroads without supervision. This creates barriers to youth access to parks thus these boundaries are utilized in establishing the level of service to some parks (see L.O.S. assessment on pages 98-105). The DMMPC has received a grant to conduct planning for a Safe Routes To School program. When this planning document is completed, the implementation of Muncie’s Safe Routes to School plan may also benefit access to some parks for children in Muncie.

Muncie has greatly benefited from the establishment of Cardinal Greenways, Inc. Cardinal Greenways, Inc has constructed 2 recreation trails in Muncie, the Cardinal Greenway, a rails-to-trails project, and the White River Greenway. Both trails are available for all types of non-motorized transportation and along both greenways are overlooks that provide spaces to rest and enjoy scenic views.

On property bought from CSX Transportation Corporation, the Cardinal Greenway provides 62 miles of paved trail from Marion to Richmond with an on-road section of ~15 miles between Gas City and Gaston; 51 miles of the paved trail are continuous from Gaston, IN to Richmond, IN (going through Muncie northwest - southeast). The Cardinal Greenway is named for the last passenger train to regularly run this rail line. The Cardinal Greenway provides connections to 3 of Muncie’s parks- McCulloch Park, Ball Community Park and Prairie Creek Park.





Background

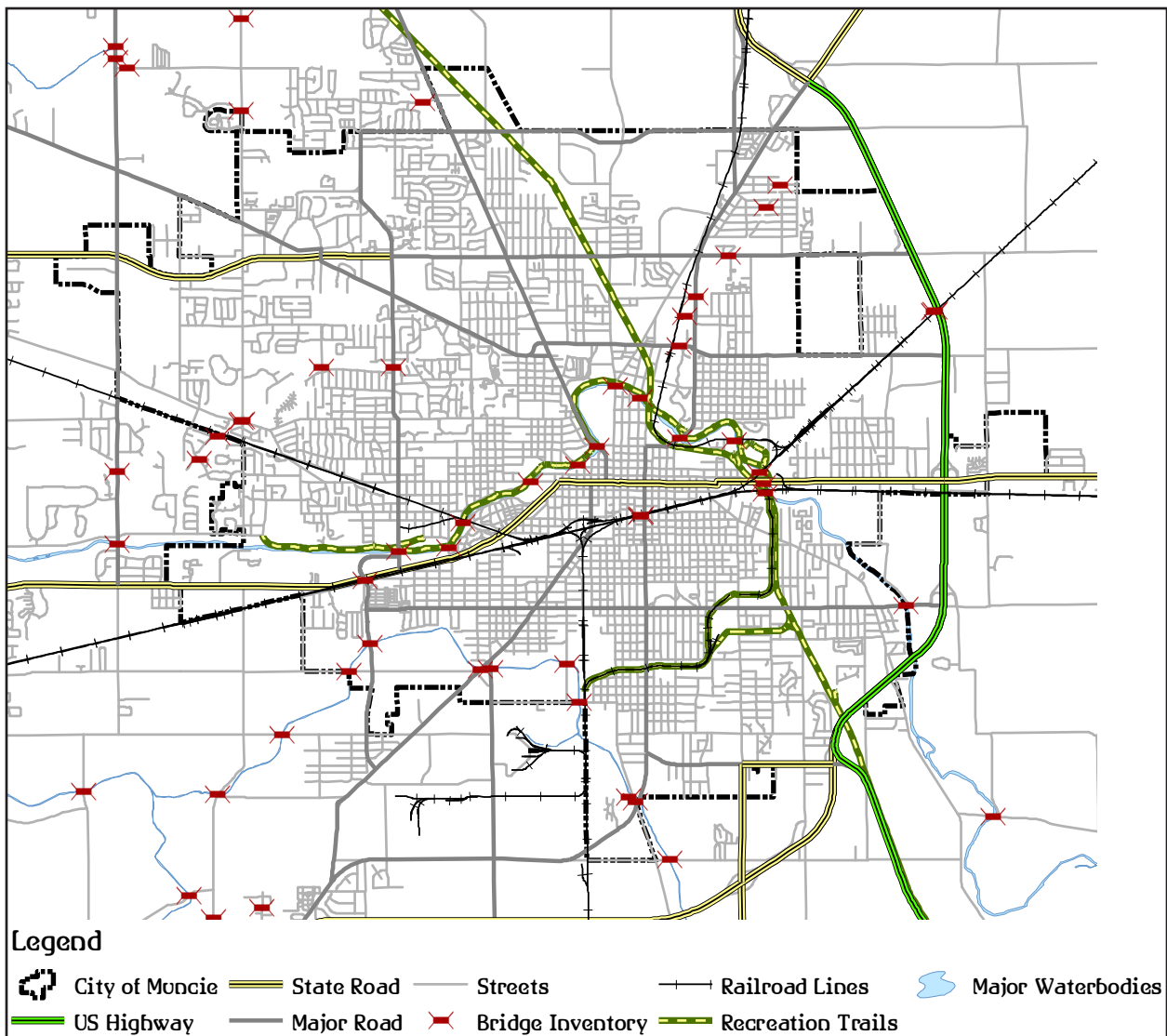


Figure 18- Transportation infrastructure of Muncie, IN.

The White River Greenway runs over 5.5 miles along the White River through the heart of Muncie joining 7 city parks (Westside Park, White River Park, Tuhey Park, Riverbend Park, Appeal to the Great Spirit, McCulloch Park and Riverview Park), Muncie’s downtown, Minnetrista Cultural Center, and Ball State University. At the east end of the greenway, an additional connection to the Cardinal Greenway is planned. Overlooks along the White River Greenway include Heron Overlook, Riverview Overlook, Oakhurst Overlook, the White River Cantilever, Bicentennial Overlook, and West Point Overlook. The White River Greenway was designed to create trail access to abutting neighborhoods providing enhanced access for bicyclists and pedestrians to cross major roads that intersect the river.

The White River has been dredged and a levee built along its southern shore through Muncie as a protective measure from flooding. With the amount of channeling conducted through the years, Muncie’s streams could practically be added to the list of man-made features. The majority of the streams are now characterized by straightened waterways with steep, eroding embankments of channels instead of the winding paths and more gently sloped embankments that streams tend to be





characterized by. And as previously stated, Prairie Creek Reservoir is a man-made reservoir created as a back-up drinking water supply for the city.

Cultural/Ethnic Background, Festivals, Arts

- Muncie’s Soap Box Derby is held annually in July in McCulloch Park.
- The Homecoming festival is held annually in McCulloch Park in midsummer.
- Health fairs are held annually in Heekin Park.
- The Old Washington Street Festival takes place along East Washington Street in Muncie’s historic Kimbrough District. This annual street festival, which has been happening for over 30 years, provides opportunities for visitors to tour some of the historic homes along the street while providing a multitude of vendors selling arts, crafts, and food.
- Summer Heat is a three day event with hot air balloons, entertainment, and vendors held in late June. This festival has moved its location for the past few years.

Social & Economic

Muncie’s development and growth were greatly shaped by its industrial based economy though the late 19th century and the majority of the 20th century. Years of industrial manufacturing left their mark upon Muncie. Indiana’s Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has identified the following in Muncie:

- In the last 5 years, IDEM has identified 19 additional underground storage tanks, all leaking, making a total of 213 underground storage tanks (USTs), 126 that are leaking underground storage tanks. While the majority of those leaking USTs originate from gas stations, one of those leaking tanks was located in Heekin Park near the Park Department’s main office. In 1998 this tank was removed and surrounding soil excavated. In 2000, IDEM deemed the disposition associated with this tank as closed with No Further Action required.²⁰
- 35 industrial waste sites found predominately in the southern half of Muncie.
- 36 EPA facilities (sites subject to environmental regulation or of environmental interest) including 8 sites with hazardous waste generators, 7 sites with hazardous waste handlers, 3 water discharge sites, and 18 air release sites.
- 12 brownfields, twice as many as 5 years ago (note- this does not mean that there are only 12 brownfields in Muncie, this merely means that 12 sites are identified as brownfields- sites that are abandoned or inactive in which redevelopment is hindered due to the presence of a hazardous substance or contaminants. Through the Muncie Brownfields Project other sites have been identified that are perceived to have contaminants, but additional research and testing are required to determine what is on the site before an official status of brownfield can be applied.)
- 3 permitted solid waste sites
- 4 petroleum wells; an increase of 1 well in the last 5 years. 1 additional well at Prairie Creek Park.
- 1 septage waste site
- 0 tire waste sites (5 years ago, there was 1)
- 11 locations are in a voluntary remediation agreement (VRA) with IDEM; an increase of 4 sites in the last 5 years.

20 The No Further Action letter from IDEM is included in the appendix.





Background

- 1 corrective action site
- 26 clean-up sites
- 1 manufactured gas plant

As industry and manufacturing jobs left the area, Muncie’s economy has diversified. Currently Muncie’s economy is primarily based upon educational institutions, healthcare, human resources, service industries, and government.

Demographics-

Muncie is currently the ninth (9th) largest city in Indiana. In 2012 the population was estimated to be at 70,087. Though this is an increase in population since 2006, it is still 7,129 less people than its peak population in 1980. The Population Time Line on the following page was created with data

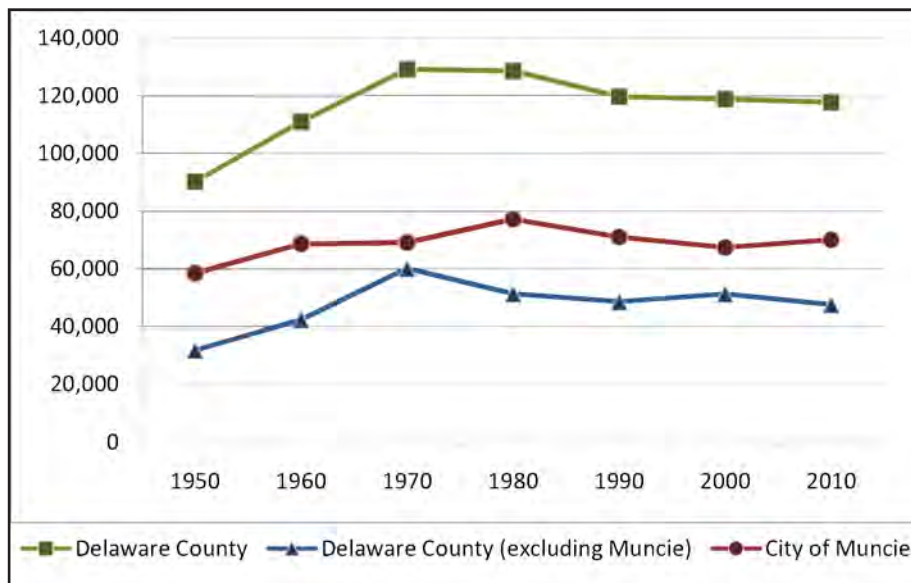


Figure 19- Population timeline. Source: U.S. Bureau of Census.

<i>Ball State Students</i>									
Student stats-									
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Total Full-Time	17,364	17,248	16,963	16,493	16,730	17,693	18,291	17,673	17,317
Total Part-Time	3,142	3,103	3,067	3,356	3,513	3,708	3,792	4,474	3,736
Total	20,506	20,351	20,030	19,849	20,243	21,401	22,083	22,147	21,053
Percent Undergraduate	85.7%	85.6%	85.2%	84.1%	83.1%	82.8%	82.1%	79.6%	79.1%

Source: Ball State University Fact Book 2007-08 & Ball State University Fact Book 2012-13
http://cms.bsu.edu/-/media/WWW/DepartmentalContent/Factbook/1213PDFs/Students%20Enrollment_Part%20L.pdf

Figure 20- Enrollment figures for Ball State University.





from the U.S. Census. The change over time for most of Delaware County has been a decline since the 1970's. The City of Muncie did not start its declining trend until the 1980's and has only recently begun to see an increase.

Student data shows that the student population of Ball State University has risen from an average of 19,000 students in the 1990's to an average of about 20,000 in the 2000's (see Figure 20 on the following page). Anecdotal evidence suggests that the majority of BSU's students do not go off campus in Muncie to pursue recreational opportunities. The University provides a great deal of greenspace for spontaneous active recreation and passive recreation as well as a plethora of facilities providing many other recreational opportunities. It appears that the primary reasons BSU students go to Muncie's parks are to use the disk golf course and the new dog park.

Age Distribution

While most park facilities can be enjoyed by people of any age, some facilities are preferred by different age groups; examples of the spectrum of interests would include skateboarding and shuffleboard. Whether a neighborhood is dominated by the elderly or children can affect what types of facilities may be in demand of that area's parks. In addition to facilities, age demographics can help illustrate types of recreational programming.

The following charts and graphs show the age demographics for Muncie. By viewing the bar graphs, the information quickly show the young majority specifically with the 5-19 age group in 2010. Another large age group with a slightly higher percentage is the 20-24 range. This is caused by the large level of students at Ball State University.

2000	Muncie	Delaware County	Indiana	2010	Muncie	Delaware County	Indiana
under 5	5.8%	5.9%	7.0%	under 5	5.5%	5.4%	6.7%
5-19	21.2%	21.4%	22.1%	5-19	20.2%	20.4%	21.2%
20-24	17.3%	11.8%	7.0%	20-24	19.6%	13.5%	7.0%
25-34	12.9%	12.4%	13.7%	25-34	11.9%	10.9%	12.8%
35-44	11.2%	13.2%	15.8%	35-44	9.5%	11.1%	12.9%
45-54	10.3%	12.5%	13.4%	45-54	10.7%	12.7%	14.6%
55-64	8.0%	9.4%	8.7%	55-64	9.5%	11.4%	11.9%
65-74	6.6%	7.1%	6.5%	65-74	6.5%	7.9%	7.0%
75-84	4.9%	4.7%	4.4%	75-84	4.4%	4.8%	4.2%
85+	1.7%	1.7%	1.5%	85+	2.1%	2.1%	1.8%

Figure 21- Age distribution percentages for Muncie, Delaware County, and the State of Indiana, comparing 2000 & 2010. Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.





Background

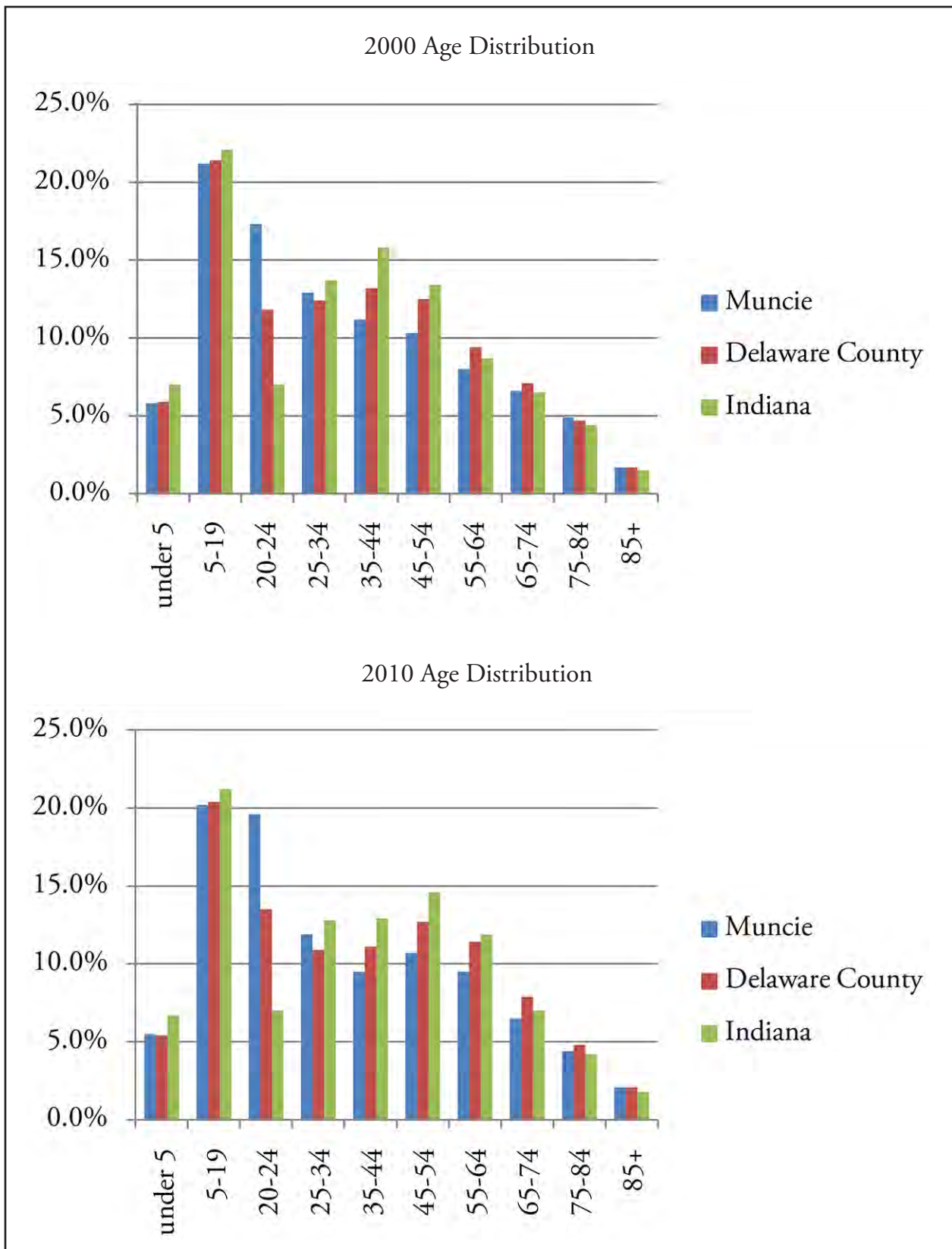


Figure 22- Age distributions for Muncie, Delaware County, and the State of Indiana for 2000 & 2010. Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.





Ethnicity and Race

The U.S. Census Bureau does not collect data reflecting people’s ethnicity, so the varying ethnic backgrounds of the population are unknown. Identifying ethnic backgrounds would be important to recognize the potential interest in establishing ethnically based/heritage festivals and public art projects.

Until all people have equal opportunity, race information is useful for determining eligibility for some grants. Muncie’s population is generally composed of White (Caucasian American), Black (African American), Hispanic, Asian, American Indian or Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, and people of two or more races. Some people also identified themselves as “Other Race”. The majority of the population is White in Muncie. There is also a strong minority of Black or African Americans within the Muncie community. Populations of people of 2 or more races, people of the Hispanic race and people of the Asian races are the next highest minorities. A detailed table of Muncie’s racial demographics and its recent changes is provided below.

Race	Muncie				
	2000		2010		Change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Total Population	67,430	100.0%	70,085	100.0%	3.9%
White	57,799	85.7%	58,853	84.0%	1.8%
Black or African American	7,397	11.0%	7,655	10.9%	3.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	183	0.3%	203	0.3%	10.9%
Asian	534	0.8%	849	1.2%	58.9%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	62	0.1%	42	0.1%	32.2%
Hispanic	971	1.4%	1,579	2.3%	62.6%
Other Race	451	0.7%	532	0.8%	17.9%
Two or more races	1,004	1.5%	1,951	2.8%	94.3%

Red text = decrease

Figure 23- Racial demographics and recent changes for Muncie, IN.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Households and Dwelling Units

Household information is beneficial when analyzing population data. In the following tables you will notice that there is a decrease in household size. These decreases have caused the population density to decrease. For example, a city with 5 houses once had a population of 16 people, but now has a population of 11. Consider a neighborhood of 20 city blocks that once had a population 320 and now only has 220. That means there are 100 less people who would be using that neighborhood’s parks. Household trends for the city, county and state are provided on the following page.





Inventory & Classification

Inventory of Park System

Muncie's park system consists of 25 properties; 24 within the City of Muncie and 1 in Perry Township, located in the southeast quadrant of Delaware County. Muncie's Park Department also maintains a handful of additional properties owned by public entities that are not officially a part of this department.

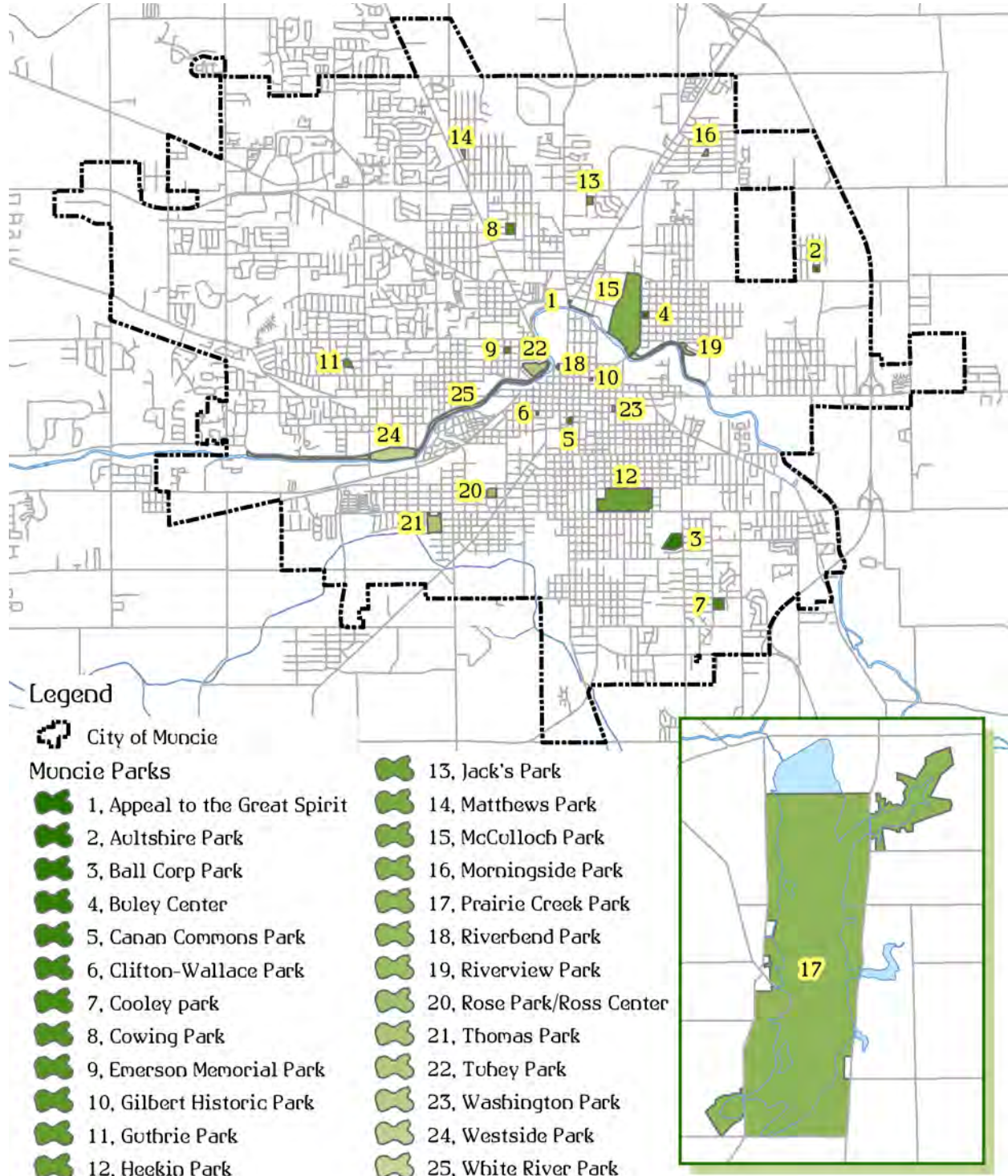


Figure 25- Inventory of Muncie's park system.





Inventory & Classification

Classification

Because there is no standard way of defining parks, it is important for each community to delineate what makes up its park system. Whether parks are classified by size or function (or some other element) in order to “plan” one must first have a standard from which to work.

The Park Department of Muncie felt it was appropriate to use the park, open space, and pathways classifications used by the NRPA. This type of classification generally delineates parks based upon their size. NRPA classifications leave a gap between mini parks (parks less than 1 acre) and neighborhood parks (parks containing 5 to 10 acres). There is also a size classification gap between neighborhood parks (5-10 acres) and community parks (30-50 acres). Many of the parks in Muncie were in between the size criteria for the park types classified by the NRPA. Those parks were classified and then analyzed according to the following:

- Small neighborhood parks are the parks that are larger than mini parks (parks up to 1 acre) and smaller than neighborhood parks (parks between 5-10 acres). For purposes of determining level of service and conducting other analysis, small neighborhood parks were treated the same as neighborhood parks.
- Large neighborhood parks are parks containing 10-20 acres. These parks are analyzed as though they were neighborhood parks.
- Small community parks are properties containing 20-30 acres. Such parks are analyzed as though they were community parks.

Using the classifications of small neighborhood park, large neighborhood park, and small community park, while using the same standards for analyzing neighborhood and community parks respectively, is important in order to acknowledge that those park classifications are not technically fitting into the classifications defined by the NRPA.

Two other parks did not match NRPA classifications. One park was classified as a linear park (a type of park not recognized by the NRPA). While this park could be classified as a natural resource area or a greenway (both classifications recognized by the NRPA), since the park embraces both functions it was determined that the classification of a “linear park” would be well suited. The other park was classified as a regional park. This park is located in outside the city limits in the county and is more than 8 times larger than all other city park combined. While this park serves city residents, people come from all over the region to visit this park.

Parks managed by the city of Muncie were further classified based upon whether the properties were owned by the City of Muncie or leased to the City of Muncie for park use. Because leased properties are not permanent contributions to the park system, those properties are not included in the primary analysis of the park system’s level of service (park acres per population, facilities per population). Instead leased properties are included in a secondary analysis of the park system’s level of service in order to show the contribution that they make to the park system and the importance of maintaining those properties within the system. Leased properties are included in the Department’s short term planning of budgets and operations because those leases are relevant for the next 5 years. Properties that are leased include Ball Community Park and Prairie Creek Park. Since the last plan, Emerson Dog Park (formerly known as Emerson Memorial Greenspace Park) and Rose Park / Ross Center properties have been deed to the City of Muncie.





Inventory & Classification

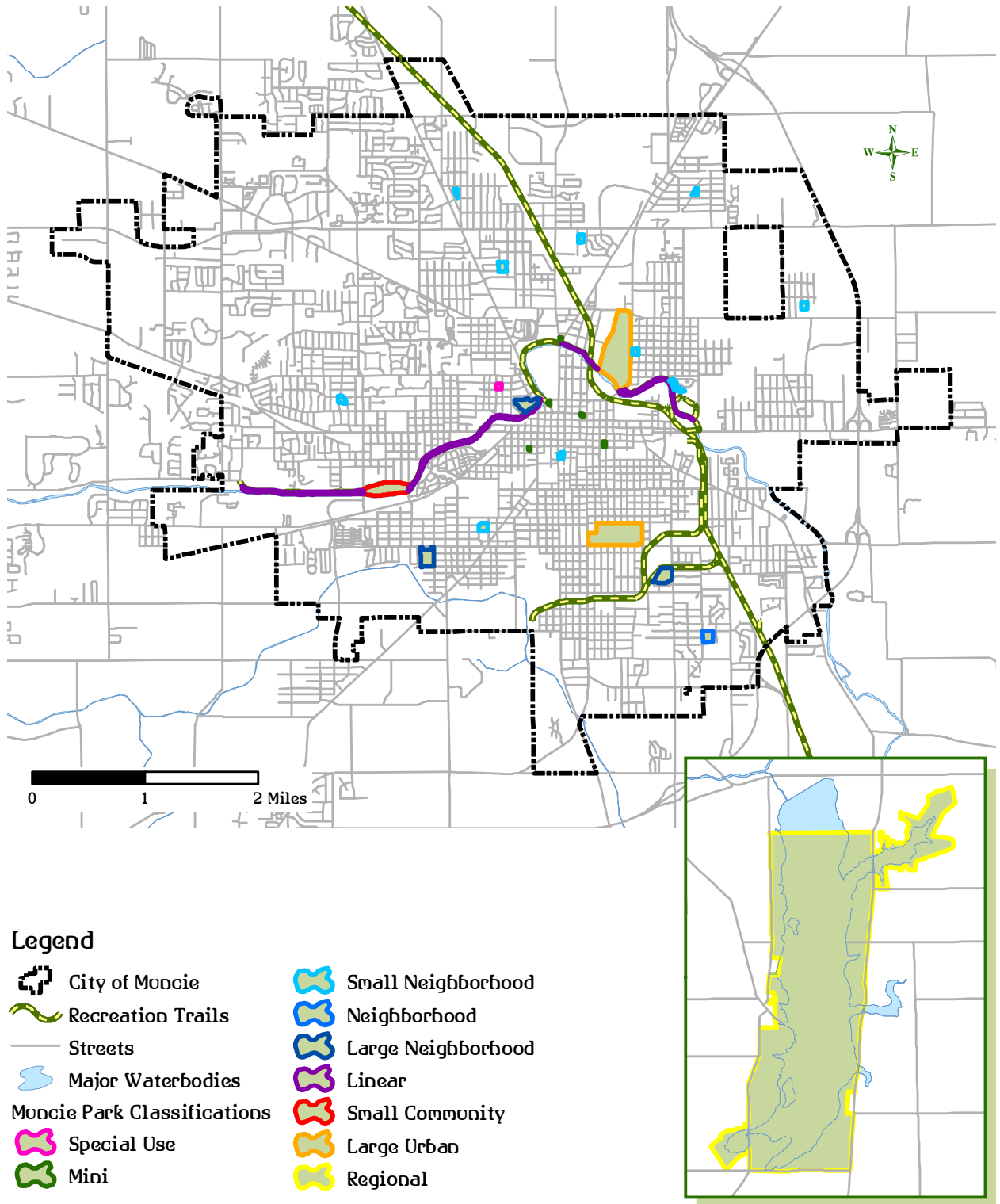


Figure 27- Classification of Muncie's parks.





Inventory & Classification

Ball Community Park is leased from the Ball Corporation. The lease is missing- thus it is unknown how long the lease lasts or what other appropriations the lease includes. Contact with Ball Corporation suggested that they are interested in continuing or renewing a lease with the city.

Prairie Creek Park is leased until at least 2021; the City of Muncie is working with the Indiana-American Water Company, Inc to finalize an addendum to extend the lease until 2072.

Other properties were identified that contribute to the public’s park and recreational opportunities in the City of Muncie. The primary factor defining if a property contributes to the public’s park & recreational opportunities for this plan is whether or not the property to open to the public free of charge. The most relevant properties are the memorial parks. There are 3 memorial parks, of which the Parks & Recreation Department cares for 2.

The majority of the other contributing properties are grade school grounds- both Muncie Community School properties and private school properties; school buildings are not included. For the purposes of this master plan those properties have been identified as “school-parks”.

Muncie is also home to Ball State University. Most of the campus and the properties Ball State University owns are open to the public. Recreational facilities are only open to members for a fee. Open spaces were selected to include in Muncie’s assessment.

All of the previously identified properties have been classified according to their size in order to maintain uniformity for analysis.

The other primary contributing property type is greenways. Cardinal Greenway and White River Greenway are open to the public free of charge. The State of Indiana initially established the goal “of providing an easily accessible trail opportunity within 15 minutes or 7.5 miles of all Indiana residents.”²¹ In 2013, the State updated their trails, greenways and bikeways plan in a progress report that includes a new goal of having a trail within 5 miles of all residents. Greenways have been included in this plan’s analysis using a 1 mile service area, or a 15 minute bike ride to the greenway.²²

Minnetrista Cultural Center provides areas that are open to the public free of charge and areas that require an entrance fee. Areas that are open to the public free of charge have been identified and are included in the inventory of overall community resources.

Privately owned facilities that are open to the public for a fee are included in the inventory but are not included in analysis. While private park/recreational facilities contribute to the overall recreational opportunities and greenspace for the public, they are not available to the public as a free amenity. This category includes public golf courses, putt-putt golf, indoor skateparks and rollerskating rinks, bowling alleys, YMCA and YWCA facilities, and Muncie’s Sports Plex.

Figure 28, on the following page, illustrates the locations and classifications of Muncie’s overall park, greenspace, and recreational opportunities.

21 *Hoosiers on the Move: The Indiana State Trails, Greenways, & Bikeway Plan*. Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation. July 2006. 11.

22 The entire City of Muncie is within 7.5 miles of both Cardinal Greenway and White River Greenway.





Inventory & Classification

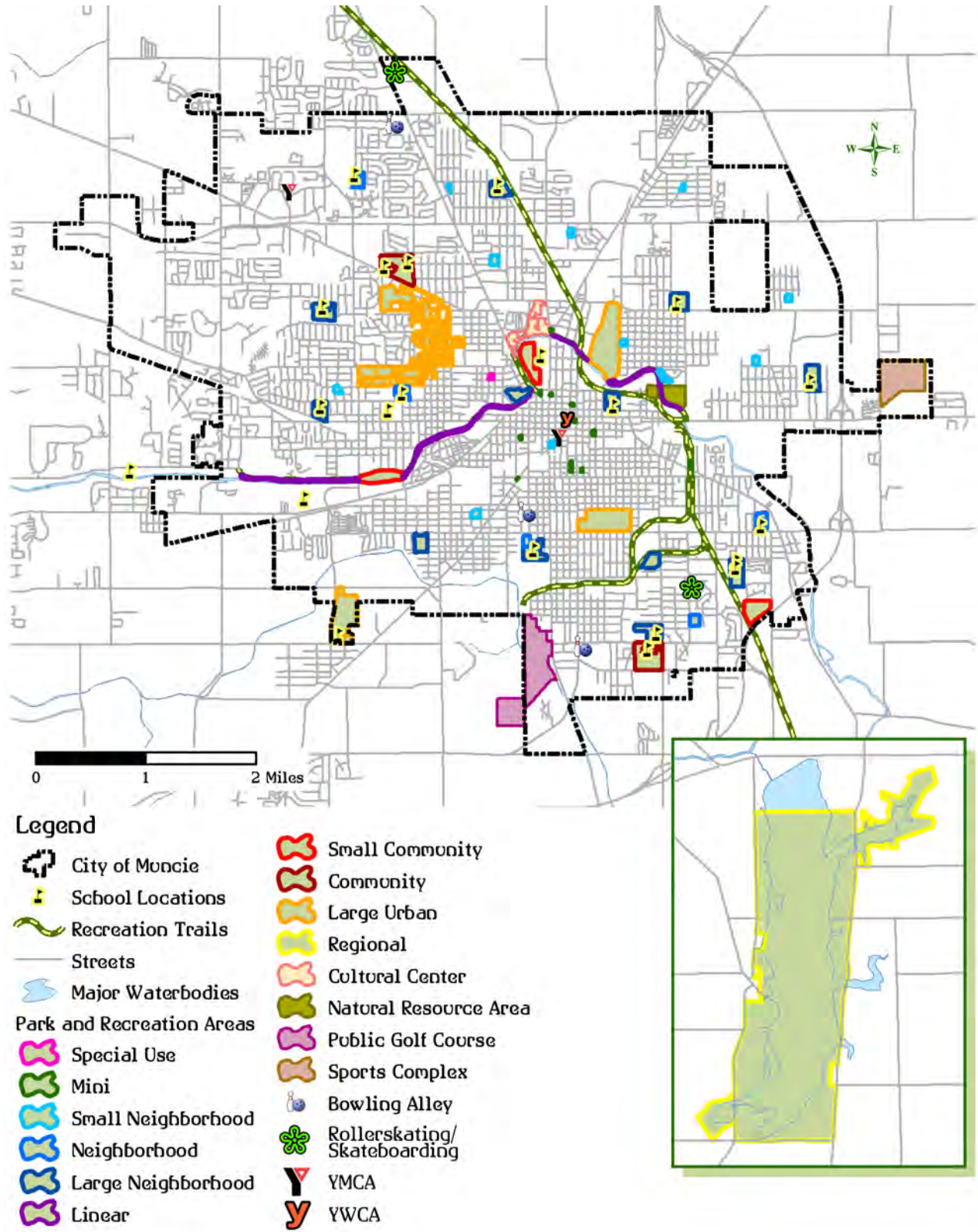


Figure 28- Inventory and classification for Muncie's overall park, greenspace and recreational opportunities.





Anecdotal Data

The following pages outline the site visits and personal observations of each park in Muncie’s park system. Parks are listed in alphabetical order with the following information:

On the left hand page-

- aerial photograph with the condition of existing park amenities (please reference the Legend to the right for these maps)

On the right hand page-

- location description
- size
- type
- general description
 - includes recent improvements within the park and the park’s immediate needs
- location map - within Muncie
- location map - showing 1/4 mile around the park

Notes & Legend for Site Maps and Observations

The following is a legend to the site maps for each park on the following pages. Data for each amenity was collected using a GPS device; this data is stored in the County’s G.I.S. and the County’s online map repository. The amenity’s condition was recorded and is displayed on the maps with colored dots. The online data includes pictures of each amenity.

A few notes about the park inventory-

Grills are located in most parks throughout the park system. Since the last inventory it appears that new grills were placed throughout the park system near the picnic shelters. Grills appear to wear rapidly and many already need replacement.

Though most light fixtures were inventoried, the associated condition is simply an observation on the fixture’s condition; whether or not each light functions is unknown.

Amenities that are movable such as trashcans, benches and picnic tables have been removed from the inventory. However, any trashcans, benches or picnic tables that are fixed in place are included.

Legend

Park Inventory - Condition

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Missing
- Removed
- Unknown

Greenways & Trails

- ~ Paved Greenways
- ~ Horse Trails
- ~ Multi-Use Trail
- ~ Mountain Bike and Hiking Trail

Park Classifications

- Special Use
- Mini
- Small Neighborhood
- Neighborhood
- Large Neighborhood
- Linear
- Small Community
- Large Urban
- Regional

Property Ownership

- Parcel Lines





Light-Pole

Bench
Bench
Bench
Bench
Bench
Bench
Sculpture
Memorial
Bench
Bench

Flag Pole

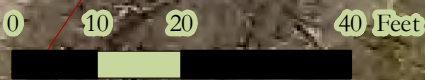
Pedestrian Signal

Pedestrian Signal

Light-Pole

GRANVILLE

WALNUT





Appeal to the Great Spirit

Location: Walnut St. & Granville Ave.

Size: 0.3 acres

Type: Mini Park

Ownership: City of Muncie

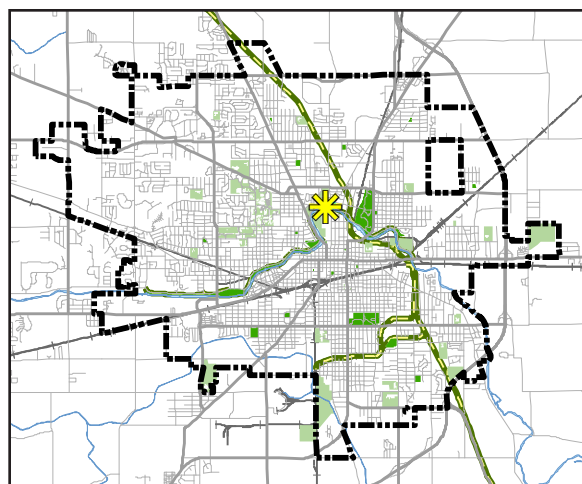
General Description:

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Appeal to the Great Spirit mini park was developed in 1929 in memory of Edmond Burke Ball. Containing the bronze casting of Cyrus Dallin’s American Indian Equestrian sculpture “Appeal to the Great Spirit”, locally known as “Chief Muncie”, this park was designed by Alembert W. (A.W.) Brayton, Jr. a landscape architect from Indianapolis. The sculpture faces south toward Muncie’s downtown. A semi-circular limestone seat-wall wraps around the posterior of the sculpture while two axial walkways approach the sculpture, one from Walnut St. and one from Granville Ave. This park’s landscape was designed to emulate a western landscape, reflective of the area where the depicted Native American would have originated. The landscape is in need of restoration. There is no parking associated with this property.

In conflict with the original site plan, flagpoles were located within the primary viewshed of the sculpture. Though there was news reported that the flag pole would be relocated, this hasn’t occurred.

Due to the historical significance of this park, great care should be given to restore the original landscape screen and rehabilitate the plantings around the seat-wall. A Landscape Preservation Master Plan was prepared for this site in 2001 by Malcolm Cairns and Cheryl Chalfant (Department of Landscape Architecture, Ball State University) for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology. This plan should be utilized for the ongoing maintenance of this park.

There have been no apparent changes to this park in the last five years.





Light-Pole

Track Ride

Ladder

Picnic Shelter

Play Structure

Slide-Spiral

Merry-go-round

Parking

Slide-Junior

Swings

Tire Swing

Swings

Swings

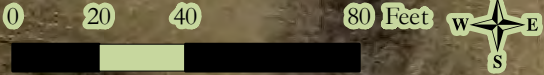
Trashcan

Park Sign

Basketball backboard

Basketball Court

Basketball backboard





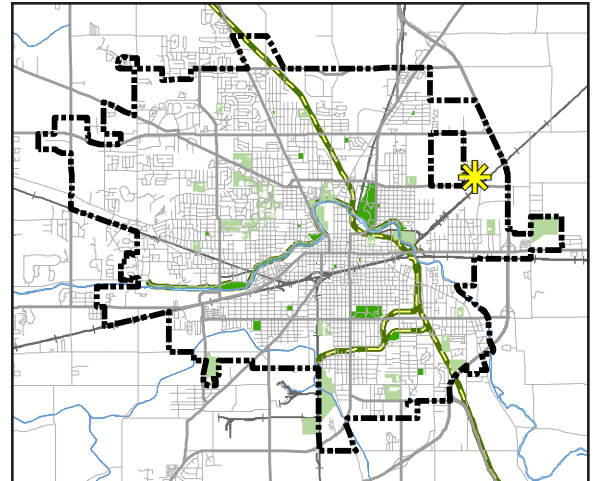
Aultshire Park

Location: South of Cromer Ave. on Watt Ave.
 Size: 2.0 acres
 Type: Small Neighborhood Park
 Ownership: City of Muncie Park & Recreation Dept.
 General Description:

Aultshire Park is located on the dead end of Watt Ave. in the Aultshire Neighborhood. This park is the only public amenity within this secluded neighborhood on Muncie's northeast side. There is an area to turn around, but there is no designated parking area leaving visitors to park along the grass. The park offers playground equipment that is in relatively decent shape, though it is littered with graffiti. The picnic shelter is still greatly worn and there are no picnic tables. A basketball court is located in the southwest portion of the park. While the backboards are worn, the court and the goals are in fair shape. A dirt and grassed walking/jogging path is provided that encircles the park. Areas along this path appear to flood and become muddy. Large open space is available for spontaneous play or sports. There was no bathroom facility or water fountain.

A hedge line screens the park from the neighbors to the north, while the rest of the park offers borrowed views of large yards of neighbors in the other directions. Railroad tracks running northeast-southwest are visible from the park, they are located ~300' southeast of this park.

There have been no apparent improvements made to this park in the last five years. The park sign is in poor condition with several holes in it. The shelter has holes in the roof and many shingles are missing.





MACEDONIA

15TH

16TH

220 Feet

110

55

Park Sign

Parking

Backboard

Bleachers

Basketball Court

Backboard

Trail- Unpaved

Trail- Unpaved

Trail- Unpaved

Trail- Unpaved

Bench

Tire swing

Tireswing

Concrete Slab

Trail- Unpaved

Site Sign

Water fountain

Water faucet

Power Outlets

Baseball Diamond

Power Outlets

Trail- Unpaved

Trail- Unpaved

Bench

Trail- Unpaved

Bench

Volleyball

Trail- Unpaved

Bench

Light- Pole



Ball Community Park

Location: Macedonia Ave., between 14th St. and 17th St.

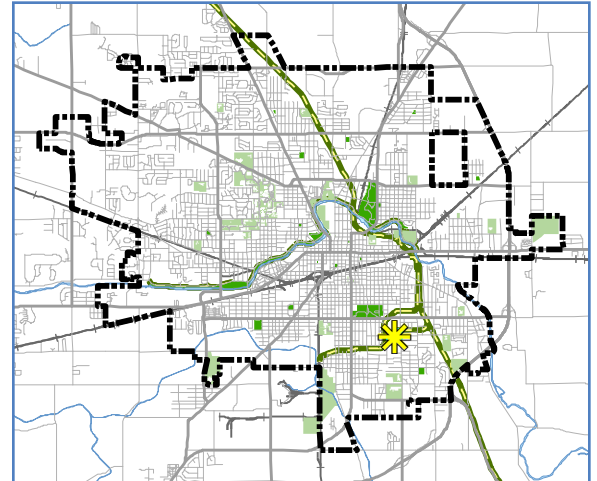
Size: 10.99 acres

Type: Large Neighborhood Park

Ownership: Ball Corp.

General Description:

Serving the Southside Neighborhood, this park has been leased from the Ball Corporation. Residential homes line the southern boundary. Macedonia Ave., a primary arterial road, runs along the eastern boundary separating the park from the adjoining neighborhood; a connector trail to the Cardinal Greenway is less than 150' north of the park entrance. Additional property owned by Ball Corp. creates the northern and western boundary of the park. Ball Community Park offers plentiful parking on its northeast side. A basketball court is in fair condition, though it has a crack running down the middle of it. A picnic shelter with picnic tables is centrally located in the park; the shelter is in poor condition. A crushed stone walking path encircles the park. Benches are located along the path. Large open spaces for spontaneous play are available. Light poles and electrical outlets are provided, however their condition was unknown. While the maintenance of this park needs attention, there were designated areas for a baseball diamond and volleyball courts; both areas are heavily overgrown.



Located near the picnic shelter is an old traditional Murdock water fountain that no longer works. Additionally, there is a wooden map of the park; it is also in poor condition. The location of the parks amenities are carved into the sign. A port-a-pot was the only bathroom facility.

The primary views from this park are of Spartech Plastics, a large plastics factory. Fumes from this facility do periodically permeate the air in the area.

In the last five years, a new park sign was installed and 2 tire swings were installed in the southeast quadrant of the park.





HIGHLAND

DR. MEK JR

PENN

Park Sign Sign

Basketball Court

Picnic Shelter

Play Structure

Rain Garden

Community Center

Parking

Community Garden

RUSSEY

0 25 50 100 Feet





Buley Center

Location: Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Highland Ave., Penn St., & Russey St.

Size: 1.8 acres

Type: Small Neighborhood Park

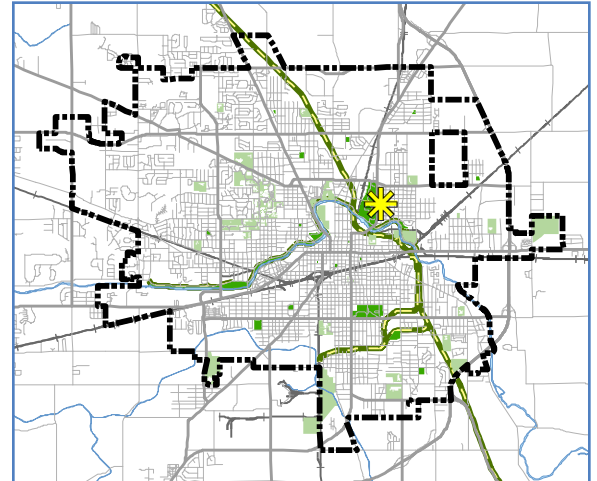
Ownership: City of Muncie

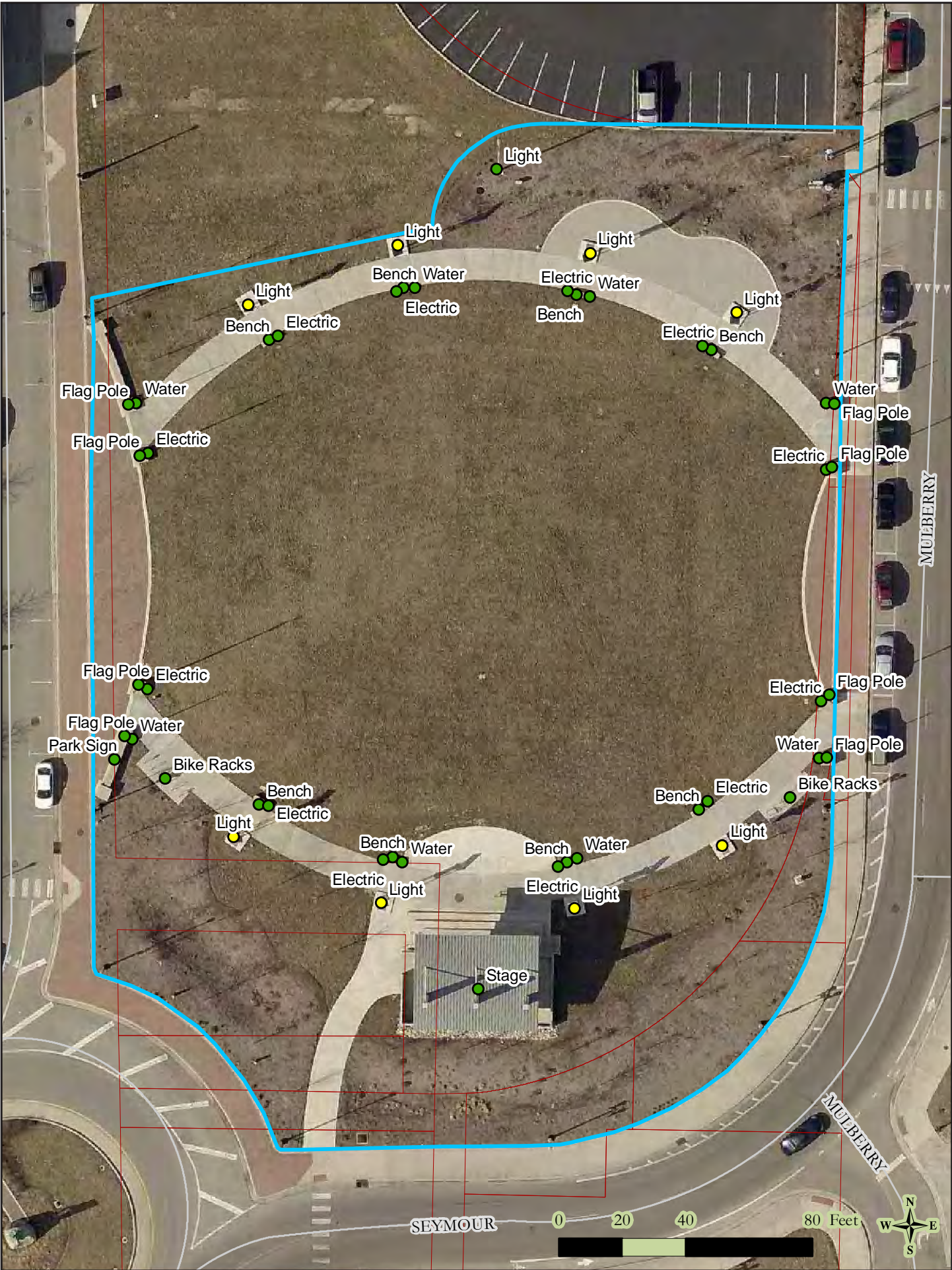
General Description:

Serving the Whitely Neighborhood, the Buley Center is one of two community centers in Muncie’s park system though the Park Department only provides maintenance to the properties. Separated from McCulloch Park to the west by Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., a major arterial road, the Buley Center is also bordered to the north by the urban collector, Highland Ave. Accessible from Russey St., this center was built in 1975 on the former site of Longfellow Elementary School. One of Muncie Park’s only ADA compliant properties, this site primarily offers educational and active recreational opportunities. Outdoor facilities include a basketball court and a playground. A picnic shelter with picnic tables is available. The community center’s indoor facilities include a small gymnasium, meeting rooms, restroom facilities (including facilities for people with disabilities), and kitchen facilities. A paved parking lot consumes the southeastern ¼ of the property.

In the last several years, the Buley Center has had ups and downs. The City closed the Buley Center in December of 2008 due to lack of funding. Shortly thereafter the Delaware County Commissioners helped fund the center while the Buley Center established not-for-profit status. A few years ago, the Center received its 501c3 status and is currently funded by grants, fund-raisers and donations.

A sign providing information about the Whitely Neighborhood is posted near the northwest corner of this property. The sign is in disrepair and should be replaced. In the last five years, a new park sign was installed and the Buley Center has established community gardens to the south of the community center. This is the first community garden in Muncie’s park system.







Canan Commons Park

Location: Walnut St., Seymour St., Mulberry St.

Size: 1.53 acres

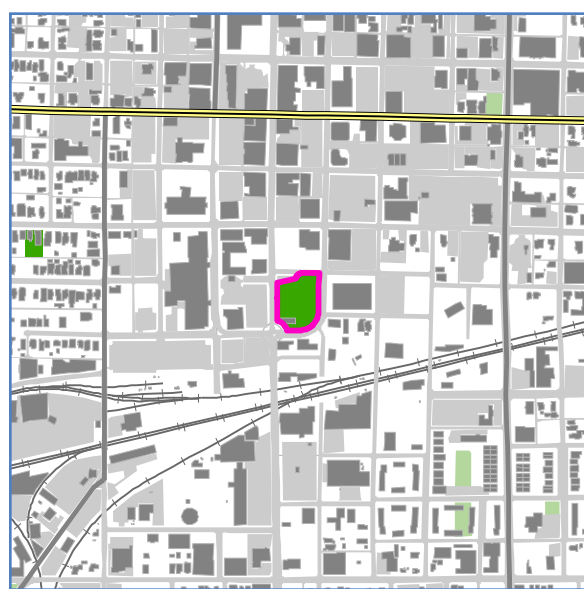
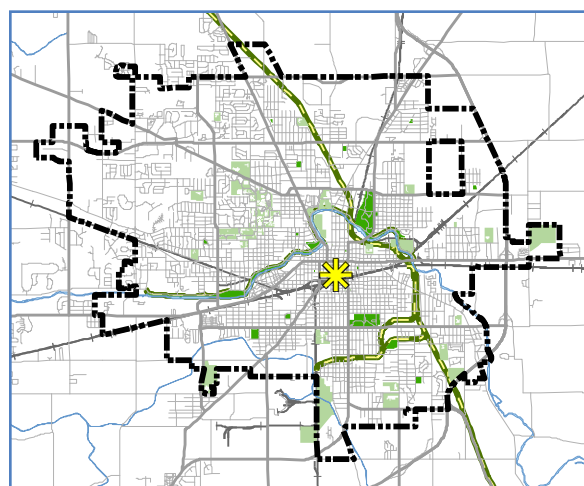
Type: Small Neighborhood Park

Ownership: City of Muncie

General Description:

Serving the Downtown Neighborhood and the greater Muncie community, this park was established in Muncie's park system in 2010. Designed by Rundell Ernstberger Associates, LLC, Canan Commons includes a stage for performances, open space for gathering and informal recreation, and lights that include solar panels and wind turbines. This park is used for community-wide events including movies and music during warm weather, and activities during the biannual Arts Walk held in the fall and spring. The park also plays host to a community Christmas tree and the City's New Years Eve celebration which includes a ball drop

On street parking is available on the east and west sides of the park.



CHARLES

Greenspace

0 10 20 40 Feet





Clifton-Wallace Park

Location: Charles St., between Council St. and Cherry St.

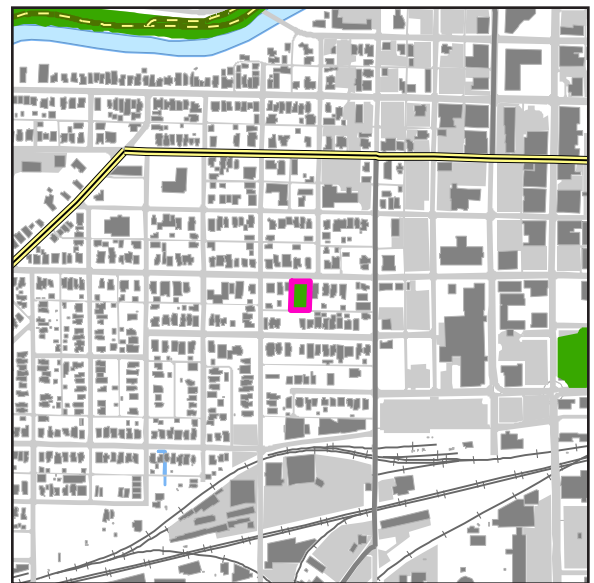
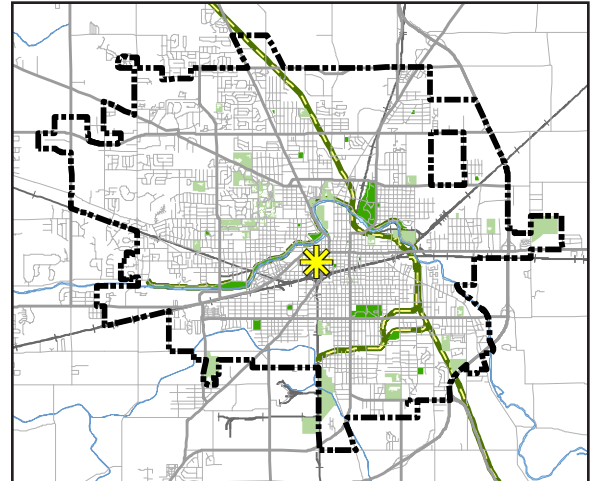
Size: 0.34 acres

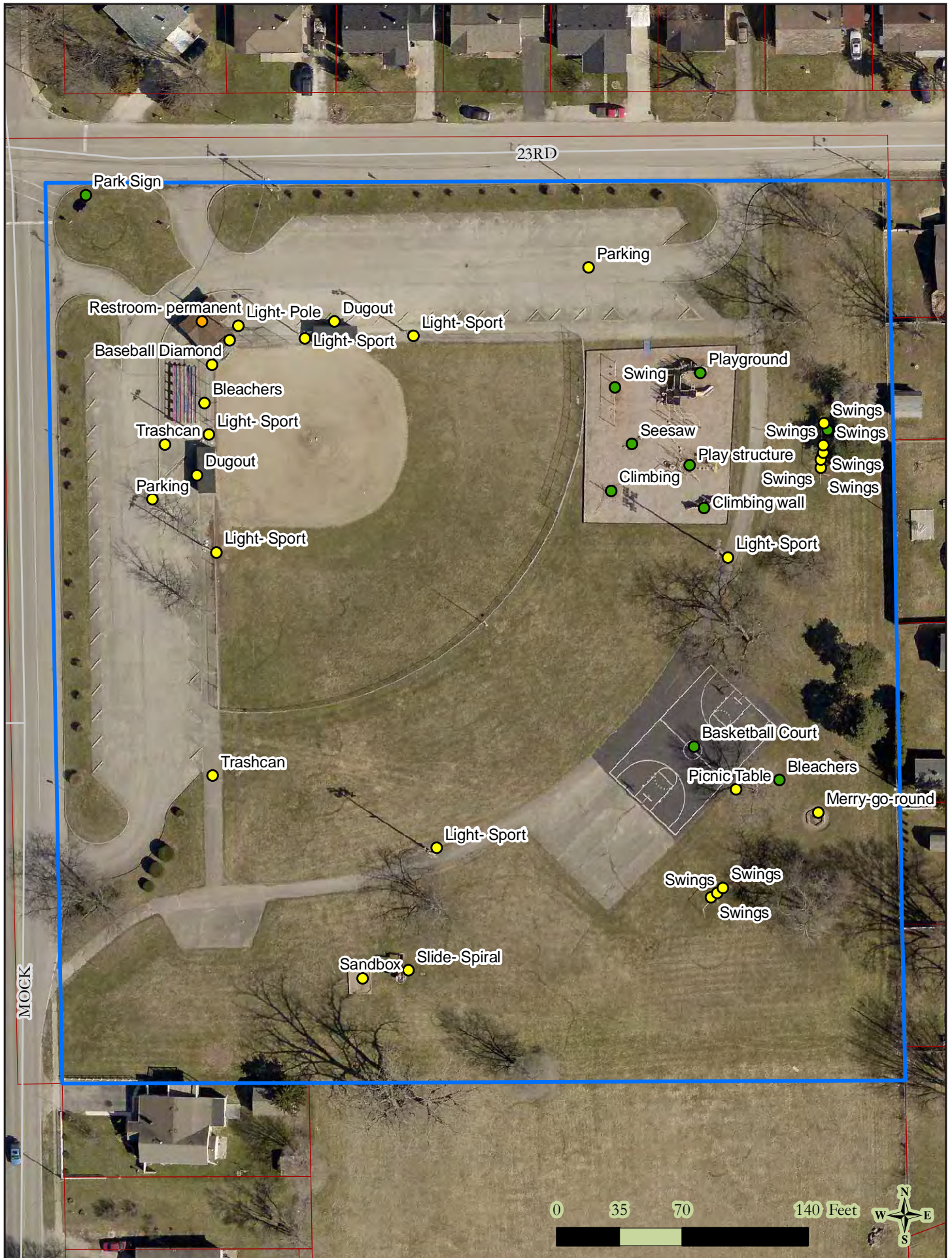
Type: Mini Park

Ownership: City of Muncie

General Description:

Named for the two families that gave large donations to establish the park, Clifton-Wallace Park serves the Old West End Neighborhood. This park was established in the Muncie's park system in 2013. Though the park currently has no amenities or facilities, it contributes greenspace to the neighborhood which provides residents with opportunities of informal active recreation and passive recreation.





23RD

Park Sign

Parking

Restroom-permanent

Light-Pole

Dugout

Light-Sport

Baseball Diamond

Light-Sport

Bleachers

Light-Sport

Trashcan

Dugout

Parking

Light-Sport

Swing

Playground

Seesaw

Climbing

Play structure

Climbing wall

Swings

Swings

Swings

Swings

Swings

Light-Sport

Basketball Court

Picnic Table

Bleachers

Merry-go-round

Light-Sport

Swings

Swings

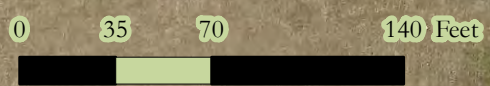
Swings

Sandbox

Slide-Spiral

Trashcan

MOCK





Cooley Park

Location: 23rd St. and Mock Ave.

Size: 5.36 acres

Type: Neighborhood Park

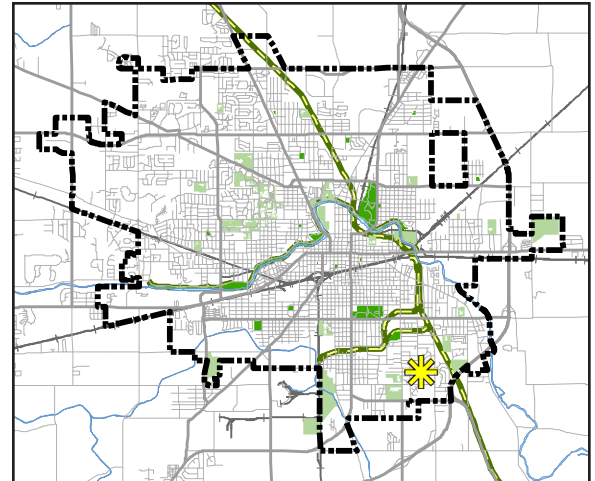
Ownership: City of Muncie

General Description:

Serving the Southside Neighborhood, Cooley Park is located to the southeast of the intersection of 23rd St. and Mock Ave. Developed in 1974, this park offers a baseball diamond, a basketball court, a picnic table, and playground equipment that are spaced throughout the park along a paved semi-circular path that dissects the property from the southwest to the northeast. Small hills line the path and provide semi-private areas for the various facilities.

Two parking lots provide buffers for the park from the bordering roads. Access to the parking lots is available at the northeast corner and the southwest corner, with both lots emptying at the street intersection to the northwest. A concession stand and restrooms are provided, however neither was open in order to evaluate their conditions.

The playground equipment spaced throughout the site (including swings, a merry-go-round, a slide and a sand box) are very aged. The original baseball field was almost the size of an official major league baseball field with the foul line extending over 280' from the home plate to the outfield fence. In the last five years, the size of the baseball field was reduced. The size is now reflective of a Mustang League Baseball Field with the foul line extending roughly 184' from the home plate to the outfield fence; this is slightly smaller than a little league baseball field which should measure a minimum of 200' from the home plate to the outfield fence along the foul line. (Mustang league baseball is baseball for kids ages 9 & 10.) In the area where the baseball out field was reduced, a new playground was installed. The park also received a new park sign.





COWING PARK

Exposed Pipe

Bench Tire Swing

Slide- Spiral

Bench

Grill Grill

Picnic Table

Monument

Pull-Up Bar

Table

Bench

Trashcan

Picnic Table

Monkey Bars

Swings

Bench

Bench

Basketball hoop

Basketball Court

Light- Pole

Park Sign

Trashcan

Light- Pole

Tennis Court

Tennis Court

Light- Pole

PAULINE

Parking

COWING

Light- Pole

0 30 60 120 Feet





Cowing Park

Location: Pauline Ave., Cowing Dr., Tilmore Dr., & Cowing Park Ln.

Size: 4.16 acres

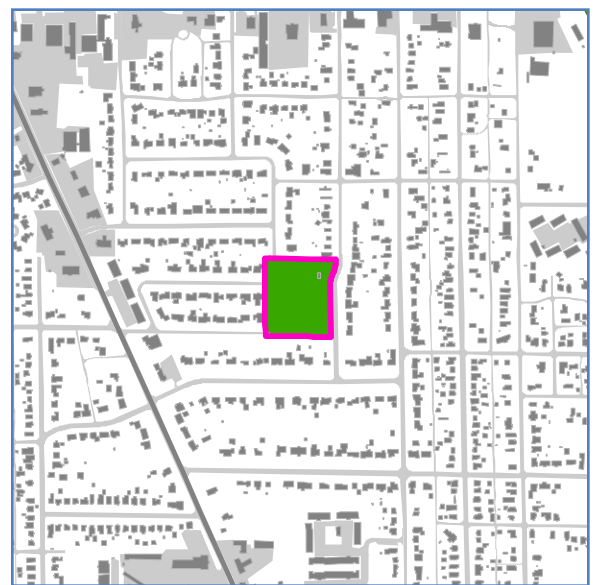
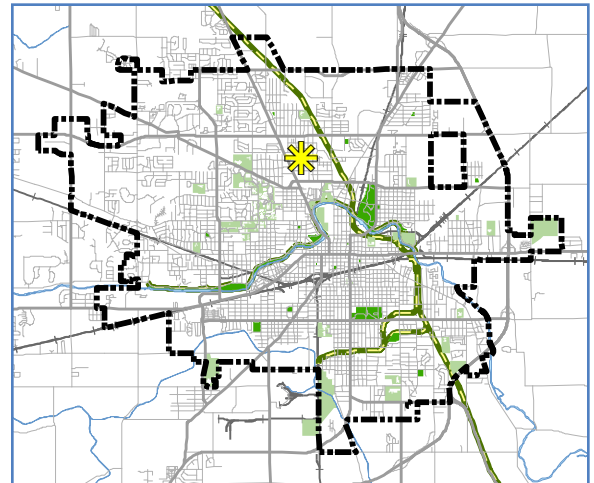
Type: Small Neighborhood Park

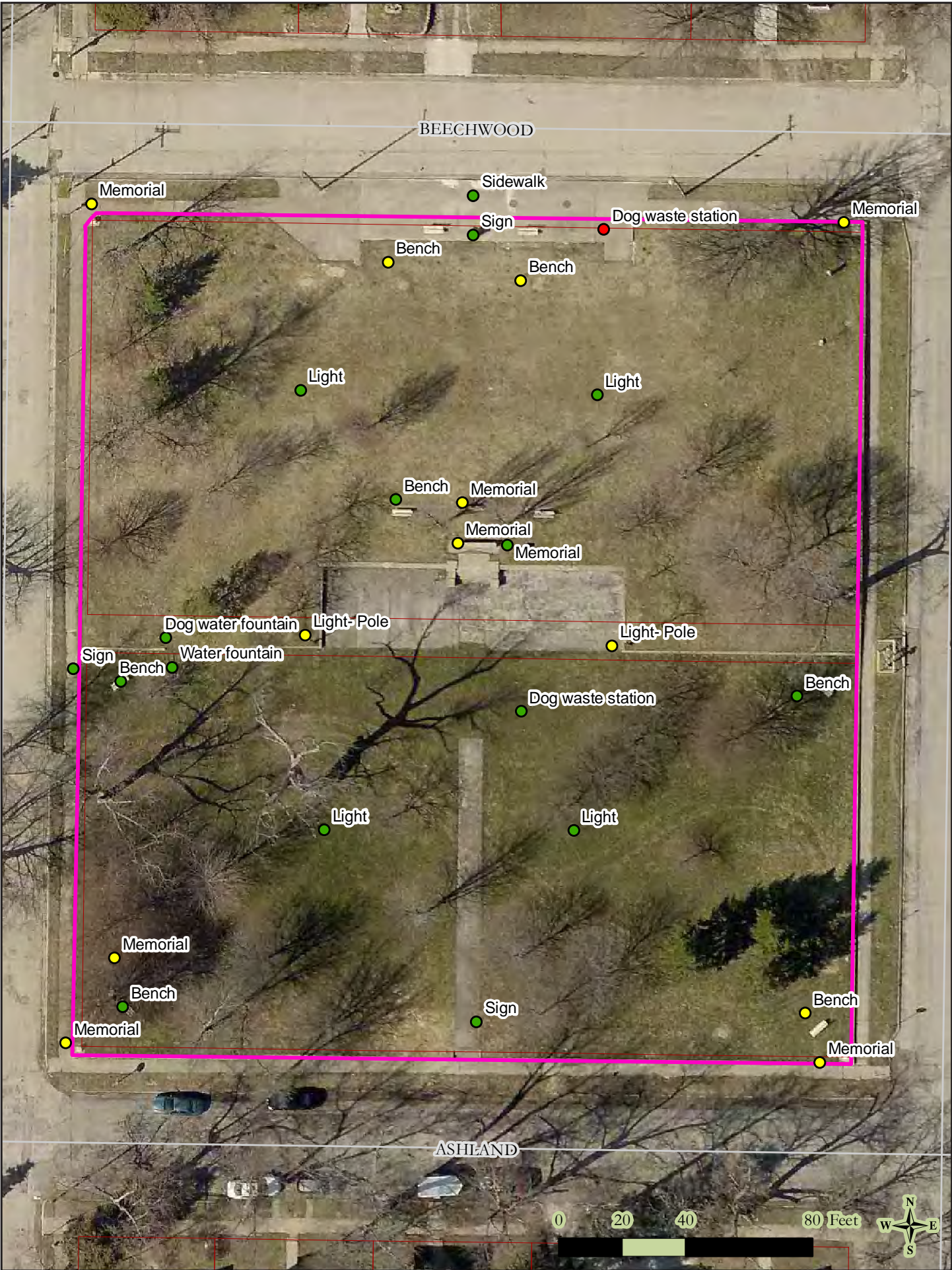
Ownership: City of Muncie

General Description:

Located in an undesignated neighborhood, Cowing Park is situated along Pauline Ave. and at the dead-ends of Cowing Dr., Tilmor Dr., and Cowing Park Ln. This park contains many large trees and large open spaces for spontaneous play. Facilities provided include a half court (basketball), two tennis courts, cement picnic tables, several benches, playground equipment, and a grill. Parking is available where the roads dead-end and along Pauline Ave. There are no restroom facilities, nor are there water fountains.

Though there is no apparent change to this park in the last five years, the swings have been replaced (as they were mostly missing 5 years ago) and the grill replaced (as it was formerly in poor condition). There is an exposed pipe in the northeast section of the park; as its former function is unknown, it is recommended that the pipe is removed.







Emerson Dog Park

Location: Ashland Ave., Linden St., Beechwood Ave., & Pauline Ave.

Size: 1.45 acres

Type: Special Use

Ownership: City of Muncie

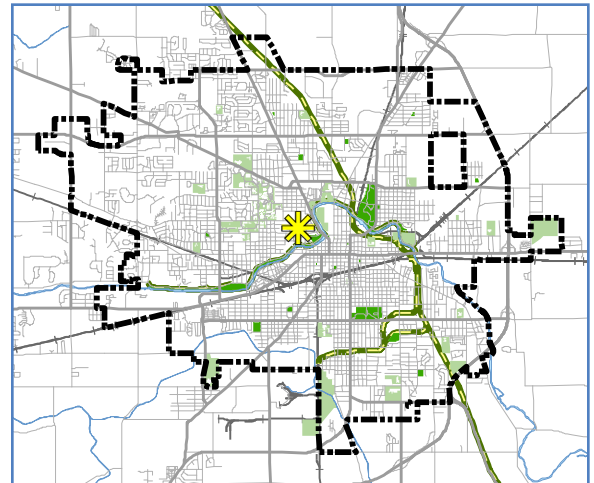
General Description:

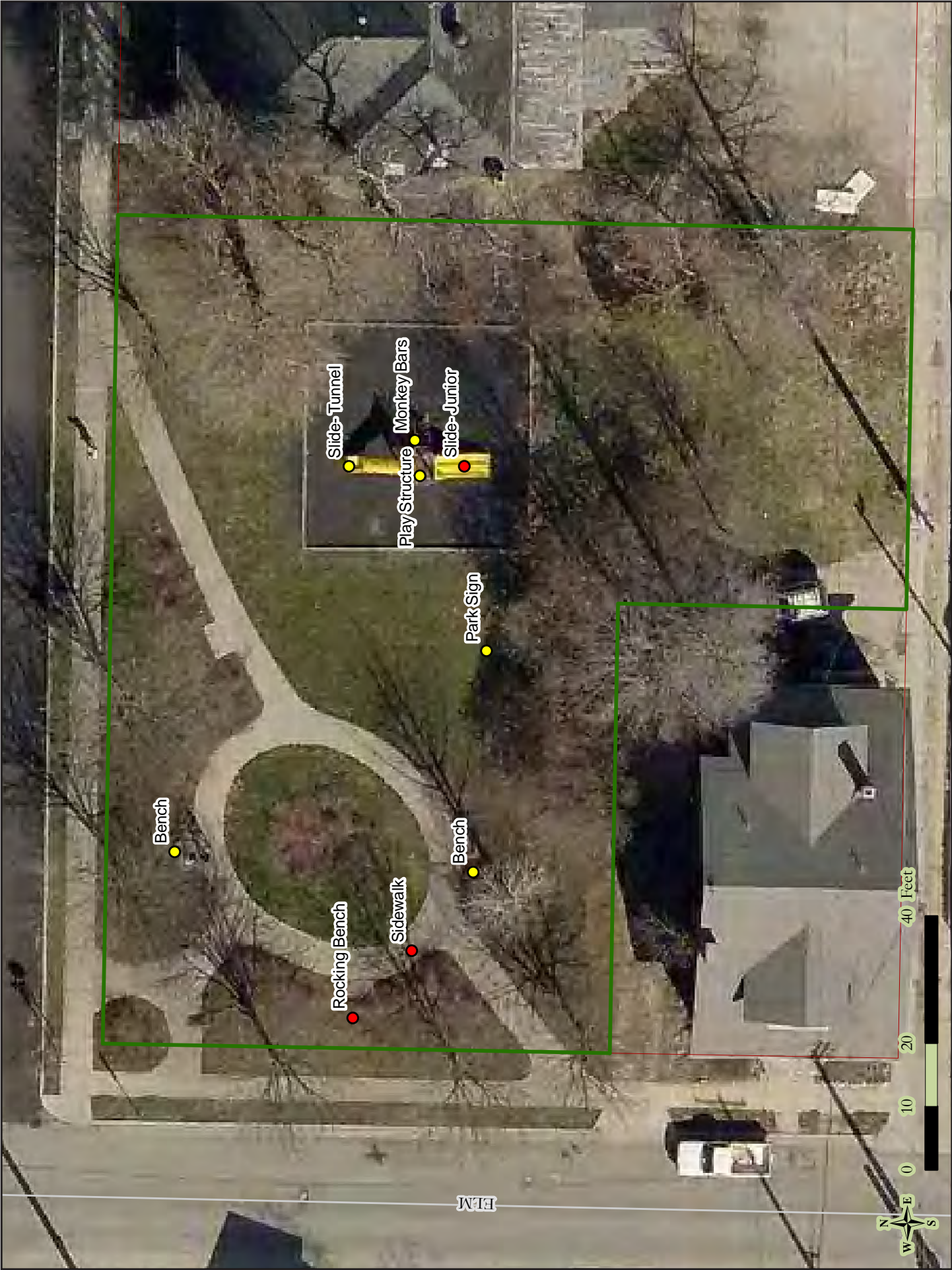
Serving the Riverside/Normal City Neighborhood, Emerson Dog Park, formerly known as Emerson Memorial Greenspace Park, is located on the site of the former Emerson Elementary School. In the early 1990's, Muncie Community Schools deeded this property to the City of Muncie for recreational purposes; however, this deed was never recorded. Though the City didn't initially want the property, the neighborhood association raised over \$40,000 in private funds to allow for all necessary improvements to the site in order to provide park space for the neighborhood. A deed was finally recorded in 2010.

Bounded by secondary roads, the park's perimeter is lined with sidewalks. A large concrete globe is located at each corner of the property. The property is divided in half with a short brick wall that runs east-west; the northern half of this property is flush with the top of the wall. An asphalt walkway runs from the middle of the property's southern boundary to a centrally located rectangular area. Here the school's original entrance stairs direct visitors to a memorial for Emerson Elementary School. The memorial includes part of the school's foundation, a large plaque providing information about the school, and two large original monoliths, one with the school's name and one with the year it was dedicated (1922). Benches rehabilitated by a former resident of the neighborhood are located throughout the property.

This park was originally designed by Malcolm Cairns, Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture, Ball State University. The park was designed to allow for informal active recreation in the northern half of the park providing a central gathering space around rehabilitated foundation remaining from the school in the center of the block and passive recreation in the southern half of the park. The majority of the northern half of the property was open for spontaneous play while the southern half contains several large shade trees.

In 2013, the entire park converted into a dog park. The park's perimeter was fenced. The park's north-south division was maintained with additional fencing located just south of the short brick wall. The northern half is fenced in for all dogs while the southern half is reserved for small dogs. Each half of the park includes a dog waste station and a water fountain that serves both people and dogs. The dog waste station on the northern half is damaged.





EIM



0 10 20 40 Feet

Side-Tunnel
Play Structure
Monkey Bars
Side-Junior

Park Sign

Bench

Bench

Rocking Bench

Sidewalk



Gilbert Park

Location: Gilbert St. & Elm St.

Size: 0.3 acres

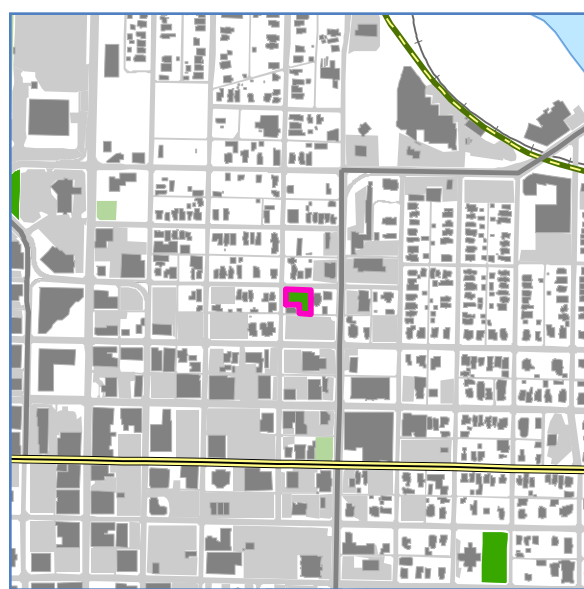
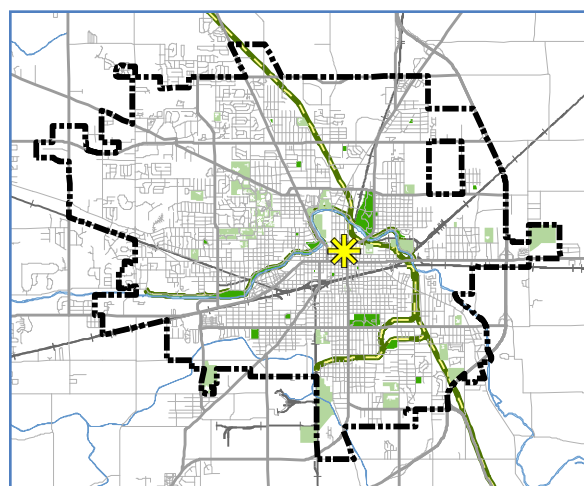
Type: Mini Park

Ownership: City of Muncie

General Description:

Serving the Gilbert Neighborhood in one of Muncie’s locally recognized historic districts, this mini park offers a picnic table, benches, and a small playground. Several trees are located throughout the property. Landscaping along the park’s southern boundary screens this park from a residence and a funeral home’s parking lot. Apartments border the park to the east, while Gilbert St. and Elm St. border the north and west boundaries, respectively, with residences across the streets.

Most of the playground equipment is in fair condition, though it is covered with graffiti; one slide has a large gash in it and needs to be replaced or removed. A curvilinear sidewalk, lined with shrubberies, dissects the park from southwest to northeast, with an adjoining curvilinear sidewalk leading to the northwest; this sidewalk has heaved in several places and requires repair. Three benches line the curvilinear sidewalk. One of the benches is a gliding bench; it is damaged and in poor condition.





RILEY

Memorial

Memorial

NORTH

Bench
Memorial

Park Sign

RILEY

Memorial

Cement pond

Memorial

Bench

UNIVERSITY

WINTHROP

100 Feet

50

25

0





Guthrie Park

Location: University Ave., Riley Rd., North St., & Winthrop Rd.

Size: 2.19 acres

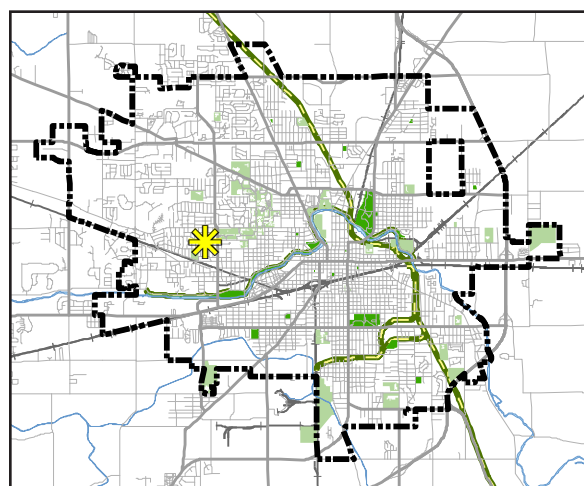
Type: Small Neighborhood Park

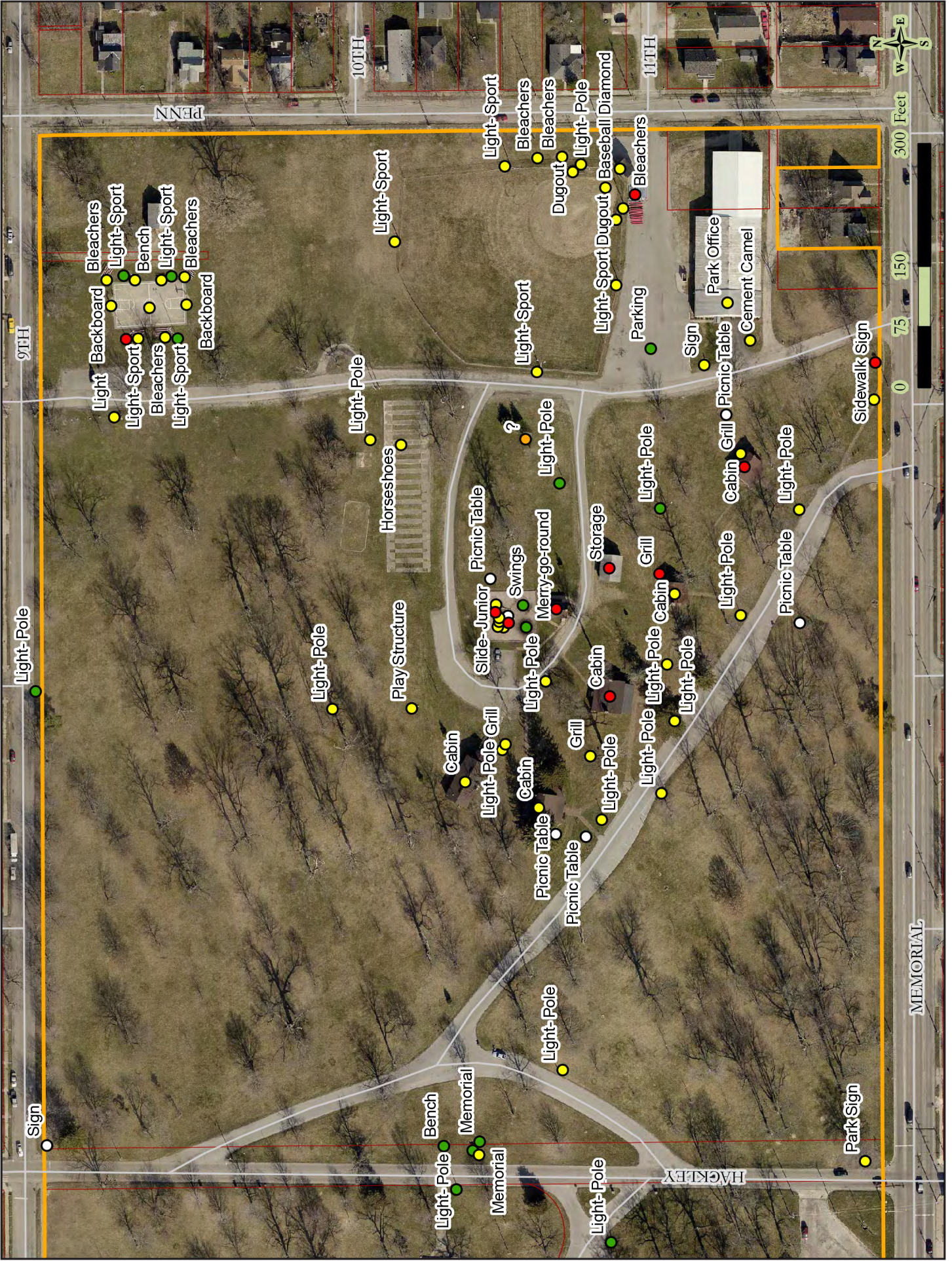
Ownership: City of Muncie

General Description:

Located in the Kenmore Neighborhood, Guthrie Park is a large greenspace, as committed by covenant, bounded by University Ave., Riley Rd., North St., and Winthrop Rd. There are no sidewalks or curbs around this park (nor are there any sidewalks or curbs throughout this neighborhood). Visitors from outside the neighborhood have to park in the grass. The park offers a large openspace for spontaneous play and two benches. Lined with trees, the park is home to multiple memorials to loved ones that once resided in the neighborhood. Remnants of a cement pond bordered by some large rocks provide variation to the site.

No apparent improvements have been made to this park in the last five years.





300 Feet

150

75

0

MEMORIAL

HACKLEY

10TH

11TH

PENN

9TH

Sign

Bench

Memorial

Light-Pole

Light-Pole

Light-Pole

Park Sign

Play Structure

Light-Pole

Horseshoes

Light-Pole

Slide-Junior

Swings

Merry-go-round

Storage

Grill

Grill

Cabin

Light-Pole

Light-Pole

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Light-Pole

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Light-Pole

Cabin

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Light-Pole

Light-Pole

Light-Pole

Light-Pole

Grill

Cabin

Grill

Picnic Table

Light-Pole

Sign

Parking

Light-Sport Dugout

Baseball Diamond

Bleachers

Light-Sport

Bleachers

Bleachers

Light Sport

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Heekin Park

Location: Memorial Dr., Madison St., 9th St., Penn St., & Hackley St.

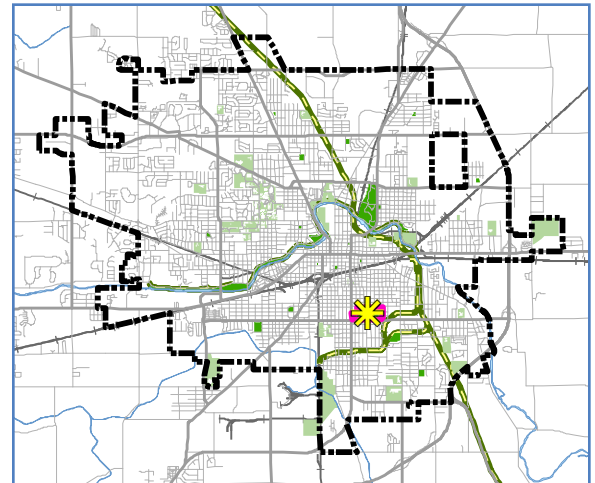
Size: 54.01 acres

Type: Large Urban Park

Ownership: City of Muncie - Park Dept.

General Description:

Located in the southwest corner of the Industry Neighborhood, Heekin Park serves the entire Muncie Community. Bordered by Madison St. and Memorial Dr. places Heekin Park along major thoroughfares and primary bus routes. Divided in half by Hackley St., Heekin Park offers vast openspace with a multitude of large trees, multiple cabins, a picnic shelter, two playgrounds, memorials (including a WW II Memorial and time capsule, a Vietnam War Memorial and the Five Points Fountain, an elaborate water fountain created for people and animals that was relocated to Heekin Park from its original location at the intersection of Windsor St., Macedonia Ave., Kirby Ave., Ohio Ave. and Burlington Dr.), a basketball court, tennis courts, restrooms, broken water fountains, a baseball diamond, horseshoe pits, and the park office. The tennis courts continue to appear neglected and unused. Restrooms are dated and provide little to no privacy. Though the playground equipment is dated, overall it doesn't appear hazardous.



A fire station is centrally located in the park on the northwest corner of Memorial Dr. and Hackley St. Located to the southeast of Madison St. and 9th St., Inspire Academy, a charter school located in the former Garfield Elementary, uses Heekin Park for playground opportunities.

In the last 5 years, Heekin Park has had several improvements. A new park sign at Madison St and Memorial Ave was installed. A trail known as the Walk of Fame was installed providing ¼ mile paved walking loop lined with informational signage about individuals through history that helped fight racism and discrimination in Muncie. The large playground on the west side was removed and replaced with new playground equipment. Half of the horseshoe pits were rehabilitated. Though there have been multiple improvements, the majority of the cabins continue to need significant maintenance.

In 2008 nearly ¼ of Heekin Park's was sold to the Housing Authority of the City of Muncie (MHA) with the intent that the MHA would develop a "Unity Center" within 5 years. According to the recorded agreement (Record 2008R00342), "if the improvements are not built on the 13.41 acres in substantial conformity with the term of the attached letter within five (5) years, MHA shall reconvey to the City of Muncie so much of the property as is not being utilized in compliance with the terms







Assessment

of the Letter Agreement.” January of 2013 marked five years. As no improvements have been built, it is recommended that the City of Muncie have the 13.41 acre parcel reconveyed to them and placed into the Park Boards ownership. If the City does not pursue this parcel in whole or in part, Heekin Park could eventually suffer a huge loss of acreage; not only would this reclassify the park from being a “large urban park” to a “community park”, the park would no longer own its primary playground which includes brand new equipment.







Jacks Park

Location: Elm St. & Dunn Ave., south of McGalliard Rd.

Size: 2.11 acres

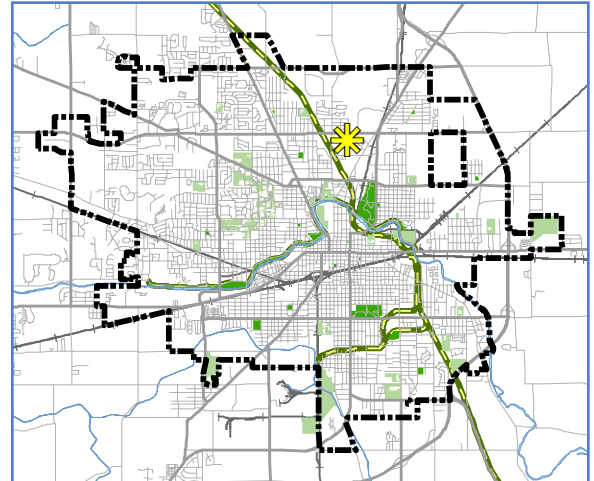
Type: Small Neighborhood Park

Ownership: City of Muncie

General Description:

Located south of the commercial area of McGalliard Rd., Jack’s Park serves the Granville Park Neighborhood and residents in an undesignated neighborhood along N. Elm St. Entirely fenced in, Jacks Park has a parking lot along Elm St. with two pedestrian entrances, located at the northwest and southwest corners of the park. Dunn Ave. dead-ends into the northeast corner of Jack’s Park, where an additional pedestrian entrance is located. Jack’s park contains a basketball court, picnic table, playground equipment, and many large mature trees. Playground equipment ranges from a spiral slide in good condition to older equipment including a merry-go-round, concrete figures, and swings. Park staff can open a locked gate for necessary vehicular access.

In the last 5 years there have been no apparent improvements to the park. The park’s fence has a few sections that are in poor condition.

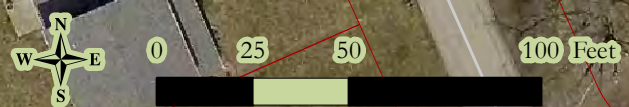




Tree farm

GLENWOOD

HARVARD





Matthews Park

Location: Harvard Ave., east of Wheeling Ave.

Size: 1.04 acres

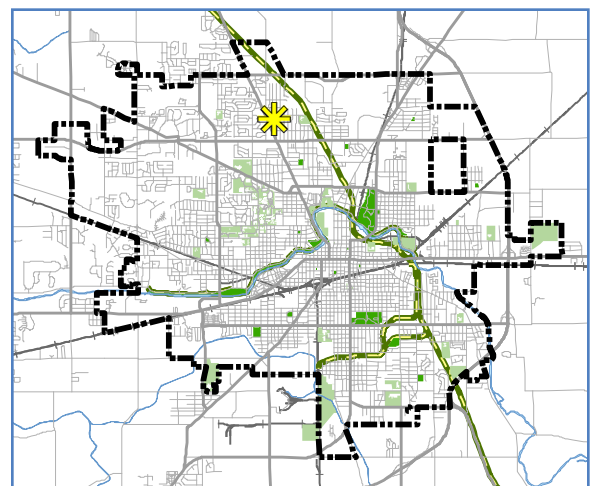
Type: Small Neighborhood Park

Ownership: No Information Available

General Description:

Centrally located on the western side of the Northview Neighborhood, Matthews Park is an undeveloped parcel that is solely accessible from Harvard Ave. This triangular parcel is adjacent to the backyards of homes that face Glenwood Ave., Yale Ave., and Janney Ave. The only access to the park is a point less than 15' wide between two residences' driveways. There is no place to park, nor is there a sign to designate that this is a park.

In the last 5 years the park had several trees centrally planted in it as though it would function as a tree nursery however there are no current management plans for those trees.





CENTENNIAL

McCULLOCH PARK

DR. MEEK JR.

KIRK

HINES

HIGHLAND

0 95 190 380 Feet



Disk Golf - Tee

Bridge

Sign

Monument

Disk Golf - Basket

Park sign

?

Neighborhood sign

Disk Golf - Tee

Disk Golf - Basket

Disk Golf - Basket

Picnic Table

Picnic Table

Disk Golf - Tee

Picnic Table

Disk Golf - Basket Grill

Picnic Table

Rain garden

Picnic Table

Disk golf sign

Bike Rack

Picnic Table

Disk Golf - Tee

Rain garden

Water fountain

4-square

Bridge

Disk Golf - Tee

Disk Golf - Tee

Hopscotch

Merry-go-round

Geodesic Dome

Disk Golf - Basket

Disk Golf - Basket

Disk Golf - Tee

Disk Golf - Basket

Disk Golf - Tee

Disk Golf - Basket

Disk Golf - Tee

Disk Golf - Basket

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Disk Golf - Basket

Disk Golf - Tee



McCulloch Park

Location: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., McCulloch Blvd., Highland Ave., and Centennial Ave.

Size: 91.43 acres

Type: Large Urban Park

Ownership: City of Muncie

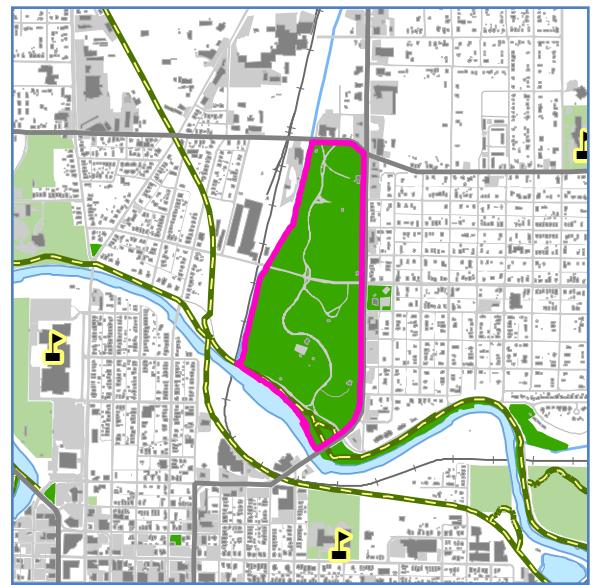
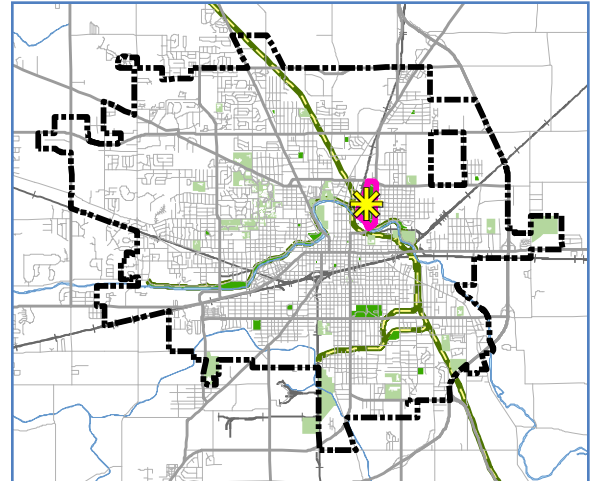
General Description:

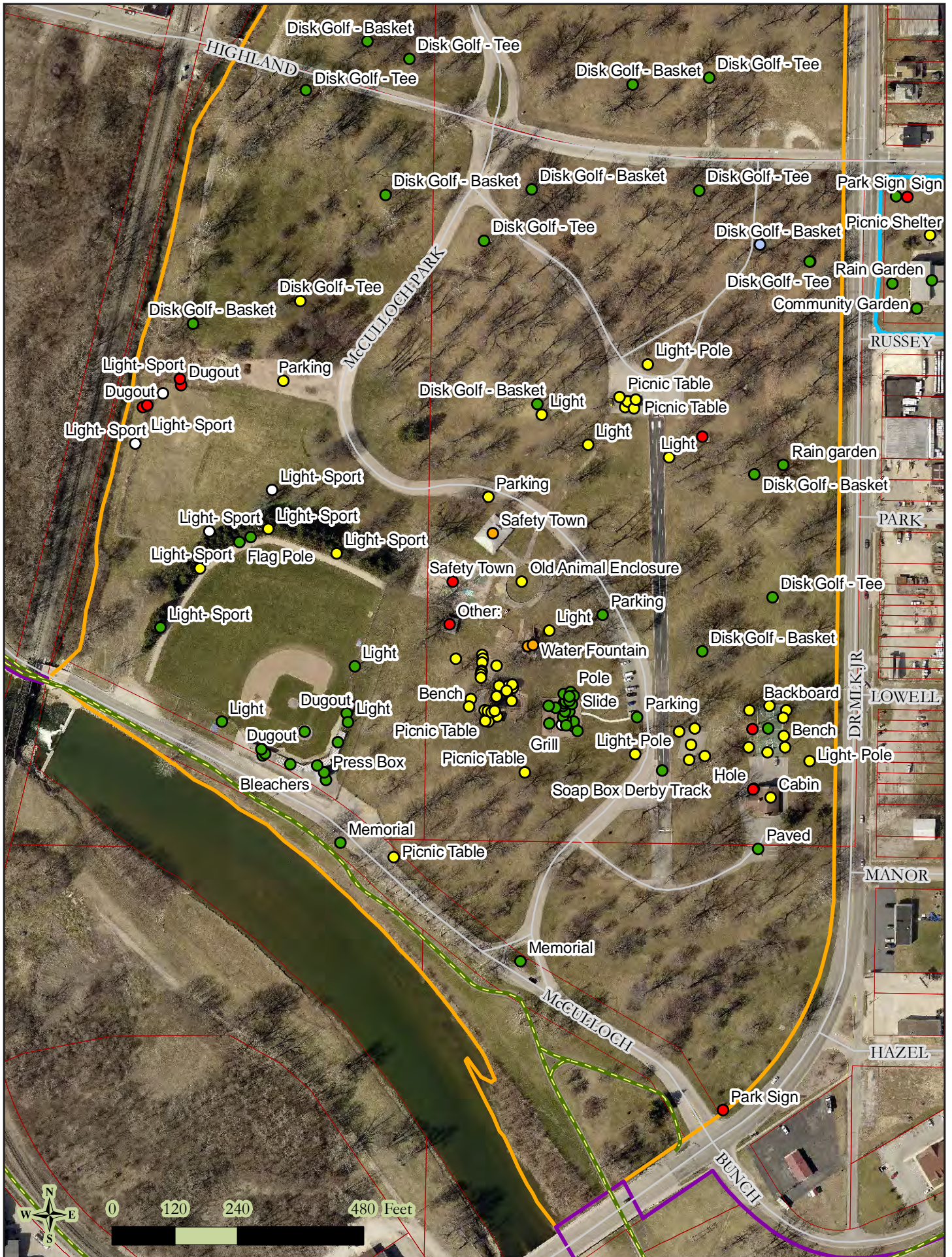
Located in the southwest corner of the Whitley Neighborhood, adjacent to the Minnetrista, McKinley, and East Central Neighborhoods, McCulloch Park serves the entire community of Muncie. Access to McCulloch Park is available from adjacent bus routes along Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., or from a short walk from routes along Elm St. McCulloch Park is also accessible from White River Greenway (running along the southern boundary of the park) and Cardinal Greenway, with the McCulloch Trailhead located just west of the park. Parking lots are available in multiple locations throughout the park, which include bike racks at a couple locations. McCulloch Park Dr. meanders through the park running north-south. The park is split in half by Highland Ave., running east-west.

In 1901, George McCulloch donated the land which makes up McCulloch Park to the city. He specified that the land must be used as a public park for the free use by all people that lived in the city. The largest park within Muncie, McCulloch Park offers gently rolling terrain with Muncie’s primary sledding hill and a multitude of large mature trees. This park also offers a plethora of recreational opportunities including two abutting playgrounds, a disk golf course, basketball courts, an official sized baseball diamond, a Soap Box derby track, picnic shelters, and picnic tables. A lodge located in the southeast portion of the park has a paved access road and parking area, which also provides access to the basketball courts. A permanent restroom facility was locked and attached water fountains didn’t function. A memorial to George McCulloch has been relocated at the park’s southern boundary along McCulloch Blvd., in a triangular traffic median in between McCulloch Park Dr.

McCulloch Park also contains a “safety town”, though it was locked and appears in disrepair. A short circular concrete wall, the remnants of an animal enclosure, reminds visitors that McCulloch Park was once home to animals, though there is no sign to educate people that are unaware of McCulloch Park’s past. A small building that appears to have been a community hand washing facility also provides a glimpse into the past of McCulloch Park for visitors. This building would be well suited for attaching signage that educates people about the rich history of Muncie’s parks.

A fire station and a lift station reside within the northern part of the park. The Muncie K-9 Department









Morningside Park

Location: Cornell Ave.

Size: 0.89 acres

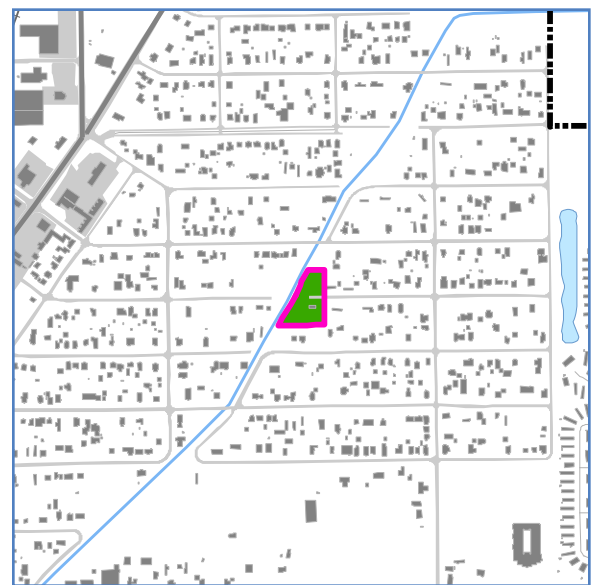
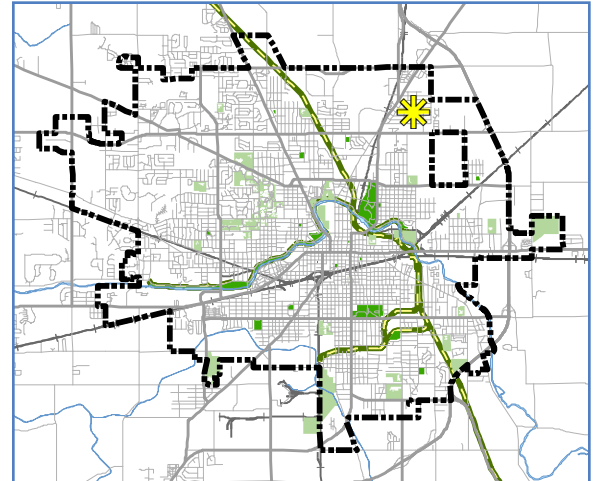
Type: Mini Park

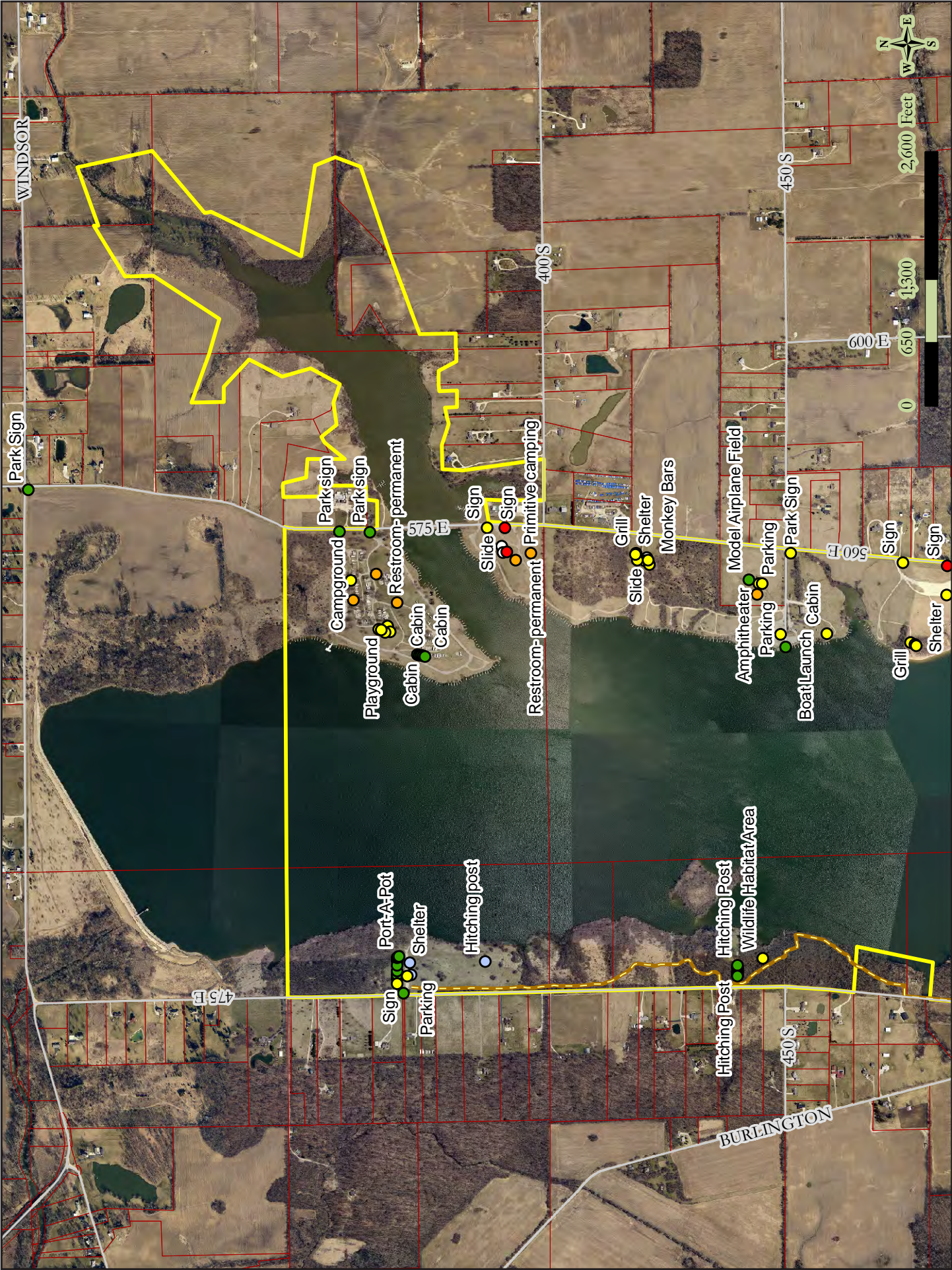
Ownership: City of Muncie Park & Recreation Dept & City of Muncie Park & Recreation Board

General Description:

Centrally located in the Morningside Neighborhood, Morningside Park is accessible at the dead-end of Cornell Ave on the eastern side of Hamilton Ditch. A footbridge spanning the ditch provides pedestrian access for residents along the western side of the ditch. A small parking lot divides the park in half with a basketball court and bleachers on the north side and a picnic shelter with picnic tables, a playground, and a port-a-pot on the south side. Playground equipment is in good shape, though it is littered with graffiti. This park suffers from recurrent vandalism, including the port-a-pot being burned.

In the last 5 years, the Park has had a new sign installed, the shelter repaired, the basketball court resurfaced and the grill replaced.







Prairie Creek Park

Location: Windsor Rd., 575 E. - 544 E., 650 S., & 461 E. - 475 E.

Size: 1890.81 acres; ~770 acres of land, ~1120 acres of open water

Type: Regional Park

Ownership: Indiana-American Water Co. Inc. & Hiatt, Brian & Charla

General Description:

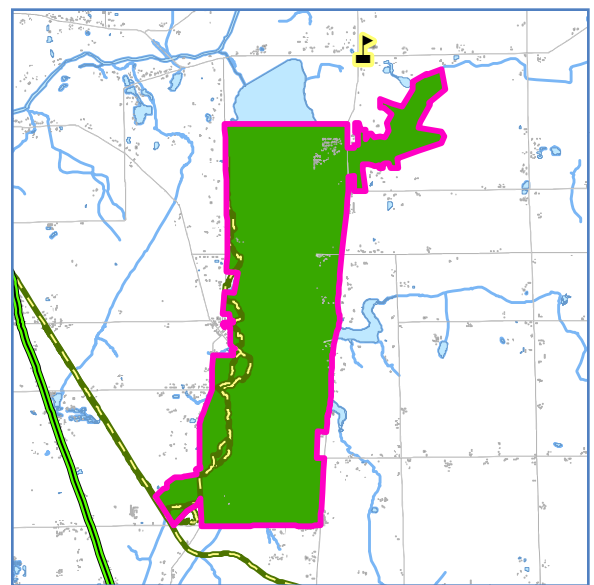
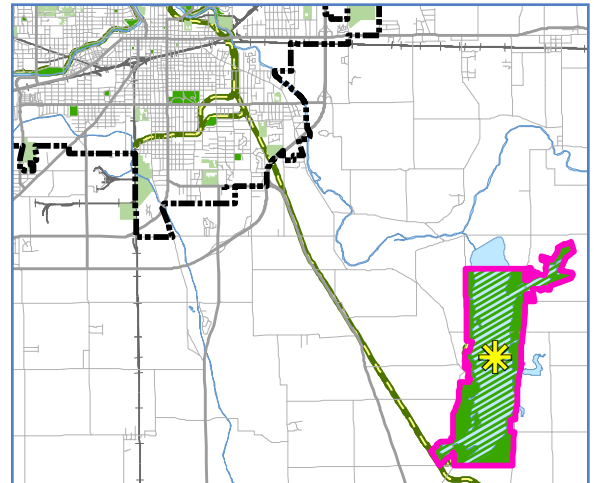
Prairie Creek Park is located in Perry Township in the southeast quadrant of Delaware County. Serving the City of Muncie and Delaware County, Prairie Creek Park is a unique recreational facility in this region. Owned by the Indiana-American Water Company, this property is leased to Muncie until 2021. The reservoir is stream-fed and functions as the City of Muncie’s backup drinking water source. Recreational use of the reservoir is permitted.

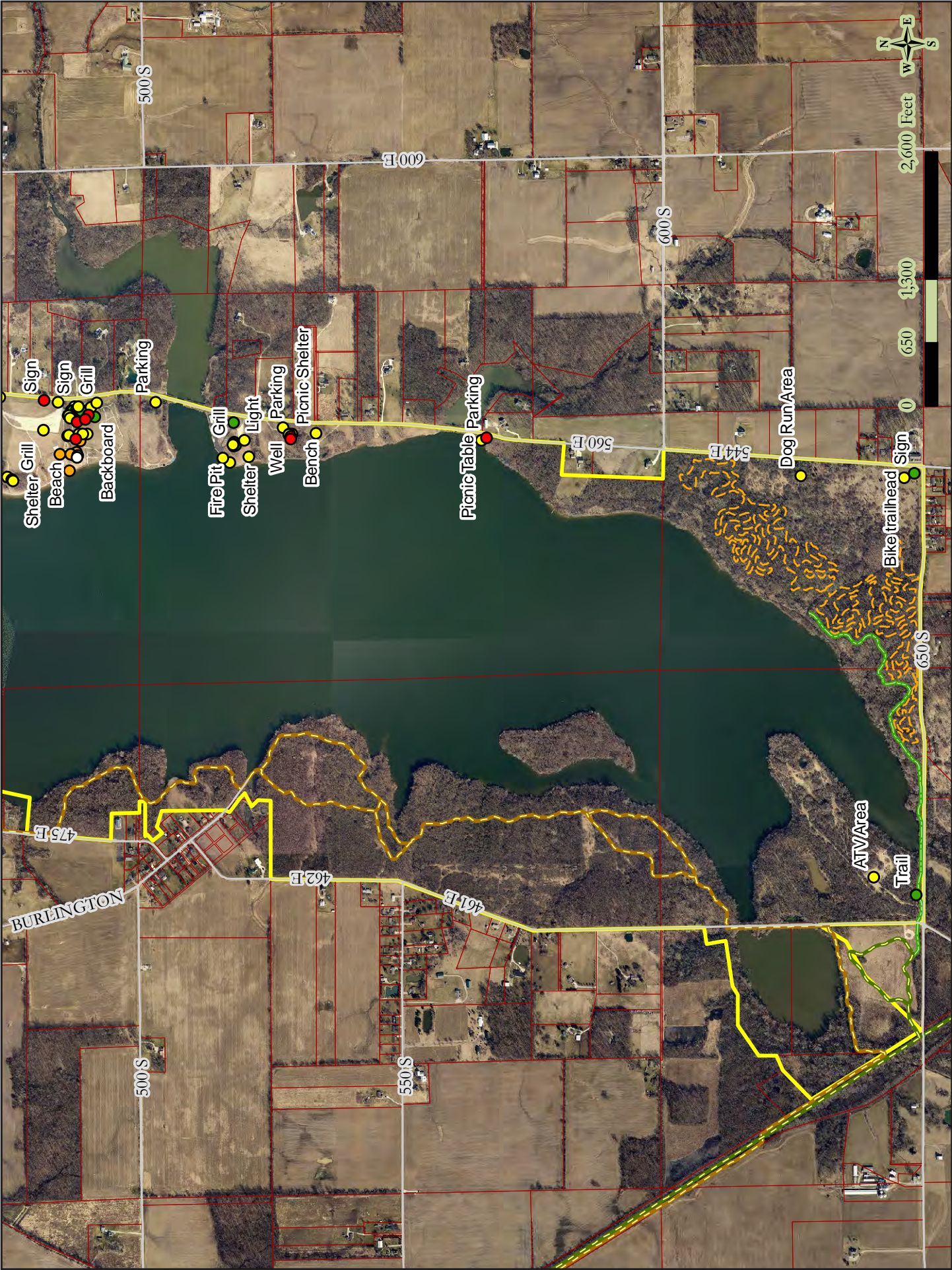
Prairie Creek Park offers a boat launch, leasable piers, a campground, a bath house and beach access, restrooms, a basketball court, a model aircraft field, picnic shelters, picnic tables, three playgrounds, a rental lodge, horseshoes, a volleyball court, windsurfing access, a dog-running area, bank fishing, an ATV area, horseback riding trails, and a park office. The reservoir is heavily used by fishermen and tubing is permitted only in the southern portion of the reservoir. A speed limit on the reservoir is enforced. Access to the north portion of the reservoir is prohibited.

Most area on the west and south sides of the reservoir, excluding the ATV area, are in the Classified Wildlife Habitat Program administered by the DNR.

The Prairie Creek Master Plan, a master plan for the entire Prairie Creek Watershed, offers 27 recommendations for Prairie Creek Park. A few of the recommendations include:

- Encouraging Muncie to pursue extending the lease for the park. (An addendum to the lease is being worked on mutually between the City and the Indiana-American Water Company.)
- Create and Maintain 50’ vegetated buffers around the shoreline of the ATV course to mitigate sediment loading and erosion impacts.
- Expand promotion of Prairie Creek Park as a visitor destination.
- Develop and enhance wayfinding and marketing devices, including signage, maps, brochures, and websites to assist people in locating Prairie Creek Reservoir and educate the public about available recreational opportunities.
- Establish fair regulations for campers that encourage attractive short-term use of campsites at Prairie Creek Park.
- Maintain passive recreation on the west side of the reservoir and active recreation on the east side.





2,600 Feet

1,300

650

0

BURLINGTON

500 S

600 E

600 S

500 S

550 S

475 E

462 E

461 E

560 E

544 E

650 S

ATV Area

Trail

Bike trailhead

Dog Run Area

Picnic Table

Picnic Shelter

Well

Shelter

Light

Grill

Fire Pit

Backboard

Beach

Shelter Grill

Parking

Sign

Grill

Sign

Shelter Grill



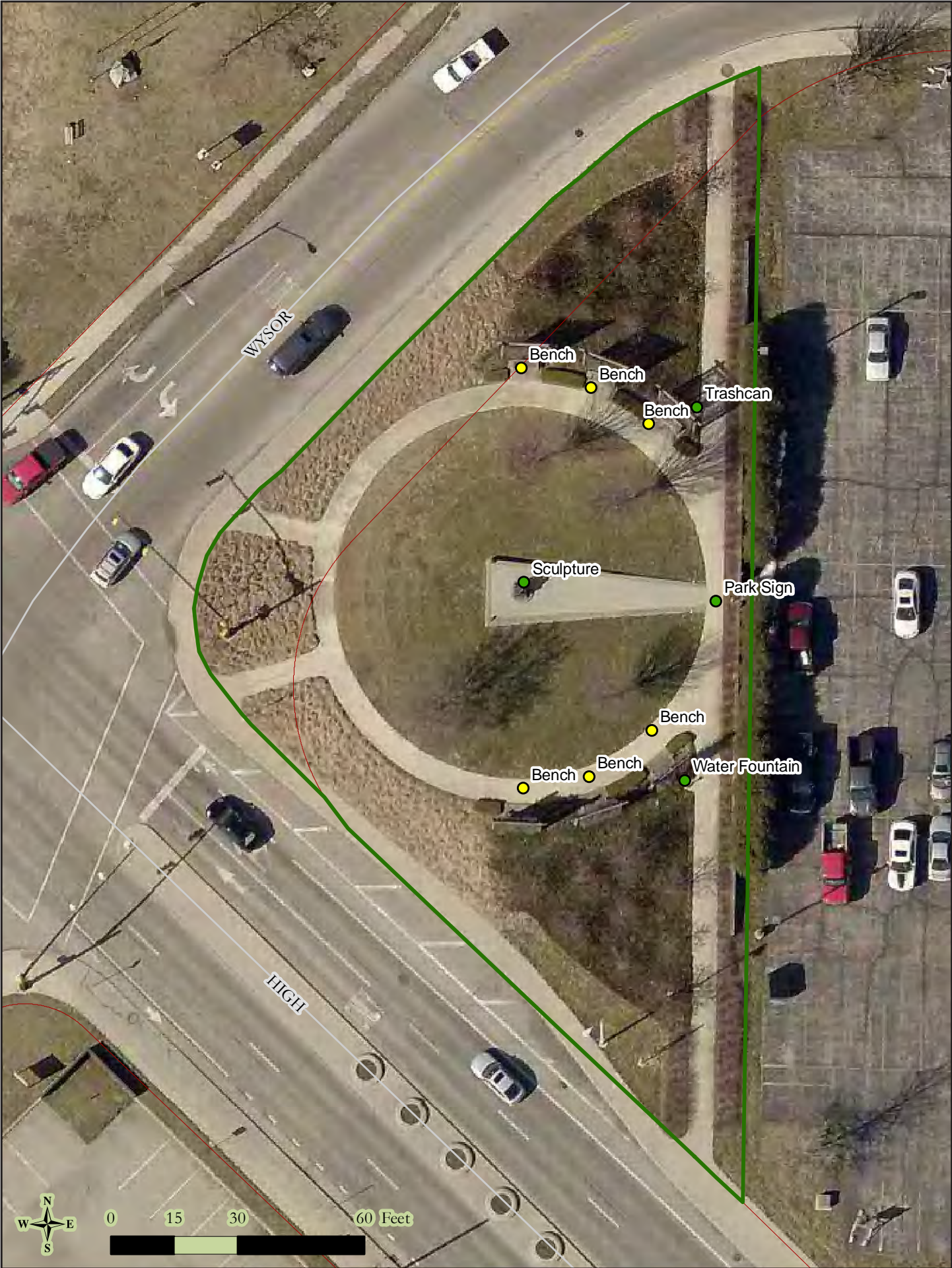
Assessment

The Prairie Creek Master Plan is incorporated by reference and made a part of this Parks & Recreation Master Plan. It is recommended that the Prairie Creek Master Plan be utilized for managing Prairie Creek Park, and be used in the creation of a Prairie Creek Park master plan.

In the last 5 years the park has seen several improvements. Multiple triathlons have been held at the park annually. New hitching posts for horses have been installed on the western side of the park. Among the 3 playgrounds, the primary playground near the beach area has all new equipment. (One piece of vintage playground equipment remains in this playground but has been sealed off from use.) The beach area and bathhouse have been redesigned and are under construction. This new construction includes ADA accessible parking and an ADA accessible swimming area. New rentable cabins have been installed in the campground and new signage has been installed throughout the park.

A new multi-use trail along with mountain bike/hiking trails that run along the reservoir's southern boundary and through the Park's southeastern section are under construction. The multi-use trail will connect to the Cardinal Greenway by way of the Red-tail Nature Preserve's connector trail at the Park's southwest corner. The trails are planned for completion in the spring of 2014.





WYSOR

Bench

Bench

Trashcan

Bench

Sculpture

Park Sign

Bench

Water Fountain

Bench

Bench

HIGH



0 15 30 60 Feet





Riverbend Park

Location: High St. & Wysor St.

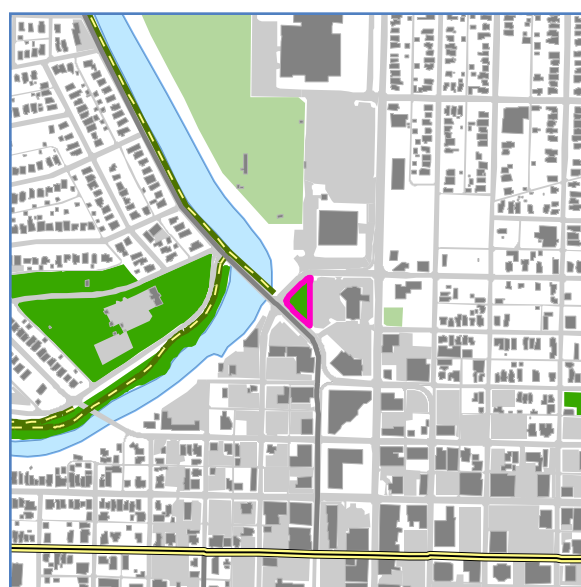
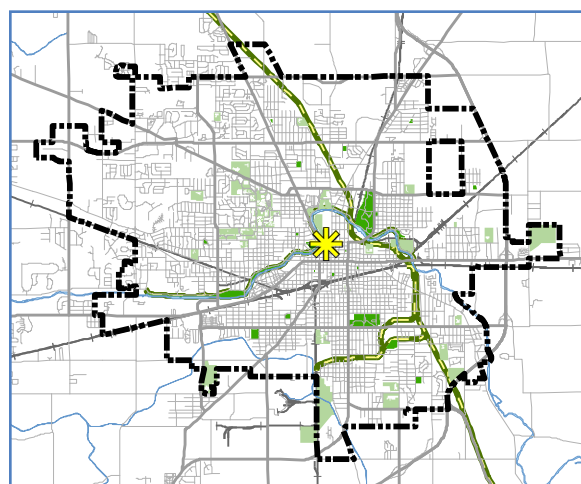
Size: 0.42 acres

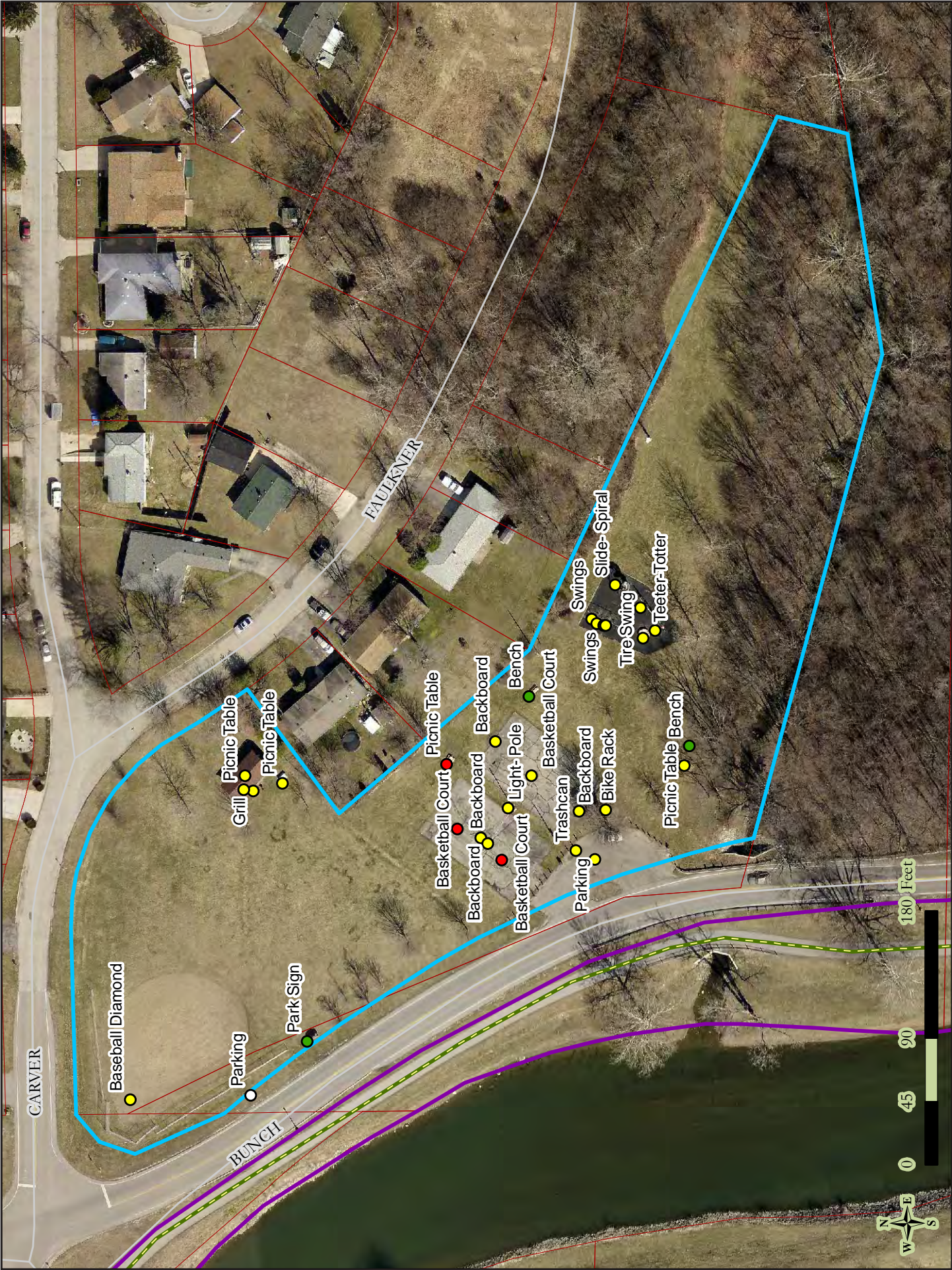
Type: Mini Park

Ownership: City of Muncie

General Description:

Located on the southeast side of the High St. bridge in the Old West End Neighborhood, Riverbend Park serves as a gateway to downtown Muncie. Designed by Rundell Ernstberger Associates, this park was dedicated on December 9th, 1998. The sculpture “Night Song”, by the artist Joe Beeler, is centrally located upon a decorative platform in the park. The platform is decorated with a relief depicting the courting practices of Native Americans that once inhabited this area. Encircled with a sidewalk, four ornamental trees share the interior of the circle with the sculpture. The sidewalk is lined with 6 benches, each backed with a trellis. The front of the park is covered with prairie grasses, with decorative trees and ground cover encompassing the north and south sections of the triangular parcel. The park has a backdrop of arborvitae, screening a large parking lot to the east. The park has a Murdock water fountain. Though it appears in good condition, it didn't seem to be turned on throughout the summer.





CARVER

FAULKNER

BUNCH

Baseball Diamond

Parking

Park Sign

Grill

Picnic Table

Picnic Table

Picnic Table

Basketball Court

Backboard

Backboard

Basketball Court

Light-Pole

Bench

Basketball Court

Trashcan

Backboard

Bike Rack

Swings

Swings

Tire Swing

Slide-Spiral

Teeter-Totter

Picnic Table

Bench

Parking



180 Feet

90

45

0



Riverview Park

Location: Bunch Blvd. & Carver Dr.

Size: 3.45 acres

Type: Small Neighborhood Park

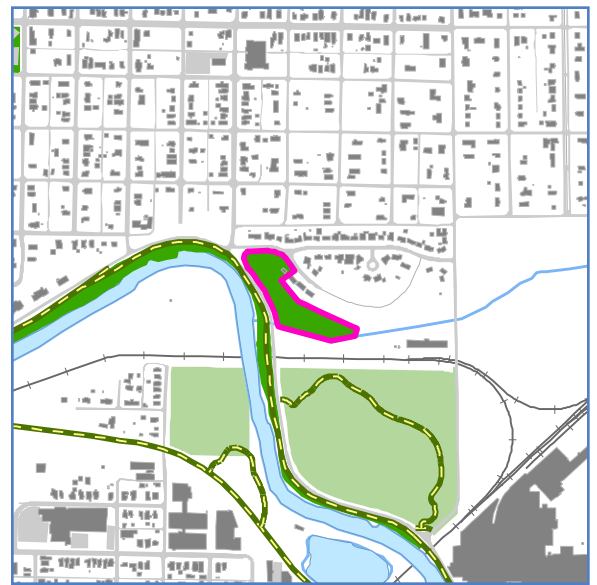
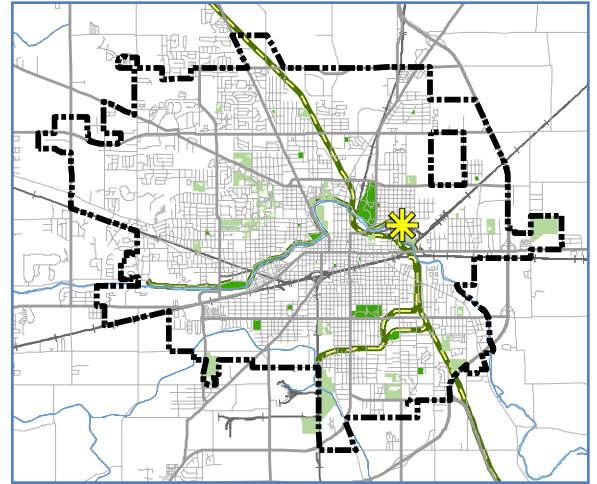
Ownership: No Information Available

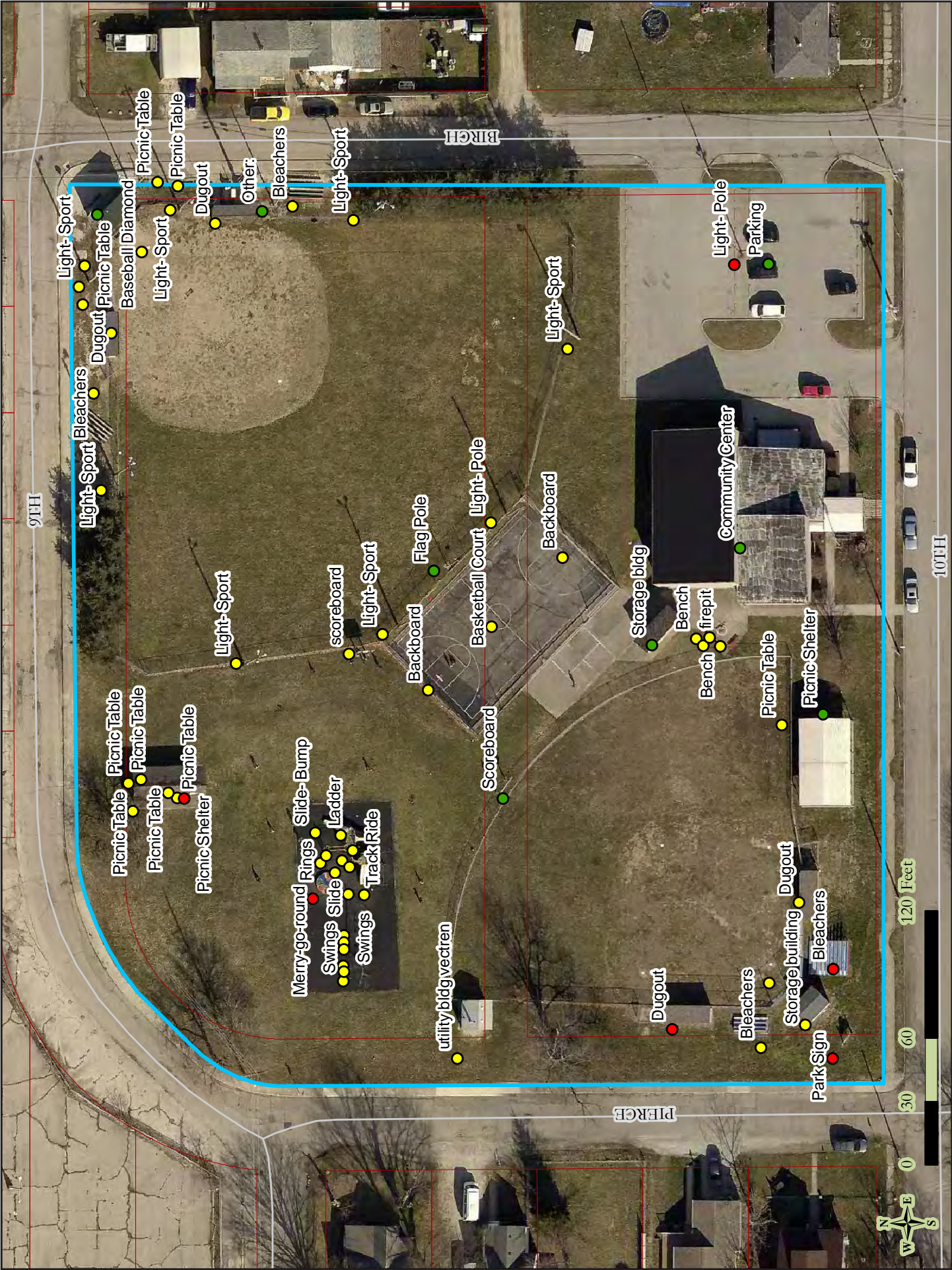
General Description:

Located adjacent to Bunch Blvd. and Carver Dr., Riverview Park serves the Whitely Neighborhood. The park is bounded by Bunch Blvd., White River Park/the White River Greenway and the White River to the west, Carver Dr. to the north, Faulkner Dr. and residential properties establish the eastern boundary and Holt ditch and a railroad to the south. A small baseball diamond and openspace offer space for spontaneous play. The park also provides a picnic shelter and picnic table, a basketball court, two half courts, benches, playground equipment, a port-a-pot, and a bike rack. The park has a small parking area near the courts accessible off Bunch Blvd.

In the last 5 years White River Park/the White River Greenway was extended past this park. This created a connection for this park to the Craddock Wetland Preserve that is just south of the railroad as well as multiple parks along the river to the west including McCulloch Park, Appeal to the Great Spirit, Tuhey Park and Westside Park. When the extension occurred, Bunch Blvd. was realigned and Riverview Park lost a small parking lot near the ball diamond.

The half courts and a picnic table are in poor condition.





9TH

BIRCH

10TH

PIERCE

120 Feet

60

30

0





Rose Park / Ross Center

Location: 10th St., Pierce St., 9th St., & Birch St.

Size: 3.21 acres

Type: Small Neighborhood Park

Ownership: City of Muncie

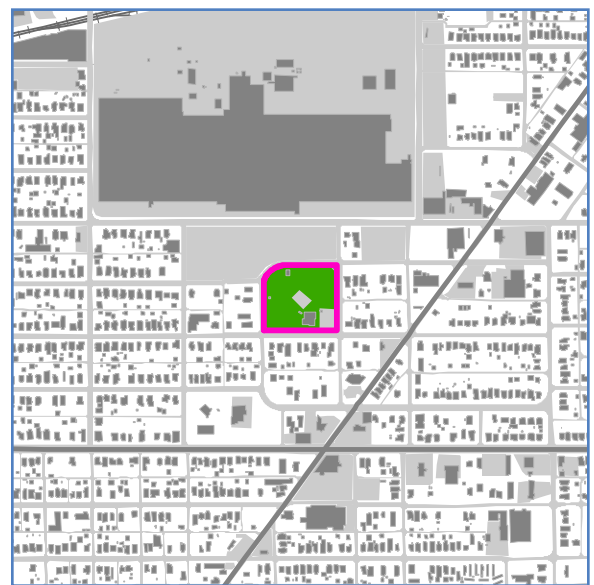
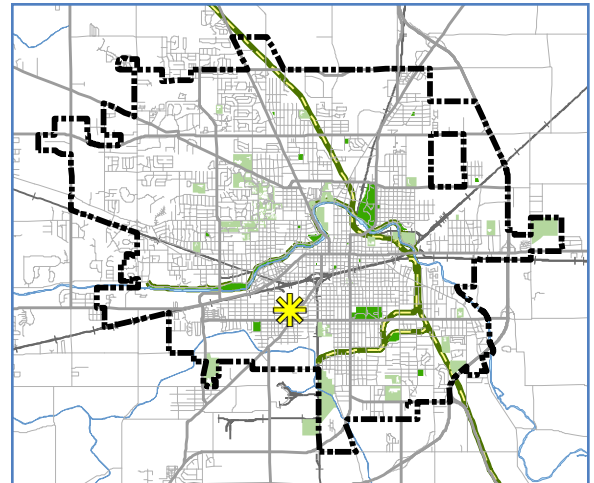
General Description:

Serving the Thomas Park/Avondale Neighborhood, Rose Park/Ross Center is bounded by residences on three sides, and an abandoned parking lot (from the former New Venture Gear factory) to the north. This property is primarily maintained by the Thomas Park/Avondale Neighborhood Association. Along with the Buley Center, the City closed this community center in December of 2008. The Delaware County Commissioners funded its reopening in January of 2009 while the center worked on gaining not-for-profit status.

The park provides a little league sized baseball diamond, a basketball court, a playground, a smaller ball diamond, a fire pit, benches, picnic shelters, and picnic tables. There is a parking lot in the southeast corner of the property. The Ross Center provides a gymnasium, meeting rooms, a kitchen facility, restrooms and water fountains. This facility complies with ADA guidelines.

Vectren has a small structure on the western side of this property.

The park has multiple facilities in poor condition including the park sign, bleachers, the dugout, the merry-go-round, and the picnic shelter.





Park Sign

ROCHESTER

Playground

Picnic Table Climbing Rock Tennis Court Tennis Court
Picnic Table Picnic Table
Picnic Table ADA swing Spring rider
Picnic Table Light-Pole

13TH

Restroom-permanent

Concrete Square Light-Sport

Light-Pole
Light-Pole

Light-Pole Rock
Cement rectangle

New tree plantings

?
Parking
Light-Sport

Light-Pole

Light-Sport
Scoreboard

14TH

Trashcan

Trees

Dugout
Light-Sport
Bleachers
Baseball Diamond
Light-Pole

Light-Sport
Parking
Dugout
Bleachers

Light-Pole
Light-Pole
Trashcan

Light-Pole
Parking
Backboard
Old Water Pump
Light-Pole

15TH

0 50 100 200 Feet





Thomas Park

Location: Rochester Ave., south of Memorial Dr.

Size: 11.5 acres

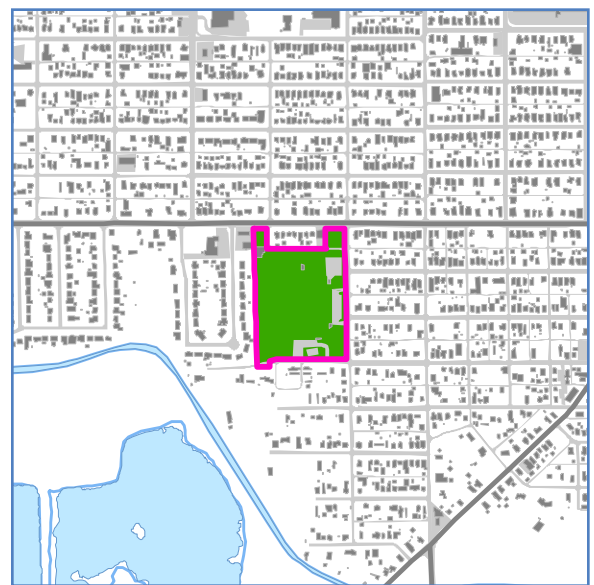
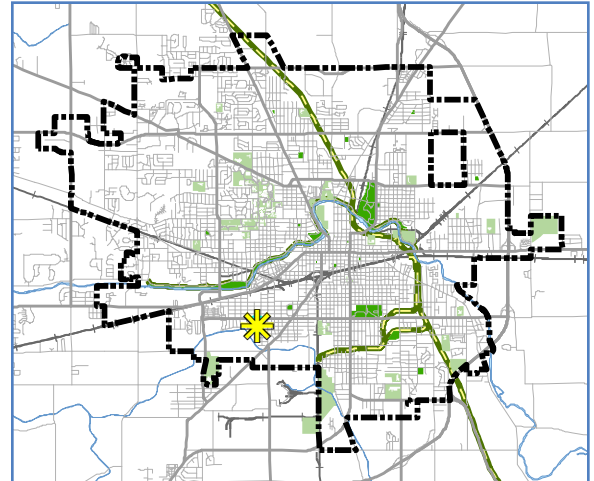
Type: Large Neighborhood Park

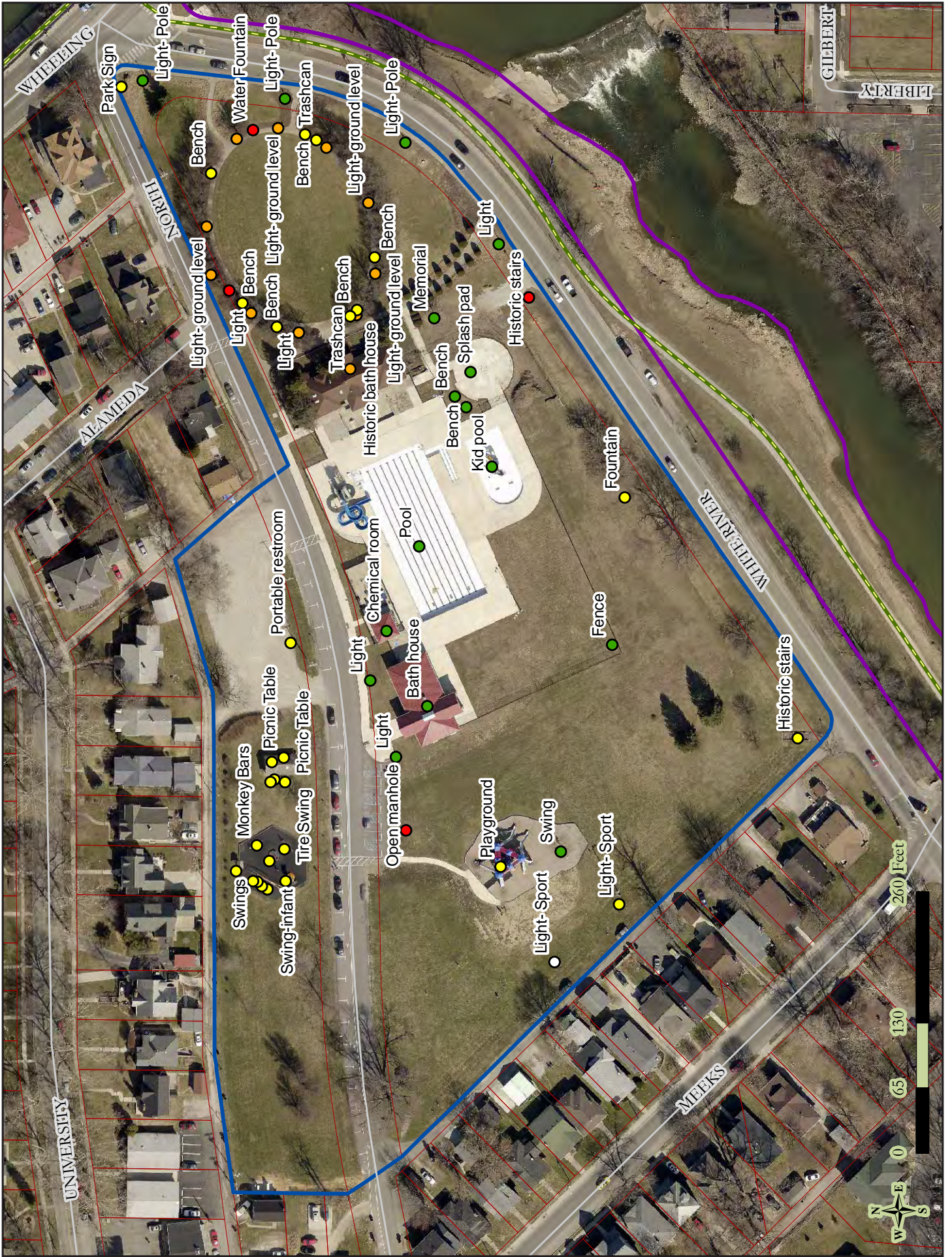
Ownership: City of Muncie

General Description:

Serving the Thomas Park/Avondale Neighborhood, Thomas Park is bounded by Memorial Dr. (a primary arterial) to the north, 15th St. to the south, Rochester Ave. to the east and residences to the west. There are two parking lots, one along Rochester Ave, and one off of 15th St. An official sized baseball diamond is maintained for the exclusive use of baseball leagues. Other facilities include a basketball court, tennis courts, playground equipment, a picnic shelter, picnic tables, and openspace for spontaneous play. Permanent restroom facilities were locked and couldn't be inspected. Multiple large trees are scattered throughout the property.

In the last five years, all playground equipment was completely removed; there had been two areas with playground equipment. New playground equipment was installed in the larger of the two areas, east of the shelter. Around 40 trees were planted along the south western boundary of the park. The tennis courts do not appear to be usable as the nets have been vandalized and the courts are cracked.





WHEELER

Park Sign

Light-Pole

Bench

Water Fountain

Light-Pole

Bench

Trashcan

Light-ground level

Light-Pole

NORON

Light-ground level

Light

Bench

Bench

Bench

Light-ground level

Bench

Trashcan

Bench

Light

Historic stairs

ALAMEDA

Light

Bench

Bench

Light-ground level

Bench

Historic bath house

Light-ground level

Memorial

Bench

Splash pad

Light

WHEELER

Light

Bench

Bench

Historic bath house

Chemical room

Pool

Bath house

Bench

Kid pool

Bench

Fountain

UNIVERSITY

Swings

Monkey Bars

Tire Swing

Swing-infant

Picnic Table

Portable restroom

Light

Open manhole

Light

Playground

Light-Sport

Swing

Light-Sport

Fence

Historic stairs

Historic stairs

260 Feet

130

65

0

0

W

E

S

GILBERT

LIBERTY

MECKS



Tuhey Park

Location: White River Blvd. & North St.

Size: 8.43 acres

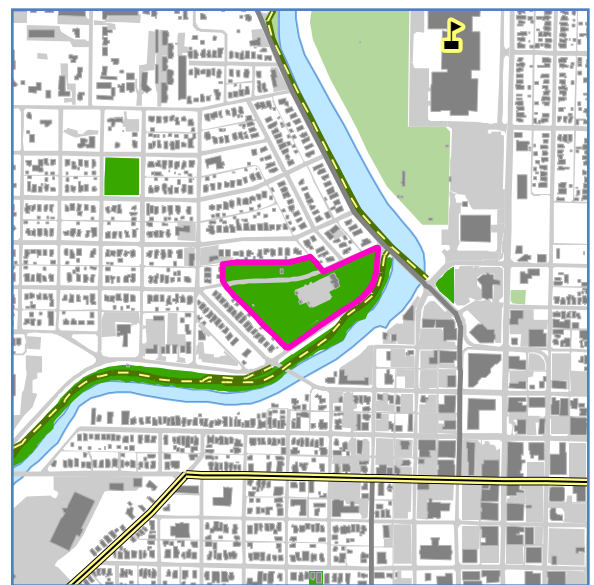
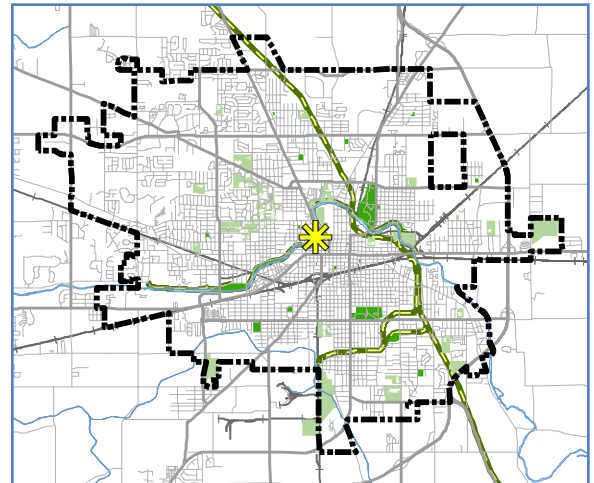
Type: Neighborhood Park

Ownership: City of Muncie

General Description:

Serving the Riverside/Normal City Neighborhood, Tuhey Park is located along White River Blvd. and White River Greenway on the north side of the High St. Bridge. North St. divides a small part of the park containing the parking lot, a picnic shelter, picnic tables, a playground, and informal openspace off to the north. To the south is a formal openspace lined with benches and trees, a “historic” bathhouse used for storage, a pool and splash pad, a new bathhouse with office space, snack bar and locker-room facilities, new playground equipment known as Tuhey Towers and informal open space. The preexisting bathhouse (located to the east of the pool) has been found to have little historic value as it was remodeled several times over the years.

During the past several years, this park has seen a fair amount of change. Initially, two of the tennis courts were converted into a skate park with multiple wooden ramps. Though this was a well used facility where skateboards and trick bikers mixed without incident, the area was locked and the ramps were demolished during 2008. In the next few years, all four tennis courts, the baseball diamond and fencing were removed. A municipal bond was used to fund the rehabilitation of the pool and to design and construct a new bathhouse. Tuhey Towers was installed west of the pool. Additional on-street parking and a bike lane were delineated along North St.





ADAMS

Park Sign
Electric Meter

Monkey Bars

Slide-Junior

Slide-Junior

Spring Riders

Light-Pole

Spring Riders

Bench

Bench

Light-Pole

Light-Pole

Trashcan

Planter

Light-Pole

Trashcan

PERSHING

Bench

Light-Pole

Bench

Light-Pole

Sidewalk

Memorial Tree

Sidewalk

CHARLES





Washington Park

Location: Adams St., Pershing St., & Charles St.

Size: 0.78 acres

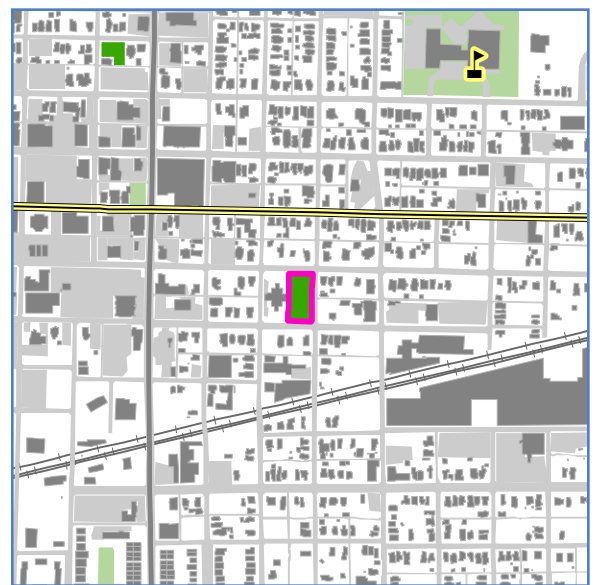
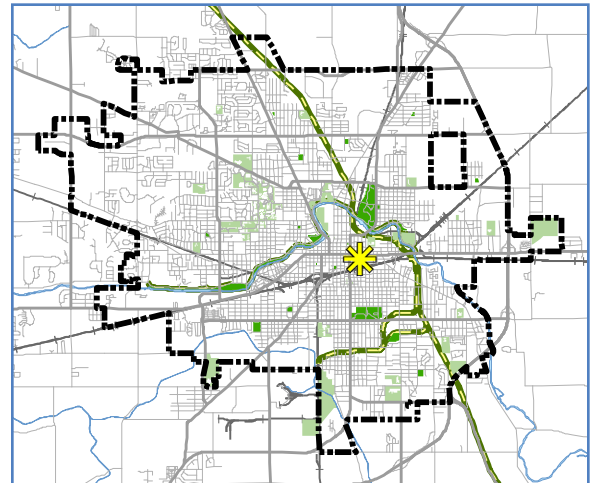
Type: Mini Park

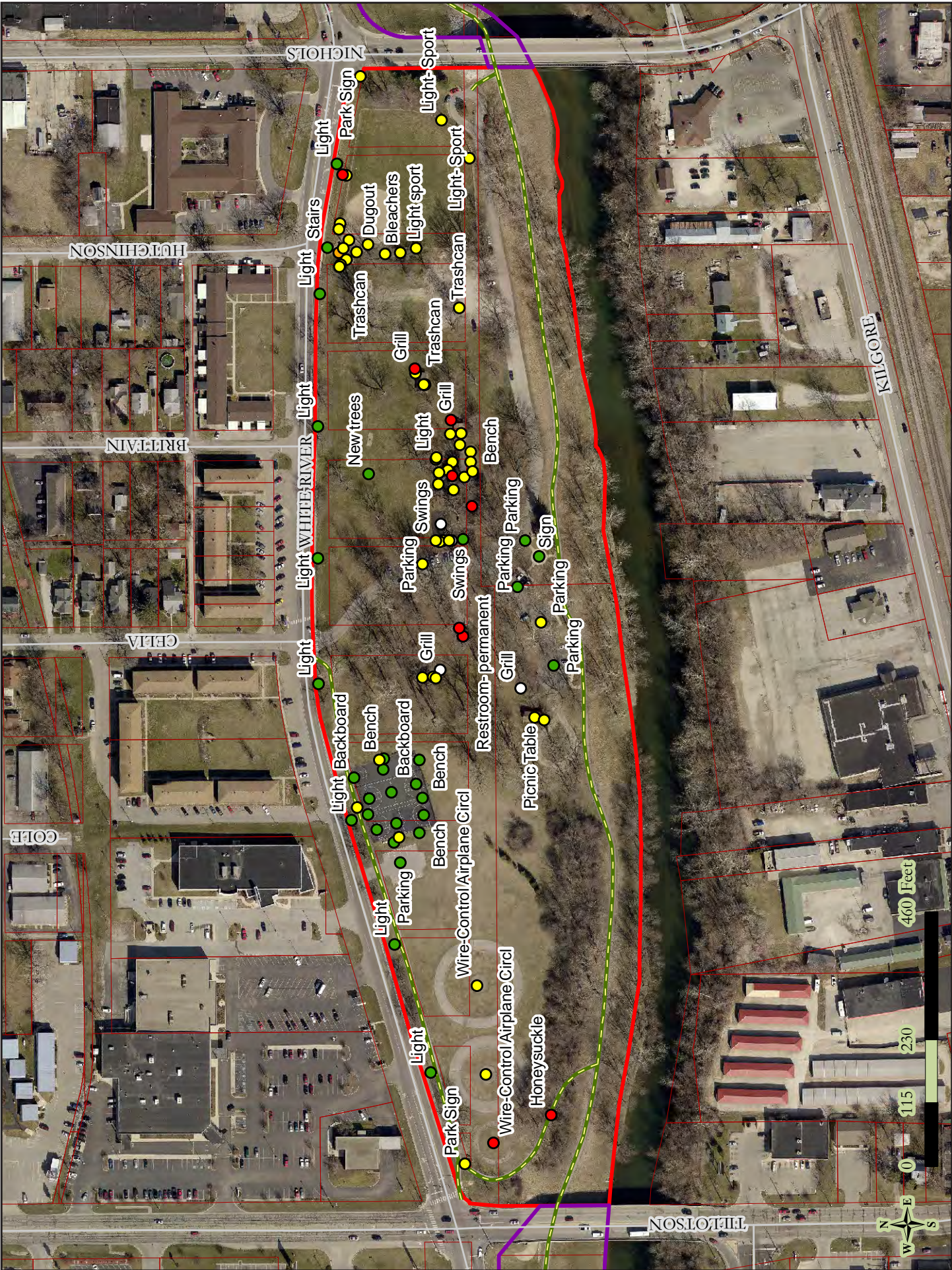
Ownership: City of Muncie

General Description:

Located in the southwestern portion of the East Central Neighborhood, on the edge of the Emily Kimbrough Historical District, Washington Park takes up half of a city block. It is bounded by Adams St. to the north, Pershing Dr. to the east, Charles St. to the south, and a daycare center to the west. The only available parking is along the streets. The park has sidewalks along the perimeter with additional sidewalks that are lined with trees that diagonally dissect the park into 3 primary areas and a secondary area acting as a buffer to the daycare center. Elegant park furniture is placed throughout the park, including benches, trashcans, and light poles. The northern portion of the park offers playground equipment. Areas to the east and south are mounded providing interest and open areas for picnics or spontaneous play.

The damaged slide was replaced. The Park's sign and the sidewalks along the southern and eastern boundary are in need of repair.





WHITE RIVER

BRITAIN

CEMA

COLE

NICHOLS

KILGORE

THURSTON

460 Feet

230

115

0





Westside Park

Location: White River Blvd., Tillotson Ave., & Nichols Ave.

Size: 20.65 acres

Type: Small Community Park

Ownership: City of Muncie

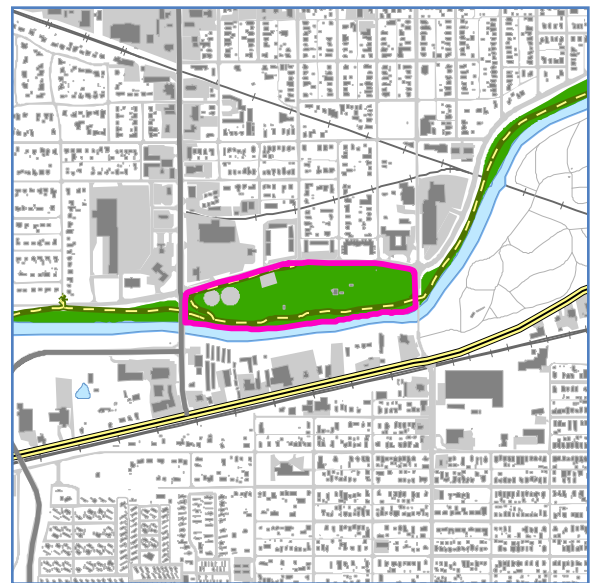
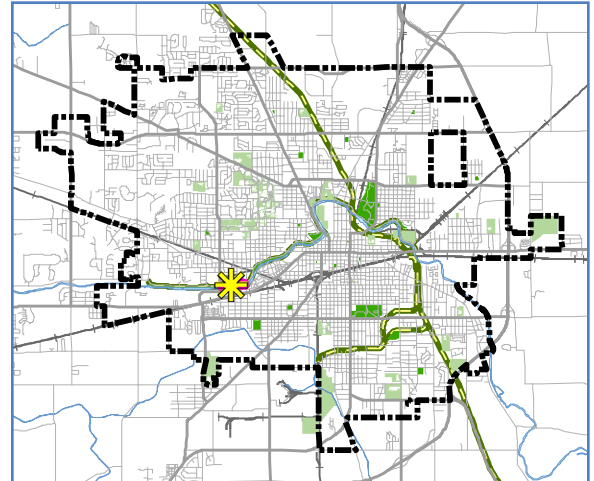
General Description:

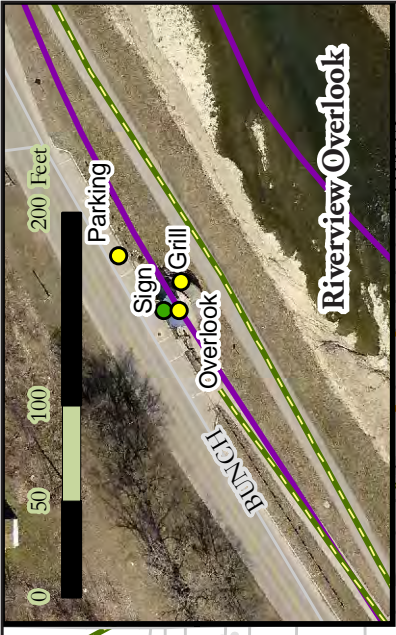
Located in the floodplain along the southern boundary of the Westside Neighborhood, Westside Park serves over half of Muncie’s community.

Westside Park has a little league sized baseball diamond (also used for softball leagues), basketball courts, vast amounts of openspace for spontaneous play, multiple picnic shelters and picnic tables, a playground, a shuffleboard court, restroom facilities and a drinking fountain, and three wire-control airplane circles. Two of the basketball courts were created by converting tennis courts. Large mature trees are throughout the property. The White River forms the southern boundary of the park, providing the opportunity for bank fishing, and viewing wildlife.

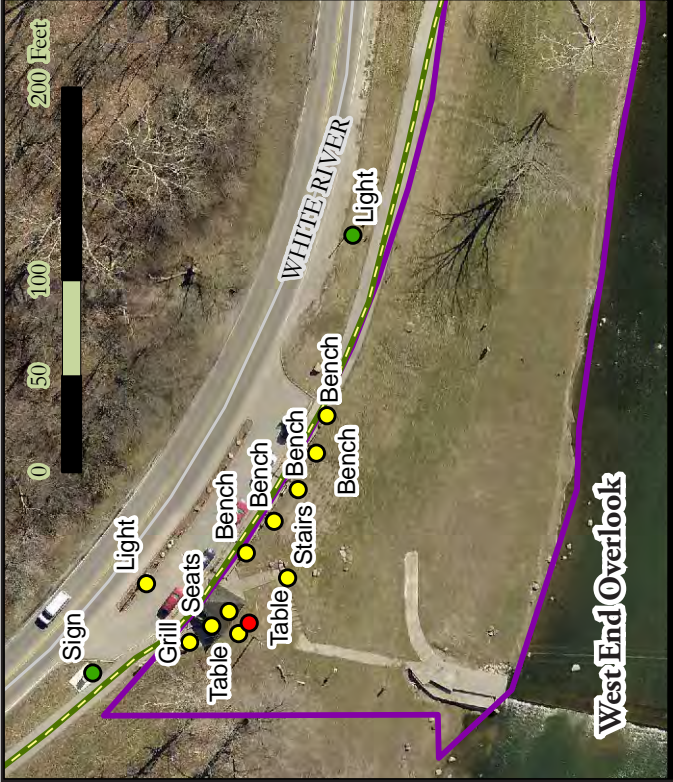
Westside Park has seen multiple improvements in the last 5 years. The basketball courts were resurfaced and a new parking lot was installed on the west side of the courts. Several trees were planted in open space north of the playground. The White River Greenway was extended past Westside Park, linking this park to several neighborhoods, with new parking areas and a turn-around constructed as a part of the greenway improvements. Greenway was also installed in the west half of the park along White River Blvd.

The baseball scoreboard, several grills, some playground equipment including the merry-go-round and the shuffleboard court are in poor condition. The restrooms and water fountain continue to need repair. The western greenway link (along the western most airplane circle) needs cleared of honeysuckle.

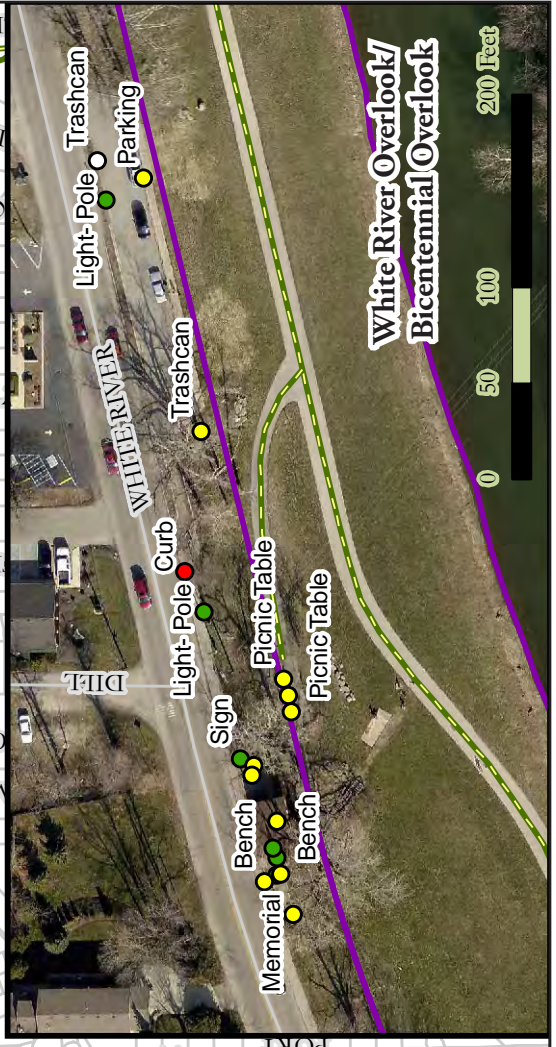
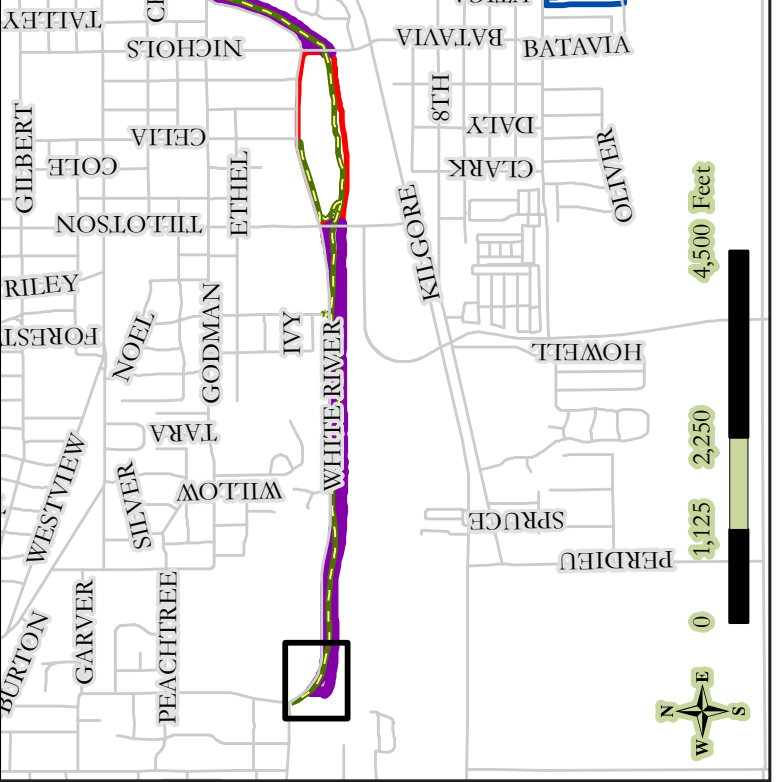




Riverview Overlook



West End Overlook



**White River Overlook/
Bicentennial Overlook**



4,500 Feet

2,250

1,125

0

1,125

2,250

4,500 Feet



White River Park

Location: White River Blvd., Nichols Ave. to High St.

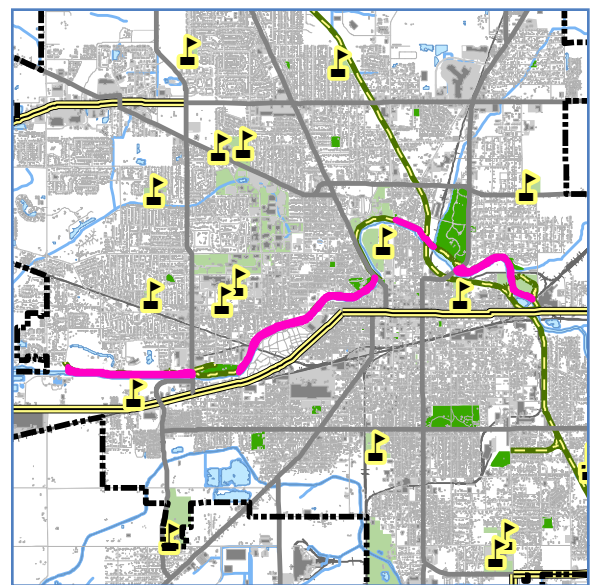
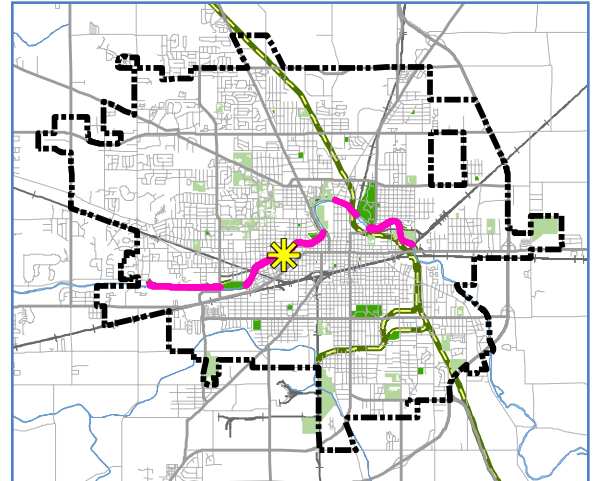
Size: 41.6 acres, 5.8 miles of greenway

Type: Linear Park

Ownership: City of Muncie & Delaware County

General Description:

Located along the northern banks of the White River, this unofficial unique park stretches from the West End Overlook (across the river from the Sanitary District) to the southernmost boundary of the John Craddock Wetland Nature Preserve. White River Park extends past Westside Park in the Westside Neighborhood; White River Overlook, and Tuhey Park in the Riverside/Normal City Neighborhood; Minnetrista and the Appeal to the Great Spirit Park in the Minnetrista Neighborhood; and McCulloch Park, Riverview Overlook and Riverview Park in the Whitley Neighborhood. White River Park provides public access all along the river, with White River Greenway running through it. This unofficial park is maintained by the Muncie Sanitary District while the greenway is maintained by Cardinal Greenways, Inc. This park offers well used recreational space and provides a vital link for the overall park system.



Each overlook along White River Park provides some parking, a picnic shelter, picnic tables, benches and views of the White River. White River Overlook, known locally as Bicentennial Overlook (though the sign says “White River Park”) includes a monument to Chief Mon-Gon-Zah. White River Park provides vast openspace for spontaneous play, picnics, and wildlife appreciation. White River Greenway provides recreational opportunities for non-motorized transportation including walking, bicycling, and skateboarding. The greenway complies with ADA guidelines.

White River Park provides vast openspace for spontaneous play, picnics, and wildlife appreciation. White River Greenway provides recreational opportunities for non-motorized transportation including walking, bicycling, and skateboarding. The greenway complies with ADA guidelines.

Due to the important recreational nature of this property it is recommended that a formal partnership between Muncie’s Department of Parks & Recreation, Cardinal Greenways, and Muncie Sanitary District be established to formally delineate this property as a linear park with a formalized agreement for the entire property’s maintenance. Currently there is a maintenance agreement for White River Greenway between the City of Muncie and Cardinal Greenways Inc.





Assessment

Quantitative Data

Levels of Service (LOS)-

Through the years the NRPA has provided various methods for analyzing park systems' levels of service including recommended acres per population for various types of parks, recommended park and recreation facilities per population, and park service areas or geographic areas served by each type of park. These methods are only recommendations, not requirements, because every community's needs vary. However, these recommendations provide a benchmark that every community can use to assess its various levels of service.

In 1996, the NRPA refined calculations for determining recommended acres per population along with facilities per population in order to provide communities a way to more specifically assess their needs. However, the "new" equations to determine the recommended LOS require data that Muncie does not have including average daily use of each park (or park type) and each specific facility. Where the necessary data is unavailable, Muncie's park system's levels of service has been assessed in accordance with the 1983 NRPA recommendations. While the recommendations from 1983 are more general, they still provide a method to evaluate the park system as a whole and identify areas of need. Additionally, the Indiana Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan 2011-2015 refers back to the 1983 NRPA guidelines when assessing LOS as well. The following figures illustrate how Muncie's park system measures up to the NRPA recommendations.

Acres per Population

In 1983 the NRPA recommended that communities maintain a "core" amount of acreage for their park systems.²³ They also recommended that communities should attempt to provide certain amounts of various types of parks which compose the park system in order to provide a variety of opportunities and provide a "well-rounded system of parks and recreation areas."²⁴ As displayed in Figure 29 on page 95, Muncie's park system only meets the "core" recommendations when including the leased properties. Prairie Creek Park provides more than the recommended acres per population for the entire park system. However, when assessing how many acres Muncie should provide of the various types of parks, all park types except the regional park type are deficient. Assessing the park system according to acres per population clearly demonstrates the importance of maintaining the leased properties within the park system and the considerable need to add park acreage.

Park and Recreation Facilities per Population

The only types of recreational facilities that Muncie's parks provide a good supply of, when comparing to the 1983 NRPA recommendations for facility development, are: basketball courts, official sized lighted baseball fields, and trails/greenways (however, these are managed by a private entity). While facility development should be based upon community needs over national standards, this analysis still illustrates the dire need Muncie parks have for quality recreational facilities. Figure 30 on page 96 illustrates how Muncie's park facilities measure up to the 1983 NRPA suggestions for number of facilities based upon population.

23 The "core" amount of acres, as recommended by the NRPA for a minimum park system, is 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population.

24 Lancaster., Roger A. *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. National Recreation and Park Association, 4th printing, 1990. Rpt. in "Open Space Guidelines & Standards, A Guide to Understanding the New versus the Old" Ed. Castleman, C. NRPA. 8. <http://www.nrpa.org/content/default.aspx?documentId=3405>





Level of Service - Acres per Population

Primary Analysis -

Muncie Parks, Owned Properties

Park Type	NRPA acres/1,000 Population*	Advised Acreage for Muncie's Population (2006 Census est.- 65,410)	# of parks	Total # of acres	Total # of acres for each category	Deficit based upon Muncie's 2006 Population Est.
Mini Park	0.25 to 0.5 acres	17.5 to 35 acres	5	2.2	2.2	15.3 to 32.8 acres
Small Neighborhood Parks			9	20		
Neighborhood Parks	1 to 2 acres	65.4 to 130.8 acres	1	5.42	47.07	23 to 93.1 acres
Large Neighborhood Parks			2	21.65		
Linear Parks			1	41.6	41.6	
Small Community Parks			1	22.02		
Community Parks	5 to 8 acres	327 to 523.28 acres	0	0	22.02	328.4 to 538.68 acres
Large Urban Parks			2	139.98	135.4	
Specail Use Parks			1	1.5	1.5	
Core Park System	6.25 to 10.5 acres	408.8 to 686.8 acres	21	252.87		185.2 to 483 acres

Secondary Analysis -

Including Leased Properties

total # of acres for each category include relevant totals from above

Small Neighborhood Parks			2	4.7		
Large Neighobrhood Parks			1	10.99	62.76	7.3 to 77.4 acres
Regional Parks	5 to 10 acres	327 to 654.1 acres	1	1893.9	1890.8	0
Core Park System	6.25 to 10.5 acres	408.8 to 686.8 acres	25	2162.4		0

* - defined by the NRPA in 1983 but not updated in the 1996 guidelines

Figure 29- NRPA recommended park acres per population. Figures represent Muncie's park system as of 2013.





Assessment

Level of Service - Facilities per Population

Activity/Facility	NRPA Recommended No. of Units Per Population	# of Units per Muncie's Population Est. (2012)	# of Units in Muncie's park system	Deficit based upon Muncie's Population Est.
Basketball	1 per 5,000	14	15	0
Tennis	1 court per 2,000	35	6	29
Volleyball	1 court per 5,000	14	2	12
Baseball				0
Official	1 per 5,000	14	2	12
	lighted- 1 per 30,000	2	2	0
Little League	N/A	N/A	4	0
Football	1 per 20,000	4	0	4
Soccer	1 per 10,000	7	0	7
1/4 Mile Running Track	1 per 20,000	4	0	4
Softball	1 per 5,000	14	1	13
Multiple Recreation Court	1 per 10,000	7	0	7
Trails	1 system per region	1	2	0
Archery Range	1 per 50,000	1	0	1
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000	4	1	3
Beach Areas	N/A	N/A	1	0

Totals for # of units have been rounded.

Figure 30- NRPA recommended facilities per population.



Park Service Areas

Service areas refer to the geographic area that it is expected to be served by a particular type of park. For example it is anticipated that a mini park will only provide services to an area less than ¼ mile in distance from the park while a community park is big enough that it is anticipated that people will travel from up to 3 miles away to go to that type of park. While most park service areas refer to a general distance from the park, neighborhood parks are meant to serve individual neighborhoods. This means that their service areas are restricted by physical barriers including large roads and major bodies of water. The following figures on pages 98-101 illustrate the service areas of each type of park, showing what areas in Muncie are considered to have service from the park system and what areas are not receiving service from the park system. Figure 31, below, illustrates the percent of Muncie’s population served within the service areas. Due to changes in the Census Bureau’s data, age demographics are no longer provided at the census tract level. Due to this change, analysis of age demographics within the populations served by park types is not available; unfortunately, any analysis would have a considerable margin of error.

	Mini Parks	Neighborhood Parks	Linear Parks	Community Parks	Community Parks- only Muncie's Pop.	Large Urban Parks
Estimated Population Served*	4173	29437	39055	69355	60766	70203
% of Pop. Served	5.94%	41.93%	55.63%	98.79%	86.56%	100.00%
# of Households Served*	2604	12997	16756	31357	27393	32019
% of households served	8.13%	40.59%	52.33%	97.93%	85.55%	100.00%
# of Occupied Households Served*	1856	11080	14048	27252	23631	27782
% of occupied households served	6.68%	39.88%	50.57%	98.09%	85.06%	100.00%

*- Population estimates are based upon U.S. Census block information from 2010. Since the Community Park service area extends outside of Muncie's corporate limits, this table reflects both the total estimated number of people served and the estimated amount of people that reside in Muncie that are served. Large Urban Parks serve the entire community, thus they serve 100% of the population in Muncie.

Figure 31- Percent of Muncie’s population served by each park type.



Assessment

Park Service Areas

Muncie Parks, All Properties		
Park Type	NRPA defined Service Area	Locally defined Service Area
Mini Park	< 1/4 mile	
Small Neighborhood Parks		1/4 - 1/2 mile
Neighborhood Parks	1/4 - 1/2 mile	
Large Neighborhood Parks		1/4 - 1/2 mile
Linear Parks		1 mile
Small Community Parks		1/2 - 3 miles
Community Parks	1/2 - 3 miles	
Large Urban Parks	entire community	
Regional Parks	1 hour driving time *	

* - defined by the NRPA in 1983 but not updated in the 1996 guidelines

Figure 32- NRPA recommended park service areas.

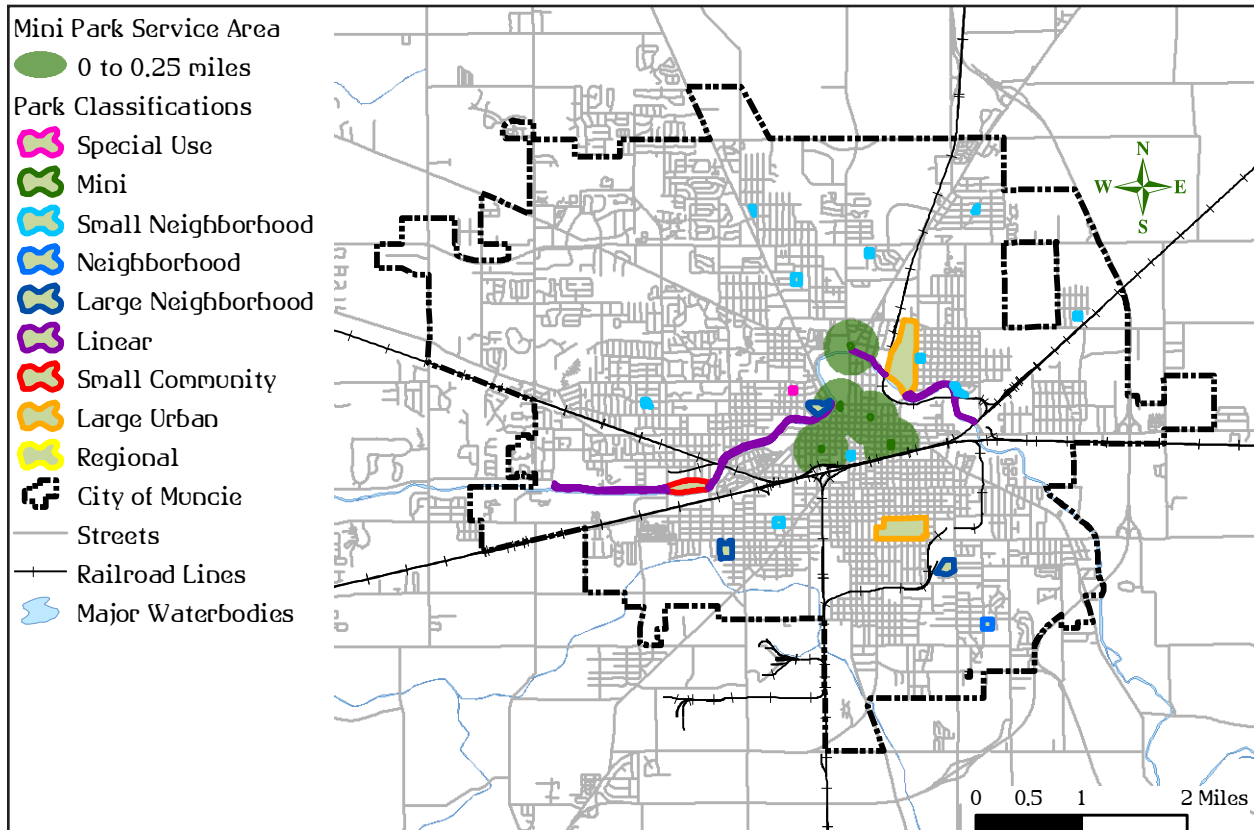


Figure 33- Analysis of Muncie park system's mini park service areas.



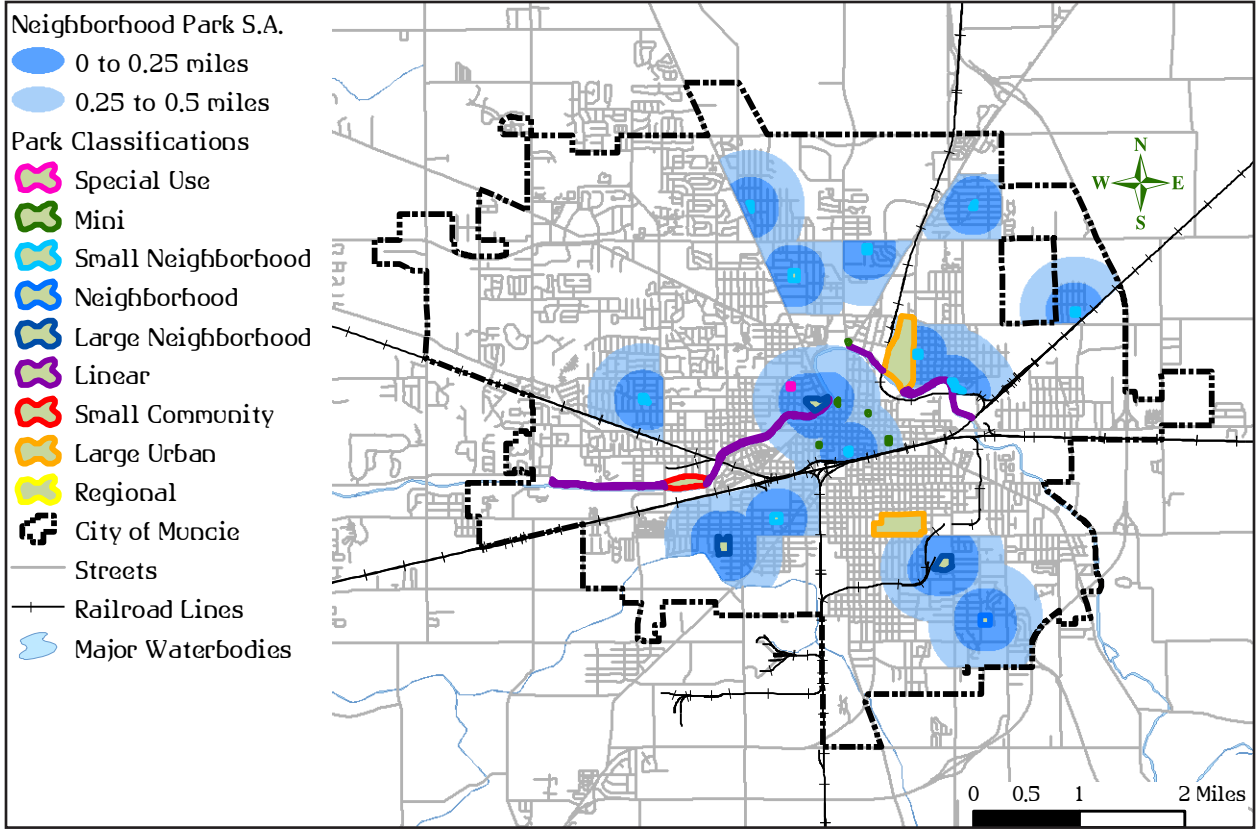


Figure 34- Analysis of Muncie park system's neighborhood park service areas.

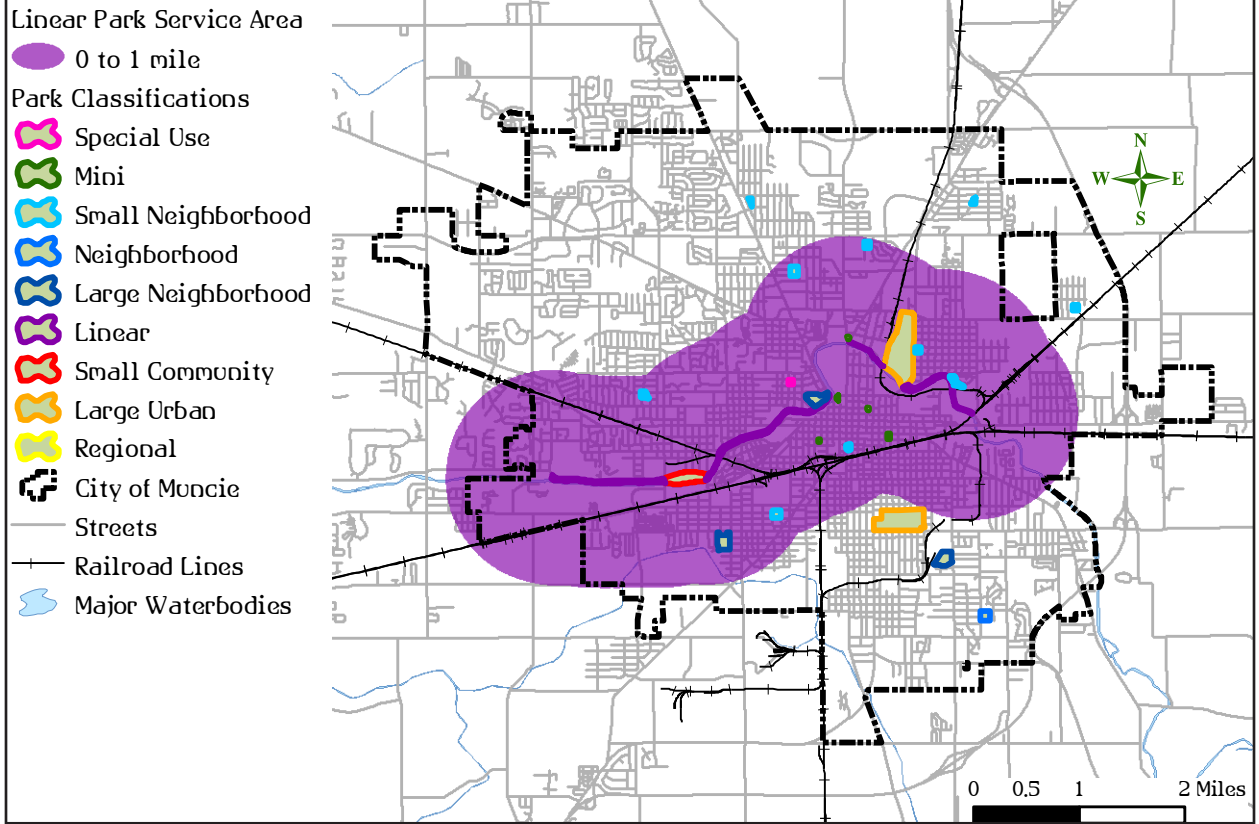


Figure 35- Analysis of Muncie park system's linear park service areas.





Assessment

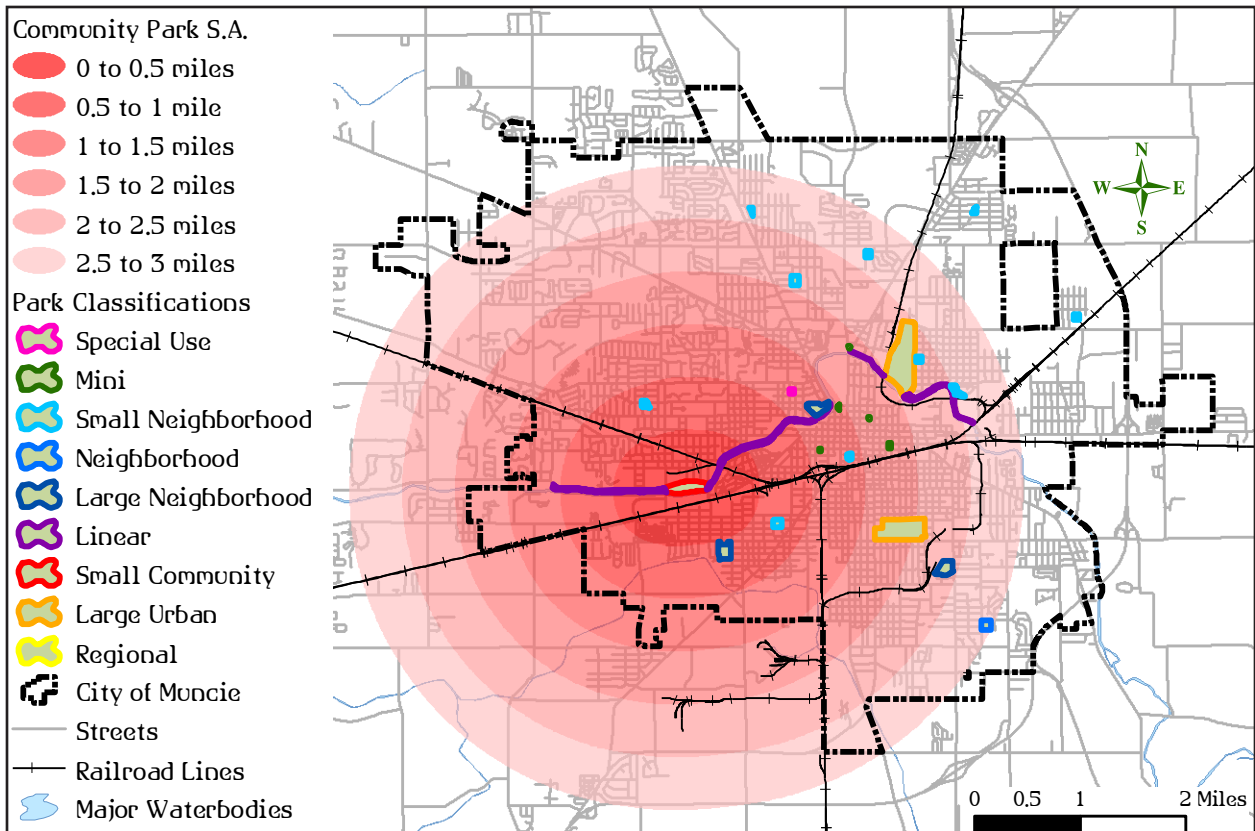


Figure 36- Analysis of Muncie park system's community park service areas.

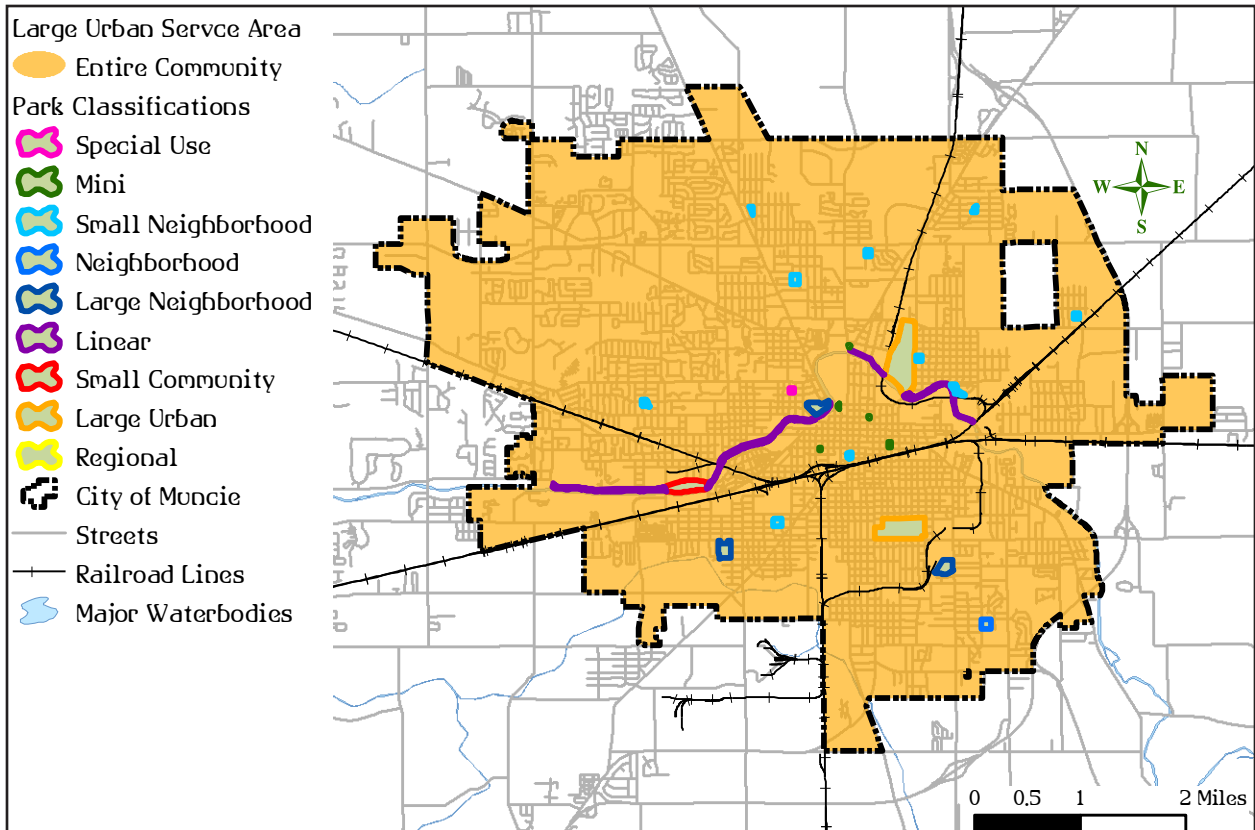


Figure 37- Analysis of Muncie park system's large urban park service areas.



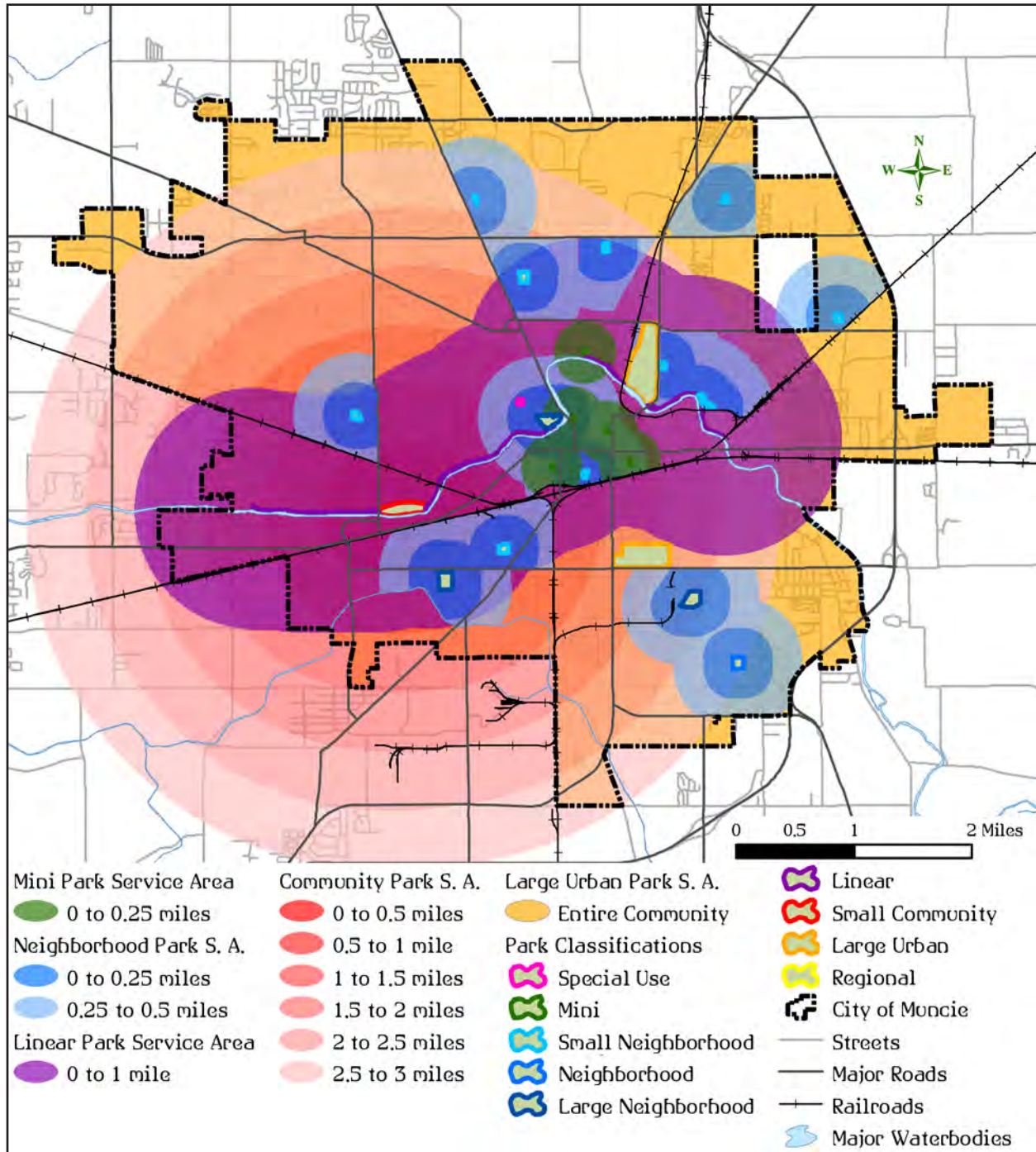


Figure 38- Analysis of Muncie park system's combined park service areas.





Assessment

Park Service Areas with MCS Grounds

Historically, the City’s Parks & Recreation Department worked closely with the Muncie Community School Corporation (MCS). If this historic relationship was renewed and the City’s Park & Recreation Department made an agreement with the MCS to include “school parks” in the park system, the level of service provided to the citizen’s of Muncie would be greatly improved.

The majority of MCS’s elementary school grounds are large enough to be classified as Large Neighborhood Parks; only two elementary school grounds would be classified as Neighborhood Parks. The grounds of the middle schools would be classified as a Community Park and a Large Urban Park while the current high schools grounds would be classified as a Small Community Park and a Community Park. MCS is currently undergoing a transition that includes closing one of the high schools and moving one of the middle schools into the building of the high school that is being closed. This would remove one property from the analysis; that property would be classified as a Large Urban Park. The following table and illustrations show the impact that including “school parks” in the City’s park system would make.

	Mini Parks	Neighborhood Parks	Neighborhood Parks with School Grounds	Linear Parks	Community Parks- only Muncie's Pop.	Community Parks- only Muncie's Pop. with School Grounds	Large Urban Parks
Estimated Population Served*	4173	29437	47521	39055	60766	70202	70203
% of Pop. Served	5.94%	41.93%	67.69%	55.63%	86.56%	100.00%	100.00%
# of Households Served*	2604	12997	20718	16756	27393	32017	32019
% of households served	8.13%	40.59%	64.71%	52.33%	85.55%	99.99%	100.00%
# of Occupied Households Served*	1856	11080	17865	14048	23631	27781	27782
% of occupied households served	6.68%	39.88%	64.30%	50.57%	85.06%	100.00%	100.00%

Figure 39- Percent of Muncie’s population served by each park type with comparison showing the impact of including MCS properties (school grounds) in the City’s park system.



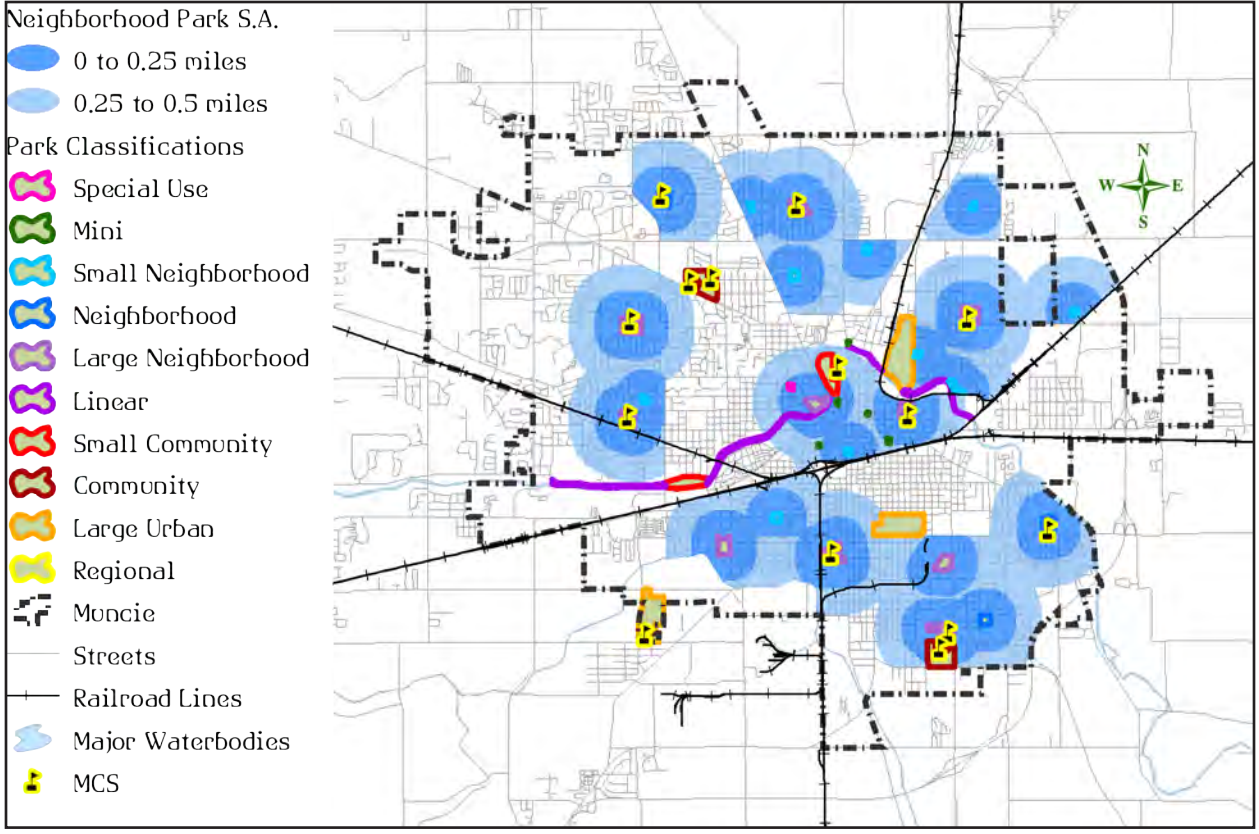


Figure 40- Muncie park system's neighborhood park service areas if MCS properties were included.

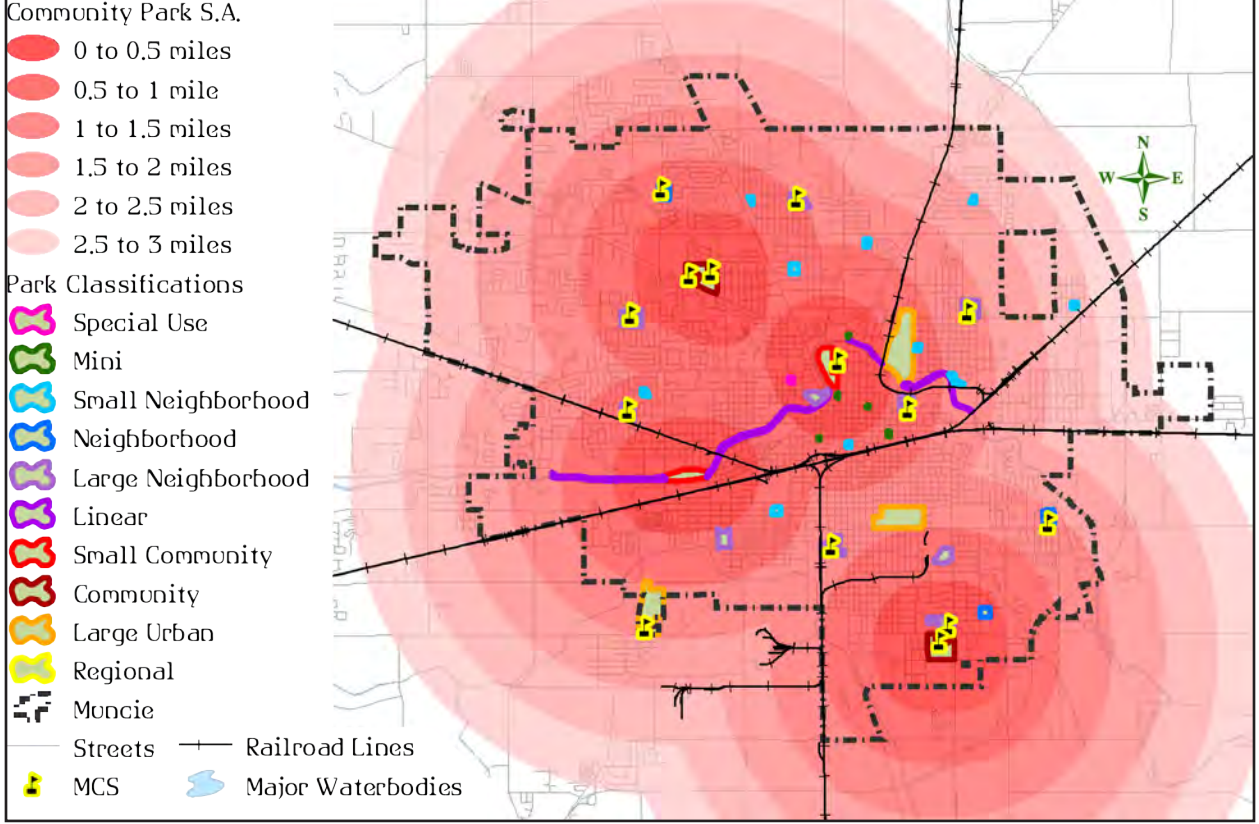


Figure 41- Muncie park system's community park service areas if MCS properties were included.





Assessment

Surveys-

A survey was made available to anyone that was interested in participating. A web-based survey was available and paper copies of the survey were available in the main park offices (at both Heekin Park and at Prairie Creek Reservoir Park). The survey was available through September and October of 2013. It was advertised on the public access channel, a facebook page made for the master plan and in the local newspaper, The Star Press. 185 people filled out the survey.

Muncie Community Schools agreed to inform middle school and high school student about the survey. Survey results show that only 8 participants were students, however nearly one third of the survey participants skipped questions that would help identify that demographic so more students may have participated. The complete results from the survey are contained in Appendix A.

Muncie residents were asked a variety of questions to gauge the community’s perceptions of Muncie’s parks and the park system; this was the same survey conducted 5 years ago. Participants were asked a variety of questions ranging from what they liked about the parks and what changes they felt the parks needed to what types of recreation do they participate in and what facilities should Muncie provide.

Comparing the results from this survey to the survey results from 5 years ago, many preferences stayed the same. Survey responses continued to indicate:

- A preference for Neighborhood parks, both small and large.
- They want to have programs available through the parks.
- They would like to see Muncie’s park system include informal areas including wetlands, forests, farmlands and/or heritage sites.
- They would like to see Muncie adopt green infrastructure connecting the park system.
- A preference for Muncie’s Park Department to pursue state and federal grants or use bonds for development or improvement of outdoor recreational facilities.
- A preference for Muncie Parks to pay for improvements with grants, use the existing budget, and charge for organized adult sport leagues.
- A willingness to pay an average of \$5 for special park events.
- That most survey participants use Muncie’s parks for their outdoor recreational activities.
- That most people didn’t participate in outdoor activities more often due to lack of time or local facilities being in poor condition/dilapidated.

Unlike responses from the prior survey, current survey responses did not overwhelmingly indicate a need to feel safer in the parks and a need for safer playground equipment suggesting that these issues are improving.

In regards to “Do you think Muncie parks should provide for that activity?”, survey participants provided the following feedback (activities in **bold** were in the same group in the previous survey):

The following activities had **70%** or more approval from the survey:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Picnicking | • Baseball/softball |
| • Playground Use | • Soccer |
| • Basketball | • Walking for pleasure |
| • Volleyball | • Hiking |





- **Jogging/running**
- Fitness/rehabilitation
- Rail-trail/greenway riding
- **Casual Riding (bicycling)**
- Nature photography
- Bird watching
- Wildlife viewing
- Relaxation/aesthetics
- Fall foliage
- **Pool swimming**
- Swimming at reservoir
- **Lake fishing**
- Pond fishing
- Reservoir fishing
- River/stream fishing
- Bank fishing (fishing method)
- Boat fishing (fishing method)
- Canoeing/rafting/kayaking
- Rowing
- Sailing
- RV/trailer camping
- **Tent Camping**
- Backpacking/remote camping
- Organized camping
- **Sledding**
- Dog parks
- Fairs/festivals

The following activities had **60%** or more approval from the survey:

- Horseshoes
- Tennis
- Touring
- Wading (fishing method)
- Power boating (includes electric and pontoon)
- Cabins
- Car/van/truck camping
- Ice skating
- Snowshoeing/hiking
- Horseback riding
- **Rollerblading/roller skating**
- **Skateboarding**
- Soap Box Derby

The following activities had **50%** or more approval from the survey:

- **Tetherball**
- **Mountain biking**
- Gathering (mushrooms, berries, etc)
- Ice fishing (fishing method)
- **Tubing**
- Windsurfing
- Disc golf
- Cross-country skiing
- Remote control airplanes

The following activities had **50%** or more **disapproval** from the survey:

- Shuffleboard
- Football
- Rugby
- BMX biking
- Competitive riding/road racing
- Scuba
- **Snorkeling**
- **Houseboats**
- Water skiing/jet skiing
- Golf driving range
- Regulation golf
- Miniature golf
- Par 3
- Snowmobiling
- 4-wheel drive vehicles
- ATVs
- Motorcycles
- Pleasure driving
- **Hockey**
- Archery
- **Clay targets (shooting sports)**
- **Hand guns**
- Paint-ball
- **Rifles**
- Snowboarding
- Badminton
- Croquet
- Lawn Bowling
- Remote control boats





Assessment

Budget

The following table shows the budgets for the City of Muncie's Parks Department and Prairie Creek Park for the last 6 years. Though the Park Department's budget has increased over the last 3 years, the budget is still less than it was 6 years ago. Prairie Creek Park's budget has grown slightly over the last 5 years. In the past, the two community center (Rec Centers) had received funding for utilities, insurance and maintenance. The City cut the budget for community centers to \$0 for 2010 and then removed the line items for community centers thereafter.

Benchmarking clearly illustrates the degree that the parks are underfunded in Muncie within the State.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Park Department						
Personnel Services	\$681,830	\$681,830	\$652,371	\$616,260	\$620,306	\$645,234
Supplies	\$73,500	\$73,500	\$62,500	\$62,500	\$92,500	\$74,200
Other services & charges	\$142,524	\$142,524	\$156,950	\$156,950	\$213,250	\$209,950
Rec Centers	\$62,000	\$62,000	\$0	NA	NA	NA
Total Operating Fund	\$959,854	\$959,854	\$871,821	\$835,710	\$926,056	\$929,384
Capital Improvements	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40,000	\$5,000	\$30,000
Total Budget	\$959,854	\$959,854	\$871,821	\$875,710	\$931,056	\$959,384
Percent change from previous year		100.00%	90.83%	100.45%	106.32%	103.04%
Prairie Creek Park						
Personnel Services	\$368,236	\$368,236	\$361,395	\$354,604	\$367,573	\$410,180
Supplies	\$66,741	\$66,741	\$61,500	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$98,000
Other services & charges	\$77,125	\$77,125	\$107,799	\$108,475	\$128,475	\$131,975
Total Operating Fund	\$512,102	\$512,102	\$530,694	\$538,079	\$571,048	\$640,155
Capital Improvements	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$15,000
Total Budget	\$512,102	\$512,102	\$540,694	\$548,079	\$581,048	\$655,155
Percent change from previous year		100.00%	105.58%	101.37%	106.02%	112.75%
Total Combined Parks Budget	\$1,471,956	\$1,471,956	\$1,412,515	\$1,423,789	\$1,512,104	\$1,614,539
Percent change from previous year		100.00%	95.96%	100.80%	106.20%	106.77%
Debt Service						
Other - Bond Payment						\$70,000

Figure 42- Budgets for the City of Muncie Parks Department and Prairie Creek Park.



Benchmarking-

Benchmarking is the process of comparing one organization to others. For this master plan Muncie was initially compared to all other second class cities in Indiana. Then all of the second class cities' park departments were contacted in order to conduct a more detailed comparison of each organization. Of Indiana's 24 second class cities, 7 provided information for benchmarking while 10 others were included because they had websites that provided sufficient information. The following figures illustrate how Muncie "measures up" against other second class cities in Indiana.

Basic Demographic Analysis for Benchmarking Indiana's Second Class Cities						
City by Rank	Population Census Estimate 2012	Land Area (sq. mi.)	Land Area (acres)	Pop. Density Level	Est. median household income in 2011	% living in poverty in 2011
Fort Wayne	254,555	110.83	70,931	3.59	\$42,277	20.8%
Evansville	120,235	44.62	28,557	4.21	\$35,939	19.2%
South Bend	100,800	41.88	26,803	3.76	\$31,927	32.6%
Carmel	83,565	48.55	31,072	2.69	\$116,874	4.3%
Bloomington	81,963	23.36	14,950	5.48	\$24,126	41.2%
Fishers	81,833	35.84	22,938	3.57	\$90,330	3.1% *
Hammond	79,686	24.89	15,930	5.00	\$35,452	28.1%
Gary	79,170	57.18	36,595	2.16	\$24,956	42.4%
Muncie	70,087	27.39	17,530	4.00	\$26,913	36.9%
Lafayette	67,925	27.74	17,754	3.83	\$38,927	18.0%
Terre Haute	61,112	35.27	22,573	2.71	\$31,592	25.2%
Kokomo	56,866	18.56	11,878	4.79	\$29,398	20.2%
Anderson	55,554	41.48	26,547	2.09	\$33,801	23.9%
Noblesville	55,075	32.79	20,986	2.62	\$67,605	6.7%
Greenwood	52,652	21.23	13,587	3.88	\$54,527	10.1%
Elkhart	51,152	24.42	15,629	3.27	\$30,995	27.7%
Mishawaka	48,031	17.35	11,104	4.33	\$36,440	16.6%
Lawrence	46,756	20.24	12,954	3.61	\$49,775	12.3%
Jeffersonville	45,677	34.35	21,984	2.08	\$52,291	11.2%
Columbus	45,429	27.89	17,850	2.55	\$52,444	12.4%
Portage	36,860	27.61	17,670	2.09	\$48,825	1.4%
Richmond	36,599	24.08	15,411	2.37	\$31,513	24.4%
New Albany	36,462	15.11	9,670	3.77	\$37,277	19.1%
Merrilville	35,631	33.26	21,286	1.67	\$50,815	10.6%
average-		34.00	21757.78	3.34	\$44,792	20.2%
median-		27.82	17801.53	3.58	\$36,859	19.2%

Bold = increase
Red = decrease
Purple = new to list

population density level: Intermediate-Low
 population density level: Low
 * % of residents living in poverty, data from 2009

source: <http://www.city-data.com/city/Indiana.html>

Figure 43- Basic Demographic analysis for benchmarking Indiana's second class cities.



Assessment

	Number			Acreage and Size					
	Number of Parks (Park Units)	w/ PC Park	Park Units per 10,000 Residents	w/ PC Park	Park Acres	Park Acres as Percentage of Land Area	w/ PC Park	Park Acres per 1,000 Residents	w/ PC Park
City									
South Bend	58		5.80		1296.3	4.84%		12.95	
Carmel									
Carmel-Clay Twp. *	13		1.48		503.6	1.57%		5.74	
Bloomington	41		5.00		2347	15.70%		28.63	
Fishers	15		1.83		452	1.97%		5.52	
Hammond	34		4.27		821.9	5.16%		10.31	
Gary	49		6.19		560.35	1.53%		7.08	
Muncie	24		3.42		269.05	1.53%		3.84	
Prairie Creek Park		25		3.57	2162.9		12.34%		30.86
Lafayette	22		3.24		700	3.94%		10.31	
Terre Haute	23		3.76		1500	6.65%		24.55	
Kokomo	34		5.98		494.33	4.16%		8.69	
Anderson	28		5.04		675	2.54%		12.15	
Noblesville	10		1.82		853	4.06%		15.49	
Greenwood	15		2.85		274	2.02%		5.20	
Mishawaka	30		6.25		391.5	3.53%		8.15	
Lawrence	12		2.57		268	2.07%		5.73	
Columbus	24		5.28		726.92	4.07%		16.00	
Richmond	17		4.64		780.6	5.07%		21.33	
average-	26	26	4.08	4.09	759.62	4.14%	4.78%	11.86	13.45
median-	24	24	4.27	4.27	675.00	3.94%	4.06%	10.31	10.31

Parks Department provided information for benchmarking
Parks Department did not provide information for benchmarking
* Population from 2010 Census, all other populations are official 2012 estimates

Figure 44- Benchmarking the park systems of Indiana's second class cities' park departments.





Finances							
City	Total Spending on Parks & Recreation	Total Spending Per Resident	Operational Spending	Operational Spending Per Resident	Capital Spending	Capital Spending Per Resident	Non-Reverting Funds
South Bend	\$14,000,000	\$139.89	\$12,500,000	\$124.90	\$1,500,000	\$14.99	\$250,000
Carmel							
Carmel-Clay Twp. *							
Bloomington	\$6,552,193	\$79.94	\$6,552,193	\$79.94	\$0	\$0.00	\$2,500,000
Fishers							
Hammond							
Gary							
Muncie	\$959,384	\$13.69	\$929,384	\$13.26	\$30,000	\$0.43	\$0
Prairie Creek Park	\$655,155	\$9.35	\$640,155	\$9.13	\$15,000	\$0.21	\$655,155
Lafayette	\$3,500,000	\$51.53	\$2,000,000	\$29.44	\$200,000	\$2.94	\$1,050,000
Terre Haute	\$2,600,000	\$42.54	\$65,000	\$1.06	\$90,000	\$1.47	\$300,000
Kokomo	\$3,557,514	\$62.56	\$3,326,314	\$58.49	\$231,200	\$4.07	\$498,052
Anderson							
Noblesville	\$1,500,000	\$27.24	\$1,300,000	\$23.60	\$286,000	\$5.19	\$1,100,000 ^
Greenwood							
Mishawaka							
Lawrence							
Columbus							
Richmond							
average-	\$4,165,531	\$53.34	\$3,414,131	\$42.48	\$294,025	\$3.66	\$750,458
median-	\$3,050,000	\$47.04	\$1,650,000	\$26.52	\$145,000	\$2.21	\$498,052

Parks Department provided information for benchmarking
 Parks Department did not provide information for benchmarking
 * Population from 2010 Census, all other populations are official 2012 estimates
 ^ Not included in total budget

Figure 45- Benchmarking the finances of Indiana's second class cities' park departments.





City	Facilities																										
	amphitheater	arboratum	cemetery	community center /	rec center	community garden	disc golf course	dog park	fitness center	golf course	mini golf course	ice rink	museum	nature center	pool	portable stage	skatepark	splashpads	water park	water playground	zoo	urban forestry program	foundation	system includes	properties outside city	limits	
South Bend	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1		yes	yes			
Carmel	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1			no					
Carmel-Clay Twp.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1			yes	yes	yes			
Bloomington	1	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	yes	1	1			yes	yes	yes			
Fishers	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	yes	1	1			yes	yes				
Hammond	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	5							yes	yes				
Gary	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			yes	no	yes			
Muncie	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			yes	no	yes			
Prairie Creek Park																											
Lafayette	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	yes				
Terre Haute	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Kokomo	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	yes	2	1	1	1	1	yes	yes			
Anderson	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	yes	1	1	1	1	1	yes					
Noblesville	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Greenwood	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	yes				
Mishawaka	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	yes				
Lawrence	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Columbus	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	yes	yes			
Richmond	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	yes	yes			
average-	1.2	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.6	1.0	1.8	1.0	1.0	1.8	1.2	2.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
median-	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Parks Department provided information for benchmarking
Parks Department did not provide information for benchmarking

Figure 47- Benchmarking the facilities of Indiana's second class cities' park departments.





Assessment

According to the 2012 U.S. Census population estimates, Muncie is the 9th largest second class city in Indiana. However, Muncie has the 3rd lowest estimated median household income from 2011, only higher than Gary and Bloomington, and is 3rd in the state for % of people living in poverty, with only Gary and Bloomington having more people living in poverty.²⁵

Muncie’s park system almost contains an average number of parks, though Muncie is still below average for number of parks per residents. When comparing park systems according to acres, Muncie was analyzed both with and without Prairie Creek Park. Prairie Creek Park is the Muncie park system’s oddity as it lies outside the city limits and is leased. Muncie contains the 2nd lowest amount of park acres, however when Prairie Creek Park is included, Muncie’s Park Department maintains the most park acreage among the 17 second class cities benchmarked. Similarly, Muncie contains the fewest park acres per resident and has is tied with Gary for the lowest amount of park acres as a percentage of land area in the city. When including Prairie Creek Park, Muncie’s park system maintains the highest amount of park acres per resident among the 17 second class cities benchmarked, yet since it is outside of the corporate limits, it can’t contribute to increasing the % of land area in the city designated as park acres.

Financially Muncie’s Park Department and Prairie Creek Park have separate budgets. Muncie has established a non-reverting fund for improvements and the operation of Prairie Creek Park. Combining the budgets of the overall park system shows an increase of \$138,583 in the last 5 years. Though this is an increase to the overall park system’s budget of 9.3%, Muncie still has the lowest budget among the benchmarked cities (Noblesville’s budget appears lower at first glance, but they do not include their non-reverting fund in their total budget; their non-reverting fund is over 1 million dollars). Muncie spends less on its parks per resident than all other cities benchmarked.

Muncie employs the fewest park employees of the second class cities benchmarked. This is less than 1/3 of the average number of full time employees per residents of the benchmarked cities. Likewise, Muncie employs less than 1/6 of the average number of part time employees per resident and less than 1/4 of the average number of seasonal employees per resident.

Review of Associated Plans-

The following plans were reviewed in order to inform this plan with common elements in those plans and maintain cohesion within the goals & objectives.

Indiana’s SCORP (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan)

Hoosiers on the Move: The Indiana State Trail, Greenways, & Bikeway Plan and 2013 Progress Report

Muncie-Delaware County Comprehensive Plan

Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Recreation/Leisure Assessment for Muncie & Delaware County, Indiana

Cardinal Greenway Strategic Plan

Prairie Creek Master Plan

Past Muncie Park & Recreation Plans

.....
25 It should be noted that both Bloomington and Muncie are home to universities where the student population is a large percent of the total population.





Accessibility Evaluation

Accessibility and Universal Design-

In 2011, the City of Muncie developed an Americans with Disability Act Transition and Implementation Plan. This plan includes a section on parks and recreation. The assessment and recommendations in this plan concerning parks and recreation include overall park recommendations and detailed recommendations for the parks identified as top priorities by stakeholders and the most widely used city parks; this included the three (3) largest parks- Westside Park, McCulloch Park and Heekin Park.

Overall recommendations for the Park Department in the ADA Transition and Implementation Plan include:

- provide designated ADA parking spaces at each park
- provide accessible paths to amenities in each park
- provide access to accessible restrooms
- communicate accessible park and recreation amenities by providing a comprehensive list on the department website, at the Park and Recreation Office, and in an accessible digital format
- implement a Parks Department policy that all new facilities, equipment or amenities added, purchased or leased by the department will meet applicable accessibility standards and guidelines
- establish an accommodation request procedure
- provide links to the City of Muncie ADA Coordinator, ADA Grievance Procedure, and the TTY Device on the Parks Department website and communications

Tuhey Park was under construction during the creation of the ADA Transition and Implementation Plan. The new construction included the establishment of ADA parking spaces, a new bath house, the renovation and expansion of the pool (including an accessible ramp into the pool), and new playground equipment with an accessible path.

Currently, Prairie Creek Park is under construction. The new construction includes new ADA parking spaces near the beach area, a new bath house, and a path through the beach leading to an accessible ramp that goes into the swimming area of the reservoir.

Please refer to the ADA Transition and Implementation Plan for the detailed assessments and recommendations for Westside Park, McCulloch Park and Heekin Park.

In conjunction with the Americans with Disability Act Transition and Implementation Plan, the City passed Resolution 11-12, a Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Muncie, Indiana Designating the Americans with Disability Act Coordinator and Adopting Procedures. This resolution established the ADA Coordinator, public notice requirements and the grievance procedure for the City.

NOTE: The 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) compliance form with signatures is located at the beginning of this document. Resolution 11-12 is included in the appendices.





Assessment

Public Input

Muncie Action Plan (MAP)

The Muncie Action Plan is a document created in 2010 after a year-long, citizen-based initiative to create a vision for the City of Muncie. It includes 47 actions organized into 5 initiatives. Roughly 2,000 people participated in the creation of this action plan. The plan was adopted by City Council as well as several other government entities and community organizations in 2010.

One of the 5 initiatives is to create attractive and desirable places. Actions for this initiative include: develop and implement a Sidewalk and Recreational Paths Plan and implement the City of Muncie 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Another initiative is to manage community resources. Actions for this initiative include: implement the Prairie Creek Master Plan to protect the ecological health of the reservoir and watershed; renovate and re-open Tuhey Pool; and hire a recreational director.

The community identified 13 community preferences for the most important actions to engage. Among the top 13 actions were: (#6) Renovate and re-open Tuhey Pool (Action 5.3) and (#13) Implement the Prairie Creek Master Plan to protect the ecological health of the reservoir and watershed (Action 5.2).

Three years after the creation of MAP, the document was revisited. At two public meetings, 150 participants were asked to: comment on any aspect of the 5 initiatives and associated actions on large posters; fill out cards to provide comments for specific actions, general comments, and provide contact information if they were interested in volunteering; and participate in breakout sessions to discuss ideas for future directions, including new issues not previously identified. The MAP2 document is the result of revised actions steps based upon the public input. Public input was analyzed and each action was “graded”. The following is a synopsis concerning the relevant actions:

- Developing and implementing a Sidewalk and Recreational Paths Plan was recognized as in process. The action’s progress was considered acceptable. The MAP Board was very supportive to provide commitment to future action.
- Implement the City of Muncie 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan was recognized as “plan is complete”. The action’s progress was considered acceptable. The MAP Board was supportive to provide commitment to future action. Unfortunately this grading system seems faulty as completing the plan wasn’t the initiative, implementing the plan was the initiative. Much of the plan has not been implemented.
- Implementing the Prairie Creek Master Plan was recognized as ongoing. The action’s progress was considered acceptable. The MAP Board was supportive to provide commitment to future action.
- Renovate and re-open Tuhey Pool was recognized as done. The action’s progress was considered acceptable. Future MAP Board action is not needed.
- Hire a Recreational Director was recognized as evolving. The action’s progress was considered unacceptable. The MAP Board was supportive to provide commitment to future action.

Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Meeting

A public meeting for Muncie’s 5-year Park and Recreation Master Plan was held Tuesday, December 17th, 2009 at Muncie’s City Hall. This special meeting was held prior to a regular Park Board meeting in order to provide the public with an opportunity to: 1) review the work that has gone into forming the plan, including the results from the public survey; 2) provide feedback on the mission statement





for the park board to ensure that the park board’s mission reflects the values of the community; 3) provide feedback on the Master Plan’s goals and objectives formed from the assessment of the parks, including survey input; and 4) provide feedback concerning locations where they would like to see additional parks. The public was notified of the meeting through an article in the local newspaper, The Star Press and on the Muncie’s Parks & Recreation Plan’s facebook page..

There were approximately over a dozen people in attendance at the public meeting. (The Sign-In sheet is contained in Appendix B; it was observed that not all attendees signed in.) The Park Board’s mission statement was favorably received. None of the objectives received negative comments. The objectives that received the most support were:

- Create and maintain master plans for each park.
- Create a park foundation.
- Create and maintain partnerships to provide safe parks. Work with Neighborhood Associations to maintain or create neighborhood watches that include the parks
- Equip parks with water fountains, grills, restrooms, safe playground equipment and bike racks.

Additionally, Figure 48 on the following page illustrates areas that the public thought would make good parks or are areas where they would like to see a new park. This figure also includes areas that were recommended by the public 5 years ago.

Needs Analysis Summary

Needs Based on Standards-

Based upon the NRPA recommended levels of service (LOS), Muncie’s park system needs to increase the acreage and the facilities (type and number) provided within the park system. Muncie needs to provide the population with more mini parks, neighborhood parks, and community parks. Currently, about 85% of the population is served by community parks while less than 50% of the population is served by neighborhood parks and less than 6% of the population is served by mini parks. The need to expand mini, neighborhood, and community parks is further supported by the deficit of park acres based upon population. This LOS recommends increasing the entire park system, within the City, by 203.27 acres to 501.14 acres. Figure 29, on page 95, conveys the recommended acreage and the deficit Muncie’s park system has for each type of park. Additionally, NRPA’s LOS recommending facilities per population indicates that Muncie’s park system needs to expand both the type and number of facilities provided. Figure 30, on page 96, conveys the number of facilities and the types of facilities that Muncie should consider offering.

Needs Based on Public Input-

Public input demonstrates that Muncie’s parks have numerous needs from necessary equipment to care for the parks to basic safety measures and community support of the parks. While Muncie’s parks have multiple needs, the City is also dealing with budget cuts and shrinking revenues. The needs based upon public input has changed very little in the last five years.

The following needs are based upon the public input:

- **System-wide Needs**
 - ◆ More Parks





Assessment

- More parks throughout the community.
- Parks specifically in the NW quadrant of Muncie.
- Maintain parks that are in informal areas including wetlands, forests, community gardens, farmland, heritage sites, and habitat areas.
- ◆ Budget
 - The Park Department budget needs to increase to fund more employees and park improvements.
 - Seek grants to help fund needed improvements and needed equipment and facilities.
 - Find alternative funding that isn't dependent upon taxes.
- ◆ Maintenance
 - Equipment
 - Mowers, backhoe, plows, tools, trucks, bobcat.

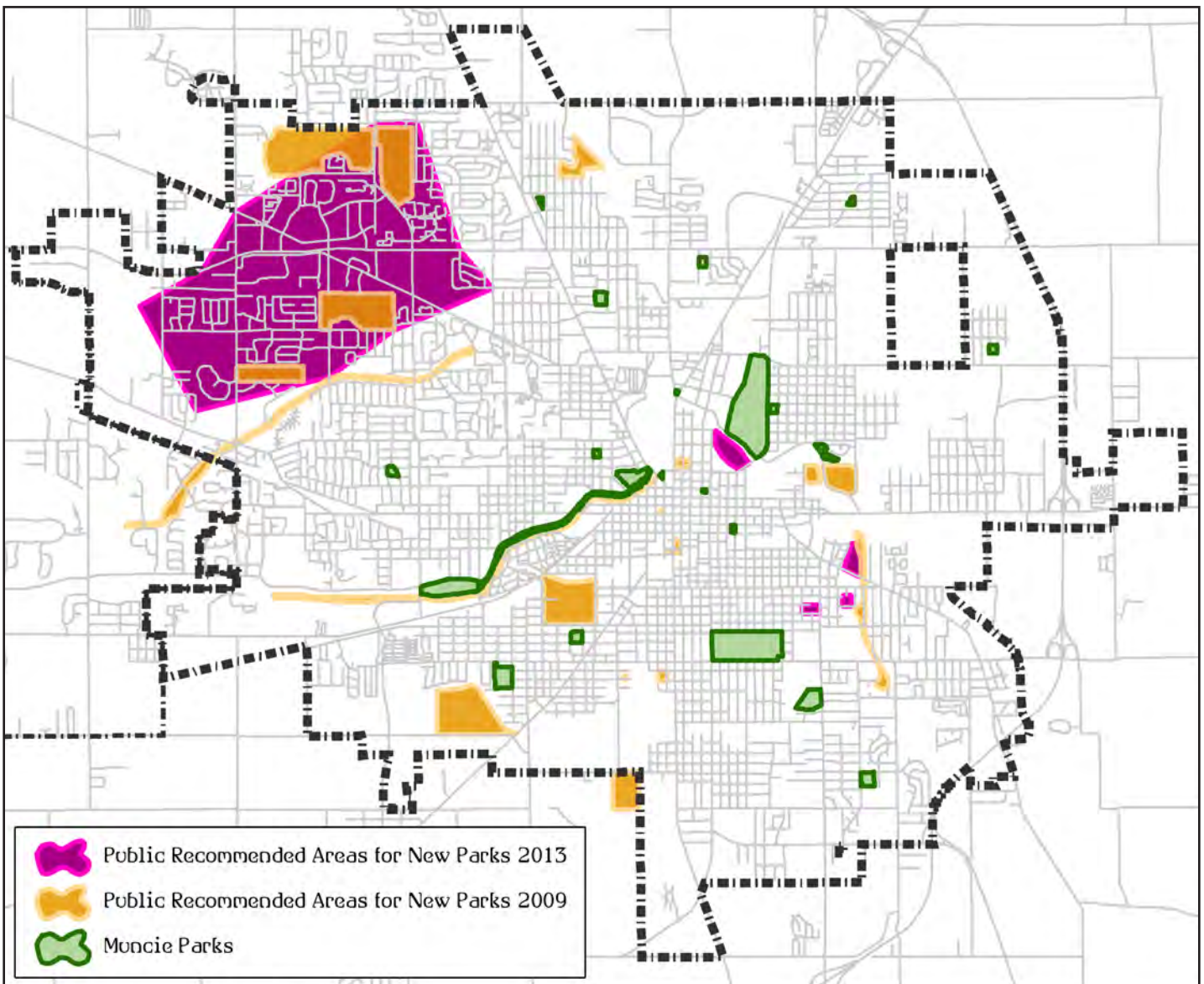


Figure 48- Areas of interest for new parks, as indicated by public participants at the public meetings.





- Better landscaping practices and beautification
- Clean-ups
- ◆ Connections
 - Create better connections to the parks throughout the community to provide better access, increase visitation and discourage vandalism and illicit activities.
 - Use green infrastructure to connect parks.
- ◆ Marketing & Education
 - Inform people of what is available and building park system's "image" to further community support.
 - Educate people about the importance of parks and what the parks offer to encourage a healthier community.
- ◆ Partnerships/Collaboration
 - Maintain and create partnerships to help meet the parks' needs.
- ◆ Security & Safety
 - Increase sense of security/actual security for park users.
 - Safe park equipment/facilities
- **Facility Needs**
 - ◆ General Park Facilities (facilities needed in all parks)
 - Bathrooms
 - Water fountains
 - Grills and picnic tables
 - Clearly defined parking areas
 - Functional electrical systems
 - Functional lighting systems
 - Maintained shelters
 - ◆ Recreational Facilities
 - Safe and maintained playground equipment
 - Functional courts (basketball & tennis)
 - More fishing areas & piers
 - More variety of recreational facilities including a skatepark, a spray park, soccer fields, football fields, swimming pools, and walking trails.
- **Programming Needs**
 - ◆ Muncie's Park Department has begun to offer programs again. Public input indicates that there is interest in the Park Department hosting a wide variety of programs from classes and leagues to events in the parks (movies, arts, theatre, music, tournaments).





Master Plan

City parks, trails, open spaces, urban forests, and greenways make neighborhoods more attractive places to live, strengthen community pride, offer natural environmental protection, and improve physical health and mental wellbeing.

Despite the aesthetic, environmental, and recreational benefits of green infrastructure, budget constraints have left local governments across the United States with inadequate funding and staff for maintaining and preserving city parks and open spaces. Fortunately, a growing body of hard evidence suggests that urban greening offers significant economic benefits, in addition to the quality-of-life enhancements already mentioned.

Numerous studies have shown that passive parks and trails increase the value of neighboring residential property, and there is growing evidence that points to similar benefits on commercial property values. In addition, the positive effect of natural open space and trails on property values can result in higher assessments and thus property tax revenues for local governments. When greenway corridors are preserved instead of intensively developed, municipalities may reduce costs for public services like sewers, roads, fire and police protection, and school facilities as well.

The availability of parks and trails is an important quality of life factor for corporations and other businesses choosing where to locate facilities and for retirees and new home buyers choosing a place to live. Trails like the Missouri River State Trail often become important tourism draws contributing heavily to local businesses. A study conducted by the National Association of Homebuilders found that a majority of home shoppers surveyed felt that parks would seriously influence them to move to a community.

A study of the Cardinal Greenway in Muncie, Indiana conducted by the Eppley Institute in 2001 indicated over 77% of Cardinal Greenway trail users are satisfied with the trail, and their view of Muncie as a community is positively affected by the trail. This plan provides the framework for creating a parks and recreation system for the City of Muncie that will garner the same level of satisfaction. In light of the aforementioned benefits, a strong park system provides green infrastructure that is a good financial investment for the City of Muncie.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Muncie Parks and Recreation Department is to enhance the overall quality of life for all Muncie residents and improve the health and economic well-being of the community by providing attractive, naturalized open space and recreational opportunities, both passive and active, in a safe, professional and fiscally responsible manner.

Goals & Objectives

Goal A- Maintain a preeminent, professionally based, fiscally sound Department of Parks and Recreation.

Objectives-

- 1- Reestablish the Parks Department as the Department of Parks & Recreation (DP&R) as outlined in city code.
 - Muncie’s city code outlines the organizational structure for the Department of Parks and Recreation. In the last few decades, this structure was not followed and the position of the





Master Plan

Recreation Director was not filled. This has left Muncie in a position of not providing essential recreational opportunities for Muncie’s citizens. When this department is reestablished as outlined by city code, the Recreation Director should have a steering committee appointed to provide assistance/guidance for restoring and providing recreational opportunities.

- 2- Verify and finalize the ownership of all park properties to the Muncie’s Parks & Recreation Board.
- 3- Create and maintain master plans for each park.
 - Many park departments have a landscape architect on staff for such projects. If Muncie does not have a landscape architect on staff then this project should be contracted out to a professional landscape architect, or other design professional, in order to maximize the potential use of each park, make the best connections with the community, and benefit from visioning that will provide achievable improvements in phases.
 - All parks should be designed to be inclusive – usable by people of all ages and abilities.
 - Master plans need to provide methods for transitioning each park to meet ADA guidelines and become ADA compliant.
- 4- Create and maintain a non-reverting capital improvement fund, as permitted under IC 36-10-3-20.
 - All money generated by the Department of Parks & Recreation should be kept in a non-reverting fund that would be used to subsidize the Department’s needs including updating equipment, maintaining existing and new properties, and other necessary improvements.
- 5- Develop and enhance wayfinding and marketing devices, including signage, maps, brochures, and websites, to assist people in locating Muncie’s parks and educating the public about available recreational opportunities.
- 6- Write grants to enhance Muncie’s parks and recreational facilities.
 - Writing grants could provide Muncie’s DP&R with the needed opportunity to compete for funds to improve Muncie’s parks. Depending on the grant, a grant award could provide money for hiring a landscape architect to prepare needed master plans for each park, replace playground equipment, purchase land for a new park in the NW quadrant of Muncie, build a quality skatepark, or accomplish any number of identified needs for Muncie’s DP&R.
- 7- Create a park foundation.
 - The creation of a park foundation would allow for a venue to support Muncie’s parks through philanthropy and volunteerism. Park foundations are generally created to provide additional investment for the parks and for recreational opportunities.

Goal B- Provide safe, accessible, and well equipped park and recreational opportunities throughout the City of Muncie.

Objectives-

- 1- Remove unsafe equipment.
- 2- Update all structures (i.e. cabins) and electrical boxes to be compliant.
- 3- Create and maintain partnerships to provide safe parks.
 - Muncie Police Department
 - Work with the Muncie Police Department to ensure that parks are included in their patrols.





- Neighborhood Associations
 - Work with neighborhood associations to maintain or create neighborhood watches that include the parks.
 - Other Community Organizations such as Friends of Conley, YWCA, MOMs and the Boys Club
 - Work with community organizations to maintain or create neighborhood watches that include the parks.
- 4- Create partnerships to expand park and recreational opportunities. Partnerships should include but not be limited to:
- Muncie Community Schools – as permitted under IC 36-10-3-11, Muncie’s Department of Parks & Recreation should pursue a contract with Muncie’s school corporation “for the use of park and recreation facilities or services”. A partnership between Muncie’s DP&R and Muncie Community Schools (MCS) would provide beneficial opportunities for the citizens of Muncie including more recreational opportunities and more area identified as park space (school-parks). Ideally, MCS would host recreational programs for Muncie residents with assistance from the DP&R.

This proposed partnership to provide recreational opportunities should be a base to build upon in the future. Along with conducting further study, Muncie’s Department of Parks & Recreation should seek additional partnerships throughout the community to meet the recreational needs of Muncie’s residents.
 - Ball State University – Ball State University has committed to becoming a climate neutral campus. A principal component in accomplishing this is to plant trees in order to sink carbon levels. It would be an ideal fit for Ball State University to convert some of the property it owns in the Northwest quadrant of Muncie into a natural resource park, converting fields into quality wooded areas that could include walking trails. By entering into a partnership with Muncie’s DP&R, BSU could strengthen its relationship with the city by contributing to Muncie’s park space while providing learning opportunities for students working on degrees in natural resources, biology, and landscape architecture and sinking carbon to accomplish its goal of becoming climate neutral.
 - Sanitary District and Cardinal Greenway Inc. – Formally establish a partnership between Muncie’s Department of Parks & Recreation, the Muncie Sanitary District, and Cardinal Greenway Inc. in order to delineate and establish White River Park as a linear park with a formalized agreement for the maintenance of this property.
- 5- Continue and rejuvenate partnerships in order to honor the cooperative efforts to preserve excellent maintenance for the parks.
- Continue a partnership with Minnetrista, Master Gardeners, and the Minnetrista Neighborhood Association for the care of the Appeal to the Great Spirit Park.

Through this partnership, Muncie’s Department of Parks and Recreation should establish an agreement with Minnetrista, Master Gardeners, and/or the Neighborhood Association to formalize an arrangement for the care of this historic property. With Minnetrista’s expertise and the Landscape Preservation Master Plan prepared by Malcolm Cairns in 2001, a management plan for this property should be established in order to protect the historic nature of this property.





Master Plan

6- Equip park properties with:

- Water fountains
- Restrooms
- Grills
- Bike Racks
- Safe playground equipment

7- Create a skatepark.²⁶

- The amateur ramps at Tuhey Park were extremely popular and well used. Muncie’s Department of Parks & Recreation has the responsibility and opportunity to provide an exemplary skatepark in order to meet the needs of Muncie’s youth and to compete with the rise of excellent skateparks that are being created in other second class cities across the state.²⁷

8- Purchase/obtain new park properties in order to provide various types of parks (mini parks, community parks, etc.) in areas that are lacking service.

- Properties reverting to City or County ownership through tax sales should be inspected to determine if they would be appropriate for park use.

Goal C- Enhance the quality of life and contribute to the physical, scenic, environmental and economic health of the City of Muncie and its residents.

Objectives-

1- Rezone all park properties to the Recreation/Conservation zone.

- The Recreation/Conservation zone designation emphasizes the importance of parkland and would allow for appropriate development of park properties while providing a measure to preserve the park properties for existing and future generations.

2- Establish parks in the northwest quadrant of Muncie.

3- Adopt a policy of all new construction being Leadership in Energy Efficient Design- New Construction (LEED-NC) accredited and /or Low Impact Design (LID).

- LEED-NC and LID developments are environmentally sustainable, reducing the cost for operating and maintaining, effective at reducing pollutants in the environmental, and make for healthier places to visit and enjoy.

4- Establish programs.

- Programs are critical to help attract the community to the parks while building community involvement and pride. When the community is more involved and committed to the parks, the parks will naturally become safer because undesirable activities tend to occur in underutilized environments.
- The following types of programs were recommended through public input:
 - ♦ Adopt-A-Park (sponsorship opportunities)

26 Code of Ordinances, City of Muncie Indiana 92.09- Using skateboards by minors is prohibited on City owned property. This outdated city code needs to be deleted. Skateboarding is a nationally recognized alternative form of transportation. Any public concerns could be solved by enforcing anti-vandalism laws.

27 In 2009, Indiana had 22 second class cities; 16 of those cities provided skateparks as a part of their park systems that are free to the public, another charged, and 2 were in the planning phase. Muncie was 1 of only 3 second-class cities to not have a public skatepark.





- ♦ Events in the parks
 - Movies
 - Concerts
 - Theatre
 - ♦ Sport leagues & tournaments
 - ♦ Classes (nature oriented, fitness oriented, craft, etc.)
 - ♦ Summer camps
 - ♦ Passport to Recreation – a program to encourage participation in park and recreation activities throughout each year by gathering stamps that would be turned in at the last event of the year for a prize drawing.
- 5- Establish a “park system”
 - Unite all of the neighborhood, community, and large urban parks through connections made by complete green streets and/or greenways.
 - 6- Create a signature park within the City of Muncie.
 - A signature park is a park that provides a variety of unique opportunities in an accessible, centrally located area in order to create a unique resource for the entire community of Muncie and beyond. Having a park that draws people from outside the community of Muncie provides economic development for the City of Muncie.²⁸ With their size and central locations, either McCulloch Park or Heekin Park could be improved upon to become Muncie’s signature park.
 - 7- Include park service as an element in financial studies for annexations.
 - Because parks are an important service that municipalities provide to the public, there needs to be an assessment of how a city will provide this service as its boundary grows. Measures need to be put in place that will allow of the creation of new parks in areas that are growing and under-served.
 - 8- Establish natural resource parks to provide alternative recreational opportunities (including hiking, nature appreciation, mountain biking) while protecting sensitive areas from development (including floodplains, wetlands)
 - Alternative recreational opportunities would include hiking, nature appreciation- viewing and education, mountain biking, snow shoeing/cross country skiing, etc.
 - Sensitive areas to protect include, but are not limited to, floodplains, wetlands, and ground water recharge areas. Areas such as floodplains can be problematic to build in; establishing these areas would not only reduce damages done to developments from flooding but also protect the floodplain.
 - 9- Explore opportunities for community gardens.
 - Community gardens offer unique opportunities for building community and for building personal strength/health including endurance and flexibility.
 - 10- Investigate the feasibility of development standards that would regulate new developments to include park space as necessary infrastructure.

28 While Prairie Creek Park is a type of signature park that draws people from across the region, it is not an easily accessible property for all residents of Muncie. It is important to have a signature park inside Muncie’s corporate boundary to create accessible opportunities for Muncie’s residents and economic development for Muncie by attracting visitors into the city proper.





Implementation

Priorities and Action Recommendations

Implementation of the majority of the objectives recommended in this plan should begin as soon as possible while others are dependent upon available funding. Until funding is secured for some objectives, the Park Department feels that the following list summarizes a desirable action schedule for the next 5 years.

2014	Heekin Park	Basketball Court	\$20,000
	Westside Park	Playground Equipment Update	\$3,000
	Morningside Park	Volleyball Court	\$1,500
	Heekin Park	Dog Park	\$50,000
	Tuhey Pool	Mechanical & Repairs	\$51,000
	Aultshire Park	New Sign & Repairs	\$5,000
	McCulloch Park	Cabin #6 Repairs	\$3,500
	City Parks	Shelter Roofs	\$65,000
	Prairie Creek Park	Update Electric at Campground	\$10,000
	Prairie Creek Park	Water and Electric at Horse Camp	\$20,000
	Prairie Creek Park	Gas Pumps at Boat Launch	\$75,000
		Subtotal:	\$304,000
2015	City Parks	New Metal Signs	\$40,000
	Heeking Park	Cabins Roofs	\$60,000
	Tuhey Pool	Roof and Paint Old Bathhouse	\$15,000
	McCulloch Park	Refurbish Safety Town Building	\$5,000
	Prairie Creek Park	Fish Cleaning Station	\$10,000
	Prairie Creek Park	Refurbish Shelter Houses in Park	\$20,000
	Prairie Creek Park	New Hitching Post at Horse Camp	\$10,000
		Subtotal:	\$160,000
2016	Tuhey Pool & Park	Pave Parking Lot	\$150,000
	Westside Park	New Playground Equipment	\$60,000
	Heekin Park	New Shelter in NE Corner	\$6,000
	Heekin Park	New Corn Hole Pits for Senior Citizens	\$3,000
	McCulloch Park	Outdoor Exercise Course	\$15,000
	Morningside Park	New Playground Equipment	\$8,000
	Prairie Creek Park	New Amphitheatre	\$50,000
	Prairie Creek Park	New Activities Building/Game Room in Campground	\$50,000
		Subtotal:	\$342,000





Implementation

2017	Heekin Park	9 Hole Disc Golf	\$20,000
	Thomas Park	Resurface Basketball Court	\$25,000
	Cowing Park	New Shelter	\$6,000
	Jacks Park	New Playground Equipment	\$30,000
	McCulloch Park	Repairs to Baseball Field	\$30,000
	Prairie Creek Park	New Bathroom at Horse Camp	\$25,000
	Prairie Creek Park	New Shelter at Horse Camp	\$6,000
		Subtotal:	\$142,000
2018	Heekin Park	Outdoor Exercise Course	\$15,000
	Morningside Park	New Playground Equipment	\$15,000
	Cowing Park	Resurface Basketball Court	\$5,000
	Westside Park	Repairs to Baseball Field	\$7,500
	Heekin Park	Repairs to Softball Field	\$20,000
	Cooley Park	New Mulch in Playground	\$2,500
	Prairie Creek Park	Update Playground Equipment	\$50,000
	Prairie Creek Park	Update/Remodel Lodge	\$50,000
	Prairie Creek Park	Outdoor Sign to Promote Events	\$35,000
	Prairie Creek Park	New Shelter in Campground	\$6,000
		Subtotal:	\$206,000
		TOTAL:	\$1,154,000

Potential Funding Opportunities

There are a plethora of funding prospects available for parks, playgrounds, recreation, programs, naturalization, acquiring land, educational opportunities, and such. The following provides a list of grant makers that contribute to projects similar to those recommended in this Master Plan. This list is not exclusive; there are hundreds of grant makers that support similar initiatives. This list is meant to help facilitate the pursuit of grants to aid in achieving Master Plan recommendations.

Federal grant opportunities

Corporation for National & Community Service
- AmeriCorps

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Conservation Innovation Grants

U.S. Department of Education
- Recreational Programs

U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
- North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants (NAWCA)

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS)
- Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)
- Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR) (not funded since 2002)





- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Environmental Education (EE) Grants
 - Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grant
 - Brownfields Cleanup Grants

National grant opportunities

- Alcoa Foundation
- America the Beautiful Fund
- American Hiking Society
- Beneficia Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- Garfield Foundation
- Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation
- NIKE, Inc
- Tony Hawk Foundation
- Wal-Mart Foundation

Statewide opportunities-

- The Comcast Foundation
- Eli Lilly and Company Foundation
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources (www.in.gov/dnr):
 - Federal Programs administered by IDNR’s Division of Outdoor Recreation-
 - U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
 - Recreation Trails Program (RTP) Grant Program
 - U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS)
 - The Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
 - State Programs-
 - Community Forestry Grant Programs
 - Lake & River Enhancement (LARE) Program
 - Historic Preservation Fund Program Grants
- Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT):
 - Federal Programs administered by INDOT-
 - U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)
 - MAP-21
- Indiana Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (IAHPERD)
- Lily Endowment Inc.
- SIA Foundation, Inc.
- Vectren Foundation, Inc.





Implementation

Local grant opportunities

Ball Brothers Foundation

The BMH Foundation, Inc.

The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, Inc.

Edmund F. and Virginia B. Ball Foundation, Inc.

Gannett Foundation

George and Frances Ball Foundation

Kakatu Inc.

The J. Robert and Joanne N. Baur Foundation, Inc.

The Maxon Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Mutual Federal Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, Inc.

N.G. Gilbert Foundation

Office of Community Development

Federal Programs administered by the Office of Community Development

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Psi Iota Xi Charities, Inc.

Sherman and Marjorie Zeigler Foundation, Inc.

William G. and Joan E. Frazier Foundation





Conclusion

The citizens of Muncie have indicated that the park system is important to them and that it needs enhanced. The desire to have community based recreation opens the door for the Muncie Parks Department to regain its designation as the Department of Parks and Recreation. Programming recreational opportunities would potentially increase the park system revenues and usability while providing venues for the public to improve their health and build community.

While most of the objectives outlined in this plan can and should be implemented as soon as possible, a vital initial step is to have master plans created for each park. Individual master plans, or site plans, need to be developed in a manner that is consistent with this plan's goals and objectives and respectful of the public's input gathered for this plan. The site plans will further the vision of this plan and are necessary so that any new developments do not create conflicts or obstacles within the parks or infringe on the prospects of uniting the parks into a park system. Having such a well planned, well executed park system, tied into the acclaimed Cardinal Greenway System, creates regional connections and will ultimately achieve the same level of recognition for excellence.

Enhancing Muncie's park system will promote Muncie to prospective businesses, provide economic development, enhance the community's health and quality of life, provide natural environmental services including flood control and filtering the air and water, and strengthen community pride.





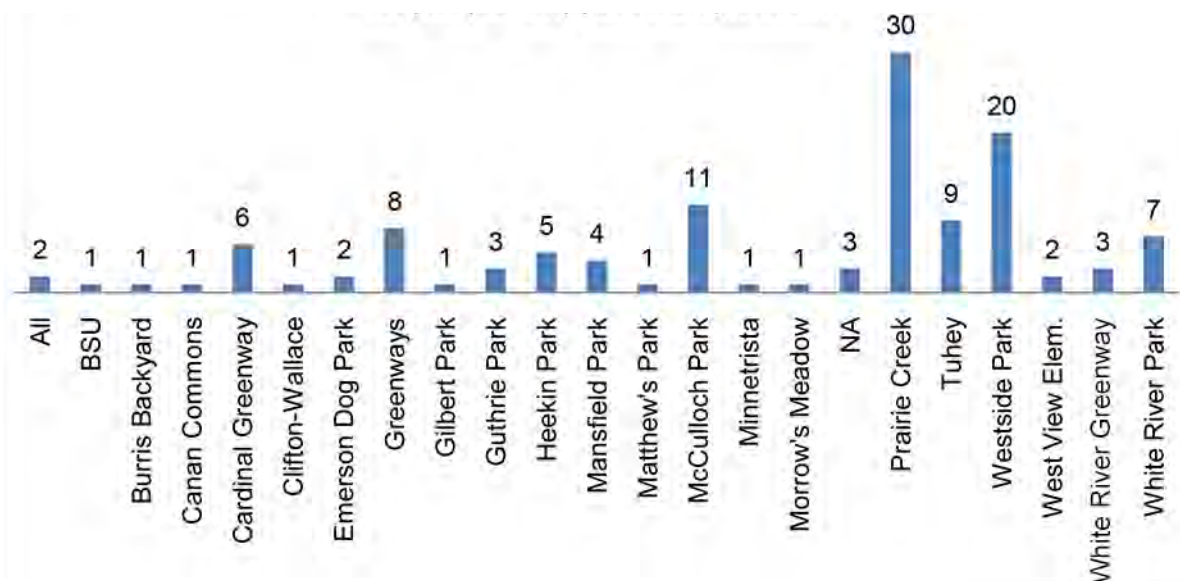
Appendices

Appendix A

Results of the survey are listed as a percentage with the number of responses in parenthesis. The highest responses are in bold.

Results of open-ended questions are not provided here; they are included in separate documents provided online and compiled on the CD (or digital version) of the City of Muncie's 5-year Parks & Recreation Master Plan. This is relevant for questions #1, #4, #7, #9, #16 & #32. Results to Question #18 are provided at the end of the survey results.

1. What is your favorite Park or Recreation area in Muncie and why?



2. Which would (do) you prefer? Please rank 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th with the 1st being the highest preference. Skipped Question-4

Mini Parks or Pocket Parks that have limited facilities within walking distance from your home
 1st choice 7.7% (13) 2nd choice 18.3% (31) 3rd choice 24.3% (41) **4th choice 49.7% (84)**

Small Neighborhood Parks that have varied facilities within walking distance to your home
 1st choice 28.7% (50) **2nd choice 29.9% (52)** **3rd choice 33.3% (58)** 4th choice 8% (14)

Larger Neighborhood Parks that have a wide variety of facilities within a half mile of your home
1st choice 36.7% (65) **2nd choice 29.9% (52)** 3rd choice 24.3% (43) 4th choice 9% (16)

Community Parks with a wide range of facilities that may require travel to get to
 1st choice 29.1% (51) 2nd choice 21.7% (38) 3rd choice 17.7% (31) 4th choice 31.4% (55)

3. Are there programs that you would like to see developed within Muncie's parks? Skipped Question-12

Yes 59.5% (103) No 40.5% (70)

4. If yes, what are examples?

5. Would you like to see Muncie's park system include informal areas including wetlands, forests, farmlands and/or heritage sites? Skipped Question-13

Yes 77.5% (138) No 6.2% (11) No Opinion 8.9% (29)





Appendix A

6. Do you know of a Heritage Site (a special historical or cultural area) within Muncie?
Skipped Question-13
Yes 26.6% (44) **No 74.4% (128)**
7. If yes, What & Where? (please describe the location, give crossroads if possible)
8. Would you like to see Muncie adopt green infrastructure connecting our park system? (Note: green infrastructure could include trails, linear open spaces, or “green streets” - referring to streetscapes that include sidewalks, bike lanes, green buffers...) Skipped Question-5
Yes 87.2% (157) No 3.9% (7) No Opinion 8.9% (16)
9. What CHANGES do you feel Muncie’s parks need? Skipped Question-62
10. How important is outdoor recreation to you? Skipped Question-60
Essential 70.4% (88) Desirable 28% (35) Don’t care 1.6% (2) Undesirable 0% (0)
11. Where do you recreate the most in Muncie? Please mark one. (only # of responses shown)
Skipped Question-59
Aultshire Park-0 Ball Community Park-0 Buley Center-1 Cardinal Greenway-26
Chambers Park-1 Cooley Park-0 Cowing Park-0 Emerson Park-1 Gilbert Park-0
Guthrie Park-2 Heekin Park-5 Jacks Park-0 Mansfield Park-5 Matthews Park-0
McCulloch Park-7 Muncie Cantilevered Walkway-1 Muncie Sportsplex-2
Morningside Park-0 Prairie Creek Park-23 Riverbend Park-0 Riverview Park-0
Rose Park/Ross Center-0 Thomas Park-0 Tuhey Park-6 Washington Park-1
Westside Park-17 White River Park/Greenway-21 Other-12
12. If the Muncie Parks Department (local government) were to raise money for the development or improvement of outdoor recreational facilities, how should they do it? Please rank the top 3 items as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices: Skipped Question-68
No more money needed
1st choice 50% (6) 2nd choice 8.3% (1) 3rd choice 41.7% (5)
Federal Funds
1st choice 41.2% (28) 2nd choice 38.2% (26) 3rd choice 20.6% (14)
State grants
1st choice 46.1% (65) 2nd choice 40.4% (36) 3rd choice 13.5% (12)
Increased user fees (admission charges for facilities, fishing licenses...)
1st choice 12.2% (5) 2nd choice 34.1% (14) **3rd choice 53.7% (22)**
Local park & recreation tax
1st choice 36.7% (18) 2nd choice 22.4% (11) 3rd choice 40.8% (20)
Other local funding (bonds)
1st choice 15% (6) 2nd choice 37.5% (15) 3rd choice 47.5% (19)
No preference
1st choice 55% (11) 2nd choice 0% (0) 3rd choice 45% (9)
13. How would you like Muncie Parks to pay for improvements in the parks? Check all that apply:
Skipped Question-73
Use existing budget 61.6% (69) One-time donations 50% (56) Municipal bond 33% (37)
New use fees 31.3% (35) New taxes 25% (28) **Grants 77.7% (87)**
Charge for organized adult sports 58% (65)
Charge for youth programs/sport leagues 43.8% (49) Other 9.8% (11)





- 14. What would you be willing to pay for special park events? Skipped Question-73
 \$0 8.9% (10) \$1 4.5% (5) \$2-\$4 16.1% (18) **\$5 40.2% (45)**
 \$6-\$8 8.9% (10) \$9-\$10 8% (9) More than \$10 13.4% (15)
- 15. Do you consider yourself as having any sort of disability that interferes with participation in outdoor recreational activities? Skipped Question-56
 Yes 8.5% (11) **No 91.5% (118)**
- 16. If yes, please feel free to explain so that we can better understand your park & recreational needs?
- 17. Did you participate in any outdoor recreation activity during the past year (2007)? (Note: This could be anything from home gardening and horseshoes to snow skiing and mountain climbing.) Skipped Question-56
Yes 95.3% (123) No 4.7% (6)
- 18. What outdoor recreational activities did you participate in REGULARLY during the last year?
Results to this question are provided following the other survey results.
- 19. Where did you participate in the outdoor recreational activities listed in the previous table MOST frequently in the last year (2007)? Please check only one. Skipped Question-67
Muncie Parks 49.2% (58) Other sites in Delaware County 22.9% (27)
 Outside Delaware County in Indiana 24.6% (29) Outside Indiana 3.4% (4)
- 20. What are the top three reasons why you do not participate in outdoor activities more often? Please rank the top 3 items as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices: Skipped Question-64
Lack of time
 1st choice 67% (61) 2nd choice 17.6% (16) 3rd choice 16.5% (15)
 Lack of available funds
 1st choice 18.4% (7) 2nd choice 36.8% (14) 3rd choice 44.7% (17)
Lacking local facilities
 1st choice 37.3% (22) **2nd choice 37.3% (22)** 3rd choice 25.4% (15)
 Local facilities in poor condition/dilapidated
 1st choice 27.3% (12) 2nd choice 45.5% (20) 3rd choice 34.1% (15)
 Local facilities are not accessible
 1st choice 33.3% (8) 2nd choice 25% (6) 3rd choice 50% (12)
 Lack of people with similar interests
 1st choice 21.2% (7) 2nd choice 33.3% (11) 3rd choice 45.5% (15)
 Too physically demanding
 1st choice 30.4% (7) 2nd choice 30.4% (7) 3rd choice 43.5% (10)
 Family constraints (children too young, etc)
 [1st choice 27.8% (10) 2nd choice 33.3% (12) 3rd choice 41.7% (15)]
None
 1st choice 16.1% (5) 2nd choice 29% (9) **3rd choice 71% (22)**
 Other
 1st choice 39.1% (9) 2nd choice 8.7% (2) 3rd choice 52.2% (12)

Demographic Questions:

- 21. Are you... Skipped Question-71
 Male 50% (57) Female 50% (57)



Muncie Parks & Recreation Public Survey 2013

What outdoor recreational activities did you participate in REGULARLY during the last year? Please check boxes for all that apply and indicate how often you did that activity. ALSO, please note that the last column is asking whether or not Muncie parks should provide facilities for each of these activities; please let us know your opinion on each activity.

	How often did you participate?							Do you feel Muncie parks should provide facilities for that activity?		Response Count			
	5-7 times per week	2-4 times per week	1 time per week	2-3 times per month	1 time per month	Less than once per month	Not Applicable	Response Count	Yes		No		
Picnicking	1	7	6	16	23	31	19	103	105	90.5%	11	9.5%	116
Playground use	5	11	10	23	11	22	17	99	106	96.4%	4	3.6%	110
Court Sports													
Basketball	4	7	1	9	6	16	42	85	95	89.6%	11	10.4%	106
Horseshoes	0	2	1	2	1	20	46	72	68	65.4%	36	34.6%	104
Shuffleboard	1	0	0	1	2	15	50	69	49	48.0%	53	52.0%	102
Tennis	2	3	2	3	7	18	43	78	72	69.9%	31	30.1%	103
Tetherball	1	2	3	1	2	16	48	73	54	54.5%	45	45.5%	99
Volleyball	1	4	5	4	6	17	40	77	78	74.3%	27	25.7%	105
Field Sports													
Baseball/Softball	1	7	3	5	3	15	40	74	86	81.9%	19	18.1%	105
Football	3	5	1	1	2	13	43	68	49	49.0%	51	51.0%	100
Rugby	0	0	0	1	0	10	52	63	27	28.1%	69	71.9%	96
Soccer	0	9	1	4	5	14	41	74	74	72.5%	28	27.5%	102
Walking/Hiking/Jogging													
Walking for Pleasure	26	26	12	15	4	9	4	96	119	99.2%	1	0.8%	120
Hiking	5	10	8	8	7	19	20	77	96	88.9%	12	11.1%	108
Jogging/Running	10	15	9	7	3	9	28	81	105	94.6%	6	5.4%	111
Fitness/Rehabilitation	5	19	7	8	3	9	24	75	82	77.4%	24	22.6%	106
Bicycling													
BMX biking	2	1	0	1	0	8	55	67	45	45.5%	54	54.5%	99



Appendix A

	How often did you participate?										Do you feel Muncie parks should provide facilities for that activity?		
											Yes	No	Response Count
	5-7 times per week	2-4 times per week	1 time per week	2-3 times per month	1 time per month	Less than once per month	Not Applicable	Response Count					
Rail-trail/greenway riding	14	17	9	9	5	11	16	81	101	92.7%	8	7.3%	109
Casual riding	11	18	7	12	8	10	15	81	101	91.0%	10	9.0%	111
Touring	0	3	3	4	8	15	37	70	66	66.0%	34	34.0%	100
Mountain Biking	0	4	3	3	4	7	49	70	55	53.9%	47	46.1%	102
Competitive riding/road racing	1	3	3	1	3	10	49	70	46	46.0%	54	54.0%	100
Nature Observation													
Gathering (mushrooms, berries, etc)	3	3	1	7	7	11	31	63	58	56.9%	44	43.1%	102
Nature photography	4	3	5	14	13	14	21	74	88	80.0%	22	20.0%	110
Bird watching	6	9	6	7	10	10	25	73	90	84.1%	17	15.9%	107
Wildlife viewing	6	12	7	12	8	12	16	73	93	86.1%	15	13.9%	108
Relaxation/aesthetics	14	10	9	11	11	8	11	74	95	88.8%	12	11.2%	107
Fall foliage	5	8	8	9	8	20	17	75	98	90.7%	10	9.3%	108
Swimming/Scuba/Snorkeling													
Pool swimming	8	9	6	9	12	18	16	78	99	89.2%	12	10.8%	111
Swimming at reservoir	3	3	2	4	15	18	26	71	95	86.4%	15	13.6%	110
Scuba	0	0	1	0	0	6	52	59	40	39.6%	61	60.4%	101
Snorkeling	0	0	2	0	1	4	52	59	42	43.3%	55	56.7%	97
Fishing													
Lake fishing	2	3	4	8	5	13	35	70	74	71.8%	29	28.2%	103
Pond fishing	1	2	4	7	6	13	36	69	71	70.3%	30	29.7%	101
Reservoir fishing	5	6	5	5	7	11	35	74	90	84.1%	17	15.9%	107
River/stream fishing	2	2	4	7	4	11	38	68	77	74.8%	26	25.2%	103
Fishing Method													
Bank fishing	4	3	1	11	7	9	35	70	87	85.3%	15	14.7%	102
Boat fishing	4	3	3	8	4	9	42	73	78	74.3%	27	25.7%	105
Ice fishing	1	0	0	1	2	12	48	64	56	56.6%	43	43.4%	99
Wading	2	1	2	1	7	10	42	65	69	69.7%	30	30.3%	99





	How often did you participate?										Do you feel Muncie parks should provide facilities for that activity?		
											Yes		No
	5-7 times per week	2-4 times per week	1 time per week	2-3 times per month	1 time per month	Less than once per month	Not Applicable	Response Count			Response Count		
Boating and Related Activities													
Canoeing/rafting/kayaking	1	2	2	3	11	15	32	66	84	81.6%	19	18.4%	103
Houseboats	0	0	0	0	0	8	48	56	33	33.7%	65	66.3%	98
Rowing	1	0	0	0	2	13	43	59	72	73.5%	26	26.5%	98
Power boating (includes electric and pontoon)	4	3	0	5	3	11	40	66	66	65.3%	35	34.7%	101
Sailing	1	1	1	1	0	9	46	59	71	72.4%	27	27.6%	98
Tubing	1	1	0	2	2	11	43	60	54	55.1%	44	44.9%	98
Water skiing/jet skiing	1	1	1	2	0	9	45	59	42	43.3%	55	56.7%	97
Windsurfing	0	0	0	0	3	6	49	58	54	55.1%	44	44.9%	98
Camping													
Cabins	1	1	0	2	2	21	36	63	72	68.6%	33	31.4%	105
Car/van/truck camping	2	0	2	2	4	11	38	59	59	60.2%	39	39.8%	98
RV/trailer camping	1	4	0	2	4	12	39	62	76	75.2%	25	24.8%	101
Tent camping	1	0	1	4	11	20	28	65	89	86.4%	14	13.6%	103
Backpacking/remote camping	2	0	0	0	5	18	36	61	71	71.7%	28	28.3%	99
Organized camping	1	1	0	0	3	12	43	60	71	72.4%	27	27.6%	98
Golf													
Driving range	2	0	1	1	3	9	36	52	35	37.2%	59	62.8%	94
Regulation golf	2	0	2	2	3	8	36	53	27	28.4%	68	71.6%	95
Miniature golf	3	1	0	3	3	9	32	51	41	43.2%	54	56.8%	95
Par 3	2	0	1	1	2	5	39	50	23	25.3%	68	74.7%	91
Disk golf	1	0	0	2	3	12	36	54	55	58.5%	39	41.5%	94
Motorized Vehicle Use													
Snowmobiling	1	1	0	2	0	5	39	48	29	31.2%	64	68.8%	93
4-wheel drive vehicles	1	1	0	1	1	5	39	48	23	24.7%	70	75.3%	93
ATV's	1	2	0	1	1	7	37	49	32	34.0%	62	66.0%	94
Motorcycle	1	1	0	2	0	6	39	49	28	30.1%	65	69.9%	93





Appendix A

	How often did you participate?								Do you feel Muncie parks should provide facilities for that activity?			Response Count	
	5-7 times per week	2-4 times per week	1 time per week	2-3 times per month	1 time per month	Less than once per month	Not Applicable	Response Count		No			
								Yes	No				
Pleasure driving	0	2	0	7	2	8	30	49	32	34.4%	61	65.6%	93
Shooting Sports													
Archery	0	3	2	2	3	8	36	54	47	47.5%	52	52.5%	99
Clay targets	0	0	0	1	2	9	38	50	29	30.9%	65	69.1%	94
Hand guns	0	1	1	0	7	7	36	52	24	24.7%	73	75.3%	97
Paint-ball	1	1	1	0	2	10	37	52	38	40.9%	55	59.1%	93
Rifles	0	0	2	0	5	8	35	50	22	23.4%	72	76.6%	94
Winter Sports													
Cross-country skiing	1	0	1	2	3	11	34	52	55	59.1%	38	40.9%	93
Hockey	1	0	0	1	0	7	41	50	39	42.4%	53	57.6%	92
Ice skating	1	0	2	2	3	12	32	52	59	61.5%	37	38.5%	96
Sledding	2	4	3	4	4	15	28	60	87	87.0%	13	13.0%	100
Snowboarding	3	1	1	0	0	7	41	53	44	46.8%	50	53.2%	94
Snowshoeing/hiking	0	1	0	2	3	14	29	49	58	61.7%	36	38.3%	94
Lawn Games													
Badminton	1	1	1	0	2	7	38	50	42	45.2%	51	54.8%	93
Croquet	0	1	0	0	2	7	38	48	39	41.1%	56	58.9%	95
Lawn bowling	0	1	0	1	2	10	34	48	43	45.7%	51	54.3%	94
MISC													
Horseback riding	2	1	2	0	5	10	33	53	59	60.2%	39	39.8%	98
Remote control airplanes	0	0	0	1	3	6	39	49	47	51.1%	45	48.9%	92
Remote control boats	1	0	1	0	2	7	37	48	45	49.5%	46	50.5%	91
Rollerblading/roller skating	1	2	2	4	4	8	33	54	63	67.0%	31	67.0%	94
Skateboarding	2	0	2	0	2	5	41	52	60	64.5%	33	64.5%	93
Soap Box Derby	0	0	0	0	2	6	41	49	56	60.9%	36	60.9%	92
Dog parks	8	4	4	6	3	10	26	61	88	87.1%	13	87.1%	101





Appendix C

RESOLUTION NO. 11-12

FILED
APR 18 2012
Phyllis Reagon MUNCIE CITY CLERK

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA
DESIGNATING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COORDINATOR AND ADOPTING PROCEDURES**

WHEREAS, the Federal Government enacted the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and further enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) to prevent discrimination of the physically and mentally disabled relating to employment and access to public facilities; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Muncie shall name an ADA Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Muncie shall adopt a grievance procedure for resolving complaints alleging violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Muncie shall publish a notice to the public regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA, as follows:

Section 1. The Personnel Director of the Human Resources Office is designated as the ADA Coordinator for the City of Muncie, Indiana, and may designate an authorized representative (Designee) as needed.

Section 2. The Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A", is adopted as the City of Muncie's Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Section 3. The City of Muncie Grievance Procedure under the Americans with Disabilities Act, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "B", is adopted as the grievance procedure for addressing complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs or benefits by the City of Muncie.

Section 4. In compliance with federal laws as set forth above, the Common Council of the City of Muncie hereby resolves to post the required information regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, the Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the City of Muncie Grievance Procedure under the Americans with Disabilities Act on the county website and at such other locations as may be determined from time to time.

Section 5. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, and such publication as required by law.





	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAINED	ABSENT
Julius J. Anderson	✓			
Mary J. Barton	✓			
Mark Conatser	✓			
Jerry Dishman	✓			
Linda Gregory	✓			
Doug Marshall	✓			
Brad Polk	✓			
Nora Powell	✓			
Alison Quirk	✓			

Passed by the Common Council of the City of Muncie, Indiana, this 7th day of May, 2012.

Jerry Dishman
President of the Common Council of Muncie, Indiana

Presented by me to the Mayor for his approval this 7th day of May, 2012.

Phyllis Reagon
Phyllis Reagon, City Clerk of Muncie, Indiana

The above resolution approved (vetoed) by me this 9th day of May, 2012.

Dennis Tyler
Dennis Tyler, Mayor of the City of Muncie, Indiana

ATTEST:
Phyllis Reagon
Phyllis Reagon, City Clerk of Muncie, Indiana

This resolution is proposed by: Jerry Dishman
City Council Member

This resolution is approved in form by: Alison Quirk
Corporate Counsel





Exhibit “B”

CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ((ADA))

This City of Muncie, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), has adopted this Grievance Procedure to insure prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging discrimination based on disability in the provision of programs, services, benefits, or activities provided by the City of Muncie, Indiana. Employment related claims of disability discrimination are governed by the City’s Personnel Policies.

The steps in the City of Muncie’s Grievance Procedure are as follows:

1. File a written complaint using the City’s ADA Grievance Form (attached) no later than 60 days after the date of violation. Information must include:
 - Name, address, phone number, email (if applicable) of person filing the grievance.
 - Name, address, phone number, email (if applicable) of person alleging the grievance on behalf of someone else.
 - Date and approximate time violation occurred.
 - Narrative description of the violation.
 - Remedy or desired County corrective action.

The complaint should be submitted to:

ADA Coordinator
Human Resources Office
300 N. High Street
Muncie, Indiana 47305

Alternative means of filing complaints such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

2. The City of Muncie’s ADA Coordinator will acknowledge the complaint within 21 days from the date of filing. The ADA Coordinator may meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and explore informal resolution to the problem.
3. If informal resolution is not reached, then within 30 days after the initial response under Step 2, the ADA Coordinator or Designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate in a format accessible to the complainant such as large print or audio tape. The response will explain the City’s position and offer options for resolution of the complaint.
4. If the ADA Coordinator’s response does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal that response/decision. This appeal should be made to the President of the Board of Public Works & Safety or his/her designee within 15 days after receipt of the response of the ADA Coordinator, and this appeal request must be made in writing. The appeal should be submitted to:

President
Board of Public Works & Safety
5790 W. Kilgore Avenue
Muncie, Indiana 47304





**ADA GRIEVANCE FORM
CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA**

Today's Date: _____

Complainant: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone/email: _____

Individual Discriminated Against: _____
(if different from Complainant)

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone/email: _____

Alleged Violation – Date(s) & Approximate Time of Occurrence:

Detailed Description of Violation and County Department/Location Involved: _____

Requested Action by County to Correct Violation: _____

Has Complaint been filed with State or Federal Agency: _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, Name of Agency: _____

Contact Person: _____ Date Filed: _____

Complainant Signature

If there are witnesses, please list names and addresses separately below and/or on the back side of this form:





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