

City of Rushville



Five Year Park Master Plan

Plan Years 2011-2015



Prepared by ARA
February 8, 2010

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I. Introduction

Demands on time and resources today are overwhelming. Fiscal responsibility of public agencies is imperative and doing more with less is a standard expectation in today's world. Many people find themselves with less time and money available for leisure and recreation activities. To enable the City of Rushville's Park Board to address these and other conditions the Rushville Parks Department goes through the process of developing a master plan on a five-year cycle.

The purpose of this master plan is simple: to set the course for the recreation for the next five years. In order to do this we assess where recreational opportunities were five years ago, see what is available today and determine what the needs and desires of the community are for the next five years. Identifying the steps necessary to enable the implementation of the park master plan is also a major concern.

A number of areas are examined in the course of developing a master plan for the City of Rushville. First, local trends were reviewed, including demographics, growth areas, and economic data. While the master plan is for Rushville, the actual planning area reaches beyond the boundary of the city, and is defined in this document. As with any process that ultimately affects the public, input was sought from the citizens of Rushville. An inventory was completed of the Rushville Parks and Recreation System, as well as a review of the last five years. All of this information was compiled and analyzed. From this information, goals and objectives were developed that allowed priorities to be set and an action plan developed.

The City of Rushville Five Year Park Master Plan is an important step in guiding the development of the city into the future by opening up funding opportunities for its park system. The importance of having a master plan is not limited to enhancing funding opportunities. By creating a master plan, park boards formulate a formal framework for future action. This framework serves as a guideline for supporting sensible development of park and recreation services. Having a master plan is not only beneficial for board members; it also gives the community a clear sense of direction. An effective master plan is the result of a collaborative effort and utilizes strategic planning. The Indiana Department of Natural Resource provides instructions for local park boards to assist in developing master plans for their park systems. By following their format the city will develop a plan that will help:

- Examine the park system
- Analyze what people need and desire
- Determine what recreation facilities and programs are appropriate
- Prioritize and plan for new and renovated facilities and programs

This master plan will only be as realistic and useful as the community makes it. In order to be responsive to changing needs, planning must be flexible. Keeping the plan simple helps keep it flexible. All of the information, assumptions, and justifications behind the plan priorities and recommendations should be clearly stated. As change occurs, it will be

easier to determine which recommendations are still valid and which are not. By continuing to incorporate and analyze new information, the plan will always remain current.

Park and recreation planning typically occurs at three levels: **system wide master planning, site planning and operational and maintenance planning**. A master plan for the entire recreation system under the city jurisdiction is required for participation in the Hometown Indiana and Land and Water Conservation Fund programs. All park boards will deal with site planning as parks and facilities are developed, but many function without operation and maintenance plans.

In order to gather adequate information it took eight months to complete the plan. It was imperative that the park board and ARA establish a time frame in the early stages of the planning process, which specified target dates for completing major components of the plan.

Community meetings were conducted to allow residents of the city to participate in planning the future development of the infrastructure needs by assessing the economic development, land uses, and housing needs. This plan meets both the short-term and long-term goals of the city's park system in that it establishes a basis for making sound development decisions for now and the future. The plan will have to be evaluated every year to distinguish its successes and failures. By accomplishing short-term goals and evaluation of the plan every year, long-term goals can be better realized. The city must keep the plan up-to-date and not allow it to gather dust on the shelf. Goals and objectives must be kept in pace with the rapidly changing community.

An inclusive public input process involving a broad cross-section of the community was used. The outcome provided a community consensus behind efforts to address the issues facing the parks and recreation system over the next five years. A number of techniques will be used to gather information from the community regarding the recreational opportunities and needs which included: surveys of residents/user groups, solicitation of input from park board members and city/civic leaders, as well as public planning and design session. From this process recommendations were developed based upon responsiveness to identified needs, ease of implementation and accommodation of future growth.

Identification of indicators that can be used in determining the allocation of community resources was also critical. In order to facilitate the development of such a plan a fair amount of groundwork needed to be completed. This included a comprehensive information gathering stage where a variety of data is compiled and analyzed. Goals/tasks were developed to identify specific areas where the park board could respond to a variety of situations and conditions.

For the Master Plan update to be successful the following issues needed to be assessed and discussed:

- The quality and effectiveness of recreational services and programs; and
- The development of new or updating of existing park facilities and infrastructure.

Recommendations for new and existing facilities were designed to address the parks most imperative maintenance needs, accessibility, expansion, heightened usefulness and attractiveness. The implementation timeline for recreation will be also be developed as a result of, and in response to, the inventory, analysis, and public input.

Planning Timeline

Introduction and presentation of timeline and task: ***August 2010***

Review and analyze existing data, studies, reports, and maps related to the city and the city's park system (particularly current master plan and current project/timelines).

Inventory/Identification of Existing Issues: ***August 2010***

Review and analyze existing data, studies, reports, and maps related to the city and the city's park system (particularly current master plan and current project/timelines).

Additional Data Gathering & Analysis: ***August-September 2010***

Compile and analyze demographic information as it relates to the park system. Develop and distribute public survey and user questionnaire.

Public Participation: ***September-October 2010***

Meet with neighborhood associations, elected officials, civic groups, and community leaders to gain input on issues and needs. Gather and record public information through surveys or public meetings. Conduct three public meetings in and around the community. The meetings will be community meetings held at different locations around the city. The meetings are a method of soliciting input on the needs and objectives relating to the future of the city. Two public meetings will be held at the regularly scheduled park board meetings.

Development of Plan Update: ***October– November 2010***

This Park Master Plan update must contain at least the following elements:

- Definition of planning area
- Information gathering
- ADA accessibility
- Public participation
- Needs assessment
- Determine the park recreation priorities
- Develop an action schedule
- Assemble your plan.

Submit Draft Plan:

December 2010

A draft of your plan should be submitted (via e-mail) to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation. It will be considered a draft plan, subject to change. After receiving review comments from the Division of Outdoor Recreation, the park board should make the necessary revisions (if any), print the final version, and adopt the plan by formal resolution.

Submit an unbound copy of the finalized plan:

March 2011

Submit an unbound copy of the finalized plan and resolution to the Division of Outdoor Recreation before April 15, 2011. After you receive approval of the final plan, distribute the plan to interested persons, groups, city officials, libraries, and the news media.

II. Executive Summary/Vision

Administrative Resources association agreed to donate their services to the City of Rushville to assist in the development of the Parks and Recreation Five-Year Master Plan. The plan includes a review of demographic information, projections, a facilities survey, and identification of growth trends, a review of facilities and programs, and recommendations regarding various aspects of the parks and recreation system in Rushville.

An inclusive process involving a broad cross-section of the community was implemented to address the most critical issues facing the parks and recreation system over the next five years. A number of techniques were used to gather information from the community regarding the recreational opportunities and needs including: interviews with residents, park board, and civic leaders in addition to a public planning and design session.

Final recommendations and timeline were developed and an evaluation of these recommendations was based upon responsiveness to identified needs, ease of implementation and accommodation of future growth. For a master plan to be successful the following issues need to be addressed:

- the condition of recreational services and programs;
- the development of new or the renovation of existing facilities; and
- identification of indicators that can be used in determining the allocation of community resources is also critical.

In order to facilitate the development of such a plan a fair amount of groundwork needs to be completed. This includes a comprehensive information gathering stage where a variety of data is compiled and analyzed.

Goals were developed to identify specific areas where the park board could respond to a variety of situations and conditions.

Recommendations for new and existing facilities are designed to address their imperative maintenance needs, expansion, and heightened usefulness and attractiveness. Goals for recreation were also developed as a result of, and in response to, the inventory, analysis, and public input.

III. Planning Area

The planning area is divided into the jurisdictional planning area and the fringe planning area. The jurisdictional planning area is the corporate limits of Rushville, which is defined by jurisdictional boundary set when the park board was established via the city ordinance. In this case the fringe area is Rush County and the incorporated and unincorporated towns located within the county. The fringe area is an important area in that recreation is not prohibited or limited by location and thus many people travel outside the city limits to use the recreation facilities in Rushville.

Jurisdictional Planning Area

Rushville is a small, friendly community that can offer individualized attention to its residents and visitors. Rushville is optimally located approximately halfway between the metropolitan centers of Indianapolis and Cincinnati, offering quick access to each of these metropolitan centers. Rush County sits 40 miles southeast of Indianapolis and 65 miles northwest of Cincinnati. Business and industry can conveniently transport products via Interstate 74 or Interstate 70 with a Rushville location. Interstate 70 runs alongside Rush County's northern border, while Interstate 74 is just a few minutes' drive to the south or to the west. Indiana is well known as the "Crossroads of America" and U.S.52, State Road 3 and State Road 44 provide an Indiana Crossroads in Rush County allowing access in every direction. Excellent railroad transportation opportunities are also available. More than 80% of the top U.S. markets are located within 24 hours via truck or rail delivery.

The population was 5,995 in the 2000 census. The city is the county seat of Rush County. It was the campaign headquarters for Wendell Willkie's 1940 presidential campaign against Franklin D. Roosevelt. Willkie is buried in the city's East Hill Cemetery. It, like the county, was named in honor of Dr. Benjamin Rush, who signed the Declaration of Independence.

Rushville is an unspoiled community that has deep roots in agriculture. Rushville offers a small town family lifestyle with great access to urban amenities. There's plenty of room to grow in Rush County. Residents take pride in the fact that Rushville is a close-knit community that works well and has fun together too. City and county officials as well as the business community work together in Rush County for the progress of the entire area. Prime land has been set aside for development. Educational and lifelong learning opportunities are readily available and valued here.

The city is governed by a Mayor who is elected for four-year term and a five-member city council. The Clerk Treasurer is the chief financial officer for administering city government funds, while the common council's main responsibilities are to appropriate funds, adopt ordinances and approve budgets. Council meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month in the Council Chambers located at 270 W. 15th St. Rushville, IN 46173.

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133 W. First Street
Rushville, IN 46173
765-932-3735
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1-1-2008 to 12-31-2011

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765-932-2672
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A five-member park and recreation board oversee the operations of six city-only parks. The board is responsible for the administration and maintenance of the recreational properties, facilities and programs in the community. Exhibit A of the Appendix contains the planning area map. The City of Rushville has forty acres of beautifully maintained parks for individual relaxation and recreational enjoyment. The City of Rushville opened a \$1.2 million dollar outdoor aquatic facility in June of 2000.

A few of the city's major industries include Copeland Corporation, the Trane Company, and INTAT Precision Casting. Other small manufacturing firms also enhance our community. The city has an additional 270 acres of prime space adaptable for development to accommodate the majority of a company's industrial needs.

Fringe Planning Area

Since Rushville resides in Rush County and a number of county residents use the city park facilities we felt it was imperative to include Rush County. There three largest population centers in the county include Rushville, Carthage and Glenwood.

Table 1 Town's Name	Population in 2009	Percent of County
Carthage	840	4.9%
Glenwood	199	1.2%*
Rushville	6,014	35.0%
* This place crosses county lines, so only population in this county is shown.		

Unincorporated towns:

- Town of Arlington
- Town of Manilla
- Town of Mays
- Town of Milroy
- Town of Moscow

Rush County also offers some attractions that draw recreational users to area. Whether they are interested in the hidden treasures of Rush County such as our architecturally alluring Kennedy Covered Bridges, or a relaxing day of hiking, canoeing, or fishing, Rush County welcomes guests with open arms.

IV. Natural Features and Landscape

The natural features and landscape are important aspects of recreation planning considerations. The topography, natural resources, wildlife (particularly endangered species), geological and soil make-up must be considered when identifying and considering new park and recreation spaces. However this information is only available for on a county basis so the recreation planning area data in this case also reflects the fringe planning area.

Topography

The topography of most of this area is on uplands consisting of broad flats, undulating plains, and steeper areas along streams and drainage ways. Narrow bottom land is along the Flatrock River. The general direction of drainage is to the southeast. A topography map is included in Exhibit G.

Natural Resources

Rush County is proud to offers 60 miles of outstanding small mouth bass fishing along the banks of three main rivers; Flatrock River, Little Blue River, and Big Blue River. The Flatrock River offers incredible small mouth fishing along a 15-mile stretch of river

from the recently rebuilt beautiful Moscow Covered Bridge to the Forsythe Mill and Covered Bridge. There is very little development along this well-preserved stretch of river, and the banks are a nature lover’s dream. Silver maples, box elders, sycamores, cottonwoods, and elms encompass the crystal clear waters, allowing inhabitation of the area by wood ducks, kingfish, spotted sandpipers, great-horned owls and fox squirrels. In 1974, the sighting of an Osprey raised considerable interest, as the presence of this species is rapidly diminishing.

Wildlife, Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Species

The woodland wildlife in the planning area consists of endangered, threatened and rare species that could be impacted by development and should be identified and possible mitigation pursued in an effort to limit or negate harm to them. The wildlife includes the following:

Table 2 Indiana County Endangered, Threatened and Rare Species List:	
Specie Name	Common Name
Mollusk	Wavyrayed Lampmussel Clubshell Kidneyshell Purple Lilliput Little Spectaclecase
Bird	Loggerhead Shrike Barn Owl
Amphibian	Northern Leopard Frog
Mammal	Indiana Bat Evening Bat American Badger
Vascular Plant	Thinleaf Sedge
High Quality Natural Community	Mesic Upland Forest

Geology and Soils

It is important to note that soil and geological information is available on county basis and thus the Rush County Survey was used in plan. Each section will be examined for such things, as wetness, slope and texture of the surface layer. Soils subject to flooding are limited for recreation use by the duration and intensity of flooding and the season when flooding occurs.

About 83% of the county is actively farmed. The climate and soils in the area favors cash-grain and livestock farming. It has been determined that there are about 34 different kinds of soil in the county. The soils range widely in texture, natural drainage, and other characteristics. The nearly level soils away from major streams are loamy and are somewhat poorly drained. Wetness is a major limitation in affecting the use of their soils. Because of the wetness, however, they are generally poorly suited to cultivated cops but with extensive tile drainage, the soils are well suited to cultivated crops. Due to the wetness, however, the soils are generally poorly suited to most associational urban

development, but may lend itself to recreational uses.

The general soil map in the back of the Rush County Soil Survey shows the broad areas that have distinctive pattern of soils, relief and drainage. The general soil map can be used to compare the suitability of large areas for general land uses, such as recreational uses. The names, descriptions, and delineations of the soils on the general soil survey map of Rush County are:

1. Genesee-Sloan-Shoals: Deep, nearly level, well drained, very poorly drained and somewhat poorly drained soils formed in alluvial deposits; on bottom land.
2. Miami-Xenia-Russell: Deep, nearly level to steep well drained and moderately well drained soils formed in the loess and the underlying glacial till; on uplands.
3. Fincastle-Cyclone-Xenia: Deep, nearly level and gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained, poorly drained, and moderately well drained soils formed in loess and the underlying glacial till; on uplands.
4. Crosby-Treaty: Deep, nearly level, somewhat poorly drained and very poorly drained soils formed in loess and the underlying glacial till; on uplands.
5. Miamian: Deep, gently sloping to steep, well drained soils formed in loess and the underlying glacial till; on uplands.
6. Ocley-Westland-Sleeth: Deep, nearly level and gently sloping, well drained, very poorly drained, and somewhat poorly drained soils formed in the glacial outwash deposits; on terraces and outwash plains.

The soils in Rush County vary in their potential for major land uses. An estimated 65% of the acreage is used for cultivated crops, mainly corn, soybeans and wheat; 18% for hay land and pasture; 5% is woodland; and about 12% is for urban or built up land. In general the gently sloping and moderately sloping Miami and Miamian soils and the gently sloping Russell soils are suited to urban uses.

V. Man-Made Historical and Cultural Features

Identifying the man-made historical and cultural features allows planning and future projects to perhaps incorporate or at least consider the historical value and assets of the community. Throughout Rushville's history, the growth and development of the town has been closely tied to the river and railroads.

There are two rivers the Flatrock and Big Blue Rivers. As in most early communities, saw and gristmills were the first industries to be established along waterways. Once there were grist mills, distilleries were built and taverns were opened along key routes of transportation.

The importance of railroads in the founding and nurturing of many Rush County's towns can hardly be overstated. The rapid physical and commercial expansion of communities served by the railroad during the late nineteenth and twentieth century's has not been

equaled. In nearly every Rush County city and town remnants of the prosperous railroad days can be seen. Rushville in particular has created historic districts that protect that rich heritage. The following are designated historic districts in the city of Rushville: Rushville Commercial Historic District, Rushville Northside Historic District, Rushville Northside Residential Historic District and Harrison Street District.

- *Rushville Commercial Historic District (see attachments)* - The earliest settlement in the township occurred within the area here. This area served as a civic and financial center for the community. This area includes the core of downtown and serves as the heart of the city.
- *Rushville Northside Historic District (see attachments)* - This district incorporates several residential neighborhoods immediately north and northeast of the downtown business district.
- *Rushville Northside Residential Historic District (see attachments)* - This district is located along the main north/south corridor 11th and 12th street on the west side of Main Street. Most of the homes in this area were built between the years 1909 and 1915.
- *Harrison Street District (see attachments)* - This district includes homes and a church on the east and west side of Harrison Street between 5th and 8th Streets. Of particular interest are the four stately homes and a church rated outstanding on the west side of Garrison Street. Mature trees frame the structures and large front lawns stretch in front of the houses.

History buffs love to discover our Kennedy Covered Bridges and round barns. Five of the famous covered bridges dot the landscape, and are lovingly protected by the Rush County Heritage and watchful neighborhood associations. These well-maintained, historical structures attract visitors from near and far.

One of the most well hidden treasures of Rush County is our Amish Community. The group stems from the Anabaptist movement of the early 1500's in Switzerland, with approximately 150,000 practicing members in North America. The group avoids modern machinery and other conveniences to honor their religious beliefs. The effect is a step back in time to more than a century ago, before electricity, telephones and even running water. So, horse and buggies share our county roads, with our 2006 automobiles as drivers' wave to each other in passing. Among this thriving community, furniture crafting, and carpentry is a way of life, rather than a vocation. Individual crafters are committed to excellence in every remarkable piece of furniture they produce. Of course, it is hard to resist the delectable aromas of the fresh-baked breads and pastries wafting from the Amish bakeries.

VI. Social and Economic Characteristics

City of Rushville General Statistics & Facts

As of the census of 2000, there were 5,995 people, 2,434 households, and 1,552 families residing in the city. The population density was 2,668.8 people per square mile (1,028.7/km²). There were 2,597 housing units at an average density of 1,156.1/sq mi

(445.6/km²). The racial makeup of the city was 96.45% White, 1.58% African American, 0.20% Native American, 0.85% Asian, 0.05% Pacific Islander, 0.13% from other races, and 0.73% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race was 0.40% of the population.

There were 2,434 households out of which 31.2% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 46.9% were married couples living together, 12.7% had a female householder with no husband present, and 36.2% were non-families. 31.6% of all households were made up of individuals and 15.2% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.39 and the average family size was 2.99.

In the city the population ages were spread out with 25.2% under the age of 18, 8.6% from 18 to 24, 28.6% from 25 to 44, 20.2% from 45 to 64, and 17.5% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 37 years. For every 100 females there were 89.0 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 85.0 males.

The median income for a household in the city was \$30,233, and the median income for a family was \$36,646. Males had a median income of \$30,127 versus \$22,440 for females. The per capita income for the city was \$17,072. About 8.1% of families and 11.0% of the population were below the poverty line, including 12.3% of those under age 18 and 12.0% of those ages 65 or over.

Population

The size and growth rate of population are important factors in planning for park and recreational facilities. In 2000, the population of the City of Rushville was 5,995. This has only increased to 6,014 or 19 persons by 2009, an increase of less than 1% percent, while the State of Indiana has seen a population increase of 5.6%.

Table 3	2009	2000	Estimates Base	Census	Change April 2000 to July 2009	% Change April 2000 to July 2009
City of Rushville	6,014	6,610	6,641	5,995	19	0.3%
Indiana	6,423,113	6,091,649	6,080,520	6,080,485	342,628	5.6%

Rush County as a whole has fared worse the City of Rushville. The county has actually seen a decrease in population from 2000 to 2009 of almost 6%. The county is ranked 76th in population and makes up just .3% of the state's population.

Table 4				
Rush Co. Population over Time	Number	Rank in State	Percent of State	Indiana
Yesterday (2000)	18,261	76	0.3%	6,080,485

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Today (2009)	17,175	76	0.3%	6,423,113
Tomorrow (2015 projection)	16,675	77	0.3%	6,581,875
Percent Change 2000 to Today	-5.9%	85		5.6%

Sources: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); [Indiana Business Research Center](#)

This population stagnation can be important in the recreation planning and development. The impact is the only growth occurring in the county seems to be Rushville.

The age of the population is also a determining factor in the types of facilities and services affected by the supply and demand for recreational amenities. Rushville and Rush County population has a significant number of older individuals living in the community. The median age of the community has steadily increased from 2000 to 2009. Rushville’s median age for 2000 was 35.7, which is slightly higher than Indiana at 36.8. However in 2009 Rushville median age increased to 41 years old, which was a much more significant increase than Indiana (36.8 in 2009) over the same period of time. Also the census notes that the largest percentage of population in the county is older adults from 45-64 years old. The ages of the population in the planning area closely profiles that of the population statewide as shown below in Table 6. When looking at recent trends based on 2009 estimates, the population of Rush County tends to be an older population with over 40% of their population 45 years and older. This would tend to guide the recreation planning activities more suited to an older population.

	2009	2000
Indiana	36.8	35.4
City of Rushville	41	37
Source: U.S. Census		

Population Estimates by Age, 2009			Pct Dist.	Pct Dist.
	Number	Rank in State	in County	in State
Preschool (0 to 4)	1,020	76	5.9%	6.9%
School Age (5 to 17)	3,176	75	18.5%	17.8%
College Age (18 to 24)	1,390	77	8.1%	10.0%
Young Adult (25 to 44)	3,969	78	23.1%	26.3%
Older Adult (45 to 64)	4,917	78	28.6%	26.0%
Seniors (65 and older)	2,703	77	15.7%	12.9%

Sources: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); [Indiana Business Research Center](#)

Households

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the number of households in the Rush County was 7,337 but is estimated to rise to 7,746 in 2009. In 2000 the households were composed of 1,876 families with children and 2,334 households without children, 289 single parents, and 1,615 living alone. Again, the number of households and make-up of the household is important in planning for future recreation use.

Table 7 Household Types	Number	Rank in State	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State
Households in 2000 (Includes detail not shown below)	6,923	77	100.0%	100.0%
Married With Children	1,876	75	27.1%	23.8%
Married Without Children	2,334	80	33.7%	29.8%
Single Parents	498	75	7.2%	9.1%
Living Alone	1,615	76	23.3%	25.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Occupied housing units total 5,131 and had a median value of \$82,300. There were 1,792 households that were renters with average rent of \$446. Home ownership is a larger percentage in Rushville than the state average which shows that residents tend to be investing into the community for the long term.

Table 8 Housing	Number	Rank in State	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State
Total Housing Units in 2009 <small>(estimate)</small>	7,746	79	100.0%	100.0%
Total Housing Units in 2000 <small>(includes vacant units)</small>	7,337	79	100.0%	100.0%
Owner Occupied <small>(Pct. distribution based on all housing units)</small>	5,131	80	69.9%	65.9%
Median Value (2000)	\$82,300	55		
Renter Occupied <small>(Pct. distribution based on all housing units)</small>	1,792	67	24.4%	26.3%
Median Rent (2000)	\$446	58		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Education

Comparing the 1990 to 2000 graduation rates can represent the educational attainment for the area. In 2000 only 73.3% of the residents of Rushville had obtained a high school degree or higher, but that increased from the 66.4% percent in 1990. However the city saw a decrease in the number of individuals seeking higher education. In

Table 9	High School Graduate or Higher				Bachelor's Degree or Higher			
	2000	rank	1990	rank	2000	Rank	1990	rank
Rushville	73.3%	474	66.4%	441	7.1%	423	7.3%	329

Source: U. S. Census Bureau

2000 the percentage of residents of Rushville who received a Bachelor's Degree or higher decreased to 7.1% down from 7.3% in 1990.

Table 10				
Education	Number	Rank in State	Percent of State	Indiana
School Enrollment (2007/2008 Total Reported)	2,643	79	0.2%	1,154,501
Public	2,643	79	0.3%	1,046,609
Private	N/R	N/A	N/A	107,892
Public High School Graduates (2006/2007)	171	78	0.3%	63,339
Going on to Higher Education	151	72	0.3%	52,698
4-year institution	91	73	0.2%	38,566
2-year institution	38	70	0.4%	9,783
Vocational/tech. institution	22	60	0.5%	4,349
Adults (25+ in 2000 Census)	12,020	76	0.3%	3,893,278
with High School diploma or higher	79.6%	64		82.1%
with B.A. or higher degree	10.3%	69		19.4%

Sources: Indiana Department of Education; U.S. Census Bureau

Racial Characteristics

Racial characteristics in 2009 for the planning area show a homogeneous population. The white race represented 97.3 percent of the population, with 1% of Hispanic origin and less than 1 percent being black and the remainder being other races. This compares statewide to the white race comprising 87.8 percent of the population, with the black race being 9.2 percent and the remainder being other races. However it should be noted that the Hispanic population is a growing ethnic population in Rushville. The Asian population also represents a significant number of the minority residents in Rush County with 114 or (.7%)

Table 11				
Population Estimates by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2009	Number	Rank of	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State
American Indian or Alaska Native Alone	32	82	0.2%	0.3%
Asian Alone	114	53	0.7%	1.5%
Black Alone	149	64	0.9%	9.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pac. Isl. Alone	4	64	0.0%	0.1%
White	16,706	76	97.3%	87.8%
Two or More Race Groups	170	67	1.0%	1.2%
Hispanic or Latino Origin (can be of any race)				

Non-Hispanic	17,008	76	99.0%	94.5%
Hispanic	167	84	1.0%	5.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Accessibility

Providing accessibility to the disabled is an important function of all public recreational facilities, including that of parks. The 2000 census noted that 1,355 persons out of 5,995 or over nineteen (19.3) percent of the city’s population were determined to have some type of mobility or self-care limitation. This is a significant number of individuals with disabilities in the community and accommodations at the parks must be addressed.

Economic Characteristics

The annual per capital personal income in 2008 for Rush County was \$35,614 ranking 14th in the state and above the state average. Median household income in 2008 was \$45,882 ranking it 51st, but below the state average. The poverty rate in 2008 was 10.8% and below the state average of 12.9%. Rush County has a very small percent of families on TANF, food stamps, or free and reduced lunch.

Table 12				
Income and Poverty	Number	Rank in State	Percent of State	Indiana
Per Capita Personal Income (annual) in 2008	\$35,614	14	103.1%	34,543
Median Household Income in 2008	45,882	51	95.6%	\$48,010
Poverty Rate in 2008	10.9%	55	84.5%	12.9%
Poverty Rate among Children under 18	15.7%	53	87.7%	17.9%
Welfare (TANF) Monthly Average Families in 2009	90	58	0.3%	34,097
Food Stamp Recipients in 2009	2,086	69	0.3%	730,041
Free and Reduced Fee Lunch Recipients in 2009	1,097	75	0.3%	436,945

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Census Bureau; Indiana Family Social Services Administration; Indiana Department of Education

July 2010 the unemployment rate was 9.9% lower than that the state average of 10.1%. This was also a decrease for their annual unemployment rate in 2009 of 10.3%.

Table 13				
Labor Force, 2009	Number	Rank in State	Percent of State	Indiana
Total Resident Labor Force	9,059	75	0.3%	3,184,780
Employed	8,125	75	0.3%	2,864,578
Unemployed	934	76	0.3%	320,202
Annual Unemployment Rate	10.3%	48	102.0%	10.1
July 2010 Unemployment Rate	9.9%	45	98.0%	10.1

Source: STATS Indiana, using data from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development

The type of industrial base is important in the life of the community. Shown here for the planning area for 2008 are the types of industry, the number of employees and the average earnings per job for the county and the average earning per industry for state as shown in the U.S. Census.

The county is seen as farming and manufacturing community, with a majority of employees in the community employed in industrial fields. The largest percentages of employees (15.9%) work in the manufacturing field. In 2009 it was documented that only 7.1% of population work as farm proprietors and 8.5 % of the population work in the farm sector. Actually the number of employees in the retail field, 9.1% is larger than the farm employees.

In developing the recreation opportunity based on the demographic data, the park board looked for those activities and projects that help a population that is growing older, for those working towards a higher possible income, but an unemployed population that maybe in maybe in need of cheap recreation alternatives.

Table 14		Pct Dist. in County	Earnings (\$000)	Pct Dist. In County	Avg. Earnings Per Job
Employment and Earnings by Industry, 2008	Employment				
Total by place of work	7,255	100.0%	\$311,551	100.0%	\$42,943
Wage and Salary	5,294	73.0%	\$165,329	53.1%	\$31,230
Farm Proprietors	517	7.1%	\$69,857	22.4%	\$135,120
Nonfarm Proprietors	1,444	19.9%	\$33,249	10.7%	\$23,026
Farm	614	8.5%	\$72,466	23.3%	\$118,023
Nonfarm	6,641	91.5%	\$239,085	76.7%	\$36,001
Private	5,286	72.9%	\$179,888	57.7%	\$34,031
Accommodation, Food Serv.	370	5.1%	\$5,097	1.6%	\$13,776
Arts, Ent., Recreation	42	0.6%	\$548	0.2%	\$13,048
Construction	534	7.4%	\$17,331	5.6%	\$32,455

City of Rushville Five Year Park Master Plan

Health Care, Social Serv.	380	5.2%	\$12,174	3.9%	\$32,037
Information	Data not available due to BEA non-disclosure requirements.				
Manufacturing	1,152	15.9%	\$57,842	18.6%	\$50,210
Professional, Tech. Serv.	202	2.8%	\$6,276	2.0%	\$31,069
Retail Trade	660	9.1%	\$15,367	4.9%	\$23,283
Trans., Warehousing	385	5.3%	\$15,104	4.8%	\$39,231
Wholesale Trade	Data not available due to BEA non-disclosure requirements.				
Other Private (not above)	725*	10.0%*	\$16,150*	5.2%*	\$22,276*
Government	1,355	18.7%	\$59,197	19.0%	\$43,688

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

VII. Parks and Recreation Board and Department Profile

The Rushville Parks and Recreation Board and Department possess the general powers and duties to conduct such programs that are generally understood to be park and recreation functions as defined by Indiana Code 36-10-3.

City of Rushville Parks and Recreation Department

Address: 119 W. 16th St.
Rushville, IN 46173

Office Phone: 765-932-4146
Fax: 765-932-4355
Email: parks@cityofrushville.in.gov
Parks Director: Danny Matthews
Assistant Parks Director: Donnie Rains

The Parks Board

Ordinance #1979-32 establishes a Department of Parks and Recreation. Our municipal Parks and Recreation Board consists of four (4) members appointed by the executive of the municipality. The members are appointed on the basis of their interest in and knowledge of parks and recreation. Not more than two (2) members may be affiliated with the same political party and must be residents of the district. In addition to the Mayor's appointees, our creating ordinance provides for one member of and appointed by the governing board of the school corporation and one member of and appointed by the Library Board. This board oversees the management of the city's forty acres of parks which include North Memorial, South Memorial, Laughlin, Community, Riverside and Wilkie Parks.

The Parks and Recreation Board meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Rushville Council Chambers, 270 W. 15th Street, Rushville at 6:15 p.m.

Table 15 lists the current Rushville Parks and Recreation Board members and the expiration date of their term of office. In the last ten years the accomplishments of the board and department include the pool overhaul and hired a pool manager to make it a better and safer place to swim.

Table 15			
MEMBERS AND STAFF	ADDRESS	APPOINTED BY	EXPIRATION OF TERM
Dennis Corn, President	437 E. 5th Street Rushville, IN 46173	Mayor's Appointee	12/31/2012
Liz Crain, Member 765-932-5376 Email: liz_crain@yahoo.com	505 N. Harrison St. Rushville, IN 46173	Mayor's Appointee	12/31/2010
David Malson 765-932-3040 Email: dbmalson85@verizon.net	120 W. 11th St. Rushville, IN 46173	City Council	12/31/2013
Sue Otte 765-932-4018 Email: sueotte@rpl.lib.in.us	320 E. 9th St. Rushville, IN 46173 Lane	Library Board	N/A – assign by Library board to correspond with Library Board Term
Steve Sickbert 765-932-4563 Email: sickbertfec@yahoo.com	344 E. Rivercrest Dr. Rushville, IN 46173	School Board	N/A – assign by school board to correspond with School Board Term
Anna Karen Pennington 765-932-3661 Email: rushcountyd@verizon.net	1272 S. Baker St. Rushville, IN 46173	Mayor's Appointee	12/31/2010

The Parks and Recreation Organization

The Parks & Recreation Board employees include a park superintendent, a full-time employee and a seasonal part-time pool manger. The months of May through September are the most active for the park system. This is predominately due to the escalation of recreational activities during the summer partially as it relates to the pool. The park board currently owns six (6) city park sites and uses one other site that is owned by other community organizations. The following is a list of sites/facilities and activities:

There are six (6) city parks in Rushville, as well as the Boys and Girls Club and school playgrounds.

- **Veterans Memorial Park North** - located within the Rushville Consolidated School Corporation Campus in northwestern Rushville. The high school, vocational school, elementary school, football stadium, basketball arena, baseball diamond, and ad-lighted tennis courts are located on school and city property here. In addition to these facilities, the Parks and Recreation Department has a zero depth access outdoor pool with locker rooms, sun deck, and concession stand; a covered shelter house, the Parks and Recreation Department offices, a

- lighted softball diamond, concession stands, lighted horseshoe courts, picnic areas, playground equipment, fitness walk trails and several small cabins.
- **Veterans Memorial Park South** - located on Jackson Street between Ninth and Eleventh Streets. There is an enclosed shelter house, lighted basketball courts, large flower planters, restrooms, playground equipment, picnic tables, fitness walk trail and a small privately operated restaurant currently under reconstruction.
 - **Community Park** - located on Ft. Wayne Road includes: a partially enclosed shelter house with concessions, a softball diamond, restrooms, playground equipment, basketball court, a tennis court and a storage building.
 - **Laughlin Park** - located at Second and Spencer Streets, facilities include an enclosed shelter house, a basketball court, a concession stand, shuffleboard, picnic tables, restrooms, playground equipment, two lighted baseball diamonds, a lighted softball diamond, an unlighted T-ball diamond and a large undeveloped area.
 - **Willkie Park** - located on Main Street between Second and Third Streets. It has a gazebo, benches and flowerbeds for downtown visitors to use.
 - **Riverside Park (Formally Flatrock River)** - located by the Flatrock River at the south edge of town. There is a stage as an entertainment venue with restrooms.

VIII. Public Participation

The public participation process was considered very important to the establishment of recreation needs for the planning area. Any form of planning, whether public or private, must emerge from a basic understanding of the relative values and desires of those for whom the plans are prepared. Consequently, public participation meetings were held as part of the city park board meeting agenda on September 14, 2010, December 18, 2009 and March 8, 2011.

Date: September 14, 2010 meeting:

Publication method Radio and notices at city hall

Number of public (non board or media in attendance): 8

Summary of meeting: The public meetings initially focused on the purpose of planning and the sharing of background information. The need for planning and the public support for the planning necessary for success were stressed, as well as presenting information about park-owned properties, the recreational programs and the population characteristics of the community. Methods of survey distribution and facilitation process were also discussed during the meeting.

Date: December 14, 2010 public hearing:

Publication method: Notice in newspaper and article in newspaper

Number of public (non board or media in attendance): 7

Summary of meeting: The findings of Five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and a summary of the five-year action schedule were presented to park board at a their monthly park board meeting. The board will authorize forwarding on the draft to DNR.

Date: March 8, 2011.

Publication method: February 12, 2011

Number of public (non board or media in attendance): _____

Summary of meeting: Final presentation and approval of plan. Board passed resolution adopting plan and sign appropriate documents.

The Publisher's Affidavit, newspaper articles, agendas, minutes etc. of all of the public meetings is contained in Exhibit B of the Appendix. The community also conducted a survey with the form distributed at the initial public meeting and made available at city hall and the Rushville Library.

IX. Goals and Objectives of Parks Board

Taking into consideration the citizen comments from the public meetings and the parks and recreation survey, the following goals and objectives were developed:

Continue to Maintain Facilities and Equipment

- Maintain current and future programs and facilities at a high level of quality.
- Provide recreation programs and facilities for all age and user groups in the community.
- Renovate the older infrastructure of the parks.
- Utilize life-cycle costs as a planning tool in facility renovation and expansion and equipment replacement. That will facilitate maintaining a high level of quality in facilities and reduce maintenance costs of equipment.
- Evaluate security/safety needs.
- Review ADA compliance at park.
- Weigh and evaluate current needs prior to expansion.
 - ▶ Areas of interest in new park development:
 - Eastside by Kroger
 - Farmington Estates
 - Quail Meadows

Develop a Trail System

- Use proposed new trails document for development and submission of grant request
- Implement after funded
- Develop walking paths in the park
- Evaluate usage.
- Review possible trail network throughout city and continue with the proposed phases.

Make the most of Funding

- Evaluate the creation of a park foundation
 - 🌳 Appoint committee of park board
 - 🌳 Review Columbus Park Foundation formation documents
 - 🌳 Create bylaws and incorporation documents
 - 🌳 Appoint board members per bylaws

- Evaluate the current opportunities for funding
 - 🌳 Fees
 - 🌳 Budget
 - 🌳 Grants
 - 🌳 Foundations

- Explore the possibilities of other funding sources
 - 🌳 Grants (State and Federal)
 - 🌳 Develop facilities as revenue streams (rental/user fees)

Parking issues in parks

- Create a plan for park that will increase safety and flow
 - 🌳 Acquire property as necessary
 - 🌳 Construct new parking areas

Development of Dog Park

- Create a committee of interested persons
 - 🌳 Create fee structure or membership for park creation, utilization and maintenance
 - 🌳 Identify location
 - 🌳 Install fencing and applicable structures

X. Accessibility Section 504 Compliance

The 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act requires that local governments with over 50 employees designate at least one individual to act as ADA compliance coordinator for the entire government unit. As a best management practice, the Rushville Parks Board has designated our own ADA coordinator, Park Director Danny Matthews. Any person or persons who have complaints, grievances or comments related to accessibility may contact Director Matthews [(765-932-4146 (voice/TT)); parks@cityofrushville.in.gov, any staff member of the Rushville Parks and Recreation Department staff, or any member of the Rushville city government. All comments will be responded to within five business days.

The City of Rushville has six (6) parks/recreation facilities under its ownership and control. The parks consist of **Veterans Memorial Park North, Veterans Memorial Park South, Community Park, Laughlin Park, Wilkie Park, Riverside (Flatrock) Park** These parks are home to recreational uses such as basketball courts, picnic areas, swimming pool, walking/hiking trails and playground equipment. The city has been

working to update the parks, facilities and equipment to make them more accessible. Some of the recent improvement consists of playground equipment, drinking fountains, shelters, etc. accessible to individuals with disabilities. Recent accessibility updates were funding by Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC) along with the Rush County Community Foundation at for South Veterans Memorial Park can consisted of the following items:

- Two lounge chair swings to lay the children in.
- A wheel chair swing to roll the wheel chair onto and swing.
- Ramps with play features.
- Special wood chip surface.
- Playground equipment has handicap assessable wheel chair ramp right into play area.

The Parks and Recreation Board has completed and signed an Assurance of Compliance form for this plan. The form is included in Exhibit I of the Appendix. The park department director, park board members, specifically Dr. Steve and Cindy Sickbert (whose son is disabled), Mayor, and a representative from Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC) participated or were consulted as part of a self-assessment of the park facilities in an effort identify potential areas of concern and create a transition plan or mitigation activities to address concerns. The following section consists of an accessibility checklist used during the process of assessing each of the city’s parks.

Attached is the 504 Facility Accessibility Checklists

Proposed Accessibility/Transition Plan

Rushville has been working diligently to replace play structures and improve accessibility to the local park and recreation facilities. Not all of the current sites meet Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines, National Playground Safety Institute guidelines, or the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Play Areas. One of the greatest needs is that the parks lack accessibility in North and South Memorial Parks. Also there is lack of parking signage and accessible routes to the parking lots and other amenities in our parks. The following bare minimum cost estimate for this kind of upgrade is \$175,000. ‘Ideal’ amenities will cost a great deal more. Funds are expected to come from grants and donations. Below is a table identifying the transition plan items (also include in the Priorities and Action Schedule found in this plan) including a proposed completion timeline.

Park	Improvement	Estimated Cost	Year
Veterans Memorial North and South	Handicapped bathroom (unisex)	\$50,000	2011
Laughlin	Safety surface/fall protection and updated equipment	\$75,000	2012
All parks	Creating accessible routes to park amenities, such as ball	\$20,000	2013

	fields, shelter house, picnic tables, etc.		
All parks	Parking lot signage and paving or paving parking spaces	\$20,000	2014
All Parks	Publications, misc, maintenance and facilities improvements compliant with ADA	\$10,000	Annually/ongoing

XI. Trends, Programs and Facilities Inventory

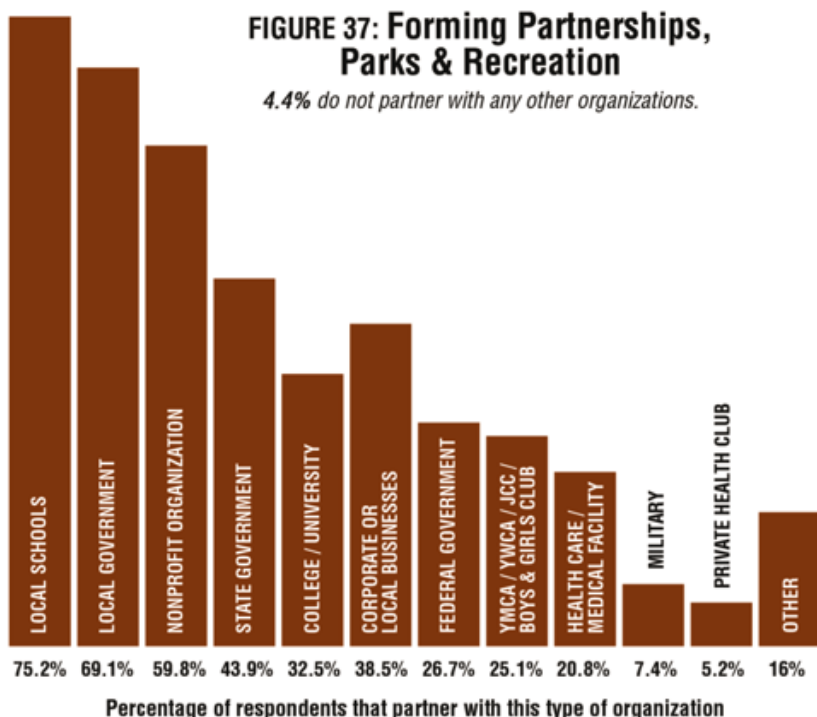
Trends (from Recreation Management)

Recent economic conditions are causing many parks and recreation agencies across the country to cut their budgets, but at the same time, more and more citizens may be taking advantage of the services offered through these agencies. Whether they're trading in a pricier health club membership for a less costly membership at the park district gym, they're taking advantage of public programs to help them get their financial houses in order or they're swapping that beach vacation to splash around in the local water park. Many citizens are looking for ways to do their own budget cutting, and local parks and recreation agencies offer an alternative.

With budgets shrinking and usage increasing in many cases, park agencies are forced to get more creative. In fact, many agencies have been refocusing their efforts for years, attempting to operate more like a business, to bring in revenues with some programs to cover shortfalls in other areas. Those agencies are likely performing the best in the current conditions, as they already know what they need to do to adjust.

Parks and recreation agencies commonly form partnerships to extend their reach and programming capabilities in the community - or to increase their ability to fund and provide specific programs, services and facilities. Parks respondents to a survey were highly likely to indicate that they had formed partnerships with external organizations. Only 4.4 percent indicated that they do not have any partnerships in place.

The most common partners for parks are local schools - 75.2 percent of park respondents indicated they partner with schools. The



schools partnerships were followed by partnerships with local government (69.1 percent), nonprofit organizations (59.8 percent), state government (43.9 percent), and corporate or local businesses (38.5 percent). (See **Figure 37**)

Programming:

Some of the following trends are areas of current interest in the area of recreation:

- Cradle to grave recreation programming
- Single parent (female and male) programming
- Child care support
- Active recreation (golf, walking, running, in-line skating)
- Passive recreation (Picnicking and bird watching)
- Recreation as a crime prevention strategy
- Trail/Greenway development
- Therapeutic recreation
- Environmental education
- Revenue generation

Facilities

In September 2010, facility inventory forms were completed for all of Rushville Park and Recreation Department's owned and operated facilities. The Indiana Recreation Facilities Inventory Update forms were utilized for this purpose. The completed forms are included in Exhibit F of the Appendix. Exhibit A of the Appendix contains a map of all public recreation facilities.

XII. Needs Analysis

The City of Rushville's park and recreational needs assessment examined factual data and community input to derive the area's needs. The city felt it was essential to the planning process that the following items were also taken into consideration: current community recreational facilities, communicating with its citizens regarding these needs, and examination of the interaction or impact of these needs on the natural and manmade environments. This level of review is extremely crucial to park and recreation planning because it involves a governmental function whose limitations are set in large part by consumer preferences. A roadway improvement, which displeases residents, may be undesirable, but it is ordinarily used for its intended purposes. However, a park or recreation program, which generates a negative reaction, is likely to remain unused, serving as a costly reminder of a misapplication of community resources. It became apparent after examining this data that the park system needs some upgrades and that certain populations were not being served by the current programs and facilities.

Attitudes and preferences related to leisure time activities are constantly changing. More demands are being made of communities to provide a wider variety of opportunities to a larger cross section of people with the same or reduced budget. In order to be effective, a park and recreation master plan must be responsive to the needs and desires unique to the

community under study. This philosophy is central to the master planning approach applied during this study.

Methodology

The methodology used in this needs assessment is divided into two basic techniques. These techniques were used to identify the recreational demands, needs, and possible solutions for the City of Rushville:

- Physical and Demographic Analysis
- Public/Users Input

Recognizing that each technique has limitations, this combined approach was used in order to more accurately reflect the actual needs of the community. This approach also provided many more opportunities for input from a broad range of groups and individuals. The existing physical and demographic characteristics for Rushville were examined as factors affecting recreation needs, along with the relevant changes, which have been predicted for the area.

Physical and Demographic

Many features of the City of Rushville have an effect on the development of recreational facilities and programs for area residents. Physical features are important determinants of population distribution and the siting of recreational facilities. These physical factors serve as constraints to the development of new facilities, particularly those, which serve active sports and are heavily used by the public. In order to avoid the higher costs associated with converting land, which is not well suited for park facilities; the best strategy is to use existing park sites to their fullest potential while preserving their open space qualities. This strategy will also promote the preservation of woodland areas and wildlife habitats in the area. The land and soil of each park location has been assessed and was found to be suitable for its intended use. Also there will be no impact on historic properties as a result of any of proposed improvements or renovations.

The population characteristics and growth trends of Rushville also have an impact on recreation demand. Once the need for new facilities and programs has been determined, it is critical that they be targeted geographically and demographically to conveniently serve residents in new growth areas and segments of the population. Population statistics for the county (2000) indicate that proportionate population increases will occur in the oldest (55+) age groups. The city's median age is also increasing. Also the city has a high number of individuals with disabilities residing in the community. Therefore, special consideration must be given to the importance of certain types of facilities or programs serving these age groups.

Income levels by family type are another indicator of recreation need. Female-headed households with dependent children have the lowest incomes, less than half that found in married-couple families. Public parks facilities and services such as after school/summer playground programs or guardian/child programs may represent the only recreation outlet for children and the parent from these households. Fees for public recreational

opportunities must therefore be based on the participant's ability to pay for services. The accessibility Section 504 compliance results noted the "need for accessibility" issues in most of the parks. The improvements needed consist of more parking spaces for individuals with disabilities, need for paved paths to equipment, and the need to purchase accessible recreation equipment.

In summary, all of the physical and demographic factors help to shape the demands for recreation services and assist in identifying the most effective distribution of recreation facilities and programs. Services and programs need to be considered for activities such as: intergenerational activities, coordinated/scheduling events and functions (including before and after school), input into family oriented programs needs, and facility updates that address accessibility.

Public Input/User Assessment

The needs analysis technique involves a process of identifying and listing all of the needs that affect facilities, programs, and the administration of the park and recreation system. Specific recommendations are then formulated to address the needs identified. For the Rushville Park and Recreation Plan, three methods were used to identify needs:

1. Public Input Process

Through two (2) public meetings, ideas and comments were generated regarding facilities and programs. These advertised meetings were held at varying locations.

2. User solicited input:

Rushville Men's and Co-ed Softball Leagues:

- Average 15 teams with approximately 200 players using Memorial Park North - Softball Diamond.
- Program needs: Get help with redoing the diamond. Continued help with improvement with draw sponsors, teams, and players. Already seen big improvements.
- Facility needs: Lights.

Rush County High School Athletic Dept – Girls Softball:

- One team and estimated 30-35 players using the Memorial Park North - Softball Diamond.
- Program needs: We also use the bleachers and concession building.
- Facility needs: Currently need the use of the diamond, press box and restrooms.

Rush County T-ball League:

- They have 12 teams with estimated average of 170 players.
- Program needs: Program provides 20% of county's youth age 4-7 with fundamentals of t-ball. We have grown so successful we have a concern of safety of the children around the diamond.

- Facilities needs: Need a facility that has appropriate parking for the families of our players. We have tried orange cones traffic directors, one-way streets, any possible method to end the parking madness. There is no control. We are simply too successful in having children involved in out league.

3. Survey of community residents:

The park board conducted a survey of the needs and wants of the City of Rushville residents. The survey was made available through the city's website with links from the local newspaper. Copies were also hand delivered to recreation organizations that utilize the facilities, and copies were available at city hall and the newspaper for those individuals without access to a computer. An estimated 200 surveys were distributed, downloaded or made an available. The survey results were as follows:

Results:

Survey's received: 66

Respondents - 67% from Rushville and 33% lived outside the city limits.

Veterans Memorial North was the most used facility with 47% saying they use it, followed closely by Veterans Memorial South. Riverside, Laughlin, Community and Wilkie Parks all followed very close at behind from 30-36% reporting use of said parks. Items for parks noted under other consisted of amphitheater/shelters house (15%), softball diamonds (5%), and park by the police station (6%).

Walking at 52% was the activity that the respondents participate in most at the parks. Next was playing with their children (35%), dog walking (32%), picnicking (21%), family gatherings (23%), exercising (21%), nature walks (18%), and enjoying concerts/music (15%).

A majority of the respondents (55%) use the park facilities from 2 to 10 times a month and the second largest response came from those that used the facilities more than "less than twice a month" (32%).

The main reason they use the parks is to relax (35%), visit and socialize (27%), as well as exercise (26%). A number come to parks to enjoy nature (16%) or to go to hear concerts/music (18%). Also a number of people responded that they come to the park to walk their dogs (17%).

When asked what type of path the community prefers the respondents noted that they preferred paved pathways (37%), but a number wanted to see both paved pathways and smaller more informal non-paved paths.

When asked what improvements they would like to see in or to a park the demand for pedestrian travel modes in the parks and connecting them rose to the top. Thirty-five percent of the respondents said they would like to see city-wide trails or network. Also 36% wanted to see some kind of nature walk or improvement and number of soporifically identified Riverside Park. The five projects were:

1. Nature Walk
2. Citywide trail system
3. Dog Park
4. Parking Improvements – all parks
5. Sidewalk/trail/pathways
6. Shelter house improvements
7. Playground equipment (particularly for 1-3 years old)

When asked where they would like to see a new park the majority of responses stated they did not want or feel any new parks were needed in Rushville. Those respondents that wanted new parks space suggested that improvements or expansion be done to existing parks particularly mentioned were improvements to Riverside Park. .

Summary

After reviewing all the data and community input, the results of this assessment can best be summarized in the following areas: general issues/needs addressed by community; causes for nonuse of the current facilities; special use needs in community, and proposed uses of existing facilities.

The following is a list of the general issues/needs that were identified by either the public input sessions, users' comments and the physical and demographics needs:

1. Nature Walk in Riverside Park
2. Citywide trail system
3. Dog Park
4. Parking improvements at all parks – (specifically attention to Laughlin Park's Ball fields)
5. Sidewalk/trail/pathways combined pedestrian network
6. Shelter house improvements
7. Playground equipment (particularly for 1-3 years old)
8. Improvements to Riverside Park

The following is a list of items that were identified as causes of nonuse by public input sessions, users' comments or the physical and demographics needs:

- Make the area ADA accessible, particularly sidewalks between fields and playground areas.
- Parking issues at baseball facilities
- No pedestrian trail network
- Community's interest in a dog park

There were a couple of special use needs that must be addressed in this plan. The biggest special needs concern that was mentioned at the public input sessions and from local services providers' related park and recreation barriers to the individuals with disabilities.

They explained that Indiana’s citizens with disabilities continue to encounter barriers to community participation. Park and recreation is one of their areas of concern. The other specific issues that were described and projected as needs of special populations are as follows:

- Lack of accessible bathrooms to individuals with disabilities.
- Parking signage and paving of parking spaces.
- Sidewalks between fields and in playground area are not paved allowing accessibility to all individuals.
- Some park faculties (shelters or gazebos) are not accessible to individuals with disabilities, because they lack accessible paths.

The following is a list of the projected/proposed future uses of current and present facilities that were identified by the public input sessions, users’ comments and the physical and demographics needs:

- Should use resources to maintain existing park facilities and equipment instead of building new parks.
- Parking issues particularly around the baseball diamonds.
- Upgrades to Riverside Park.
- A new or upgrade to existing park facilities with a focus on the safety surface needs.
- Development of a trail network incorporating existing and possibly new parks into network.

XIII. Priorities and Action Schedule

A five-year Capital Improvements Plan has been structured in Table 16 to indicate the timing with cost estimates of major actions necessary to implement the recommendations described in the previous paragraphs.

The timing of improvements has been established in consideration of the priorities of the Board and citizens, the potential funding capacities of the local community, and outside funding sources, the amount of lead-time to arrange financing and to design facilities, and the ability of staff to manage an aggressive capital improvements program. As a result, the plan provides for a steady stream of projects to be designed and implemented over a five-year period.

The estimated costs of projects are generalized for planning purposes. As such, these cost estimates are based on comparable costs of similar facilities constructed elsewhere, rather than on detailed estimates of quantities of construction materials and labor time. The actual costs may vary due to local and seasonal variations, discounts and donations, quality and types of materials, and economic conditions. Detailed and accurate costs estimates can result only after careful design has been completed. Exhibit F of the Appendix contains a map of proposed park and recreational facilities.

The potential funding sources include:

Park General Fund

The local Park General Fund, which receives an annual appropriation from the Rushville City Council and annual income from operations. The budget appropriation from city council is derived from taxes on real estate.

Local Funds

Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT)

EDIT funds maybe used for economic development projects and for other uses specified in the EDIT law. An economic develop project is a project the city will promote with significant opportunities for gainful employment of its citizens; attract a major new business enterprise to the unit; or retain or expand a significant business enterprise within the unit. An economic development project must involve an expenditure for the acquisition of or interest in land; site improvement; infrastructure improvement; rehabilitation, renovation and enlargement of building and structures; machinery; equipment; furnishings; facilities; administrative expense with an economic development project or operating expenses of a governmental entity that plans or implement development projects. A capital improvement plan must be developed and include proposed project/expenditures.

County Motor Vehicle Excise Surtax /Wheel Tax

The county council of any county may adopt an ordinance to impose annual license excise surtax at the same rate or amount on each motor vehicle listed in subsection (b) that is registered in the county. The county council may impose the surtax either:

1. at a rate of not less than two percent (2%) nor more than ten percent (10%); or
2. at a specific amount of at least seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50) and not more than twenty-five dollars (\$25). However, the surtax on a vehicle may not be less than seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50). The county council shall state the surtax rate or amount in the ordinance imposing the tax.

The license excise surtax applies to the following vehicles:

1. Passenger vehicles.
2. Motorcycles
3. Trucks with a declared gross weight that does not exceed eleven thousand (11,000) pounds.

Revenue for the surtax and the wheel tax can be distributed to the county and to cities and towns in the county on the basis of population and comparative street and road mileage. Currently the rate is not less then 2% and not more than 10% of the amount of the state motor vehicle excise tax in effect prior to 1990.

Cumulative Funds

Cumulative Capital Development Funds (CCDF) are determined by the legislative body of a city or town and are funded from property taxes. CCDF are viewed as funds into themselves. This is because, unlike other cumulative funds, there is an exclusion from maximum levy controls. These funds can be used for the following general area of improvement: bridges, airports, levees, channel, maintenance, public building for which

cumulative building fund moneys may be expended, public ways and sidewalks, regulated drains, and park and recreation facilities.

Tax Increment Finance (TIF)

In general, TIF provides for the temporary allocation to redevelopment districts of increased tax proceeds (known as “increment”) in an allocation area generated by increases in assessed value. Thus, TIF permits cities to use increased tax revenues stimulated by redevelopment to pay for the capital improvements needed to induce the redevelopment. It requires the creation of a redevelopment commission, redevelopment plan and the passage of a declaratory resolution. Other steps include working with the plan commission and conducting public hearings for public comment.

Bonds are typically sold based on the TIF district incremental revenue and uses for public improvements. TIF proceeds can be used for property acquisition and redevelopment activities including the construction of “local public improvements” such as public ways, sidewalks, sewer, water lines, parking facilities and park or recreational areas. Also the funds can be used to pay bond related obligations.

Local Sharing of Gaming Funds

Before August 15, 2003 and each year thereafter, the treasurer of state shall distribute the wagering taxes set aside for revenue sharing to the county treasurer of each county that does not have a riverboat according to the ratio that the county's population bears to the total population of the counties that do not have a riverboat. The county auditor shall distribute the money received by the county under this subsection as follows:

1. To each city located in the county according to the ratio the city's population bears to the total population of the county.
2. To each town located in the county according to the ratio the town's population bears to the total population of the county.
3. After the required distributions are made, the remainder shall be retained by the county.

Money received by a city, town, or county under subsection (e) or (h) may be used for any of the following purposes:

1. To reduce the property tax levy of the city, town, or county for a particular year (a property tax reduction under this subdivision does not reduce the maximum levy of the city, town, or county under IC 6-1.1-18.5);
2. For deposit in a special fund or allocation fund created under IC 8-22-3.5, IC 36-7-14, IC 36-7-14.5, IC 36-7-15.1, and IC 36-7-30 to provide funding for additional credits for property tax replacement in property tax increment allocation areas or debt repayment.
3. To fund sewer and water projects, including storm water management projects.
4. For police and fire pensions.
5. To carry out any governmental purpose for which the money is appropriated by the fiscal body of the city, town, or county. Money used under this subdivision

does not reduce the property tax levy of the city, town, or county for a particular year or reduce the maximum levy of the city, town, or county.

Rainy Day Funds

A political subdivision may establish a rainy day fund by the adoption of:

1. an ordinance, in the case of a county, city, or town; or
2. a resolution, in the case of any other political subdivision.

An ordinance or a resolution adopted under this section must specify the following:

1. The purposes of the rainy day fund.
2. The sources of funding for the rainy day fund, which may include the following:
 - a. Unused and unencumbered funds
 - b. Any other funding source:
 - i. Specified in the ordinance or resolution adopted under this section; and
 - ii. Not otherwise prohibited by law.

The rainy day fund is subject to the same appropriation process as other funds that receive tax money. In any fiscal year, a political subdivision may transfer not more than ten percent (10%) of the political subdivision's total annual budget for that fiscal year, to the rainy day fund. A political subdivision may use only the funding sources in the ordinance or resolution establishing the rainy day fund. The political subdivision may adopt a subsequent ordinance or resolution authorizing the use of another funding source.

These funds are raised by a general or special tax levy on all the taxable property of a political subdivision. Whenever the purposes of a tax levy have been fulfilled and an unused and unencumbered balance remains in the fund, the fiscal body of the political subdivision shall order the balance of that fund to be transferred as follows, unless a statute provides that it be transferred otherwise:

1. Funds of a county, to the general fund or rainy day fund of the county.
2. Funds of a municipality, to the general fund or rainy day fund of the municipality, as provided in section 5.1 of this chapter.
3. Funds of any other political subdivision, to the general fund or rainy day fund of the political subdivision. However, if the political subdivision is dissolved or does not have a general fund or rainy day fund, then to the general fund of each of the units located in the political subdivision in the same proportion that the assessed valuation of the unit bears to the total assessed valuation of the political subdivision.

Municipal Bonds

There are a number of different types of bonds a municipality can utilize. The most often used are:

- General obligation bonds

- Special district bonds
- Revenue bonds
- Industrial development bonds

General obligation bonds or GOB are an obligation payable out of local property taxes collected in the political subdivision issuing the bonds. GOB financing is available for a broad range of project and might be available for a particular economic or community development project undertaken for a valid public purpose. There is a 2% cap on the amount of funds bonded under this method.

Special district bonds can be used for projects only authorized by Indiana law relating to special taxing district with authority to finance project by issuing its own special taxing district bonds payable from special debt limit. The project must be a local public improvement that is not political or government in nature and that provide special benefits to residents and properties of the special taxing district. Examples are parks, sanitation, flood control, thoroughfare, and redevelopment districts.

Revenue Bonds refer to obligation payable from revenues of a particular project (e.g. water revenue bonds, sewer bonds, etc). These bonds do not count against the 2% debt limit and do not require a petition or remonstrance process. They also do not need approval of the Department of Local Government Finance.

Industrial development bonds are used as an incentive to companies located in a certain area. In order to encourage small manufacturing it is permitted for manufacturers to borrow money on a tax exempt basis in order to provide manufacturing facilities. This is the method that is used to address this desire. When issuing these bonds the political subdivision acts merely as a “conduit” for the issuance of the bonds and carries no liability with regard to bond and the bond proceeds. It is a pass through process.

Bond Issue

According to Indiana’s Park and Recreation Law 36-10-3, Park Boards have the power to levy special benefit taxes for authorized park and recreation purposes. Before bonds may be issued however, the city council must approve the tax. If approved, the park department’s bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the municipality. The total of all bonds issued by the municipality may no exceed two percent (2%) of total assessed property value in the district.

State and Federal Grant Programs

Exhibit H of the Appendix contains a list of state and federal grant programs for local park and recreation projects. In addition to these programs the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs has the Planning Grant Program that can be used for planning and design of park and recreational projects. The program is a 90% state/federal funding with a required 10% local matching funding participation.

XIV. Plan Implementation

This Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan embodies ideals and concepts, policies and directions rather than rigid specifications. Future park and recreation needs have been examined for the Rushville Parks and Recreation Board. Priorities have been established to guide the board and department in meeting needs and accomplishing goals for the next five years. In order for the goals in this master plan to become a reality cooperation and communication between the Rushville Parks and Recreation Board, public and private agencies, and local citizens need to continuously occur.

Parks and Recreation Board

Adoption of this Five-Year Master Plan by the Rushville Parks and Recreation Board assures that the goals embodied in this plan are followed. The priorities and action schedule of the Plan will help facilitate achievement of the goals and objectives within the plan.

Private Sector

The citizens of the City of Rushville have had the opportunity for input into the Rushville Five-Year Master Plan before it was adopted. Implementation of this plan will necessitate cooperation between private agencies and groups, and local volunteers.

Financing

It is the responsibility of the Rushville Parks and Recreation Board to budget sufficient funds to carry out the priority goals set forth in this five-year master plan. The board should apply for grants that are available through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for park improvements and land acquisitions.

FIVE-YEAR ACTION SCHEDULE				
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>EST. COST</u>	<u>FUNDING SOURCE(S)</u>
2010	All Parks	Complete five-year Master Plan	\$10,000	Park General Fund/In-kind Donations
2010	TOTAL		\$10,000	
2010	NA	Trail Engineering/Planning/Map	\$ 2,000	Park General Fund
2011	Memorial	Maintain Walking/Fitness Trail	\$5,000	Annual operation budget
2011	All Parks	Landscaping	\$2,000	Annual operation budget
2011	Riverside Park	Outdoor Entertainment/Programs in Park	\$5,000	Annual operation budget
2011	N. Memorial	Pool Maintenance	\$15,000	Annual operation budget
2011	TBD	Safety surface/fall protection playground	\$20,000	Park General Fund, Donations, DNR funds, foundation grants

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2011	Baseball facilities	Parking (possible land acquisition)	\$100,000	Donations/ Park General Funds/DNR funds
2011	N. and S. Memorial Park	Handicap Restroom(s)	\$50,000	Donations/ Park General Funds/ DNR funds/ARC
2011	Riverside Park	Capital projects: Dumpsters enclosure wall, loading area-concrete pad and ramp, reseeding, pad for tents, access road around restrooms - grading completely around the restrooms area, trash cans, sidewalk to rock for memorial brick placement, finish trim on exterior of restroom porch, finish painting of restrooms porch, arch frames for advertising, repainting of sponsor posts	\$20,000	Donations/ Park General Funds/ LWCF
2011	TOTAL		\$ 219,000	
2012	Memorial	Maintain Walking/Fitness Trail	\$5,000	Annual operation budget
2012	All Parks	Landscaping	\$2,000	Annual operation budget
2012	Riverside Park	Outdoor Entertainment/Programs in Park	\$5,000	Annual operation budget
2012	N. Memorial	Pool Maintenance	\$15,000	Annual operation budget
2012	Riverside Park	Capital Projects: Picnic tables, lighting towers-through seating and concession area, electronic backdrop winch, picnic area built-in grills, aerate gravel, paint amphitheater and caulk front façade, winter ice rink, upgrade the electrical field GFI's, sidewalk to restroom and porch pad	\$20,000	Park General Fund, Donations, DNR funds, foundation grants
2012	To be determined	Dog park	\$30,000	Donations/ Park General Funds/ membership fees
2012	Laughlin	Safety surface and update playground equipment	\$75,000	Park General Fund, Donations, DNR funds, foundation grants, ARC
2012	City Right of Way	Trail way project Phase 1	\$500,000	Safe Routes to School, RTP, foundations
2012	TOTAL		\$652,000	
2013	Memorial	Maintain Walking/Fitness Trail	\$5,000	Annual operation budget
2013	All Parks	Landscaping	\$25,000	Annual operation budget
2013	Riverside Park	Outdoor Entertainment/Programs in Park	\$5,000	Annual operation budget
2013	N. Memorial	Pool Maintenance	\$15,000	Annual operation budget
2013	New Neighborhood Park	Build Neighborhood Park: Donated land, playground equipment, picnic area	\$25,000	Donations/ Park General Funds/ LWCF Indiana

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2013	All Parks	Accessibility paths to park amenities (shelters, gazebos, equipment, etc.)	\$20,000	Park General Fund, Donations, DNR funds, foundation grants, ARC
2013	Riverside Park	Capital Projects: Main level parking retaining wall, landscape area around restrooms/patio lighting of advertiser signage, flood lights, on front of amphitheater-end of concert-not done, survey the site, landscape around light poles, rod iron fencing along Water Street and alley on the east side of the park-install a main gate off of Water Street.	\$20,000	Park General Fund, Donations, DNR funds, foundation grants
2013	City Right of Way	Trail way project Phase 2	\$500,000	RTP-SAFETEA-LU Funds/County Funds/Park General Funds
2013	TOTAL		\$615,000	
2014	Memorial	Maintain Walking/Fitness Trail	\$5,000	Annual operation budget
2014	All Parks	Landscaping	\$2,000	Annual operation budget
2014	Riverside Park	Outdoor Entertainment/Programs in Park	\$5,000	Annual operation budget
2014	N. Memorial	Pool Maintenance	\$15,000	Annual operation budget
2014	Riverside Park	Trail way Phase 3: Nature walk (signage, path enhancements and landscaping management), Fitness stations, benches, playground, bollards at electric panel and around hydrant	\$200,000	Park General Fund, Donations, DNR funds, foundation grants
2014	All Parks	Parking lot signage and paving	\$20,000	Park General Fund, Donations, DNR funds, foundation grants, ARC
2014	Ball fields	Improvements and upgrades to baseball and softball facilities (lighting)	\$100,000	Park General Fund / foundation/utility grants
2014	TOTALS		\$347,000	
2015	Memorial	Maintain Walking/Fitness Trail	\$5,000	Annual operation budget
2015	All Parks	landscaping	\$2,000	Annual operation budget
2015	Riverside Park	Outdoor Entertainment/Programs in Park	\$5,000	Annual operation budget
2015	N. Memorial	Pool Maintenance	\$15,000	Annual operation budget
2015	Riverside Park	Capital Projects: Spraying fountain, bottom of park gatehouse/concessions, pave walk between bollards, concessionaires-rough road at base of levee, curtain replacement (sidewall)	\$30,000	Park General Fund, Donations, DNR funds, foundation grants
2015	City Right of Way	Trail way project Phase 4 - Including lighting and fitness equipment	\$500,000	RTP-SAFETEA-LU Funds/General Funds
2015	TOTALS		\$557,000	
GRAND TOTAL			\$	2,400,000