



RUSHVILLE PARKS DEPARTMENT
2016-2020 MASTER PARK PLAN



KIESER CONSULTING GROUP, LLC

Planning . Environmental Studies . Grants . Water Quality

9120 Otis Avenue

Lawrence, IN

46216

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-1

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FIVE YEAR MASTER PLAN FOR THE CITY OF RUSHVILLE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FOR YEARS 2016 THROUGH 2020


WHEREAS, the City of Rushville Park and Recreation Board is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the residents of Rushville, Indiana and

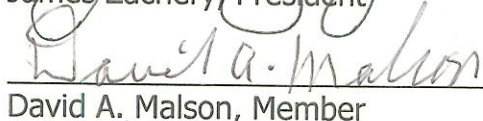
WHEREAS, the Board realizes the importance of sound planning in order to meet the recreational needs of its growing community and


WHEREAS, the Board of Parks and Recreation provides Park locations throughout the City of Rushville and provides various passive and active forms of recreation.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE RUSHVILLE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD, by unanimous declaration, does adopt the Rushville 2016-2020 Park and Recreation Master Plan as its official plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreation opportunities in the City of Rushville.

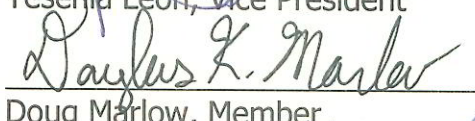
Passed and signed this 12th day of April, 2016.

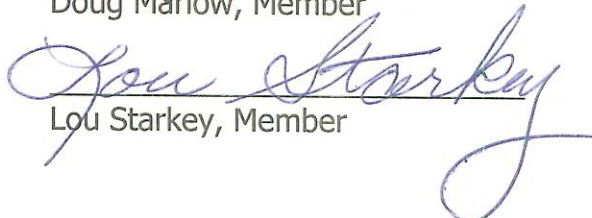

James Zachery, President


David A. Malson, Member



Michael Daubenspeck, Member


Yesenia Leon, Vice President


Doug Marlow, Member


Lou Starkey, Member

ATTEST:


Carla Sharpe, Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-11

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RUSHVILLE CITY PARKS MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the Common Council has reviewed and discussed the Rushville City Parks Master Plan hereto attached.

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Rushville, Indiana finds that such Master Plan is appropriate and approves the Rushville City Parks Master Plan attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Rushville, Indiana as follows:

1. The Rushville City Parks Master Plan attached hereto is approved in its entirety.
- 2.

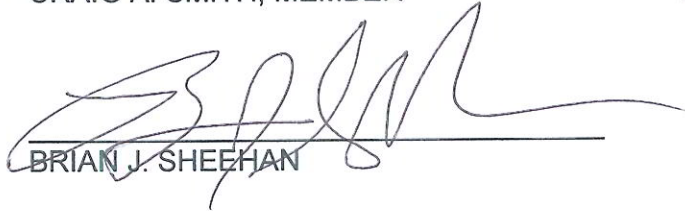
ADOPTED this 5th day of April 2016 by the Common Council of the City of Rushville, Indiana.


ROBERT M. BRIDGES, MEMBER

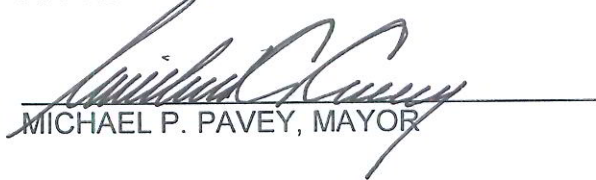

BRIAN G. CONNER, MEMBER


CRAIG A. SMITH, MEMBER


BRADLEY A. BERKEMEIER, MEMBER


BRIAN J. SHEEHAN

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR THIS 5th DAY OF APRIL 2016, AT 6:00 P.M.


MICHAEL P. PAVEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:


ANN L. COPLEY, CLERK-TREASURER



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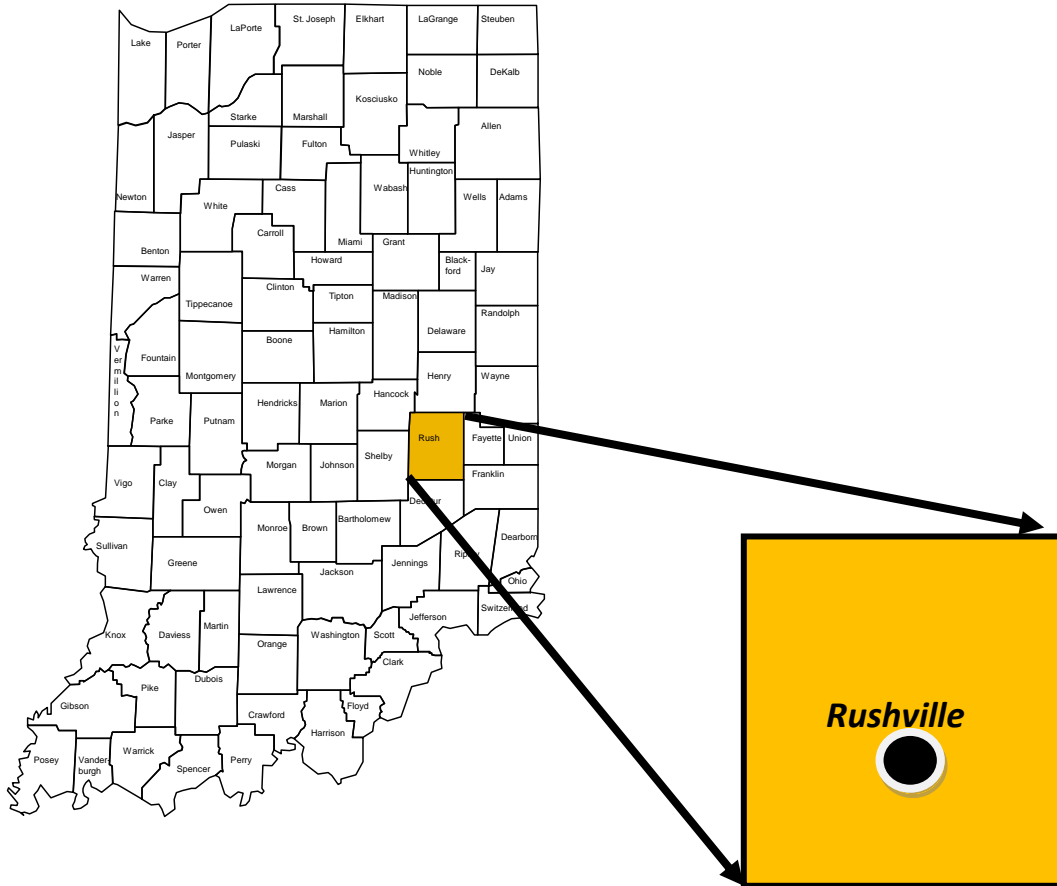




SECTION 1 PLANNING PROCESS and PARKS PROFILE

PLANNING AREA

Rushville, Indiana is located Rush County. The City of Rushville operates the parks and recreation department as well as police, fire, and street departments. For purposes of this study, the planning area includes the corporate limits of Rushville and is the same as the parks and recreation department service delivery area.





PLANNING PROCESS

The park planning process involves several information gathering components such as discussions with park department staff, meetings with the steering committee and the public and responses to the public opinion survey. Discussion has been supplemented with information gathering and research.

The following tasks have been employed in developing the five year park and recreation master plan:

- Developing an inventory of existing parks, programs and facilities
- A comparison of Rushville's park system with park and recreation standards, and comparable systems
- Establishment of goals and objectives
- Investigation of potential opportunities
- Needs assessment
- Identification and preparation of an implementation strategy and action plan

The findings of these tasks are intended to guide the growth and development of the Rushville Parks and Recreation Department for the next five years.

Of primary importance in the preparation of the Rushville 2016-2020 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan was the interaction and discussion with the Rushville Parks and Recreation staff, the Park Board, public input and analysis of information gathered. This research and discussion with people in the community and the park department staff formed the basis for development of the plan's goals and objectives.

Research consisted of field observation and inventory of existing facilities. Observations included a variety of accessibility concerns as well as concerns regarding conditions of existing equipment and facilities. To gain a better understanding of recent growth in Rushville and the community profile, a variety of statistics and reports were reviewed including the 2010 US Census, local ordinances and available business and chamber of commerce information.

MISSION STATEMENT

To develop, operate, and maintain a parks and recreation system which enriches the quality of life for our community and visitors alike, and preserve it for our generation and future generations.



VISION

To enrich lives through the quality of parks and programs.

GOALS

The Rushville Parks and Recreation Board and Department shall be guided by the following principles:

- Provide a balanced park and recreation system available to all segments of the community, serving varying geographical differences, regardless of ability. Individuals and groups should be able to use and be encouraged to use all programs and facilities.
- Provide a park, recreation and open space system that is efficient to administer and maintain.
- Cooperate with other municipalities, state and federal agencies, school districts, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector in fulfilling the recreational and open space needs of the urban area, where possible, in conformance with standards adopted in the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Establish a process for continuing communication and cooperation between service providers to ensure delivery of effective and efficient services.
- Develop and maintain a plan that assists the city in obtaining funds for sound capital improvements, maintenance and operational support.
- Utilize available resources to implement the plan, including impact fees as a source of funding for capital projects directly attributable to new development. Other sources to be pursued include federal and state funding, trust funds, dedicated taxes, local improvement districts, donations, and user fees.
- Consider alternatives in governmental structure and funding for providing park and recreation services, including the creation of special-purpose districts, such as a park and recreation district or a metropolitan park district.
- Give special consideration to archaeological resources, unique sites, water quality and habitat protection, and views and vistas when acquiring or otherwise protecting open space/parklands and recreational facilities.
- Give special attention to new and existing school sites to accommodate neighborhood recreation needs, including evening and weekend recreational opportunities, through shared resources, acquisitions, site redesign, and enhancements.
- Incorporate historically significant sites into the park, recreation and open space system for the promotion of tourism and major regional and cultural events.
- Provide additional programs and recreational opportunities for seniors.
- Coordinate with other community facilities and programs.



PARK BOARD

The parks board consists of six members that are appointed to four year terms by the mayor and by the school board and library board. The parks board is responsible for establishing policy and direction for the Department. The board submits a report annually to the common council detailing activities from the previous year.

The Rushville Parks and Recreation Department staff consists of one full time employee. This is supplemented with part time help with responsibilities including maintenance, and directing specific programs. The full time staff is listed herein.

The current Board is comprised of community leaders and meets at the Rushville Municipal Building.

Park Board:

Board Member	Title:	Appointed By:	Term
James Zachery	President	Mayor	12/2019
Michael Daubenspeck		Mayor	12/2020
Yesinia Leon		Mayor	12/2019
David Malson		Mayor	12/2017
Lou Starkey		Library	Library appointment term
Doug Marlow		School Board	School appointment term

Park Staff:

Staff	Title
Aaron Gurley	Parks Director

The Rushville Parks Department staff consists of one Part Time Pool Manager, one Assistant Pool Manager, and 20 Pool Staff employees which consist of Lifeguard staffing and concession staffing. Rushville Parks Department also staffs 4-5 part time mowing staff members in the summer months.

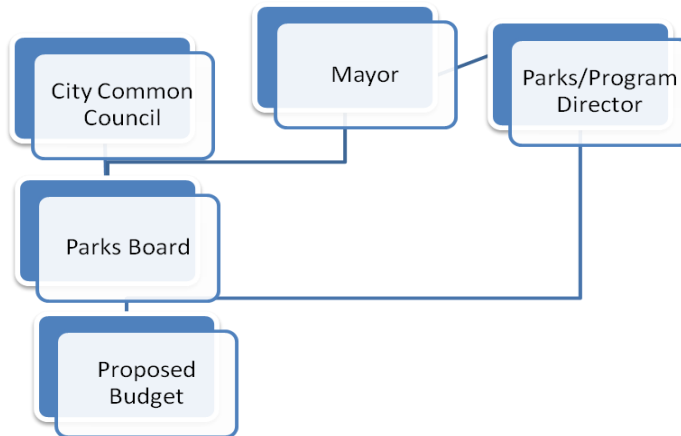


Park Budget

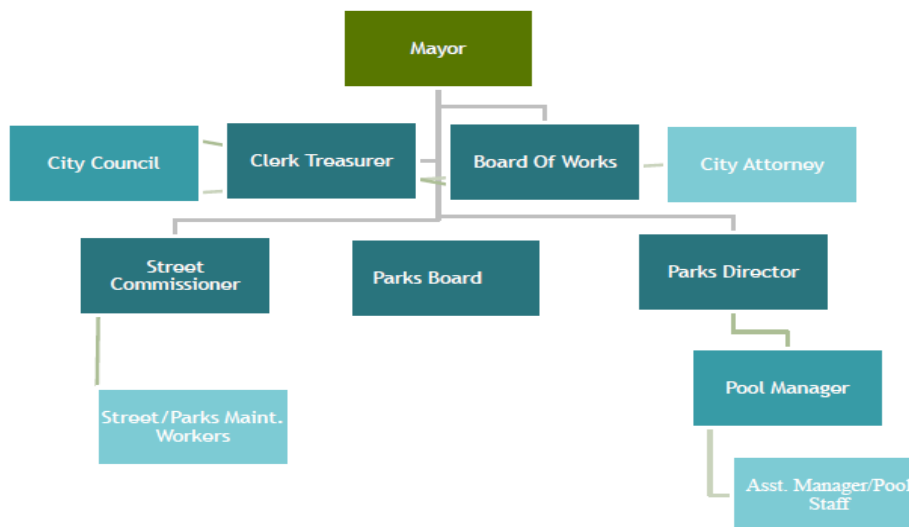
PARK & REC BUDGET 101-009		2016
Salaries	009-110	\$ 40,000.00
Overtime	009-111	\$ -
Summer Help	009-113	\$ -
Park Board Secretary	009-119	\$ 550.00
Office Supplies	009-210	\$ 500.00
Computer Software	009-211	\$ 500.00
Gas/Diesel/Motor Oil	009-220	\$ 4,000.00
Chemicals/Weed Spray	009-223	\$ -
Salt	009-224	\$ -
Garage & Motor Parts	009-230	\$ -
Park Office Repairs	009-231	\$ 1,500.00
Equipment/Tools	009-232	\$ 500.00
Tires & Tubes	009-234	\$ 250.00
Plumbing & Electric Supplies	009-235	\$ 1,000.00
Misc Supplies	009-240	\$ 1,000.00
Clothing	009-241	\$ 600.00
Paint Supplies	009-242	\$ 1,000.00
Shelter House Upgrades	009-243	\$ 1,500.00
Special Clothing	009-244	\$ 500.00
Office Equipment	009-246	\$ 1,000.00
Tree Trimming Service	009-311	\$ -
Lawn Spray Care	009-312	\$ 1,500.00
Park & Rec Phones	009-320	\$ 1,000.00
Newspaper Ads	009-330	\$ 300.00
Master Plan Printing	009-331	\$ 400.00
Signage	009-332	\$ 500.00
Electric	009-340	\$ 17,000.00
Heating Gas	009-341	\$ 6,000.00
Water & Sewage	009-342	\$ 6,000.00
Garage & Motor Parts-Labor	009-350	\$ -
Plumbing & Electric Supplies-Labor	009-351	\$ 750.00
Fire Extinguisher Service	009-352	\$ -
Park & Rec Association Dues	009-370	\$ 150.00
Staff Training	009-371	\$ 500.00
Trails	009-400	
Flowers/Landscaping	009-410	\$ 1,500.00
Frisbee Golf	009-411	
Picnic Tables & Benches	009-415	\$ 750.00
Park Technology/Security	009-416	\$ 2,700.00



Parks Department Expansion and Plan	009-420	\$ 10,000.00
Trails		
Frisbee Golf		
Parks Department Maintenance		Street Department
Parks Department Programming		
Parks Department Technology		
TOTAL		\$ 103,450.00



Organizational Chart





General Information

Address:

Rushville Municipal Building
119 W 16th St
Rushville, IN 46173

Meetings:

2nd Tuesday of each month

Office Hours:

7:00 AM – 3:30 PM Monday – Friday

Phone Number:

Parks and Recreation Department Office 765-932-4146

Email:

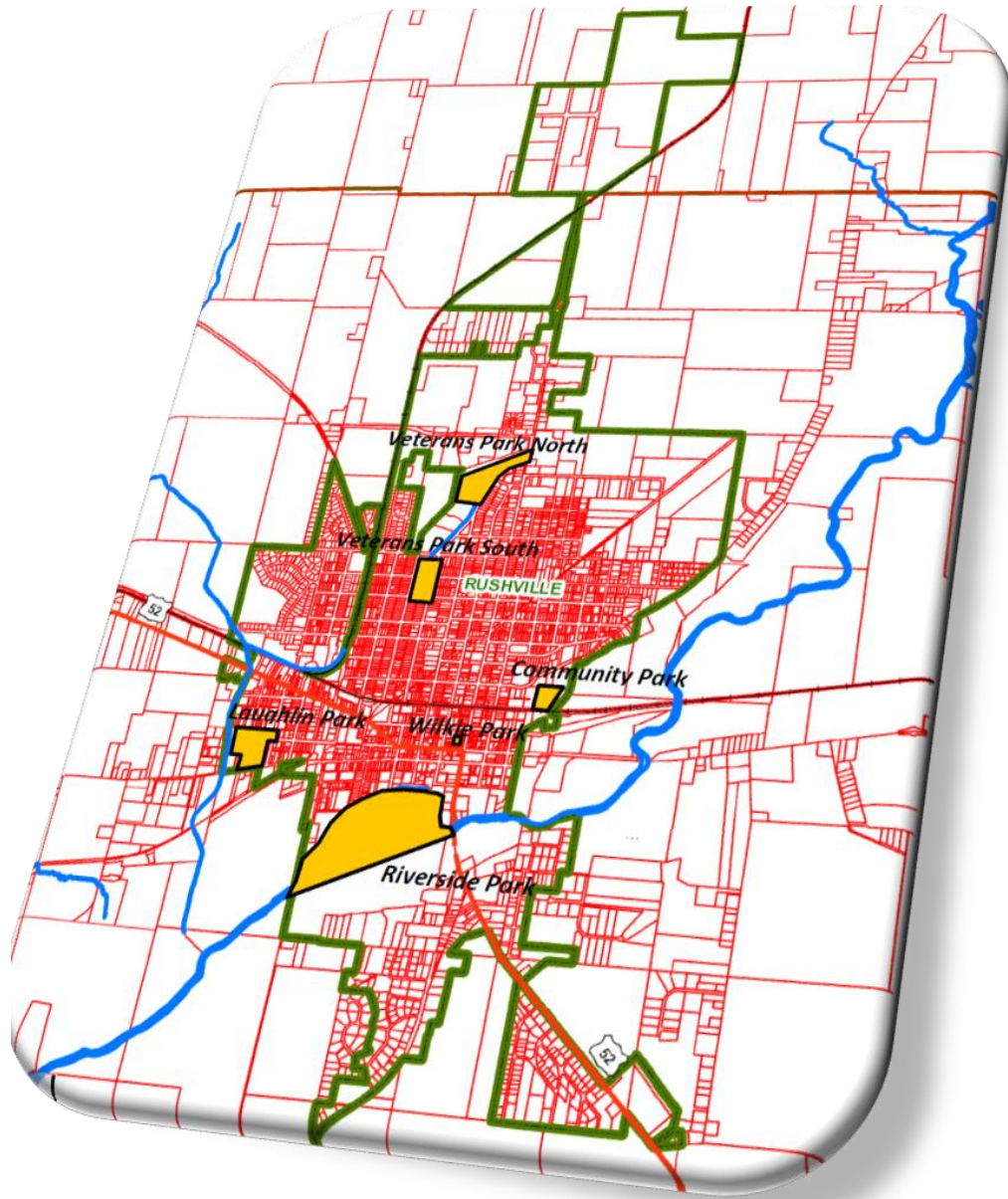
parks@cityofrushville.in.gov



EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

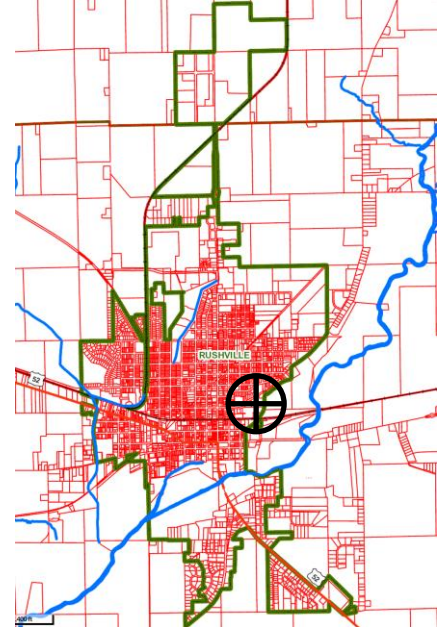
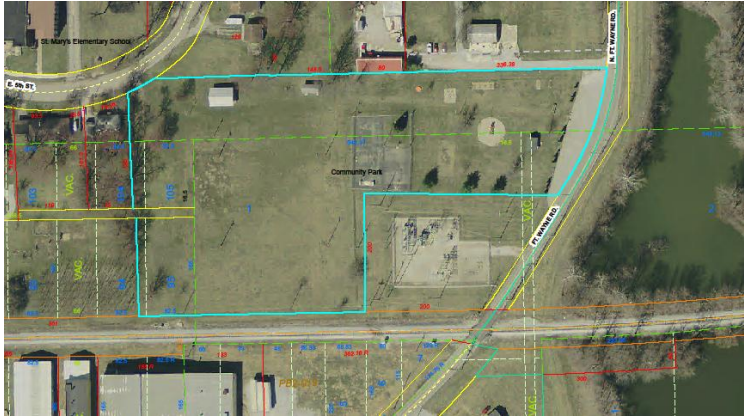
Rushville Parks

The Rushville Park system consists of 6 different properties. These range in size from the 55 acre Riverside Park to the 0.09 acre Wilkie Park. Each of the individual parks are discussed in greater detail in this chapter.





COMMUNITY PARK



Profile

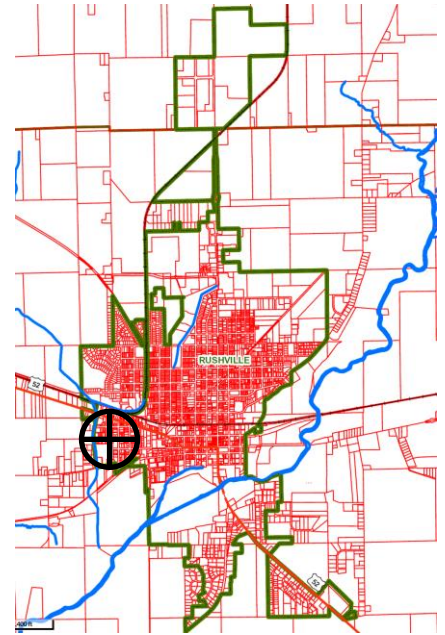
- 6.6 acres in size
- Hours: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Facilities Inventory

- Playground
- Picnic area
- Basketball court
- Baseball/Softball field
- Community garden



LAUGHLIN PARK



Profile

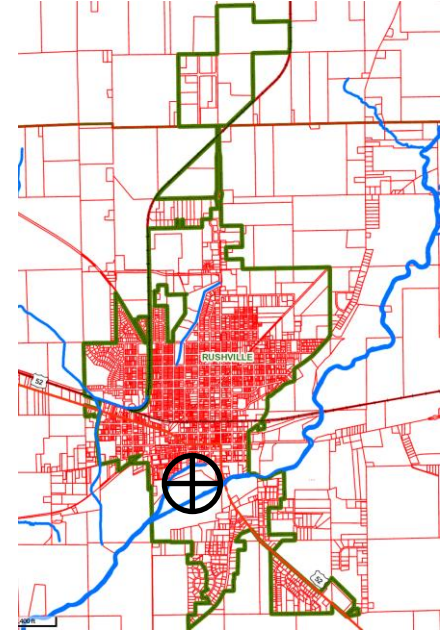
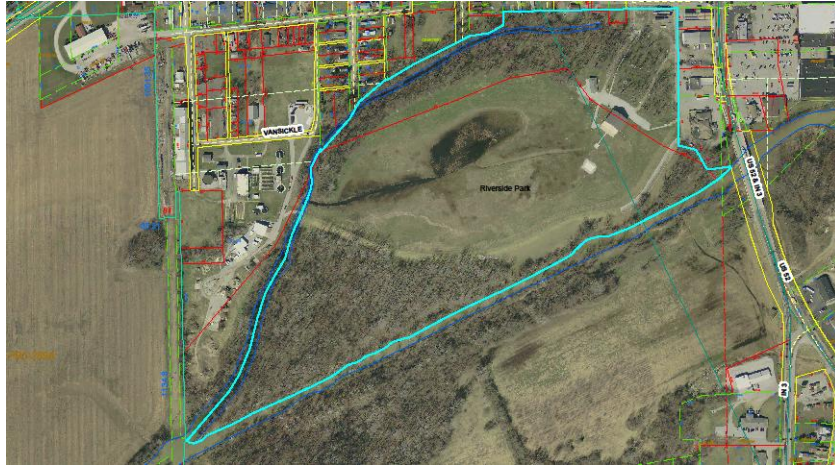
- 6.6 acres in size
- Hours: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Facilities Inventory

- Playground
- Picnic area
- Basketball court
- Baseball/Softball field



RIVERSIDE PARK



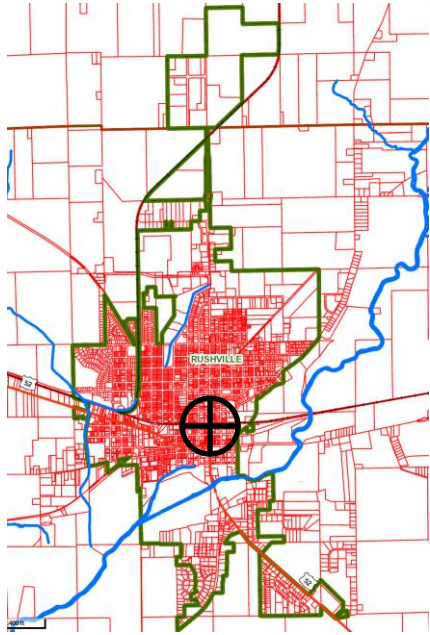
Profile

- 55 acres in size
- Hours: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Facilities Inventory

- Playground
- Picnic Area and Shelter
- Disc Golf
- Amphitheater
- Pavilion
- Trail

WILKIE PARK



Profile

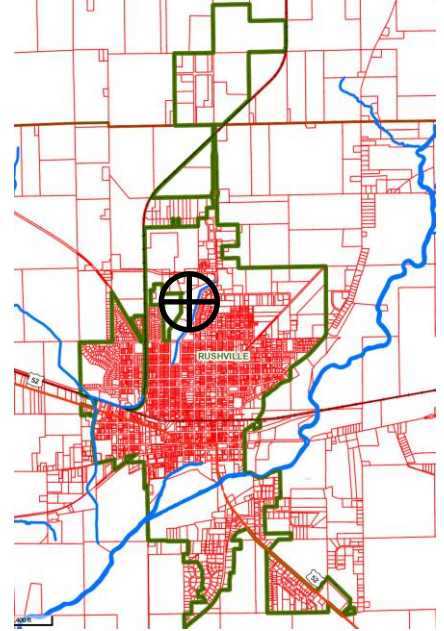
- .09 acres in size
- Hours: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Facilities Inventory

- Picnic Area and gazebo



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK NORTH



Profile

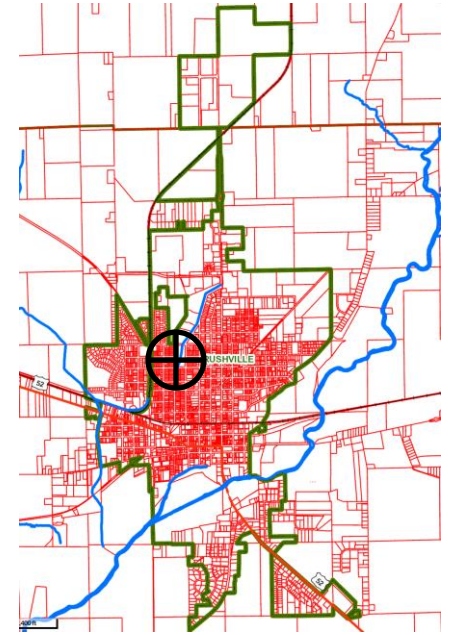
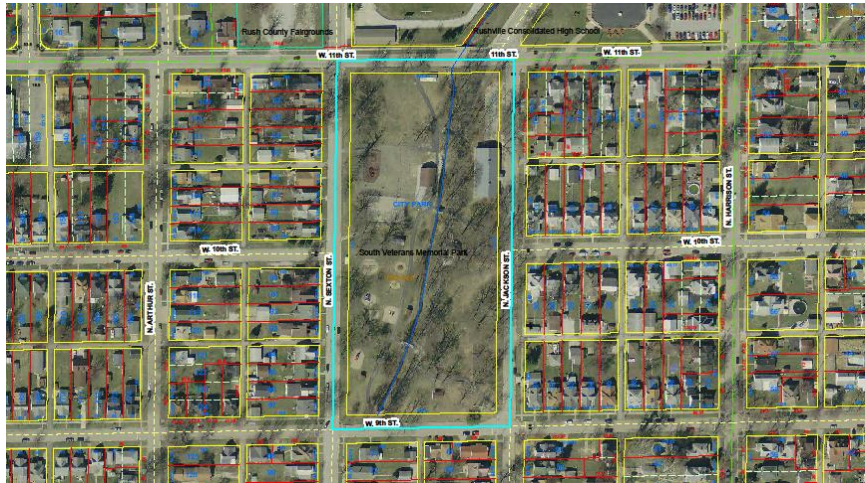
- 50+ acres in size (shared with Rushville School Corp.)
- Hours: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Facilities Inventory

- Playground
- Picnic area
- Trail
- Horseshoe court



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK SOUTH



Profile

- 6.2 acres in size
- Hours: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Facilities Inventory

- Playground
- Picnic area
- Basketball court
- Baseball/Softball field

SHELTERS

The Rushville Parks Department offers 2 year round shelter facilities within the city. These two enclosed locations are available for rental through the Rushville Parks Department. The Booker T Washington building is located on the east side of Rushville just about a block North of Community East Park. This facility offers a full kitchen, a party/meeting room that is great for family get-togethers, small business meetings and other social gatherings. The other year round facility is located in the Laughlin Park on the west side of town. This facility called the Danny and Linda Mathews Shelter is also offered year round and comes equipped with a full kitchen and meeting/party space.



PROGRAMS/EVENTS

Rushville’s Parks and Recreation department (RPRD) provides a range of recreational programming. The programs offered are tailored to specific interests and segments of the community. The Parks Department often provides programs and events in cooperation with other City departments and/or other community organizations.

Continuous attempts are being made to provide programming for changing interests and to attract new people. The Rushville Parks and Recreation department’s policy is to provide facilities for outside organizations and user groups to provide programs and recreation opportunities for their needs.

Organization(s)	Event
RPRD /Benjamin Rush Middle School	Valentine’s Day Dance
RPRD/McDonalds	Easter Egg Hunt
RPRD/Intat Precision	Summer Camp in the Parks
RPRD/Rush County Community Foundation/Rush-Shelby Energy Partnership	Summer Movies in the Park
RPRD/Rushville Animal Shelter	Pooches at the Pool event
RPRD	Swimming pool
RPRD/Various local donors	Halloween Costume Contest
RPRD/Rushville Community Garden Group	Rushville Community Garden
RPRD/Princess Theater Restoration Group	Movie Nights at the Princess Theater
RPRD/Rushville Street Department	Riverside Haunted Trail
RPRD/Rushville Police Department	Halloween Safety Program
RPRD/Rushville Fire Department	Fire Safety Course/Smokehouse
RPRD/Rushville Police Department	Parks Patrol

OTHER RECREATIONAL

Schools

As of this writing, an official agreement between the Park Department and the Rushville Community School system for use of facilities is still in process.

Rushville Community School Corporation

The City of Rushville is a part of the Rushville Community School Corporation. The school district serves all of the City of Rushville. The system consists of four elementary schools (grades 1-5), two intermediate schools (grades 6-8), and one high school, Total enrollment is over



4,300. Many of these schools have recreational facilities that are available on a limited basis to the public. This use helps to meet the need for neighborhood parks in the city. There is no shared use agreement currently between the school system and the Parks Department.

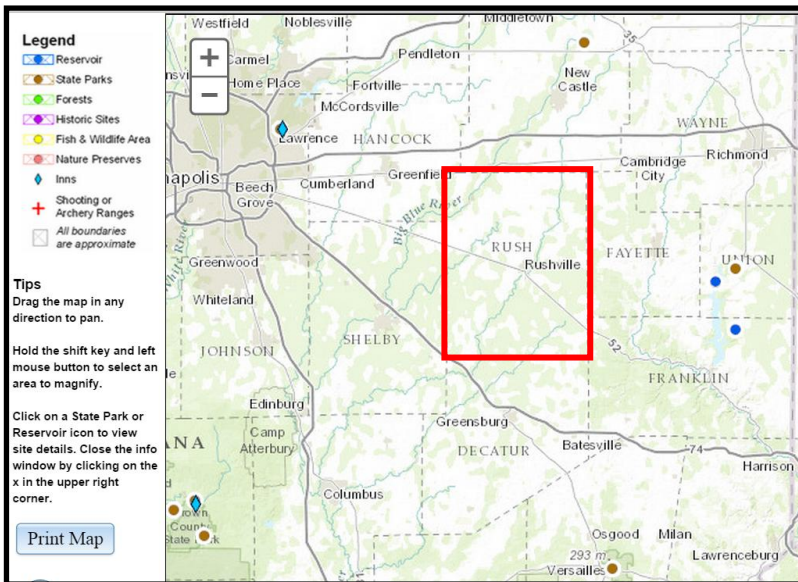
- St. Mary’s Catholic School: Playground equipment.
- Mays Community Academy (Charter School): Playground equipment.

Rush County

There are no county parks in Rush County although they do maintain a county fairgrounds complex in the City of Rushville. The towns of Carthage, Arlington and Milroy each have an area some offering athletic facilities at their respective elementary schools.

State

There are no state parks or recreational areas in Rush County. The nearest parks are shown in the map below.



Other Recreational Facilities

- Rush County Boys and Girls Club
- Rush County Senior Citizen Center
- Rush Memorial Hospital
- Main Street Christian Church, Plum Creek Christian Church, St. Mary’s Catholic Church, St. Paul Methodist Church, First Church of God,. And several other churches throughout the city and county.



- Anytime Fitness Gym (private)
- Copeland Corporation Sports Complex (private): Basketball Court, Tennis Courts, Softball
- Flatrock River Apartments (private): Playground equipment.
- Flatrock River Lodge (private) Offers programs for senior citizens that are within the facility.
- Millers Merry Manor (private): Offers activities for seniors living within the facility.
- Fields Outdoor Adventure (private): Archery Shooting range.

Campgrounds

Little Blue Rivers Trailer Court RV

Open year round. 15 Sites with water, sewer and electricity. Located in Arlington.

Woods Campground

Sites with water & electricity, 33 sites. Fishing, swimming, six-acre lake. Located in Carthage.

Golfing

Antler Pointe Golf Club

Semi-Privately owned and operated 18-hole public-private course.





SECTION 2 COMMUNITY PROFILE

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION and HISTORY

Founding

Following is the official entry of the proceedings of the board of commissioners appointed by the legislative enabling act which operated in the erection of Rush County, bearing on the location of the county seat:

"At a called meeting of the honorable board of Rush county commissioners in and for the county of Rush and state of Indiana begun and held at the house of Wm. B. Laughlin in the aforesaid county on Monday the 17th day of June, 1822, the board received the report of the commissioners appointed to locate the seat of justice in and for the county of Rush. The town to be known by the name of Rushville; the plan of said town shall be after the form of the town of Connersville, with making an additional street to pass the public square."

Perhaps the determining factor in the location of the county seat on the site selected by the commissioners was the fact that this site was in almost the exact geographical center of the county on the chief stream flowing through this section, for in the absence of railroads or any thoughts of the same rivers controlled the tide of immigration and fixed the centers of settlement in the new country.

But there was another factor that perhaps was equally determining and that was the fact that the host of the commissioners on the day they met to decide the location of the county seat was the most influential individual force in the new community, the versatile William B. Laughlin, who must always be regarded as "the father of Rushville." Mr. Laughlin had made the Government survey of this territory and in 1820 had moved over here from Franklin county, and had entered a considerable tract of land on the Big Flat Rock covering the present site of the city of Rushville, and had erected a little mill on the south bank of the river, damming the stream at about the point where the south bridge now spans the river.

When it came time to locate the county seat he made an offer to the commissioners to donate seventy five acres of his land for such location, the commissioners met at his house to consider the matter, the proposition was accepted and the site of the city of Rushville was then and there determined and on the following day, as above set out, Conrad Sailor was instructed to plat the town.

Development of the Town

The publication of the order of sale of lots in the new county seat attracted a considerable number of prospective buyers to the site at Laughlin's mill on July 29, 1822 and the new town



became quite a settlement in the first year of its origin. Among those who thus laid the foundations of the town are found the names of Stephen Sims, John and Samuel Alley, William Hart, Robert Thompson (whose house on the west side of Main street was used as court house, county clerk's office and school house until separate quarters had been secured for the operation of these public functions). It is said that the first store was opened by a Pittsburger, of the name of Patterson. William Hart put up a two story log house and opened in it the first tavern, but presently sold it to Charles H. Test, later circuit judge, who used it as a residence. Reu Pugh also quite early put up a pretentious log house which he used as a tavern and as a general store, at the same time operating a tannery His brother, Job Pugh, served as county recorder from 1829 to 1847. Charles Veeder was the first postmaster of the ambitious village and Doctor Laughlin taught the first school, later opening an academy for the advanced pupils. Jack Irvin was the first village tailor, Thomas Pugh the hatter, Henry Beckwith the wagon maker and Joseph Thrasher and Hiram Bell the blacksmiths, the early needs of the new community thus being amply provided for along all lines.

The first houses were erected on the streets surrounding the public square and up and down Main street for a square either way, with a few facing the river between Main and Morgan streets. There was no false "boom" to stimulate a rapid growth of the town, and it was long before the extensions of the chief streets were sufficiently well populated to bear other than the names of the roads into which they merged, even as late as the '40s the extension of North Main street being known as the Knightstown road, the extension of South Main the Brookville road, the extension of Noble (First) the Shelbyville road, Ruth (Second) the Connersville road, Elizabeth (Third) the Indianapolis road, and so on.

One of the "landmarks" in the town was the "white corner" (present Grand Hotel), erected by Joseph Hamilton, who became a resident about 1830 and who at different times kept store at the three corners to the south and west of the public square and was keeping tavern at the "white corner" when he died.

The strictly agricultural character of the surrounding country was not such as to attract manufacturers and artisans, the village blacksmith, the wagon maker, the cabinet maker and the shoemaker being about all the manufacturers required in addition to the miller and the tanner. In addition to the pioneer flour mill a sawmill presently was established and frame houses began to take the places of the log houses which constituted the village's first dwellings, the old Carmichael mill at the foot of Morgan street, erected in 1840 being the first pretentious industrial enterprise. In 1856 Col. Alfred Posey built a distillery. There was no bank until 1857, when the Rushville branch of the old Indiana State Bank was established, the predecessor of the Rushville National Bank In 1878 a Cincinnati concern erected an artificial gas plant and laid nine miles of mains, which with gradual extension supplied the town with lighting facilities until superseded by natural gas in the early '90s. In 1889 the Jenny Company, of Ft. Wayne, erected an electric light plant at Rushville and supplied current until supplanted by the present plant, which, with the water works plant, is under municipal control.



The most destructive fire in the history of Rushville occurred on May 4, 1892, when a big furniture factory, a planing mill and several dwellings were destroyed, entailing a loss which at first was regarded as "an irretrievable disaster." But, as in many such instances, the loss in the end proved again.

Threatened with the loss of these two industries, citizens co-operated in a movement to raise \$50,000 to be devoted to the work of securing factories. At a cost of \$23,000 a tract of 106 acres in the west side of town was bought and laid off into lots, with the city park, for which latter feature the city council appropriated the sum of \$6,000.

Besides meeting the urgent need of the time and increasing the number of factories the movement developed a degree of public spirit that is reflected to this day, the co-operative feeling then aroused still existing in a large measure, a local asset of great value. However, even from the days of the beginning, Rushville has been noted for the public spirit of its citizens and for the large measure of "community of interest" here displayed.

This was recognized and commented upon by the venerable Dr. John A. Arnold, who in his day knew the town and county perhaps better than any other, and who in a historical sketch printed in 1879, noted that "Rushville has at this time about 2,500 inhabitants. Rushville is not excelled in the intelligence, skill and consequent success and wealth of its farming community. This constitutes an important factor in the prosperity of the town. It is growing rapidly. Last year there were some twenty five houses built. This year the number will reach thirty, among these, three fine brick business houses and a number of handsome residences. Its graded school is a first class one as good as can be had under the present school laws. Rushville has nine physicians and seventeen attorneys. It has six dry goods stores, seven grocery and provision stores, three boot and shoe stores, three butcher shops, two jewelry stores, two furniture stores, four drug stores, six saloons, three restaurants, five millinery establishments, two lumber merchants, one book store, two hardware and agricultural implement stores, four livery stables, two hotels, three planing mills, two gristmills, two newspapers, one furniture factory, four saddlery and harness makers, one sawmill, three stove and tin shops, one paint shop, two carriage shops, three blacksmith shops and a large number of mechanics of all kinds. It has eight turnpikes leading to it and two railroads passing through it, so that it has every facility for trade."



NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPE

Natural & Environmental Features

Outdoor recreation, in general, relies heavily upon the natural and environmental features of an area. The characteristics of these features significantly affect the prevalent forms of recreation most likely to occur in any one area. Regions with extended winters, for instance, will typically develop more winter-oriented recreational facilities than regions with warmer climates. To the extent that park systems tend to be resource based, Rushville offers a balanced climate with diverse natural resources giving the Parks and Recreation Department a substantial recreation reserve with which to work.

Rushville has a rather flat topography which is ideal for agricultural uses, but lacks any diverse scenic land areas for parks. The Flatrock River runs through the south of the city and does add a bit of sloping to the area, especially for Riverside Park in which it makes up its southern border.

The Rushville Parks put in a boat/kayak docking area in 2015 in Riverside Park along the river. This is supposed to be in conjunction with another docking area to the north which will be funded by Rush County. The latter project is on hold due to financing.

Climate

Rush County is cool in the winter, but very hot and humid in the summer. Average high is 61.8 and the average low is 41.4. The total annual precipitation is 44.49 inches. Of this, 14 inches usually falls from November through April as snowfall.

The sun shines 70 percent of the time possible in summer and 40 percent in winter. The prevailing wind is from the southwest. Average wind speed is highest in the spring at 15 miles per hour.

Topography

Glaciation has played a major role in the information of the topography of Rush County. Ice flowed across Indiana from the northeast, acting as an erosional agent that altered the landscape.

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.

The average elevation in Rush County is about 958 feet above sea level. The highest elevation just south of Glenwood is approximately 1,135 feet mean sea level.



Geology and Soils

About 83% of the county is actively farmed. 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.

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 crops 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 names, descriptions, and delineations of the soils on the general soil survey map of Rush County are:

- Genesse-Sloan-Shoals: Deep, nearly level, well drained, very poorly drained and somewhat poorly drained soils formed in alluvial deposits; on bottom land.
- 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.
- 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.
- Crosby-Treaty: Deep, nearly level, somewhat poorly drained and very poorly drained soils formed in loess and the underlying glacial till; on uplands.
- Miamian: Deep, gently sloping to steep, well drained soils formed in loess and the underlying glacial till; on uplands.
- 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.

Natural Resources

Rush County is proud to offer 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

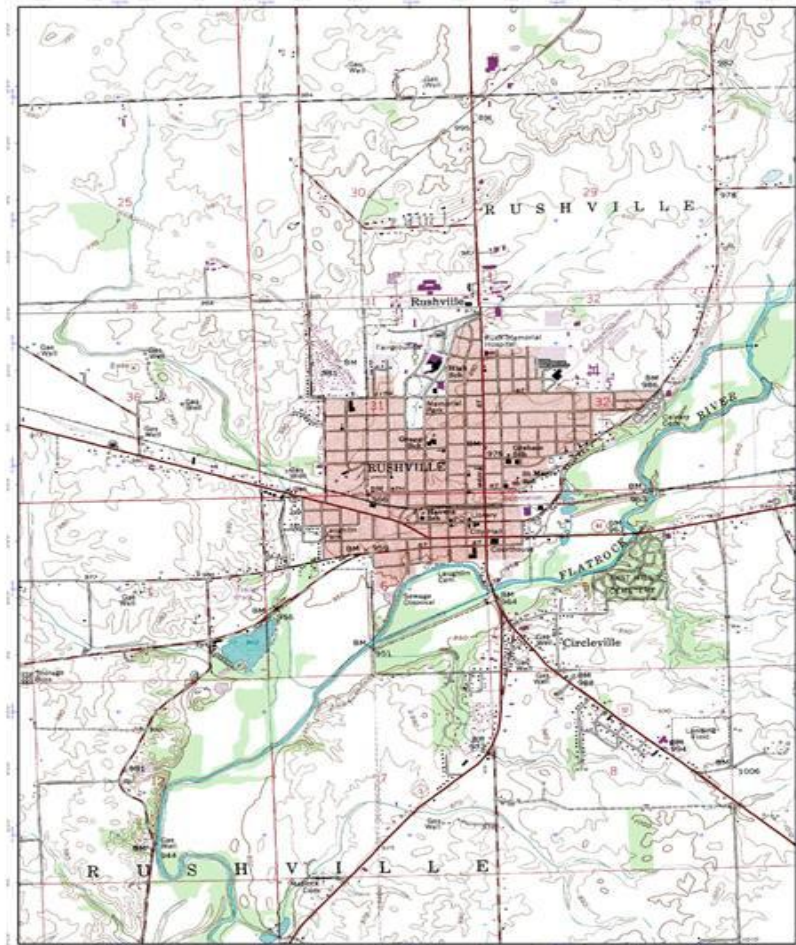


dream. Silver maples, box elders, sycamores, cottonwoods, and elms encompass the crystal clear waters, allowing inhabitation of the area by wood ducks, kingfish, spotted sandpipers, great-horned owls and fox squirrels. In 1974, the sighting of an Osprey raised considerable interest, as the presence of this species is rapidly diminishing.

Vegetation and Wildlife

Prior to human settlement, Rushville was primarily covered by a climax deciduous forest. The settlement, farming and urbanization brought habitat destruction and the loss of forest and wetlands.

Today, few substantially forested areas remain within the city and county. Forested areas in existing parks grew mainly through succession of abandoned fields and previously logged forests. Some large specimens of non-commercial tree species still exist within the Flat Rock Creek and Big Blue River flood plains. Wildlife is typical for central Indiana with occasional deer in upland and lowland forests as well as the smaller mammals occurring in lowland forest and upland woods.





SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

Commerce

Rushville is minutes away from larger cities like Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Dayton, and within a half-day's drive to over 20 metropolitan markets. This places Rushville in a favorable position for economic development.

The 1980's and 1990's saw a mass-exodus of manufacturing and industry in East Central Indiana, but the past few years has brought a reversal in this trend. Various economic development organizations have worked together to boost this area's economy. 2015 saw the opening of a new shovel ready industrial park on the north side of Rushville.

The Parks Department represents quality of life for the area residents as well as economic developments for the future. Currently the main focus is developing new park areas and expanding trails. In addition, primary programming and events for children and young adults - who represent the future of Rushville – are being developed.

The Parks Department has always been successful with partnering with other key organizations in the community as a means to offer programs and activities and continues to do so. The Parks Department has a long standing cooperative agreement with the Rushville Community Schools and are always looking to develop partnerships with other community organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club. Local businesses and organizations in the community compete in a variety of sporting competitions that foster competition, health and well being in a friendly environment. There are a number of festivals and events the Parks Department assists with throughout the year.

With an ever increasing elderly population, the Rushville Parks Department understands that more programs and physical improvements will be aimed toward this population. Future programming will include involvement with the Area 9 Agency on Aging and the Rush County Senior Center. There has already been talk of developing an exercise trail aimed to the needs of the elderly as well as "playground equipment" that are designed for the needs of the aged.

Population

The size and growth of a community is an important factor in developing a park and recreation master plan. As a community grows, so too does the need for additional community facilities.

The City of Rushville's population declined steadily until 2000 since the 1960's when the city had its highest population at 7,264 people. The percent of decline from the 1960's through the 1990's was below the state average rate of growth (10.2%). Between 1990 and 2000, the City showed its first increase in three decades of 8.3%. The period between 2000 and 2010 showed an increase 5.7%.



Historic Population City of Rushville

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Population	7,264	6,686	6,113	5,533	5,995	6,341
Change		-578	-573	-580	462	346
% +/-		-7.9%	-8.5%	-9.4%	8.3%	5.7%

- According to the 2010 US Census, Rushville had 6,341 residents.
 - 47.5% Male, 52.5% Female
 - Median Age: 39.3
 - 95.8% White; 1.5% Black or African American; 0.1% American Indian; 0.6% Asian; 1.2% Hispanic or Latino

Economics

- Unemployment rate (2015 Rush County) is 4.2%
- Median household income in 2010 (dollars): \$36,746
- Families below poverty level: 13.0%
- Largest non-agricultural employment area in Rushville: Manufacturing; Second largest: Educational services and health care

Housing

- Average household size: 2.36
- 2,928 total housing units
- 10.7% of all units are vacant
- 59.2% are owners; 40.8% are renters

Education

- 83.4% of population High school graduate or higher
- 9.9% Bachelor's degree or higher



Socio-economic Summary

- Rushville has a higher % of people living in poverty than the state average of 6.7%.
- Rushville has a lower than average level of education of HS graduates and a lower than average for Bachelor's degree than the state average.
- Rushville has a lower level of racial diversity than the state averages.
- The median age is higher than the state average of 35.2.
- The unemployment rate in Rush County is lower than the statewide average of 5.2%.

MAN-MADE, HISTORIC AND CULTURAL INFLUENCES

Beyond the choice of recreation type, the physical impact of activities on the land affect where recreation can and should occur. Natural features, for the most part, can be altered to make the land more suitable for a specific use. Man-made influences, such as transportation, add new dimensions to the planning spectrum and, in some cases, are more important than natural features when planning for recreation.

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 - 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 - This district incorporates several residential neighborhoods immediately north and northeast of the downtown business district.



Rushville Northside Residential Historic District - 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 - 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 the Covered Bridges and round barns. Five 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 its 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. Horse and buggies share the county roads, with our 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.

Transportation

The speed of transportation connects the world of the 21st century into one global unit where parcels can be delivered overnight to any place in the world. Within the United State this speed is transformed into a complex circulation network covering the land, air and sea. The visible physical attributes of this circulation system affect the location of recreational facilities both by determining the geographical distribution of the population and by setting limits on the types of recreation that are compatible with transportation generated noise.

Automobile

As the prime mode of individual transportation, the automobile's tremendous impact on American culture compels planners to include it as a major consideration in most planning efforts. Both federal and state highways serve Rush County. Interstates I-70 runs E/W just to the north of the county line and I-74 which runs SE/NW is located just to the south of the county line. US 52 runs SE/NW through Rushville and US 40 runs E/W just north of the county line. State Highways 3, 44 and 244 serve the various communities. The county designates county highways, which serve the functional needs of the system. Local roads, however, make up the bulk of highway mileage in the county.



Because of the amount of highways that run through the community, access across these routes will be challenging when developing the future trails and bikeways. Good communication and cooperation with the Indiana Department of Transportation will be necessary to solve safety issues for patrons using the trails.

Airports

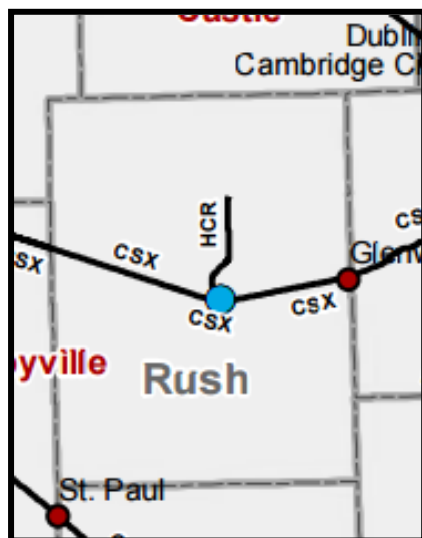
Airports serve recreational as well as transportation resources. There are no public airports in Rushville or in Rush County. There are 5 private airfields in the county. The closest public airport is in either Shelbyville (18 miles SW) or Connersville (16 miles E).

The Indianapolis International Airport (50 miles W) offers the closest airport for commercial flights.

Railroads

Although rail service has in the past been an essential service for development, little if any new services will be added in the near future. Abandoned lines, including that of CSX from Rushville to Shelbyville, are prime for recreational trail development. As railroad use continues to decline and railroad companies reduce rail traffic or consolidate lines, abandoned railway corridors hold vast opportunities for recreation both locally and regionally. The railroad corridors left behind have become a great recreational opportunity for development, as will be the case with the CSX segment. A portion of this abandoned railroad within Rushville is a pedestrian greenway.

The map below shows the existing active rail lines in Rush County.





Cultural/Events

The City of Rushville has various attractions and holds a variety of festivals and activities throughout the year.

- Wilkie Days/Rush Fest Festival
- Mayors 5k Annual Run/Walk
- Rushville Riverside Amphitheater Concert Series (7 Concerts throughout summer)
- 4th of July Celebration: Parade, fireworks, Optimist Car Show/Festival
- Youth Sports: T-Ball, Baseball, Softball, Youth Soccer, Youth Football, Youth Basketball
- Rushville Princess Theater: Movies
- St Mary's Fall Festival
- St. Mary's Chili cook off
- St. Mary's 5k Walk/Run
- Grant Brower Color Run
- Haunted Trail
- Halloween on Main Event
- Christmas on Main Street Parade; Santa Claus on Main Street
- Brian's Cause 5k sponsored by Rush Memorial Hospital
- St. Patrick's Day Parade
- St. Patrick's Day Celebration Rushville St. Patrick's Day Committee
- Rush County Youth Foundation Christmas for Kids
- Rush County F.O.P-Christmas with Kids
- Rushville Boys and Girls Club Breakfast with Santa
- Rush Memorial Hospital Gala
- Rush County Big Brothers/Big Sisters Gala
- Rush County Community Foundation Spirit Celebration (New Years Eve)
- Rushville Farmers and Artisan Market
- ARC of Rush County: Wheel Chair Bowling
- Rush County Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowling Event
- Gun & Hoses: Softball game between local law enforcement and fire agencies

The most recent of these community events is the Riverside Amphitheater Concert Series. This has proved to be a very popular and well attended series. One of the main goals of the Rushville Parks Department is to foster more partnerships with community groups and develop more programs/events that enhance the Rushville community.



SECTION 3 PUBLIC INPUT

Public input used the methods of public meetings, surveying and meetings with the park board.

Survey

A survey was made available to the general public of Rushville via the City's website (via Survey Monkey) and through placement at various public buildings. The survey was available throughout the first three weeks in August 2015. A total of 223 surveys were completed.

Summary

The majority of respondents to the survey by age were those in the 35+ category (51.4%) followed by those 19-34 (29.3%). When asked which parks were the most visited, Veteran's Park North was the most visited park (78.5%) followed by Riverside (70.4%) and Veteran's Park South (60%). They were also asked if they support the development of additional parks to the system of which the majority (76.3%) responded yes.

When respondents were asked what additional facilities they would like to see in the parks, walking trails (62%) were the most requested followed by biking trails (40.7%), restrooms (40.25) and more playgrounds (39.8%). They were then asked which parks would benefit from additional park amenities in which Riverside Park was the number one pick (62.6%) followed by Veteran's Park North (45.3%) and South (37.9%).

When asked if they would support expansion of the current trail system, the vast majority (92.2%) responded yes they would as well as supporting improvements to the community pool (88.6%). They were then asked if they would support the addition of a community center of which the majority responded yes (90.8%).

When asked about using the current programming offered by the parks department, the majority (61%) responded they did not. When asked if they would support more programs the vast majority (94.1%) said yes they would. The types of programming they would like to see were outdoor programs (62.3%), arts & crafts (52.4%), community programs (50.5%) and sports programs (46.7%) followed closely by programs for teens (45.8%) and educational programming (45.3%).

A copy of the survey can be seen in Appendix A. Survey results will be used to determine the future goals of the Parks Plan.



Park Board Meetings

Meetings of the Rushville Park Board were attended to gain the park board members input for the future of the parks in Rushville. Discussion was centered on the current and future of both the physical amenities of the parks and the programming. A Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) exercise was given to the board members during their July and August meetings. Overall it was agreed that the current park system was well received by the public and accessible. City officials were good backers of the parks and the park board was very open to new ideas and new improvements. They did agree that funding was a challenge and there is a need to develop more partnerships.

A summary of the SWOT exercise can be found in Appendix A.

Public Meetings

Kieser Consulting Group conducted a public meeting on January 7, 2016 asking citizens to express their opinions on the need for park and recreation facilities and programs. The public meeting was advertised in the local paper and was posted at the City Hall as well as the library and the Girls and Boys Club.

The meeting was held at the Boys and Girls Club of Rushville and was attended by 17 young adults from the 2nd grade to the 9th grade. The group was asked what their thoughts were about the current parks and programs. Many were in agreement that there was too much graffiti and older kids that hung around the parks smoking and cussing. When asked what they would like to have in the parks some suggestions were; better playground equipment (for older kids too), more variety of sports options (volleyball, tennis), more nature based programs and programs during the winter months. They also suggested that there be a volunteer program so kids could help with the parks department.

The second public meeting was held on April 7, 2016 at the Boys and Girls Club of Rushville. There were nine people in attendance including members of the local Boy Scouts. The draft plan was explained by Mr. Lake and the Action Plan was explained by Mr. Gurley. Most people agreed that more programming was needed and were happy to see it proposed. They were also glad to see that there were plans for more walking and biking trails.

The agendas and sign-in sheets can be found in Appendix B.



SECTION 4 ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) took effect January 26, 1992 and is aimed at protecting the rights of people with disabilities. The passage of ADA guarantees that access to recreation and play settings is now a civil right for all Americans.

According to the summary of the ADA (Public Law 101-336), the act "...prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by private entities in places of public accommodation, requires that all new places of public accommodation and commercial facilities be designed and constructed so as to be readily accessible and usable by persons with disabilities..."

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 is not affected by ADA and still prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap for any programs offered by a recipient of federal funds. Any program, activity or service that is offered to the public must be accessible to disabled individuals.

Impact of ADA on Facilities Design

An equally important aspect of developing a quality park system lies in how well it serves the needs of the disabled. More now than ever before, we have a responsibility (morally as well as legally) to provide a reasonable level of accessibility for individuals with varying levels of ability.

To help ensure that this in fact happens, Congress enacted The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 that provides for equal access to all users of public (and private) facilities and programs. Although still largely untested, the basic intent of the act is clear; reasonable equal access opportunities must be provided to those with disabilities.

There are no requirements within the ADA which mandate any special requirements relative to the size of any particular type of park and recreation facility. The act does, however, mandate that park areas and facilities be reasonably accessible and usable to all populations. The extent to which compliance with the act will impact the size or configuration of a particular facility is likely to be inconsequential in terms of a particular facility size. It may, however, dictate some changes to specific design guidelines in response to the act. In July 1994, the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, Recreation Access Advisory Committee published the *Recommendations for Accessibility Guidelines: Recreational Facilities and Outdoor Developed Areas*, which provide detailed guidelines for all types of park and recreational facilities. It is recommended that each park planning agency incorporate these and subsequent guidelines and legal standards in the final determination of spatial and facility design guidelines for all units of the park, recreation and open space



system. These accessibility guidelines are further complimented by the materials available on the concept of universal access.

Existing Facilities and Required Improvements

These new accessibility requirements have led to many questions on how efforts made to make recreational facilities accessible can be balanced with the natural landscape of parks, greenways and nature areas. The ADA accessibility requirements apply to public accommodations, commercial facilities and state and local government entities. If you own, operate or lease a recreational facility, it is important to determine how your facility and programs must meet the requirements.

Parks fall under Section II of the ADA which deals with public services. Access to facilities as well as programs is required. The ADA requires that:

- Newly constructed buildings and facilities must be readily accessible.
- Renovations or alteration of existing buildings and facilities must be readily accessible.
- Barriers to accessibility in existing buildings and facilities must be removed when it is “readily achievable”.

A structure is readily accessible if it meets the *ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities*.

New Construction

The ADA requires that new facilities which are built for first occupancy after January 26, 1993, must be readily accessible to persons with disabilities. Design and construction is considered to occur after January 26, 1993, if a completed application for a building permit is filled after January 26, 1992.

To comply with the ADA, park and recreation agencies will need to adopt a consistent and thoroughly documented approach to the planning, design and management of areas and facilities within their system.

Alterations to Existing Buildings

The ADA requires that if a building or facility is altered after January 26, 1992, the renovations must be readily accessible to individuals with disabilities. An “alteration” means a change to a building or facility that affects the usability of the building. Alterations include remodeling, renovation, rehabilitation, restoration, reconstruction and changes or arrangements in structural elements or in any reconfiguration of walls or partitions.



In addition to making the alteration accessible, access to a primary function in the building such as a telephone, restroom or drinking fountains serving the area must be made accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Currently, all government entities including park agencies are required to comply regardless of their funding sources.

Some minimum requirements include, but are not limited to:

- One accessible route from site access point, such as a parking lot, to the primary accessible entrance must be provided. A ramp with a slope of no greater than 1:6 for a length of no greater than two feet may be used as part of this route. Otherwise, a slope of maximum 1:12 is allowed.
- One accessible public entrance must be provided.
- If toilets are provided, then one accessible unisex toilet facility must be provided along the accessible route.
- Only the publicly used spaces on the level of the accessible entrance must be made accessible.
- Any displays and written information should be located where they can be seen by a seated individual and should provide information accessible to the blind.

Removal of Barriers

The ADA requires all public accommodations, programs and facilities of state and local governments must remove architectural and communication barriers. An architectural barrier is a physical barrier to access, including steps, narrow doors, sidewalks, texture changes in the floor and placement of signs and furniture. A communication barrier is one that is an integral part of the physical structure of the facility such as telephones mounted too high, the absence of Braille markings on elevators and signage, and alarms that only give an audible signal.

In many cases, the removal of architectural and communication barriers is not that difficult. The park district should create an overall policy plan for the removal of barriers in a prioritized schedule. Persons with disabilities within the park district should be invited to register their comments and preferences as part of the prioritization.

Making curb cuts in the sidewalks, installing grab bars in restrooms, widening entrances, creating accessible parking spaces, installing a paper cup dispenser at an existing drinking fountain and removing high pile carpet are some simple ways access can be achieved.



Outdoor Recreational Facilities

The special Programs and Populations Branch of the National Park Service working in conjunction with the United States Forest Service has published a very clear, concise document outlining the methods that local park districts can use to comply with the ADA in outdoor recreational facilities. An excellent resource, “Design Guide for Accessible Outdoor Recreation” prepared by the USPS with SPPB, contains specific guidelines for creating accessible campgrounds, restroom facilities, picnic areas, trails, equestrian centers, docks, piers and other outdoor recreational areas. The underlying concept of the National Park Service is that any outdoor recreational facility should be accessible consistently with the level of development existing at the facility.

The guide states, “...this guide establishes a framework of direction for new and retrofitted recreation sites and facilities requiring that all recreation visitors should have the opportunity to participate in programs and services to the highest level of access feasible for persons with disabilities when compared to that offered other visitors.”

The accessibility level should be consistent with the development level of any facility owned, operated, leased or managed by the park district. It deals with the main components that should be accessible in all areas such as travel to and from selected activities. This document is listed in the resource section and can provide clear guidance to park district officials struggling with methods to make their recreational trail system, recreational facilities and public programs for people with disabilities.

Services and Programs

The ADA requires that all public entities must operate each service, program or activity so it is accessible to persons with disabilities. If the park district offers a program or an activity that is in a building that is not accessible, the district must:

- Remove the barrier to access in the facility.
- Shift the location to an accessible site.
- Provide the service in some alternative method like outreach program in different facilities.
- Construct a new facility for park district programs.

Timeframe for Compliance

Sections of the ADA became effective at different times. New construction completed after January 26, 1993, must comply with accessibility standards; alterations made after January 26, 1992, must meet the accessibility standards; and barriers must be removed by January 26, 1995.



Since the development of guidelines pertaining to park and recreation access and use are in process as of the time of this requirement relative to the size of any particular type of park or recreational facility. The act does, however, mandate that all areas and facilities be accessible and usable. The guidelines were recently updated in 2012. The new ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities are available on the Internet at <http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADASTandards.htm>.

Rushville Parks Department has been working diligently to replace play structures and improve accessibility to the local parks and recreation facilities. Not all of the current sites meet the Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines, National Playground Safety Institute guidelines or the American with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for play areas. One of the greatest needs is that the parks lack accessibility in the North and South Veterans Parks. Parking signage and accessible routes to the parking lots and other amenities are lacking. Funds are expected to come from grants and donations in order to help secure these much needed upgrades.

Grievance Policy

The City of Rushville established a grievance procedure as part of their ADA Transition Plan that was completed in 2012. The ADA compliance officer is Marcia Fish, Human Resources, 133 W First St, Rushville, IN 46173.

ADA Plan

As part of the update of the Rushville 5-Year Master Park Plan, all of the park facilities were evaluated and recommendations were made to improve the accessibility for handicapped individuals to the parks. Here is a list of the ADA goals for all of the parks in the park system. The Rushville Parks Department plans to make improvements each year on a park by park basis.

2016

Rushville Pool

- Handicapped chair lift

2017

North Veterans Park

- Accessible restroom (unisex)

South Veterans Park

- Accessible restroom (unisex)



All Parks

- Accessible routes to park amenities

2018

Laughlin Park

- Safety Surface/ Fall protection and updated equipment



SECTION 5 NEEDS ANALYSIS

National Standards

The Indiana Division of Outdoor Recreation has suggested facility development standards for Indiana which have been developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association, 1995.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recognizes the importance of establishing and using park and recreation standards as:

- A national expression of minimum acceptable facilities for the citizens of urban and rural communities.
- A guideline to determine land requirements for various kinds of park and recreation areas and facilities.
- A basis for relating recreational needs to spatial analysis within a community-wide system of parks and open space areas.
- One of the major structuring elements that can be used to guide and assist regional development.
- A means to justify the need for parks and open space within the overall land-use pattern of a region or community.

The purpose of these guidelines is to present park and recreation space standards that are applicable nationwide for planning, acquisition, and development of park, recreation, and open space lands, primarily at the community level. These standards should be viewed as a guide. They address minimum, not maximum, goals to be achieved. The standards are interpreted according to the particular situation to which they are applied and specific local needs. A variety of standards have been developed by professional and trade associations which are used throughout the country. The standard derived from early studies of park acreages located within metropolitan areas was the expression of acres of park land per unit of population. Over time, the figure of 10 acres per 1,000 population came to be the commonly accepted standard used by a majority of communities. Other standards adopted include the "percent of area" approach, needs determined by user characteristics and participation projections, and area use based on the carrying capacity of the land. The fact that some of the standards have changed substantially is not an indication of their obsolescence. Changes are a measure of the growing awareness and understanding of both participant and resource (land, water, etc.) limitations. Parks are for people. Park, recreation, and planning professionals must integrate the art and science of park management in order to balance such park and open space resource values as water supply, air quality.

Rushville has a total park acreage of 125 acres. The national standard calls for 10 acres per 1,000 in population. With a current population of 6,341 (2010 US Census), that would require



Rushville Parks to have approximately 63 acres of open space parkland. Rushville parkland has 62 acres over the national standard.

COMPARABLE PARK SYSTEMS

	Rushville	Batesville	Hartford City	Huntingburg
Population (2010)	6,341	6,520	6,220	6,057
No. of parks	6	4	5	4
Nat'l Standard Park Acreage				
<i>System Acreage</i>	125	127	48	98
<i>need per 1,000 population</i>	63	65	62	60
<i>(+/-) need</i>	+62	+62	-14	+38
Park Amenities				
Community/Sr. Center				
Playground	5	3	4	2
Picnic Shelters	1	8	5	5
Basketball court	8	1	4	3
Soccer/Football			1	
Baseball/Softball	6	1	3	5
Tennis court		2	2	2
Swimming Pool	1	1	1	1
Volleyball		1		2
Horseshoe pit	1	8		5
Disc Golf	1	1		
Golf Course				1
Trails (# of parks)	3	1	1	1
Fitness trail			1	
Splash pad				
Skate Park			1	
Dog Park		1		1
Nature Area	1	1	1	



The Rushville Parks and Recreation cooperates with the school system and many of the public facilities in the county in sharing their opportunities for recreation. The table below shows how the Rushville Park system as it compares to the Standards set by the National Recreation and Parks Association:

Activity/Facility	# of units per population	Service Radius	# of units per Rushville Parks	# of units +/- per population
Basketball	1 per 5,000	1/4 to 1/2 mile	8	+6
Tennis	1 per 2,000	1/4 to 1/2 mile	0	-3
Volleyball	1 per 5,000	1/4 to 1/2 mile	0	-2
Baseball/Softball	1 per 5,000	1/4 to 1/2 mile	6	+4
Football	1 per 20,000	15-20 minutes travel	0	-1
Soccer	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles travel	0	-1
Golf				
Driving Range	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel	1	OK
9-Hole	1 per 25,000	1/2 to 1 hour travel	1	OK
18-Hole	1 per 50,000	1/2 to 1 hour travel	1	OK
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel	1	OK





SECTION 6 PLAN AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The preliminary goals and objectives first relied on the review and assessment of the inventory, public opinion survey, meetings with park staff, and comparison to other communities. The Rushville Parks and Recreation Department staff, Park Board and Mayor’s Office reviewed each goal and objective. These were modified to more accurately reflect current needs. Following presentation at the public input meeting goals and objectives were refined. The refined goals and objectives in tandem with the needs and available resources have formed the basis of the Action Plan. The intent of the following Action Plan is to serve as a road map and general guide for the Rushville Parks and Recreation Department staff and parks board to complete their capital improvements annual progress.

Action Plan

Systemwide

Project	Estimated Cost	Timeline	Funding Source
General maintenance	\$75,000	Ongoing	Annual operating
General landscaping	\$2,000	Ongoing	Annual operating
Safety surface/fall protection	\$10,000	Ongoing	Annual operating
Partnerships with Other Organizations	\$1,000	Ongoing	Annual operating

Community Park

Project	Estimated Cost	Timeline	Funding Source
Playground equipment	\$15,000	2017	Park General Fund, Donations, DNR funds, foundation grants, ARC
Ballfield upgrades	\$50,000	2019	Park General Fund / foundation/utility grants



Laughlin Park

Project	Estimated Cost	Timeline	Funding Source
Playground equipment	\$15,000	2018	Park General Fund, Donations, DNR funds, foundation grants, ARC
Ball field upgrades	\$50,000	2018	Park General Fund / foundation/utility grants

Riverside Park

Project	Estimated Cost	Timeline	Funding Source
Disc Golf	\$10,000	2016	Park General Fund, Donations
Pavillion	\$75,000	2016	Park General Fund, Donations, foundation grants
Retaining wall; flood lights; site survey; fencing; main gate	\$20,000	2018	Park General Fund, Donations, foundation grants
Spray fountain; gatehouse/concessions; paved walkways	\$30,000	2020	Park General Fund, Donations, DNR funds, foundation grants



Veterans Memorial Park North

Project	Estimated Cost	Timeline	Funding Source
Walking/Fitness trail maintenance	\$5,000	Ongoing	Annual operation budget
Pool maintenance	\$15,000	Ongoing	Annual operation budget
Playground equipment	\$15,000	2018	Park General Fund, Donations, DNR funds, foundation grants, ARC
Splash Pad	\$100,000	2020	Park General Fund, Donations, DNR funds, foundation grants
Community center	\$500,000	2020	Park General Fund, Donations, OCRA funds, foundation grants



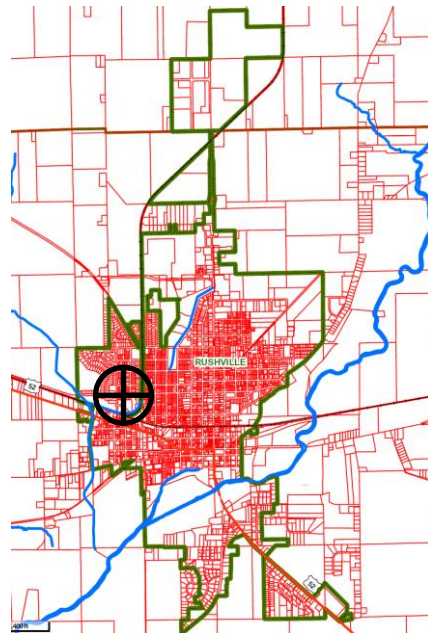
Future Projects

There are several new projects and programs that the Rushville Parks Department would like to accomplish in the future.

Physical Improvements

Innis-Pearce Park

This will be the first new park in the Rushville Park system in more than a decade. Located on the west side of the City, the park occupies a portion of recently donated land that was once a part of the Innis-Pearce Company. The new park will have a picnic area and may expand in the future.



Dog Park

The location for the new Dog Park has yet to be determined at this date. The construction date is set for 2018.

Project	Estimated Cost	Timeline	Funding Source
Dog Park	\$30,000	2018	Donations/ Park General Funds/ membership fees
Innis-Pearce Park development	\$5,000	2016	Donations/ Park General Funds



Trails

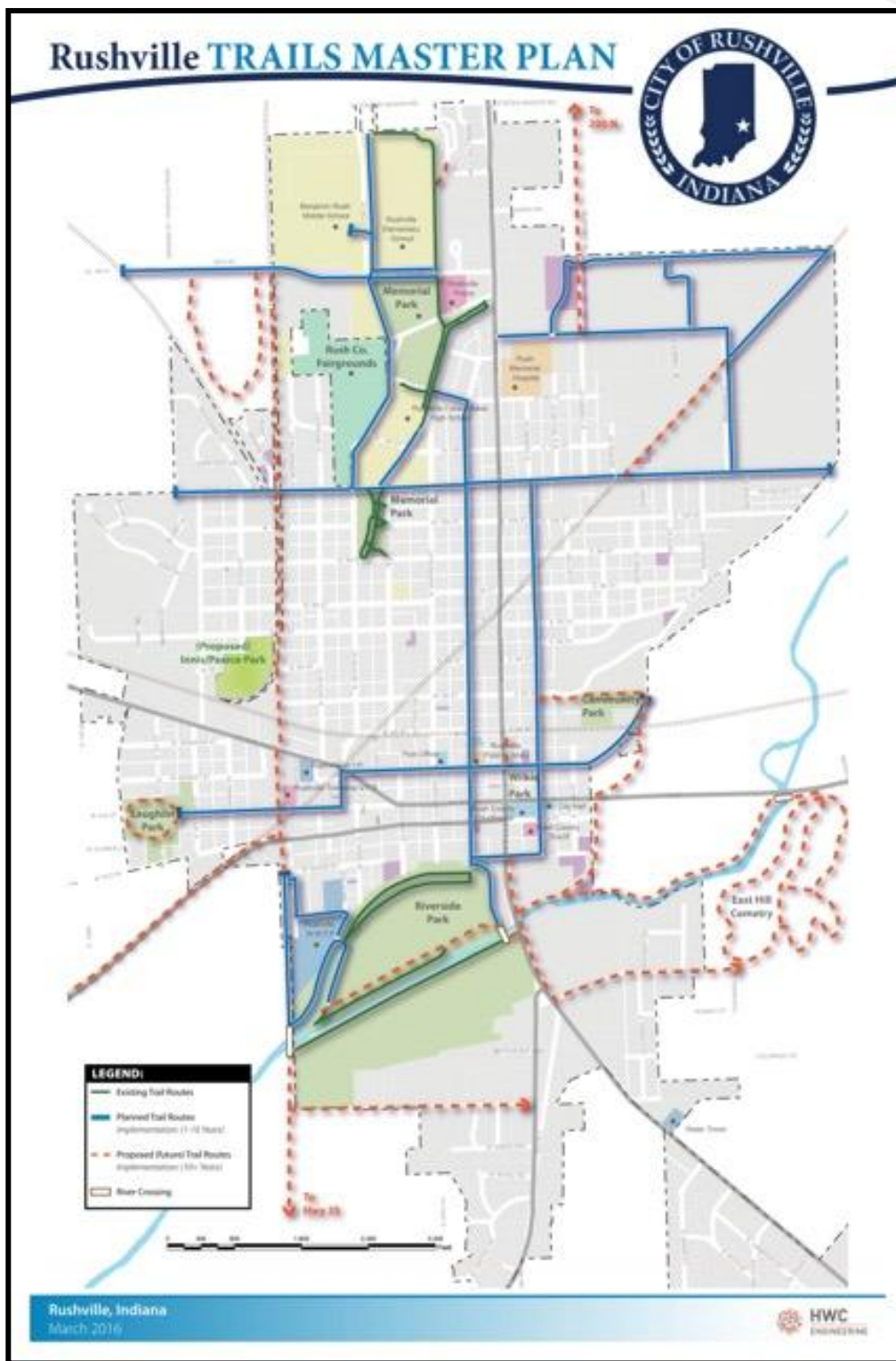
The Rushville Parks Department realizes the advantage of having walking/biking trails in their community. They can benefit in both recreation and wellness initiatives for communities. The next 5 years will see the City concentrating on acquiring right-of-way for future trail use. Below is an ambitious plan for future trails throughout the community.

The Rushville Trails Master Plan map depicts the proposed routing for major trail improvements in Rushville. Ideally, route improvements along these corridors would consist of 8'-10' wide shared use trails. The routing for the corridors shown in the map reflects culmination of many ideas discussed and vetted during various planning projects over the past few years. The end result is a purposeful and comprehensive vision for trail connectivity to most major current points of interest within the community including the following major features:

- All current city parks
- All schools
- Downtown
- All current and proposed neighborhoods
- Major commercial areas

It is important to note that this map only depicts the desired route for major trail improvements and does not identify additional features, such as connecting sidewalks and ADA improvements, which would be required to provide the safest and most comfortable walking environment in the city. It is also important to understand that additional study is recommended to provide additional detail to this vision which will greatly help in developing a realistic implementation plan for future trail construction. At the minimum it is recommended that the following elements be studied in greater detail and developed into a feasible implementation strategy for the system:

- Trail type desired for each corridor,
- Right-of-way requirements based on trail type,
- Trail design standards (pavement, signage, furnishings, etc),
- Proposed trail alignments for each corridor,
- Planning level cost estimates for major trail sections,
- Connecting sidewalk upgrades and ADA improvements, and
- Prioritization plan for trail construction based on anticipated community and grant funding resources.



Project	Estimated Cost	Timeline	Funding Source
Trailway project phase I	\$500,000	2017	Safe Routes to School, RTP, foundations



Program Improvements

The most ambitious part of future expansion for the Rushville Parks Department will be in programming. Below is a list of what the department would like to add to its existing programs it offers.

2016

- Pedal Car 500: A race in South Veterans Park that will consist of teams of 4 that will race around walking trail located in South Veterans Park on Pedal Cars. This event will promote active living and team work.
- Recycle Program: 2 day program that will go over recycling and the advantages of recycle and what positive affects this has on our community as well as our everyday life for years to come. This will be hosted in various parks.
- Food Truck Friday: Food Truck Friday: Local businesses with a food truck/trailer will be able to come once a month and serve/sale food in a location within the parks. This will promote members of the community to come and enjoy lunch in the parks with easy access to food and also promote and support local businesses.
- Sports Programs: Flag Football, Whiffle Ball, Kickball, Basketball, Golf, Pickleball, Zumba, Field Day, and other sporting events.
- Pinterest Night in the Parks: A Pinterest craft project will be picked and materials for that project will be provided for members of the community to attend and participate.
- Junior Cooking Class: These classes will offer an educational piece for children to learn to cook simple and easy things with healthier foods. This class will focus on cooking, cooking safety and simple and easy recipes.
- Reading in the Parks: This program will be aimed at the youth of our community and will encourage and promote reading. The reading program will be conducted in all parks throughout the city and will partner with the Rushville Public Library.

2017

- Painting in the Park: Providing a day in which people can come and paint in the park. Painting will often be based on nature. This program will provide culture to the citizens of Rushville both young and older. This program will be hosted at South Veterans Park.

2018

- Mayor's Youth Council: This program will act as a mentor program as well as educating children in the inner workings of local government. This will also act as a way to show children the importance of volunteerism.



- Drawing/Sketching Course: Will provide children the opportunity to educate themselves in drawing/sketching.
- Walking/Biking Safety: This program will educate children on the safe practices of walking and riding their bikes.

2019

- Sign Language Course: This course will be for both youth and adults. This course will go over basic sign language and teach the children how to utilize sign language and when it is needed.
- Positive Life Program: This program will be based on demonstrating what a positive lifestyle can have on each individual person as well as your entire community.

2020

- Archery Course: Teaching children archery and archery safety.



SECTION 7 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

FUNDING

The Rushville Parks must also consider how these improvements are to be funded. There are many ways to fund improvements and the Park Board will need to investigate all avenues for financing future projects and programs.

Here is a list of funding possibilities:

- Municipal bonds
- Sales taxes
- Development impact fees/land donation requirements
- User and entrance fees
- Creative partnerships (with private and public entities)
- Grants (Federal, State, Foundation, Non-profit, etc.)
- Donations
 - In-kind, service, and products
 - Bequests
 - Tax write-offs
 - Corporate donations

There are various programs which directly benefit Park and Recreation Boards in Indiana. This listing contains federal, state and local funding programs and resources. We have included a list of possible funding sources:

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

What is the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant program?

Participation in outdoor recreation activities is expanding so rapidly that park agencies often face a real financial burden in attempting to provide enough facilities to keep up with the demand. The Land and Water Conservation Fund was passed by Congress in 1965 to assist eligible governmental units in the provision of new park areas.

The LWCF is a matching assistance program that provides grants for 50% of the cost for the acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities. Since the program began, Indiana has received approximately \$75 million in federal funds. The allocation usually is



divided between Department of Natural Resources' projects and local government park projects depending on funding levels. Over \$36 million has been provided to local agencies through the program. More than 30,000 acres of land have been acquired in Indiana with Land and Water Conservation Fund assistance for public outdoor recreation use and conservation.

Where are funds from?

The main source of funding for the LWCF grants comes from federal offshore oil lease revenues.

How is funding received?

Since the LWCF is a reimbursing program, the project sponsor does not receive the grant funds at the time of application approval. The sponsor must have the local matching 50% of the project cost available prior to the application. The sponsoring park and recreation board is reimbursed 50% of the actual costs of the approved project. In order to receive the money reserved for the project, a billing must be submitted to your grant coordinator that enables the participants to request the federal share of the cost incurred throughout the grant term.

What are local sources of funding? Local funding sources used to match the federal assistance may be derived from appropriations, tax levies, bond issues, force account labor, gifts, and donations of land, cash, labor, materials, and equipment. Other federal funding sources cannot be used as the local share of a project, except revenue sharing, Community Development Act funds, and Farmers Home Administration loans.

Grant funding amounts.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund applicants may request amounts ranging from a minimum of \$10,000 up to a maximum of \$200,000. If any changes are made to the manual/application, they will be posted by March 1. Applications are available online or upon request from the Division of Outdoor Recreation. The application is required to be submitted or post-marked by June 1.

Who is eligible?

Only park and recreation boards established under Indiana law are eligible. The park and recreation board must also have a current 5-year master plan for parks and recreation on file, approved at the Division of Outdoor Recreation.

Who administers the program?

Funds are provided through the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior, but the program is administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Division of Outdoor Recreation.

What types of projects may be funded?

Grant applications may consist of land acquisition and/or facility construction or renovation for local public parks for outdoor recreation. New parks or additions to existing parks may be funded.



The land acquisition or development may not be started until final approval is received from the Federal Government. All land to be developed must be controlled by the park board through direct ownership. Examples of types of projects include:

- Acquiring park or natural area
- Picnic areas
- Sports and playfields, such as playgrounds, ballfields, court facilities, and golf courses
- Water oriented facilities for boating, swimming, and access to lakes, rivers, and streams
- Natural areas and interpretive facilities
- Campgrounds
- Fishing and hunting areas
- Winter sports facilities
- Amphitheatres and bandstands
- Parks adjacent to schools for mutual use
- Outdoor natural habitat zoo facilities
- Roads, restrooms, utilities, park maintenance buildings
- Nature Centers

All facilities should be universally designed for persons with disabilities, and the Park board's facilities, programs and activities must be open to the public without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national, origin, age or handicap.

How do I apply?

The LWCF manual online serves as the guidelines and application. Please use this document to complete your application. The appendix has all the forms needed to apply.

If you want to know more about the LWCF grant or want to discuss potential projects, contact:

State & Community Outdoor Recreation Planning Section
Division of Outdoor Recreation
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 West Washington Street, Room 271
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2782
(317) 232-4070
fax (317) 233-4648

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

What is the Recreational Trails grant program?

The Recreational Trails Program is a matching assistance program that provides funding for the acquisition and/or development of multi-use recreational trail projects. Both motorized and non-motorized projects may qualify for assistance. The assistance program is sponsored by the



U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Where are funds from?

The RTP funding represents a portion of the revenue received by the Federal Highway Trust Fund from the federal motor fuel excise tax paid by users of off-road recreational vehicles such as snowmobiles, off-road motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and off-road light trucks. These monies are made available from Indiana's share of funds from the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century (TEA-21).

How is funding received?

The project sponsor will not receive a cash grant at the time of project approval. Instead, the sponsor must pay the bills and then be reimbursed for a maximum of 80% of the expenses incurred for the project according to the terms of the project agreement. In most cases, reimbursement is not permitted for work that takes place prior to project approval.

What are local sources of funding?

At the time of application the project sponsor must have at least 20% of the total project cost available. The local share may include tax sources, bond issues, Community Development Funds, Farmers Home Administration Loans, or force account contributions. The donated value of land, cash, labor, equipment, and materials may also be used.

Grant funding amounts.

The Indiana RTP will provide 80% matching reimbursement assistance for eligible projects. Applicants may request grant amounts ranging from a minimum of \$10,000 up to a maximum of \$150,000. Applications are available online or from the Division of Outdoor Recreation. If any changes are made to the manual/application they will be posted by February 1. Applications are due back in our office by May 1.

Who is eligible?

All units of government and agencies incorporated as not-for-profit corporations are eligible to participate.

Who administers the program?

The Governor of Indiana has designated the Indiana Department of Natural Resources through its Division of Outdoor Recreation to administer the program.

What types of projects may be funded?

Projects will be eligible if they provide public access to trails. Funds from RTP can be used for:

- Maintenance and restoration of existing trails
- Development and rehabilitation of trailside, trailhead facilities, and trail linkages
- Purchase and/or lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment
- Construction of new trails with the restrictions for new trails on Federal lands



- Acquisition of easement or property for trails
- Operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection related to trails (limited to 5% of State's funds)
- Providing stream and river access sites
- Construction of bridges, boardwalks and crossings
- Signage
- Construction of equestrian facilities
- Building of sanitary facilities and other support facilities (e.g., water fountains, shelter, etc.)

All facilities should be universally designed to accommodate all people. Facilities, programs and activities funded through this program must be open to the public without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national, origin, age or handicap.

How do I apply?

The RTP manual online serves as the guidelines and application. Please use this document to complete your application. The appendix has all the forms needed to apply.

If you want to know more about the RTP grant or want to discuss potential projects, contact:

Division of Outdoor Recreation
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 West Washington Street, Room 271
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2782
(317) 232-4070
fax (317) 233-4648

Shooting Range Program (SR)

What is the Indiana Shooting Range grant program?

The Department of Natural Resources Shooting Range grant program is an assistance program for the development of rifle, handgun, shotgun, and archery facilities. The main objectives of this program are to provide the citizens of Indiana with additional and safer places to fire their guns, and train hunter education students.

Where are funds from?

Funding for the Department of Natural Resources Shooting Range grant program comes from the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Program which is commonly called the Pittman Robertson (P-R) Program, and from a federal excise tax on rifles, shotguns, handguns, ammunition and archery equipment. Funds are apportioned to state fish and wildlife agencies based on the number of hunting license holders and each state's size in relation to the other states. Because of the need for local shooting opportunities in Indiana, the Division of Fish and Wildlife has made some of these funds available to local units of government and not-for-profit



corporations for shooting range development.

How is funding received?

The project sponsor will not receive a cash grant at the time of project approval. Instead, the sponsor must pay the bills and be reimbursed for a maximum of 75% of the expenses incurred for the project according to the terms of the project agreement.

What are local sources of funding?

At the time of the application the project sponsor must have at least 25% of the total project cost available. The local share may include tax levies, bond issues, or force account contributions. The donated value of cash, labor, equipment and materials may also be used. Other sources of federal funding may not be used as a local match.

Grant funding amounts.

The Shooting Range program will provide 75% matching reimbursing assistance for eligible projects. Applicants may request a minimum of \$10,000 with no maximum grant amount. Applications for this program are available from June 1 to September 1. The applications are available upon request and are due and/or post marked by September 1

Who is eligible?

All units of government and agencies incorporated as not-for-profit corporations open to the public at least 20 hours per month will be eligible to participate.

Who administers the program?

At the local level, the Division of Outdoor Recreation administers the program through the Division of Fish and Wildlife. At the federal level, it is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

What types of projects may be funded?

Land acquisition is not eligible for reimbursement, nor will it be permitted for use as the local match. Development on leased property is permitted if the lease endures for the expected life of the facilities to be built, and provides for adequate public access. The grant applicant must agree to keep the project site in use as a public shooting range for the life of the facility. Projects will be eligible for funding if they develop rifle, handgun, shotgun firing, or archery opportunities for public use.

All facilities should be universally designed to accommodate all people. Facilities, programs and activities funded through this program must be open to the public without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national, origin, age or handicap.

How do I apply?

The Shooting Range manual serves as the guidelines and application. Please use this document



to complete your application. The appendix has all the forms needed to apply. If you want to know more about the Shooting Range grant or to receive the application/guidelines, contact...

State & Community Outdoor Recreation Planning Section
 Division of Outdoor Recreation
 Indiana Department of Natural Resources
 402 West Washington Street, Room 271
 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2782

SUMMARY OF ALL IDNR OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT PROGRAMS

Grant Program	Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	Shooting Range
	Applications may include land acquisition and/or development, maintenance, and ethics education of multi-use trails.	Applications may consist of land acquisition and/or outdoor recreation facility construction or renovation.	Application may consist of development (not purchase) of rifle, handgun, shotgun, and archery opportunities.
Funding Source	Federal	Federal	Federal
% Match	80/20	50/50	75/25
Min/Max Amount	\$10,000-150,000	\$10,000-200,000	\$10,000-No Cap
Grant Rounds	Applications due by May 1	Applications due by June 1	Applications due by December 31
Eligibility	Units of Governments and 501(c)(3) not-for-profits	Park Board & 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan	Units of Governments and Not-for-profit corporations
Funds Available	Approx. \$1,000,000	Estimated \$500,000	Varies



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Facilities Program (PFP)

The Public Facilities Program (PFP) is administered by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) to encourage Indiana communities with eligible populations to focus on long-term community development. PFP is funded with Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars.

About the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG): Rural communities have many pressing needs that require outside financial assistance. Through OCRA, Indiana requests CDBG dollars from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). OCRA then administers funding to rural communities, allocating it to programs that promote livable communities, address unmet community development needs and promote activities that enhance local economic development efforts. Assistance is available to non-entitlement cities, incorporated towns and counties.

Eligibility Requirements

- The project should be a part of the community's overall strategy.
- Eligibility is subject to Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) % and beneficiary requirements.
- Projects must meet a national objective, be an eligible activity under the CDBG program, and comply with applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

Public Facilities Program Goals

- Improve quality of place.
- Generate jobs and spur economic revitalization.

Eligible Projects

- ADA Accessibility
- Community, Learning, Healthcare, Senior and Daycare Centers
- Dams/Levees
- Fire Protection/EMS Buildings
- Historic Preservation
- Libraries
- Parks and Recreation
- Special Needs Buildings



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning Grant

Planning grants are accepted to assist with project planning needs. All requirements in the Community Focus Fund grant program previously mentioned also apply for the Planning Grant program. Eligible applicants can receive up to \$50,000 for planning functions.

Eligible Plans

- Comprehensive Plans
- Downtown Revitalization Plans
- Historic Preservation Plans
- Community Facility Feasibility Studies
- Economic Development Plans
- Utility Plans
- Park Plans
- Dam and Levee Plans

For more information contact:

Indiana Office of Rural Affairs
Community Development Block Grant Program
One North Capitol, Suite 600
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 232-1703, (800) 824-2476

Transportation Enhancements Program

Transportation enhancements (TE) are transportation-related activities that are designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the Nation's intermodal transportation system. The transportation enhancements program provides for the implementation of a variety of non-traditional projects, with examples ranging from the restoration of historic transportation facilities, to bike and pedestrian facilities, to landscaping and scenic beautification, and to the mitigation of water pollution from highway runoff.

TEA-21 expands the definition of transportation enhancements from 10 to specifically include 12 activities. The list of qualifying TE activities provided in 23 U.S.C. 101(a)(35) of TEA-21 is intended to be exclusive, not illustrative. That is, only those activities listed therein are eligible as TE activities. They are listed below:

1. Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles
2. Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists
3. Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites



4. Scenic or historic highway programs (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities)
5. Landscaping and other scenic beautification
6. Historic preservation
7. Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals)
8. Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails)
9. Control and removal of outdoor advertising
10. Archaeological planning and research
11. Environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity
12. Establishment of transportation museums

For more information, please contact the TE Program Coordinator or call (317) 232-5496, if you have any additional questions or comments about INDOT's Transportation Enhancements Program.

Small Communities Sidewalk Program (SCSP)

Throughout Indiana, sidewalks are being used more and more. Sidewalks connect neighborhoods to schools, parks, religious facilities, community centers, transit, housing, government facilities, retail, and other destinations. However, in small rural towns and communities, sidewalks may be less common. Financial constraints and other limitations provide a challenge for locals to develop and improve sidewalks along state jurisdictional facilities, as standalone projects. INDOT recognizes that sidewalks are an integral part of the transportation system and in order to provide assistance in addressing this issue, INDOT has developed a Small Community Sidewalk Program (SCSP).

Highlights of this program are:

Funding will be set aside each fiscal year to construct new sidewalks or to upgrade existing sidewalks to ensure compliance with the most current standards, including American Disability Act (ADA) standards. Submitted projects will be located within public right of way for federal eligibility requirements. Development of this program will provide health benefits associated with walking as well as provide a sense of safety and welfare for pedestrians utilizing sidewalks.

For more information contact:

Technical Planning and Programming
Indiana Department of Transportation
317-232-5496



Forest Management Cost Share Programs

The **Forest Improvement Program** (FIP) is concerned with the supply of wood products. The **Forest Stewardship Incentive Program** (SIP) is to encourage Stewardship for privately owned woodlands. The **Conservation Reserve Program** (CRP) is intended to remove erodible land from row crop production. Maximum refund rates range up to 50% of your cost as approved by a district forester. All programs require that you follow a plan approved by a district forester and that you participate for at least 10 years.

To inquire about these programs, contact the Farm Services Agency Office or Natural Resources Conservation Service Office in the county where your land is located, or your [District Forester](#). If your land qualifies, a district forester will assess your needs, suggest a program and management strategy, provide guidelines and determine your maximum refundable cost.

What Can Be Cost Shared?

Practices covered under these programs include:

- Timber Stand Improvement
- Tree Planting,
- Critical Area Stabilization
- Certain Fencing and some Wildlife Practices

Component parts for which you may be reimbursed include:

- Plantation Site Preparation
- [Nursery Stock](#)
- Planting of Trees
- Weed Control
- Cull Tree Removal
- Crop Tree Release
- Pre-commercial Thinning
- Pruning
- Vine Control
- Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration

Tree Planting

If you plant trees for windbreaks, reforestation, future timber harvest or erosion control you may qualify for cost share assistance. For qualified land owners, FIP and SIP may refund up to 50% of planting costs. The CRP offers a 50% refund for initial costs and an annual crop rental fee for the required 10-year duration of the program. Under SIP at least 1 acre of trees must be planted, while FIP requires at least 10 acres.

For all programs, refundable cost limits are determined by a district forester or personnel from the [Farm Service Agency office](#). For any tree planting contact a [professional forester](#) for



technical advice.

Timber Stand Improvement

Timber Stand Improvement, or TSI, focuses on the future supply of wood products. Generally, trees grow faster and straighter if they are grown as a crop. This requires vine control, weed tree removal, thinning, site preparation for natural regeneration, and pruning. Your woods will also be more productive and profitable.

Under SIP and FIP you may be refunded up to 50% of the cost for TSI. You are also required to do TSI on at least 10 acres.

Critical Area Planting

Critical areas include forest roads or other areas with erosion problems. If you plant trees, legumes or grasses to stabilize these you may be eligible for a 50% refund.

The [Natural Resource Conservation Service](#) has the technical responsibility for this practice.

Your [district forester](#) can provide information on erosion control, logging roads and skid trails.

Implementation

To participate in a cost-share program you can either do the work yourself or hire a [consultant forester](#). If you do the work you should follow the directions of your district forester.

If a consultant is hired, be aware that the maximum allowable financial assistance will not change. You will be paid 50% of the cost approved by the district forester or the [Farm Service Agency](#). If a consultant charges more than this, your refund will not increase.

For your own protection, verify the actual project cost before starting. Upon completion, the landowner, not the FSA office, must pay the consultant. You will be reimbursed by the FSA upon receipt of your bill.

You may wish to receive financial help for several forestry projects or for a project which will cost more than the maximum allowable refund. If so, ask about Long Term Agreements.

If you have any forest management questions or need technical assistance help is available from:

- [Consultant Foresters](#)
- Your [District Forester](#)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
<http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/>
- Farm Service Agency
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/default.asp>

Indiana Heritage Trust

Established in 1992, the trust program has been developed to acquire real property that is an example of outstanding natural features and habitats, has historical and/or archaeological significance and provides areas for conservation, recreation and the restoration of native biological diversity. Money from this program is acquired from legislative appropriations, as well as, from donations through the purchase of the environmental license plates.



For more information, call 317-233-1002

Indiana Natural Resources Foundation

The Indiana Natural Resources Foundation was established in 1990 and exists to accept gifts of money or property on behalf of the public. These gifts support the work of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to:

- Create and protect habitat,
- Acquire land for state parks, nature preserves and other properties,
- Enforce the laws that keep our wildlife healthy

For more information, please contact:

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
IDNR Executive Offices
402 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone (317) 233-1002

Lake and River Enhancement Program

The Division of Fish & Wildlife's Lake and River Enhancement Program (LARE) goal is to ensure the continued viability of public-access lakes and streams by utilizing a watershed approach to reduce non-point source sediment and nutrient pollution of Indiana's and adjacent states' surface waters to a level that meets or surpasses state water quality standards.

To accomplish this goal, the LARE Program provides technical and financial assistance for qualifying projects. Approved grant funding may be used for one or more of the following purposes:

1. Investigations to determine what problems are affecting a lake/lakes or a stream segment.
2. Evaluation of identified problems and effective action recommendations to resolve those problems.
3. Cost-sharing with land users in a watershed above upstream from a project lake or stream for installation or application of sediment and nutrient reducing practices on their land.
4. Matching federal funds for qualifying projects.
5. Watershed management plan development.



6. Feasibility studies to define appropriate lake and stream remediation measures.
7. Engineering designs and construction of remedial measures.
8. Water monitoring of public lakes.

Contact information:

Lake and River Enhancement Section
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington Street, W-273
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: 317-233-1484



APPENDIX A

**Parks Survey
&
Park Board SWOT Exercise**



City of Rushville 2015 Parks Questionnaire

Please circle or write in answers.

1. Please indicate your age:
 - a. 5-10
 - b. 11-14
 - c. 15-18
 - d. 19+
2. Please indicate which park(s) you and/or your family have visited in the past year:
 - a. Riverside Park
 - b. Wilkie Park
 - c. Veterans Memorial North Park
 - d. Veterans Memorial South Park
 - e. Laughlin Park
 - f. Community Park
3. If the city were to develop additional facilities within existing park(s), which would be most desirable for you and/or your family?
 - a. Tennis Courts
 - b. Ice Skating Rinks
 - c. Beach Volleyball Courts
 - d. Basketball Courts
 - e. Bike Trails
 - f. Walking Trails
 - g. Baseball Fields
 - h. Softball Fields
 - i. Soccer Fields
 - j. Football Fields
 - k. Playgrounds
 - l. Dog Parks
 - m. Picnic Shelters
 - n. Parking
 - o. Restrooms
 - p. Greater Handicapped Accessibility
 - q. Other
4. Which park(s) would benefit most from such additions?
 - a. Riverside Park
 - b. Wilkie Park
 - c. Veterans Memorial North Park



- d. Veterans Memorial South Park
 - e. Laughlin Park
 - f. Community Park
5. Do you support the expansion of a trail system which would provide better connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists within the city of Rushville?
Yes No
6. Do you support improvements to the city pool?
Yes No
7. Do you support the development of additional park(s) within the city of Rushville?
Yes No
8. Do you support a community center being added to the park(s)?
Yes No
9. Do you support more programmed offered by the Parks Department?
Yes No
10. If so, which programs would be most desirable for you and/or your family?
- a. Arts & Crafts
 - b. Adult Programs
 - c. Teen Programs
 - d. Senior Programs
 - e. Preschool Programs
 - f. Educational Programs
 - g. Outdoor Programs
 - h. Sports Programs
 - i. Cultural Programs
 - j. Community Programs
 - k. Other

-
11. Do you currently participate in programs offered by Rushville's Parks and Recreation department?
Yes No
- If so, which?

-
12. Which method or methods do you think are most effective for communicating parks and recreation activities?
- a. Newspaper
 - b. Email
 - c. City Website
 - d. Community Bulletin Board
 - e. Social Media
 - f. Other
-



Rushville Parks Survey Summary

The majority of respondents to the survey by age were those in the 35+ category (51.4%) followed by those 19-34 (29.3%). When asked which parks were the most visited, Veteran's Park North was the most visited park (78.5%) followed by Riverside (70.4%) and Veteran's Park South (60%). They were also asked if they support the development of additional parks to the system of which the majority (76.3%) responded yes.

When respondents were asked what additional facilities they would like to see in the parks, walking trails (62%) were the most requested followed by biking trails (40.7%), restrooms (40.25) and more playgrounds (39.8%). They were then asked which parks would benefit from additional park amenities in which Riverside Park was the number one pick (62.6%) followed by Veteran's Park North (45.3%) and South (37.9%).

When asked if they would support expansion of the current trail system, the vast majority (92.2%) responded yes they would as well as supporting improvements to the community pool (88.6%). They were then asked if they would support the addition of a community center of which the majority responded yes (90.8%).

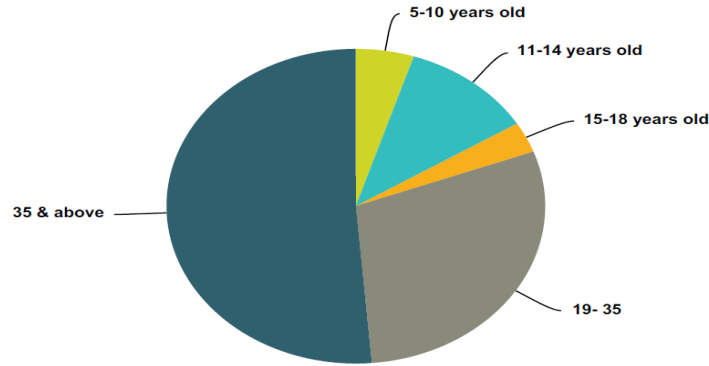
When asked about using the current programming offered by the parks department, the majority (61%) responded they did not. When asked if they would support more programs the vast majority (94.1%) said yes they would. The types of programming they would like to see were outdoor programs (62.3%), arts & crafts (52.4%), community programs (50.5%) and sports programs (46.7%) followed closely by programs for teens (45.8%) and educational programming (45.3%).



Rushville Parks Survey Results

Q1 Please indicate your age:

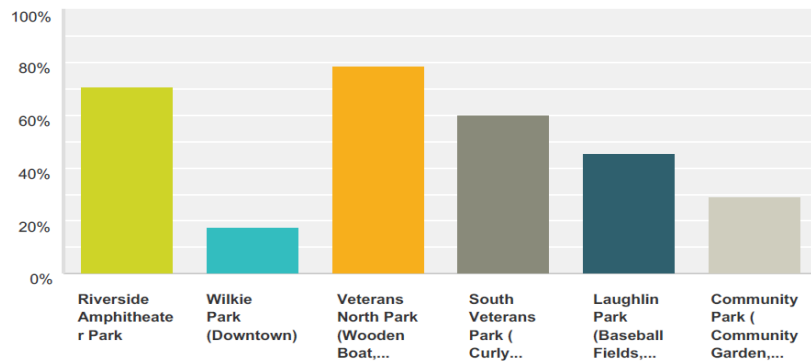
Answered: 222 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
5-10 years old	4.95%	11
11-14 years old	11.26%	25
15-18 years old	3.15%	7
19- 35	29.28%	65
35 & above	51.35%	114
Total		222

Q2 Please indicate which park(s) you and/or your family have visited in the past year: (More than one can be selected)

Answered: 223 Skipped: 0

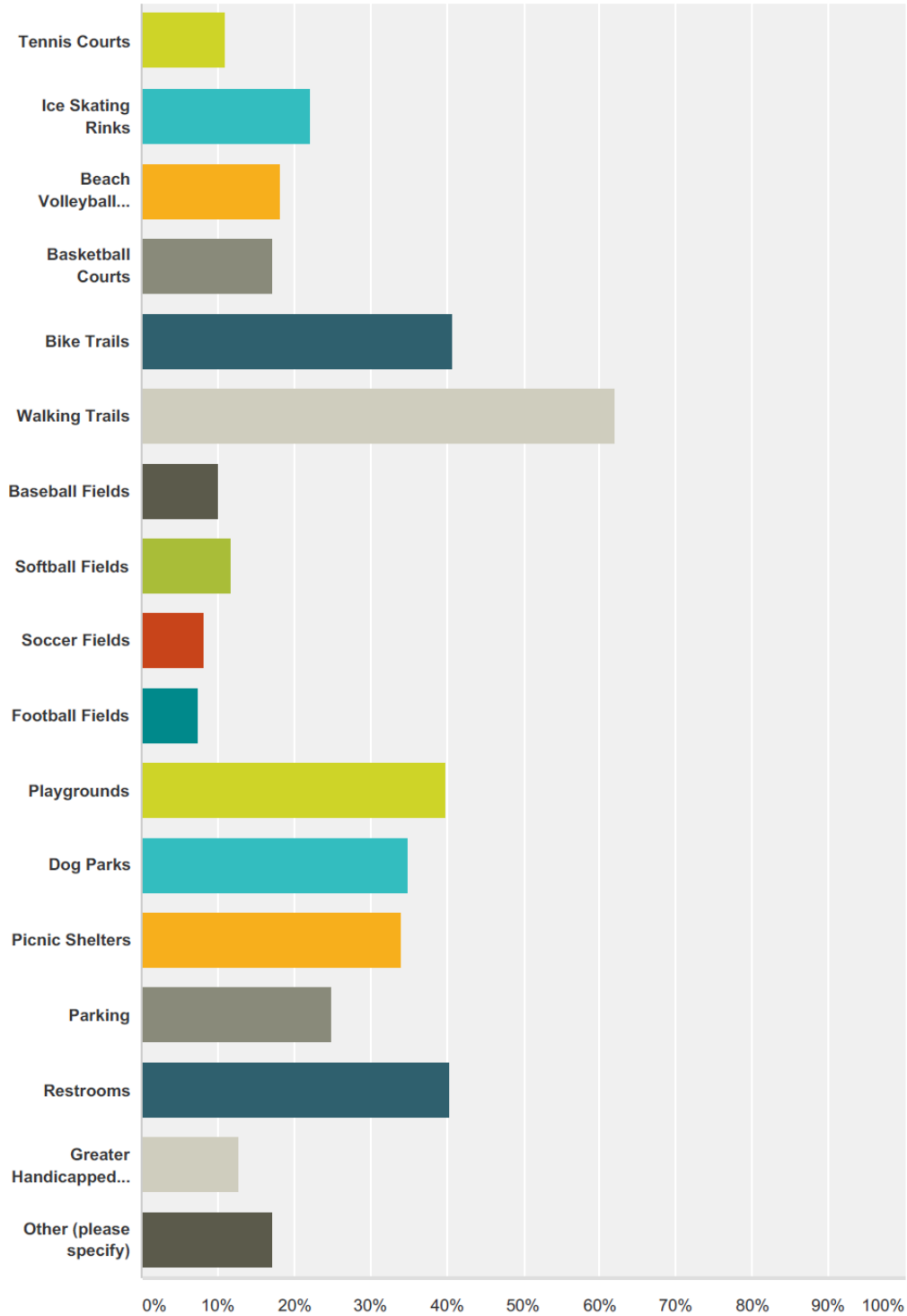


Answer Choices	Responses	
Riverside Amphitheater Park	70.40%	157
Wilkie Park (Downtown)	17.49%	39
Veterans North Park (Wooden Boat, Wooden Train, Veterans Bridge)	78.48%	175
South Veterans Park (Curly Slide, Gazebo)	60.09%	134
Laughlin Park (Baseball Fields, West End)	45.29%	101
Community Park (Community Garden, East End)	29.15%	65
Total Respondents: 223		



Q3 If the city were develop additional facilities within existing park(s), which would be most desirable for you and/or your family? (More than one can be selected)

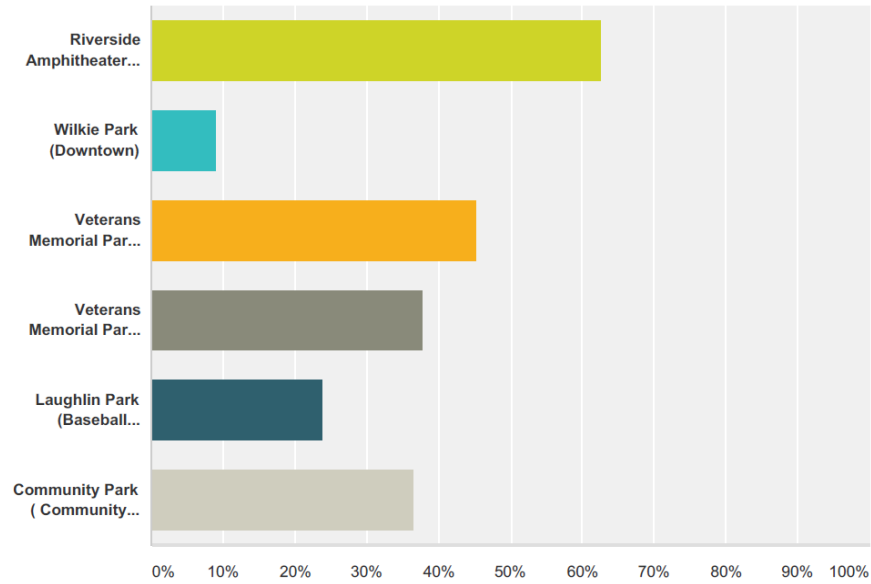
Answered: 221 Skipped: 2





Q4 Which park(s) would benefit most from such additions? (More than one can be selected)

Answered: 214 Skipped: 9

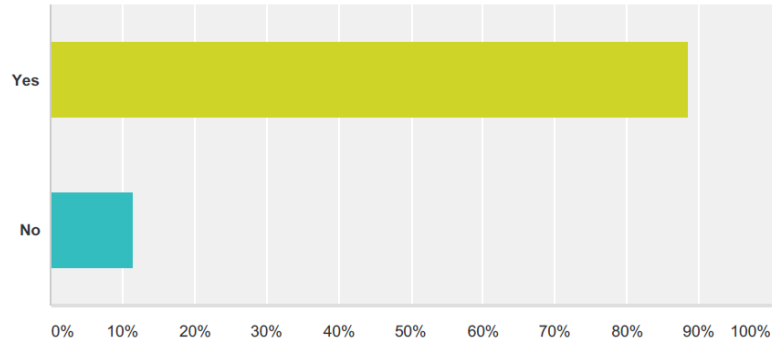


Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Riverside Amphitheater Park	62.62%	134
Wilkie Park (Downtown)	8.88%	19
Veterans Memorial Park North (Wooden Boat, Wooden Train)	45.33%	97
Veterans Memorial Park South (Gazebo)	37.85%	81
Laughlin Park (Baseball Fields, West End)	23.83%	51
Community Park (Community Garden, East End)	36.45%	78
Total Respondents: 214		



Q5 Do you support improvements to the city pool?

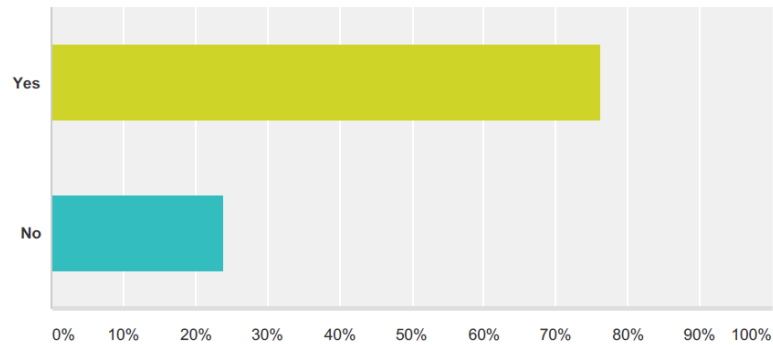
Answered: 219 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	88.58% 194
No	11.42% 25
Total	219

Q6 Do you support the development of additional park(s) within the city of Rushville?

Answered: 215 Skipped: 8

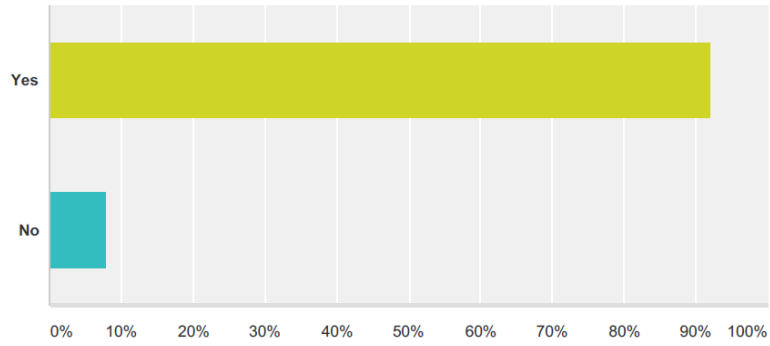


Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	76.28% 164
No	23.72% 51
Total	215



Q7 Do you support the expansion of a trail system that would provide better connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists within the city limits of Rushville?

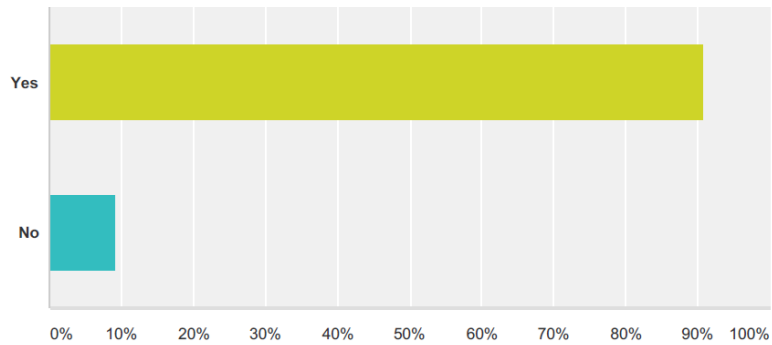
Answered: 217 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	92.17%	200
No	7.83%	17
Total		217

Q8 Do you support a community center being added to the park(s)

Answered: 217 Skipped: 6

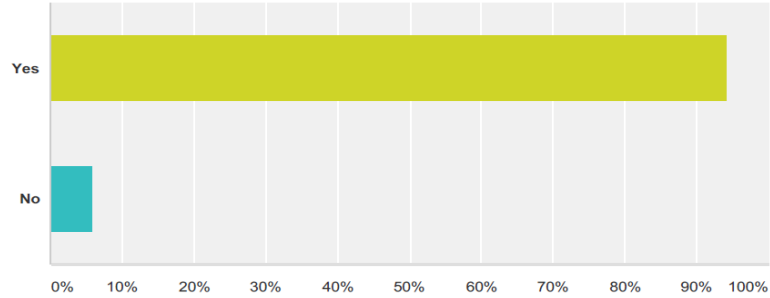


Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	90.78%	197
No	9.22%	20
Total		217



Q9 Do you support more programs being offered by the Park's Department ?

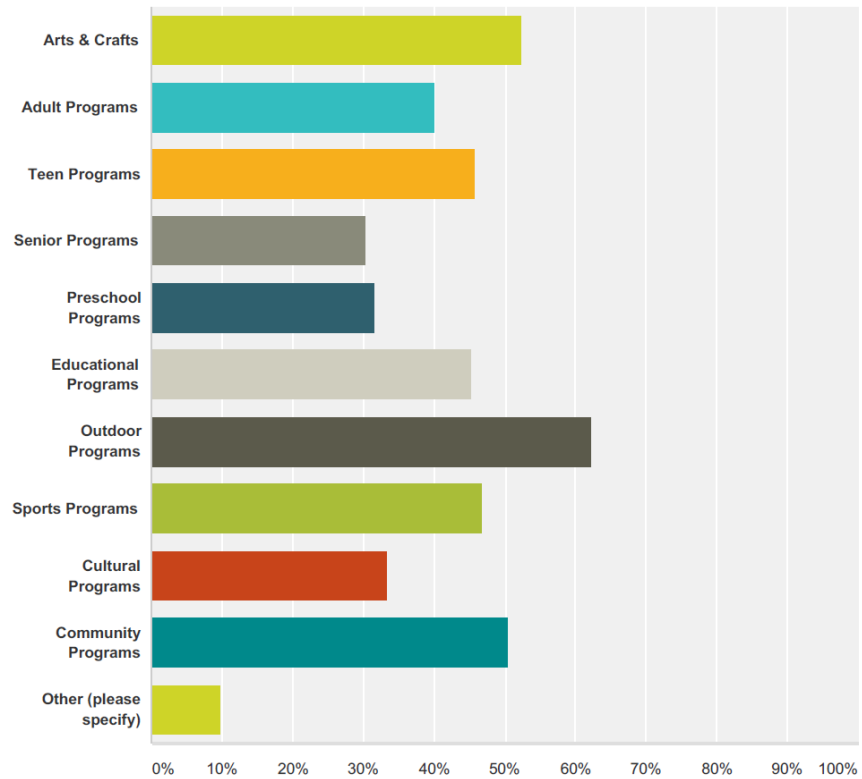
Answered: 221 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	94.12%	208
No	5.88%	13
Total		221

Q10 If so, which programs would be most desirable for you and/or your family? (Choose Multiple if applies)

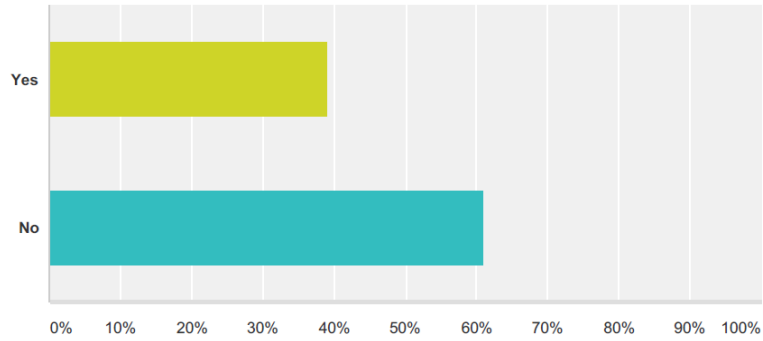
Answered: 212 Skipped: 11





Q11 Do you currently participate in programs offered by Rushville Parks & Recreation Department?

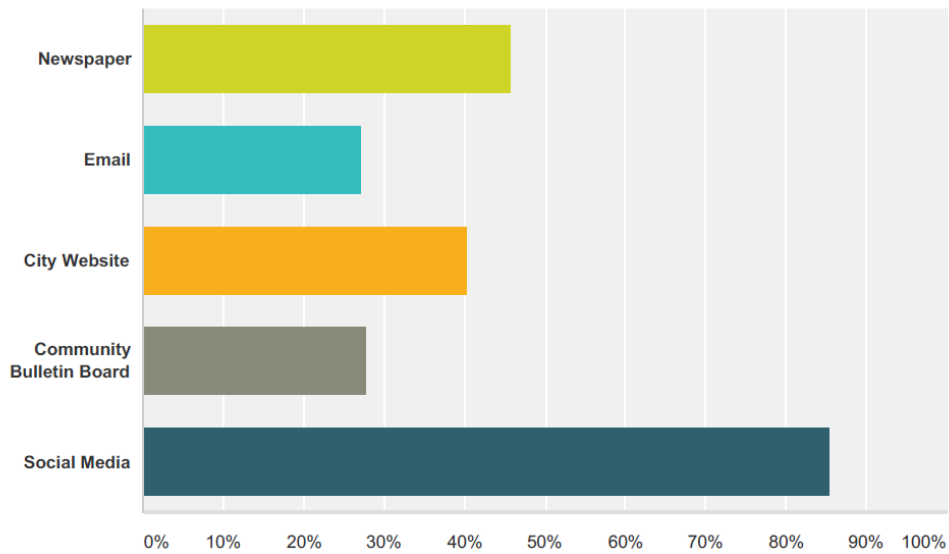
Answered: 218 Skipped: 5



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	38.99%	85
No	61.01%	133
Total		218

Q12 Which method or methods do you believe are most effective for communicating parks & recreation activities?

Answered: 206 Skipped: 17





Rushville Park Board SWOT Exercise

STRENGTHS

From SWOT exercise

- Parks well maintained
- Located close to all areas of town
- Room for expanding
- Dedicated staff/officials/board
- Good public support
- Good summer programs
- Community pool

WEAKNESSES

From SWOT exercise

- Funding
- Vandalism/graffiti
- Park equipment in need of updating
- Lack of donations
- Lack of programming
- Lack of staff
- Restrooms
- Lack of lights

OPPORTUNITIES

- Grants
- Volunteers
- Develop partnerships
- Increase programming
- Change in leadership
- Trail expansion
- Maintain and improve what we have

THREATS

- Budget limitations/tax caps
- Parks low on priority list
- Vandalism
- Communication breakdown



APPENDIX B

Public Meetings





**Rushville 5-Year Master Park Plan
Public Meeting**

**Thursday January 7, 2016
4:00 pm
Rushville Boys and Girls Club**

Agenda:

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Overview of Park Planning
- 3) Rushville's Park Planning
- 4) SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Exercise
- 5) Next Steps



**Rushville 5-Year Master Park Plan
Public Meeting**

Sign-in Sheet

**Thursday January 7, 2016
4:00 PM**

Name

1. Liam Gurley 2nd
2. [Signature]
3. Mackenzie Wood 8
4. Olivia Meisenholder 8th
5. Summer Stanley 7th
6. Hanna Pickering 8th
7. Camie Jones 8th
8. Heather Stanley 9th
9. Leila Amos 8th
10. Matthew Wilmer 9th
11. Peyton Doll 6th
12. Molly Zachery 5th
13. Relby Roberts 8th



- 14. Isaac Borck 5
- 15. Ethan Moore 5
- 16. Austin Vance 5
- 17. Harrison Wicker 6
- 18. _____
- 19. _____
- 20. _____
- 21. _____
- 22. _____
- 23. _____
- 24. _____
- 25. _____
- 26. _____
- 27. _____
- 28. _____
- 29. _____
- 30. _____
- 31. _____
- 32. _____
- 33. _____



City of Rushville
Parks Department
Aaron Gurley, Parks Director



"PUBLIC NOTICE"

PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, January 7, 2016
@ The Boys & Girls Club
1590 N. Sexton St.
Rushville, IN 46173
4:00 P.M.

Re: Parks Master Plan



119 West 16th Street • Rushville, IN 46173
Tel. 765-932-4146 • Fax 765-932-4355 • www.cityofrushville.in.gov



**Rushville 5-Year Master Park Plan
Public Meeting**

**Thursday April 7, 2016
5:00 pm
Rushville Boys and Girls Club**

Agenda:

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Summary of Rushville's Park Planning
- 3) Comments/Questions
- 4) Next Steps



Rushville 5-Year Master Park Plan
Public Meeting

Sign-in Sheet

Thursday March 7, 2016
5:00 PM

Name

1. Caleb Krodel
2. Mike Land
3. Jimmy Miller
4. Devin Wiley
5. Johnny Wood
6. Bill
7. [Signature]
8. Debbie Wrayt
9. Marcia Fish
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____



RUSHVILLE PARKS DEPARTMENT **PUBLIC MEETING** PARKS MASTER PLAN

APRIL 7, 2016

5:00 PM

RUSHVILLE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB
1590 N SEXTON STREET RUSHVILLE, IN 46173

This Public meeting will be held for the purpose of reviewing the rough draft of the Rushville Parks Department 5 year master plan for the city parks. We urge any and all to attend.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: AARON GURLEY
[@PARKS@CITYOFRUSHVILLE.IN.GOV](mailto:APARKS@CITYOFRUSHVILLE.IN.GOV)

