

1ST READING 07.05.2016
2ND READING 07.19.2016

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Auburn, IN

RESOLUTION 06-2016

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITY OF AUBURN 1987 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER
PLAN**

SUMMARY

A Resolution amending the *City of Auburn 1987 Comprehensive Master Plan* to include the *2016 – 2020 City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Master Plan*.

_____ Recorder's Office	_____ Publish Public Hearing
_____ Auditor's Office	_____
_____ Clerk's Office	_____ Publish O/R after adoption
_____ Other	_____

Building Department

Engineering Department

DeKalb County Plan Commission

Internet Code Site

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RESOLUTION 06-2016

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE
CITY OF AUBURN 1987 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Auburn, Indiana, adopted the *1987 Comprehensive Master Plan* by passing Resolution 918 on third and final reading on November 15, 1988; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Auburn, Indiana, has amended the *1987 Comprehensive Master Plan* from time to time as deemed necessary; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn Plan Commission conducted a Public Hearing on June 14, 2016 as required by law in regard to amending the *City of Auburn 1987 Comprehensive Master Plan*; and

WHEREAS, said *Plan* provides a useful tool for the Municipal City, utility providers, the public, and other relevant entities in the future development of the City of Auburn; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code section 36-7-4-500 et. seq provides for amendments to a comprehensive plan of a municipality by resolution of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the *1987 City of Auburn Comprehensive Master Plan* shall be made more relevant by addressing the future of parks and recreation within the Auburn Plan Commission Jurisdiction by the inclusion of the *2016 – 2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan* as part of the *Comprehensive Master Plan*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Auburn, DeKalb County, State of Indiana that:

The *1987 Auburn Comprehensive Master Plan* is hereby amended to include the attached document entitled: "*2016 – 2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan*," attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

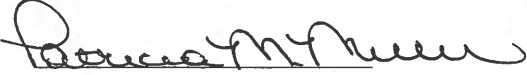
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Auburn, Indiana, this 19 day of July, 2016.



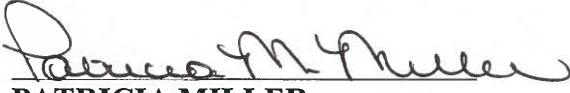
JAMES FINCHUM, Council Member

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2ND READING _____


ATTEST:


Patricia Miller
Clerk-Treasurer

Presented by me to the Mayor of the City of Auburn, Indiana, this 19 day of July, 2016.


PATRICIA MILLER
Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED AND SIGNED by me this 19 day of July, 2016.


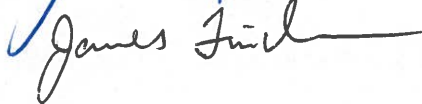

NORMAN E. YODER
Mayor

VOTING:

AYE

NAY

Kevin Webb

James Finchum

Dennis (Matthew) K. Kruse II



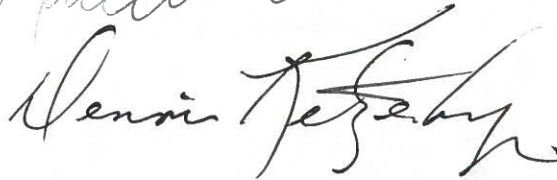
Todd Sanderson



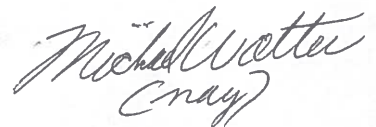
Michael Watson



Dennis Ketzenberger



Michael Walter


(Cray)

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2ND READING _____

EXHIBIT A

2016 – 2020 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



Auburn Indiana
Parks and Recreation
Department



1ST READING _____
2ND READING _____

2016 - 2020
 CITY OF AUBURN, INDIANA
 PARKS AND RECREATION
 MASTER PLAN



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AUBURN, INDIANA PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2016 - 2020

Norman E. Yoder, Mayor

Eric Ditmars, Superintendent
Brenda Darling, Administrative Assistant

PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
1500 South Cedar Street
P.O. Box 506
Auburn, Indiana 46706
260-925-2997
parks@ci.auburn.in.us

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

Larry Wagoner, President
Lou Metelko, Vice-President
Vacant, Secretary
Angela Nordmann, Member
Ken Preston, Member
W. Erik Weber, Board Attorney

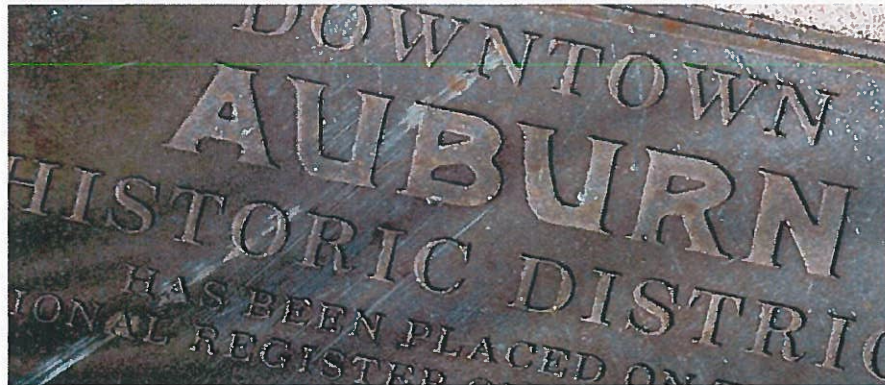
Prepared By:
The City of Auburn
Department of
Building, Planning, and Development

Photography By:
Emma Marie Art

Mapping Prepared By:
Kyle A. Carpenter
Intern, City of Auburn



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Introduction

Reasons for planning:

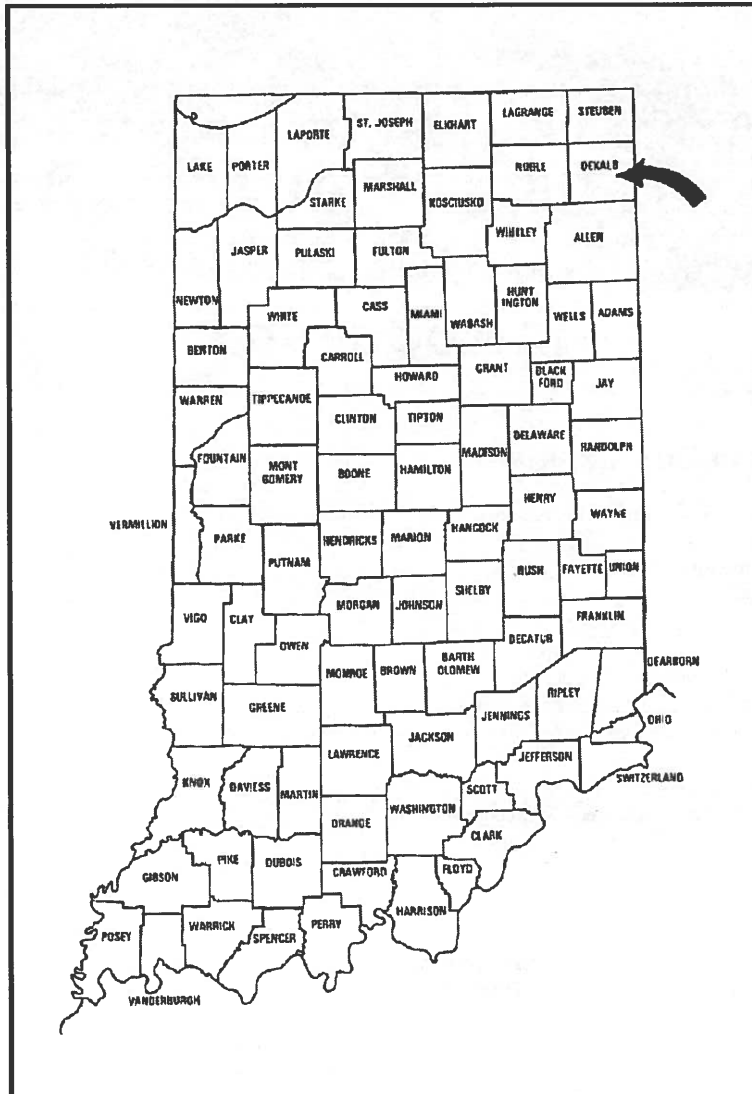
The purpose is not simply to produce a plan, but to:

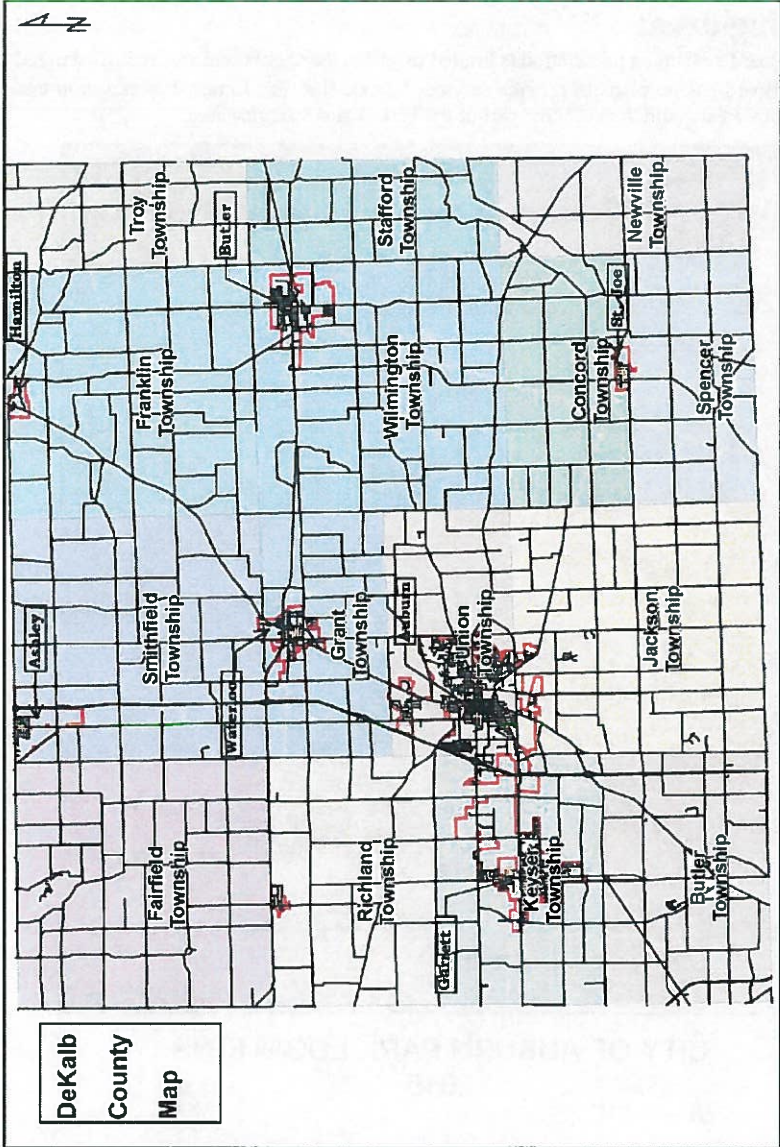
- Improve agency management.
- Establish direction and set constraints.
- Define goals, objectives and priorities.
- Communicate direction.
- Allocate agency resources.
- Facilitate delegation of responsibilities.
- Manage change.
- Assure public accountability.
- Evaluate success.
- Promote consistency in decisions.
- Promote cooperation and unity.

Plan objectives:

Criteria established by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Outdoor Recreation has been used in guiding this plan.

This plan is dedicated to the analysis of existing conditions and projections for future, orderly growth and preservation of facilities for the Auburn Parks and Recreation Department.



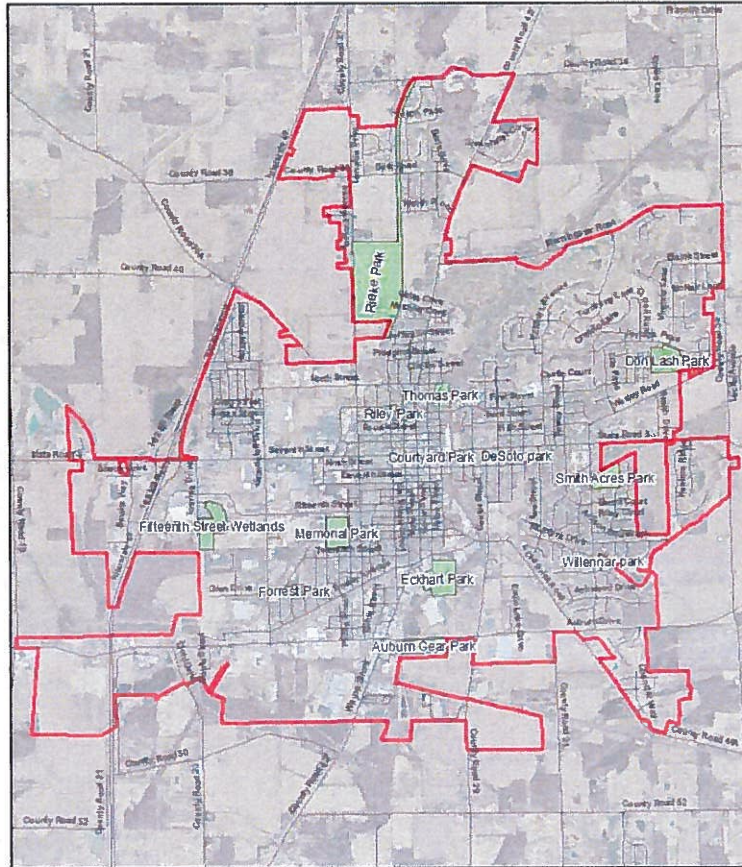


**DeKalb
County
Map**

Limitations of Use/Liability
This map product and the data therein is for informational purposes only. The County GIS Committee and its partnering agencies do not in anyway guarantee the accuracy of this data, and is not responsible for any ramifications of the use of this map product or data. For more information about this map product and/or its data, please contact CoCIGIS.

Planning area:

The Park Board's planning jurisdiction is limited to within the City boundaries indicated in red. The Park Board has no plans to provide services beyond the City Limits, if annexation takes place the new area would then become part of the Park Board's service area.



**CITY OF AUBURN PARK LOCATIONS
2015**



The data used here was made in the property of the County-City GIS Commission for planning purposes. The data and/or this map should not be used for any purpose outside that of providing information to use in the City of Auburn Parks 2015 Master Plan.



History & Demographics

DeKalb County:

According to the US Census of 2010, there are 42,223 people, 15,951 households, and 11,328 families residing in the county. The population density is 116.4/mi². There are 17,558 housing units at an average density of 48.39/mi².

The racial makeup of the county is 96.9% White, 0.40% Black or African American, 0.20% Native American, 0.50% Asian, 0.00% Pacific Islander, 0.80% from other races, and 1.20% from two or more races. 2.40% of the population is Hispanic or Latino of any race.



There are 15,951 households out of which 31.60% have children under the age of 18 living with them, 54.80% are married couples living together, 10.50% have a female householder with no husband present, and 29% are non-families. 24.30% of all households are made up of individuals and 9.7% have someone living alone who is 65 years of age or older. The average household size is 2.61 and the average family size is 3.08.

The population is spread out with 26.40% under the age of 18, 5.50% from 20 to 24, 11.70% from 25 to 34, and 13.10% who are 65 years of age or older. The median age is 38.1 years. For every 100 females there are 98.4 males. For every 100 females age 20 and over, there are 92.4 males.

The median income for a household in the county is \$46,722, and the median income for a family is \$55,280. Males have a median income of \$44,880 versus \$30,663 for females. The per capita income for the county is \$21,779. 13.5% of the population and 9.6% of families are below the poverty line. Out of the total people living in poverty, 14.10% are under the age of 18 and 6.0% are 65 or older.

Cities and Towns:

- Altona
- Ashley
- Auburn
- Butler
- Corunna
- Garrett
- Hamilton
- St. Joe
- Waterloo



City of Auburn

- According to the US Census of 2010, there are **12,731** people, 5,226 households, and 3,322 families residing in the city. The data below is a summary of the 2010 Census for the population of Auburn.
- The population density is 1792.1/mi². There are 5,692 housing units at an average density of 740.5/mi². The racial makeup of the city is:

96.9% White
0.40% African American
0.20% Native American
0.70% Asian
0.00% Pacific Islander
0.70% from other races, and
1.00% from two or more races.



2.60% of the population is Hispanic or Latino of any race.

- There are 7,319 households out of which 30.3% have children under the age of 18 living with them, 53.6% are married couples living together, 10.2% have a female householder with no husband present, and 31.4% are non-families. 26.7% of all households are made up of individuals and 20.4% have someone living alone who is 65 years of age or older. The average household size is 2.38 and the average family size is 2.96.

- In the city the population is spread out with:

27.7% under the age of 20
5.7% from 20 to 24
25.9% from 25 to 44
25.1% from 45 to 64, and
15.6% who are 65 years of age or older.



- The median age is 37.9 years. For every 100 females there are 92.8 males. For every 100 females age 20 and over, there are 80.8 males.
- *The median income for a household in the city is \$42,855, and the median income for a family is \$50,580.*
- *Males have a median income of \$50,240 versus \$30,331 for females.*
- *The per capita income for the city is \$23,963.*
- *13.5% of the population and 11.9% of families are below the poverty line.*
- *Out of the total people living in poverty, 17.2% are under the age of 18 and 6.9% are 65 or older.*

Demographic Analysis

In reviewing the demographic information as the city compares to the state and understanding that the demographic data was compiled for the 2010 census the Park Board in this plan has established goals and priority action steps to serve the needs of its citizens. From the census data it appears that the city has a slightly larger elderly population (65 year and above) than that of the state and DeKalb County. Goal number one on page 3-4 states a need to better address ADA compliance and safety issues. This is particularly important with an aging population base as future improvements are made to the parks system.

Goal number three on page 3-4, understanding that there is a sector of the community that falls below poverty level, particularly families below the poverty level, addresses the need to seek a variety of sources to fund improvements and projects affordable to this sector.

It was also observed that the city has a higher percentage of population between the ages of 25 and 44 years of age. This group tends to be busy with their children in the early childhood ages and pre- to mid-teens years. Goal number four on page 3-4 sites the need to follow the needs of the current and future demographics of park users and to explore new recreational opportunities for these age groups.

To help meet and address those goals the Priorities and Action Plan section has taken into consideration these demographic issues in an effort to better serve the city's population, in particular the need to better improve ADA accessibility as well as to provide services and park improvements to address the younger families whose children are in the pre- and mid-teen age group. This Priorities and Action Plan was designed to address goals and issues of this plan by individual park locations.

Geography

Auburn is located at 41°21'56" North, 85°3'23" West (41.365505, -85.056355). According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 7.1 mi².

The City of Auburn is part of a larger water shed that flows into Cedar Creek. There are some low-lying areas along the border of Cedar creek and the creek itself provides the primary drainage for the City of Auburn. Cedar Creek enters the city at the northeast end, passes right by downtown, and then exits the city at the south side of town where it eventually meets up with the St. Joseph River in Allen County. Cedar Creek does not currently provide any water attractions for recreational use.

There is a potential for greater use as a canoe trail with possible access points located within city parks is in the planning stage. Currently the Park Board is working with the DeKalb County Soil & Water Conservation representative and the City's Building and Planning Department on the future development of canoe access points within



parks that border the creek. There is a long term potential that the canoe access point(s) could result in additional canoe recreational opportunities within these parks.

The City of Auburn is proud to have the designation of “*Tree City USA*”. Auburn’s history can be witnessed by viewing the many mature trees that make up the city’s landscape such as; the red and white oaks, the sugar and silver maples and even the great tulip trees. The tulip tree received its designation as Indiana’s state tree in 1931. The City of Auburn and the Parks and Recreation Department are fortunate to have many of these magnificent tulip trees throughout their parks.

The Park Board is currently assessing the need to replace aging and diseased trees and to add new trees within the parks. Eckhart Park currently has a number of aging trees and has lost many trees over time, and would be one of the priority parks for tree replacement. Another location being looked at for tree replacement is along the trail in Rieke Park where there has been experienced a loss of trees.

Auburn is also home to an 82+ acre tree farm on the southeast side of town. However, this is privately owned, is being harvested and has little potential for recreational use.

Events and Sites of Interest



Auburn is known as the “Home of the Classics” for its pioneering role in the early stages of the automobile industry. The Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum (ACDA), located within the old Auburn Automobile factory, displays many of these world famous classic cars. Auburn is also home to the National Automotive and Truck Museum (NATM), World War II Victory Museum, Kruse Automotive and Carriage Museum, and Early Ford V-8 Museum.

The Auburn Cord Duesenberg (ACD) Festival honors the city’s heritage and attracts around 100,000 visitors each year. It is held each Labor Day weekend and features the Parade of Classics (vintage automobiles), antique show, arts and craft show, and downtown entertainment. Historically, Auburn has been home to world renowned auction companies whose auctions collaborate with the ACD festival. Auctions America holds a summer collector automobile auction on its own 235 acre auction park, formerly owned by Kruse International, located just off Interstate 69 at exit 326. Additionally, on Labor Day weekend NATM, located directly behind the ACDA Museum, hosts Worldwide Auctioneers’ motorcar auction.



The center of downtown Auburn houses the DeKalb County Courthouse. The 54,000 square foot modern Ionic Greek architectural structure completed in 1914 was constructed almost entirely of metal and stone due to a fear of fire as a result of previous courthouses burning down. The DeKalb County Courthouse contains a central rotunda, capped with a Florentine glass dome and Circuit Courtroom with a 25 foot ceiling comprised of panels of Florentine art glass.

The DeKalb County Free Fall Fair, coined "America's Largest Family Reunion", is held yearly in Downtown Auburn. It offers National Main Stage Entertainment, a Midway, food vendors, a large Merchant Tent, 4-H competitions, and Parades.

Historical Evolution of the Auburn Area

Wesley Park and John Badlam Howe chose a site in the wilderness on Cedar Creek a bit north of the geographical center of the newly formed DeKalb County. The location on Cedar Creek was essential for water power which was used for grist mills and saw mills. The site was also at the intersection of two major trails - the Goshen/Defiance Road and the Coldwater Road.

The Plat of the Village was laid out into streets and lots. These lots were then sold to pioneers. A courthouse was built on the area designated as "Public Square" and commercial enterprises were established to serve the new citizens.

The plat of the Village of Auburn is dated April 21, 1836. The first lot sold was Lot 73 in the Original Plat to John Drury for \$25.00 on September 5, 1837. By 1839 lots were selling for \$40.00.

As the infant Village of Auburn grew, its citizens recognized the need for some government and, thus, incorporated Auburn as a Town under Indiana law in 1849. Town government was nominal but provided some structure for the citizens in the form of a town board and a constable. The main governmental function was to require able bodied men to work on the streets for two full days per year under the supervision of the constable.

The Town board could pass ordinances to regulate activity such as the disposal of trash and disturbing the peace.

This form of government served well until the advent of major municipal systems such as water, sewer, and electric. These systems required more sophisticated government and means of financing via municipal bonds.

Therefore, a referendum was held, and the citizens voted to establish the town as a city. This action provided the legal mechanism for providing the services demanded by a growing community.



After the civil war, the pace of Auburn's growth increased with the arrival of the railroad, and the growth of local industry; particularly in the carriage making companies of Kiblinger, Eckhart and Zimmerman.

Kiblinger evolved to become the McIntyre Auto Company. Eckhart evolved into the Auburn Automobile Company, and the Zimmerman Company also transformed to making autos too, but eventually merged with the Eckhart and the Auburn Auto venture. Another major industry that spun off the auto industry was Auburn Rubber Company that remained in Auburn until 1959. Despite making tires at its inception it rose to become more well known for its manufacturing of rubber toys that are very collectible today.

Today, Auburn is an expanding community with a full range of lifestyle and activity options. It has tree-lined streets, stately older homes, tailored subdivisions, excellent schools, beautiful parks, growing medical facilities and an overall feeling of well-being.

The name "**Auburn**" probably came from the poem by Oliver Goldsmith entitled *The Deserted Village* which begins "Sweet Auburn: loveliest village of the plain..." Many other theories have been advanced but have been rejected in favor of this conclusion.



The City of Auburn gained further notoriety when the Auburn Automobile Company gave one of its lines of pre-World War II automobiles the name "Auburn".

Auburn's Culture and Arts

The **Auburn Arts Commission** is a volunteer organization whose mission is promoting fine art, theater, music, and the written word. They offer many arts-related activities throughout the year.

The **Downtown Auburn Business Association (DABA)** puts on an annual outdoor summer art exhibit. The exhibits feature 20 created art pieces from both local and regional artists. Their finished art is then displayed in beautiful downtown Auburn where it sold in the annual DABA Art Auction. The funds generated from the auction are then used for additional Auburn community projects.



The **Auburn Community Band** has been a part of the Community of Auburn since May 20, 1982. They have played at many functions for the community such as the 100th Anniversary of the Eckhart Library, the 100th Anniversary of the Court House, and the 75th Anniversary of the Fire Fighters. The band is basically an adult band, but has encouraged students from DeKalb Middle and DeKalb High School to become members ever since they began back in 1982.

The **DeKalb Outdoor Theater**: Center for Cultural Events seeks to stimulate a passion for cultural, educational, and entertainment activities. They provide affordable opportunities for area citizens for the arts, culture, and family entertainment.

The **Auburn Development Advisory Committee (ADAC)** consists of a group of community volunteers who work with the City of Auburn to help champion downtown revitalization plans for Auburn, Indiana. ADAC's plans have become part of the City of Auburn's master plan and include a variety of organizational, design, promotional, and economic restructuring objectives. ADAC's mission is to encourage revitalization and sustainable growth in the City of Auburn.

The Auburn Park Board has interacted with these various cultural and arts groups in a variety of ways. The Auburn Arts Commission has utilized Courtyard Park for the placement of different art exhibits and for fundraising. The DABA uses Courtyard Park for Christmas displays and for the ending of the Christmas Parade. The Auburn Community Band has performed free concerts

in Eckhart Park for the community. The Outdoor Theater provides cultural events and often offers their facility for Park programs during the summer season. ADAC is a new group in the community but could be potential provider for future events and programs as the group matures.

Auburn's Economic & Cultural Base

The City of Auburn is cultivating economic diversity. Through the rapid expansion of the county's only hospital, Auburn has seen supplementary commercial expansion on its east side. Though the majority of its industries are in manufacturing, especially automotive, the city has seen a buildup of hotels, restaurants, retail businesses, and additional manufacturing near Interstate 69, on both sides of the highway. Likewise, Auburn is also well known for its output of transportation equipment along with lumber, foundry, and paper products.

The following table summarizes some of the key economic contributors of the community.

BUSINESS	BASE PRODUCT(S)
Metal Technologies	Iron Foundry
Wal-Mart Distribution	Perishable Items
Foamex (FXI)	Polyurethane
Carlex	Laminated & Tempered Glass
Rieke Corporation	Industrial Container
Eaton Corporation	Metal Stampings, Clutches
Cooper Standard	Automotive Supplier
Auburn Gear	Differentials & Gears
MetalX	Metal Recycling
Scot Industries	Tubing and Bar Products
Auctions America	Auction House
Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum (ACDA)	Period Automobile Museum
National Automotive & Truck Museum (NATMUS)	Automobile & Truck Museum
National Military History Center	Military History Museum
NCG Theaters	Movie Theater

1ST READING _____
2ND READING _____

Park Board & Department

Park Board Structure:

Larry Wagoner, President
906 East Third Street
Auburn, In 46706

Angela Nordmann
2126 Lorraine Drive
Auburn, In 46706

Lou Metelko, Vice-President
914 Duesenberg Drive
Auburn, In 46706

Ken Preston, Member
735 North Van Buren Street
Auburn, In 46706

Vacant, Secretary

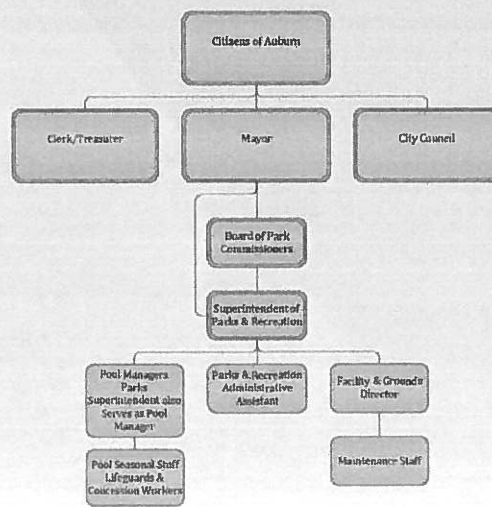


Park Department Structure:

Eric Ditmars, Superintendent
Brenda Darling, Administrative Assistant

PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
1500 South Cedar Street
P.O. Box 506
Auburn, Indiana 46706
260-925-2997
parks@ci.auburn.in.us

ORGANIZATION CHART AUBURN PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD & DEPARTMENT





Mission statement:

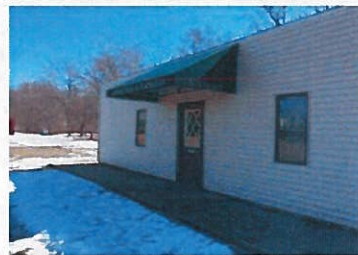
The Auburn Park & Recreation Department shall provide quality parks and facilities, open spaces, natural areas, educational opportunities and services which will enhance the well-being of the citizens of Auburn and surrounding areas.

Seven factors of excellence are:

1. A clear expression of purpose
2. An ongoing planning and community involvement process
3. Sufficient assets in land, staffing and equipment to meet the system's goals
4. Equitable access
5. User satisfaction
6. Safety from crime and physical hazards
7. Benefits for the city beyond the boundaries of the parks

Departmental goals & objectives

The identification of goals and objectives helps to provide a basis for the implementation of the Park Master Plan. Additionally, goals and objectives serve as a framework for formulating Department policies and planning decisions.



Goals can be defined as broad general statements which describe a desirable accomplishment, and which provide the impetus for more specific and directed actions.

Objectives are defined as more specific actions which are to be accomplished within an identified time frame, which when achieved, help to meet a goal.

GOAL 1 – Maintain existing facilities and make improvements with special attention given to public health, ADA compliance and safety concerns while working within an annual budget.

Objectives:

- Provide sufficient financial resources to properly maintain, staff, and provide low cost programs.
- Current playground equipment will have regular safety inspections conducted. New equipment will comply with Consumer Product Safety Commission Standards (see “Accessibility” section later in this report).
- Strive to provide barrier-free access to existing and new facilities utilizing current ADA standards.
- Provide safe recreational opportunities and clean facilities for all user groups.
- Each park will have regular health, safety and maintenance inspections conducted.
- Maintain the current developed parks, promoting cleanliness, maintenance, safety, and security.

GOAL 2 – Provide well-balanced and proactive recreational and environmental experience for all citizens.

Objectives:

- Provide and maintain access to the natural environment.
- Programs will emphasize wellness, nature appreciation, education and recreation.
- Provide cooperative efforts with other agencies in providing recreational services.
- Work with special interest groups to provide the facilities to host the groups’ events.

GOAL 3 – Properly request, manage and utilize the Department’s finances.

Objectives:

- Frequently monitor and review operational and maintenance expenses.
- Plan projects well in advance to reduce unforeseen overages.
- Place projects that relate to public health and compliance concerns as a priority.
- Consider new sources of revenue, which are consistent with other department goals.
- Seek State and Federal grants; solicit foundations’ funding, donations and other funding sources while meeting the departmental objectives.

GOAL 4 – Anticipate future needs and recreational trends.

Objectives:

- Follow the current and future demographics of the users.
- Explore new and current recreational opportunities.
- Encourage communication inside the department and between the city’s departments.
- Encourage communication between the Auburn Parks and Recreation Department and the general public, elected officials, recreation interest groups, students, and seniors.
- Keep the Auburn Parks and Recreational Department employees and user groups informed of goals and expectations.

GOAL 5 – Anticipate growth and increased demands on facilities and services.

Objectives:

- Regularly assess park usage to anticipate needs for park facility expansion of equipment, sports fields, parks services and programs.
- Monitor the expansion of new park land acquisition while looking at the current developed parks for best use practices.

Volunteer Support

Volunteers are essential to many Department programs and services, which could not be provided without this outstanding support.

Parks Department Budget

The following table shows the 2015 budget for the Auburn Parks & Recreation Department by four main categories; Personal Services, Supplies, Other Services & Charges, and Capital Outlays. Personal Services includes all the expenditures for staff (including seasonal staff) salaries, wages, and benefits. The Supplies category includes Office supplies, operating supplies, repair and maintenance supplies, and all other supplies needed for daily work. The Other Services and Charges refer to services and charges from outside business entities (i.e.: insurance, advertising, rentals, etc.). Capital Outlays includes land, buildings, improvements, and equipment used for the Auburn Parks.

2015 Budget Items	Amount
Personal Services	\$401,700.00
Supplies	\$61,500.00
Other Services & Charges	\$174,800.00
Capital Outlays	\$37,000.00
Total	\$675,000.00

2015 Non-Reverting Fund	Amount
Supplies	\$31,025.00
Other Services & Charges	\$20,200.00
Total	\$51,225.00

Financial Support

Grants, donations, and pledges continue to be applied towards development of the Auburn parks and programs.



Park and Recreation Standards and Analysis

National Standards:

The Park Classification System method used to evaluate the community's level of recreation opportunities was developed through comparisons with national standards. These standards were established by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to park, recreation, and conservation activities with the primary mission of improving the quality of life for all Americans.

The NRPA publication, Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines manual was written in 1983, and has since been updated several times - with standards relating to both local and regional needs for recreation and open space to serve as a base line for communities to follow when determining needed park facilities. However, recreation trends will vary throughout the country requiring communities, like Auburn; to determine what standards best fit their needs.

NRPA standards are intended to serve as planning guides only. They are not absolute and vary from community to community depending upon assessed local needs and desires.

The outdoor recreation system:



The concept of an Outdoor Recreation System extends beyond a single park or even a network of parks and recreation areas. Many entities are involved in the development and management of recreational areas and facilities for a community or region.

Municipal, township, county, state and federal park systems are the most recognized and relied upon for their recreation resources, but increasingly private ventures such as golf courses, campgrounds, hunting and fishing camps, etc. are becoming integral parts of the recreation system.

The facilities and activities these entities provide should be complementary and serve a particularly geographic area or a particular recreation need. As funding for recreation continues to be tight, avoiding duplication of services and making sure the opportunities provided fit the community becomes paramount.

For this reason alone it should be emphasized that local agencies use the planning process and develop a master plan that recognizes the function and relationships of all outdoor recreation systems and developments.

The following illustrations developed by the IDNR identify the relation of outdoor recreation opportunities in terms of one public park type to the others and the distribution pattern of the public park in a typical public parks system. There are more small parks and they are closer to populated areas inferring they may be more heavily utilized.

These parks provide a day-to-day recreation outlet. As the parks are developed farther away from populated centers, they tend to increase in size and change in character from a developed activity to a more natural experience focus.

Traditionally recreation uses change from ball fields and playgrounds to camping, boating and fishing the farther away they are from a populated area. Increasingly, however, recreation complexes that provide for uses such as soccer, baseball, softball and trails are moving away from populations for the reason that there is not enough land to develop them closer.

Each of these parks represents an important element in the total Recreation System. The block park or tot lot is no less significant than the regional park. As a matter of fact, especially in urban areas, for many people the block park may be the most significant or the only recreation area available.

Trail systems

In addition to parks and recreation complexes, trail and greenway networks can provide a unique element in a park system. They may serve a multitude of very important functions within the system.

Trails and greenways provide defined and unhindered access to nature. Also they can provide connections between park components that make a cohesive park system.



They provide additional safety by allowing for unimpeded pedestrian movement with a community.

Trails can connect housing areas to schools and shopping areas while greenways provide a natural habitat corridor for wildlife. Man-made corridors and trails in many areas provide much needed access to recreational opportunities that otherwise would not exist.

The model plans that follow were prepared by the IDNR and are incorporated in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011.

The recreation model

The National Recreation and Parks Association's "Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines" (edited by Roger Lancaster, written by Dr. Jim Mertes and Dr. Jim Hall, first published in 1983) developed a classification system for parks according to recommended acreage to population ratios. These guidelines are used by the IDNR as a bench mark and are meant to be flexible taking into account the local priorities.

- **Mini-Park:** Has a service area less than 1/4 mile radius and approximately 1/4 to 1/2 acre per 1,000 population. The park under this classification in Auburn is: Courtyard Park.
- **Neighborhood Park:** Has a service area between 1/4 and 1/2 mile radius and 1.0 to 2.0 acres per 1,000 population. Parks under this classification in Auburn are: Don Lash Park, Forrest Park, Willennar Park, Desoto Park, and Riley Park.
- **Community Park:** Has a service area with a 1 to 2 mile radius (would normally include several neighborhoods) and roughly 5.0 to 8.0 acres per 1,000 population. Parks under this classification in Auburn are: Rieke Park, Memorial Park, Eckhart Park, Auburn Gear Park, Smith Acres Park, and Thomas Park.
- **Linear Park, Special Use Area, or Conservancy Area:** At this time no applicable standards have been set. Parks listed under this classification in Auburn are: The Auburn Trail system from the ACD Museum to North St. to Betz Rd. to C.R. 427 to Waterloo, Carr Field, 15th Street Wetlands, and the Auburn Community Pool.

TOTAL AUBURN RECREATIONAL ACREAGE: 162.62 Acres

Population impact:

The following information is derived from US Census Bureau.

<u>Year</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>% Increase</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
1980	8,122		33,606	
1990	9,379	15.48%	35,324	5.11%
2000	10,533	12.30%	36,478	3.27%
2010	12,731	20.87%	42,223	15.75%
Estimated				
2015	12,834	0.81%	42,383	0.38%

The Auburn Parks and Recreation Department is only responsible for public recreation within the corporate city boundaries. But it would be shortsighted to ignore future growth of the community, and miss tactical opportunities to acquire park land outside the current city limits, while it is affordable.

Auburn currently contains 30% of the total county population, but a large portion of the "out of county" population might also enjoy the recreational assets of the City. Those who utilize parks but do not pay for their support through property taxes may also be participants in fee programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. Therefore, the non-resident participants are

paying "fair share" fees and thus help support those services and facilities in this manner.

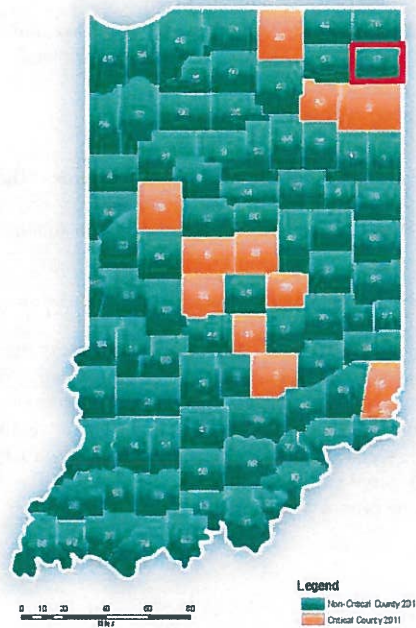
DeKalb County is a "Non-Critical: County"

In an effort to evaluate current population trends and plan for future outcomes in the availability of recreational land in Indiana; the 2011 SCORP has identified certain counties as Critical Counties. This designation is based on the amount of available recreation land in the county and the growth rate of the population within that county. Critical Counties, in Indiana, are those counties that show a deficit in total acreage available for outdoor recreation when compared against the recommended recreational land standard of 55 acres per capita and have a population growth rate faster than the state average of 6.63%. The 2000 to 2010 Census Bureau population statistical estimates of population and growth rates for Indiana were used for analysis.

Critical Counties in Indiana for Available Recreation Lands

Outdoor Recreation Supply - Critical Counties: Total OR Acres

Counties with < 55 acres of total recreation land per thousand population and a population growth rate > 6.63%



Current acreage needs

The following information outlines both present and future park acreage needs for Auburn based on the IDNR's standards and guidelines. Current needs and future projections are determined by subtracting existing facilities from the forecasted quantities. These forecasted quantities are established utilizing the preceding acreage standards and population figures.



Auburn, IN.: 12,731 population factor
Actual acres: 162.62 acres (including future land)

Standard: @ 10 ac per 1,000 population = 120.74 acres
Goal: @ 20 ac per 1,000 population = 241.48 acres

The City of Auburn is currently 41.88 acres above the 10 acre per 1,000 population factor. However, using the IDNR's target of 20 acres per 1,000 population the city has a 78.86 acre shortfall.

Using all current available recreational acreage and adding a 48.5% reserve will result in the city reaching an adequate inventory of public park land.

Recommendation

Auburn meets the IDNR's 10/10000 standards. The acquisition of additional recreational open space should be considered as time, funding and opportunity permit. Larger parcels are more practical and less expensive to maintain than smaller sites.

Accessibility

As per the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Auburn has designated an ADA compliance coordinator, Street Superintendent. Any person or persons having comments, grievances, or complaints related to accessibility may contact ADA Coordinator, Street Superintendent, by phone at: 260.925.6455 or by mail at: ADA Coordinator, PO Box 506, 101 Ensley Avenue, Auburn, IN 46706. The Auburn Parks and Recreation department recognizes that all people benefits socially, psychologically, and physically from participation in public recreation programs and services.

Current Accessibility:

Auburn has accessible walkways, pavilions, and restrooms in our parks and facilities. Our programs and activities have been developed with accessibility in mind for as many people as possible. Persons having questions about accessibility and special accommodations are welcome to call the Auburn Parks and Recreation department office at: 260.925.2997 anytime during business hours.



Due to decreasing funds, some progress on accessibility issues has been hampered. However, some significant improvements have been made. One new accessible feature is our wheelchair pool lift. This feature was added to the Auburn Community Pool to make the summer water activities at the pool more accessible to more people. In attempts to make the city parks more accessible, the city of Auburn constructed new sidewalk ramps in accordance with the PROWAG (Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way) regulations and standards as well as the Indiana Department of Transportation design standards and specifications. (Note: Aerial photos are from March 2012 and do not show all current accessibility pathways available within the parks.)

Needed Accessibility:

Though we are making strides to become more accessible, there is still the challenge of acquiring the funds necessary to make more programs and facilities accessible to as many people as possible. To help addressing these issues the City of Auburn has drafted an Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan (Available on the city of Auburn website at: <http://www.ci.auburn.in.us/departments/engineering-department/ada-transition-plan/>). Congruently with this Park Master plan, the ADA Transition Plan aspires to make the Auburn parks and recreation programs and facilities more accessible. See the Priorities and Action Plan later in the plan for further information on facilities redesign/redevelopment.

Maintenance



STANDARDS: The standard of maintenance of the parks and park facilities establishes the image of the entire Parks and Recreation Department, and the entire City of Auburn. If what is observed is excellent, so goes the attitude for the whole city. Conversely, if the parks are unkempt and poorly maintained, THAT is the image of Auburn.

Degradation can be subtle and slowly tolerated internally as the norm. It is vitally important, therefore, for the Park Board to insist on sustaining a high standard of maintenance.

LEVELS OF CARE: Deciding on what level of care will be assigned to each park or areas within a park is based on the unique character and nature of that park. It is common for multiple levels of attention to be factored into an individual park.

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards identify six (6) levels of maintenance that vary from highest (1) to lowest (6). These standards have been benchmarked against current and past practices and acknowledge the unique nature and needs of each park – and further – particular areas within some parks. In many cases, the context in which the Department operates along with our weather-growing zone requires a different approach from other cities.

A detailed explanation for each of the categories can be found later in this chapter.

Zone vs. Broadcast Maintenance

Auburn Parks utilize a combination of zone and broadcast maintenance techniques (NRPA categories) to accomplish their mission. The existing limited staff works on both assigned individual projects and tasks and often combine forces to address larger, more complex jobs.

There is evident pride of workmanship and teamwork in the maintenance staff. Working in both zone and broadcast style requires flexibility and a keen sense of when and what must be accomplished to complete the mission.

STAFFING: New and additional obligations for existing maintenance staff must be calculated with an understanding of potential routine workload impact. What work will suffer if we expect our current staff to absorb additional duties? How can we work smarter and still maintain a standard of excellence – with current staffing levels?

OUTSOURCING: The Parks and Recreation Department has wisely chosen to out-source some mowing activity. This can be a very cost effective solution as a staffing alternative. To further optimize contractual services, an assessment of mowing demand is recommended.

As an example, the push of growth in the spring and again in late fall can overwhelm the current maintenance staff. Perhaps the mowing contract can be adjusted to begin earlier and end later in the year to keep up with the mowing demand, without significant additional cost.

When growth slows in the heat of mid to late summer and other drought periods, the staff can handle the responsibility without contractual assistance. The goal is to prevent unsightly turf with windrowed clippings.

EQUIPMENT: Investment in equipment that will increase productivity is another alternative to increased staffing.



Inventory & programs

Proposed & Completed Park Projects

Institutional progress can be measured by many criteria. Capital investment, or improvement, is but one form of measurement. Equally important are those initiatives that will sustain, or improve, operational quality.

The following is a list of capital improvements that were completed or started during the past five years, and progress continues:

Rieke Park

The Auburn Parks and Recreation Department completed Rieke Park on May 14, 2011 with monies donated by individuals, civic groups, philanthropists, and local businesses along with some grant funds. The park is located on North Indiana Avenue.

Rieke Park is comprised of eight (8) ball diamonds, a fishing pond, a playground, two picnic shelters, a lodge that is available for rent, and a trail. This park is a valuable asset to the City of Auburn.

Thomas Park



The Auburn Parks and Recreation Department removed one youth baseball diamond and created two dog park areas, one area for small dogs and one area for larger dogs and includes a watering station for both human and canine users.

Eckhart Park/Carr Field

The Auburn Parks and Recreation Department removed two adult softball diamonds and used the area to create a lighted youth football field, equipped with goal posts and a scoreboard.

Eckhart Park/Community Pool

The Auburn Parks and Recreation Department had a wheelchair lift system for handicap patrons installed in June of 2013. The system was donated by the Auburn Lions Club.



Walkways & Recreational Trailways



In 2009 the City of Auburn developed its first Pedestrian Walkways and Recreational Trailways Plan. With two subsequent updates since 2009, this plan has been used to identify proposed, planned, and existing walkways and trailways. Through these plans almost three miles of new trailways have been created and almost 8 more miles are planned. The following is a list of the trails that have been completed or started in the last five years:

Pufferbelly Trail

- A. Rieke Park Portion: various department of the City of Auburn constructed this portion of the Pufferbelly Trail from North Street to Betz Road in 2007. This section was later extended to County Road 427 with two controlled crossing areas north and south of Betz Road as part of a federal highway funded Betz Road project. This section now connects with the Auburn/Waterloo Trail.
- B. North Street to ACD Museum Portion: In 2013 the City of Auburn received an Indiana Department of Transportation Grant to help complete the Pufferbelly Trail portion from North Street south along Van Buren Street to Ninth Street then east to Jackson Street then south to the Museum.

Auburn/Waterloo Trail (Restoration)

The Auburn-Waterloo trail is a forty (40) year old pedestrian and bike trail that runs from Morningstar Road in Auburn north 4.25 miles to the southern edge of the Town of Waterloo terminating at the intersection of Wayne Street (Old 427) and Cedar Street. In 2014, the Auburn/Waterloo Trail Group was formed to look into the restoration of this 40-year old trail. The group formed an alliance with the DeKalb County Community Foundation to serve as the non-profit organization for securing donations for the funding of the restoration.

As a result of the group's efforts, in 2014 a portion of the trail along Old 427 across from the DeKalb Central High School and Middle School was constructed to replace the deteriorated asphalt portion that ran through a former roadside park. The group's efforts continued into 2015 by raising enough funds to replace the remaining deteriorated sections along the trail's route. The 2015 restoration took place in two major sections divided between the City of Auburn portion and the DeKalb County portion, of which each entity provided assistance with the removal of the old concrete as a match to the total project effort.

- A. City Portion: Starts at Morning Star Rd and runs north along CR 427 to CR 36 where the county portion starts.
- B. DeKalb County Portion: Starts where the city portion ends at CR 36 and continues north to the south end of Waterloo at the Wayne Street and Cedar Street intersection.

Cedar Creek Canoe Trail

In 2015, a plan had been developed to consider supporting Cedar Creek as a recreational canoe trail. In this plan, access points could be developed inside Auburn City parks. Two of the access sites that were mentioned were in Eckhart Park and north of Auburn on County Road 35. This would add an uninterrupted path between the north and south sides of Auburn, passing right under the most heavily traveled road in town and right through the DeKalb County Fairgrounds. This development could eventually create a canoe trail from Auburn parks to Fort Wayne parks via the creek's confluence with the St. Joseph River.



Inventory

Community Parks

Eckhart Park

1500 S Cedar Street (10.4 Acres)

Originally developed in 1915, Eckhart Park was Auburn's first and its longest lasting park. Eckhart Park houses the Auburn Parks and Recreation office. This over 100 year old park also includes two special recreation areas that provide recreational opportunities for the entire area. The park is quite scenic with Cedar Creek passing through it and plenty of open spaces offering a variety of opportunities to residents and visitors. The facility is adjacent to the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum.

This park includes:

- Ample open space for everyone's picnicking and enjoyment
- Two bridges
- Two walking paths
 - One lit and paved
 - One wooded and mulch
- Three playground sets
- Ten swings
- Five benches
- An enclosed pavilion
- Two open air shelters
- Fourteen picnic tables
- Carr Field: A lighted youth football field
 - Grandstand
 - Scoreboard
 - Goal Posts
- One set of restrooms
- Two drinking fountains
- Paved Parking lot
- Auburn Community Pool: outdoor Olympic Size swimming pool
 - Bathhouse
 - Locker rooms
 - Bathrooms
 - Drinking fountain
 - Kiddie pool
 - Water slide
 - Two large umbrellas
 - Slide
 - Diving board
 - Lounge chairs
 - Upright chairs
 - Six picnic tables
- Two sand volleyball pits
- Five bike racks



CITY OF AUBURN ECKHART PARK
2015



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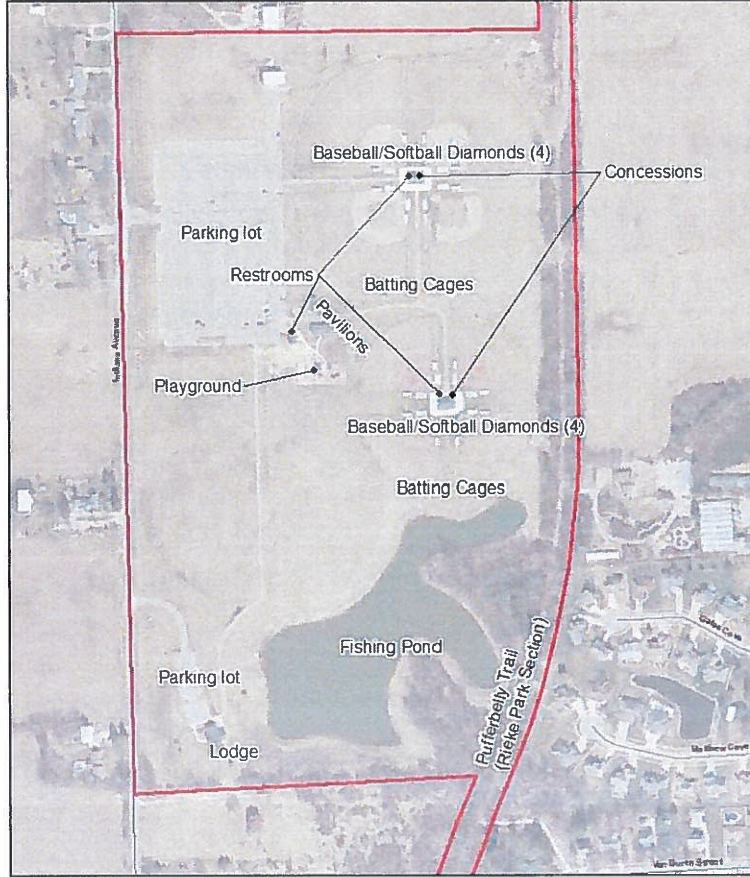
Rieke Park

1600 N Indiana Avenue (43.6 Acres)



Auburn's Park and Recreation Department developed a large (63 acre) park north of Auburn. Local residents, Glen and Thelma Rieke donated land to be used solely for parks and recreation uses.

The park includes:

- Four baseball fields
 - Lighted
 - Grass infields
 - Dugouts
 - Two bleachers at each field
 - One enclosed scorekeeper's box
 - Scoreboards for each field
- Four Softball fields
 - Lighted
 - Dugouts
 - Two bleachers at each field
 - Scoreboards for each field
- Three Batting cages
- Two Concession stands
 - One at each quad
- Two open air pavilions
 - Picnic tables
- Playground area
 - Large and small children play equipment
- Swing set
- Large pond
- Walking/Jogging paths
 - From North St. to the park and on to Betz Road.
 - Around the pond
- Many benches around play area and pond
- Restrooms
 - Two at each quad and one at the playground
- Large Parking lot
- Lodge
 - Separate parking lot and entrance
- Two large open grassy areas
 - Largest planned for additional ball fields



CITY OF AUBURN RIEKE PARK
2015

 0 0.025 0.05 0.1 Miles 

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Memorial Park

604 Hazel Street

Between Philip and Hazel Streets (12.1 Acres)

This multi- purpose park is located in the southwest quadrant of the City and serves as both a neighborhood park and a community-wide resource.

The park offers:

- Two Full sized baseball/softball diamonds
 - Large field is lighted
 - Fencing north side, dugouts
- Full sized basketball court
- New Playground equipment
- Three benches
- Merry-go-round
- Swing set
- Two child, four regular swings
- Large pavilion
- Many picnic tables
- Grill
- Concrete bleachers
 - Storage and one time concessions,
- Football/soccer field



CITY OF AUBURN MEMORIAL PARK
2015



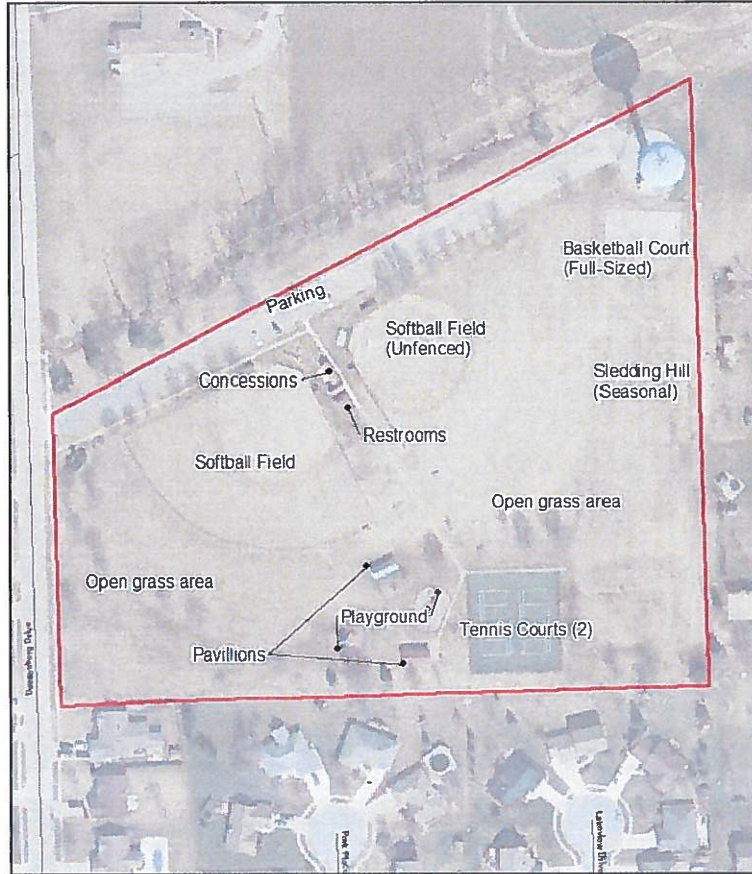
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Smith Acres Park

800 S. Duesenberg Drive (10.2 Acres)

This large park serves as both a neighborhood and a community park. The 10 acre facility is located in the eastern portion of Auburn and offers a variety of recreational opportunities including:

- Two softball diamonds
 - With dugouts and scoreboards
- Concession stand with storage
- Full Sized Basketball court
- Three Picnic tables
- Sledding hill
- Two tennis courts
 - Fenced with large player bench
- Two pavilions with picnic tables
- Swing set
 - Two child and four regular
- Five benches
- Double grill
- Multi-use playground area
- Retention pond
- Asphalt parking



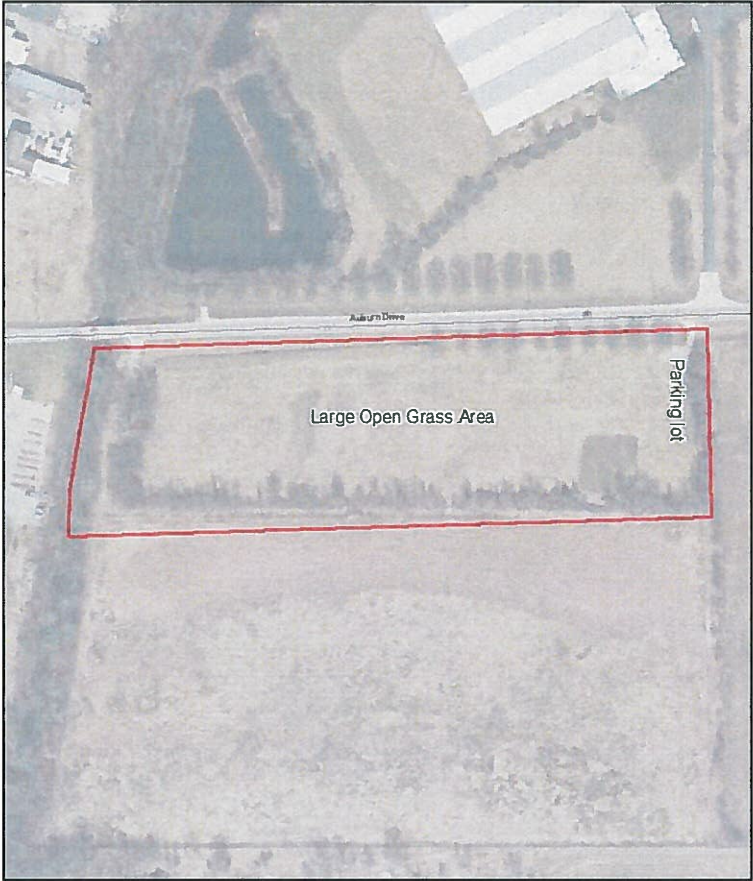
CITY OF AUBURN SMITH ACRES PARK
2015



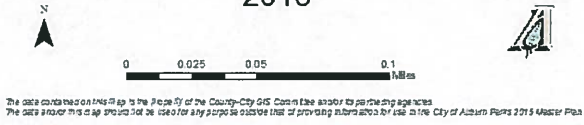
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Auburn Gear Park

Auburn Drive (11.693 Acres). An undeveloped park with large open grassy area used for open field practices.



CITY OF AUBURN AUBURN GEAR PARK
2015



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Thomas Park

720 N. Union Street

Union and 1st Street (6.2 Acres)

Home to Auburn's only dog park, this six-acre park serves as both a neighborhood and community park. The park is located in the northern part of Auburn and provides a variety of facilities including:

- Two tennis courts
 - With nets and fence surrounding them
 - Lighted
- Full sized basketball court
 - Inside tennis court fence
- Youth baseball diamond
 - Lighted
- Free-standing grill
 - Near creek
- Walking trail along Cedar Creek
- Dog park (Two sections)
 - Perimeter and dividing fences
 - Separate section for large breeds and small breeds
- Posted rules
- Bench in each section
- Concrete tunnels in each section
- Fire hydrant
- Restroom Facilities
- Playground area
- Swing set
 - One child and two regular
- Merry-go-round
- Two benches
- Picnic tables
- Open grassy area across street from baseball diamond
- Grass and gravel parking



CITY OF AUBURN THOMAS PARK
2015



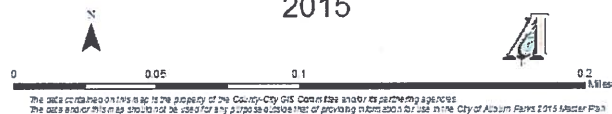
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Fifteenth Street Wetlands - undeveloped

Fifteenth Street and Touring Drive (17 Acres). This wetland area is currently accessible off of Touring Drive and is undeveloped. There is potential for trails in and around the wetlands with boardwalks, observation platforms, and benches for wildlife watching and scenic views.



CITY OF AUBURN FIFTEENTH STREET WETLANDS
2015



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Neighborhood Parks

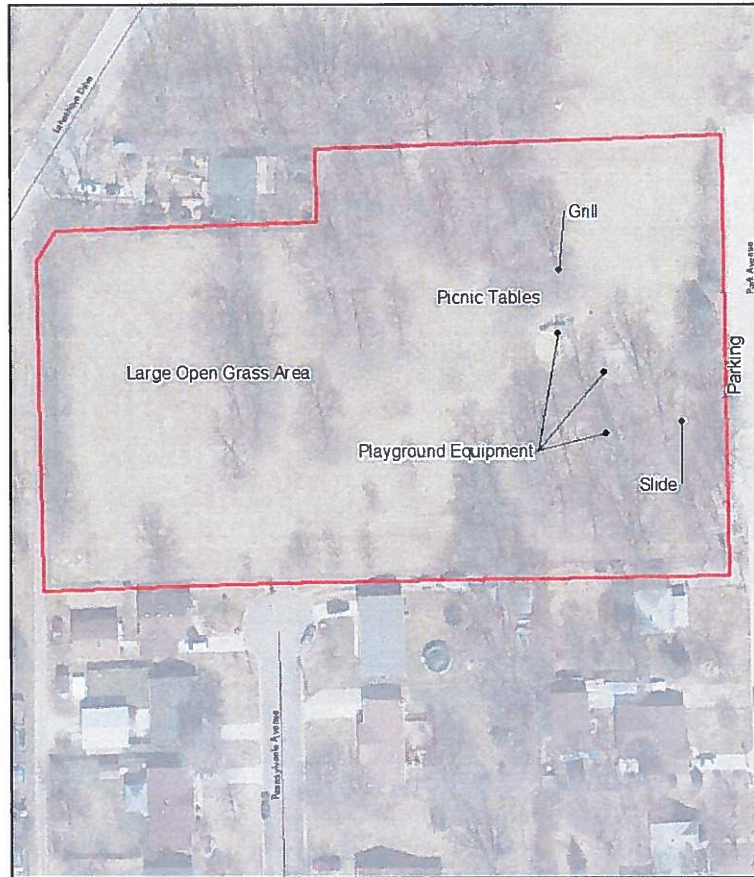
Forrest Park

1609 Park Street (3 Acres)

This neighborhood park offers local residents an opportunity to enjoy a small open space area equipped with playground equipment. The three-acre park is located in the southwest quadrant of Auburn.

The park offers:

- A slide
 - Slides and wooden decks
- Swing set
 - One child and two regular
- Two climbing structures
- Multi-use playground equipment
 - One with shade trees
- Two benches
- Picnic tables
- Large open areas



CITY OF AUBURN FORREST PARK
2015



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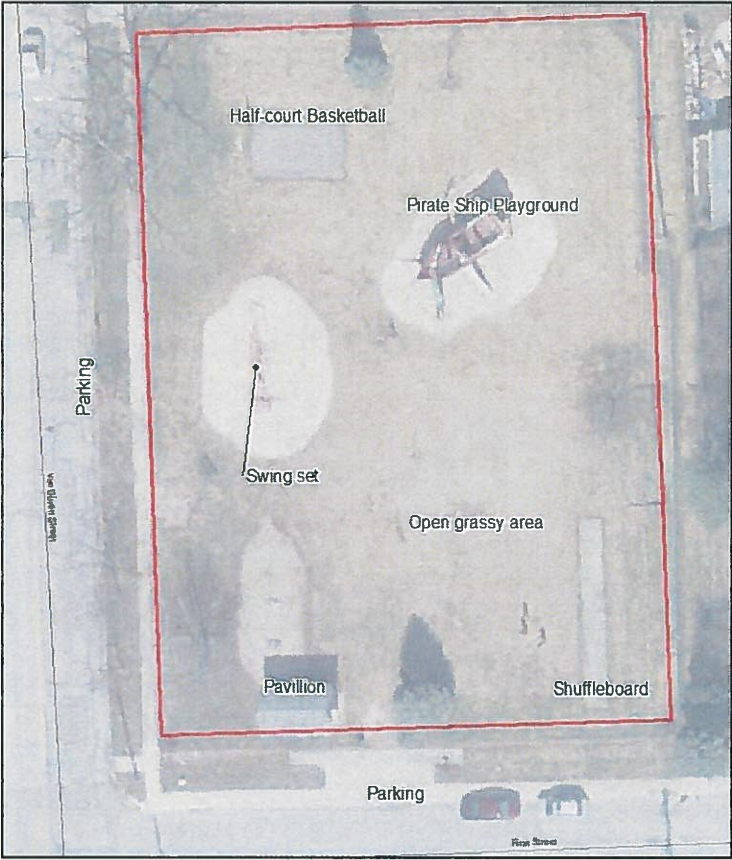
Riley Park

220 North Van Buren Street (.67 Acres)

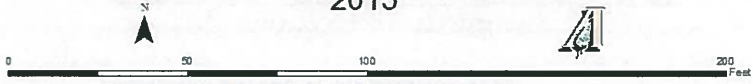
This neighborhood park occupies less than an acre in the City's north side.

The park has:

- Small pavilion
 - One picnic table
- Shuffleboard court
- Fence surrounding park
- Pirate Ship playground equipment
- Half-court basketball
- Swing set
 - One child and three regular
- One bench
- Parking along street



**CITY OF AUBURN RILEY PARK
 2015**



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DeSoto Park

114 South Baxter Street (.87 Acres)

This neighborhood park offers local residents with nearly an acre of space for picnicking, playing or gathering. The park is located in the eastern portion of Auburn.

The site has:

- Full sized Basketball court
- Swing set
 - One child, two regular
- One open pavilion
- Playground set
 - Three sides and a climbing bridge
- Merry-go-round
- Two benches
- Open grassy space



CITY OF AUBURN DESOTO PARK
 2015



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Willennar Park

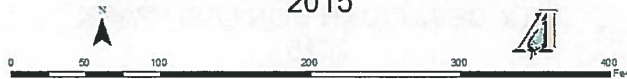
1200 Elm Street (1.7 Acres)

This 1.68-acre park in the southeast quadrant of Auburn offers:

- Multi-use playground area
- Fenced perimeter
- Swing set
- Three benches
- One Picnic table
- Open grassy area



**CITY OF AUBURN WILLENNAR PARK
2015**



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Don Lash Park

2005 Portage Pass (9.8 Acres)

This 15-acre park is located on Portage Pass in Pheasant Run.

This park includes:

- Bike Rack
 - Three bikes
- Three benches
- Metal slide
- Merry-go-round
- Two swing sets
 - Two child and two regular
- Dinosaur climbing structure
- Bent over climbing ladder
- Wetland
- Large open grassy area
- Hiking/walking trail into wooded area
 - Two benches on trail



**CITY OF AUBURN DON LASH PARK
2015**



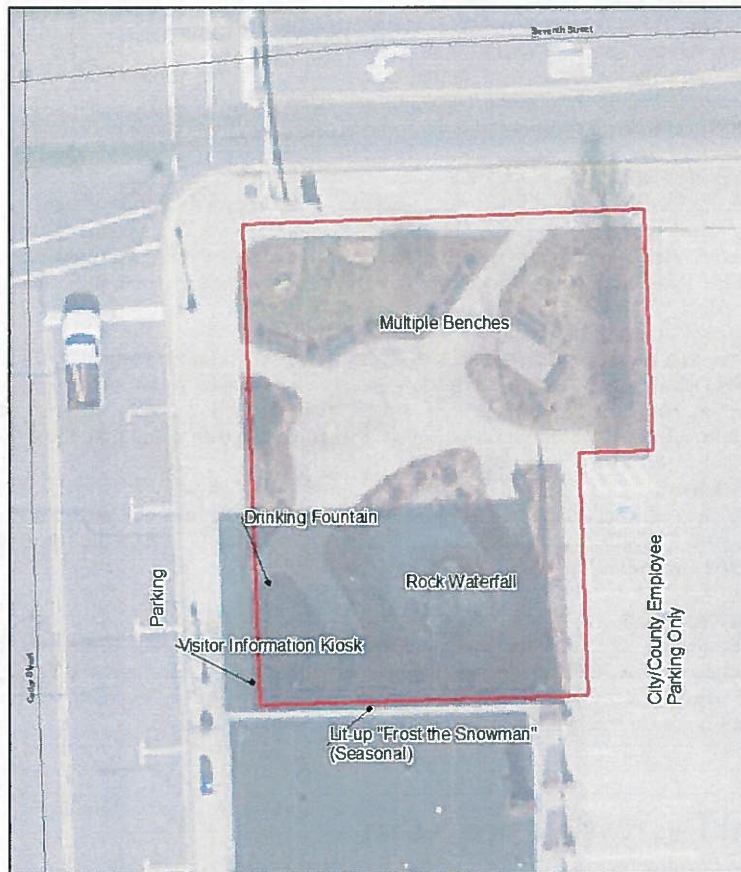
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Mini Parks

Courtyard Park

102 South Cedar Street (.2 Acres)

This small (0.08 acres) urban space offers shoppers, downtown employees and visitors with a place to take a break. Benches, flowers and a waterfall add an inviting appeal to downtown. Courtyard Park hosts the hungry crowds during hotdogs in the park and other fair-weather mealtime favorites.



CITY OF AUBURN COURTYARD PARK

2015



The data contained on this map is the property of the City of Auburn GIS Committee and is provided as a public service. The data and/or this map should not be used for any purpose outside that of providing information to the City of Auburn Parks 2015 Master Plan.

Recreational Trails

Indiana Visionary Trail – Ouabache to Pokagon (Identified as the Pufferbelly Trail in Allen and DeKalb Counties)

Ultimately, this trail system, combined with the Auburn sections, will attract recreation enthusiasts, tourists, and business opportunities. Four counties are working together on this monumental, 80 mile trail to unify Northeastern Indiana and its State Parks, historic downtowns, and culture.

A. Pufferbelly Trail – Jackson Street/ACD Museum section

Passing through the Historic District of downtown, a 1.2 mile trail connects the Southside of Auburn with Rieke Park and its trail. The trail starts at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, following Van Buren, Twentieth, Jackson, Ninth, Van Buren again, and finally North Street where it finishes at the south end of the Rieke Park Section.

B. Pufferbelly Trail – Rieke Park section

Spanning 1.3 miles from North Street to Betz Road it connects the neighborhoods north of Betz Road with Rieke Park. The section along Betz Road connects with the Auburn/Waterloo Trail. This trail is utilized daily due to its paved path and tree lined corridor. Rieke Trail is frequented by dog walkers, fitness walkers, as well as runners and bike riders.

C. Auburn/Waterloo Trail section

Serving as a bike and walking path, this 4.25 mile trail starts on the north side of Auburn, passes DeKalb Middle and High Schools, and extends to unite Auburn with the town of Waterloo. Similar to the other sections of the system, this trail is used by walkers, joggers, and bikers. In good weather it is frequented by children as a path to and from the schools.

Lash Park Trail

This trail is $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile long and is located within the wooded area of Don Lash Park on Portage Pass. It includes two benches and many opportunities to study the trees, plants, insects, and other wildlife.

Eckhart Park Trail

This 0.4 mile circular trail is used daily as a walking path. From this trail visitors are able to view, the park office, the playgrounds, the open air and enclosed pavilions, and twice cross over the scenic Cedar Creek. The Restrooms are also accessible from the trail. The Eckhart Park Trail is used annually for both the Halloween and Christmas walks.

Special Recreation Areas (SRA)

Carr Field (Located in Eckhart Park)

1500 South Cedar Street (6 Acres)

This site was acquired from DeKalb Central School System in October of 2012. It contains a lighted football field with Goal Posts and is located adjacent to the office for the Park and Recreation Department on the north end of Eckhart Park.



Auburn Community Pool (Located in Eckhart Park)

1501 South Cedar Street (3.1 Acres)

50-meter, heated outdoor pool with waterslide and adjacent wading pool and concession stand; restrooms and showers.



Merle Bassett Trail and Hague Nature Area (Accessed in Eckhart Park)

This 5/8 of a mile trail and 10 acre nature area is adjacent to Eckhart Park. With countless scenic views and native Indiana foliage, this nature area is popular among both daily walkers and nature enthusiasts alike.

Acres Land Trust

Acres, Inc. maintains 3 different parcels of land within the DeKalb County borders for nature preserves. One preserve is a section of land west of CR 327 and north of CR 68. A second piece of land is about five miles southeast of Auburn in the southwest corner of DeKalb County. The last preserve is just south of Auburn on CR 427.

Dog Park

The City of Auburn Dog Park is located inside Thomas Park. The park is divided into two sections, one for small dogs and one for larger dogs. Each section has amenities for the animal's usage. There are tunnels and a fire hydrant, along with multiple benches. Additionally, a dog drinking water station is located just outside the park fence



Future Parks

Linier Parks

Pufferbelly Trail - ACD to NMHC section

This planned section of the greater Pufferbelly Trail would connect the Jackson Street/ACD Museum section to the National Military History Center (NMHC). This two mile section would make travel possible from the southeast edge of Auburn to Waterloo utilizing almost nine miles of linier parks.

Cedar Creek Canoe Trail

Cedar Creek runs through the middle of the county, passing through Auburn just east of Main Street. The Creek spans over two miles within city limits. Ownership of the creek bed is divided among off of the adjacent property owners with the potential for it to be developed as a canoe trail and made part of the city park system.

Property, Acreage, & Classification Matrix

Properties under the jurisdiction of the Auburn Parks and Recreation Board include:

NAME	ACRES	CLASS
J.C. Memorial Park	12.10	Community
Eckhart Park	10.40	Community
a. Community Pool	(3.10)	SRA
b. Carr Field	(6.00)	SRA
Thomas Park	6.20	Community
a. Dog Park	(?)	SRA
Courtyard Park	.08	Mini
Riley Park	.67	Neighborhood
Forrest Park	3.00	Neighborhood
DeSoto Park	.87	Neighborhood
Willennar Park	1.70	Neighborhood
Don Lash Park	15.00	Neighborhood
Smith Acres Park	10.20	Community
Auburn Gear Park	11.70	Community (Undeveloped)
Rieke Park	65.00	Community
15 th St. Wetlands	16.60	Community (Undeveloped)
TOTAL:	162.62	ACRES

SRA = Special Recreation Area
 * Does not include linier park acreage

Facilities Reservation Information



The Rieke Park Lodge and the pavilions in Eckhart, Smith Acres, and Rieke Parks can be reserved up to one year in advance. All pavilion reservations and fee payments are made through the Parks and Recreation Department Office.

The ball diamonds at Rieke and J. C. Memorial Parks can be reserved for private events as well as can the Auburn Pool. These reservations and fee payments are also made through the Parks and Recreation Department Office.

Programs

It is the department's desire "to provide quality recreational and educational opportunities for our community". We try to offer as many programs as possible for all age ranges. The following are examples of recent programs following this goal:

Annual Park Programs

JANUARY – MARCH

Father – Daughter Dance

Located at the National Military History Center, this event is a fun-filled evening for dads and daughters (ages 3-10) and it includes music, dancing, games, photos, and refreshments.

Garden Series

Held at the Rieke Park Lodge.

Spring Break Skate

This event is held at the Auburn Skatin' Station and includes free admission.

APRIL – JUNE

Easter Egg Hunt

This event is hosted at Eckhart Park and is fun for children of all ages.

Arbor Day Tree Sale

Located at the Rieke Park Lodge, Large variety of trees available

Aqua Zumba

This fitness class is located at the Auburn Community Pool and is a fun way to get in shape. It's an exhilarating, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness party.

Zumba Boot Camp

Located in Eckhart Park, it's just like Aqua Zumba but on dry land.

JULY – SEPTEMBER



Tri-Kappa Kids Triathlon

Race starts in the Auburn Community Pool, with one transition in the Community Pool Parking lot, and running through the DeKalb County Fair Grounds, and finishes at the DeKalb County Outdoor Theater.

Junk in the Trunk

Recycle, reuse, barter, or trade from this convenient, one-location, multi-person rummage sale. This is a great organizational fundraising, church groups, youth groups, families, or individuals looking to raise some funds.

OCTOBER – DECEMBER

Halloween Walk

The annual Halloween Walk at Eckhart Park is always a spook-tacular time for families.

Annual Christmas Parade and Lighting Ceremony

The Parade begins at the DeKalb County Fair Grounds, to Main St, to Ninth St, to Cedar St, and finishes at the Courtyard Park downtown with Santa and Mrs. Clause as the finale. The Lighting of Frosty immediately follows in the Courtyard Park.



Visit With Santa

Come tell Santa what you want for Christmas and possibly meet a real live reindeer. Starting after the Christmas Parade and continuing on evenings and weekends up until Christmas, visit with Santa in his Chalet, temporarily located at the Courtyard Park.

Annual Christmas Walk

Stroll through Eckhart Park and enjoy thousands of holiday lights, scenes, and music and Santa, Mrs. Clause and the elves will be there to get your holiday wish list. This walk is a holiday tradition for families in Auburn.

Area Programs & Facilities

DeKalb County YMCA

While DeKalb County does not maintain any parks and recreation facilities there is an agency that provides a variety of recreational opportunities to County residents. The DeKalb County YMCA was founded in 1914 and now has one location on North Street in Auburn. The former Main Street location is now closed. The YMCA serves not only the residents of Auburn, but also residents in DeKalb County and surrounding areas.

The YMCA is housed in a building that was built in 1996 and renovated in 2014. The facilities include a three and a half court gymnasium, racquetball court, weight center, fitness center, cardio and strength center, a 6-lane 25 yard competitive indoor swimming pool, an indoor walking/jogging track, outdoor playground and locker rooms for both males and females.

The YMCA offers a variety of programs including swimming for people ages six months to adult; a variety of fitness classes; spring and fall soccer leagues; flag football; gymnastics; Wee Y's; senior programs; day trips; pre-school programs and after school programs.

The YMCA has 5,284 members from DeKalb County and surrounding areas. The "Y" is funded through membership dues, user fees, the United Way and a variety of other sources.

Indiana Facilities

While none of the state operated facilities are located in Auburn, they are within easy reach of the residents and offer a variety of recreational resources.

Bixler Lake Park

P.O. Box 516, Kendallville 46755, (260) 347-1064 (Noble County). Swim, boat, and fish on the 120 acre lake. Camp or picnic on the 170 acres of this city park; play tennis, basketball and softball. Or play on the monkey bars at the playground. Open last weekend of April thru the weekend after the Apple Festival (Mid-October).

Chain O'Lakes State Park

2355 East 75 South, Albion 46701, (260) 636-2654 (Noble County). Glaciers formed a chain of eight kettle lakes here 10,000 years ago. Through the centuries, the Miami Indians, and later pioneers, settled along their shores. These lakes are a great place for boating, canoeing, fishing, swimming and hiking. In the winter, enjoy ice skating, cross-country skiing and sledding. Family cabins available. Open all year, 7am - 11pm.

Pokagon State Park

450 Lane 100 Lake James, Angola 46703, (260) 833-2012 (Steuben County). Northeastern Indiana's Winter Wonderland, famous for its toboggan run, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. Try Pokagon in the summer, too, for swimming, boating, fishing on beautiful Lake James. Camp, stay in a cabin or the Inn and enjoy a multitude of things to do, from horseback riding to hayrides. Open year-round, 7am - 11pm.



Public Participation

Public Opinion Survey

Beginning on the 15th of June and ending on the 26th of July of 2015, a survey was conducted to ascertain citizen's interests, concerns, and suggestions to improve the Auburn Park System. The survey was accessible online via the Parks Department website, Facebook page, and handouts were available at the Parks Department office, the Building, Planning and Development Department office, as well as at different park events. The strategy of combining an online survey with handouts enhanced the probably of reaching a larger group of respondents representative of park users within the community. Five hundred+ (500+) surveys were filled out and submitted. Several did not respond to all of the questions asked, therefore the tabulation is based on the total of all completed answers to each question. This public opinion survey was the primary source of public input since the four public meetings were not well attended.

Statistical Accuracy

A margin of error of 5% was obtained with a 95% confidence level. The Margin of Error is the amount of error expected due to just chance, above or below the actual figure obtained in the survey results. Margin of error is often compared to the term sampling error which is the estimated inaccuracy of the results of a study when a population sample is used to explain behavior of the total population. The smaller the margin of error is, the closer you are to having the exact answer at a given confidence level.

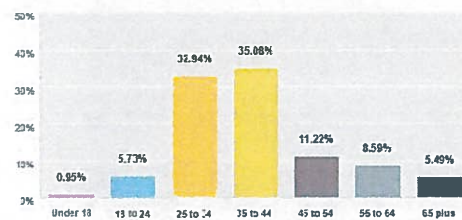
Confidence Level: A 95% confidence level means if the same survey were to be repeated 100 times under the same conditions, 95 times out of 100 the measure would lie somewhere within the margin of error.

Survey Results

Demographics

Gender

Male	95	22.57%
Female	326	77.43%

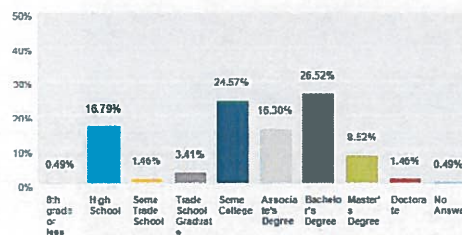


Age

Under 18	4	0.95%
18 to 24	24	5.73%
25 to 34	138	32.94%
35 to 44	147	35.08%
45 to 54	47	11.22%
55 to 64	36	8.59%
65 plus	23	5.49%

Race

Caucasian	391	92.87%
Black or African-American	0	0.00%
Hispanic	3	0.71%
Asian	2	0.48%
Native American	0	0.00%
Other	2	0.48%
No Answer	23	5.46%

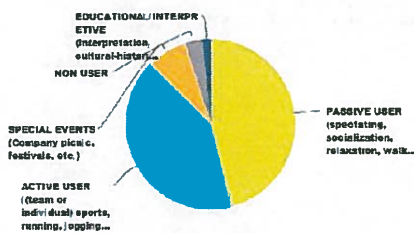


Highest level of Education Completed

8 th grade or less	2	0.49%
High School	69	16.79%
Some Trade School	6	1.46%
Trade School Graduate	14	3.41%
Some College	101	24.57%
Associate's Degree	67	16.30%
Bachelor's Degree	109	26.52%
Master's Degree	35	8.52%
Doctorate	6	1.46%
No Answer	2	0.49%

Interests, Concerns, and Suggestions

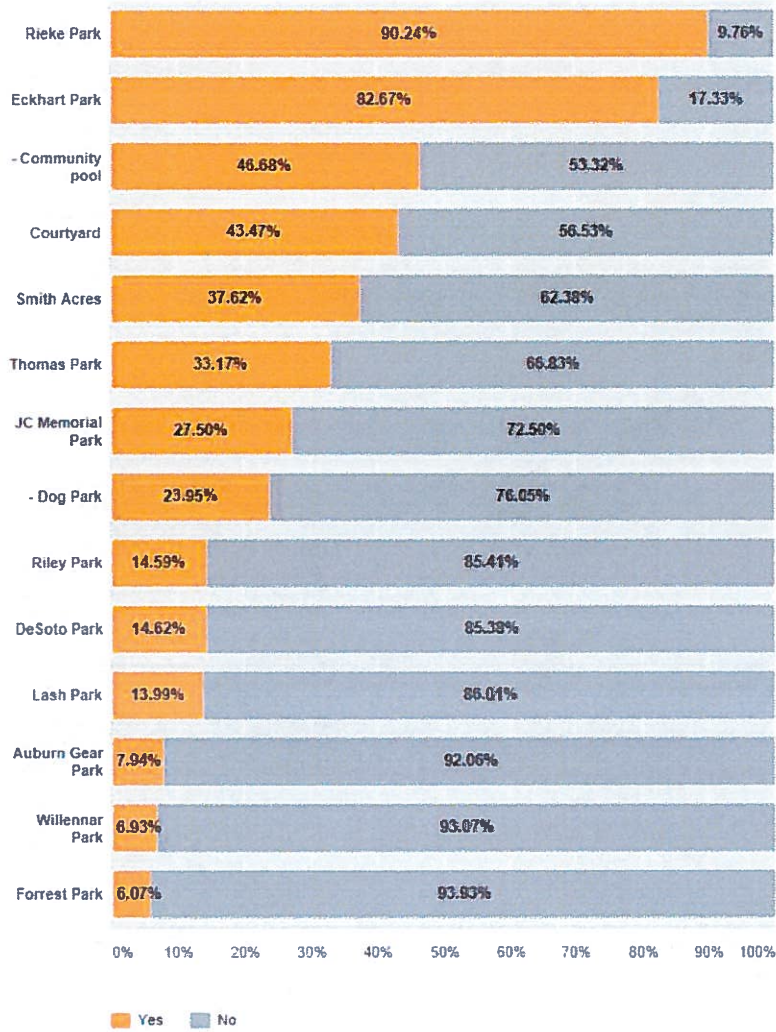
1. Which one of the choices below represents your highest individual use of Auburn parks?



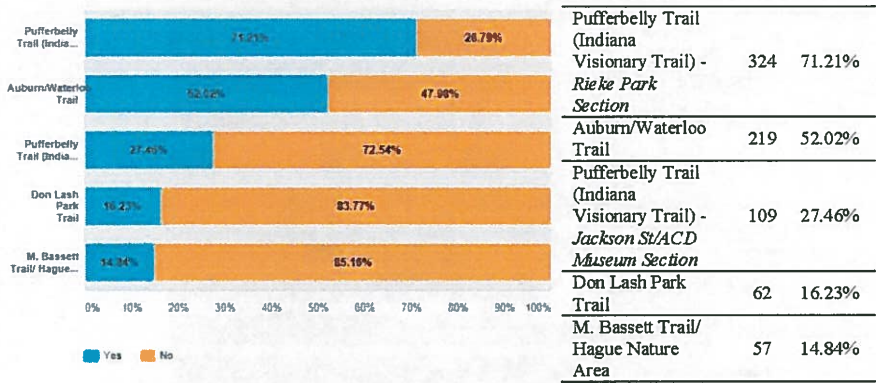
Active User	230	46.09%
Passive User	206	41.28%
Special Events	38	7.62%
Educational	17	3.41%

Non-User 8 1.60%

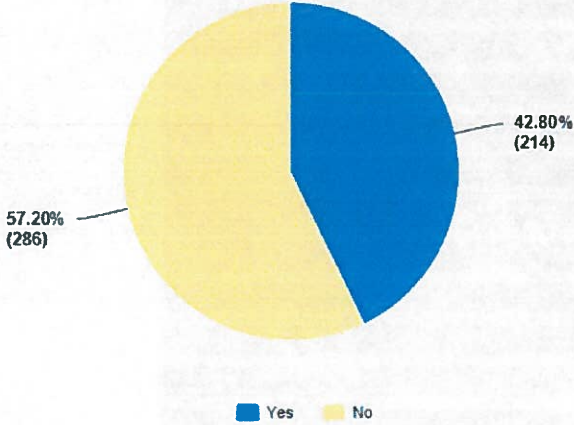
2. During the last 12 months have you or other members of your household used any of the following parks IN AUBURN?



3. During the last 12 months have you or other members of your household used any of the following trails IN AUBURN?

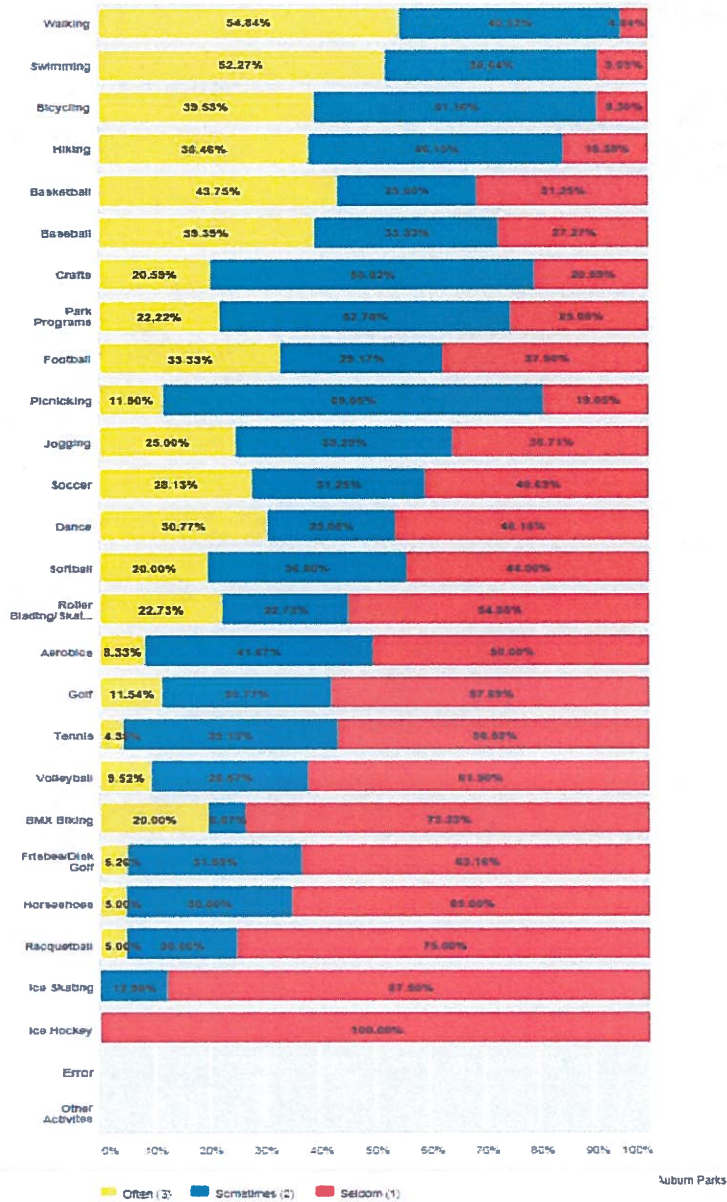


4. Are you USING AUBURN PARKS as often as you would like?

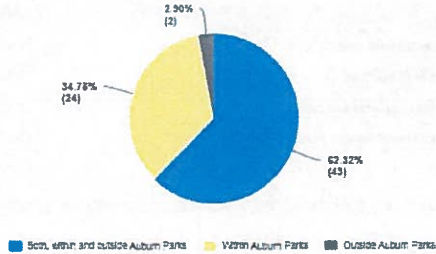


5. If "No", why not?
1. Lack of time
 2. Upkeep
 3. New in Town
 4. Pool Hours
 5. Bugs

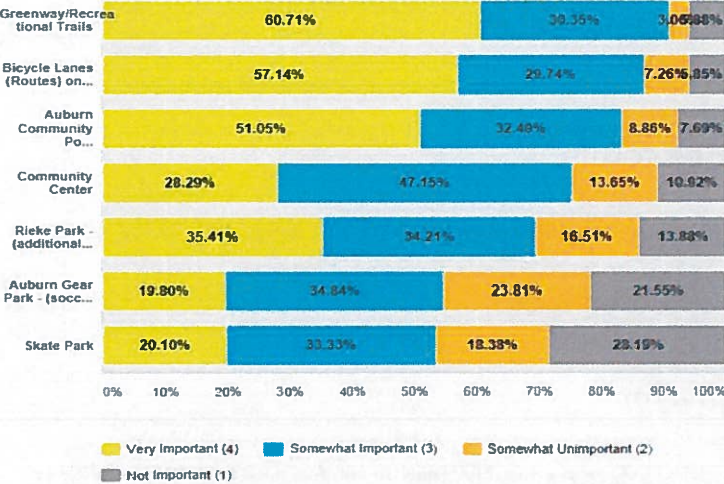
6. During the past year, how often did YOU OR A MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD participate in the following activities? (Not confined to Auburn)



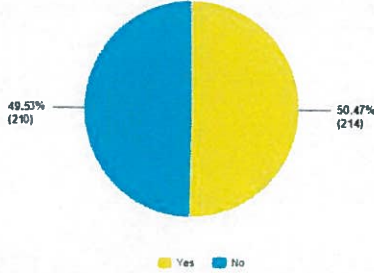
7. Where did these activities take place?



8. HOW IMPORTANT is developing the following to you?



9. Does THE AREA need ADDITIONAL Parks?



10. If “Yes”, what types of Parks are needed?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Neighborhood Park (Up to twenty-four acres)	38.53%	89
Mini/Pocket Park/Tot Lot (Less than one acre)	38.10%	88
Community Park (Twenty-five acres or more)	29.87%	69
Regional Park/Preserve (Two-hundred acres or more)	29.87%	69
Other	25.97%	60
Total Respondents: 231		

11. What ADDITIONAL types of recreational facilities do you feel THE AREA is currently IN NEED OF? (example: splash pad/park, community center, etc.)

Top 10 responses:

1. Splash Pad (309)
2. Trails (31)
3. Skate Park (31)
4. Bike Trails/Park/Lanes (30)
5. Community Center (18)

12. What EXISTING recreational facilities do you feel need to be EXPANDED?

Top 10 responses:

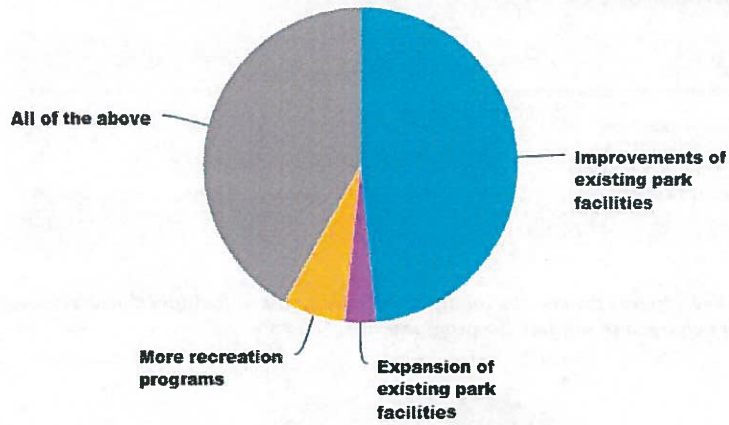
1. Auburn Community Pool (39)
2. Trails (38)
3. Splash Pad (10)
4. Rieke Park (10)
5. Game Fields (7)

13. What EXISTING recreational facilities do you feel need to be IMPORVED or UPDATED?

Top 10 responses:

1. Auburn Community Pool (52)
2. Eckhart Park (32)
3. Thomas Park (20)
4. Memorial Park (17)
5. Maintenance (16)

14. What do you think Auburn Parks and Recreation should focus its resources on?
 (Pick one only)



15. Do you or your family members participate in the Park and Recreation Department's current programs?

Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	47.79%	205
No	52.21%	224
Total		429

16. What type(s) of Parks and Recreation program(s) should be offered?

1. Sports Programs (15)
2. Pool Programs (12)
3. Day Camp (11)
4. Young Kids/Toddlers Programs (10)
5. Adult Programs (9)

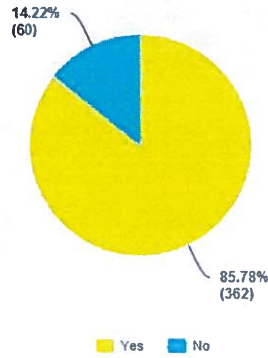
17. What existing program(s) should be expanded?

1. Pool Programs (8)
2. Sports Programs (7)
3. Day Camp (1)
4. Running Programs (1)
5. Fitness/Health/Wellness (1)

18. Do you feel programs and services offered by the Department SHOULD BE:

Answer Choices	Responses	
Supported by both taxes and fees	66.35%	282
Totally tax supported	14.59%	62
Totally fee supported	10.82%	46
None of the above	8.24%	35
Total		425

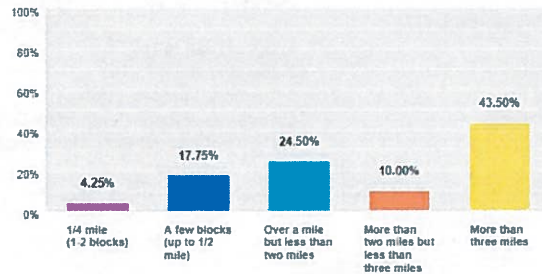
19. Would you support the creation of additional programs or facilities if new reasonable fees were charged to support the programs or facilities?



20. HOW WOULD YOU RATE the following aspects of Auburn Parks?

	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)	Total	Weighted Average
Park Programs	14.14% 55	49.10% 191	30.85% 120	5.91% 23	389	2.71
Maintenance of Auburn Parks	18.16% 75	45.28% 187	27.85% 115	8.72% 36	413	2.73
Convenience of Park locations	38.11% 157	52.43% 216	8.98% 37	0.49% 2	412	3.28
Number of Parks	41.20% 171	52.53% 218	5.54% 23	0.72% 3	415	3.34

21. How far are you WILLING TO TRAVEL to a park having a playground?



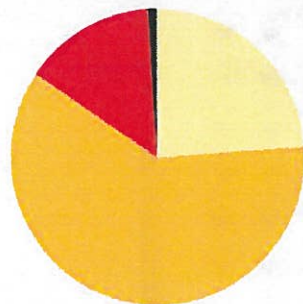
22. WHAT METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION do you most often use to reach park facilities?

Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Automobile	45.26%	191
More than one of the above	32.23%	136
Walk	13.51%	57
Bicycle	7.11%	30
Other (please specify)	1.90%	6
Total		422

23. Auburn Parks are safe for people to use.

Strongly agree (4)	Somewhat agree (3)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Strongly disagree (1)	Total	Weighted Average
52.62%	43.33%	3.33%	0.71%	420	3.48
221	182	14	3		

24. Overall, HOW WOULD YOU RATE your satisfaction with the Auburn Park system?



Excellent Good Fair Poor

25. What do you think are Auburn Parks BIGGEST STRENGTHS?

1. Cleanliness/Upkeep/Maintenance (48)
2. Number of Parks (45)
3. Location of Parks (41)
4. Variety of Parks (27)
5. Equipment (22)

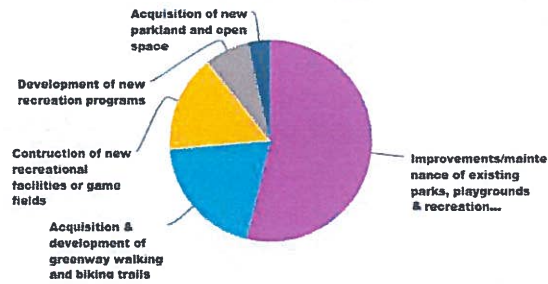
26. What do you think are Auburn Parks BIGGEST WEAKNESSES?

1. Cleanliness/Upkeep/Maintenance (47)
2. Restrooms (25)
3. Lack of Splash Pad (21)
4. Not enough Money (13)
5. Much Needed Updates (13)

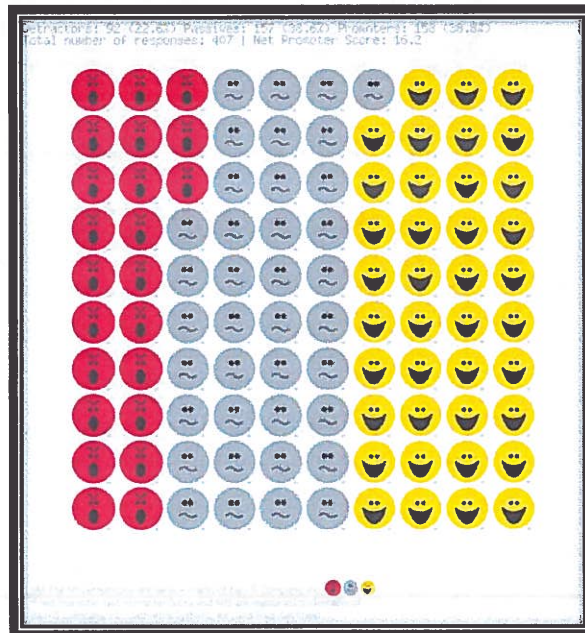
27. Do you have any SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS for Auburn Parks?

1. Splash Pad (64)
2. Skate/Bike Park (16)
3. Increase/Improve Trails (15)
4. Improve Auburn Community Pool (14)
5. Improve Overall Park Maintenance (13)

28. From the following list which do you feel is most important (Choose only one).



29. How likely is it that you would recommend Auburn Parks to a friend or colleague?



Analysis

Demographics

The target sampling group for the survey was park users. This is not to say only active users of Auburn Parks, but citizen of Auburn who visit parks for active, passive, and educational purposes or for special events.

The female respondents outnumbered the males more than 3 to 1. Though this number is not representative of the City of Auburn, it is close to the expected ratio for park visiting adults.

Though every age group was represented, there was a larger concentration of respondents between the ages of 25 and 44. Almost 70% of respondents were between these ages. This number is higher than the community as a whole, due to the target group for the survey being park users.

The composition of the race of the respondents was comparable to that of the City of Auburn.

Education remains high among survey respondents with over 52% have acquired at least an Associate's Degree. Of degree holding respondents, more than 75% of them are between the ages of 25 and 44.

Interests, Concerns, and Suggestions

"Active" and "Passive" users make up almost 90% of the park users. Due to the number of activities and programs at the parks throughout the year, this was to be expected. Still, it shows how much the City of Auburn parks are used.

Since the development of Rieke Park and its hosting all of the city's baseball and softball games, it has jumped to the lead of the most used parks list. Right behind Rieke Park is Auburn's oldest and longest running park, Eckhart Park. For 100 years Eckhart Park has stood as the City of Auburn's crown jewel. Not surprisingly coming in third is the Auburn Community Pool. Technically a part of Eckhart Park, the pool is used by many as the only safe haven from the summer heat. If you include the Community Pool in with Eckhart Park, that would make Courtyard park an ironic next park on the list. Rieke and Eckhart Parks are two of the biggest parks in town. Courtyard Park is by far the smallest at .25 acres.

The Rieke Park Trail section of the Pufferbelly Trail has shot to the top of the list of used trails ever since its inception. More than 70% of respondents say they use this trail. Coming in second is the one of the oldest trails in Indiana, the Auburn/Waterloo Trail. This trail was frequented by more the 50% of survey respondents.

Most respondents claim they don't use the parks as much as they would like. Lack of time and a busy work schedule are the number one reason for not utilizing the parks

Walking is still the most common activity. According to survey respondents more than 80% say they walk with over 60% saying they walk often. Bicycling is the second most common activity, followed by swimming, picnicking, and hiking. Trail utilizing activities make up four

(4) of the top seven (7) activities.

Respondents overwhelmingly say they utilize both City of Auburn Parks & Recreational Facilities and outside facilities to participate in their preferred activity.

As far as the future development of facilities is concerned, greenway/recreational trails and bicycles lanes were the two favorites. Rehabilitation of the Auburn Community Pool rounded out the top three. As can be seen this list of priorities matches the list of most popular activities. Additionally, the responses are split 50/50 on whether or not the area needs additional parks. Likewise, those that want more parks are split almost evenly. The results only slightly favor the smaller park options over the larger ones.

It is clear that the citizens of the City of Auburn desire a Splash Pad Park. Whether is to be added to an existing park or stand on its own, this kind of facility was requested as an additional type of recreation facility at a ratio of 10-1 over the next closest competitors. The choices of additional Trails and a skate park were tied for second on the list. Even though citizens desire a splash pad, they do not want to eliminate the Community Pool. Instead the Auburn Community Pool topped the lists of facilities that need to be expanded and to be improved. The existing trails were second on the list for expansion, while three parks came in second, third, and fourth for the list of needing to be improved. Those parks in order were Eckhart, Thomas, and Memorial Parks. Almost 4-1 respondents picked improving on existing parks over any expansions.

Public Participation Meetings

Meet & Greet-Neighborhood Parks Workshops:

The Park Board staff held three (3) neighborhood park meetings at;

1. Forrest Park (July 15, 2015)
2. DeSoto Park (July 16, 2015) and
3. Smith Acres Park (July 21, 2015)

The purpose of these meetings was to “meet & greet” the new Park and Recreation Department Superintendent, Eric Ditmars and to discuss issues and thoughts the neighborhood residence may have regarding that park and the city’s park system in general.

Although not well attended with only four residents and three children, the following is a summary of the comments received:

- a. There was a consensus that the neighborhood parks were generally well served for the younger children, however, they were not well served for the children as they grew older (pre-teens and teenagers).
- b. There were concerns that some of the park equipment was in need of repairs or outdated.
- c. To a minor level, there was expressed that there were no restrooms at these parks.
- d. There was agreement that the locations worked well for those that lived nearby but the usage has lessened over the years.

Parks Master Plan Public Input Meeting (November 19, 2015):

The purpose of this meeting was to gather public input and to discuss the current and future issues, needs, and priorities for the City's Parks and Recreation system for the Parks Department's Five Year Master Plan. All Auburn citizens were encouraged to come out and give their thoughts for the update to the existing Park and Recreation Master Plan. At that meeting individuals were there to present their views. The summary of the Public Opinion Survey was given and this was followed by an open discussion on the future needs and concerns of the park and recreation system.

The points and concerns brought out during this meeting were the following:

1. Thomas Park discussed maintenance issues:
 - a. Tennis courts are looking better
 - b. Park has medium use in general, particularly the ball diamond.
 - c. Playground is used well.
 - d. Dog Park is used well.
2. Rieke Park – question on the use of the ball diamonds for bringing in tournaments.
 - a. Response was that the diamond size and height of the fencing would need to be increased to meet sanctioned tournament requirements.
 - b. For Girls Softball the issue was that there were not enough diamonds for the number of teams involved in a tournament.
3. Wear and tear on the existing park facilities that tournaments would create.
4. Question on the numbers of baseball/softball diamonds
5. Need for more pedestrian trails and bike trails-Eckhart Park connection
6. The need to create an east/west system of pedestrian walkways and bikeway trails.
7. One suggestion was to add a trail along Morningstar Road.
8. Walkways and bikeway connectivity from the hospital to downtown, from the east side to Wal-Mart, and south to Eckhart Park.
9. There was a concern that the swimming pool needed to be open longer in the year past the opening of school.
10. Discussed the idea of adding splash pads, particularly at Eckhart Park & Smith Acres Park.
11. Discussion on the cost and feasibility of an ice skating rink.
12. Discussion of resurfacing the tennis courts.

Public Presentation Plan:

On February 4, 2016, 2016 copies of the final draft of the City of Auburn's 5- year Parks and Recreation Master Plan were placed in the Parks Office, multiple offices within City Hall, the Eckhart Public Library, the DeKalb County Chamber of Commerce, and the YMCA of DeKalb County. Comments Sheets and phone contact information were also available. The plan was posted on the City's website with email and phone numbers available for comments. February 19, 2016 was the comments submission deadline. Four total comments were received, Three written/fax, and one from email. The summary of the comments was as follows:

Summary/Comparison of Public Input:

Comment number one was in regards to the Eckhart Park Pavilion. It was suggested that this pavilion be enclosed and kitchen and restroom facilities added to make it rentable in the winter. Also suggested was replacing the pool and bathhouse and rebuild to make the restrooms and

changing rooms more family friendly. It was also suggested to make improvements to the restrooms and playgrounds in several other parks.

Comment number two was a concern regarding the water depth of Cedar Creek for the proposed Canoe Trail and if the fees collected by an independent operator would be given to the City of Auburn.

A third comment was regarding the need to address additional trails particularly adding an east and west pedestrian trail project.

A fourth comment expressed the issue and the value of park expansions to include splash parks and would like to have a bike trail/pedestrian trail extensions southeast through the city and into the county towards the Bear Creek Estates subdivision.

Response to Public Input Received:

In regards to the request for improvements to the Eckhart Park Pavilion, the idea of making improvements to make it rentable in the winter has been discussed by the Park Board but is not a top priority. As to the suggestions for the pool, the Park Board has completed a feasibility study on the pool and is weighing the various options in that plan based on affordability. Improvements to some of the other park facilities were address in the Priorities and Action Plan section of this plan.

Regarding the Cedar Creek Trail proposal the Park Board is working with the DeKalb Soil and Water Conservation District and a local committee responsible for pursuing the canoe trail and canoe launch sites.

Regarding additional trails particularly an east/west pedestrian trail project, the Department of Building, Planning & Development is in the process of updating the City's Pedestrian Walkways, Bikeways, and Recreational Trailways Plan which will address east/west Pedestrian walkways and trails. These east/west routes are primarily city civil projects and not part of the responsibility of the Park Board, but are created in cooperation with the Park Board.

The potential for developing splash parks are in discussion phases with the Park Board and private non-profit entities.

Priorities and Action Plan

Priorities and Action Plan

Priorities for Auburn were developed based on input gathered from the community Public Opinion Survey, Input from public meetings, Park Board and Park staff, and from community officials.

The following is a listing of the priorities and action plan as determined from the Public Opinion Survey, input from public meetings, Park Board and Park Staff, and from community officials. The following factors were used to determine priority:

FACTORS:

1. Financial Feasibility
2. Community Direction and Impact
3. Park Usage
4. Mechanical Functionality and Soundness
5. Best Use Practices

After applying these factors to each issue, they were assigned to one of three priorities, based upon the following definitions:

Priority List:

Priority 1: High concerns are ADA violations, health and safety, maintenance relating to the loss of services and direct benefits for park patrons. (Anticipated within 1-2 years)

Priority 2: Medium concerns, are preventative maintenance and maintenance related to operations, aesthetics of high usage parks, and indirect benefits for park patrons. (Anticipated within 2-3 years)

Priority 3: Low concerns, are improvements not affecting the functionality or operations of the parks and aesthetics of low usage parks. (Anticipated within 3-5 years)

Parks and Recreation Action Plan

The following list of the parks potential projects is based on health and safety, mechanical soundness, public feasibility, ADA compliance and budgetary constraints. The public input meetings and surveys have weighted the direction of the action plan. The Parks and Recreation Department is adapting to better conform to its user groups by providing recreational viability, sustainable, and financial responsibility. The department is constantly monitoring program usage, monetary viability, and user group's feedback to achieve Auburn's Parks and Recreation goals and objectives. The parks will be addressed individually in the five year master planning process.



Eckhart Park

Priority Level	Prioritized Action
1	Swimming Pool Rehabilitation and Revitalization and/or Construct a splash pad.
1	Provide electrical distribution boxes throughout the park to better facilitate the Halloween and Christmas walks.
2	Provide ADA accessible path to Parks office and Carr field.
3	Construct a small shelter that can be used for a concessions stand at Carr field.
2	Future canoe launch by Cedar Creek.

Rieke Park

Priority Level	Prioritized Action
1	Construct an ADA floating fishing pier at Rieke pond.
1	Construct a splash pad.
2	Concrete or asphalt hardened trail & path around the pond with fitness stations along the path.
3	Addition of an elevated rope playground structure.
2	Bike rack near playground.
2	Sign at entrance of the ball field complex.
3	Construct a basketball court.

Memorial Park

Priority Level	Prioritized Action
3	Remove bleachers and announcers stand.
2	Improve basketball area; reseal asphalt, benches, area fencing and backboard upgrades.
1	Add a restroom attached to the pavilion (making it rentable)

Smith Acres

Priority Level	Prioritized Action
2	Improve and update playground structure.
3	Conduct a feasibility study to provide parking and accessibility to the pavilions, tennis courts, and playground.
2	Improve basketball court, reseal asphalt, strip, add benches and backboard upgrade.
3	Replace the tennis court fencing.
2	Widen the sidewalk to allow two way traffic and ADA compliance from the parking lot to tennis courts.
3	Add additional parking area (limitation of the park for future expansion and utilization)
2	Install park identification signage.
3	Optional location for a splash pad.

Thomas Park

Priority Level	Prioritized Action
2	Conduct a feasibility and construction plane of a Skate Park to be constructed in the repurposed little league ball field; including the demolition of bleachers, announcers stand and the incorporation of it into the skate park plan.
1	Rehabilitate and update the restroom facility conforming to ADA guidelines.
1	Upgrade the playground equipment and swings.
2	Place ADA picnic shelter near playground equipment.
2	Install park identification signage.

Don Lash Park

Priority Level	Prioritized Action
1	Update the playground equipment.
3	Conduct a flora survey and provide a self-guided interpretive trail.
2	Up-grade and comply with park amenity ADA accessibility guidelines.

Riley Park

Priority Level	Prioritized Action
2	Replacement of the roof on the pavilion.
2	Install park identification signage.
3	Increase tree plantings.
3	Re-seal and strip half-court basketball court.
2	Up-grade and comply with park amenity ADA accessibility guidelines.

DeSoto Park

Priority Level	Prioritized Action
2	Replacement of the roof on the pavilion.
3	Improve basketball area; reseal asphalt, benches, and backboard upgrades.
2	Up-grade and comply with park amenity ADA accessibility guidelines.
2	Install park identification signage.

Willennar Park

Priority Level	Prioritized Action
2	Install park identification signage.
3	Up-grade and comply with park amenity ADA accessibility guidelines.

Forest Park

Priority Level	Prioritized Action
1	Update all the playground equipment to better utilize the park size and surroundings.
2	Install park identification signage.

Courtyard Park

Priority Level	Prioritized Action
2	Improve and design sunshade areas
2	Install park identification signage

Auburn Gear Park

Priority Level	Prioritized Action
3	Install park identification signage
3	Develop a hardened parking area.

Recreational Trails

Priority Level	Prioritized Action
1	Pufferbelly Trail (Visionary Trail) Extension aka Rieke Park Trail from Betz Road to County Road 32 along abandoned railway.
2	Pufferbelly Trail (Visionary Trail) Extension from County Road 32 to County Road 36 along abandoned railway.
2	Canoe Trail Access Site in Eckhart Park to support the proposed Cedar Creek Trail from County Road 35 south to Eckhart Park.

Administrative Actions

Good record keeping is an essential management tool, necessary for tracking progress. Each operating year should begin with written goals and objectives, including the Action Plan of this document. As projects are initiated or completed, those goals accomplished are recorded. At the end of the operating year all goals not addressed are listed with explanation. For example, an annual goal might be to realize significant progress toward development of Rieke Park but progress was deterred for lack of funding. All of these records should be compiled as an integral contribution to the Annual Report at years end.

The five primary reasons for this documentation are:

1. The Mayor, Park Board, City Council (and general public) are apprised of the Department’s work program for any given year.
2. Resource requirements to execute the goal projects are communicated with those who control budgets.
3. The administrator’s focus is on initiatives.
4. All progress is archived in public record.
5. Citizens are informed, and potentially motivated to assist with projects.

The Need for Flexibility

It is important to understand that any planning activity must be a dynamic process. Building flexibility into the Park Master Plan is essential to accommodate the unique circumstances and situations that can arise in any community.

All plans must be able to respond to unforeseeable events and windows of opportunity that

can occur at any moment. Auburn, or any city, cannot rigidly adhere to a plan based upon a theoretical principle when the situation at hand suggests that following the “master” plan will result in missed opportunities or misguided directions.

This is not to negate the value of time-proven principles and procedures, but only to recognize that we must put every component of the plan and the various guidelines we have available into the appropriate local context.

This plan represents a snapshot in time. Recommendations have been made based on many factors, especially attitudes and comments from the citizens being served – today. Attitudes, needs, and demands may change, as will some of the people we will serve in the future. It is recommended that the Park Board and Superintendent periodically review this plan and make adjustments as dictated by current circumstances, including:

1. Monitoring city growth and acquire-develop properties accordingly. The Park Board has done an excellent job of providing parks for the citizens of Auburn. The board will need to act to acquire additional property as needs, opportunities and economics warrant.
2. It is always prudent to expand popular parks when contiguous land becomes available, and acquire park land in growth areas, as the board has accomplished in the past.
3. The City of Auburn current Subdivision Control Ordinance allows for the opportunity, when land is developed, to have land reserved for parks or recreational purposes. An acceptable alternative could be to encourage a cash donation verses accepting small land parcels that would be expensive to maintain.

Maintenance Endowment Fund

Any time funds are raised to develop or acquire a park; a maintenance endowment could be proposed as part of the Park Board’s budget. And an endowment fund could be built with an anticipated payout that would not affect the principle of the fund.

The creation of this endowment should fall under a community foundation or be established as a designated fund.

Grant Resources and Funding Opportunities

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal financial assistance program which provides matching grants for 50% of the cost of land acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities. Funds for this program come primarily from federal offshore oil lease receipts.

The program is administered at the federal level by the National Park Service (NPS), but is operated at the state level by the DNR. Only legally established park boards with an approved 5-year park master plan are eligible to participate.

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.

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
Phone: (317) 232-4070 Fax: (317) 233-4648
Website: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4071.htm>

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federal financial assistance program which provides grants for 80% of the cost of land acquisition and/or development of multi-use recreational trail projects and stream and river access sites. Both motorized and non-motorized projects are eligible. Funds for this program are made available to Indiana from the "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century".

The program is administered at the federal level by the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA), but is operated at the state level by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources through its Division of Outdoor Recreation. All units of government and agencies incorporated as not-for-profit organizations are eligible to participate.

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.

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
Phone: (317) 232-4070 Fax: (317) 233-4648
Website: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4101.htm>

SHOOTING RANGE

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 objective of this program is to provide the citizens of Indiana with additional and safer places to fire their guns, and train hunter education students.

The Shooting Range program is a federal financial assistance program which provides grants for the cost of a project if it develops rifle, handgun, shotgun, and archery opportunities for public use. Funds for this program come from the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration program (commonly called the Pittman-Robertson program).

The program is administered at the federal level by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but is operated at the state level by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Outdoor Recreation. 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.

Grant funding amounts.

The Shooting Range program will provide 75% matching reimbursing assistance for eligible projects. Applicants may request a minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$100,000. Applications for this program are due and/or post marked by December 31.

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
Phone: (317) 232-4070 Fax: (317) 233-4648
Website: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4101.htm>

BICENTENNIAL NATURE TRUST

In 1916, the State of Indiana authorized the creation of a state park system during the state's centennial as a gift to the people of Indiana. Former Governor Mitch Daniels announced the Bicentennial Nature Trust (BNT) in his 2012 State of the State Address as a new statewide effort to honor Indiana's 200th anniversary in 2016.

The BNT was created to preserve and protect important conservation and recreation areas throughout Indiana by matching donations of land or dollars. Property acquired with this fund will become part of the public trust to ensure that the land is protected for future generations of Hoosiers to use and enjoy. BNT funds may only be used for the acquisition of land and cannot be used for capital improvements, stewardship, or programming.

The state has obligated \$20 million in state funding to support the BNT and the Lilly Endowment contributed an additional \$10 million grant. The funds are available to the general public including nonprofit organizations, corporations, individuals, and governmental organizations. Each project requires a \$1:1 match. The match could be provided by the Community Foundation, local non-profit or philanthropic organizations, private or corporate donors, or a bargain sale. To ensure availability of funds for a wide variety of projects in every corner of the state, a cap of \$300,000 has been set for the BNT portion of an individual project.

Submission deadlines are: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1.

Contact

Bicentennial Nature Trust
402 West Washington Street, Executive Office, Room W-256
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2748
Phone: (317) 233-1002
Website: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/heritage/7309.htm>

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is a federal financial assistance program which provides matching grants for 50% of the cost of architectural and historical, archaeological, and acquisition and development (rehabilitation of historic buildings) projects to aid the state in meeting its goals for cultural resource management.

Surveys of historic sites and structures and archaeological sites are eligible for 70% matching assistance.

Funds for this program are distributed by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service and the program is administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. Governmental agencies, educational institutions, and agencies incorporated as not-for-profit organizations are eligible to participate.

Maximum grant awards are \$35,000 for Architectural & Historical and \$50,000 for Acquisition & Development, and Archaeology.

Contact

Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
402 West Washington Street, Room W-274
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2739
Phone: (317) 232-1648 or (317) 232-6981
Website: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/3671.htm>

LAKE AND RIVER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (LARE)

The goal of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife's Lake and River Enhancement program is to protect and enhance aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife, to insure the continued viability of Indiana's publicly accessible lakes and streams for multiple uses, including recreational opportunities. The LARE Program provides technical and financial assistance for qualifying projects.

The LARE program goals include operating a scientifically-effective program in a cost-efficient manner to protect and enhance aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife; and to insure the continued viability of Indiana's publicly accessible lakes and streams for multiple uses, including recreational opportunities. This is accomplished through grant projects that reduce non-point sediment and nutrient pollution of surface waters to a level that meets or surpasses state water quality standards. LARE grant funds are intended for those projects demonstrating not only a need, but a local commitment to getting the task accomplished in a timely manner at a reasonable cost.

The amount of funds available compared to the amount requested will not satisfy all applicants' requests. Our challenge in the LARE program is maximizing the effectiveness of the limited amount of dollars available on an annual basis, to address as many projects as possible.

2016 LARE applications are due by Jan. 31, 2016.

Contact

Lake and River Enhancement Program
IDNR Division of Fish & Wildlife
402 West Washington Street, Room W-273
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
Fax: (317) 232-8150 Email: lare@dnr.in.gov
Website: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2364.htm>

NAMING RIGHTS

A creative funding method for special-use facilities is the contracted naming rights by organizations. This includes anyone who finds value in having a popular facility (golf courses, aquatic centers, ice rinks, tennis centers, nature center, fitness facilities and athletic complexes) named after his or her company or organization.

The value should be determined by the market value of the ongoing promotion of the facility and should include dollars to maintain the facility to the highest level. A word of caution, this

should only be used after clearly understanding the community's values and tolerance for this tool.

Many may construe this as "selling out" and be resentful of the department. Additionally, one should be careful to be selective in naming so the organization does not have a name on "every square inch" of the park.

Overusing this tool can have a detrimental effect on future contributions and the image of the park in general.

LOCAL SOURCES

1. Income from trust funds, bequests, gifts, or special community fundraising activities.
2. Income derived from fees charged for specific activities or use of facilities. Although fees are normally charged for maintenance and upkeep costs, some revenues could be set aside for the future implementation of the 5-year Action Plan.
3. In-kind contributions of labor through the use of volunteer help.
4. General obligation bonds could be used. Under certain State laws, Park and Recreation Boards have bonding authority. The bonding capacity is limited to 2% of the assessed valuation of the taxable properties within the City. Voter approval is also needed. Legal services should be utilized before initiating this program.
5. Revenue bonds could also be used. Here, the project would have to be revenue-producing since the bonds must be repaid out of revenues generated by the facility.
6. County funds may be utilized in joint project efforts.
7. Public/private partnerships between the Park Board and developers.
8. Local, State, and National Foundations can be utilized. There are a variety of Foundations that offer grants that are given for projects that are in their Foundation's area of interest. A good source for findings these grants is <http://www.foundationcenter.org/>.
9. The National Recreation and Park Association is also a good source for funding options. To be eligible the agency/organization must be a member of NRPA, must be a local, municipal or regional governmental agency or non-profit organization working in partnership with a park and recreation agency with full authority to implement the proposed project. <http://www.nrpa.org/fund-your-park/>, <http://www.nrpa.org/Grant-Fundraising-Resources/>

1ST READING _____
2ND READING _____

Board Resolution Adopting Plan

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF AUBURN PARK AND RECREATION BOARD, by unanimous declaration, does adopt the City of Auburn 5-year Comprehensive Park and Recreation Master Plan as its official plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreational opportunities in the City of Auburn, Indiana .

Passed and signed this 24th day of February, 2016.

ATTEST:



President



City Attorney

1ST READING _____
2ND READING _____

**ASSURANCE OF ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE WITH:
ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT of 1968 (As Amended);
SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (As Amended);
AND TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990
(As Amended)**

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

Signature 
Board President

Larry Wagoner
President's Printed Name

Signature 
Board Secretary

Angela Nordmann
Secretary's Printed Name

DATE Feb 24, 2016



BUILDING, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

260.925.6449 phone | 260.925.8239 fax | PO Box 506, Auburn, IN 46706 | bpd@ci.auburn.in.us

CITY OF AUBURN PLAN COMMISSION CERTIFICATION AND RECOMMENDATION

On June 14, 2016, the City of Auburn Plan Commission held a legally advertised Public Hearing to consider an Amendment to the *1987 City of Auburn Comprehensive Master Plan*. The Amendment is to include the *2016 – 2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan* as part of the *City of Auburn Comprehensive Master Plan*.

The City of Auburn Plan Commission has certified the *2016 – 2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Amendment* and recommends the Auburn Common Council approve said Amendment.

Certified by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy M. Schweitzer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Amy M. Schweitzer, AICP
Administrator

PC Case Number: PC-COMP PLAN 2016-00000002

Claim No. _____ Warrant

IN FAVOR OF
KPC Media Group
PUBLISHERS OF

The News Sun The
Kendallville, Indiana L

The Star Th
Auburn, Indiana (

The Herald Republican
Angola, Indiana

The Butler Bulletin I
Butler, Indiana Hu

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ON ACCOUNT OF APPROPRIATION

Appropriation No. _____

ALLOWED _____

IN THE SUM OF \$ _____

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF AUBURN PLAN COMMISSION

The City of Auburn Plan Commission will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. local time on Tuesday, June 14, 2016, in the Council Chambers, Auburn City Hall, 210 E. Ninth Street, Auburn, Indiana.

The Plan Commission will consider a petition of the City of Auburn requesting approval to adopt the current City of Auburn Parks & Recreation Board's five-year Park Plan as an update to the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The complete file on this project is available for review during weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. local time in the office of the Department of Building, Planning and Development, Auburn City Hall, Second Floor, 210 S. Cedar Street, Auburn, Indiana. Public hearings are open to all persons who wish to attend and any person interested in this matter may appear at the hearing and will be given the opportunity to speak, if they so wish. The Plan Commission may conclude the hearing with a decision or they may continue the hearing to another date.

The City of Auburn, DeKalb County, Indiana will provide reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities. We invite any person with special needs to contact the ADA coordinator, Bill Brandon - 260.925.6455 or the Clerk-Treasurer's office - 260.925.6450 at least 72 hours before scheduled meetings to discuss any special accommodations that may be necessary.

Written comments concerning this petition may be filed with the Plan Commission before the hearing by mail or personal delivery to: City of Auburn Plan Commission: Attention Planning Staff, Auburn City Hall, 210 S. Cedar St., P.O. Box 506, Auburn, Indiana 46706-0506; or by facsimile at 260.920.3342; or by e-mail at bpd@ci.auburn.in.us. Written comments may also be delivered in person to the Plan Commission at the hearing.

Contact Planning Staff with the Department of Building, Planning and Development office at 260.925.6449 with any questions pertaining to the application.

TS,2034703,5/27,hspaxlp

within claim and hereby

ated as required by law:
statutory authority.

correct incorrect

in claim is true and correct;
in itemized and for which
ordered by me and were nec-
essary

